



## 18 INCH AND AMERICAN GIRL TRENDY TRANSFORMABLE TOP

### Make Your Outfit Instructions

#### 1. Preview of Completed Outfit

Play this video and check out this great outfit that YOU will make!

#### 2. Tools and Resources Required

- 1) Paper pattern (printed from PDF file downloaded to your computer)
- 2) Fabric – 10 inches (25cm) knit

**NB:** Can be made with woven fabric but you will need to finish the raw edges and other additional steps are mentioned in the videos.

- 3) Velcro strip 5 ¼ - 6 ½ inches x ½ inch (13 – 16.5cm x 1.5cm) depending on which top you make.
- 4) Matching thread
- 5) Paper scissors
- 6) Fabric scissors
- 7) Clippers/snips
- 8) Pins
- 9) Ruler, sewing gauge or tape measure

#### 3. Preparing Paper Pattern

- 1) Check the 2 inch (5cm) tip measurement is correct to ensure you have printed the pattern to the correct size.
- 2) Cut out pattern pieces following the solid line according to whether you are making the top with a square hem or diagonal hem and which doll i.e. 18 inch American Girl or 20 inch Australian Girl doll.





**Square Hem:** Pieces #1 and #3

**Diagonal Hem:** Pieces #1, #2 & #3

**Top with Sleeves:** Above plus Piece #4

#### 4. Cutting Out Fabric

##### **Diagonal Hem**

- 1) If making top with sleeves, fold fabric in half so that the selvages are together and maximum stretch is going across from fold to selvedge. Place paper pattern piece #4 Sleeve onto the fabric with the maximum stretch going in the same direction as the arrow on the pattern piece. Place this piece as far away from the fold as possible as you will unfold the fabric to cut the remaining pieces out.
- 2) Pin in place and cut around with scissors or cutting blade.
- 3) Unfold remaining fabric and place pattern pieces #1 Front, #2 Right Back and #3 Left Back onto the fabric with the Maximum stretch running in the same direction as the arrow on the pattern pieces.
- 4) Pin in place and cut around with scissors or cutting blade.

##### **Square Hem**

- 1) Fold fabric in half so that the selvages are together and maximum stretch is going across from fold to selvedge. Place paper pattern pieces #4 Sleeve (if making top with sleeves) and #3 Left Back onto the fabric with the maximum stretch going in the same direction as the arrow on the pattern pieces. Place these pieces as far away from the fold as possible as you will need to unfold the fabric to cut the remaining piece out.
- 2) Pin in place and cut around with scissors or cutting blade.
- 3) Unfold remaining fabric and place pattern piece #1 Front onto the fabric with the Maximum stretch running in the same direction as the arrow on the pattern pieces.
- 4) Pin in place and cut around with scissors or cutting blade.



## 5. Hem Neck, Sleeves & Diagonal Hem

### Neck

- 1) Turn raw edge of neckline down ¼ inch (6mm) towards the wrong side of the fabric on pieces #1 Front, #2 Right Back and #3 Left Back. Pin.
- 2) With a straight stitch, sew hem mid-way between raw edge and fold.

### Sleeve

- 3) Turn bottom edge of sleeve up ¼ inch (6mm) towards the wrong side. Pin.
- 4) With a straight stitch, sew hem mid-way between raw edge and fold.
- 5) Repeat steps 3) and 4) with second sleeve.

### Diagonal Hem

**NB: If serging the hem please skip this step and do the hem as per the instructions for the square hem.**

- 6) Turn diagonal edge of pieces #1 Front, #2 Right Back and #3 Left Back, up ¼ inch (6mm) towards the wrong side. Pin.
- 7) With a straight stitch, sew hem mid-way between raw edge and fold. On piece #3 Left Back hem, trim the extra fabric that is now extending past the side seam so that it is level with the side seam.
- 8) Turn center back edge of pieces #2 Right Back and #3 Left Back, in ¼ inch (6mm) towards the wrong side. Pin.
- 9) With a straight stitch, sew hem mid-way between raw edge and fold securing beginning and end with reverse stitches. On piece #2 Left Back, trim the extra fabric that is now extending past the hem so that it is level with the hem.

## 6. Sew Shoulder Seams

- 1) Place front of shirt on the table with the right side of the fabric facing up. Take each of the back pieces and lay them on top of the front piece so that the shoulder, armholes and side seams match. Ensure that the finished edges of the neck are even and pin at shoulder on both sides.
- 2) With a straight stitch, sew ¼ inch (6mm) seam from neck out towards the armhole on both sides securing beginning and end with reverse stitches.



