



Adapted for Prairie Flower dolls by Beth Webber. Please do not sell

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Gathered Sleeve Bodice for Prairie Flower Cloth Dolls

patterns adapted from *Bleurette* patterns found at www.thebleudoor.com,
and modified using a technique from *Dressing Dolls*, by Rosemarie Ionker

Please note: I recommend using Adobe Acrobat Reader to print these files. Find the free reader here:

<http://get.adobe.com/reader/otherversions/>

and when printing out the patterns, set the 'Page Scaling' to NONE for the correct scaling of the pattern pieces.

Materials:

- 1/4 to 1/3 yard cotton fabric, depending on how full you make the skirt
- Contrasting fabric enough to make bias trim for the neck and sleeves, if desired

Directions:

All seams are 1/4 inch unless otherwise noted.

This is a very clever way to make gathered sleeves for doll clothing without the tediousness of setting the sleeve. This technique is described in Rosemarie Ionker's book *Dressing Dolls*, which I highly recommend for anyone who loves to make doll clothing, or just loves looking at superbly made doll clothing.

Cut out the bodice front/back and sleeve/side pieces. Cut out three bias strips 7/8 inches wide and 10 inches long (to finish the neck and sleeve edges), and one strip on the straight grain 7/8 inches wide and eight inches long (to finish the back edges).

Cut the back open along the center back line (DO NOT cut the front!). Zig zag one long edge of the eight inch straight strip and cut in two (you now have two pieces four inches long). With the right sides together, place a strip along each back opening and stitch with a 3/16 seam. Press the facing over the seam and to the wrong side of the shirt. Secure in place by stitching in the ditch along both back edges.

Sew one bias strip to the neck edge with a 1/8 inch seam, leaving 1/2 inch extra material at each back edge to fold over. If using purchased bias tape, press it open before using. Press the bias strip up and over the seam, stitch in the ditch around the neck edge to secure, folding the back edges to the wrong side. Bias edges do not need to be finished with a zig zag stitch (they don't ravel).

Stitch the remaining bias strips to the sleeve edges, press them up and over the seam, but don't secure them yet. With a long machine stitch, stitch two rows of gathering stitches (with the right side of each sleeve facing up) between the marks shown on the pattern piece. Gather the sleeve cap, and pin the side/sleeve to the bodice front/back, making a long seam from the bottom of the bodice front to the bodice back. Like magic, you now have a gathered sleeve! I like to zig zag this seam to finish it after I have stitched it. Press this seam toward the bodice front/back.

Pin the underarm/side seams together and stitch, opening out the bias binding at the sleeve edge. Clip

