

Wren ★ Feathers

Yukata for Lottie

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



Lottie slides open the window of her room at the onsen ryokan

Lottie dolls are available here: <https://www.lottie.com/>

Background was enlarged from a backdrop that came with a rement set (sorry I don't remember which one)

Lottie has been really busy on her vacation in my imagination, although sadly I can't figure out a way to get those images onto the blog LOL. So, to relax, she is staying at a ryokan at an onsen this week. Ryokan are traditional Japanese inns and onsen are hot springs. They are popular weekend destinations for the Japanese, and a "must-do" for tourists. Depending what your price range is (we're assuming Lottie's budget is unlimited for this fake-cation 😊) you can bathe in the hot spring and then retire to your private room to have a multi-course Japanese meal at a low table in a tatami room. At bedtime, staff will come to lay out your futon for you. These places traditionally provide a yukata (unlined, informal kimono) for guests to wear to sleep and walk to and from the hot springs. At hot springs, these are worn with a simple tie like a western bathrobe, instead of the more formal obi - see a guide here: https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2029_dress.html. I did baste in a fold at the waist, which is done for kimono because the fold helps it to hang better, but you could eliminate that and hem shorter instead.

Kimonos are an amazing "blank canvas" for nearly any kind of surface decoration you'd like to do! Just trace out the pieces onto a piece of muslin with a fabric marker and let your imagination go! Dyeing, printing, and embroidery are some traditional options, but if you're looking for a project for kids, let them use crayons or non-toxic fabric markers to decorate the fabric after you trace it. With any dyes/markers/paints/etc., do be aware of the possibility of staining the dolls if you leave them on for a while. Lottie's legs and head are a softer plastic and might be more prone to stains than her arms and torso, although I've never had any problems with mine.

Aside from the collar, this is an easy project with long straight seams, perfect for you to use to help a child learn to sew one by hand for their doll.

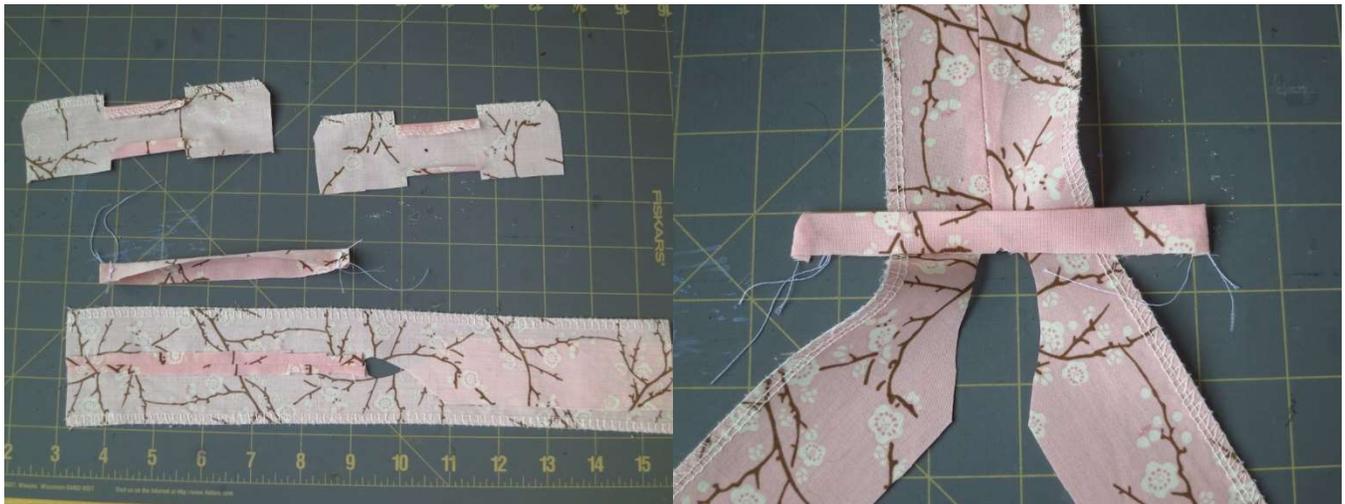
Make a few and set up a little boutique for your dolls to shop in! Note that high-end traditional "kimono-ya" (kimono shops) will have rolls of exquisite silk fabric ready for customers to select and have sewn to order, but there are plenty of other places that have lots of ready-made cotton yukata.

Note that seam allowances are VERY important when sewing at this size, especially since the fit is a very slim cylinder! Use a thin fabric like muslin, make sure the inch box prints correctly and err on the side of a smaller seam allowance. **If your machine has metric markings, 5mm is a better choice for the seam allowance than ¼"** Serging the seams will add bulk and affect fit, so it's best to trim seams with pinking shears or leave the edges raw. Only ¼" is allowed for hems, I just folded up ¼" and topstitched at 1/8".

Tie Lottie's yukata with a contrasting ribbon or make a coordinating belt with a scrap of fabric if you prefer.

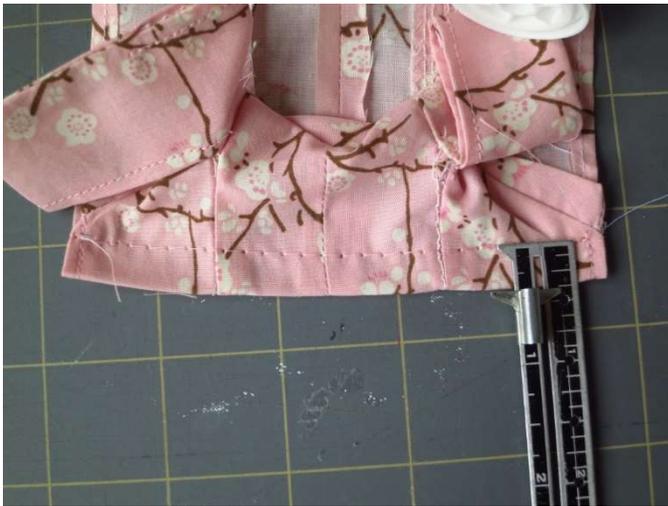


If you're the kind of person who examines things closely, you might notice bunny-ka's is a little different and is lined. Because these garments are so small, seam allowances make a big difference, and adding lining actually made the whole thing need to be a lot larger, and then it didn't fit well unlined.



I know I said not to serge...this was a reuse of some very thin fabric that already had it and it seemed like a good idea at the time. Pinking shears got rid of some of it later to help it fit better.





I did baste in a fold at the waist, which mimics the waist fold done for kimono because the fold helps it to hang better. If preferred, you could eliminate that and hem shorter instead.



