

# Wren ★ Feathers

## Summer Sew Along 2017: Week 2

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**Quarter inch seams allowed on all pieces unless otherwise specified.**

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





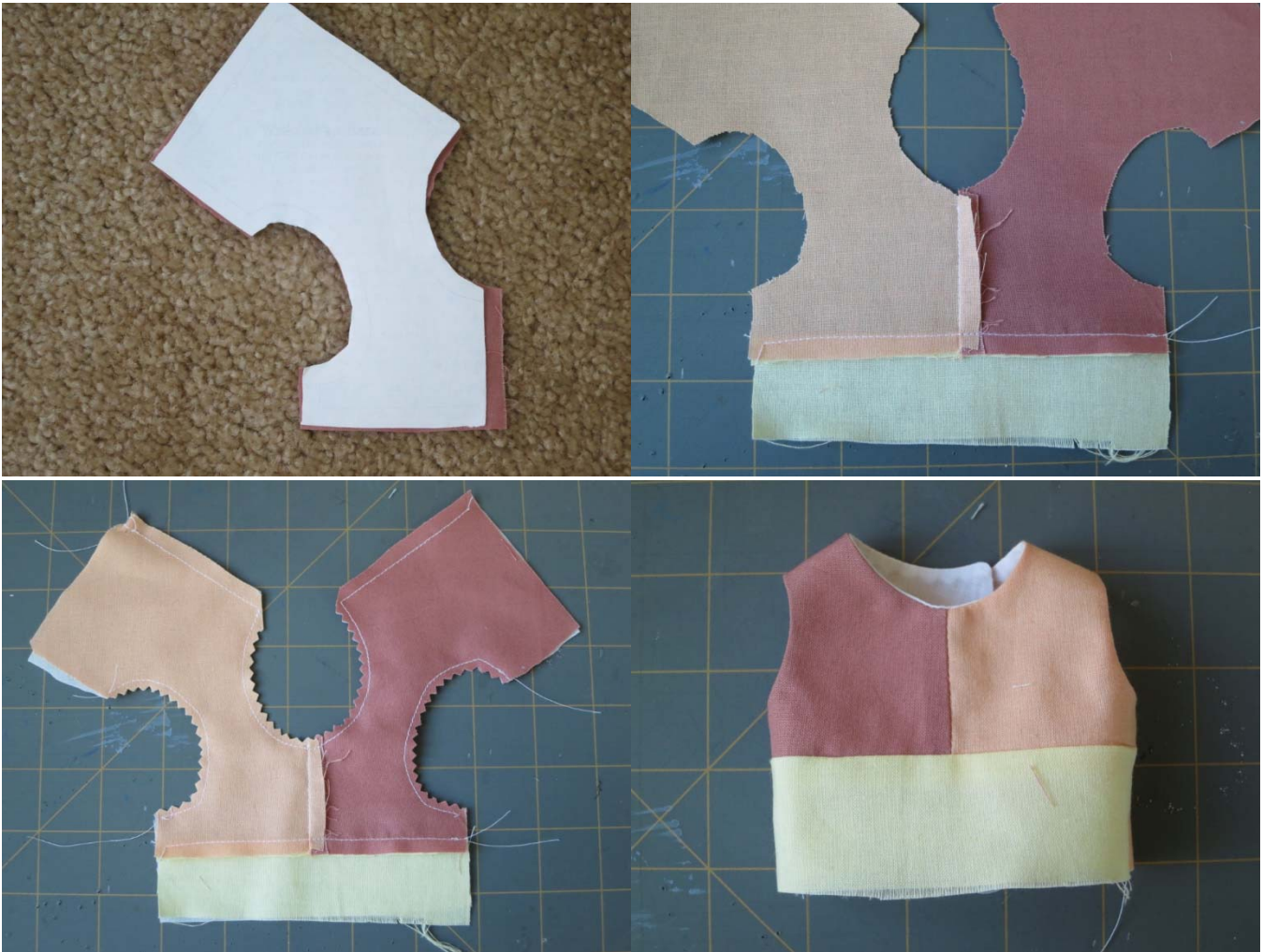
This dress for Betsy is from May, 1959 and obviously a nod to the iconic Piet Mondrian style. The caption mentioned Mrs. McCall liking it for being “drip dry” which I’m guessing meant a poly-cotton blend that didn’t need ironing, but any lightweight firmly woven cotton or blend would be fine. I almost always line with white batiste. My brain was kind of focused on a half-baked plan to make some bojagi (보자기) bedding while I was making this dress and it hit me that this was almost the same! Bojagi is a form of mainly square/rectangular patchwork in Korea that uses unusual (to my Western eye) color combinations and often uses thin fabric with the seams as a decorative element, forming a dark outline very similar to what Piet Mondrian did in some of his paintings.

