

? ? ? What if... ? ? ?

The costume doesn't come out right?

Sometimes, despite your best efforts, things don't go quite as smoothly as planned. It's usually pretty easy to see how to deal with pieces that are too long (since you can shorten them with a scissors), but what can you do when the costume comes out too small? Or too wide? Or just doesn't fit right?

General tips

- ⌘ Put the costume aside for awhile and come back to it later. You'll approach the situation better when you're not frustrated.
- ⌘ Try to rework or replace pieces of the costume (just the sleeves, just the collar, just the front) rather than the whole thing. There are usually only a few parts that really need work, and once you've fixed them, the whole costume will look better.
- ⌘ *Persist.* Even if the costume isn't salvageable, you've traded a little bit of fabric for a lot of experience, so nothing's wasted. If you have trouble with certain aspects of costuming (like fitting patterns or making button holes) practice those skills on scrap fabric. Make a note of what worked well, what didn't work so well, and things will go smoother next time. (You should see some of my early costumes!)

(Not) sew perfect?

Remember that you don't have to make every seam line up perfectly for the costume to work overall. The audience won't see your stitches—they only see the role the costumes play in your puppet show. If you've created a recognizable character through costume, you've succeeded!

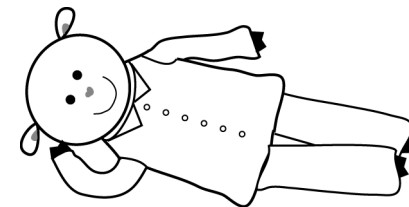


Too large

- ✂ **Trim the fabric** — depending on what part of the costume is too large, you may be able to simply trim off the excess fabric. This works especially well for shortening sleeves, pant legs, shirts, and skirts. If trimming isn't possible, try resewing the seams.
- ✂ **Resew the seams** — as explained in the “Basic sewing steps” chapter, you usually stitch seams 1/4” from the edge of the fabric. If the costume comes out too large, you can restitch some of the seams further inward. If the costume fits, you can then trim off the excess fabric. (See page 93 for an example.)
- ