



## **18 INCH AND AMERICAN GIRL ONE PIECE SWIM SUIT**

### **Make Your Outfit Instructions**

#### **1. Preview of Completed Outfit**

Play this video and check out this great outfit that YOU will make!

#### **2. Tools and Resources Required**

- 1) Paper pattern (printed from PDF file downloaded to your computer)
- 2) Fabric – 10 inches (25cm) two way stretch eg. lycra, cotton spandex
- 3) Matching thread
- 4) 25 inches (65cm) of 1/8 inch (3mm) elastic
- 5) Paper scissors
- 6) Fabric scissors or Rotary Blade & Cutting Mat
- 7) Pencil
- 8) Clippers/snips
- 9) Tape measure or ruler
- 10) Pins



#### **3. Preparing Paper Pattern**

- 1) Check the 'Tip' measurement is correct.
- 2) Cut out pattern pieces following the solid line.

#### **4. Cutting Out Fabric**

- 1) With the fabric in a single layer, place pattern piece #1 and #2 onto the fabric making sure to have the maximum stretch going in the same direction as the arrows on the pattern pieces.
- 2) Pin pattern pieces in place.



- 3) Cut around the paper pattern with fabric scissors or rotary cutter.
- 4) Remove pins.

## **5. Sew Shoulder Seam**

- 1) Place the back of the swim suit on the table with the right side of the fabric facing up. Now place the front of the swim suit on top with right sides together, matching the shoulder seams. Pin the shoulder seam on the left hand side
- 2) Sew a ¼ inch (6mm) seam across the first shoulder using a zigzag stitch or stretch stitch, securing beginning and end with reverse stitches.
- 3) Clip off excess seam allowance at both ends of the seam i.e. cut on an angle from the seam up and inwards.

## **6. Hem First Armhole**

- 1) With the wrong side of the fabric facing you, turn down the raw edge of the armhole ¼ inch (6mm) and pin in place.
- 2) Using a zigzag stitch sew along the hem you have turned down, securing beginning and end with reverse stitches.

## **7. Attach Elastic to Neckline**

- 1) Mark 1/8 inch (3mm) elastic at 3 ½ inches (9cm), 7 inches (18cm), 9 inches (23cm) and 11 inches (28cm).
- 2) Mark the centre back of the swim suit by folding in half, matching side seams, and where the fold is at the neckline, place a pin. Repeat with the front of the swim suit marking the centre front neckline.
- 3) On the wrong side of the fabric place the end of the elastic against the end of the shoulder that has not been stitched. It needs to be ¼ inch (6mm) in from the raw edge of the neckline. Fold the raw edge of the neckline over the elastic and pin in place.
- 4) Match the first pencil marking (3 ½ inches or 9cm) with the pin marking the centre back of the swim suit. With the elastic ¼ inch (6mm) in from the raw edge, fold the raw edge over the elastic and pin in place.
- 5) Match the second pencil mark (7 inches or 18cm) with the shoulder seam. With the elastic ¼ inch (6mm) in from the raw edge, fold the raw edge over the elastic and pin in place.



- 6) Match the third pencil marking (9 inches or 23cm) with the pin marking the centre front of the swim suit. With the elastic  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6mm) in from the raw edge, fold the raw edge over the elastic and pin in place.
- 7) Match the last pencil marking (11 inches or 28 cm) with the shoulder of the swim suit. With the elastic  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6mm) in from the raw edge, fold the raw edge over the elastic and pin in place.
- 8) Stitch elastic to the neckline using a zigzag stitch. With the needle down in both the fabric and elastic at the beginning of the neckline, hold the elastic beyond the centre back pin and stretch. The raw edge of the neckline will fold over the elastic and using your finger of your left hand hold the fabric down over the elastic half way between the needle and the centre back. Stitch through the elastic and the fabric until you get to the first pin, pulling gently on the threads and elastic behind the presser foot. Repeat in stages between each pin until you complete the neckline.
- 9) When you have finished sewing, cut the elastic even with the end of the fabric.

## **8. Sew Side Seam & Second Shoulder Seam**

- 1) With right sides together, match side seams on the side that you have hemmed the armhole. Pin.
- 2) Using a zigzag or stretch stitch, sew  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6mm) seam, securing beginning and end with reverse stitches. Clip off excess seam allowance on the angle at the top of the leg hole.
- 3) With right sides together, match second shoulder seam and pin in place.
- 4) Using a zigzag or stretch stitch, sew  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6mm) seam, securing beginning and end with reverse stitches. Clip off excess seam allowance at armhole end of the seam i.e. cut on an angle from the seam up and inwards.