This dress is fun and easy to make - just a standard lined, sleeveless bodice with a gathered skirt made special with fabric piecing. If you’re a quilter or just a fat-quarter-bundle-lover, this is the perfect dress to showcase great fabric combinations!

Being me, to re-create the original, I would choose to pipe it to create the black outlines, but it would be even faster to use rickrack sandwiched in the seams or topstitch 1/8” (3mm) ribbon over them instead. Check out the quick and easy way to line the skirt with netting to avoid different colored hems!

Share pix of your version here:

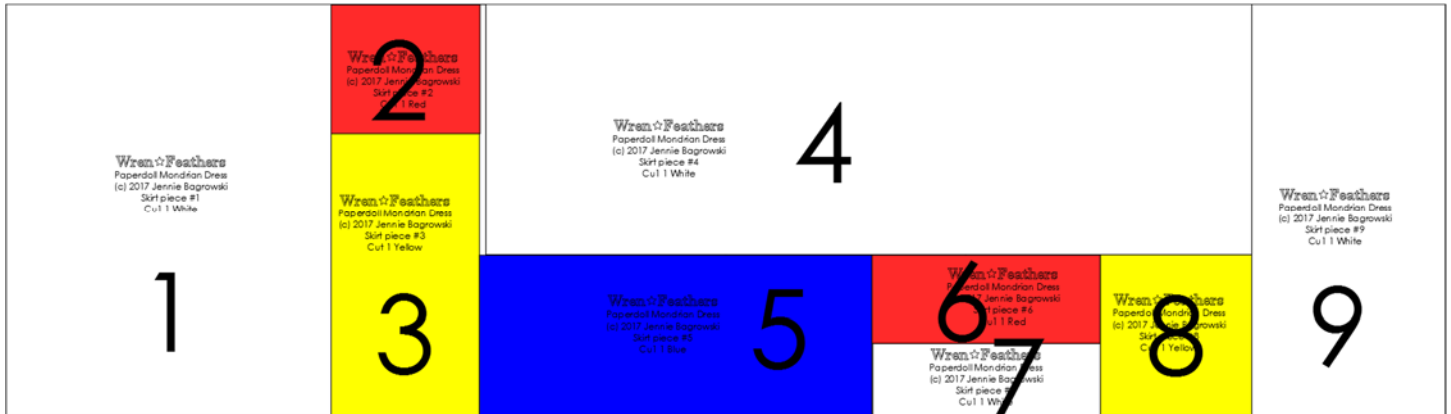
<https://www.flickr.com/groups/2825314@N20/>



For extra color, I **added a seam allowance** and cut the yoke out of two fabrics **instead of placing on fold as specified**.

Let's chat about seams for a second: If you're a quilter, you probably are in the habit of pressing seams toward the darker fabric, whereas for clothing it's usually the case that they're pressed open. Then there's also the question of decorating the seams. If you're topstitching ribbon, I'd say press your seams open flat. If you're piping with black or a dark color, press seams toward the darker color where possible. If not, do what seems to make the most sense. You can see I started by pressing seams toward the darker fabric, but then when the yellow piece was added, it would have made an unsightly bump to press it up. By the time I got to the skirt, I'd gotten wise and just pressed everything open.

