

Wren ★ Feathers

Summer Sew Along Week 2: Fisherman's sandals

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



Make these from very thin fake leather or plastic-coated fabric that's sold for raincoats and baby sewing.

Successful Gluing

One problem with making doll shoes is waiting for glue to dry. With people's shoes, this isn't a problem, since what's generally used is a product called "contact cement" or "barge". You apply the cement to both sides that need to stick together, wait until it's tacky (about 20 mins) and then press the pieces together with a lot of force, for example, a hammer, and they "magically" stick! When I make people shoes, I do use contact cement to attach rubber soles to the bottom and I have a love/hate relationship with it. When it works, it's great, but if the day is too warm, it sometimes dries too quickly and then won't stick. It is also extremely smelly and poisonous and even if I use it outside it sometimes makes me dizzy.

Enter EcoWeld! Its only use for people shoes really is temporarily holding pieces together for you to stitch them, but for thin, small shoes that don't actually need to stand up to the stress of being walked on, it serves as a perfect doll contact cement! There's no need to clamp or wait overnight for the glue to dry. Although it's water-based I don't think it's completely non-toxic, so I wear gloves and wouldn't use it around kids, but it doesn't smell any stronger than tacky glue or make you dizzy in a ventilated room.

Of course, you can use tacky glue too, it will just take longer to dry. I prefer the thicker, quicker-drying version called "turbo" and apply it in a thin layer. Use blue painter's tape and strategically-placed clothespins to hold pieces together while they're drying. Note that some fake leathers have a very thin layer on top that can be removed by tape, so test first!

What to use for a buckle

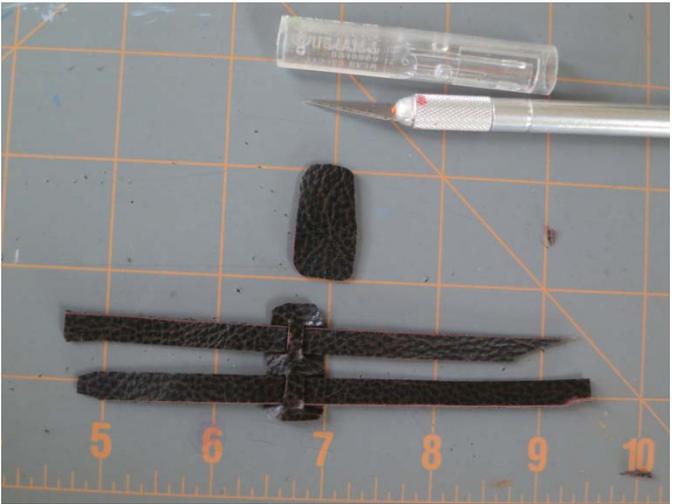
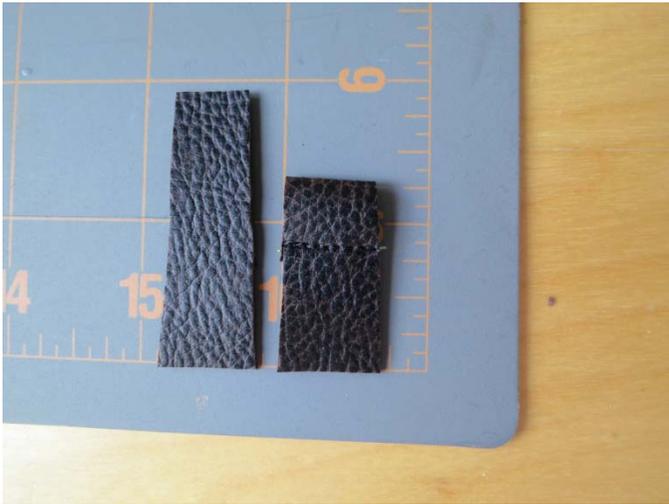
The easiest option is velcro. Get the kind that has glue on it, cut to fit on the strap and press in place.

