

# Summer Sew-Along 2013

## Part 1: Suitcase and Mock-Smocked Top



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I assume you have basic sewing knowledge and the pictures should suffice, but if you need help please email me!

Proud of your project? Post your pix to our flickr group – email me for an invitation to join:  
jenwrenne at yahoo dot com

Want to see what others are making? <http://www.flickr.com/groups/summersewalong/>

**Our first project** will be a suitcase for your doll to take on her travels, and for you to store your creations. You will need:



- A wooden or plastic box in your desired size (I used a pencil box - \$1 at Michael's),
- 2 small wooden wheels and a wooden dowel or pegs to fit them.
- For the handle I used a child safety lock, available for ~\$3 for a two-pack at the hardware store.
- Shrinky-dink plastic to make luggage tags. (I used Grafix brand matte baked for 1 min at 300 degrees, or check your recycle bin for #6 clear plastic) You can make them out of paper covered with tape also.
- A drill (a hand drill will work best, sometimes power drills crack plastic) and hacksaw or other cutting device

What to do:

1. Paint wheels and outside of pegs
2. Cut off end of child safety lock (circled in green above) so you can get the moveable thing off
3. Drill holes in the top of the box and insert safety lock. It's now a retractable "handle" that slides up and down – just like real luggage!
4. Drill holes in the sides for the wheels. My box had a weird protrusion (circled in red) that I sawed off at the bottom so the wheel would fit better. Check your box when buying it if you don't want to have to do that.
5. Apply liberal amounts of hot glue on the inside to the pegs to hold them in place. (circled in blue in the photo below) You could also cut a piece of scrap wood and drill holes to fit the pegs and glue them with wood glue.

6. Make luggage tags and tie them on.



**Ok, get ready to sew!!**

**Choosing your fabrics:**

I found a cute bundle of coordinated quilting fabrics in fat quarters. These are perfect to make a wardrobe that all works together, but you need to know one secret trick: Using only prints of quilting fabric will make your doll look like she is wearing a quilt. A real person like you or your daughter would mix cotton prints with solids, and other fabrics such as twill or denim. Adding these to your collection will make the whole thing look more realistic. I'm using one fat quarter bundle and a few random solids from old clothes I've cut up to make everything mix-and-match-able

**A mock-smocked sundress to fit any doll you have! (no elastic required!)**

Step one: decide how long you want it to be. A shirt? A short dress? An ankle-length dress?

Step two: measure this distance on your doll and add 1 inch to that measurement to allow for a hem at the top and bottom. This is measurement A.

Step three: measure around your doll's chest and multiply that number by 2 or 2.5. (depending how full you want it) This is measurement B

Step four: cut a rectangle using your A and B measurements from above and turn under a quarter inch hem twice at the top and bottom of it. (The one pictured on the AG was 6"x22" before hemming since I used a fat quarter, yours may look fuller)



Step five: run three parallel Rows of gathering stitches starting half an inch from the hem that will form the top edge of your dress. The spacing between the gathers is dependent on your doll. For a 16 to 18 inch doll my gathers were spaced 3/8 inch apart.



Step six: pull up the gathers to fit around your doll's chest. Baste over the top of them to hold the gathers in place. Now cover this row of stitching with either a plain, short running stitch, decorative machine stitches or trim such as rickrack. (see photos below)



Step seven: Mark where you would like the shoulder straps to fall and attach pieces of ribbon or ties made from self fabric at those points. Hem, serge or zigzag the back edge and attach fasteners of choice.



Tip: Your American girl doll can wear this with a T-shirt underneath if you would like to disguise her cloth body. (coming next week!)