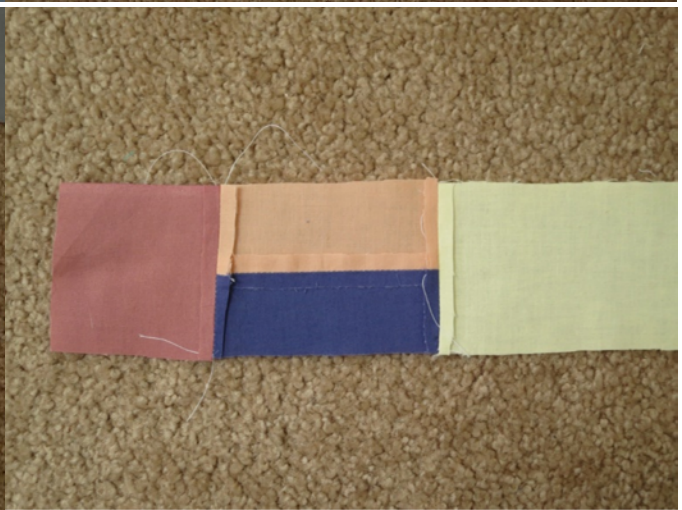
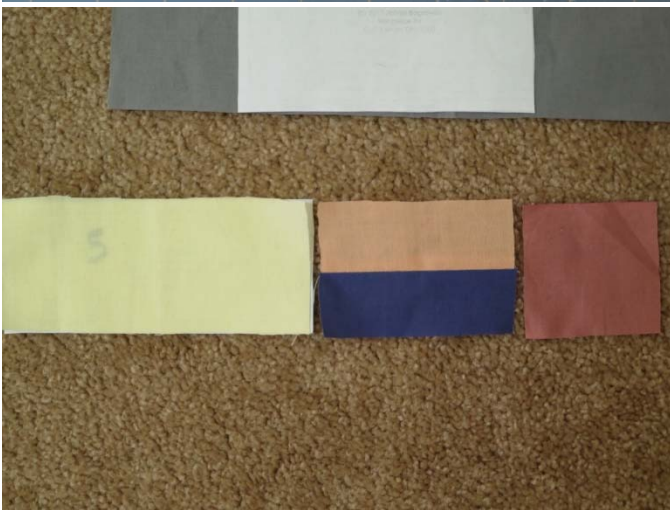
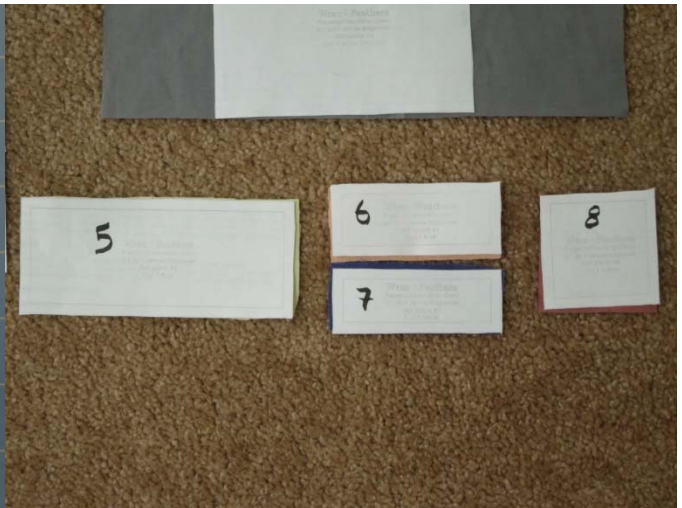
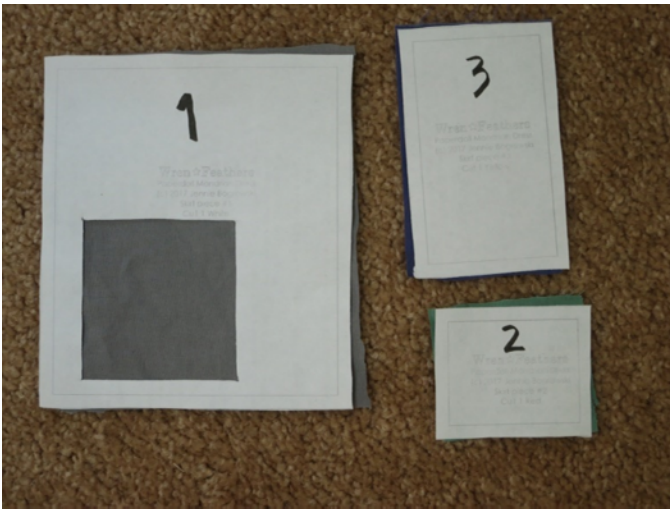
## Skirt diagram to replicate the original:



