

Instruction and Supply List for a

BOBBY SUIT from the Late 1940s

A "fat quarter" or a regular quarter yard of fabric for the jacket and skirt is needed.

You will need a fat quarter of lining fabric if you decide to fully line the jacket.

Notions you will need are appropriate thread, five small buttons and four snaps. I used a size 3 because 4s are hard for me to hold.

The pattern has directional arrows on the pieces; these should be placed on the straight (up and down) grain of the fabric.

No pattern pieces are given for the placket or waistband. Cut one piece 8 1/2" by 1 1/2" for the waistband and cut one piece 3" by 1 1/4" for the placket.

Sewing the skirt:

Place one center panel in front of you with side panels pinned in place. If you are using a sewing machine, start your stitching from the bottom of the skirt. Long ago someone told me this would make the skirt hang better. With only 6" it can't make too much difference. Set that part aside, and sew the other three panels in the same manner. Front and back panels should be alike. Place them right sides together and sew two side panels together. Let's call that the right side seam. On the other side seam, do not sew all the way to the top, leave open for 1 1/2" from the top. This is for the placket on the left side. Clip the seam there and we can sew on that 3" X 1/4" piece to make a neat opening. Again, right sides together, pin the placket in place along the seam allowance. I do the finishing of the placket by hand. Remember on what is now the back of the skirt, the placket EXTENDS toward the front and on the front of the skirt the fabric is turned back.

Sew the ends of the waistband and attach to the skirt, pin the waistband evenly at the placket front, baste in place, then machine stitch. Press the seam up, fold over the band and hand stitch in place. Press and add a snap. Fit it on the doll to measure the hem. Hand stitch hem.

1/4" seams

Sewing the jacket:

Sew the collar together, press the seam then trim it and turn. Press collar again.

First sew the front darts and center back seam. Sew the shoulder seams. Pin the sleeves in place, gathering to fit the armhole, baste, turn and check to make sure it is done properly, if so machine stitch sleeves. Press sleeve seam toward bodice. Sew side seams. For a full lining sew together in the same manner except without sleeves and the center back is left open about 2 1/2" for turning.

Sew the shoulder seams of the facing. Pin the collar in place, matching center back and shoulder seams to marks. Lay the facing in position, pin, then baste in place. Check to make sure the collar is properly placed before machine stitching.

IF doing a full lining, assemble the front and back the same as the outer fabric. Baste the facing in place along the outer edges, then hand stitch facing to lining. Now pin lining/facing to outside fabric and baste. Then stitch up one side of the front, across the back on neck and down the other side of the front, then across the bottom of peplum. The sharp angle of the long seams must be clipped for the jacket to fit properly. The regular facing is needed so the lapels will be of the right fabric. Press seams again, then trim and turn. Press again. Turn under lining around the armhole, with seam toward bodice. Hand stitch in place. Try it on your doll.

If it fits, and you are happy you are ready to hem the sleeves, then sew on snaps and buttons. If you have a question or problem, ask me.

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1/4" seams