

Haliana's Muumuu

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The muumuu (or mu'umu'u) is a loose-fitting Hawaiian dress made of colorful cotton fabric. This cool and comfortable garment makes the perfect travel dress for small dolls, such as Hitty and my [Kitty Friends](#). The pattern makes a muumuu in two lengths, with a round yoke and cap sleeves. The dress fits most 6 to 6.5-inch dolls, and it can also be used as a nightgown.



Haliana is one of my [Flexible Kitty Friends](#).



Front and back of finished muumuu.

Small dresses for Hitty can be challenging to make. Please read the instructions before you begin. All seams are sewn with **RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER**. Use 1/4-inch seams and a stitch length of 1.5 to 2 mm. If your sewing machine allows, you can change the needle position to be 1/4-inch from the edge of the presser foot. Go slowly around curves. If your fabric tends to fray, use Fray Block or Fray Check on seams after sewing and trimming. It is easier to apply if you put the Fray Block in a glue bottle with a precision applicator (available from craft stores).

Materials

1/8 yard lightweight cotton fabric

Size 4/0 snaps

Two colors of thread

Fray Block or Fray Check

Instructions

Photo 1: Precision is extremely important at this tiny scale. Cut out pattern pieces from fabric one piece at a time. Make sure to reverse one of the **Dress Back** pieces. Use the solid black lines for the longer version and the gray lines for the shorter version. Test the Fray Block (if needed) on a fabric scrap before using. Mark centers of **Dress Front** and **Yoke** pieces. Mark dots on **Dress Front** and **Dress Back**. If your fabric is a dark color, use tailor's tacks for marking.



Photo 2: Finish bottom edge of **Sleeves** with a narrow hem. Press flat. Sew **Sleeves** to **Dress Front** at armholes, ending just above dot. Sew **Dress Back** pieces to other sides of **Sleeves** at armholes. Clip curves, press seams open and trim seam allowance to 1/8-inch.



Photo 3: Hand gather each **Sleeve** top but don't tie them off yet — leave the thread tails for adjusting later.

Tip: Gathering is easier if you dampen the fabric first with wet fingers.



Photo 4: Match center notches on **Yoke** and **Dress Front** and pin pieces together (the **Yoke** will be upside down). Pin back edges of **Dress Back** pieces to back edges of **Yoke**.



Photo 5: Pull gathering threads of **Sleeve** tops to fit around edge of **Yoke**, then tie off gathering threads. Pin gathered edges of **Sleeves** to **Yoke**. Joining an inside curve to an outside curve can be tricky. Use as many pins as needed to secure.



Photo 6: Hand baste **Yoke** to **Dress** with a contrasting thread color, removing pins as you go. Check both sides of **Yoke** to see if any adjustments are needed before machine sewing.



Photo 7: With **Yoke** side down and gathers facing up, machine sew a 1/4-inch seam all the way around **Yoke**. Go slowly and carefully over gathers, and turn as you sew. You may also need to lift up the presser foot occasionally to pivot. After sewing, check stitching on both sides. Sometimes the fabric can get caught as you stitch. If this happens, remove the stitching with a seam ripper and try again.



Photo 8: Remove basting stitches. Carefully clip curves and trim seam allowance to 1/8-inch. Press seam towards **Yoke**. If desired, topstitch on right side of dress near edge of **Yoke**.



Photo 10: Clip curves, trim seam to 1/8-inch and turn **Yoke** right side out, then press. Finish the lower edge of **Yoke** lining with Fray Block, or you can use an overcast stitch.



Photo 9: Place second **Yoke** piece on top of attached **Yoke** piece. Pin pieces together. Sew slowly around neckline seam.



Photo 11: Align side seams of **Dress Front** and **Dress Back** pieces. Starting at underarm dot, backstitch, then sew **Dress Front** to **Dress Back** at side seams. Be careful not to catch bottom edges of **Sleeves** in side seams. Press seams open.



Note: You may decide to leave the back completely open (for ease of dressing). If that is the case, you will not need to sew the center back seam in the next step.

Photo 12: Align edges of **Dress Back** pieces at center back. Starting at center back dot, backstitch, then sew **Dress Back** pieces together. Fold over edge of **Dress Back** all the way to **Yoke**. Press seams open.



Photo 13: Hem open edge of **Dress Back**. Fold down **Yoke** and slip stitch closed. Repeat for other side of **Dress Back**. To keep **Yoke** from sliding up, hand tack **Yoke** lining along seams.



Photo 14: Turn dress right side out. Fold bottom of dress up 3/8-inch and press. Fold under again and hem. When finished, press hem.



Photo 15: Sew a size 4/0 snap at top of **Yoke** and another at waistline to close dress. If you prefer, you can use a button and loop closure.



Congratulations! You finished a muumuu. Time to plan your next getaway with your dolls. Aloha!

Note: This free pattern may be used to create doll clothes for personal use or for sale, as long as you credit the pattern to *A Tale of Two Hittys*. The pattern itself is not for resale.

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This pattern makes a muumuu dress for 6 to 6½-inch tall dolls such as Hitty.

Complete sewing directions at: <https://ataleoftwohittys.com/halianas-muumuu/>

