

African Princess Dress

(for 18" dolls such as Springfield Collection or American Girl)

Supplies

- 2 coordinating or contrasting fat quarters or about 1/2-yard of fabric, large scraps work well
- Matching Thread
- Rick Rack or other braid or your choice, gold rick-rack is pretty
- Velcro or Snaps for fastening

Directions

For The Bodice

1. All pattern pieces have 1/4" seam allowances.
2. The top of the dress, or the Bodice, uses the same pattern piece for both the back and the front of the dress. The bodice is lined so you must cut out the front and back pieces from the main fabric and then cut them again from the lining fabric. You can use the same fabric for both, or you can use separate fabrics, depending on you scrap situation.
3. Cut out the paper pattern. Place it on a fold of fabric. Pin the pattern to the fabric and carefully cut around it. Do this once for the front and again for the back. Remember, the same pattern piece is used for both the back and the front. After cutting out the back piece cut it down the center, where the fold was. This gives you 2 back pieces, each one is half of the back.
4. Repeat the process with your lining fabric, cutting out the front and the back, and then cutting the back down the center into 2 pieces.
5. Right sides together, stitch the bodice front to the back along the shoulder seam. Do this for the lining too. Press the seams open. If desired add rick-rack or other trim at this time. I put it on the sleeves and around the neckline.
6. Lay the lining over the main fabric, right sides together. Stitch along each of the sleeve hems. Also stitch from the bottom of the back opening, up around the neckline, and then back down the second back piece. Clip the curves to make it easier to turn. Turn right side out and press.
7. With the good side in, match the front and back underarm seams and stitch from sleeve hem down to waist line, being careful to catch all the layers of fabric. Turn the bodice right side out and press.
8. Stitch velcro to the back bodice opening, or hand sew on a couple of snaps.

For the Skirt

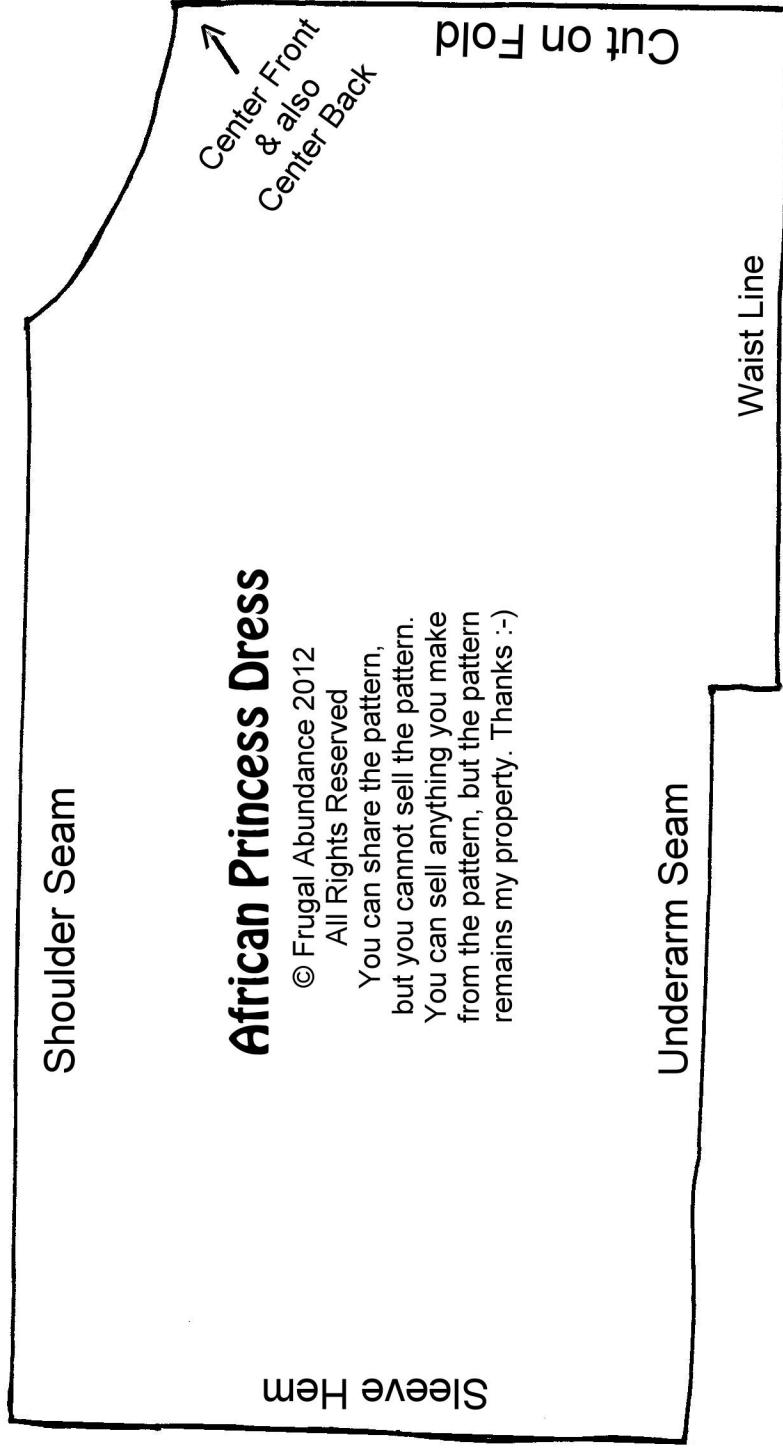
1. Cut a rectangle 10 by 20-inches or 10 by 24-inches for the skirt. I have used both measurements and they both turn out pretty skirts. Essentially your skirt rectangle should be 10-inches wide by 20 to 24-inches long.
2. Hem one of the long ends of the skirt. Do this by folding under 1/4-inch of fabric and then folding it 1/4-inch again. Press the folds down and then stitch.
3. If desired you may decorate the hem with rick-rack or other braid.
4. Mark a spot 2-inches down from the raw edge at each short side of the skirt. Make a narrow fold and then another narrow fold. Stitch these folds down. They are part of the back opening.
5. Gather the remaining long edge of the skirt to fit the waist of the bodice. With right sides together, pin the gathers to the bodice making certain that the gathers are even. Stitch the skirt to the bodice. Turn right side out and press.
6. Sew the center back seam of the skirt stopping 2-inches from the top of the skirt. These 2-inches should have been hemmed in step 4. Press the seam.
7. Try the dress on your doll. It should fit nicely.

For the Headwrap

1. Cut a rectangle of fabric 4 by 22-inches or 4 by 24-inches. Either length works well.
2. Fold all of the edges down 1/4-inch. Press. Then fold down another 1/4-inch. Press Again.
3. Stitch the fold down all around the edges. Press again.
4. Put doll's hair in a high ponytail. Wrap the headwrap around the doll's head and tie on top.
5. Or, if you prefer, cut an 8 by 22 (or 24)-inch rectangle. Right sides together, fold it in half long-ways. Stitch one short seam and one long seam. Turn right side out. Press. Fold in the raw edges and stitch the opening closed. Press again. Wrap around doll's head.

For additional patterns check out my blog: <http://springfielddolls.blogspot.com/>

Cut a 10" by 20" or 10" by 24" rectangle for skirt.
Cut a 4" by 22" or 4" by 24" rectangle for headwrap.



Cut 2 on fold of fabric.
Also cut 2 from lining fabric.
Cut down center of back piece for opening.