



FROM OUR HEARTS & HANDS TO YOURS

Boxy Boatneck T-Shirt

(No Set-in Sleeve)

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This T-shirt is simple and quick to make. It fits the 14.5" Glitter Girl doll. The instructions were written as part of the Stitchin' for Kids project to give dolls with outfits to young patients in hospitals.

It is best made in fabrics such as poly/cotton blend or cotton knit with some spandex. Avoid jersey knits entirely.

Important

Print pattern full size and check that the one inch square equals one inch before beginning to sew. If it does not, please adjust accordingly.

Requirements:

- Pattern for the Boxy Boatneck T-shirt; this is the quickest and easiest t-shirt you will ever make.
- There is one challenge, however: the looser the knit, the stretchier the fabric, the more the neckline and bottom hem will stretch out under your presser foot. A novelty knit might not stretch out enough to sag, but the typical interlock knit will. The directions include some tips for minimizing the problem.

Notes about Knits:

Use:

- A 3 mm stitch length (this is larger than one would use for a small garment made of woven fabric)
- Stretch or ball point needle 75 - 80, and
- Woolly nylon thread (sold primarily for use in sergers) in the bobbin. If you've had success sewing on knits with regular thread in the bobbin, don't bother to buy woolly nylon. However, if you've had difficulty adjusting your tension properly when sewing on stretchy fabric, woolly nylon can make all the difference in stitch quality. No need to hand wind it on the bobbin (unlike elastic thread). If you can't find the Woolly Nylon brand, Gutterman makes an inexpensive version that's worth a try.
- Walking foot, if you have one, is also helpful
- Tracing paper or tear away stabilizer at beginning of seam and along seam if the fabric is very stretchy
- Fabric: Fat quarter (approximately 18" x 22")
 - Make the t-shirt out of a poly/cotton blend or cotton knit with some spandex.
 - If you select cotton interlock knit, fold out up to 1/2" at the center front of the pattern piece, and plan to increase the side center back hems to 3/8" – 1/2", as needed.
 - Avoid jersey knits entirely!
- Scissors, Thread, Pins, Sewing machine in good working order, etc.
- Hook and loop tape (Velcro®)
- 1/4" Lite EZ Steam Tape

Assumptions:

All seams are 1/4 inch unless otherwise specified.

Preparation:

- Cut pattern pieces with the greater stretch going the width of pattern pieces.
 - Back - Cut two pieces using the back pattern ensuring one is cut in reverse.
 - Front - Cut one piece using the front pattern
- Cut Hook and loop tape (Velcro®) 3/8" wide x 2 1/2" long strips

Construction:

1. Sleeve/Shoulder Seam

- Sew sleeve/shoulder seams, right sides together; press seam open.

2. Sleeve Hem

- Hem bottom edge of each sleeve: iron under ¼” and sew about 1/8” from finished edge; no need to turn under a double hem on knit fabric.

3. Neckline

- Turn a generous 1/8” of the neckline to the wrong side of garment. Pin as needed. Baste the entire neck edge by hand and pull up the basting thread – not so much that you have “gathers” but enough to stabilize the edge so it does not stretch out; it will look a bit wavy. Machine stitch from the wrong side close to neckline edge. Remove your basting thread and press the neck edge flat. You may need to clip the curved raw edges on the wrong side so they lie flat. Press out any extra fullness with a steam iron if the neckline edge stretches out as you sew the hem.

4. Side Seams

- Sew side seams, right sides together, and clip curves if needed.
- Iron seams open as far as possible.

5. T-shirt Hem and Center Back

- Hem bottom edge of t-shirt, but first stabilize the bottom hem with ¼” Lite EZ Steam Tape.
 - Apply the sticky side of the of the tape to the reverse side of the fabric close to the hem’s edge; press for just a second to adhere the tape, then peel off the paper backing. Turn the hem up and finish the hem according to the directions on the EZ Steam Tape package.
- Try the t-shirt on your fitting doll, and then turn in ¼” to 3/8” on the center back edges.
- Press and hem the back edges of garment.

6. Back Closure

Apply 3/8” x 2 ½” strips of hook and loop tape very close to the back edges. The t-shirt will fit better over bulkier waistbands if you don’t bring the hook and loop tape all the way down the back opening.

- Place hook side on outside left, tack in place with a small amount of washable glue **and then sew.**
- Place soft loop side on inside right, tack in place with a small amount of washable glue **and then sew.**

