

DA
Details Club

April Showers



Spring Flowers Dress

Bring on those May flowers! She's celebrating Spring with vintage flair in this pretty floral print dress. The dress is fully lined and features a center back slit. With only 3 pattern pieces and the usual Daniel Bingham Detailed instructions, this is a must-do project even for those who are new to sewing for dolls.

Alternin' for Ellowyn?™

The 16" size is wearable as it is. But, for a custom fit, add a little to the hips at the side seams - no more than 1/4" in total. Remove a little from the bust at the side seams - no more than 1/4" in total. The waist is just about right as it is. Try the dress on your doll after you have completed Step #4 to be sure she is happy.



Spring Flowers Dress

for 11 1/2 inch fashion dolls such as Barbie®
and 16 inch fashion dolls such as Tyler Wentworth®

Materials

For one dress you will need:

	11 1/2" doll	16" doll
Fashion fabric: Lightweight cotton fabric (such as quilt cotton):	7" x 12"	10" x 14"

Lining fabric:

China (habotai) silk or cotton batiste:	7" x 9"	10" x 12"
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Small hook and eye or snap fastener sets	2	3
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Appropriate marking tools

Seam sealant - optional (such as Fraycheck™)

Sewing thread to match

You can use regular sewing thread for this project. However, you may wish to use 60wt cotton thread, which is finer than regular sewing thread and this reduces bulk in seams on doll clothes. We also suggest a fine machine needle - size 60 or 70.

Instructions

The instructions are written for 11 1/2" dolls. Changes necessary for 16" dolls will be written thus (). Seams are stitched using a 1/4" seam allowance unless otherwise specified.

1. Print out pattern pieces on page 5 (page 6). Be sure to check the ruler on the pattern pages to be sure they have printed to size.

This is a very fitted dress. We suggest you cut out the pieces just outside your marked lines, to account for any frayed edges as you work.

Place your fashion fabric over printed pattern page(s) and check if you can see the printing through your fabric. If you can, simply trace around the pieces using your fade away marker, as described on the patterns. Where 2 pieces need to be cut, flip fabric over, to reverse the right side, and trace the 2nd piece.

Before cutting out, pin the traced fabric pieces to a single layer of lining. Then, cut out the fabric pieces together with the lining. Mark all pieces as indicated on patterns.

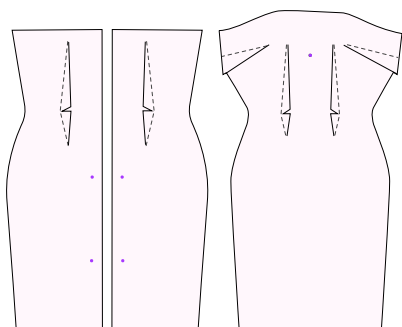
If you cannot see through your fashion fabric, cut out the paper pattern pieces. Lay them on your fabric and trace around them using your fade away marker, as described on the patterns. Where 2 pieces need to be cut, flip the pattern over, to reverse the right side, and trace the 2nd piece.

Before cutting out, pin the traced fabric pieces to a single layer of lining. Then, cut out the fabric pieces together with the lining. Mark all pieces as indicated on patterns.

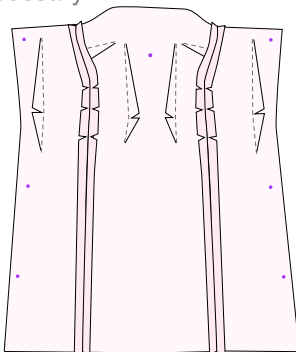
- Set up your sewing machine for a straight stitch with a stitch length of 2.0mm or 12 sts to the inch. Thread on top and in the bobbin with the matching sewing thread.

Tip: To decrease bulk, do not back stitch at the ends of the seams, unless stated. The shorter stitch length of 2.0mm (or 12 sts to the inch) that we use for most of the seams on this project will give you more accuracy around curves, and neater, more secure seams.

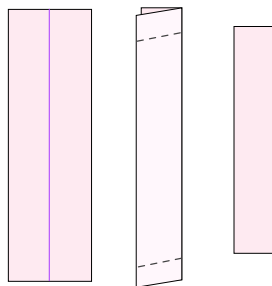
- Sew all front and back darts. At the dart points, leave thread ends about 4" long. Tie the ends in a knot and trim them to 3/8". Press to set the stitches, then press darts either down or towards center front or center back. Clip as necessary.



