

# Wren ★ Feathers

Summer Sew-Along 2024: Week 3



Dress pictured on Trendon Sasha

## Week 3: Updating the basic dress for the 1940s

Wartime fabric restrictions during WWII meant long, full skirts were out. The “tailored” look was very popular, and, as I mentioned last week, the main fullness to be found was in the sleeves and shoulders. I absolutely adore the look of these sleeves, which are gathered, but don’t require additional gathering at the bottom into a band. Squared and sweetheart necklines on dirndl-style dresses were popular with both girls and women for informal wear. This was based on a dress from the 1942 Sears catalog I saw here: <https://christmas.musetechnical.com/ShowCatalogPage/1942-Sears-Spring-Summer-Catalog/0001> Fashion trends are cyclical though, so try doing a search for McCall’s 4082 from the 1990s to see something with a very similar shape.

Skirts were often shaped, so it would still be appropriate to use last week’s skirt, but were sometimes cut in rectangles too. I’d recommend a ratio of not more than 2 times the bodice width to maintain an appropriate silhouette. For example, a 9-10” measurement at the bottom of the bodice would need a skirt of maybe 18”-20” wide.

The tiered skirt in the picture has its measurements listed on the pattern page, but just in case you overlooked them:

2”x 15” top – allows ¼” seams at top and bottom

4.5” x 29” lower – allows ¼” seam at top and ½” for hem at bottom

This dress will fit dolls like AGAT, Sasha, Disney Animators, etc. **There is no way to make this fit 18" OG/AG/Maplelea/etc. with just a percentage increase on a copier.** Enlarging to their chest size would mean re-drafting the neckline, collar, armholes, and sleeves.

Note that I'm not providing any sewing or resizing instructions in this week's free pattern. The whole collection will be available in my etsy shop in the next couple of weeks with well-illustrated instructions for sewing all of the basic dresses, more sizes, and maybe some bonus pattern pieces as well!

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Quarter inch seams allowed unless otherwise specified.

This tiered skirt's measurements were:

2"x 15" top – allows 1/4" seams at top and bottom

4.5" x 29" lower – allows 1/4" seam at top  
and 1/2" for hem at bottom

