



18 INCH AMERICAN GIRL FUN 'N FRILLY TOP

1. Preview of Completed Outfit

2. Tools and Resources Required

- 1) Paper pattern (printed from PDF file downloaded to your computer)
- 2) Fabric suggestions – Cotton, polycotton, any light to medium weight woven fabric.
 - Option 1 & 2 Short Top – 8 inches (20cm) x 28 inches (70cm)
 - Option 3 Long Top – 10 inches (25cm) x 28 inches (70cm)
 - Option 4 Dress – 12 inches (30cm) x 28 inches (70cm)
- 3) Elastic – 1/4 inch (6mm) wide x 24 inches (60cm).
- 4) Matching thread
- 5) Additional Trimmings (optional) e.g. lace, rickrack, ribbon.
- 6) Pencil, marking pen
- 7) Paper scissors
- 8) Fabric scissors/Rotary Blade
- 9) Clippers/snips
- 10) Glue
- 11) Pins
- 12) Loop Turner, bodkin or safety pin for threading elastic
- 13) Ruler, tape measure





3. Preparing Paper Pattern

- 1) Check the 'Tip' measurement to ensure the pattern is printed correctly.
- 2) Cut out all pattern pieces following the solid line.
- 3) Top Front & Back (Piece #1) – There are 2 parts to this one piece so you will need to glue them together placing glue in the overlap section and matching the solid line to the dashed line as marked.
- 4) Frill (Piece #2) – There are 2 parts to this one piece so you will need to glue them together placing glue in the overlap section and matching the solid line to the dashed line as marked.
- 5) Either Fold or cut pattern piece #1 (Top Front & Back) at the cutting line applicable for the option you are sewing.

4. Cutting Out Fabric

- 1) Fold fabric in half so that it is at least 24 inches wide. Place Pattern Piece #2 (Frill) onto the fold of the fabric and pin in place. Place Pattern Piece #1 (Top Front & Back) onto the fabric ensuring the 'grain line' arrows are running parallel to the selvedge. Pin in place.
- 2) Cut around pattern pieces with scissors or rotary blade. You will have one frill (cut on the fold) and two pieces of fabric for the Top Front & Back.
- 3) Remove pins.

5. Hem Frill and Armholes

- 1) Place the Top Front and Back pieces down on the ironing board with the wrong side of the fabric facing up. Fold the armhole raw edges over ½ inch (12mm) and press with the iron. Fold the raw edge down into the crease you have just created and press again. Repeat with all four armhole edges.
- 2) Place the Frill down on the ironing board with the wrong side of the fabric facing up. Fold the raw edge of one long side over ½ inch (12mm) and press. Fold the raw edge down into the crease you have just created and press again.
- 3) With a straight stitch, sew close to the inside fold of the hem on all four armholes.
- 4) With a straight stitch, sew close to the inside fold of the hem of the frill.



6. Attach Frill to Top

- 1) Fold the Top Front in half and place a pin at the top at the fold. This is marking the centre front of the top. Repeat with the back.
- 2) Fold the frill in half matching the two short ends, then fold it over again taking the first fold to a point $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6mm) before the short ends. This $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6mm) is the seam allowance for the frill. Now place a pin in each piece of fabric at the second fold.





- 3) Open out the frill with the right side of the fabric facing up. Take the top front and with the right side of the fabric facing up, place it on top of the frill matching the first pin on the frill with the centre pin on the top making sure the raw edges are even. Pin front to frill.



- 4) Take the top back and with the right side of the fabric facing up, place it on top of the frill matching the second pin on the frill with the centre pin on the top making sure the raw edges are even. Pin back to frill.
- 5) Using a straight stitch, sew $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6mm) seam allowance to attach the top front and back pieces to the frill. Secure beginning and end with reverse stitches.
- 6) Press the seam allowance up towards the frill and continue pressing $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6mm) of the remaining raw edge of the frill up into the frill.





- 7) Fold the top front over the frill so you are now looking at the wrong side of both the frill and the top front. Keep folding it over until you see $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (12mm) of the right side of the fabric along the top. Press. Repeat with the top back and continue pressing all along the top. This will form the casing for the elastic.



- 8) Place pins at the top of each arm hole of the top front and back to hold the casing in place as you won't be sewing this just yet and you want to keep the folds in place.

7. Sew First Side Seam

- 1) With right sides of the fabric together, match the raw edges of the middle side seam. The finished edges of the armholes should also be matching.
- 2) Using a straight stitch, sew $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6mm) seam allowance securing beginning and end with reverse stitches. Start sewing from the top finished edge of the armhole down to the hem.
- 3) Finish of the raw edges by sewing a row of zigzag stitches (3.5 width, 1 length) starting at the top securing the beginning with reverse stitches.

