

# Camisole & Underwear or Tankini Swimsuit

*For 18" dolls such as Springfield Collection or American Girl  
From <http://springfielddolls.blogspot.com/>*

## Supplies

- Scraps of white fabric or 1 fat-quarter
- Matching Thread
- 1-3/4 yards of 1/4 to 1/2-inch wide lace or rick rack or other braid or your choice
- 10-inches of 1/4-inch elastic
- Velcro or Snaps for fastening

## General Directions

1. Cut out the two pattern pieces. For the underwear cut along the lower waist cutting-line. For the Tankini bottoms cut along the upper waist cutting-line.
2. Lay the patterns on a fold of fabric and pin in place. Carefully cut around the pattern. Remove the pins. Stash the patterns somewhere safe. I keep mine in a well labeled junk mail envelope. After using the instructions, I tuck them into the same envelope.
3. All pattern pieces have a 1/4-inch seam allowance.
4. Unless directed otherwise, always use a straight machine stitch.
5. Cut the lace or rick-rack into pieces and elastic as directed on the patterns.

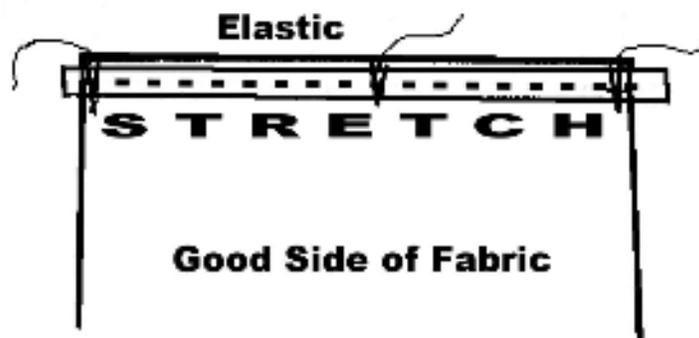
## For The Camisole

1. First zig-zag stitch around all four sides of the camisole to prevent fraying. This is important, so don't skip this step.
2. On the wrong of the fabric pin one end of a 6-inch piece of lace to point A, overlapping the lace and fabric by 1/4-inch. Pin the other end to point B, again overlapping slightly. Make sure the lace isn't twisted. Stitch into place. Repeat for the other side.
3. Pin the 15-inch length of lace to the top of the camisole on the right side of the fabric. The lace should overlap the fabric by about 1/8 to 1/4-inch. Make sure the straps are free and won't get accidentally caught while you're sewing. Stitch the lace into place.
4. Pin the 13-inch length of lace to the hem of the camisole on the right side of the fabric. The lace should overlap the fabric by 1/8 to 1/4-inch. Stitch into place.
5. Fold each side of the back opening under by about 1/4-inch. Stitch down.
6. Apply Velcro or a couple of snaps for closing the back. Place on doll.

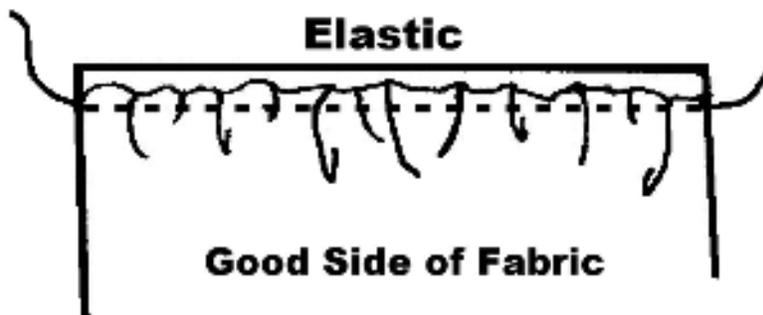
## For the Underwear

1. There are two cutting lines on the underwear pattern. The upper line is for the Tankini Bottoms, the lower line is for the underwear. Be careful to cut on the appropriate line. Or you can cut on the upper line and then fold that part down when you don't need it.
2. After cutting out the fabric, zig-zag stitch around both waist edges and both leg edges. This is important, so don't skip this step.