You can buy metal doll shoe buckles, but if possible it's always best to avoid metal touching your dolls. You never know what will react with what, and while fabric stains on plastic dolls can usually come off with benzoyl peroxide and time, metal can permanently stain and ruin a doll. **The "buckles" I used here are called "lingerie slides"**. They're available for purchase in metal or plastic, or can be cut from the straps of an old tank top/nightie/bra/etc.

Another option if you don't have lingerie slides handy is to use two circular or D-shaped jewelry rings and thread the strap through like you would a belt. If they're metal, wear over socks or don't leave on the doll for any length of time.



Cut out your pieces and tape upper soles to doll's feet. Cover feet in plastic first to protect your doll!



Fold down and topstitch a loop in the back piece, making sure there's enough space for the ankle strap to slide freely through. Use an x-acto knife to slice the slits in the top piece and slide the straps through.



Measure straps over the doll's foot, leaving enough room to turn under and trim to size.



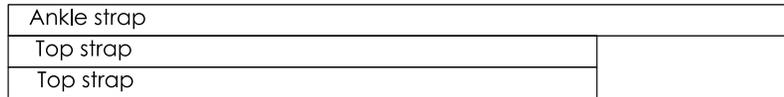
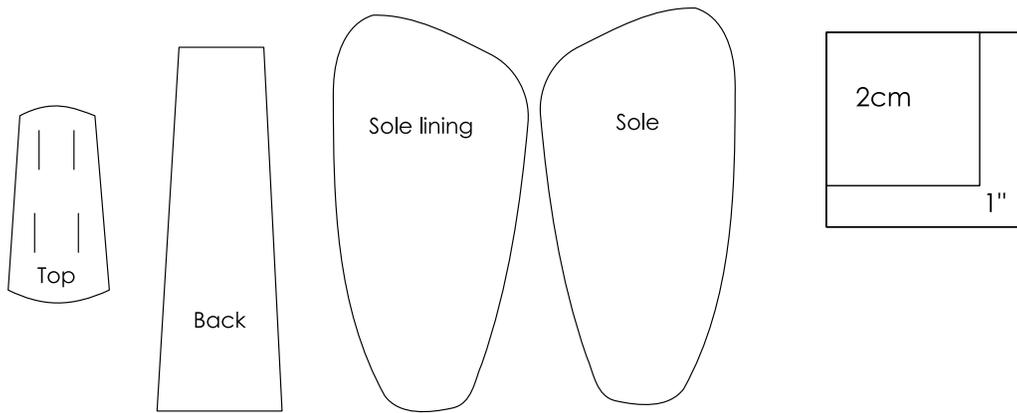
Apply glue as shown.



Once the glue has dried on the straps, apply another layer to attach the sole.

The sole can be made out of foam or fake leather.

Insert ankle strap, measure around ankle. Attach a buckle on the inside with a few hand stitches.



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Fisherman's sandals for 12"-13" dolls
like Paola Reina/Cheries/etc.

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Cut 2 of everything

Make sure you have a R and L of each sole piece

Super important note:

The black PR/Cheries pattern above is tested and is exactly what I used to make the sandals in the tutorial.