The skirt piecing takes a little planning. Just follow the pix or list and you'll be fine!

1. 2-3
2. 2-3 to 1
3. 6-7
4. 6-7 to 5 and 8
5. 5-6-7-8 to 4
6. 4-5-6-7-8 to 9
7. 1-2-3 to rest





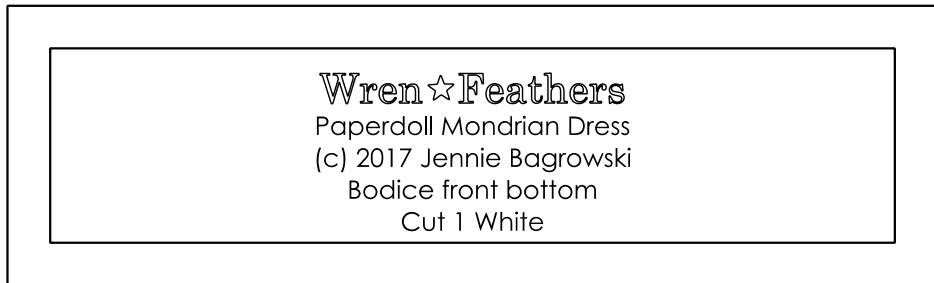
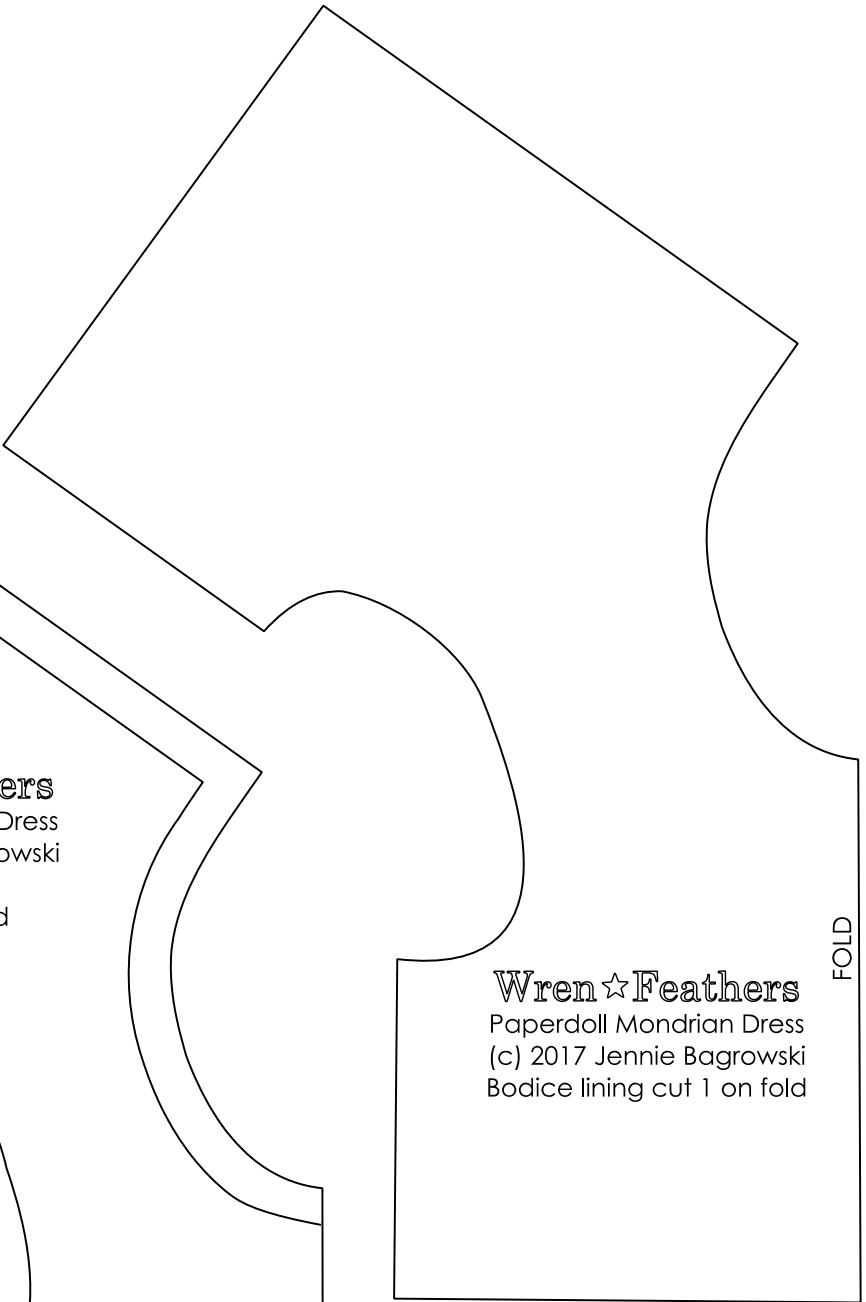
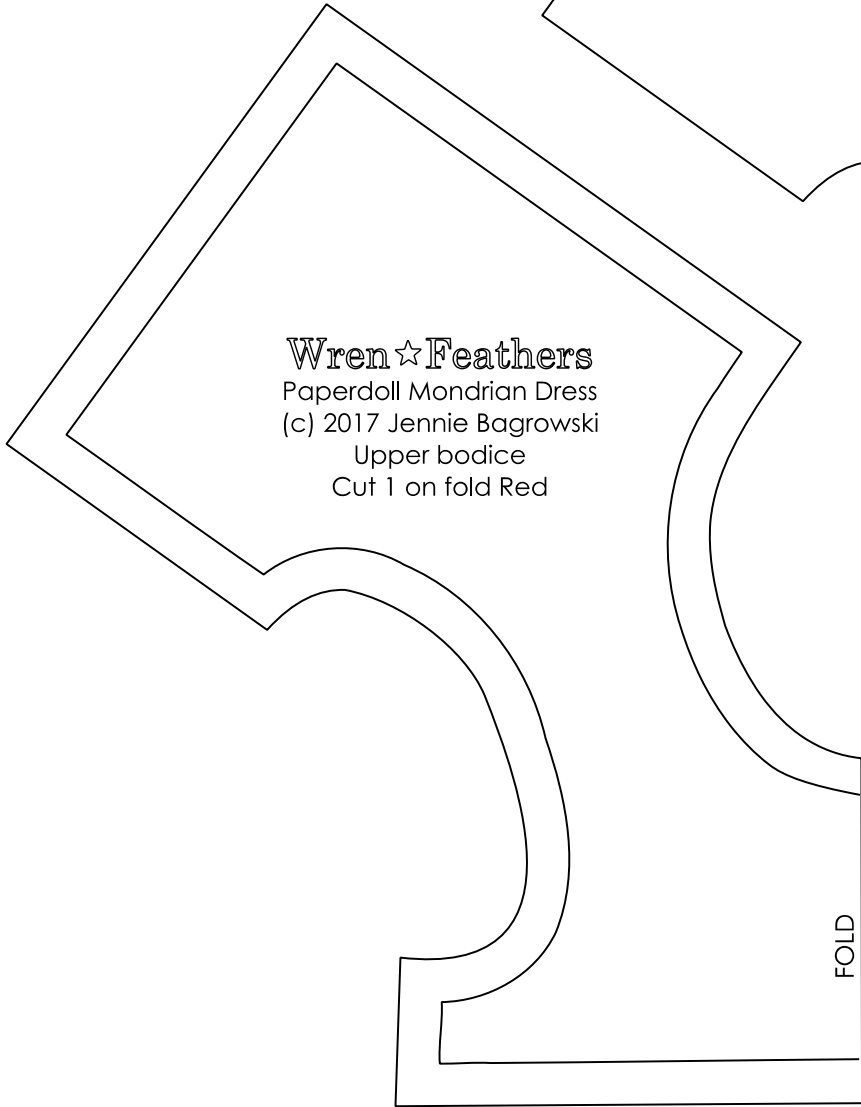
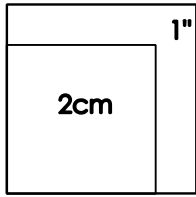


