

Country Cottage Dresses: Raglan-Sleeve Dresses for 18" Dolls

From *Doll Dress Boutique*
By Erin Hentzel

Class Description:

Learn to sew a raglan-sleeve bodice while making a country-style dress for 18" dolls.

This class is great for confident beginners and up; it is excellent for learning sewing techniques such as gathering, finishing seam allowances, directional sewing techniques, casing construction, and sewing with trims. Students will learn simple techniques that make sewing miniature fashions easy and fun. Students should leave with one doll dress completed.

This also makes a great class for learning to use a serger machine for hems, gathering, casing techniques, and finishing seam allowances (see pp. 12–14).

View E uses 2 1/2" fabric strips and the bonus design, Scrap-Happy Hootenanny on p. 42, is great for precut 2 1/2" square packs—excellent for showcasing a fabric collection.

Class Length:

Single class session of 4 hours.

NOTE: For all classes, the students must bring their project cut out and ready to start construction.

Class Supply List:

- Required text: *Doll Dress Boutique* by Erin Hentzel
- Fabric and notions per project requirements

Other Product Sales Opportunities:

- Mighty Mini ironing board by Clover (see p. 8)
- Super-fine glass-head pins
- Pinking shears
- Small sharp-pointed scissors for trimming threads

- Perfect Piecing Seam Guide by Perkins
- Sewing Edge by Marci Baker
- Seam gauge
- Wonder Tape
- Ultra-thin, double sided Velcro
- Sewing machine needles—students should change their needle regularly

Classroom Preparation:

Set up an ironing station. Have safety pins on hand for inserting elastic into casings.

Class Agenda:

Student Homework Before Class:

1. Choose and purchase fabrics.
 2. Print or trace patterns and cut out project.
- NOTE: Ruffle pieces for dress hem should be cut 60" long for tightly gathered ruffle (Views A and D).
3. Pre-wind bobbin.
 4. Pack machine and sewing supplies.

Class:

1. Prepare samples of different gathering ratios, adding more fabric to gathered piece gives more gathers.
NOTE: Ruffle pieces for dress hem should be cut 60" long for tightly gathered ruffle (Views A and D).
2. Demonstrate using the Perkins Perfect Piecing Guide to set the machine needle and Sewing Edge adhesive strip to sew an accurate 1/4" seam.
3. For the bodice construction, demonstrate using a sewing gauge to press accurate casings and hems
4. Demonstrate how to sew gathering stitches and sew bodice to waistband piece.
5. Demonstrate how to use Wonder Tape instead of pins to sew embellishments to center gores (View C).
6. Demonstrate how to sew gored skirts using directional sewing technique (Views A, B, and C) (see p. 40).
7. Demonstrate how to sew gathering stitches and tiered skirt construction (View E and bonus design on p. 42).

8. Demonstrate how to sew parallel gathering stitches and how to evenly distribute gathers for ruffles (View A or View E).
9. Demonstrate sewing the back closure.

For examples of student work:

- Got to <http://averylanesewing.com>
- Look at #DollDressBoutique and @AveryLaneSewing on Instagram

Encourage your students to post pictures of their work to social media with these tags and your shop's tags.