

# Wren ★ Feathers

## Little Darling in Japan Week 2: Karate Gi

As always this pattern is © by me (Jennie Bagrowski) and is for your personal use only, you MAY share it by linking to this blog, you may NOT sell it or upload it to any site without my permission. If you sell things made from this pattern I'd appreciate credit for the pattern design. ☺

If you downloaded this elsewhere it was stolen from: <http://jenwrenne.wordpress.com>

I assume you have basic sewing knowledge and the explanation should suffice, but if you need help please email me!

**Quarter inch seams allowed unless otherwise specified.**



There are lots of traditional martial arts in Japan, but karate 空手 (characters mean “empty” and “hand”) is probably the most well-known in the US. It developed in Okinawa, and was characterized by an open hand style of fighting, which eventually evolved into a few different “schools” or types of karate. Practitioners wear a white uniform, whose cut is based on certain types of traditional Japanese clothing, evolving to the style shown here. Different colors of belts are worn depending on your proficiency level, and there is a strong emphasis, at least in the US, of testing and moving to the next level.

Most martial arts practitioners in the US just call their practice uniform a “gi” 着. This term technically just means clothing or a suit of clothing. To go a little deeper, the top we’re making is called “uwagi” 上着 and the pants “shitabaki” 下履き. Interesting here are the characters 上 and 下. They can have different translations, but usually 上 means top/above and 下 means under/below. See how you can flip them vertically and the meaning flips? Pretty cool! 😊

## Making the top (上着)



The top is very simple. Sew CB seam, hem sleeves, sew on collar, sew up sides, clipping at underarm. Real ones usually have slits at the sides over the hips. I omitted that detail since my doll does not pose well and thus does not need that extra freedom of movement.

See: <https://jenwrenne.files.wordpress.com/2014/11/ldij-general-tips.pdf> for more tips.

## Making the pants (下履き)

The human-size version of these has a gusset where you see the triangular part at the crotch, for a more economical cutting arrangement from narrow fabric. It usually topstitched with two rows of stitching to reinforce and make that part stronger. I kept a gusseted shape, but eliminated the extra fabric pieces to reduce bulk.



On the left is an actual (human-size) pair of these pants showing the side opening. The extra fabric triangle is for reinforcement and not necessary for dolls. If you're worried about fraying, put a drop of fabric glue/fray check at that point.



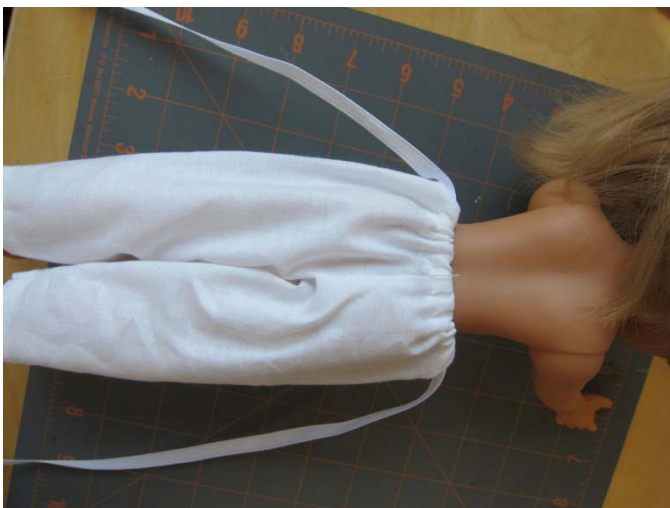
1. Hem side openings
2. Hem bottoms
3. Sew center front and back seams
4. Clip where knives are pointing
5. Sew leg seams
6. Turn under 3/8" at the waist for a casing

## How to insert the ties and wear the pants

This style of pants with the unusual (to Westerners) system of ties is used for a variety of martial arts uniforms (karate, judo, aikido, etc). It differs from a lot of other Japanese pants, in that there are only two ties total, making for only one quick bow to tie. Many other garments, such as the hakama or monpe (coming soon) have two sets of separate ties in front and back. This arrangement gathers at the back, then ties in a bow at the front. Real ones have small belt loops in front to keep the ties from slipping out of place.

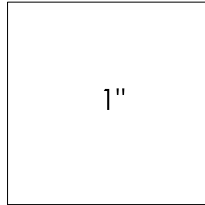


Red/green dots were added to help you make sense of which sides go where. The string goes through the back once, then both cross over each other in the front casing.



They'll gather at the back when you pull the strings, bring them to front and tie in a bow. (Model is Corolle Cherie)

Add up to 1" here if desired.  
Remember to adjust neckband  
by same amount



## Wren★Feathers

Uwagi

for 13" dolls like Little Darling

(c) 2014 Jennie Bagrowski

neckband is 1.5" x 13"

Sorry it only fit by cutting off  
here...make sure the side seam  
is the same length on front and  
back.

Add up to 1" here if desired



**Wren★Feathers**

Shitabaki

for 13" dolls like Little Darling

(c) 2014 Jennie Bagrowski

# Tatami

Some furnishing projects are coming too, in case you'd like a little room setting for your doll, maybe in a bookshelf?

For the room setting this week, we'll start with flooring. Traditional mats in Japan are called tatami, and are woven of rice straw. They have borders sewed on two sides, usually black linen, and are standardized to a size of about 4'x6'. Rooms at one time (and often even today) were actually measured by the number of mats that fit in them. I find it interesting that these mats match the Golden Ratio, sort of automatically making the rooms into pleasing shapes to fit that number of mats. (see more here [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden\\_ratio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_ratio))

How big should your doll mats be and what to make them out of? In crowded inns many years ago, one tatami mat was allocated per guest for sleeping, so a good rule of thumb might be to make each mat a little bigger than your doll. A 13"-14" child doll is about ¼ life size, so 12"x15" per mat would be a good size for 13"-14" dolls.

Use a woven grass beach mat, or check where placemats are sold, especially in import stores, for the ones woven from natural materials that can simulate tatami to use for flooring. You can cover your whole floor with a woven grass mat, or cut individual tatami and arrange them in a traditional pattern.

Finish the walls of your room with washi (handmade paper) available online or sometimes in the scrapbooking paper section of the craft store. You can get a similar look for free by making your own recycled paper. Though not entirely traditional, it's much easier than trying to actually make washi, and has a nice texture.

There are tons of tutorials online for making paper, here are two that look easiest:

<http://pbskids.org/zoom/activities/sci/recyclingpaper.html>

<http://www.msichicago.org/online-science/activities/activity-detail/activities/make-recycled-paper/>