- 3) Trim seam allowance at raw edge on the angle to reduce the bulk when either attaching the sleeve or hemming the sleeve.
- 4) Separate seam allowance and at the neckline. Secure seam allowance down by dropping your feed dogs and doing a zigzag stitch (I like to use width 4) at the stitching line of the neck hem. This will hold the seam allowance flat. You may prefer to hand stitch on the wrong side.

## **Top with Sleeves**

### **7. Attach Sleeves**

- 1) Fold first sleeve in half and place a pin at the fold on the top. This is marking the center top of the sleeve.
- 2) With right sides together and raw edges even, match the pin at the top of the sleeve with the shoulder seam on the armhole and pin ensuring that the seam allowance is open and lying flat. Match one end of the sleeve with one end of the armhole making sure raw edges are even. Pin. Gently stretch the armhole between these two pins so that the sleeve sits flat and pin. Repeat with the other side of the sleeve.
- 3) Using a straight or stretch stitch sew  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6mm) seam allowance securing beginning and end with reverse stitches.
- 4) Repeat steps 1) to 3) with the other sleeve.

## **Sleeveless Top**

### **8. Hem Armholes**

- 1) Turn raw edge of armhole in  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6mm) towards the wrong side of the fabric ensuring that the seam allowance at the shoulder is open and lying flat. Pin.
- 2) With a straight stitch, sew hem mid-way between raw edge and fold securing beginning and end with reverse stitches.
- 3) Repeat steps 1) and 2) on second armhole.



## All Tops

### 9. Sew Side Seams

#### Sleeveless Top

- 1) Place the top in front of you with the right side facing up. Bring the back pieces over to the front so that they are lying on top of the front piece and right sides are together. Match the finished edge of the armhole and raw edges of the side seams. Pin.
- 2) With a straight stitch, sew  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6mm) seam allowance starting at the armhole and securing beginning and end with reverse stitches.
- 3) Repeat steps 1) and 2) on other side and then turn top right side out.

#### Top with Sleeves

- 1) Place the top in front of you with the right side facing up. Bring the back pieces over to the front so that they are lying on top of the front piece and right sides of the fabric are together. Match the seam under the sleeve and pushing one seam allowance one way and the other seam allowance the other way, place a pin. Match the finished edges of the hem of the sleeve and the raw edges of the sleeve and pin. Place another pin at the bottom of the top being sure to match the finished edges if you are doing the top with the diagonal hem.
- 2) With a straight stitch, sew  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6mm) seam allowance starting at the hem of the sleeve and going all the way down to the hem of the top securing beginning and end with reverse stitches.
- 3) Repeat steps 1) and 2) on other side and then turn top right side out.

#### Diagonal Hem

- 1) Sew side seam as above according to if you have sleeves or not.
- 2) Then at the point of the hem you will need to trim the excess seam allowance that is showing below the hem. Do this by holding the seam allowances together and cutting on an angle up to the stitching line at the point.
- 3) Separate seam allowance and at the hem. Secure seam allowance down by dropping your feed dogs and doing a zigzag stitch (I like to use width 4) at the stitching line of the hem. This will hold the seam allowance flat. You may prefer to hand stitch on the wrong side.



## Top With Square Hem (and Serged Diagonal Hem)

### 10. Hem

- 1) Clip seam allowance on an angle at the hem on both side seams, this will reduce the bulk when turning up the hem (or serging).
- 2) Along the bottom of the top, turn the raw edge ¼ inch (6mm) up to the wrong side making sure to separate the seam allowance at the side. Pin.
- 3) Using a straight stitch, sew hem mid way between raw edge and fold.

**NB: If doing a rolled hem or three thread serged hem on your serger/overlocker, do this along the bottom of the top instead of doing steps 2) and 3) above and then proceed to step 4).**

- 4) Fold the raw edge of the back of the top in ¼ inch (6mm) towards the wrong side and pin.
- 5) Using a straight stitch, sew mid way between raw edge and fold securing beginning and end with reverse stitches.
- 6) Repeat steps 4) and 5) with second side.

## All Tops

### 11. Attach Velcro

- 1) Using a straight stitch, sew the hook side of the Velcro strip on to the right side of the fabric on one back piece, ensuring the edge of the Velcro is close to the top of the neck and the finished edge of the back. Secure beginning and end with reverse stitches.
- 2) Stitch the loop side of the Velcro strip on to the wrong side of the other back piece ensuring it is close to the top of the neck and the finished edge of the back. Secure beginning and end with reverse stitches.

### 12. Congratulations You Did It!

- 1) Celebrate! YOU made another great outfit. Well done!