

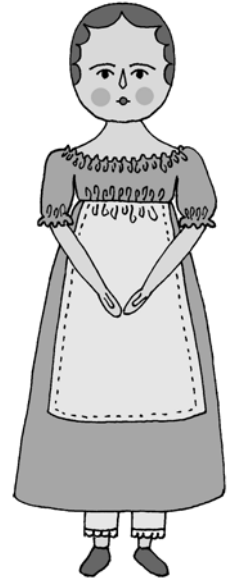
Patterns for a Simple High-Waisted Period Dress with Optional Apron, Slip and Pantalets for 12" Dolls

Easily adjusted for dolls 11" - 14"

This is a simple set of patterns intended for costuming early style dolls using a common pattern style of the mid to late 1800's, which, besides being charming and true to the styles of the day, was easy to adjust to fit all sizes both human and doll. Instructions are also included for aging fabrics to look old.

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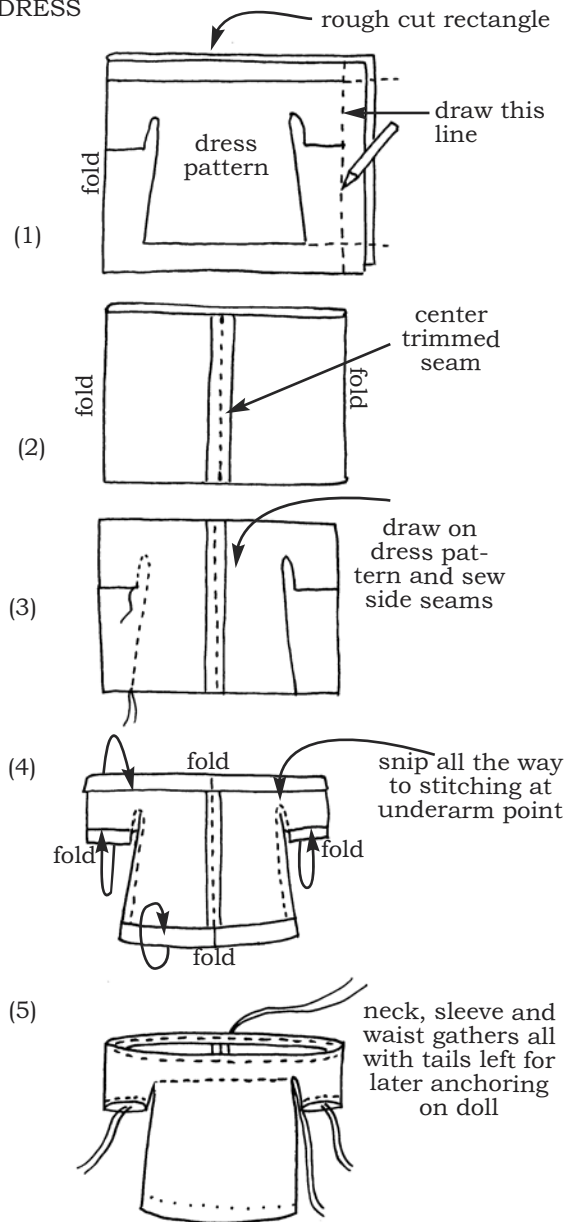
YOU WILL NEED:

- Dress fabric - 24"across x 11"down of tiny vintage prints - old thin weight best for this scale of doll
- Apron - 7"across x 6.5"down fine weight fabric
- Pantalets - 11"across x 7½" down of fine batiste or other lightweight cotton.
- Slip - 16" across x 6½" down of fine batiste or other lightweight cotton.
- Threads to match all fabrics.
- Lace is optional as trim but instructions show how to apply to the slip and pantalets hems. If you wish dress removable, add 3 tiny buttons for back opening and some ribbon or crochet string for draw string waists.
- Consider using my GW paint overdyer to make too bright or new fabrics look old. It is also helpful at this small scale to slightly crisp up finer fabrics making it easier to work tiny with no fraying. Or make your own mix with instructions included.