3. Pin one 8-inch length of lace around one of the leg edges, on the good side of the fabric. Overlap the lace and fabric by 1/8 to 1/4-inch, making sure to cover the raw edges. Stitch into place. Repeat with the remaining lace and leg opening.
4. With right sides together fold the underwear in half through the crotch, matching tops and sides. Stitch one of the sides together. Zig-zag over the raw edges to finish the seam. One side will still remain open. Turn the undies right side out and press the seam.
5. Mark the center of your elastic with a straight pin or a light dot with a pencil. On the right side of the fabric, lap the elastic over the waist edge of the underwear, matching centers. The center of the waist is the seam you just sewed in Step 3. Stitch the center of the elastic to the center of the waistband with 3 or 4 sturdy stitches. Pin each end of the elastic to the corresponding end of the waist. The elastic will be shorter than the fabric. That's okay, it's supposed to be. Stitch each end in place with 3 or 4 sturdy stitches.



6. Beginning at one end gently stretch the elastic over the upper edge of the underwear while carefully stitching in place. Since the elastic is shorter than the waist, you'll have to stretch as you go. Tug on the hanging threads at the beginning of the seam to help move things along.



7. Now, fold the elastic down to wrong side of the fabric. About 1/8-inch of the elastic will remain visible from the good side of the fabric. Press the elastic and folded fabric into place. Now straight stitch very close to the folded edge of the fabric, making sure to catch all the layers of fabric and elastic on the underside of the waistband. Remember to stretch as you sew.
8. With right sides of the fabric together stitch the remaining sides together and then zig-zag the raw edge to give it a nice finish. Turn right side out. Press and place on doll. Yay! No more naked doll butts! Make enough for all your dolls.

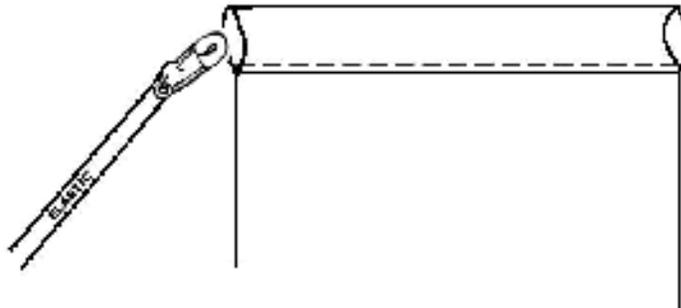
***Make the Tankini like the Camisole & Underwear with the following differences:***

### **For the Tankini Top**

1. First choose a fabric that is bright and cheery and that has a summery beach feel to it.
2. Next use a medium-sized rick-rack or another flexible braid instead of the lace used in the camisole. Substitute the rick-rack for the lace in the directions.
3. Pretty much everything else remains the same.