## **9. Hem Second Armhole**

- 1) With the wrong side of the fabric facing you, turn down the raw edge of the second armhole  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6mm) and pin in place.
- 2) Using a zigzag stitch sew along the hem you have turned down, securing beginning and end with reverse stitches.
- 3) Separate seam allowance at the neckline and place a wide zigzag stitch over this seam allowance to hold this seam allowance flat. (Set your stitch length to zero or drop the feed dogs so that you are stitching in the one spot).



## 10. Attach Elastic to First Leg Hole

- 1) Mark 1/8 inch (3mm) elastic at 2 ½ inches (6.5cm) and again at 5 inches (13cm).
- 2) On the wrong side of the fabric of the first leg hole (on the side where you have joined the side seam), place the end of the elastic against the start of the leg hole. It needs to be ¼ inch (6mm) in from the raw edge of the leg hole. Fold the raw edge of the leg hole over the elastic and pin in place.
- 3) Match the first pencil marking (2 ½ inches or 6.5cm) with the side seam (make sure the side seam is separated). With the elastic ¼ inch (6mm) in from the raw edge, fold the raw edge over the elastic and pin in place.
- 4) Match the second pencil marking (5 inches or 13cm) with the end of the leg hole. With the elastic ¼ inch (6mm) in from the raw edge, fold the raw edge over the elastic and pin in place.
- 5) Stitch elastic to the leg hole using a zigzag stitch. With the needle down in both the fabric and elastic at the beginning of the leg hole, hold the elastic beyond the side seam pin and stretch. The raw edge of the leg hole will fold over the elastic and using your finger of your left hand, hold the fabric down over the elastic half way between the needle and the side seam. Stitch through the elastic and the fabric until you get to the side seam, pulling gently on the threads and elastic behind the presser foot. Repeat from the side seam to the end of the leg hole.
- 6) When you have finished sewing, cut the elastic even with the end of the fabric.

## 11. Sew Second Side Seam

- 1) With right sides together, match second side seams. Pin.
- 2) Using a zigzag or stretch stitch, sew ¼ inch (6mm) seam, securing beginning and end with reverse stitches. Clip off excess seam allowance on the angle at the top of the leg hole.

## 12. Attach Elastic to Second Leg Hole

- 1) Mark 1/8 inch (3mm) elastic at 2 ½ inches (6.5cm) and again at 5 inches (13cm).
- 2) On the wrong side of the fabric of the second leg hole, place the end of the elastic against the start of the leg hole. It needs to be ¼ inch (6mm) in from the raw edge of the leg hole. Fold the raw edge of the leg hole over the elastic and pin in place.



- 3) Match the first pencil marking (2 ½ inches or 6.5cm) with the side seam (make sure the side seam is separated). With the elastic ¼ inch (6mm) in from the raw edge, fold the raw edge over the elastic and pin in place.
- 7) Match the second pencil marking (5 inches or 13cm) with the end of the leg hole. With the elastic ¼ inch (6mm) in from the raw edge, fold the raw edge over the elastic and pin in place.
- 8) Stitch elastic to the leg hole using a zigzag stitch. With the needle down in both the fabric and elastic at the beginning of the leg hole, hold the elastic beyond the side seam pin and stretch. The raw edge of the leg hole will fold over the elastic and using your finger of your left hand, hold the fabric down over the elastic half way between the needle and the side seam. Stitch through the elastic and the fabric until you get to the side seam, pulling gently on the threads and elastic behind the presser foot. Repeat from the side seam to the end of the leg hole.
- 9) When you have finished sewing, cut the elastic even with the end of the fabric.

### **13. Sew CrotchSeam**

- 1) With right sides together, match the crotch seam, making sure that each end is even. Pin.
- 2) Using a zigzag or stretch stitch, sew ¼ inch (6mm) seam, securing beginning and end with reverse stitches.
- 3) Turn One Piece Swim Suit to right side. Attach motif to centre front neckline if desired.

### **14. Congratulations You Did It!**

Celebrate! YOU made another great outfit. Well done!