

Lia's Modern Style



Pattern courtesy of the
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UFDC 2018 Souvenir,
"Lia" by Ruby Red Galleria

Knitting Instructions by
Marseille Bunk

Patterns by Susan Sirkis

She seems a sporty, outdoorsy kind of girl... the kind who chooses jeans and a t-shirt for her "dressed up" look. But it's a great t-shirt with the latest hemline. Perhaps in a year or so, when she has grown up a little she will opt for a fluffy dress. Maybe she will take ballet lessons. Maybe she will stop wearing her favorite boots and look for a dainty pair of shoes. But all that is in the future. For now, her wardrobe consists of rugged clothes that will allow her the freedom to be her young self.

For today's kids, these are basic wardrobe essentials. Consider them "mix n match" garments. They can be mixed with each other and with other garments. The necklines may be cut higher or lower: sleeves may be long or short. The tights may be converted to leggings by cutting off the toes. By cutting the sleeves a little longer and cutting thumb holes in them, they become very modern and stylish!

Sample garments are shown made from old white t-shirts with stitching in a strong contrasting color, to make construction details easily visible.

The skirt may be made of any suitable fabric to match your doll's (and your) mood. By making it in net and a little longer and fuller, it becomes a ballet skirt. Adding several layers of net over a shorter skirt will create a tutu. Lace ruffles will create a truly feminine party dress!

The knit jacket and vest can be made in any color you choose. "Lia" wanted these to match her boots in color and character, but soft feminine colors would also work. If you knit, you can change the basic design into a coat, or perhaps you will want to add a fur collar with a matching hat?

MATERIALS:

These patterns may be made in a variety of fabrics for a variety of uses: old nylon stockings, socks or cotton knit yard goods to make the stretchy garments, depending on the style. Play with the patterns...isn't that what our dolls are for – to play with?

A few helpful hints:

- Seam allowances are 1/8-inch on all patterns for knit fabric.
- Use light-weight knit fabrics.
- Not all knits have the same stretch-ability, so check the fabric to determine whether to cut the pattern a little smaller or just the same size.
- Old, laundered undershirts are perfect to test the patterns and are the perfect weight to make the garments. Select fabrics that match this weight.
- To close seams, use a machine straight-stitch or a zigzag stitch.
- Close plackets with snaps, hooks and loops, or narrow Velcro.

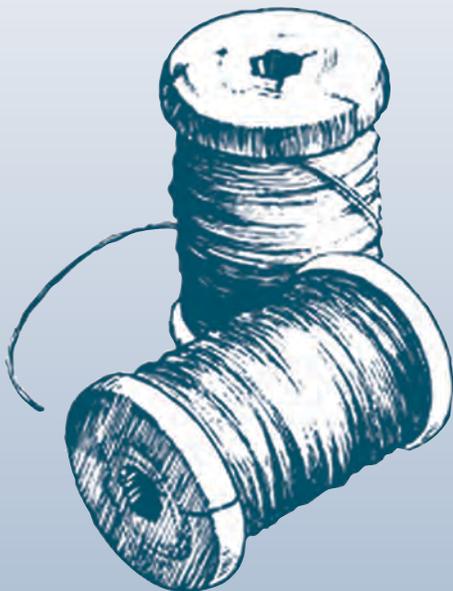
TIGHTS:

Tights came into fashion popularity in the 1960s when they were adapted from ballet and theatrical use. The same pattern may be used to make pantyhose. The difference between pantyhose and tights is determined solely by the weight of the fabric.

1. Sew center or crotch seam, matching notches.
2. Sew one leg seam, being careful to pull the second leg seam out of the way, matching notches.
3. Cut a piece of narrow elastic 4-1/4-inches long.
4. Pin elastic to top of tights, distributing the fabric evenly along the elastic. Stitch in place.
5. Close remaining leg seam, matching notches.
6. Place on doll with the elastic waist band turned toward the inside of the tights.



Steps in constructing tights. Make sure the fabric is stretchy enough to make the garment fit. You may have to cut the pieces larger or smaller depending on the stretch-ability of the fabric.





Construction details for T-shirt. Lia models the T-shirt and leggings.

T-SHIRT:

1. Slash center back to dot.
2. Sew sleeves to front and back, matching notches.
3. Hem sleeve bottoms.
4. Sew side seams
5. Hem bottom.

NOTE: The bottom may be cut straight. Sleeves may be cut short.

LEOTARD:

The Leotard is a form-fitting garment made with or without sleeves and has no legs. According to Wikipedia, leotards were worn by a French acrobat in the mid-19th Century, named Jules Léotard. Makes sense, right?

1. Slash center back to dot.
2. Sew sleeves to front and back, matching notches.
3. Hem sleeve bottoms. Note: to give sleeves a "Cuddleduds" look, cut them to come down over the thumb. Cut thumbholes.
4. Sew crotch seams.
5. Hem legs.
6. Sew side seams, matching notches.
7. Hem leg openings.

