

Wren ★ Feathers

Japanese School Uniform

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

Quarter inch seams allowed unless otherwise specified.



Sailor outfits have been a classic look in children's clothing since the Victorian era. For me, the major problem in making them has always been, "What's the best way to get a contrasting insert in a deep V-neck and still have it close easily?" Some Bleurette outfits over the years did it by sewing a bodice to the skirt with a jacket over the whole thing, but this clever top, based on Japanese school uniforms, circumvents that problem by eliminating the insert and raising the neckline. Finally, a sailor outfit made easy!



Important to note: the collar does NOT go all the way to the edges because it closes with a front overlap with hidden snaps. For small dolls, the overlap is about .25"/5-6mm (see arrow). Baste on first using center backs of both pieces to line up.

The tie is a bias tube, tacked on over the top snap, but you could also tie/sew a ribbon bow at her neck. Note that a bow is much more common on sailor-style tops in Asia than the straight tie I've shown here.

To make the skirt:

Measure doll's waist and add 1". Cut a waistband 1.5" wide by necessary length. Multiply waistband measurement by 3 to determine skirt width. Length should be just at or slightly below the knee plus desired hem. My Little Darling's was 5"x21" with a .75" hem.

How to do fast pleats for skirts or trim:

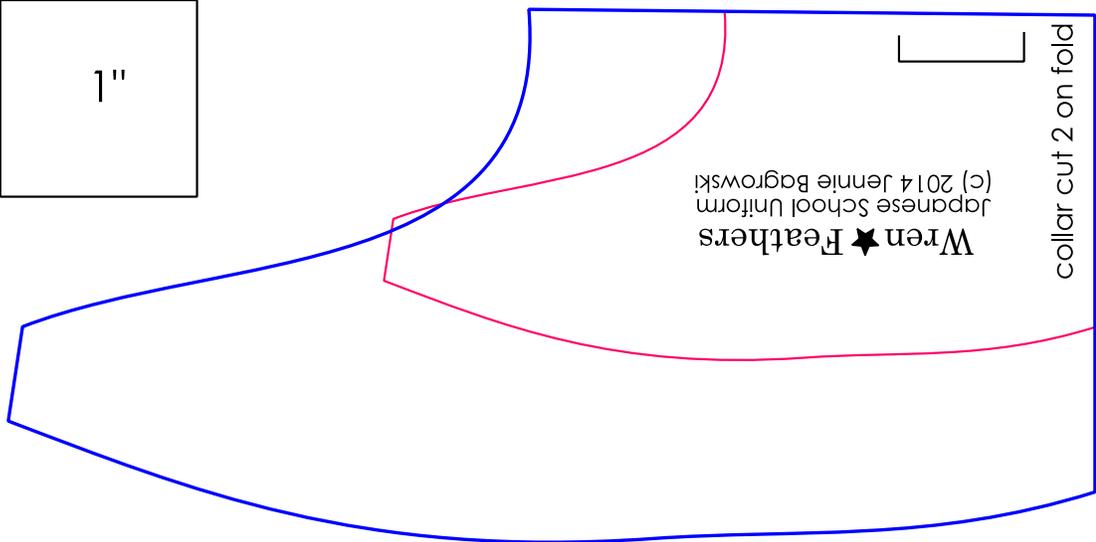
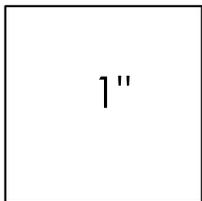
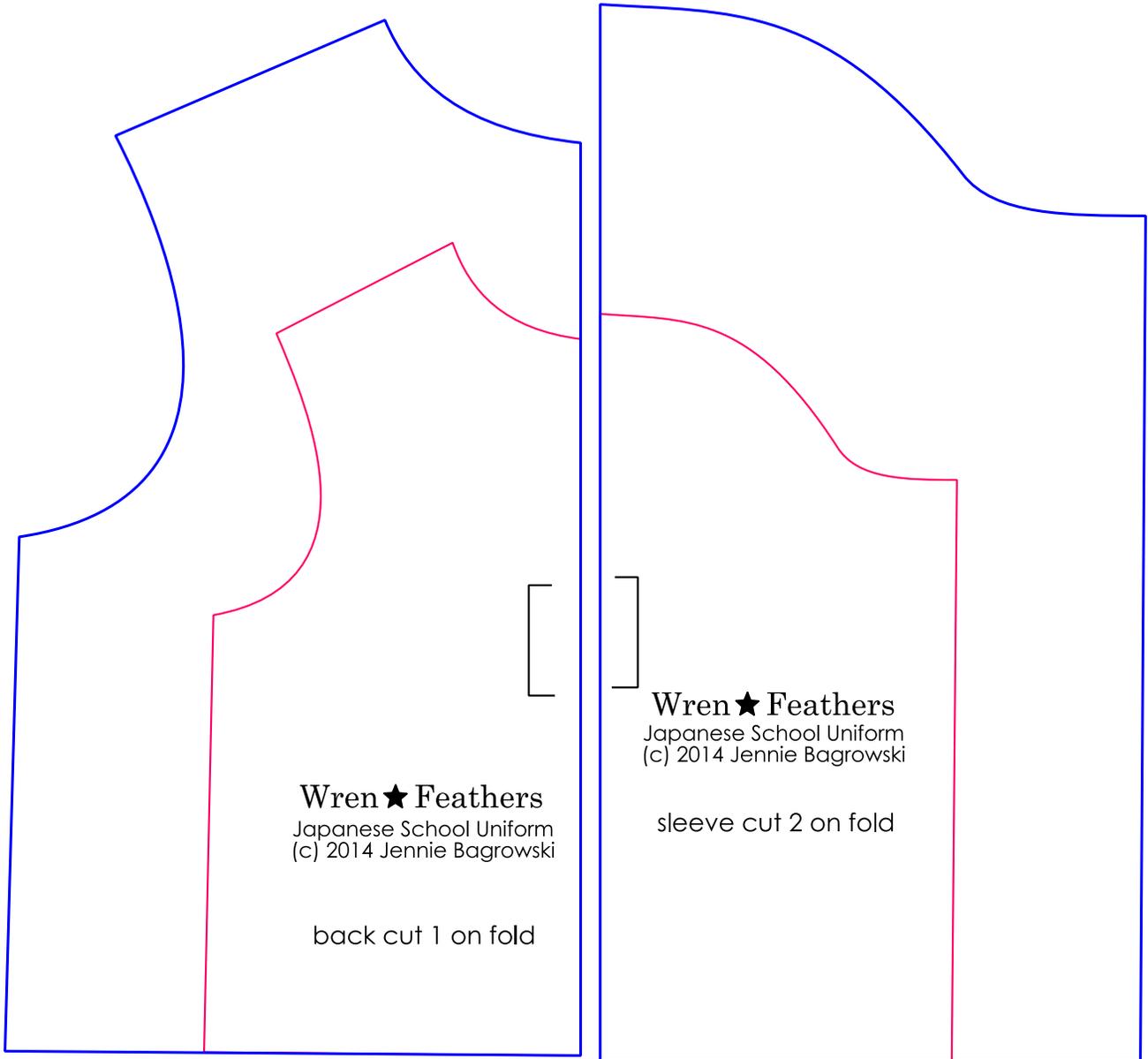


