

Wren ♥ Feathers

Valentine Tea Dress

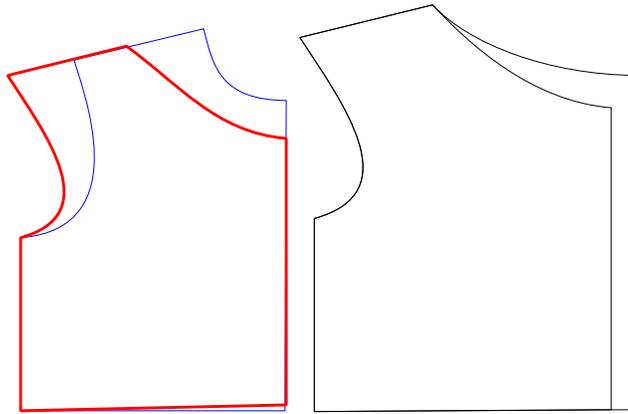
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I assume you have basic sewing knowledge and the explanation should suffice, but if you need help please email me!
Quarter inch seams allowed unless otherwise specified.



Ever wonder about the process of drafting? I usually start with flat pattern pieces and modify them to begin:

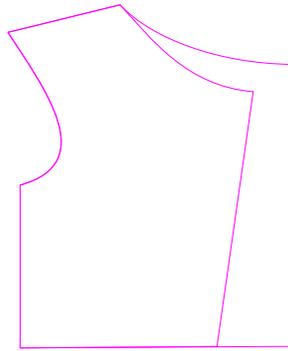


The blue is my standard bodice sloper and the red marks the new lines. I then used the new front bodice to make a back piece, shown in black.

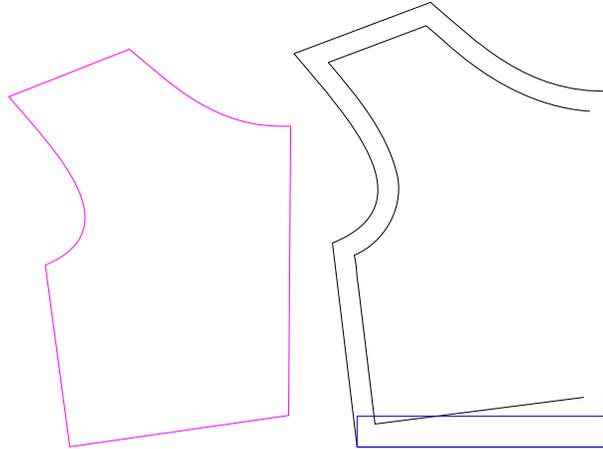
When I tried it on the doll, I was happy with the neckline, but not the fit in front, so I pinned in the changes and modified the pattern pieces.



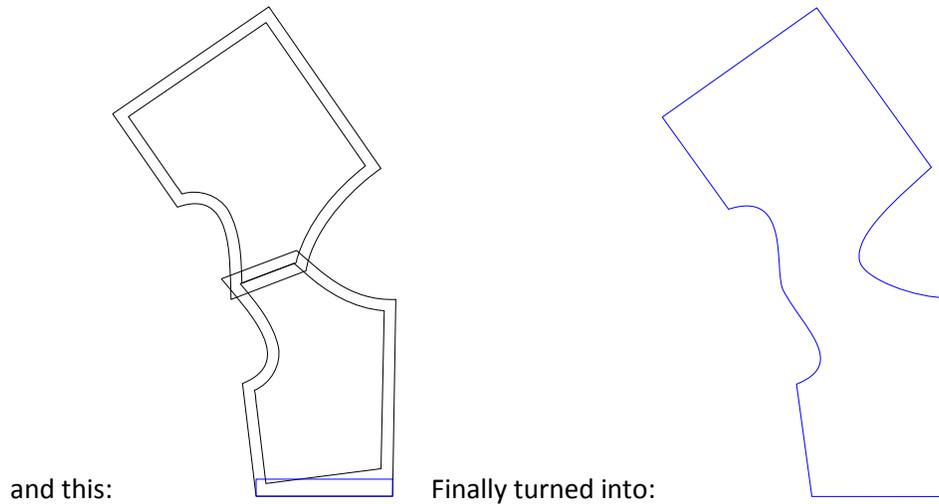
The pattern pieces now looked like this:



But obviously we want the front on the straight grain, so it changed to:



Then I decided that with all the layers, shoulder seams would hinder the process. So, shoulder pieces were aligned, seam allowances got added



and this:

Finally turned into:

The next issue was the skirt. As a general rule, you can't gather more than 3x the width of fabric onto a foundation. A way to get a fuller skirt bottom is to make the skirt into a partial or total circle, but the problem there is that more fabric is wasted. Since this was going to have multiple layers, that meant potentially lots of wasted fabric, so I opted for a simple rectangle. (Note that if you have [the infinity dress pattern](#), you can use the circular skirt with this bodice instead)

Since tulle is far thinner and less expensive than the foundation fabric, to get a fuller look I ended up gathering two layers of tulle onto a smaller rectangle of the foundation fabric, then gathering that onto the bodice. Layering 2-4 different colors of tulle over a white or pale skirt would also look fabulous! When shopping for tulle, choose the one with the most body that you can find. Mine was a little soft and doesn't stand out away from the skirt as much as I'd like.

Cut the foundation rectangle 6"x28" (allows about 3/8" for hem) and the tulle rectangles 6"x42". You can add a bit of width to the tulle if yours is wider, I just used the whole width of mine. For a more formal dress or a deeper hem, you can increase the length, and if your fabric is thinner and you're not using the tulle layer, you can increase the width up to about 36"

Bodice note: You only need to cut out a bodice piece from the main fabric. Use it as a guide to baste lace on top, then trim to fit. Lining can be done the same way, by rough cutting a piece of muslin or batiste, sewing to the bodice around the neckline and armholes then trimming to fit.





