

Wren ★ Feathers

Little Darling celebrates the New Year in Japan

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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.



It's safe to say that the New Year celebration is THE most important one in Japan. Houses are cleaned and decorated, and lots of cooking is done, preparing bento boxes, as historically no cooking was done and restaurants, etc. were closed for several days.

The official festivities start with the ringing of temple bells at midnight. They are rung 108 times, as Buddhists believe there are 108 sins and the ringing will chase them away. In the morning, families visit shrines and temples to pray for good fortune in the coming year.

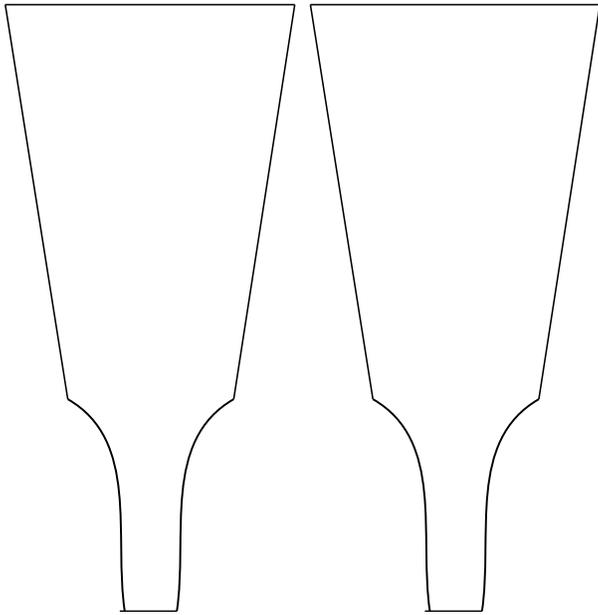
Envelopes of money are given to children, called otoshidama-bukuro お年玉袋 and people send New Year's cards saying 幸せな新年 (Shiwasen shin en) (Happy New Year)

There is a card game traditionally played at New Year's called karuta that consists of a set of 200 cards. Each one has half of a poem of 31 syllables, and players try to quickly match the cards after the beginning is read.

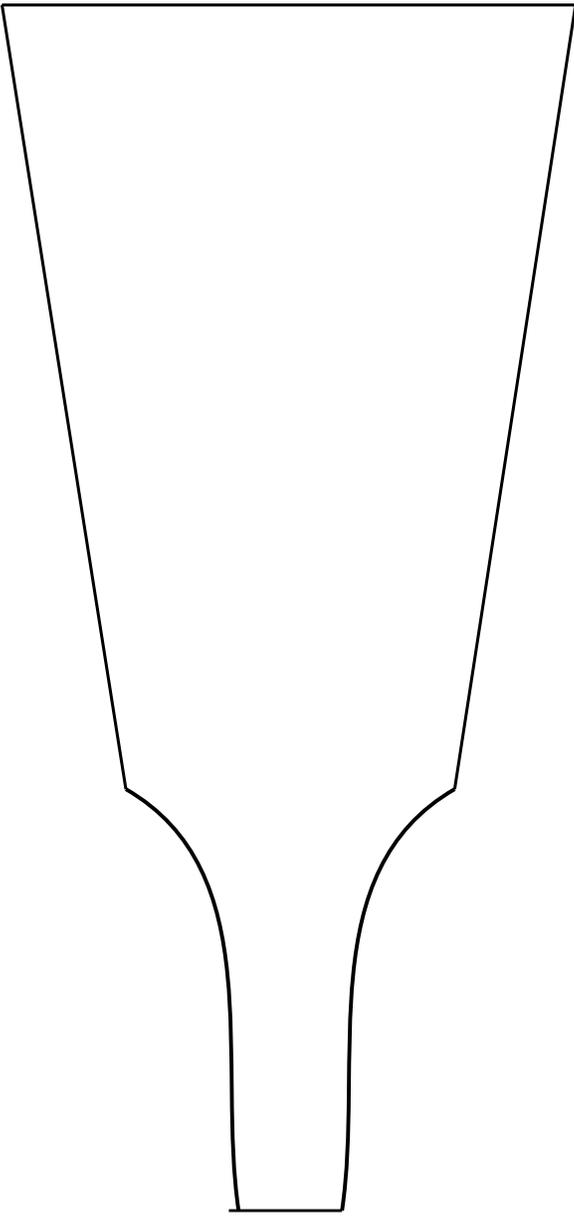
There's a free printable set here: <http://www.tokioheidi.com/2010/ousamakalta.pdf>

Print it out at ¼ scale (set it to print 4/page) to make it for dolls.

