

Notes on Sewing for Mature 1:8 Blind Box BJDS

While most blind-box BJDs are 1:12 and will fit PukiPuki and Obitsu11 clothing just fine, the 1:8 models are a bit harder to fit. These dolls are slightly thinner than PukiPuki, but as tall as Pukiffee (at least, from the neck down). Dolls in this size range are often sold as 1:12, however, which creates a bit of confusion. If your doll is shaped like the one in the picture, you can be pretty sure it's one of the mature 1:8 dolls.

To make patterns for this doll size, I started by taking one of the Penny's Box Luluya Symphonic Poem dolls and wrapping her in saran wrap and masking tape. (This is a bit challenging at this scale, but can still be done as long as you work carefully.) I then cut the pieces, traced them, and compared them to existing patterns that I already had.

For an experienced sewist, the attached patterns should be all that you need. They are mostly edited from the official Obitsu11 sewing book and RequiemArts Designs patterns for Pukiffee. (This is why I'm not charging for these patterns.) The dotted lines on each piece are the sewing lines. For pieces marked NSA, please note that there is **no included seam allowance**. The lines given are the **sewing** lines. Trace your sewing lines with an erasable pen or water-soluble fabric marker, then draw and cut a seam allowance at least 1/8" (3mm) outside of the sewing lines.



To get a good fit, it is best to cut your seam allowance to 1/8" (3mm) after sewing each seam, then apply FrayCheck to woven fabrics so that they do not come undone. Linings other than tulle are a bad idea at this size because of fabric bulk. You also will have better luck hand-sewing instead of machine-sewing, as the throat plate loves to eat tiny bits of fabric! (The only hand-sewing stitches you will need are backstitch for most seams and hems, and running stitch as a basting stitch.)

Fabric recommendations: Quilting cotton or cotton lawn. **Thin** cotton jersey. **Thin** spandex/Lycra. Old nylons or sheer socks (for tights). Satins and polysilk can be used, but be extremely careful, cut yourself a large seam allowance (1/4" or 6mm is good), and be careful with your use of FrayCheck.

Do not use fleece, felt or other thick fabrics. They will be too bulky to look good at this scale.

Instructions:

For a sleeveless sundress: Cut out one bodice piece from woven fabric on the fold, and cut one rectangle about 2 ½” tall by 7” wide (7cm x 18cm) for the skirt. Cut a piece of fine white tulle a little bigger than the bodice piece (unfolded).

1. Place the tulle against the RIGHT side of the bodice. Sew along the sewing lines for the collar and the sleeve opening. Then carefully clip your curves.
2. Carefully turn the bodice/tulle combo right-side-out. (You may need a pair of tweezers and the eraser end of a pencil to help you.)
3. Sew the darts. These are necessary to get a good fit around the waist. If your doll has a differently-sized bust, you may need to adjust the size of the darts. Feel free to try several times, trying it on your doll each time, until you find the right dart size for your doll’s bust.
4. Fold down the back panels so that the side seams line up, and sew them together. The bodice is now ready to be sewn down to the skirt.
5. Hem one of the long sides of the skirt by pressing about ¼” (6mm) of fabric so that it is folded over to the WRONG side and sewing it down about halfway between the edge of the fabric and the fold.
6. Use a basting stitch (a long running stitch) to sew along the other long side of the skirt. This will be your gathering stitch, so do not tie the thread off, and leave a long “tail” of thread on both ends.
7. Pin the center of that long side, and the ends, against the ends and center-front of the bodice, right sides together. Pull both ends of your gathering stitch so that the skirt piece forms neat little ruffles, until it’s ruffly and tight against the bodice piece. Add more pins if necessary.
8. Carefully sew the bodice on to the skirt, keeping the skirt gathered.
9. Fold over ¼” (6mm) of the edges of the dress at the back and hem each side.
10. I have deliberately left overlap space for Velcro or snap fasteners. Check the fit on your doll and use a heat-soluble marker to mark how far along the back the pieces overlap. (You can iron this line back off when you are done.)
11. Sew on your fastener of choice.
12. You’re done! Iron away any remaining lines, and put the dress on your doll.