ABBREVIATIONS:

RS	right side
WS	wrong side
SA	seam allowance
ZZ	zig zag
SCANT	slightly less than
FAT	slightly more than
ROUGH CUT	To cut out some pieces of fabric that will later be cut exactly, so that the rough cut needs to be a bit generous (bigger than the final piece).

THE DRESS

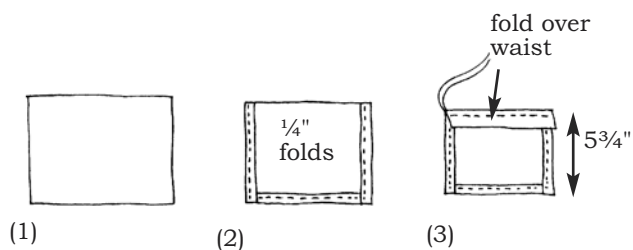


THE DRESS

Caution: *The dress pattern is not a cutting pattern, that is, do not cut out the dress from it! You will use it to draw and sew with, then cut out.*

- (1) Rough cut the dress rectangle 24" x 11" with grain going as indicated on the pattern. Fold fabric in half as shown WS out. Use the pattern to draw where to sew a seam line which will create a basic tube. Do not draw around rest of pattern now. If you have trouble seeing your lines, try using a fine Micron pen. If you want an opening in the back of the dress, leave the top 3" of the seam open - this will be a back placket to be closed with buttons and thread loops later. Otherwise, dress is intended to be sewn onto the doll.
- (2) With RS's together sew a seam on the drawn line and back tack slightly at each end. Cut a $\frac{1}{4}$ " SA outside stitching line. With seam centered side to side, iron seam open. Tube is still WS out.
- (3) Reposition dress pattern so sleeve edges are on folds and draw on dress shape. Sew side seams.
- (4) Cut out allowing small SA's outside stitching, clip up to stitching at underarm angles. Fold over edges at neckline and sleeve ends ($\frac{1}{4}$ ") as shown on pattern. Iron up a scant $\frac{1}{8}$ " along hem edge, then iron that over $\frac{1}{2}$ " for a double folded hem (this may need adjusting for your doll).
- (5) Turn RS out. To do the neck and sleeve edges, make a tidy but sturdy trimmed knot in the end of your double thread. Work from the RS and begin at the center front or back, leaving knot up under fold inside neck. Then take tiny running stitches right near the folded edge. End **on the outside** and allow about 4" of tails to work with later. To sew the waist, make a tidy knot and leave inside at side seam. Keep up close under the armpits and straight across as you can. This line of stitching should be only a scant 1" below neck fold to create the old-fashioned narrow "bodice" desired. Leave the same 4" tail here on **outside** to work with later.

THE APRON



THE APRON - OPTIONAL

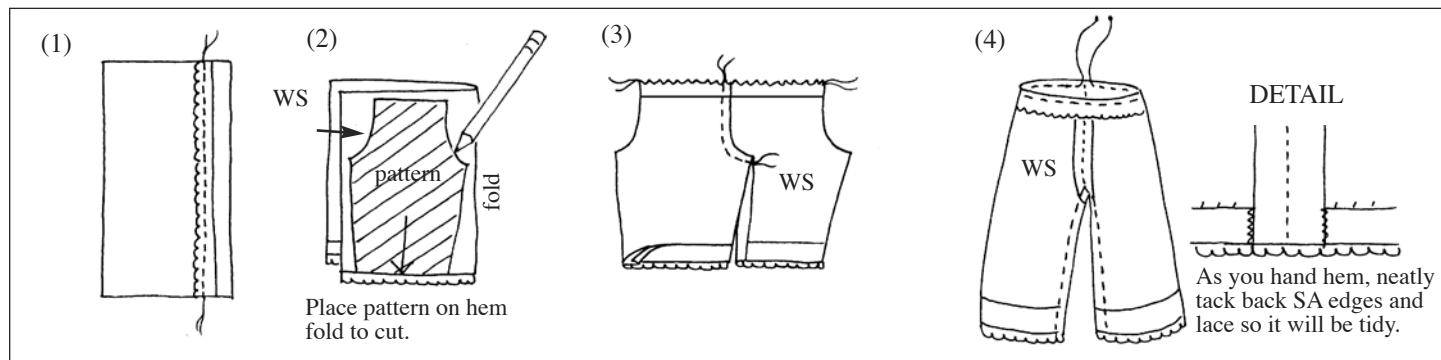
- (1) Cut apron rectangle (7" x 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ").
- (2) Finger fold or iron up about $\frac{1}{4}$ " on the 3 sides of apron. Hand stitch with running stitches using a single thread for delicacy. Where thread color is so obvious, it should be very close or slightly darker (rule of thumb is always darker if in doubt).
- (3) Iron over top of apron about $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Using double thread and tiny gathers close to fold sew a line of tiny running stitches and leave 4" tail as shown. Pull gathers up so top of apron is about 2" wide. Try to hide a tiny knot in fold on the starting end. Apron will be sewn onto dress.