A more active game is called hanetsuki, kind of like badminton is also played during the New Year's celebration. It uses little balls with feathers attached called hane, and paddles called hagoita.



Pattern for hanetsuki. Cut from balsa or layers of cardstock glued together and decorate top with painted designs or origami paper.



Pattern for shrinky dinks version

Similar to many western cultures that make New Year's resolutions, many Japanese begin a daruma doll for the New Year. These are handmade or purchased without eyes. When you begin an endeavor, you paint the first eye, making a wish to be successful, and the second eye is painted when the goal has been reached. These are usually made of papier mache, and weighted on the inside, but at doll scale it's easiest to make them from a blob of clay.

Don't have any clay handy? Other interesting daruma ideas I've seen: make a stuffed one from felt, paint a rock, and lots of printable paper ones:

Here's a printable paper one: <http://cargocollective.com/drewtetz/filter/paper-toys/Daruma>

And a printable RILAKKUMA one: <http://kuma0rila.blog120.fc2.com/blog-entry-115.html>



Real daruma and doll-size version

Printable kadomatsu here: http://paperm.jp/download/paper/pdf/craft/ev_kadomatsu_e.pdf (print 2 pgs/set to scale down)

And other decorations here: <http://paperm.jp/craft/eventgoods/newyear/index.html>

Cards, more decorations <http://paperm.jp/craft/hagaki/popup/newyear/index.html>

Traditional clothing is worn in Japan for many festivals and celebrations throughout the year. Special clothing is frequently purchased for children for things like first birthdays or the festival called “shichi go san” (七五三) (7-5-3) which celebrates those birthdays. A complete set of these clothes can cost \$150-\$500 pre-made online, and I’m quite sure, even more if it’s custom made from silk. The complete outfit here is similar to one I saw online intended for a first birthday but, let’s be honest, if you spent \$500 on an outfit like this, I’m sure you’d try to find lots of opportunities for your child to wear it! The ad copy even said it was easy to clean (polyester) and your child could wear it for other special events like weddings and celebrations.

This is different from the yukata in that it is lined and has longer sleeves, called furisode.

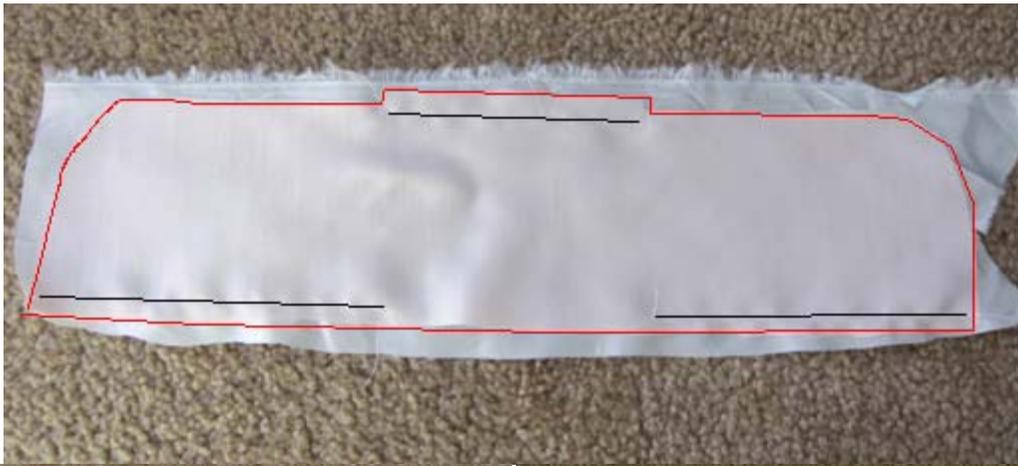
Copying the original, it has a separate skirt, which is not strictly traditional, but often done these days for children’s clothing, as it’s much easier to put on. Obviously, it’s easier to make one piece and you can just lengthen the bodice instead of making a separate skirt.