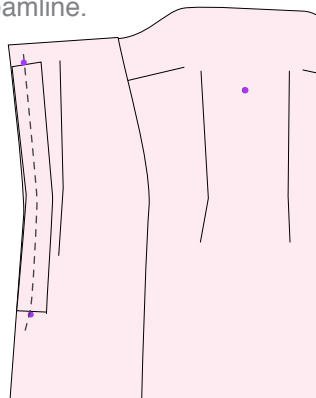
- With right sides together, sew dress front and backs together at side seams. Press seams flat to set the stitches, then press seams open. Clip at waist as necessary.



- With right sides facing, fold the back extension in half lengthwise. Stitch the ends. Press to set the stitches. Trim seam to 1/8". Turn to right side, making sure corners are completely turned. Press flat.

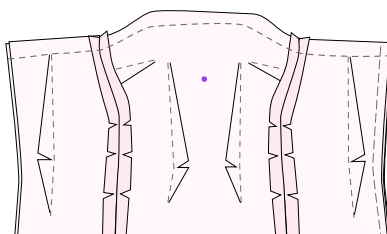


- Position extension on right back between "•" markings as shown. Stitch in place, just inside the seamline.

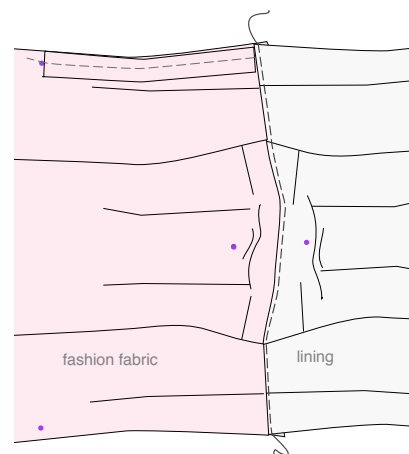


- Repeat Steps #3 and #4 for the lining pieces, pressing lining darts towards side seams, rather than centers.

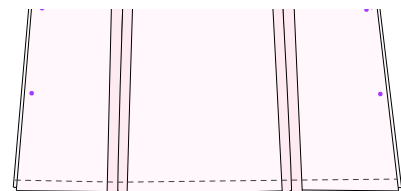
- With right sides facing, pin lining and fabric upper edges together. Stitch seam. Press flat to set the stitches. Trim to neaten, then press seam towards lining.



To keep the lining from rolling to the outside, understitch the lining to the seam allowances, pulling it taut as you stitch as close to the seam as you can. Press.

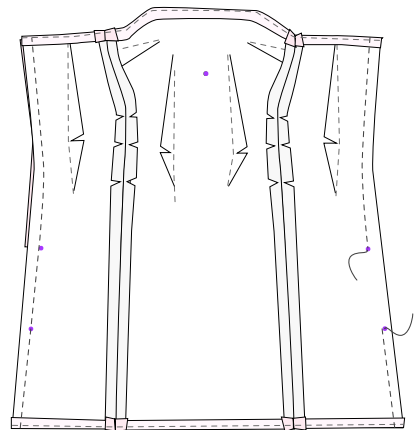


- Trim a scant 1/8" from lining hem edge. With right sides facing, pin lining and fabric hem edges together. Stitch seam. Press flat to set the stitches. Trim to neaten, then press seam towards lining.

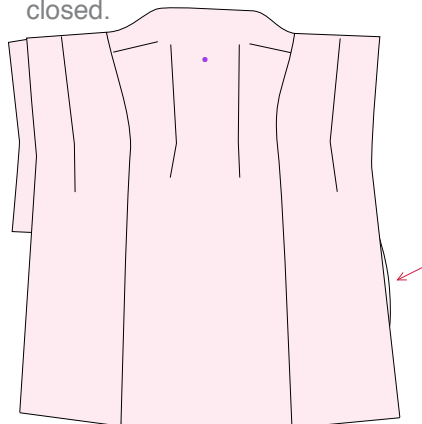


To keep the lining from rolling to the outside, understitch the lining to the seam allowances as you did in Step #8.

- Arrange the dress with right sides facing. Match lining to fabric at center back edges, allowing the understitched upper edge seam allowance and the understitched hem seam allowance to fall to the lining side as shown. Sew center back seams, leaving an opening between the "•" markings on one of the seams as shown. Trim and grade seam allowances.