### **For the Tankini Bottoms**

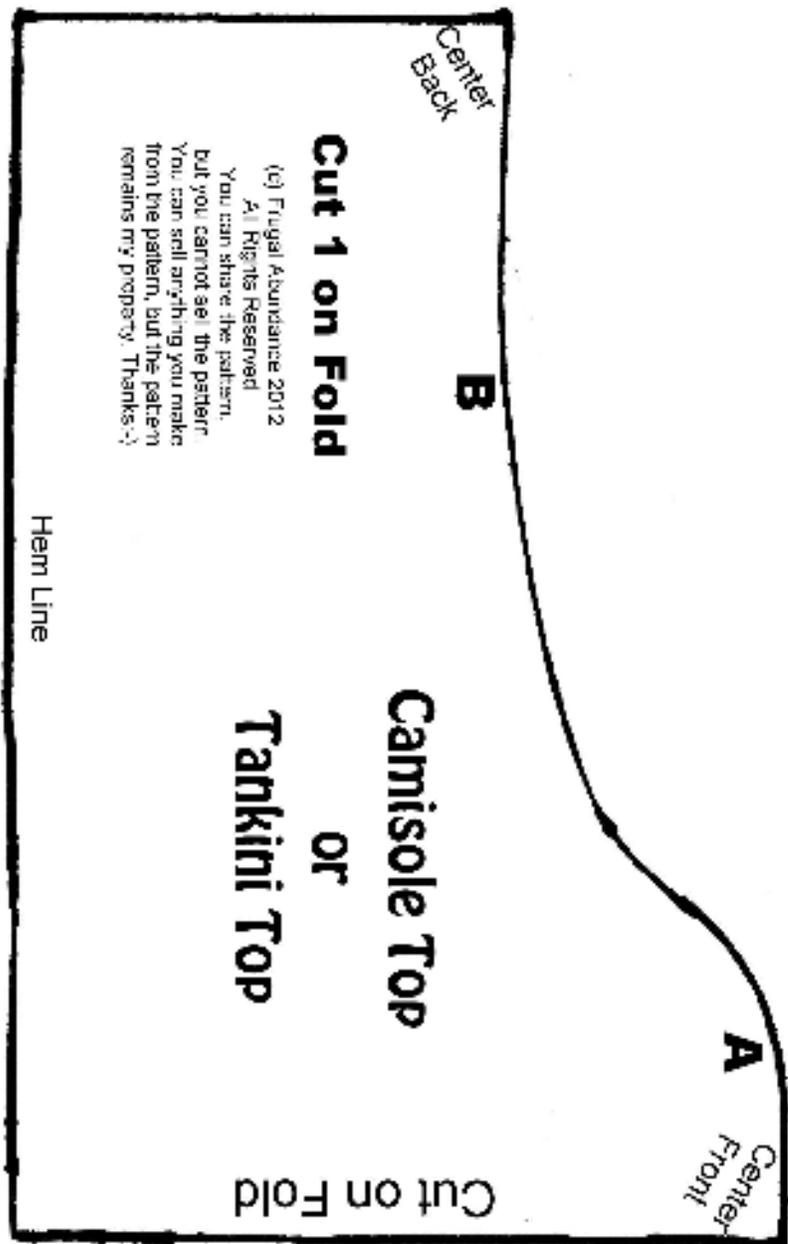
1. Be sure to cut the bottoms out on the upper waist cutting-line. The elastic for the tankini bottoms is applied differently than the undies. The swimsuit bottoms require extra fabric at the waist line to make a casing for the elastic.
2. Follow Steps 2, 3 and 4 for the underwear, using rick-rack or other flexible braid instead of lace.
3. As an alternative, omit the rick-rack or braid on the leg openings. Instead, turn under 1/4-inch hem. Press the hem down and then stitch in place.
4. Omit Steps 5, 6 and 7.
5. After Step 4 fold the waist edge down 1/2-inch to the wrong side of the fabric. Press. Stitch it into place about 3/8-inch from the fold. This little tunnel of fabric is called a casing.



6. Pin a safety pin to one end of the elastic. Using the safety pin as a bodkin, thread the elastic through the casing. When the tail end of the elastic is even with the edge of the casing, tack the elastic in place with 3 or 4 sturdy stitches. Continue threading the elastic through the casing. When you come out the other side push the gathers to the center of the casing and remove the safety pin. Line up the edge of the elastic with the edge of the casing. Tack in place with 3 or 4 sturdy stitches. When the elastic is firmly tacked you can spread out the gathers so they're evenly spaced.
7. Follow Step 8, being careful to catch all of the layers of fabric and elastic in the stitches.

**Cut Trim as Follows:**

- 1 - 15-inch piece for top of camisole
- 1 - 13-inch piece for hem of camisole
- 2 - 6-inch pieces for straps



**Cut Trim as Follows:**

- 2 - 8-inch pieces for leg openings
- 1 -10-inch piece of 1/4-inch wide elastic