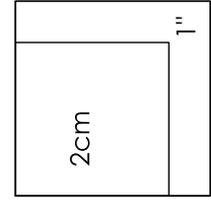
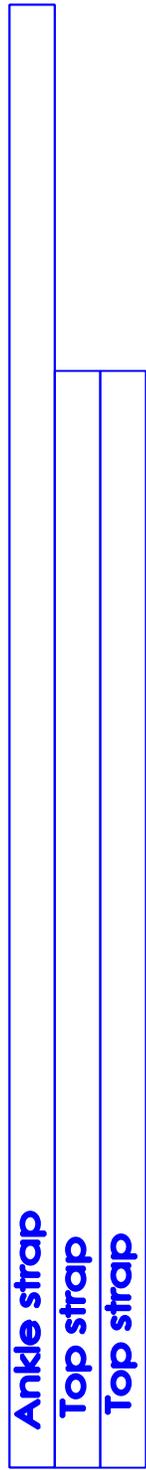
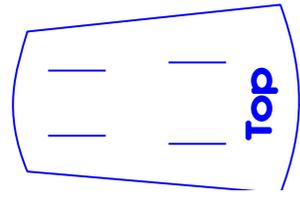
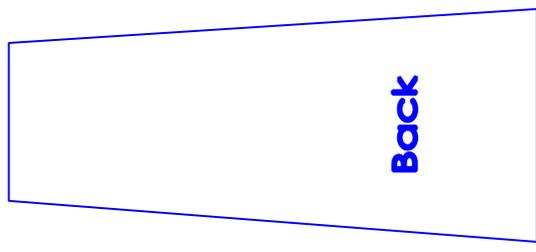
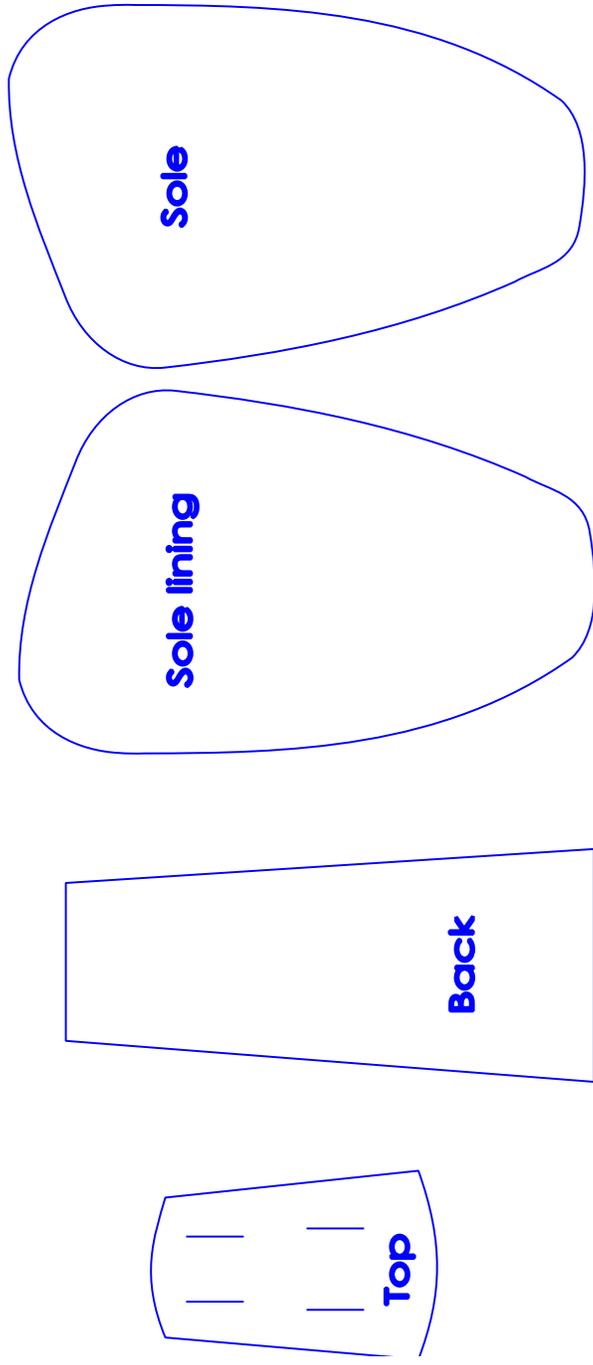
The following patterns were quickly resized based on the foot chart here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/15ssy4z40297jin/foot%20size%20comparison.pdf>

They will give you a good starting point for other size dolls but have not been tested