11. Press center back seams to set the stitches, then turn to the right side through the opening between the markings. Push out corners *carefully* and press the entire dress. Slipstitch the opening closed.



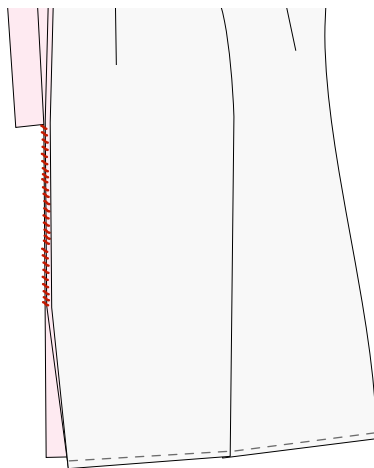
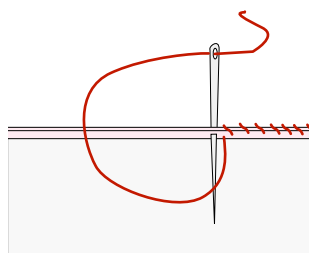
The remaining seams are completed by hand, using tiny "overhand" or "whip" stitches.

12. With right sides facing, pin the left and right backs together. You should be able to see a fold of fashion fabric along each back edge. Sew the seam by hand, from the lower end of the extension down to the "•" marking, stitching only into this folded edge of fabric, not the lining (see diagram).

To stitch: Taking tiny, even stitches, insert the needle at a right angle from the back edge through to the front edge, picking up only one or 2 threads at a time. Pull taught but not so tight as to pucker the seam.

From the right side you will barely see the stitches and they will look like machine stitching.

For the neatest finish, insert the thread ends between the layers of lining/fabric to bury them.

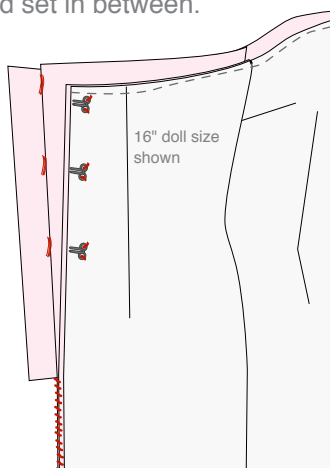


13. Sew a hook and eye, or snap fastener set at the top edge.

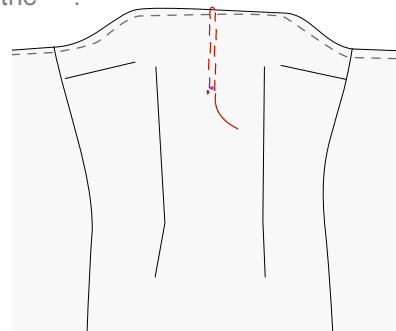
If you are using hooks, consider making thread loops instead of metal eyes.

For 11 1/2" dolls, sew the 2nd set halfway down the back opening.

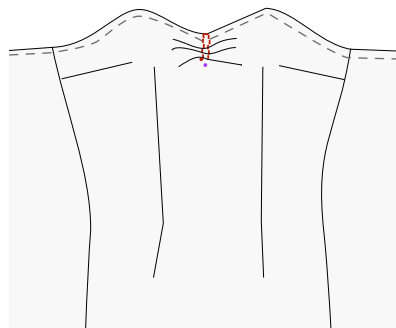
For 16" dolls, sew the 2nd set 2" down the back opening and the 3rd set in between.

