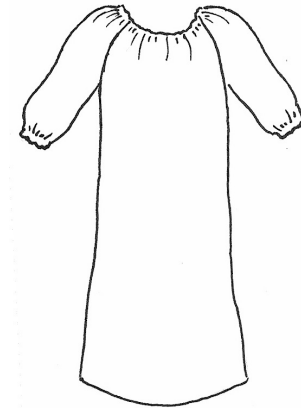


## Chemise A

Materials needed:

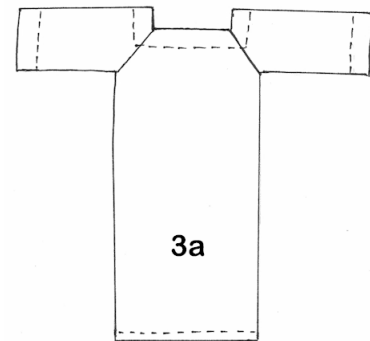
1/3 yard fabric (ankle-length) or 1/4 yard fabric (calf-length)  
thin cotton or linen recommended

thin elastic cording (made for beading projects)  
OR 1/8" wide ribbon (1-2 yards)

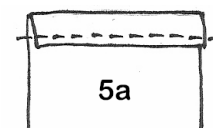


1. Cut all pieces, copy markings (letters need not be copied, they are just used for reference).
2. Match markings, right side to right side, and stitch one side of sleeve to body front, 1/4" seam allowance. Start at the dot A and stitch through circle B to end. DO NOT sew between dot A and the edge of the neckline; you will need this loose later on. Repeat process stitching other side of sleeve to body back. Then attach second sleeve in same manner.

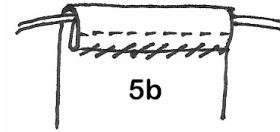
3. Match underarms at circle with seams pressed down (I recommend stitching this in place by hand, as it will keep it from shifting, and it seems to hold better than a pin) and all sides, still right side to right side. Stitch 1/4" seam allowance from end of cuff C along length of sleeve, along curve of underarm B, and along side of body to end of hem D. Repeat on other side. (A rough form of the chemise should now be complete, but the neckline will be about as wide or wider than your doll's shoulders—don't worry, that's how it should be right now. **See Image 3a.**)



4. Clip seam at underarm, close to stitches, but not through; three snips at each side should do; this will prevent puckering when you turn it right-side-out.
5. There are different ways you can do the neck and cuffs, and they will have their pros and cons. Here is what I did. Note I left 1/2" allowance for the neck and cuffs, because you will have to make a casing, either for elastic cording or for a drawstring. Historically, they would have used drawstrings. Historically, people were not only 11 1/2" tall with rigid joints. I used elastic cording. At this point, I am pretty much firm about proceeding with hand sewing. Previously, a machine would be fine, but unless you have a magical machine, or are a magician yourself, I recommend just using an "old-fashioned" (and historically accurate) needle and thread. The same process goes for both the neckline and the cuffs, so I will only describe it once.
  - a. Fold down edge about 1/4", or about half of the available seam allowance; stitch flat with a running stitch or a backstitch (**See Image 5a** for concept), keep the stitches fairly small but don't stress too much, because they won't really be visible from the outside of the garment.



b. Next—and this may seem a little tricky, but as long as you've got more than enough elastic cording you can do it—rather than trying to feed the elastic through a casing, which would be very difficult at this size and around these curves, I simply placed the elastic along the neckline/cuff and folded the extra 1/4" over it, sewing the fabric down with a blind stitch. Don't catch the elastic in your stitches; it should be able to be pulled back and forth within the casing you're sewing over it. (See **Image 5b** for concept.)