Sew netting to skirt at hemline and CB edge halfway down the skirt





You can use buttons as in the original, or make a little hanbok-style tie like I did. The original seemed to have a white belt/sash to gather in the waist a little more.

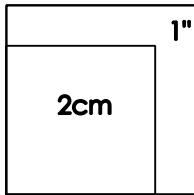




**Wren ☆ Feathers**  
Paperdoll Mondrian Dress  
(c) 2017 Jennie Bagrowski  
Skirt piece #1  
Cu1 1 White

**Wren ☆ Feathers**  
Paperdoll Mondrian Dress  
(c) 2017 Jennie Bagrowski  
Skirt piece #8  
Cu1 1 Yellow

**Wren ☆ Feathers**  
Paperdoll Mondrian Dress  
(c) 2017 Jennie Bagrowski  
Skirt piece #7  
Cu1 1 White



**Wren ☆ Feathers**  
Paperdoll Mondrian Dress  
(c) 2017 Jennie Bagrowski  
Skirt piece #9  
Cu1 1 White

**Wren☆Feathers**  
Paperdoll Mondrian Dress  
(c) 2017 Jennie Bagrowski  
Skirt piece #6  
Cu1 1 Red

**Wren☆Feathers**  
Paperdoll Mondrian Dress  
(c) 2017 Jennie Bagrowski  
Skirt piece #4  
Cu1 1 White ON FOLD

FOLD

**Wren☆Feathers**  
Paperdoll Mondrian Dress  
(c) 2017 Jennie Bagrowski  
Skirt piece #2  
Cu1 1 Red

**Wren☆Feathers**  
Paperdoll Mondrian Dress  
(c) 2017 Jennie Bagrowski  
Skirt piece #3  
Cut 1 Yellow

2cm

1"

**Wren☆Feathers**  
Paperdoll Mondrian Dress  
(c) 2017 Jennie Bagrowski  
Skirt piece #5  
Cu1 1 Blue



Chair pattern coming next week! Radio by Our Generation



Caution: woodworking can be dangerous and you do this at your own risk! If you can use a coping saw and hand drill safely, you can make this. If not, find someone who can help you 😊



I used 1/8" basswood for the table and chopsticks with tapered ends to get the right profile for the feet. **The size of holes will depend on the size of your chopsticks**, mine were smaller in the lowest tier, and increased in size for the middle tier. You don't need to drill holes in the top one, the circles are just a guide to placement. The height can be varied to suit your needs - use this table next to a bed or with next week's project!

1. Cut out pieces
2. Drill small pilot holes in larger 2 pieces
3. Sand and finish (I used nontoxic acrylic varnish by ceramcoat)
4. Trim chopsticks to 6" or desired height
5. Enlarge bottom holes using a sharp drill bit so the feet can push through about 1". I'm not a woodworker, so there's probably a better way to do it, but I did this by holding the bits in my hand and twisting gently, going up in bit size gradually because just drilling caused my wood to crack/split. Wear gloves and be careful, because it's easy to hurt yourself doing it that way! If anyone has a better suggestion, please post in the comments!
6. Enlarge middle tier holes to fit snugly over the rest of the chopstick
7. Glue tier 1 and 2 in place and let dry
8. Check to make sure all chopsticks are flush on top, sand a little if not
9. Glue top tier in place



Accessories pictured are from Our Generation although I'm not sure if that phone style was authentically 1950s...

