

Hitty's Daguerreotype Dress

By Wendi Dunn

This pattern has $\frac{1}{4}$ " seams included. If your sewing machine has an adjustable needle position, you can move the needle $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge of the presser foot as a guide while sewing. I used my [Daguerreotype Dress fabric from Spoonflower](#), but you can use any lightweight cotton fabric for the tutorial. If your fabric has a tendency to fray, use Fray-Check on the exposed edges.

The tutorial combines hand and machine sewing techniques. Feel free to modify the instructions if you are more comfortable using a different method. The important thing is not to rush. When you go slowly and carefully, you will have more control.

Materials

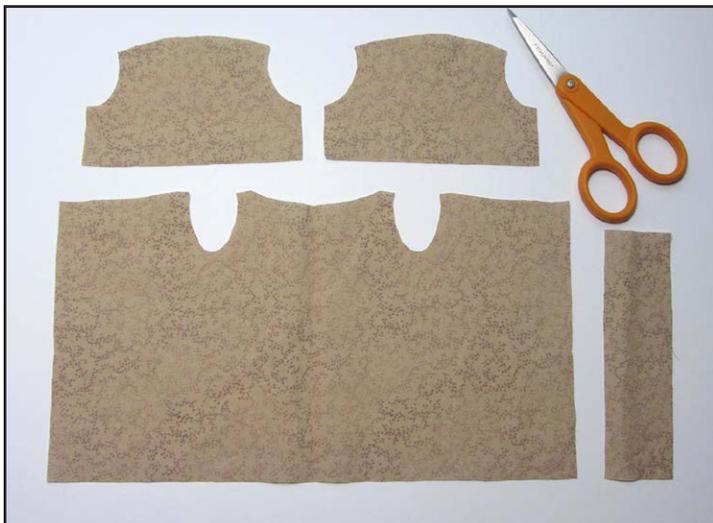
- 12" square piece of cotton fabric
- Silk pins
- Thread to match fabric (and a contrasting color)
- Sewing gauge
- Needle for hand-sewing
- Beeswax for hand-sewing
- Two size 4/0 snaps



Cutting Out

Print the .pdf file on 8.5" x 11" paper. Cut out pattern pieces. Pin pieces to fabric with silk pins (they leave smaller holes). Cut dress piece on the fold. Cut two sleeves and one belt.

On the wrong side of the dress, mark triangles under the armholes using a marking pen or pencil. Mark small dots on the center back edges.



Sleeves

With right sides together, sew side seams of sleeve. Backstitch at edges or tie a square knot in the two thread ends to secure the stitching.

Hand press seam open. Use a sewing gauge to measure, fold up $\frac{1}{2}$ " at bottom edge of sleeve and press inside of sleeve with the tip of an iron. Hem bottom edge of sleeve.

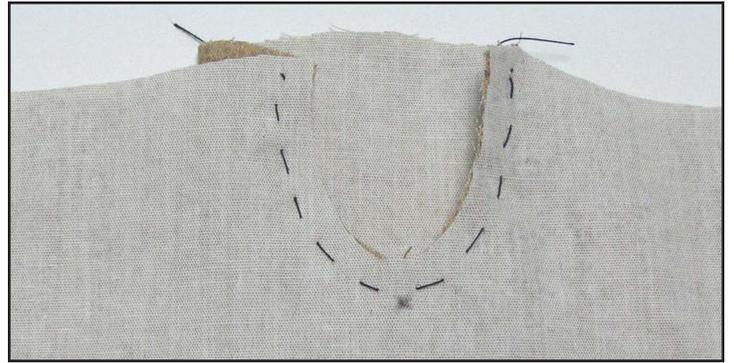


Repeat for second sleeve. Turn both sleeves right side out.



Dress

With right sides together, match seam of sleeve to small triangle on dress armhole. Pin sleeve to dress at triangle mark. Hand baste sleeve in place.