Hint: *Lace is nice around the edge of apron.*

THE PANTALET

These are simple pantalets designed with a drawstring waist to eliminate bulk under clothing.

You will need a little fine weight cloth (I suggest cotton batiste available on GW website), about 6-1/2" of narrow lace and a 12" length of thin crochet string for waist ties. If you wish a more antique look, paint overdyed both fabric and lace first (GW Paint Overdye available on website), which is a simple step with authentic looking results.

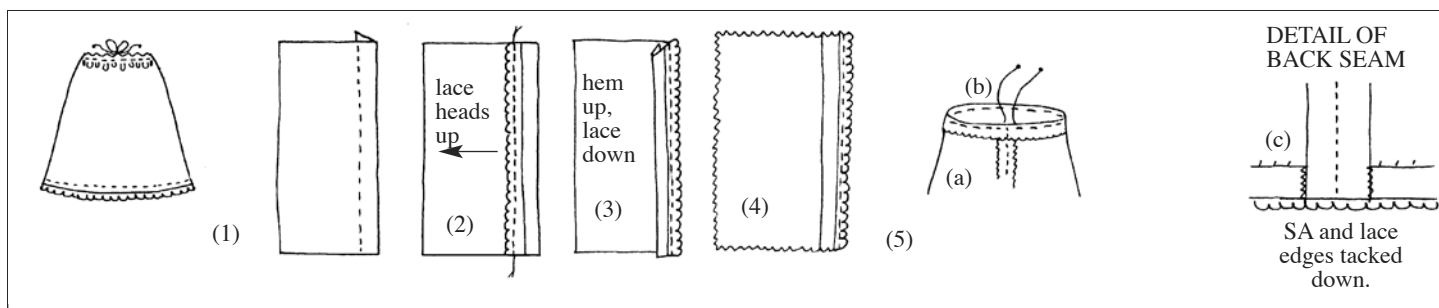


- (1) Cut a rectangle 11 across x 7 1/2" down from chosen fabric. Pre-iron up 1/2" along one 11" edge to become hem fold (where lace will go). Unfold the pre-ironed hem. Lay an 11" length of lace (if you are using lace) with the fancy edge heading up toward top of rectangle.
- (2) Iron lace down and hem up. Now iron in a scant 1/8" on raw edge to form a finished hem but leave it unhemmed for now. With the hem in place, fold the rectangle in half and place the edge of the pattern on the fold of the hem where lace begins. Draw around the pattern in pencil and cut out two legs on the drawn lines.
- (3) Sew one crotch seam with a 1/4" SA. Optionally ZZ the waist edge of the pantalets.
- (4) Sew the second crotch seam with 1/4" SA. Sew inner leg seam (1/4" SA), matching seams and lace edges. If you think your machine will have trouble going over these smoothly, do not sew all the way to the ends by machine - you can finish the rest by hand. Then finger fold the waist edge over 1/2". Using the off-white crochet string in the kit and a large eyed needle, sew the string into the folded waist edge through both thicknesses near the fold using a running stitch with the stitches about 1/8" long and beginning and ending on the outside next to the center back seam. Leave ties of about 2" long with tidy knots in the ends. These will be used to snug up the waist like a drawstring and tie a bow. Hand hem the pantalet hems and when you come to the SA's, neatly tack those flat and catch the lace so it will be tidy as shown in the DETAIL at right. Turn RS out, press and you are done.

