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There is no relationship quite like the one between a girl and her doll. By using your ScanNCut machine and following my simple steps, you can create matching dresses for the two, bringing them closer than ever!

MATERIALS:

Brother ScanNCut machine; standard blade; standard mat; fabric support sheet; cotton fabric; 7-9" zipper; sewing machine and supplies

CREATE THE DRESS BODICE PATTERN

step 1. I have found that the easiest way to create a simple pattern for a toddler dress is to use a t-shirt to trace basic measurements. Take a t-shirt and fold in half as shown. Create an outline of the folded shirt using dots and/or dashes.



step 2. You'll want to create a neckline for the dress. You can either make one for the back (that is a bit higher, typically) and one for the front; or, make them exactly the same.

Note: For this example, they are exactly the same.



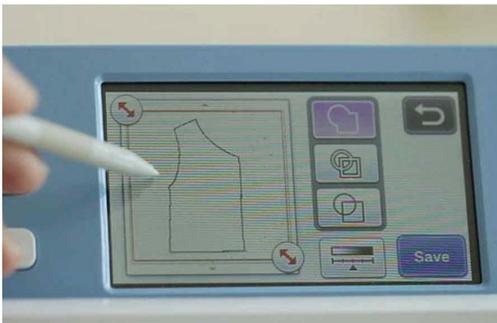
step 3. Be sure to connect the bottom two lines of your bodice pattern. You will need the bodice to be a closed shape for the ScanNCut to pick it up as a shape to cut.



step 4. Scan your half-bodice pattern to “Cut Data.”



step 5. Choose the outermost outline for your vector/cut file and save it.



- step 6.** Return to your home menu and pull up the saved half-bodice pattern. This piece will serve as one-half of the back of the dress. You will need two of each side, so you can either cut out a total of four or mirror one and cut two from that. Add in a 1/4" seam allowance (or 3/8" if you want to give yourself more generous seam allowances). Then save.

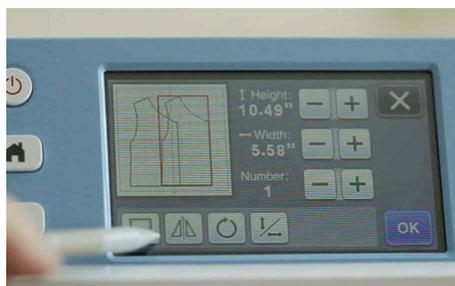


Note: If you are using a patterned fabric, you might want to mirror one and then use that to cut.

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- step 7.** Resize for doll. Measure the final dimension of the dress width for your doll. Cut that number in half. Then remove the seam allowance, resize to the final dimension and add your seam allowance back in. Save.



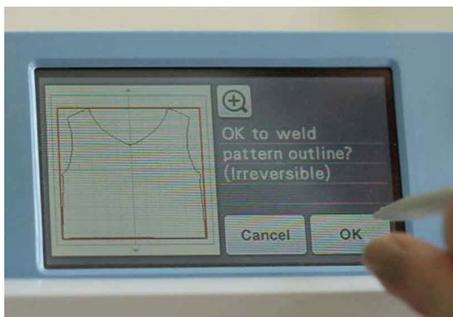
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- step 8.** Now, to create the front full bodice piece from these two halves, duplicate the bodice half and mirror one.



step 9. Using the “Nudge” tool (the four arrows) align the bodice halves so that they are just slightly overlapping.



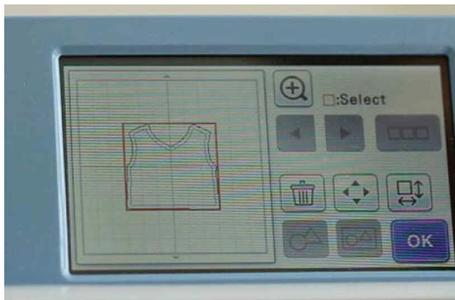
step 10. Weld the bodice halves together to create the front bodice piece. In order for the ScanNCut to weld, the shapes need to overlap. If they aren't, ScanNCut won't let you weld the shapes together. Just go back and nudge them into place and try again.



step 11. Once you are happy with the front bodice shape, add in your seam allowance!



step 12. We will repeat the step to resize this front bodice, but this time you will use full width dimensions. Measure the final dimensions, remove seam allowance and resize - and then add back in the seam allowance.