Option 1

8. Hem Top

- 1) Fold the raw edge of the hem up $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6mm) to the wrong side of the fabric. Pin and press.
- 2) Fold the hem up again but this time you are folding up $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (12mm) to the wrong side. This is forming the casing for the bottom of the top. Pin.
- 3) Using a straight stitch, sew a row of stitches close to the left-hand fold securing the beginning and end with reverse stitches.



- 4) Pull the other end of the elastic until you can see the pencil mark and secure it in place by sewing forward and back across the end of the casing. Cut the elastic at the pencil mark and pull on both ends of the shoe to even out the elastic through the casing.

9. Thread Elastic

- 1) Place a pin in one end of a piece of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6mm) elastic that has been cut to $10 \frac{1}{4}$ inches (26cm).
- 2) Place a safety pin or bodkin at the other end of the elastic and thread it through the casing. Remove the safety pin or bodkin and pull the raw edge of the casing until it is even with the end of the elastic and secure in place by sewing forward and reverse across the elastic and casing about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch (3mm) from the end.
- 3) Remove the pin from the other end of the elastic and pull the raw edge of the casing until it is even with the end of the elastic and secure in place by sewing forward and reverse across the elastic and casing about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch (3mm) from the end.

Options 2, 3 & 4

10. Hem Top

- 1) With the wrong side of the fabric facing up, fold the raw edge of the hem up $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (12mm) to the wrong side. Pin and press.
- 2) Fold the raw edge down into the crease you have just created and press again.
- 3) With a straight stitch, sew close to the inside fold of the hem.

11. Attach Elastic

- 1) With the wrong side of the fabric facing up, mark a line 3 inches (9.5cm) down from the finished top. You will be drawing from the raw edge of one side seam to the other.





- 2) Mark your ¼ inch (6mm) elastic with a pen at 5 1/8 inch (13cm) and again at 10 ¼ inches (26cm).
- 3) Place the elastic over the line you drew, matching the end of the elastic to the raw edge of the first side seam.
- 4) With a zig zag stitch (3 wide, 3 length) sew a couple of stitches forward and reverse. Place the needle down in the fabric and pull on the elastic until the first mark you made on the elastic is in line with the side seam and over the line you drew. Sew down the middle of the elastic until you get to the side seam. With the needle down again, stretch the elastic out until the second mark on the elastic is in line with the raw edge of the side seam and over the line you drew. Continue sewing down the middle of the elastic until you get to the end and sew some reverse stitches. Cut off the elastic.

***Note: See Video for tip to make step 4) easier.**

****Note: You may like to pin the elastic at the side seam and the end of the top.**

12. Sew Second Side Seam

- 1) With right sides of the fabric together, match the raw edges of the second side seam. The finished edges of the armholes and the finished edges of the hem should also be matching.
- 2) Using a straight stitch, sew ¼ inch (6mm) seam allowance securing beginning and end with reverse stitches. Start sewing from the top finished edge of the armhole down to the hem.
- 3) Finish of the raw edges by sewing a row of zigzag stitches (3.5 width, 1 length) starting at the top securing the beginning and end with reverse stitches.

13. Sew Casing

- 1) With right sides of the fabric together, match the raw edges of the end of the frill making sure the finished hem is even.
- 2) Using a straight stitch, sew ¼ inch (6mm) seam allowance securing beginning and end with reverse stitches. Start sewing from the finished edge of the hem.
- 3) Finish of the raw edges by sewing a row of zigzag stitches (3.5 width, 1 length) starting at the top securing the beginning with reverse stitches.
- 4) Fold the seam allowance to one side and with your feed dogs down stitch through the seam allowance using some zigzag stitches close to the hem of the fill.
- 5) Refold the frill along the lines you pressed earlier and pin.



- 6) Using a straight stitch start sewing the casing from the beginning of the armhole and continue all the way around sewing close to the left-hand fold leaving a gap of about 3/8 inch (1cm). Secure the beginning and end with reverse stitches.

14. Thread Elastic

- 1) Place a pin in one end of a piece of ¼ inch (6mm) elastic that has been cut to 12 inches (30cm).
- 2) Place a safety pin or bodkin at the other end of the elastic and thread it through the casing. Ensure you have at least 5cm or 2 inches of each end of the elastic outside of the casing. Overlap the two ends approx. ½ inch (12mm) making sure that the elastic is not twisted.
- 3) Sew the elastic together using a zigzag stitch. Pull the elastic back into the casing.
- 4) Using a straight stitch sew across the gap that was used to thread the elastic.
- 5) Even out the gathers and turn the top to the right side.

15. Congratulations YOU did it!

Celebrate! YOU made another great outfit. Well done!