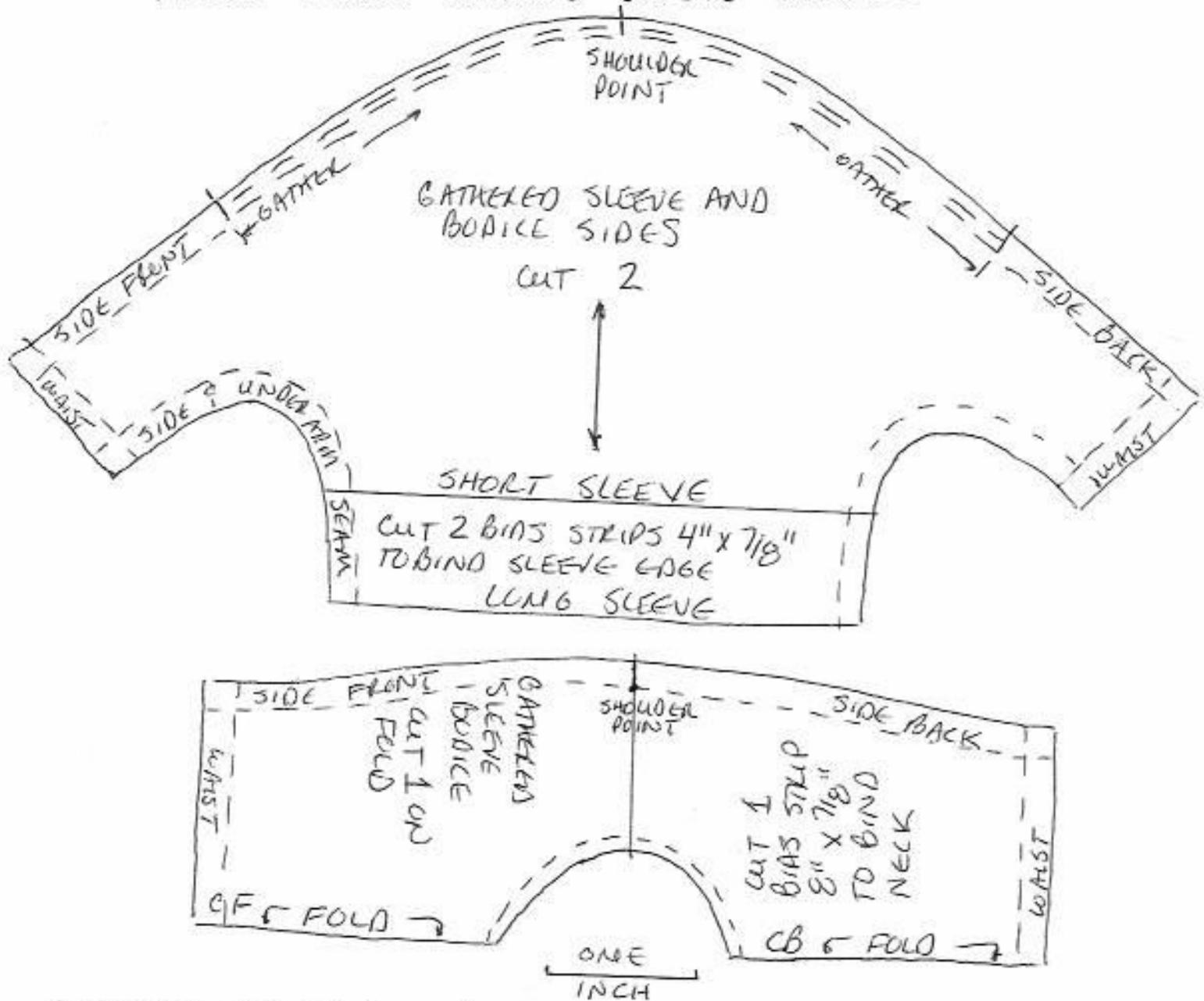
the curves at the underarm and press this seam open, then press the bias back over the sleeve edge. Secure the bias by hand stitching in the ditch.

For the skirt, cut a piece of material 6 inches x 20 inches. Zig zag stitch along the two short and one long edge of the skirt. With a long machine stitch, stitch two rows of gathering stitches along one long edge of the skirt. Gather the skirt top edge to match the bodice bottom edge, folding over about 1/4 inch at the back to cleanly finish the back of the dress. Stitch the skirt to the bodice; zig zag over the waist seam and press this seam up (toward the bodice). Stitch 1/4 inch seam up the back of the skirt for three inches and back-tack.

Press up 1/2 to 3/4 inches for the hem and stitch in place.

If you would like a tuck along the bottom of the skirt, before attaching the skirt to the bodice, fold up and press a 3/4 inch hem, then fold the fabric again 3/4 inch. Stitch 1/8 inch from the second fold, catching the raw edge in the stitching. This creates a tuck and finished the hem all in one.

PRAIRIE FLOWER GATHERED SLEEVE BODICE



- GATHER THE SLEEVE BETWEEN THE MARKS AND MATCH TO THE BODICE FRONT/BACK AT SHOULDER POINT WITH THE WAIST EDGES EVEN. STITCH.
- CUT TWO STRIPS ON STRAIGHT GRAIN 3" x 1"; SLIT THE CENTER BACK OPEN AND FINISH WITH THE FABRIC STRIPS.
- BIND THE NECK EDGE WITH 8" x 7 1/8" BIAS STRIP (THIS WILL GIVE YOU EXTRA FABRIC ON EACH END).
- SEW THE UNDERARM / SIDE SEAM.
- CUT SKIRT 6" x 20". FINISH THE SHORT EDGES WITH ZIG ZAG; GATHER AND SEW TO BODICE, STITCH BACK SEAM UP 3". HEM THE BOTTOM EDGE