

# Wren ★ Feathers

## Little Darling in Japan: Obon yukata and pleated skirt

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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.





Yukata 浴衣 is a type of informal cotton summer version of a kimono. I chose for her to wear it to the Obon festival, which is celebrated in July or August. It's a Buddhist festival commemorating the souls of departed loved ones, similar to the Mexican Día de los Muertos. Families visit and tidy graves, leave food offerings, and hang lanterns to guide spirits. One custom I found really interesting is the making of vegetable animals to put on an altar at home. Toothpicks are stuck in, for example, eggplants or sweet potatoes to make a cow and a horse. The spirits of loved ones can symbolically "ride" the animals. The horse is so they will arrive quickly, and the cow so they will depart slowly.

Traditional dances called bon odori 盆踊り are performed and when the festival is over, little square (or sometimes circular) paper lanterns are floated in the nearest river or body of water to guide the spirits back to their world.

It doesn't seem that there are any specific traditional foods served for Obon. Since it's at the height of summer, cold, seasonal foods like watermelon are popular, as well as standard Japanese favorites like sushi, tempura, udon, etc.

Hakama 袴 as you might remember from the Aikido post, is usually a pleated, divided skirt-type garment. Sometimes it's not divided, and is worn as a pleated skirt over a longer kimono.

Instructions for making the yukata and a pattern for KnC size is here:

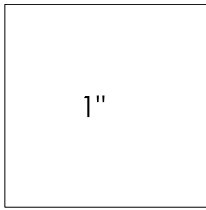
<http://jenwrenne.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/free-pattern-for-february-kimono-geta-obi.pdf>

It could easily be widened a bit for AGs. I made this yukata without the fold at the waist, since I couldn't get it to look nice under the skirt, but if you're making this without the skirt, add some length to be able to put in the fold.





At people scale, the front tie wraps around the waist in back, crosses, comes to the front, and gets tied again in back. Then the back tie comes forward and ties in a bow or decorative knot. Depending on the thickness of your fabric, this can get rather lumpy at the waist. For doll clothes, (and sometimes even people clothes) what's often done is to cut the ties off at the right length and close with Velcro rather than ties. On the outside, a perfect bow can be sewn to the tie with a snap underneath. It also has the advantage of making dressing the doll much faster, but can cause problems if dolls with different measurements want to share.



cut on fold here for front

Front ties: 1"x26"

Back ties: 1"x18"

Hem side openings first, then  
pleat front piece symmetrically on  
both sides to measure 3"

Back piece has 1 large pleat on each side of the center

cut on fold here for back

## Wren★Feathers

Undivided Hakama

AKA pleated skirt

for 13" dolls like Little Darling

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cut 1 front 1 back on fold

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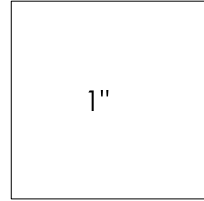
Undivided Hakama

for 13" dolls like Little Darling

(c) 2014 Jennie Bagrowski

Back wasit piece cut 1 on fold

extend 8" from this line  
allows a 1" hem to ankle length



**Wren★Feathers**  
Yukata  
for 13" dolls like Little Darling  
(c) 2014 Jennie Bagrowski  
Sleeve cut 2 on fold

**Wren★Feathers**  
Yukata  
for 13" dolls like Little Darling  
(c) 2014 Jennie Bagrowski  
Main cut 2  
Neckband is 1.5"x10.25"

extend 6.75" from this line  
allows a 1" hem to ankle length