

Educating Robbie & Rita – supplementary instructions

As noted in *Homespun* 16.10 (October 2015 issue), designer Tita Leach went to extraordinary detail in creating her Robbie and Rita dolls. In the interests of space, the instructions for making the dolls' underwear and adding ears were omitted from the published instructions, but are provided here.

Ears

Complete these steps after you have attached the dolls' arms in Step 23 and before you begin making the hair in Step 24.

23a Print out the pattern for the dolls' ear from the *Homespun* website and cut it out on the line.

23b Fold the remaining cream cotton fabric in half, right sides together. Pin the ear pattern to it and cut out the shape four times.

23c Match the ears in pairs, right sides together, and sew around the outer curved edge. Clip notches from the seam allowance, then turn the ears right side out. Turn under a $\frac{1}{2}$ in hem on the opening and press. Lightly stuff the ears and ladder stitch the openings closed.

23d Pin the ears on either side of the head on the seam line and ladder stitch them in place. Tita recommends doing two circuits of stitching for each ear to ensure that they are securely attached.

23e Fold the ears back on the head and contour them by stitching with doubled Ecru Perlé 8 Cotton in the doll needle. Stitch through one ear, then all the way through the head and out through

the other ear before returning through the second ear, the head and out through the first ear. (This is similar to the manner in which you attached the arms to the body in Step 23.)

Underwear

Complete these steps after you have completed the dolls' faces in Step 32 and before you begin making the shoes and socks in Step 33.

GIRL'S BLOOMERS

32a Print out the pattern for the girl's bloomers from the *Homespun* website and cut it out on the line.

32b Fold the selvages of the red print fabric in to meet at the centre, making folds at both the left and right edges. Cut:

- Two bloomer shapes on the folds
- One square, 6in (pocket).

32c Turn under a $\frac{1}{2}$ in hem on three edges of the pocket and top stitch them in place. On the remaining raw edge, turn under a 1in hem, and top stitch two rows of stitching, $\frac{1}{4}$ in apart, to hold this hem in place and decorate the top edge of the pocket.

32d Pin the pocket to the right side of one of the bloomer shapes where indicated on the pattern and top stitch close to the left, bottom, and right edges, leaving the top edge open.

32e Match the two bloomers, right sides together and sew from A to B on both sides. Bring these seams to the centre front and back. Pin the inner leg/crotch edges together and stitch from C to B and around to D in one seam.

32f Turn under and stitch a very narrow hem on the leg and waist edges. To form the waist and leg elastic casings, turn under 1in hems and stitch them in place, leaving small openings to insert the elastic. Stitch around the casings again $\frac{1}{2}$ in from the first line of stitching.

32g From the 6mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in) elastic, cut:

- One length, 14in (waist)
- Two lengths, 7in (legs).

32h Thread the elastic through the openings in the casings with a safety pin, overlap the ends by $\frac{3}{4}$ in and sew them together securely.

Slip stitch the openings closed. Put the bloomers on the girl doll.

BOY'S UNDERPANTS

32i Print out the pattern for the boy's underpants from the *Homespun* website and cut it out on the line.

32j Fold the cream knit fabric in half in one direction and then fold it in half in the other direction so that you have four layers of fabric. Cut the underpants, as shown in Diagram 1. Unfold the remaining cream knit fabric and cut one rectangle, $2\frac{1}{2}$ x 8in (false opening).

32k Fold the shape in half, right sides together and waist edges matching. Sew the seam from E to F on each side.

32l Trim one end of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ x 8in rectangle cut for the false opening to a V-shaped point. Fold under and press a $\frac{1}{4}$ in hem on the long and pointed edges. Centre the rectangle on the front of the underpants with the raw edges even at the top and use matching thread to appliqué it in place around the edges.

32m Turn under a $1\frac{1}{4}$ in casing on the waist edge, including the false front, and machine stitch close to the fold and again $\frac{3}{4}$ in below it, leaving a small opening in the second line of stitching to insert the elastic.

32n Cut a 14in length of $\frac{1}{2}$ in elastic and insert in the casing as you did for the bloomers.

32o Sew a line of decorative running stitch around the false opening in dark brown thread. Turn under a double fold $\frac{1}{4}$ in hem on the leg openings and sew them in place with running stitch in the same thread. Fit the underpants on the boy doll.

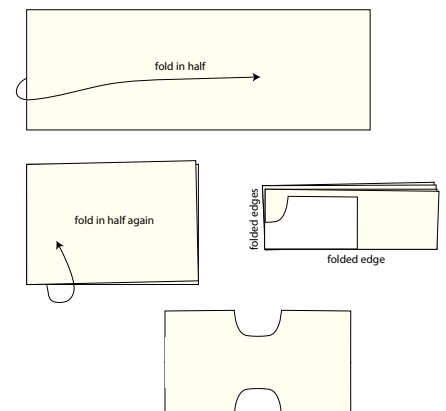


Diagram 1

TITA'S UNDERWEAR TIPS

• You can dress your dolls in singlets if you wish. I purchased two baby's singlets, size 0000.

Gently rotate the dolls' arms above their heads and slip the singlets on.

• Raw edges can also be zigzagged or overlocked to prevent fraying.

• Tuck a small hankie into the pocket on the girl's bloomers.

• For an extra special touch, use French seams on the girl's bloomers.