



Skating Dress Permutations

The navy denim dress with red topstitching is made from the new, smaller pattern. It fits snugly on an early English redhead "Dungarees."

Crochet cap: Barbara Jo Keats

The red velveteen dress is made from the pattern in the "Clothing and Patterns" book, shown here on a "Sara Special" 1980s doll with the later, larger torso. It is a little loose in the waist.

Hat and mittens: Pat Pellerito

Ice skates both dolls: Denise Ortakales

Photo: Carol-Lynn Rössel

July 14, 2012

Dear Friends,

As you may well imagine, I was disturbed to learn the Skating Dress pattern in our newly published book, *Sasha Dolls: Clothing and Patterns*, might not be correct. I have set out to assure this pattern will fit properly.

Most collectors are aware that all Sasha dolls are not the same size. The early English dolls are smaller than those made after 1976/8. This difference is true of Baby Sasha as well. The 1960s Götz body is slightly wider than their English cousins. After the manufacturing hiatus from 1986-1995, when Götz entered its later manufacture, the doll is a full seventeen inches tall, and made from the molds for the later English dolls.

This Skating Dress pattern in question fits the larger dolls quite well, though admittedly it is roomy in the waist. The revised pattern is smaller and fits snugly, but hopefully will fit small dolls better. The sleeves have not been changed, but collectors may wish to shorten them by as much as ½ inch. Please be aware it is not possible for a single pattern to fit all dolls equally well, especially with a fitted dress. It will need to be fiddled with, just a bit, to create a pattern to fit your doll perfectly.

My suggestion is to cut the lining first, baste it together and put it on the desired doll inside out. Take it in as necessary and pin it. Be sure to include a ¼ inch seam allowance and ¼ inch overlap for snap fasteners in back. If buttons and button holes are used, the back needs to be extended another ¼ inch (half-inch overlap). Check the length. Realize that any more taken up at the shoulder will make the armhole too small. The smaller Yoke Dress sleeve pattern, cut on the bias, may be better than the Skating Dress sleeve pattern for a very small, early doll. When the dress is as you wish, remove the basting and make a paper pattern you can keep for future dresses. This dress is worth the effort. It is unusual and graceful, and a lovely addition to Sasha's wardrobe.

Good luck! Ann Louise Chandler