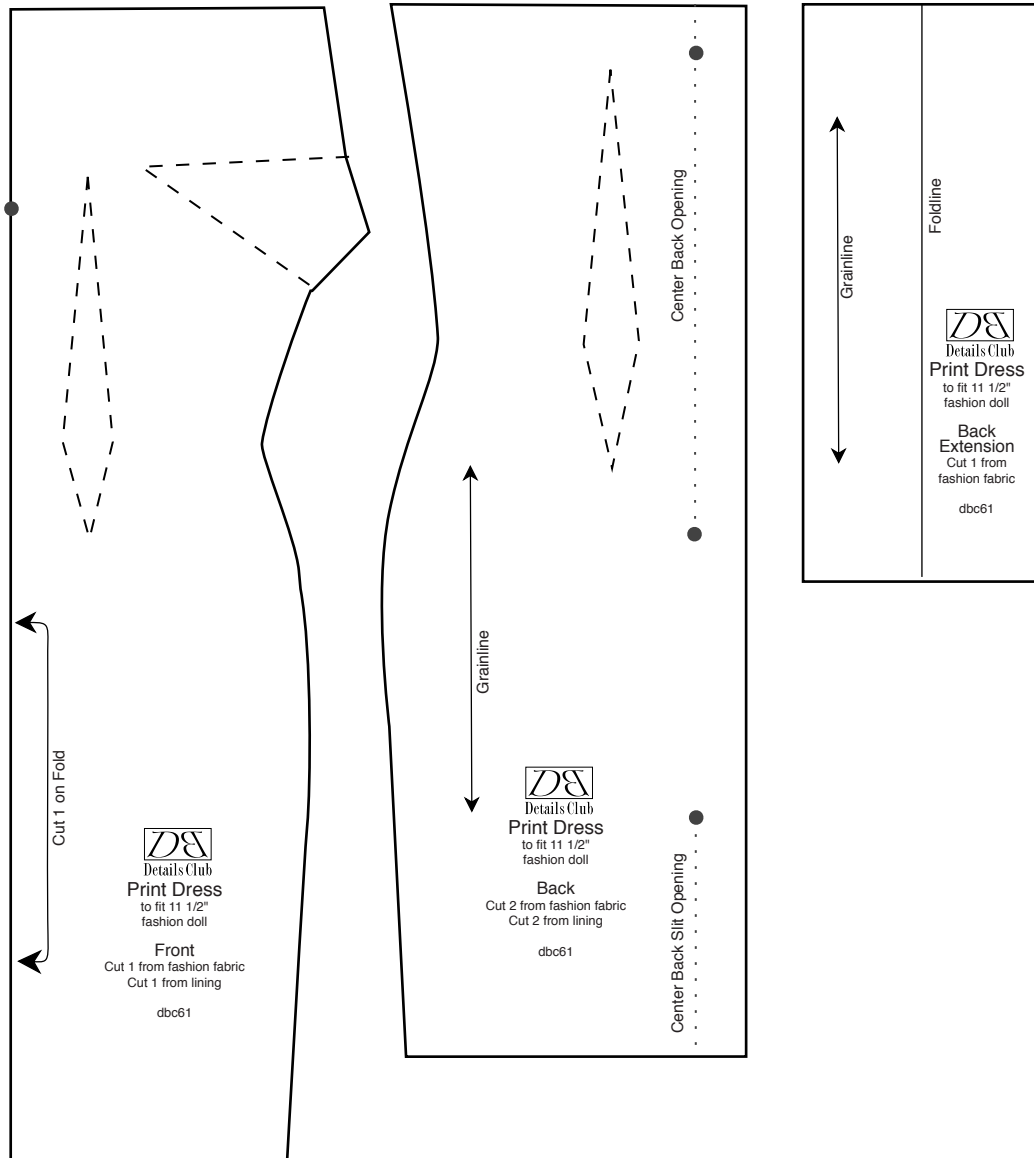


14. To gather the front, thread a sewing needle with a double strand of thread. On the wrong side, fasten the thread securely at the "•" marking. Take small running stitches (about 6) up the center front to the top edge. Turn and continue back down to the "•".