Hint: Sometimes it is easier to tie a large bow, then smallen it down by alternately pulling on ends to make loops smaller and then retightening.

THE SLIP

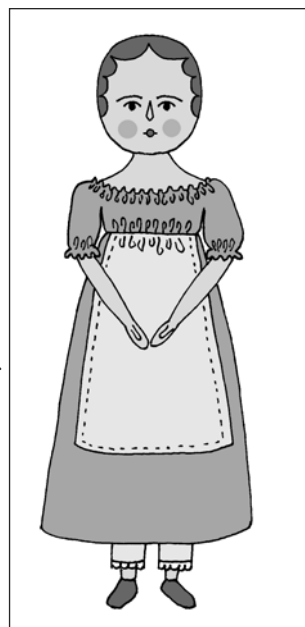
You will need - a small piece of fine fabric like batiste, about 16" of lace, some thin crochet string for waist ties and matching thread.



- (1) Pre-iron up 1/2" along one long edge to become hem fold (lace goes here).
- (2) Unfold the pre-ironed hem and lay a 16" length of lace with the fancy edge up toward top of rectangle (top of slip). Use the same instructions for narrowing down the lace as in step (3) for pantalets.
- (3) Iron lace down and hem up.
- (4) Now iron in a scant 1/8" on raw edge to form a finished hem but leave it unhemmed for now. Optionally ZZ the two sides and top raw edge.
- (5) a) Sew the center back seam with a 1/4" SA, matching the lace and hem edges. If you do not think your sewing machine can sew through all this at the hem neatly, stop short and sew the rest by hand.
 b) Finger fold in 1/2" for the waist edge and as you did for the pantalets, thread through some of the crochet string for the drawstring waist. Leave 2" string ends with knots on the outside just next to the center back seam.
 c) Hand hem and when you come to the SA's, neatly tack those flat and catch the lace so it will be tidy as shown in the DETAIL at left. Turn RS out and press. Put the slip on with ties in back, cinch up ties to fit her waist and tie a tidy little bow adjusting as necessary.

DRESSING THE DOLL

- All the tails of threads will be re-threaded in a needle and threads pulled to snug up gathers right on the doll, then secure with a couple of discreet securing stitches running threads out a ways away by sewing under the anchoring and then cut flush with surface - this hides thread ends.
- Starting with the pantalets, dress doll in stages, pulling up the gatherings to fit dolls waist.
- The neck edge is intended to be low around the shoulders as was the style of this period.
- The dress high waist is pulled up very snugly and threads firmly anchored.
- Sew apron directly to dressed doll by attaching one end, then running needle underneath and attaching the other end (see illustration).
- If you are making a back opening in the dress, pull up gathers above to fit doll and then anchor securely. Then sew 3 small buttons about 1/8" from the fold of the right edge and on the left side, make 3 corresponding thread loops that will go over buttons to close dress.



ANTIQUING FABRICS - PAINT OVERDYEING



This is a personal choice, but one I highly recommend so as to at least take the newness edge off light and bright fabrics. This would be using the light recipe. Or, if you want to really add patina, do the darker recipe. To overdye these clothes the way I do using the paint overdye, the step must be done *before* cutting and sewing *while the fabric is flat*. If you like this method, you can make your own or I make some in larger jars available in my Supplies section of my website.

You will need:

Basin or large bowl that holds a gallon or so of water. My paint overdye (see my website) or make your own (see below). Water. 1" - 1 1/2" flat brush. Old towels.

Light recipe (for whites such as underwear) - Use 1 tablespoon of the paint mix to 1 1/2 cups of water. For small pieces of fabric (fat quarters up to 1/2 yard).