These pieces close with Velcro (called “magic tape” in Japan. The obi does as well, and the original even had Velcro so the bow could come off.



Line on sides and bottom, turn, try on doll and trim top edge if desired. Gather a little bit in the center and sew to waistband.







Putting on the waistband as a spiral rather than overlap eliminates some bulk.



An extra collar can be made and tacked on to give the appearance of an underkimono

Obi



White rectangle is fusible fleece



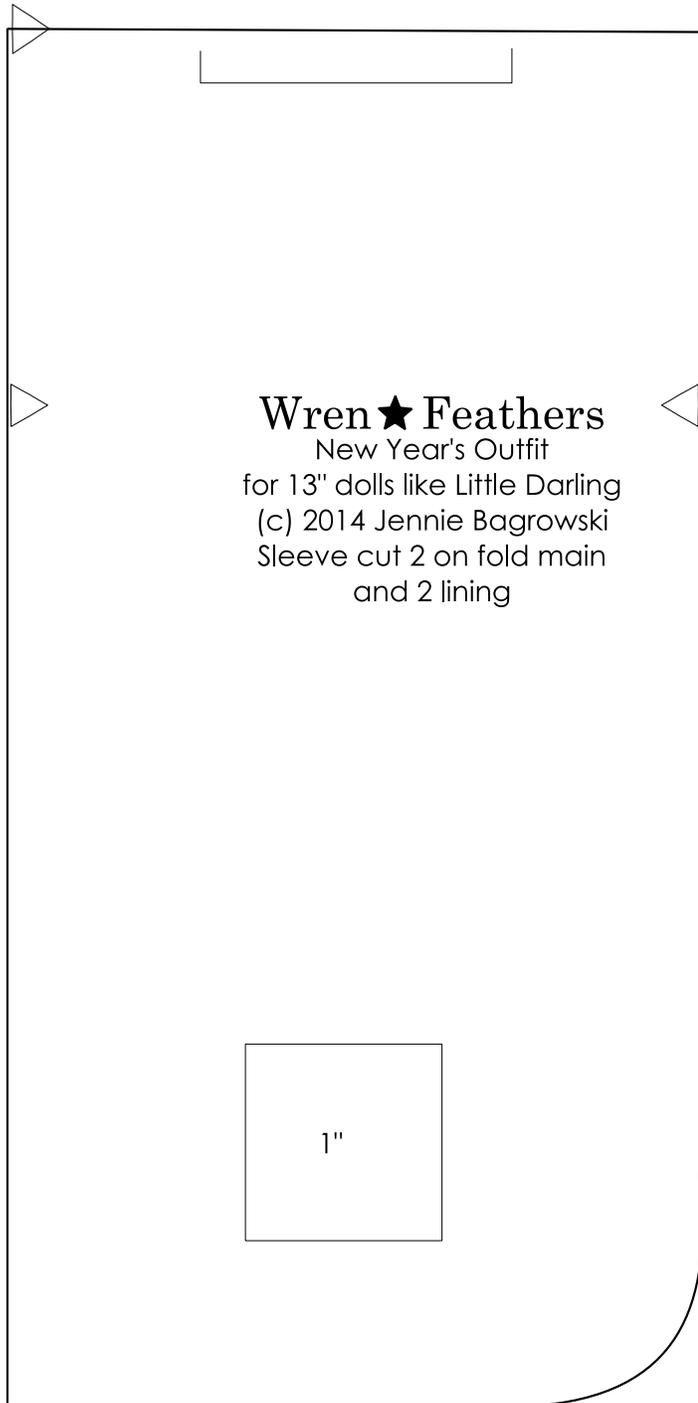
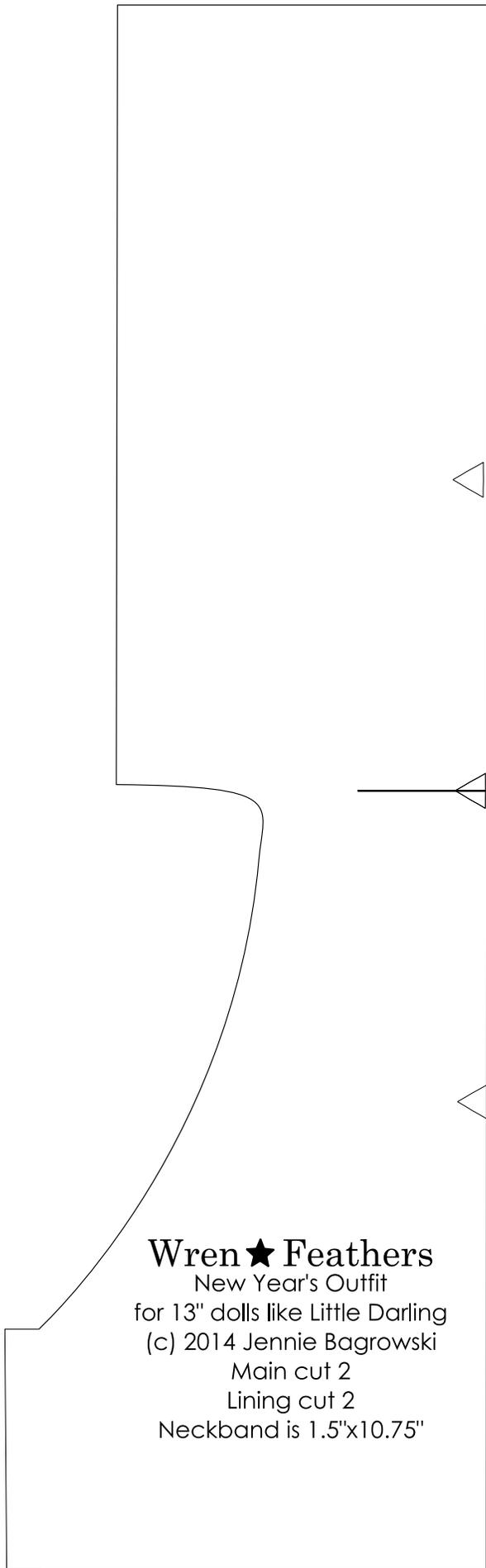
Square knot