CUT FABRIC BODICE PIECES

step 1. Always test your settings before cutting your fabric. My suggestion would be to use a blade depth of between “2” and “3”; a blade pressure of between “5 and “6”; and a cut speed of “1”. Remember that you can adjust as needed.



Note: Don't forget to use the fabric support sheet.

step 2. Cut out two front bodice pieces and four back bodice pieces (for both the toddler dress and doll dress). We will be sewing a fully-lined bodice for the dresses.



CONSTRUCT DRESS BODICES

- step 1.** Begin by sewing the shoulder seams together: one front piece with two back pieces. Repeat for lining pieces.



Note: Always remember – right sides together.

- step 2.** Press seams open.



- step 3.** Pin the two “U”-shaped pieces together at the neckline. Sew right sides together as shown below.



Note: I'm using white thread so you can see the seams more clearly. I would typically choose a thread that matches the fabric more closely.

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- step 4.** Next, we will sew the arm openings. Pin and sew just as you did with the neck opening - beginning with one side seam and continuing to the other.



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- step 5.** Carefully turn the sewn bodice right-side out. (This can be tricky, so just be patient as you work the back bodice fabric through each shoulder tube).



- step 6.** At this point, we should have the following raw edges: entire bottoms (where we will connect the skirt), side seams (shown above), and the back seam (where the zipper or closure will be).



- step 7.** Keeping right sides together, open and line up side seams as shown above. Sew using the seam allowance you added before cutting your patterns.



- step 8.** Repeat for the back opening, but don't attach the halves. Turn the bodice enough so that you can put right sides together for each half, and sew to create clean edges in the back of the dress.



DRAFT AND CUT SKIRT PIECE



step 1. Decide if you would like a half-circle skirt or a full-circle skirt. Then, measure your toddler's waist circumference. Use that measurement to find the radius for the skirt pattern.

- For a half-circle skirt, fold the fabric in half. You'll cut out the arc to create half a circle.
- For a full-circle skirt, fold the fabric in half – and then in half again. When you cut out that arc, it'll open to create a full circle.

Note: I chose to do a half-circle skirt for the bottom of this dress. It doesn't have quite as much "twirl" as a full-circle skirt, but it also doesn't use as much fabric. Since I chose a half-circle skirt, I needed to go around my toddler's waist with only half a circle. Don't forget that bit of info when you calculate your radius, or you'll end up with a skirt that's too small.



step 2. Cut out each arc to create your half-circle.



ATTACH SKIRT TO BODICE

step 1. Mark the center front of your bodice with a pin or fabric pen and do the same with the front-center of your skirt as well. Lining up the center points, continue pinning the skirt to your bodice (right sides together).



Note: If you have a serger, I would definitely serge both the bottom edges of your finished bodice and the top of your skirt. It's definitely not mandatory, but it just takes your garment to a more professional-looking level.

step 2. Sew bodice and skirt together.



step 3. You should be left with an almost fully complete looking dress! The back of the dress will still be open, but we'll take care of that in the next segment.



ADDING THE ZIPPER

step 1. There are a few other ways you can add the zipper:

- Before closing the side or back seams, the zipper will be sandwiched in place between the outside fabric and lining. Pin and sew into place. Carefully turn right-side out and continue with the construction of the bodice and then attach to the skirt.
- Finish dress bodice as we have done, but instead of attaching the zipper on the outside of the bodice, you'll pin it inside and sew into place.



step 2. Place zipper. Using a fabric pen, mark on the skirt portion where the zipper will end. Sewing right sides together, sew up to that point from the bottom of the skirt.



step 3. Pin zipper in place and sew along the perimeter of the zipper tape as shown below.



HEM SKIRT

step 1. There are a few ways to hem your dress.

- **Serge and press:** If you have a serger, serge the bottom edge of the skirt prior to hemming. Press a hem about 1/4".
- **Simple hem:** Using an iron, press a hem between 1/4" and 3/8" from the bottom of your skirt. Sew around the bottom of the skirt.
- **Double folded hem:** Using an iron, press a hem between 1/4" and 3/8" from the bottom of your skirt. Before sewing, press again to create a hem with no raw edge. Sew around the bottom of the skirt.



REPEAT CONSTRUCTION FOR DOLL DRESS



Repeat construction in smaller sizes.



YOU DID IT!