

# Wren ★ Feathers

## Woodlands pointed-toe moccasins

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**Quarter inch seams allowed on all pieces unless otherwise specified.**

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



Moccasins shown here as part of a complete Iroquois ensemble coming soon!

November is Native American heritage month, and this year I thought it would be fun to do a series about something dear to my heart – moccasins! While the Chinese were binding women’s feet and Europeans were torturing theirs with ridiculous pointy toes and high heels, on the other side of the world people were producing shoes that were simultaneously comfortable AND beautiful AND functional! Most interesting to me was how well these shoes were adapted to their environments. The ones shown above are from the Eastern Woodlands, perfect for a soft forest floor full of layers of leaves, while out on the rocky plains, harder rawhide soles provided more protection. Taller mocs that covered the ankles were used for protection in desert/ rattlesnake country and way up north they were both taller and made from/lined with fur to protect against the cold. All of these moccasins allowed for natural foot function, crucial for people who did a lot of walking/hunting/foraging, yet were frequently decorated by their makers, forming a beautiful finish to an outfit. Construction methods varied, but would have been accessible to anyone familiar with working leather, which was a skill all women had, since they were typically the primary producers of clothing for their families. Since it is a specialized skill, and for a variety of other reasons, I’ve chosen to substitute felt for leather in my doll versions.

Links to other native footwear patterns for some other sizes like Maplelea and Hearts for Hearts are here:

<https://jenwrenne.wordpress.com/2014/01/31/maplelea-boots/>

<https://jenwrenne.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/kamiik.pdf>

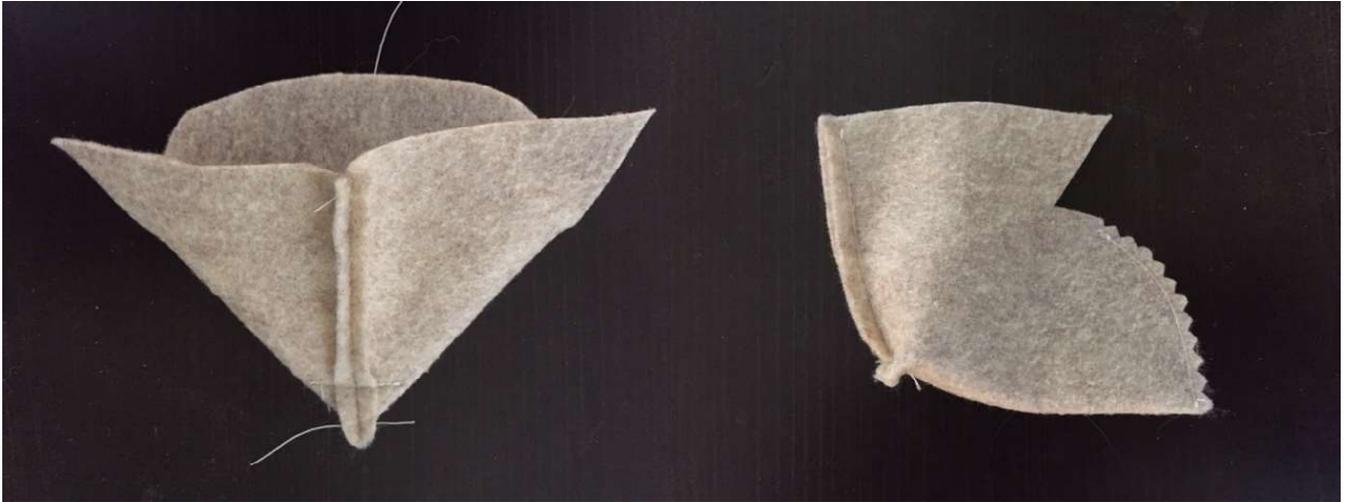
<https://jenwrenne.wordpress.com/2013/09/06/native-american-dresses/>

<https://jenwrenne.files.wordpress.com/2013/09/crow-style-tradecloth-dress.pdf>

<https://jenwrenne.files.wordpress.com/2013/08/tingit.pdf>

I highly recommend the book “Native American Moccasins: A Craft Manual” by George White if you’re interested in either making your own (people size) or seeing a variety of decorated examples! It’s an older book, but recently reprinted in color with lots of photos by Crazy Crow. See a preview here: <http://www.crazycrow.com/site/native-american-moccasins-george-white-preview/>

There were a few types of moccasins used by tribes of the Eastern Woodlands. This pointed-toe moc was one style used by the Iroquois and similar to other tribes of the woodlands as well. These are either VERY quick or VERY time consuming to make, depending on your preference!