For a doll T-shirt: Cut one T-shirt piece from thin jersey-knit fabric on the fold. Fabric should have a little bit of stretch; make sure that the front of the T-shirt stretches from **side to side**, not up-and-down. This shirt is designed to be all in one piece because it can be difficult to sew separate sleeves in at this scale.

1. Fold in about ¼” (6mm) of the ends of the sleeves and hem.
2. Do the same around the neckline of the shirt. Some tear-away stabilizer can be handy for this.
3. If you are using stabilizer, go back and carefully topstitch about 2-3mm in from the edge of the collar, so that it stays neat. Then tear the stabilizer away.
4. Fold the back panels of the shirt down. Sew along the sides of the sleeves, down the sides of the shirt, until you reach the bottom. Clip the corner where sleeve meets body.
5. Turn the shirt right-side out. You may need to use [this method](#) for turning the sleeves.
6. Turn up about ¼” (6mm) of the bottom edge of the shirt and hem.
7. Sew your preferred fastener to the back edges.

For doll tights: Cut two pieces of very thin, stretchy fabric so that the top is about ¼” (6mm) from the top of the pattern piece, and the rest of the fabric is a little bigger than the pattern piece all around. (A pair of old nylons works well.) Carefully trace the pattern piece onto each piece of fabric (turn the pattern piece over for one of them, so that they are mirror images of each other.).

1. Line up the front crotch line (the one that is shorter and less curved) and sew the pieces together along it.
2. Fold under the top of the fabric and hem.
3. Line up the back crotch line and sew the pieces together.
4. Rearrange your tights so that the front and back crotch seams line up with each other and pin along each leg. Sew along the legs and around the feet. This should result in two separate legs.
5. Turn your tights inside-out. See the link in the T-shirt directions if you need help doing this.
6. Your tights are done! Carefully steam away any marks, and put them on your doll.

For doll leggings: Cut two pieces of thin jersey about ¼” (6mm) from the pattern lines all the way around, using the straight line at the ankles instead of tracing around the little “feet.” Do this with the pattern turned over on one piece of fabric, so that they are mirror images of each other.

1. Line up the front crotch line (the one that is shorter and less curved) and sew the pieces together along it.
2. Fold under the top of the fabric and hem.
3. Line up the back crotch line and sew the pieces together.
4. Fold under the ends of both legs and hem them.
5. Rearrange your tights so that the front and back crotch seams line up with each other and pin along each leg. Sew up one leg and down the other so that it looks like a pair of pants.
6. Turn the leggings right-side-out. See the link in the T-shirt directions if you need help doing this.
7. Carefully steam away any marks, and put the leggings on your doll.

For doll bloomers: Cut two pieces of woven or jersey fabric according to the pattern. This pattern is the same on both sides, so you don’t have to worry about a mirror image.

1. Line up the crotch line and sew the pieces together along it. This will be the front of your bloomers.
2. Cut a piece of 1/8” (3mm) wide elastic that is the same length as your doll’s waistline and sew each end of it down at the waist area, about the height of the sewing line in the pattern. Tug hard on each end to make sure it is sewn down securely! You don’t want to lose your elastic inside the waistband later.
3. Keeping the elastic stretched out, fold over the top of the waistline and pin everything down. The pins should help you keep the elastic stretched out.
4. Sew down the waistline, going around the elastic but very close to it. You should now have an elastic waistband for your bloomers.
5. The hard part is done! Now line up the other crotch seam and sew the pieces together there.
6. Fold up and hem each leg. If you use a sewing machine with elastic thread in the bobbin, you can make the ends of the legs elastic for a more snug fit.

7. Rearrange your bloomers so that the front and back crotch seams line up with each other and pin along each leg. Sew up one leg and down the other.
8. Iron away any marks, and put the bloomers on your doll.