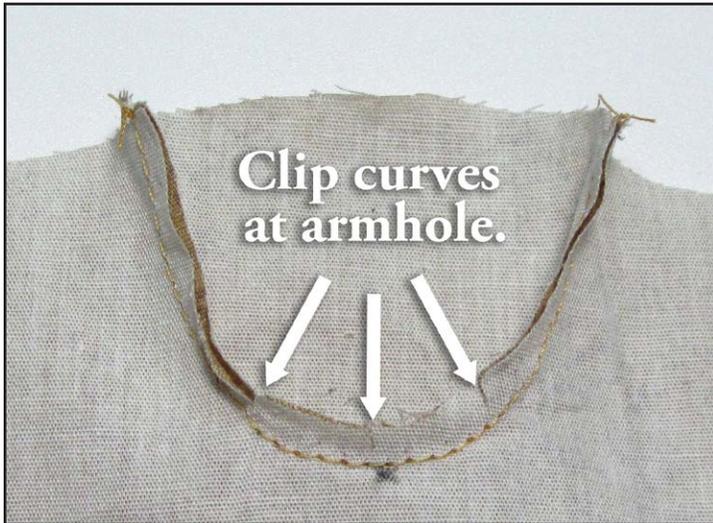
With dress piece on the bottom and sleeve on top, carefully machine sew sleeve to dress. Try to keep the area around the needle flat. Stop frequently and reposition the dress as you sew.



NOTE: Do not try to sew without basting first, because the sleeve will slip out of place. If you prefer, sew the seam by hand using a backstitch.



After sewing the armhole seam, remove basting stitches. Trim seam allowance to $\frac{1}{8}$ " to remove bulk. Clip curves as shown below.



Repeat for second sleeve.

Hand-Gathering

Insert a doubled, waxed thread through the eye of your needle. The doubled thread makes 4 strands, which is stronger for gathering. You will need the strands to be about 10" long to gather the neckline. Tie a knot in the end.

Fold down $\frac{1}{4}$ " at top edge of dress. Then fold over center back edge. Working on the wrong side, start at center back and take a stitch to secure the thread. Gather all along the top of dress, easing in extra fabric at top of sleeves.



Clip the curves along the center front before folding down the edge.



Continue gathering until you reach the opposite center back edge. Do not tie a knot yet.

Place dress on Hitty and pin center back edges together. Pull up gathers to fit doll's neckline. Take a couple stitches to secure the gathers, then tie a knot and clip the thread.



Hand gather bottom of sleeve along hemmed edge. Pull up gathers to fit your doll's arm. Make sure there is enough room for your doll's hand and thumb to fit through the sleeve. Take a couple stitches to secure the gathers, then tie a knot and clip the thread.



Repeat for second sleeve.

Finishing Dress

Machine sew center back edges of dress together up to small dot. Backstitch. Press seam open. Fold up bottom edge of dress $\frac{5}{8}$ " and press.

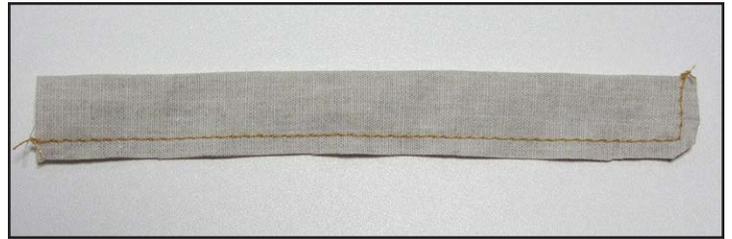


Fold down $\frac{1}{8}$ " at edge and hem the bottom of dress. Hem edges of center back opening. Add a snap at top opening of neckline.

Belt

With right sides together, fold the belt in half lengthwise. Check the fit on your doll's waist over dress. The edges should not overlap by more than $\frac{1}{2}$ ". If necessary, trim off one end to fit your doll's waist size.

Machine sew the belt seam. Leave one end open. Then trim seam allowance to $\frac{1}{8}$ ".



Turn piece inside out. It helps to have a small turning tube for this. I used a plastic straw and a bobby pin to make my own turning tube.



Press belt flat. Fold unfinished edge under $\frac{1}{4}$ " and whipstitch closed. Sew socket end of snap on one end of belt and ball end of snap on the *opposite side* of the other end.



Congratulations! You made a dress for Hitty!

“Hitty’s Daguerreotype Dress” link: <https://ataleoftwohittys.com/hittys-daguerreotype-dress>

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Hitty's Daguerreotype Dress Pattern

This free pattern makes a dress to fit most 6¼" – 6½" tall Hitty dolls. Use cotton fabric for the dress and ¼" seams. You may create doll clothes for personal use or for sale, as long as you credit *A Tale of Two Hittys*.

