Wren ★ Feathers

1920s Sunflower Dress



American Girl Claudie available here: https://www.americangirl.com/collections/claudie

I called this the "sunflower" dress because of the happy shade of yellow, and the fact that there were tons of them blooming along the roadsides a few weeks ago while I was working on it. Unfortunately, they don't seem to grow at our altitude, so she couldn't pose with them.



It was inspired by an actual doll dress from a Butterick pattern from the 1920s. The original looked to be made of something sheer and delicate and trimmed with lace, but I was going for a more "everyday" look, and chose a thin cotton print. The original also seemed to just have a ribbon sash below the waist, but I added a waistband and gathered the bodice and skirt to it.

Unfortunately, there was no back view that I could find, but it seemed like the collar was just sort of a bib in the front. To keep it "drapey" I used muslin and did not line. Set your serger to gather slightly, then press the serged edge under and top stitch by hand or machine. Blanket stitching the edge by hand, maybe along with a few lazy daisies as decoration would also look very "period-correct."

I faced the neckline, but bias turned inside would be an alternative. When finished, the collar seemed to be flopping in a weird way at the top, hence the buttons to hold it down, which also weren't included in the original.

It closes flush down the back, or add bands for extra width if you'd like an overlapping closure.

Leave off the collar and upper ruffle of the skirt for an even more basic everyday dress or a way to showcase some special fabric/lace/embroidery.

It's on the pattern pieces, but invariably people miss it and email me, so for the third time:

Skirt is 23" x 4.25" Upper ruffle is 23" x 2.5"



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Quarter inch seams allowed unless otherwise specified.

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1920s dress for 18" dolls like AG (c) 2022 Jennie Bagrowski Waistband cut 1 on fold

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1920s dress for 18" dolls like AG (c) 2022 Jennie Bagrowski Collar cut 1 on fold

2cm

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Tape pieces together on line before cutting