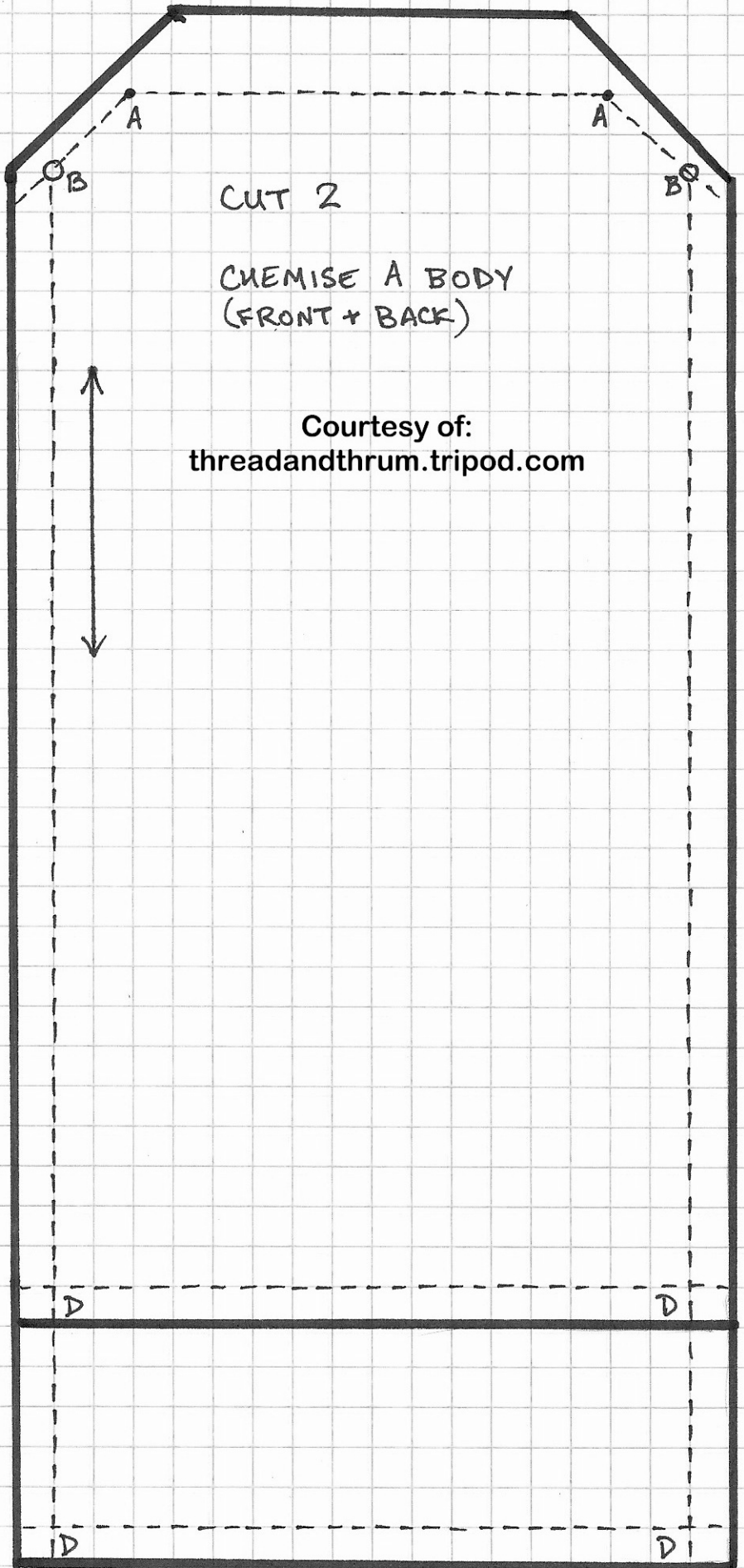
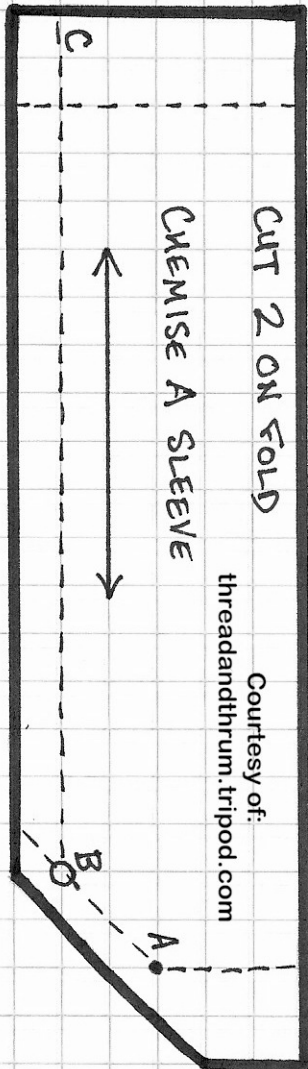


c. When you have made it all the way around save about a 1/4" opening, pull the elastic through till it is gathered to the desired amount (just as a reference, it's about 4 inches circumference for the neckline, and roughly 1 inch for the cuff, but it does not have to be exact, so long as it fits; I put it on a doll to figure out the right size), tie it tightly and cut the ends close. Stitch through the knot a few times to secure it and finish sewing the casing over it.

6. Turn in the bottom hem 1/4" and sew (I managed to do this on a machine, but it can also be done by hand). These stitches *will* show, so keep them small and near the edge (think proportion), or consider using a blind stitch if you are hand sewing.
7. Turn chemise right-side-out and...ta-da!

#### Variations

- You can turn the edge of the cuff and sleeves under the first 1/4" and the bottom hem and sew before stitching any seams together. Pros: This will save a little trouble, because it's easier to do when the pieces are flat and can be done on a machine. Cons: it will be harder to make sure the edges meet flush, and also won't cover the seams.
- You can make the elastic casings simpler by merely folding over the full 1/2" seam allowance, placing the elastic inside, and stitching it closed at 1/4". Pros: Less steps; less bulk in the gathered cuffs/neckline. Cons: Less cosmetic; your dolls not-so-opposable thumbs will catch on the loose 1/4" seam inside the sleeve and pull raw edge threads loose—unless the raw edges are sealed with something like stop-fray and the loose edge is stitched down.
- You could also use a narrow flat elastic, instead of elastic cording, and sew it in place rather than making a casing. Fold at 1/2" and sew in place at 1/4" mark. Pros: Less bulk; would create a ruffle around cuffs and neckline. Cons: I find sewing in flat elastic without a casing much more difficult, especially trying to get it to gather evenly; you will also have similar problems as in the previous variation, with a raw seam edge that will catch on the doll's hands.



□ = 1/4"

1"