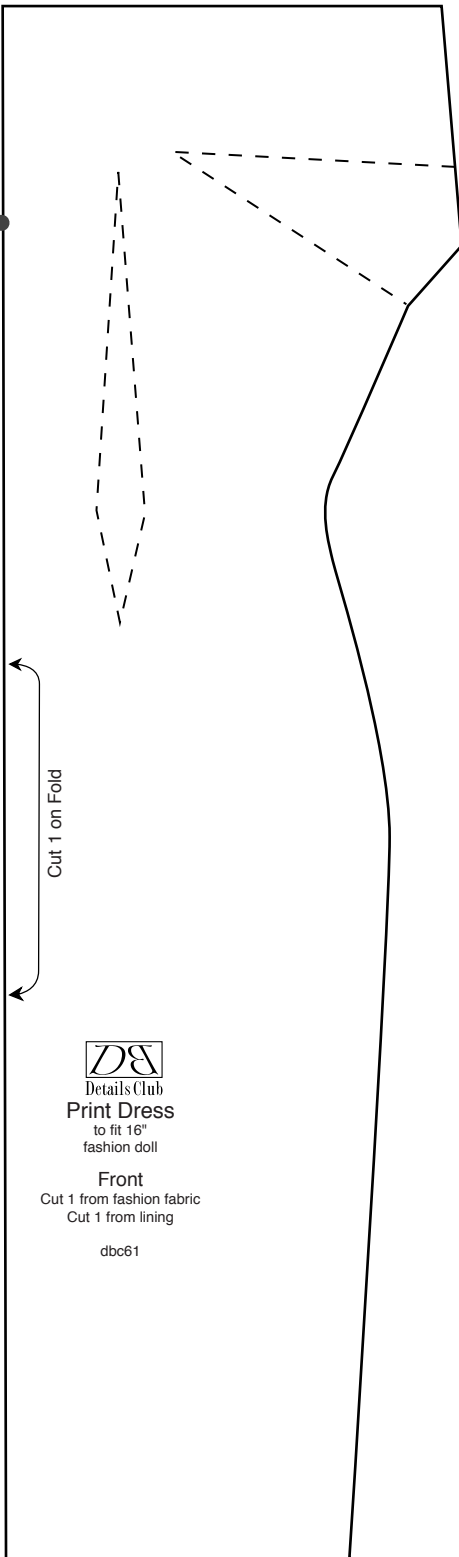


Pull thread firmly to gather the center. Fasten the thread securely.



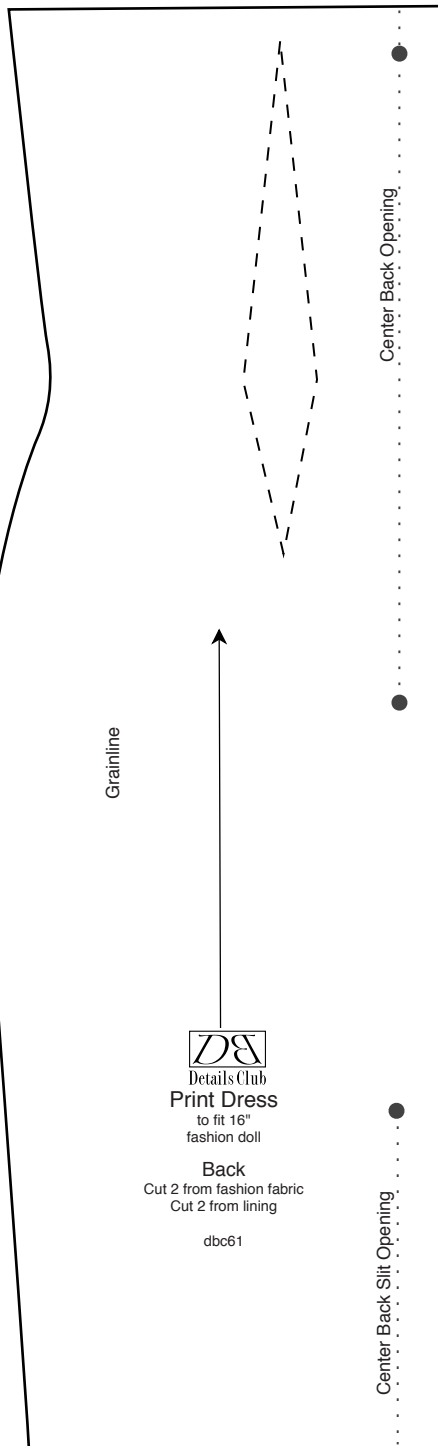


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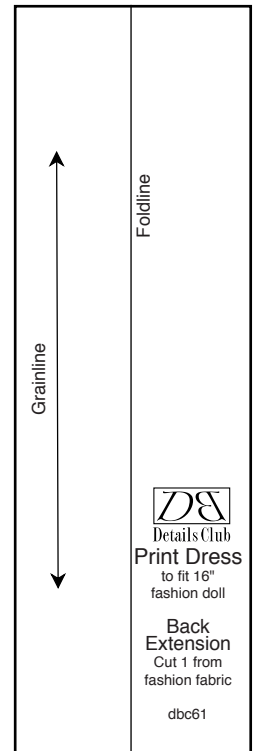
Details Club
Print Dress
to fit 16"
fashion doll

Front
Cut 1 from fashion fabric
Cut 1 from lining
dbc61



Details Club
Print Dress
to fit 16"
fashion doll

Back
Cut 2 from fashion fabric
Cut 2 from lining
dbc61



Details Club
Print Dress
to fit 16"
fashion doll

Back Extension
Cut 1 from fashion fabric
dbc61



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