

# Silkspike Dolls

## RK-103 A-Line Dress for 7.5" Riley Kish Doll

PLEASE NOTE: This tutorial may default on your printer at A4 size, but if you use 8-1/2 x 11" paper, set your printer to LETTER size.



★ **The seam allowances are already figured into the pattern pieces.** Just cut and sew! This dress is suitable for woven fabrics. Pictured at the top (left to right) are a cotton/polyester blend, denim and linen. The construction and sewing method for this dress is my own creation, and it is fully lined. It is designed in one piece so you cut one each of your main and lining, and two straps. This is a perfect dress for beginners and improvers. I hope you find this dress so easy to make, you'll want to make more. There are endless ways you can decorate these dresses, but keep in

mind your doll's very small scale when you choose fabrics and notions. You can also use print fabric, but the back of the dress is slightly on the bias, so a very large print might be unsuitable. The linen dress features pieces of lace that were cut from a larger piece. They are simply glued to the dress. I find using my husband's white handkerchiefs are a superb lining for such small garments. Re-cycle old ones, which are so soft – obviously you wash them well. ;o) You can use any thin fabric for the lining; even acetate, but do not use knits or any stretchy fabrics.



I still have my Mom's 1959 Singer Slant-O-Matic 401 and I have sewn with it my entire life. I do not have an over-locker (serger). I normally zig-zag or pink my seam edges. It is entirely up to you how you finish your seams. My patterns are very basic – and you don't have to have a fancy machine to make your doll some cute little clothes.

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### Questions or Comments

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Please visit my Etsy Shop at <https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/SilkspikeDolls>

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## GETTING STARTED – Basic Construction

The pattern shown in this tutorial was my prototype and will differ in appearance from your pattern.

I sew doll clothes with the edge of my presser foot at the edge of my fabric, which is just shy of  $\frac{1}{4}$ ".



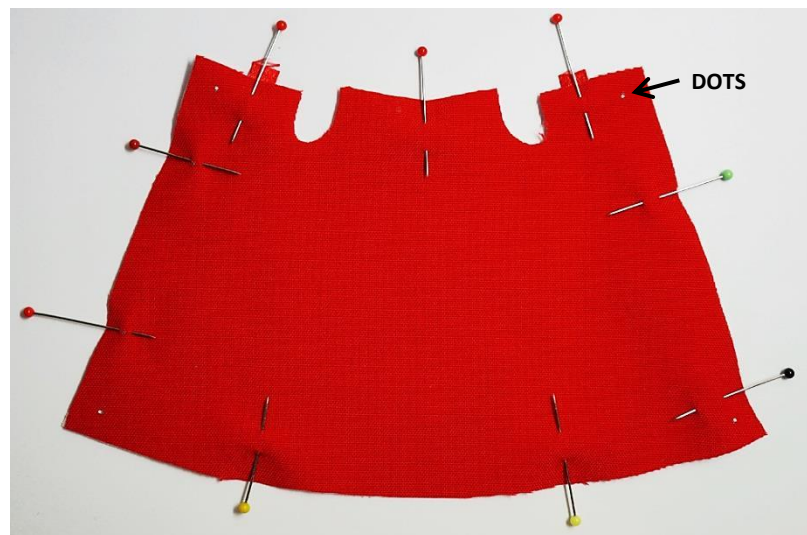
Lay your main fabric on top of the lining fabric, right sides together. Place the pattern on top of them and pin in place together as indicated. Cut carefully. It is easier to cut around the curves if you insert your pins vertically near the sleeve curves and top of bodice, as shown.



You may find it easier to cut the arm holes with small, sharp scissors.

Following the pattern, mark **DOTS** at all four edges (these will be on the wrong side the fabric). These dots are your pivot points, and will help make to the back of your dress line up evenly at the top and bottom edges.

Separate the pieces and pin the straps into place (pretty-side up) onto the lining, following the markings on the pattern. Then you will lay the main fabric piece (face-down) back on top of the lining. Pin around the entire piece, as shown in the photo to your right.



**How to attach the straps and the trim below the bodice – Please pardon the fact that I am switching from one dress to another during this tutorial.**



If you decide to put trim below the bust, do it before you pin the lining and main pieces together as shown in the photo to the left.

Place the trim onto your dress, following the pattern markings. Sew it in place by machine, by hand, or you can use glue. Fold the dress in half to make sure that the ends of the trim line up perfectly at the back edge. ☆



This photo shows the straps and the trim sandwiched between the main and the lining - which are right-sides together.



When you sew around the armholes, you will literally be making one or two stitches, raising the presser-foot, pivoting, putting the presser foot back down and making one or two more stitches (and so on). Do NOT raise your presser foot to pivot unless your needle is all the way down into the fabric. When sewing the corners of the dress, try to pivot EXACTLY where you have made your dots, even if you have to adjust your stitch-length to do so.

It is advisable that you put a few back-stitches over the strap area (indicated by the blue lines) to reinforce that area. Stitch directly over your previous stitches. After you turn the piece, you will have to gently tug the straps to coax out the square shape. You will want your straps to be sewn firmly in place.



Stitch all the way around the garment as shown (approx. 12-15 stitches per inch). Take your time and try to be precise. You will not sew between the white dots because the entire dress will be turned through that opening. Back-stitch at the start and finish of the seam so it will not come loose when turning the piece.



The white lines indicate where you should trim and cut slits. Trim off the sharp edges where I have shown.

Cut slits as shown by the white lines. Use sharp scissors and cut close to the stitching, but be careful to avoid cutting through your stitches. After you make your snips, you can trim a bit all the way around to get rid of some bulk. It is best not trim between the white dots.

To turn the dress right-side-out: Insert tweezers into the opening and grasp the opposite corner of the hem and gently pull the entire dress through the opening. Be mindful not to stretch the fabric at the opening.

Use a blunt knitting needle or chop stick to gently prod the sharper edges. VERY gently pull the straps to coax out the shape. Carefully press the dress flat, taking care the lining does not show on the front. Be mindful that the trim you chose may not take as much heat from the iron as the dress. You don't want your trim to shrivel from the heat of the iron!



Here is a back-view of the dress. Overlap the back edge (left over right) and pin into place. If you get that part backwards, no worries. No one will know but you. ;o) Sew the bottom of the dress closed either by machine, or by hand (using invisible stitches) as indicated by the vertical black arrow in the photo. Be sure to put a few extra stitches at the top for reinforcement. The two white X's indicate where you should sew the snap fasteners.



Put the dress on the doll and bring the straps to the front. Be sure they are at an angle as shown so they match the slope of your doll's shoulders. Tuck into the dress and pin them into place.

Stitch a couple of buttons or beads to hold the straps into place. You can also leave the straps long and position them on the outside like this:



**TOP TIP:** Dab a tiny bit of clear nail polish or white glue on the edges of the trim to prevent fraying.





Should you decide to put a ruffle at the bottom, do this when the dress is still flat. I hand-stitched the trim onto the hem and positioned it so it was barely longer than the dress, because I didn't want to add much more over-all length to the dress.

The left bottom photo shows the back inside-out view of the dress as it should look before you add the snap fasteners. I used a combination of machine and hand-stitching to close the dress. There is not really a right or wrong way to do this. You could opt to sew snaps all the way down the back instead of closing the bottom with stitching. The purple buttons are a bit big in scale, but Riley is a little doll.



***You could make several of these dresses, making each one totally unique. They are perfect for dressing all of your dolls up for a theme or for a holiday occasion.***



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