At right, the leotard.
Below, finished tights and a T-shirt.
Do you think she is practicing to be a superhero?





To attach sleeves to the unitard: turn under narrow seam allowance at top of sleeves. First pin, then blind stitch sleeves in place.

To shape toes: gather excess fabric at the toes. Draw up tightly. Trim excess fabric.



UNITARD:

This garment is a combination of leotard and tights. It is used by ballet dancers, circus performers and others requiring full body coverage and stretch-ability, like Super Heros!

1. Sew center back seam below dot, matching notches.
2. Sew shoulder seams.
3. Hem neckline.
4. Sew sleeve seams.
5. Turn under narrow seam allowances at sleeve tops.
6. Pin sleeves to body of unitard as shown in photograph.
7. Blind stitch sleeves to body.
8. Sew leg seams matching notches.
9. Hem back opening and sleeve bottoms.
10. Put garment on doll, inside out. Run a tight gathering thread at bottom of legs to shape toes.
11. Trim excess from toes.

SKIRT (JUMPER):

1. For the ruffles, cut three strips of fabric: 2-inches X 16-inches, 2-inches X 20-inches and 2-inches X 25-inches.
2. Make narrow hems in each strip.
3. Run gathering threads along the tops of each strip.

4. Sew ruffles to the skirt with the narrowest one along the top edge of the skirt, the medium length along the dotted lines shown on the skirt pattern and the third ruffles along the bottom edge of the skirt.
5. Gather the top of skirt (with its attached ruffle) to fit doll's waist.
6. Sew center back seam below dot, catching raw ruffle edges in the seam.
7. Hem skirt above dot.
8. For the waist band cut a strip of fabric 6-inches X 2-inches.
9. With right sides together, sew one long edge of waist band to the top of the skirt.
10. Turn waistband to inside, turn all raw edges under, turn remaining portion down over the gathers on the skirt and whip in place.
11. Make narrow hems in each long edge of the shoulder pieces.
12. Gather front edges slightly along double dotted lines.
13. Pin pieces to the waist band; arrange the shoulder pieces to your liking. Whip to inside of the waistband.
14. Close back with your favorite method.

SWEATER (CARDIGAN OR VEST):

Designed along the "moto" jacket lines, this style seems to be a favorite with the younger set!

Abbreviations: CO: Cast On, YO: Yarn Over, K2tog: Knit two together, K: Knit

MATERIALS:

- Small amount of fingering weight yarn
- One small button (or additional buttons for embellishment)
- Yarn needle for finishing
- One circular or three double-pointed needles, in a size to get gauge. Try 2.5 or 2.75 needle to start. Change needle size up or down to get the correct gauge measurement.
- Gauge: 7 stitches to the inch; 10 garter ridges are 1-1/2-inches

Note: If you jump in and get started, you want the initial 25-stitch-wide section to be 3-1/2-inches wide. Check this a few rows in to see if your gauge matches, to avoid the need for a separate gauge swatch.

CO 25 - I recommend a long-tail cast on. Leave a 4-6-inch tail.

K12, K2tog, YO, K12. (The K2tog/YO gives your buttonhole).

Knit every row, 25 stitches across, for a total of 28 rows or 14 garter ridges.

At this point, the tail you left at the beginning should be directly under the first stitch of your next row; if not, work another row.

K4. Place 8 stitches on holder (to leave live stitches for sleeves) or bind off (for vest, or if you prefer to pick up stitches for sleeves). K13.

K13, CO 8 (cable cast on recommended, or a provisional crochet cast on to leave live stitches), K4.

Knit 30 rows / 15 garter ridges

K4. Place 8 stitches on holder (to leave live stitches for sleeves) or bind off (for vest, or if you prefer to pick up stitches for sleeves). K13.

K13, CO 8 (cable cast on recommended, or a provisional crochet cast on to leave live stitches), K4.

Knit 20 rows or 10 garter ridges. Bind off.

Sleeves: (worked flat)

Pick up 8 stitches on either side of each armhole (either you've left 16 stitches 'live', or you will be picking up from a bound-off edge).

Pick up two extra stitches at the top of the shoulder.

Knit across all 18 stitches. (If you use double-pointed needles, you may need to have one for each side for the first few rows.) The bottom of the sleeve will be open and sewn up at the end.

Knit every row for 8 rows or four garter ridges.

K, K2tog, knit until three stitches remain, K2tog, K.

Continue working even in garter stitch for a total of 26 rows or 13 garter ridges, or as long as you would like the sleeves to be.

Bind off.

Finishing:

Using the tails left at the beginning and end, tack the corners of the collar to the front of the sweater, near the bottom edge of the armhole.

Sew on a tiny button, to line up with the buttonhole from the first row. If you knitted sleeves, sew up the seam on the underside of the sleeve.