Tabi



Traditional socks, called tabi, are usually made from a non-stretchy fabric like twill. They have a separation for the big toe and a center seam. You will want stretchy fabric for the doll version. Hem top, sew seam, do not turn right side out. Put on doll and baste to mark where toes fall. Seam, trim, turn.



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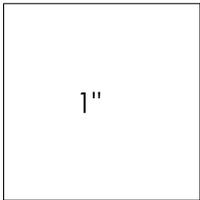
New Year's Outfit

for 13" dolls like Little Darling

(c) 2014 Jennie Bagrowski

Obi bow

Cut 2 main 1 padding



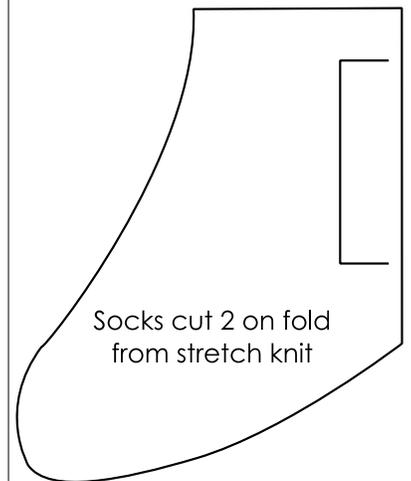
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Obi cut 1



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New Year's Outfit
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Skirt
Main cut 1 on fold
Lining cut 1 on fold
waistband 1"x 9.75"