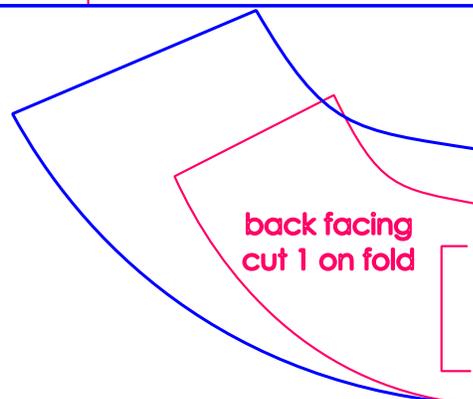
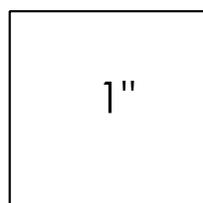
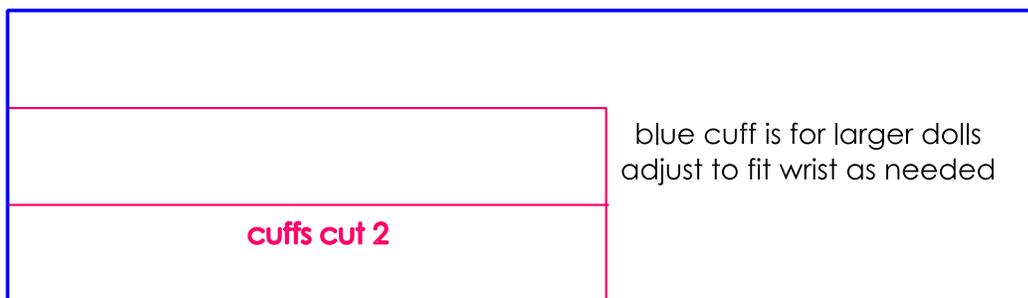
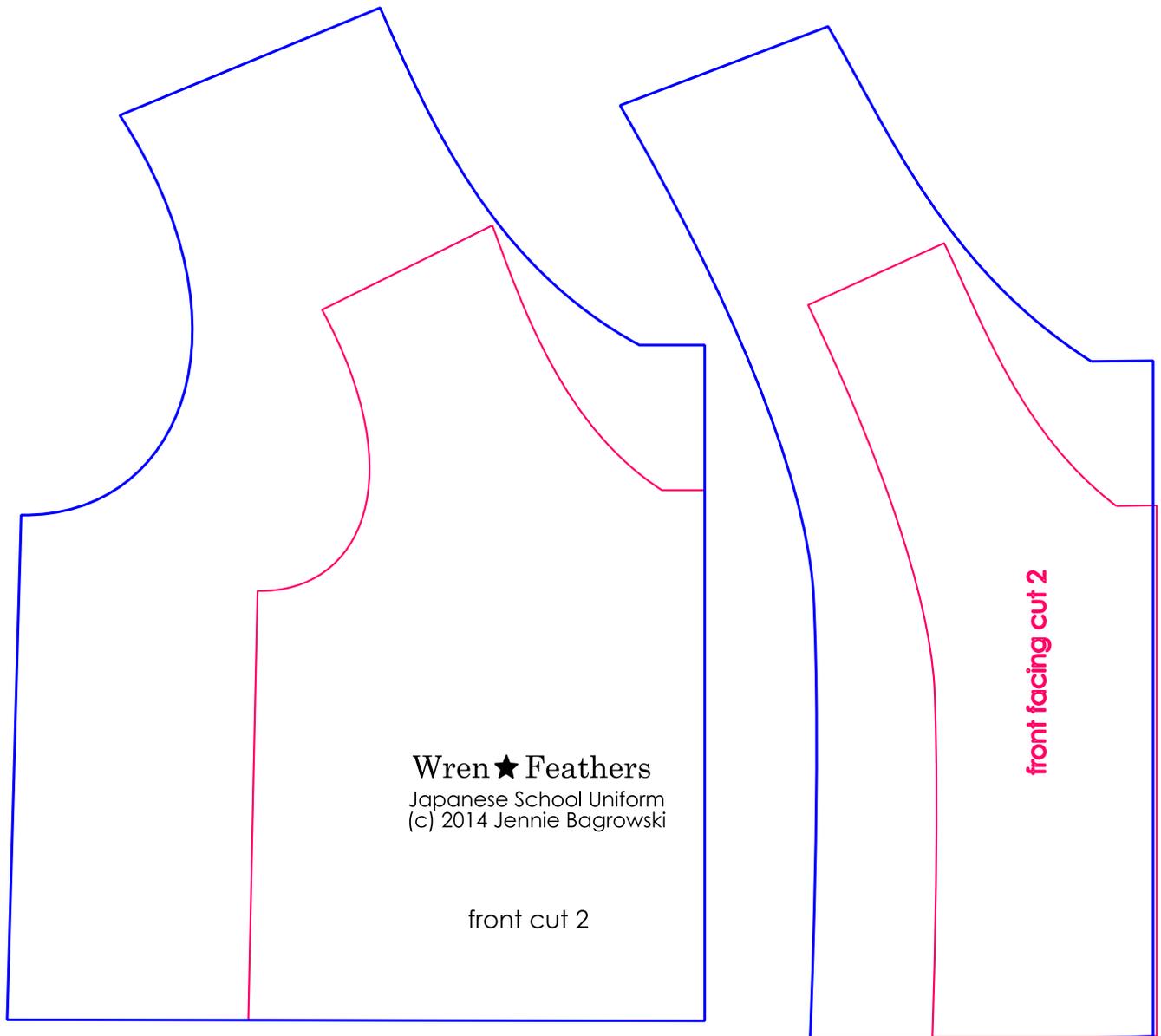
Hem first! (Pic shows a ruffle folded instead of hemmed)

Find a chopstick/bamboo skewer. Set your machine for basting stitches and choose a reference point on your machine about 1" from the presser foot. I used the bottom of that little black button on the right., but you can also put a piece of masking tape to mark it on your machine.

Sew 3-4 stitches (almost to the edge of your previous pleat) and push the fabric from your reference point to under the presser foot. Continue until you run out of fabric. Sew to waistband and trim away any excess.

The pink pattern included here fits Little Darlings, and Les Cheries, and will fit other dolls with some adjustments. Increase sleeve length by about .25" (5mm) for Hearts for Hearts. Blue is for AG. Lengthen sleeves a little (~3/8") for Maplelea





Take her to a Japanese garden for pix! Or, um, photoshop her into one 😊

The background image is from publicdomainpictures.net

