

Santa Suit

By Cat Wingler

Things you need to know before you start.

Apply a thin, even, coat of glue, make sure there are no globs of glue anywhere, if there are any globs of glue, use your finger to smooth the glue line. Heavy globs of glue bleed through the fabric and show on the front of the costume. Note: If you use a glue gun, be sure to smooth the line of glue to a thin coat.

Keep the glue off your tools and fingers as much as you can. It's helpful to keep a dampened cloth handy to keep your hands free of the glue.

Paint with glue an area double the width of the seam allowance. For instance if you allowed 1/8th inch for the seams, paint the glue line 1/4th inch wide. Paint all along the entire length of the seam allowance with a thin even coat of glue. See the diagram at right.



Be careful to keep the glue in a thin even coat with no globs of glue to bleed through or squeeze out and ruin your costume.

While the glue is still wet, fold the seam allowance over (Fold the glued area in half to make the original 1/8th inch seam) and gently press the seam with your fingers. See diagram.

This method allows the glue to be applied to both of the surfaces making it a permanent bond.

When gluing trims or ribbons to fabric, you must apply the glue to both the fabric and the trim to achieve a permanent bond.

Do the pants first

Trace and cut the pants pattern in paper towel and fit it to your doll. The narrow end is the waist end. Make sure the waist goes half way around the waist with a quarter inch overlap on each side. Check to make sure the crotch will fit. The points of the underwear should meet in the crotch when the waist is in place. It's important to remember to check to

make sure the thighs will fit, too.

When the pattern fits cut out the fabric. Doing one leg at a time, pin the sides of the leg together, wrong side out and sew the inseam. Start at the crotch and sew down to the hem so the knot is at the hidden end. At the hem end, stitch in place two or three times to lock it and then run gathering stitches around the hem end. Don't pull the gathers yet.

Doing one leg at a time, carefully pull the leg of the pants over the leg of the doll; still wrong side out and upside down. See diagram. The seam should



run up the inside of the leg. Pull the gathers tight and wrap the thread tightly around the leg two or three times and tie off. Turn the fabric back over the leg to turn it right side out, pulling it up the leg. Do the other leg the same way.

When both legs are on the doll you finish the center seams. Trim any excess fabric so the pants will fit trimly, turn under the raw edges and pin. It's easiest to get a neat and tidy fit if you pin starting from the crotch going up to the waist, front and back. This is one place where straight pins are a lifesaver. After every thing is pinned in place neatly, lift a pin and glue down to the next pin. Put the pin back and do the next section until the entire seam is glued neatly in place.

The sleeves are next

The sleeves are done one at a time

in a similar manner to the pants or underwear legs, before the main body of the jacket or dress is put on the figure. Doing it this way allows the shoulder area to be neat and tidy with as little fuss as possible. The shoulder end of the sleeve is left unfinished, only the hem at the wrist of the sleeve is finished when the sleeve is put on the figure. To get a finished seam at the shoulder, the armhole seams are finished before the jacket or bodice is put on over the raw edges of the sleeves instead of the very difficult job of insetting the sleeves to the finished garment.

Cut a paper pattern and fit it to the doll. Cut the fabric and lay the sleeves side by side, wrong side up in front of you on the table. Paint a thin coat of glue 1/4 inch wide on the hem end and up the two outside sides. Leave the two inside sides alone. (Each sleeve should be a mirror (opposite) image of the other with the hem and one side glued.) Fold the glued sides in 1/8 inch to form a 1/8" hem and underarm seam. Miter the corner.



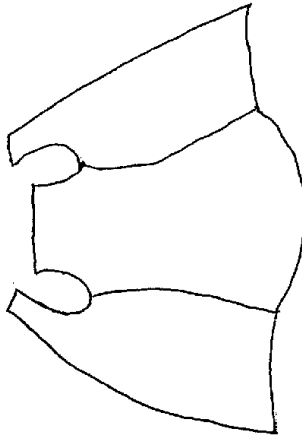
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1" scale - Santa Suit

Wrap the sleeve around the arm, with the glued seam at the front overlapped over the raw edge at the back, and the hemmed end at the wrist. Pin it all the way up the arm to the shoulder. Remove the pins and glue, one pin at a time. Do the other sleeve. See figure at Right.



the underarms of the doll and pin. Pull the front pieces up to be even with the armholes. Stand the doll up and check to make sure the jacket hangs smoothly and evenly.



Mark the length. Mark the front Jacket facings. Double check your measurements. Remove the jacket and trim the length and the front seams. Turn the neck hole in the back piece, paying special attention to turning it neatly. Glue and turn.

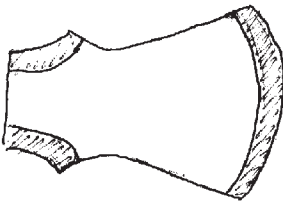
Put the jacket on the doll and pin into place. Pin tightly under the arms first and then pin the back armholes, then the front. Overlap the front flaps slightly over the back and turn the shoulder flaps under and pin into place. Clip the shoulder flaps if necessary. Be sure to pay attention to keeping the jacket hanging evenly on both sides. Now glue the armholes over the sleeves, doing the back first, then the front.

Trim the bottom and the front edges of the jacket with fur (or chenille) and add his wide black belt.

Finally, the Jacket

Cut and fit a paper pattern. Fit the back across the shoulders and under the arms. Fit the front pieces in the same way, from under the arms across the chest and then across the shoulders. Santa is chubby so you have to check across the tummy too. Remember to leave a seam allowance for the front edges too. Leave it at least 1/2 inch longer than you think want the finished length.

Glue the two side seams on the front pieces and fold over to make 1/8" seams. Glue and turn the armhole seams on both front pieces and the back piece. Glue and turn the neck edges. See diagram below.



Glue the front pieces to the back piece so that they join to the back piece at the side seams. See diagram. Trial fit the jacket to the doll. Be sure to fit it snugly under the arms to measure an accurate hem length. To do that, pull the armholes snugly up to