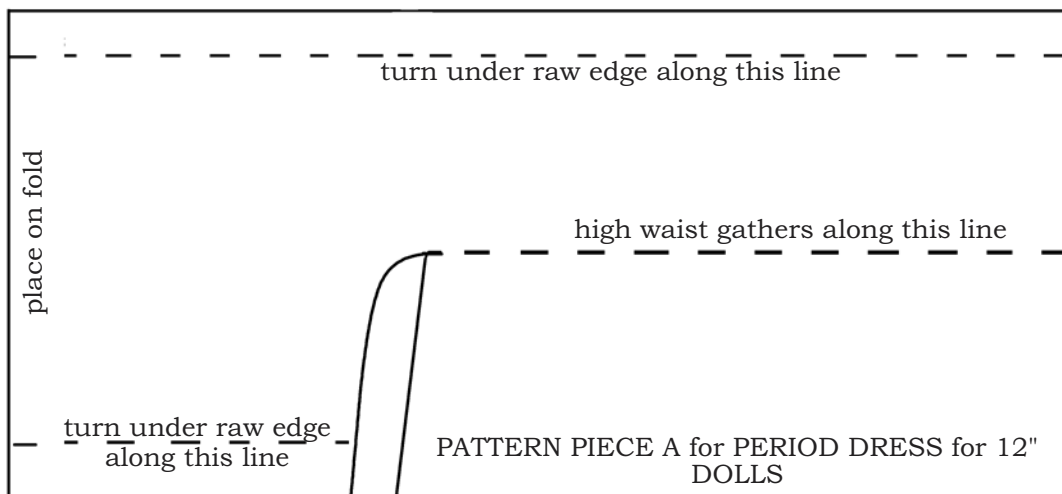
Dark recipe (for prints and an older look on whites) - Use 2 tablespoons of the paint mix to 1 1/2 cups of water. For small pieces of fabric (fat quarters up to 1/2 yard).

This amount should be sufficient to do several small pieces of fabric since batch can be used until used up. Use the brush to mop out the paint from the measuring spoon and to mix with the water, swabbing the bottom of your container where the paint settles and also use it to just generally stir - you must always stir this mix with a brush.

(1) Dip dry fabric (wet will take less color) to be overdye into mix and squish around into the fabric *really* well. Keep scrunching it until it is evenly wet, then hold up over container to see if there are any blob spots and if so, work into the fabric with a scrubbing action like doing handwashing. Redip and scrunch until it seems even. Then squeeze out all excess water in your hands (don't wring, just squeeze) until it is not dripping. It is permanent and fairly colorfast, as opposed to many other forms of dye. This mixture may be kept and reused several times.

(2) Once you have squeezed out most of the water (so it is now just really "damp" and not dripping) smooth with hands on an old towel and let dry flat - any creases cause irregular drying that can be undesirable, so try to keep it flat. Let it air dry, *do not speed up drying with any heat*. It will dry very quickly - unless it is humid, it is often ready to use in a few minutes. Once dry, you may iron fabrics.

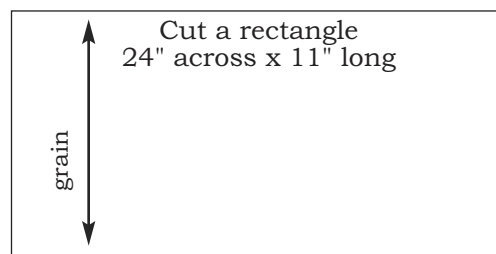
******You can make your own paint overdye with water base paints like liquid acrylics. I like a color that could be called a khaki or mud puddle or coffee (with cream) color. Use in proportions above.



PATTERN PIECE A for PERIOD DRESS for 12" DOLLS

(Easily adjusted for dolls 11-14")
1/4" SA

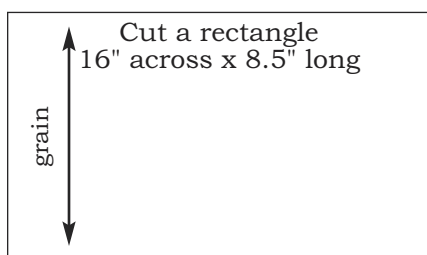
Do not cut cloth from this pattern. First cut a rectangle 22 1/2" x 11", then follow unique instructions for using pattern.



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OPTIONAL SLIP for PERIOD DRESS for 12" DOLLS

(Easily adjusted for dolls 11-14")



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this will be a sewing line



tape Pattern Piece B along this line

hem may need lengthening or shortening for the intended doll.