Sew up the back **seam with ¼" seam allowance**. Fold flat and sew a triangle ½" in from the point. Open back up and **sew the center front seam with 1/8" seam allowance**, stopping at the circles marked on the pattern. Trim with pinking shears. Turn right side out. Since doll feet do not conform to shoes, it was necessary to make it a little longer and stuff the toes to get the correct look. I used leftover felt scraps chopped up very small which resulted in a nice, firm toe. Try on doll, wiggle around a little to stretch into shape and if you see any puckers over the top of the foot, adjust stuffing as needed. Put on doll and fold down flap.



Have a lot of time on your hands? Moccasins are a great canvas for decoration! Before trade beads were widely available, these mocs were decorated with quillwork, which you can replicate with embroidery stitches. Post-European-contact mocs became even more elaborate, with glass beads, ribbons, tradecloth, etc. The flap that folded down was often lined with cloth and the edges bound with ribbon or bias and then outlined with white beads in a picot stitch.

Depending how you're going to decorate them, you might want to change the construction order and do decorative work before sewing up the opposite seam to have your work open flat. Check out some of these links to see decoration ideas for this style:

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/141230138285770815/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/32017847324655418/>

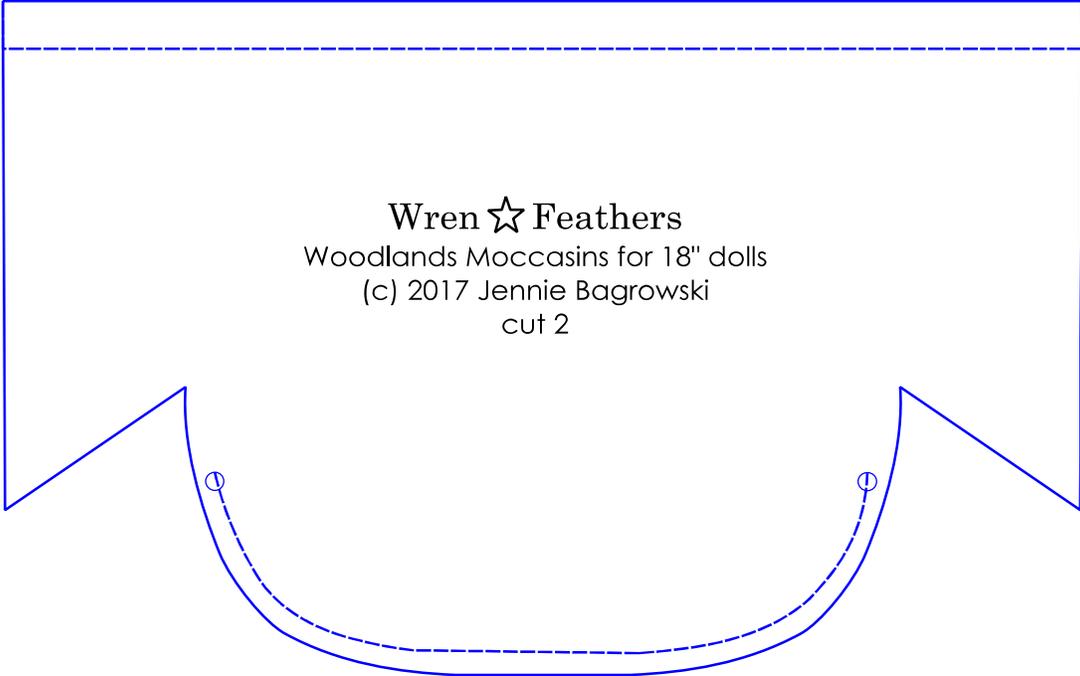
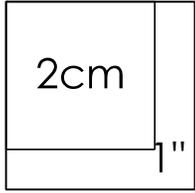
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<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/479281585319205162/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/235946467951838114/>



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Woodlands Moccasins for 18" dolls  
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