Wren ★ Feathers

Sizing and simplifying embroidery designs for dolls

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If you downloaded this elsewhere it was stolen from: http://jenwrenne.wordpress.com
I assume you have basic sewing knowledge and the explanation should suffice, but if you need help please email me!

Model is a Fisher Price My Friend Jenny (1978 version)
Design on blouse is adapted from Peasant Designs by Ed Sibbet ISBN 0486234789

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Some of my free patterns you could use with this are:

- Smock version:
  - [https://jenwrenne.wordpress.com/2013/09/27/more-fall-fashion/](https://jenwrenne.wordpress.com/2013/09/27/more-fall-fashion/)
- Tunic version: (although note it was sized for knits)
  - [https://jenwrenne.wordpress.com/2013/12/13/mix-and-match-part-3/](https://jenwrenne.wordpress.com/2013/12/13/mix-and-match-part-3/)
If you are like me, you’re more accustomed to machine than hand embroidery. One of my many projects over the summer was to do a lot more hand embroidery. This can entail interpreting a design in different ways, since it’s much easier to use a variety of stitch types when working by hand.

If I were digitizing the above design, it would be relatively easy to just fill in all the open spaces with satin stitch in attractive colors. By hand though, it added more interest and texture to use not just satin stitches, but stem stitch, French knots, and lazy daisies.

As you work at a smaller and smaller scale, of course you could just shrink the design down and make your stitches smaller, but at some point, decreasing too much might look too busy/cluttered. For the 16” doll size, I eliminated the outer flowers and leaves to decrease the width without changing the actual scale of the original. I also left out the designs around the central tulip.

What follows are some ideas for resizing and using this design but try your own adaptations – add, subtract, resize, combine elements in different ways - just be creative and enjoy the process of hand embroidery!
Since AG bodices are wider, it would be easier to fit the whole design.

It’s always important to take seam allowances into account, so I’ve drawn them in above although they’re not shown in the original pattern pieces – NOTE: These examples are NOT to scale.

Adding a bit to the bottom of the same smock pattern lets you use the whole design at an even bigger scale as shown above. Here’s the link again to the original:

- [https://jenwrenne.wordpress.com/2013/09/27/more-fall-fashion/](https://jenwrenne.wordpress.com/2013/09/27/more-fall-fashion/)
Blue is OG/AG size
Green is 16" like Sasha
Pink is 14" like Hearts for Hearts

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Here are several sizes you can choose from without having to go to a copy shop! Use them to plan color schemes or let a child color the design in their choice of colors and use that as your embroidery guide!

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