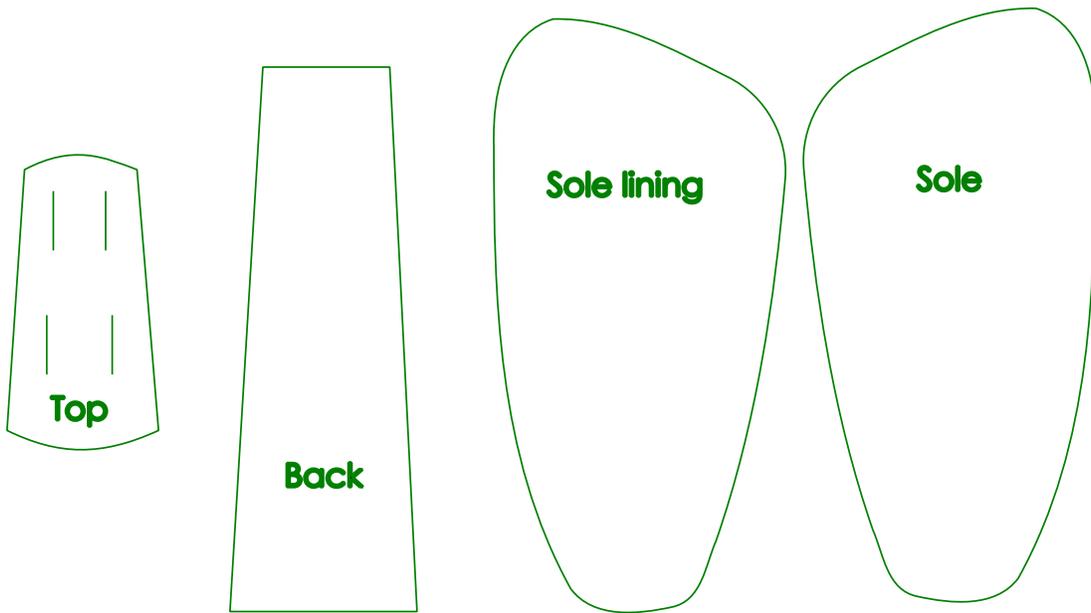
After you print, cut it out and make a paper version, comparing your doll's foot to the sole and make necessary adjustments before cutting.

Sandals are very adaptable to change since they have no seam allowances to worry about!

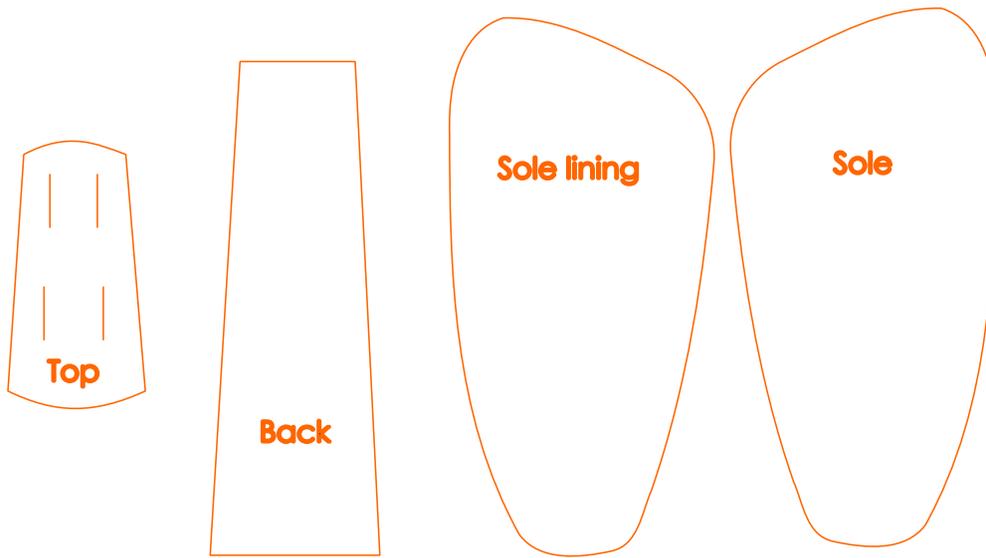


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Fisherwoman's sandals for AG dolls
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 Cut 2 of everything

Make sure you have a R and L of each sole piece



Wren☆Feathers
Fisherman's sandals for dolls
like Kidz n Cats
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Cut 2 of everything
Make sure you have a R and L of each sole piece



Wren☆Feathers
Fisherman's sandals for dolls
like Girl for All Time and Maru
(c) 2016 Jennie Bagrowski
Cut 2 of everything
Make sure you have a R and L of each sole piece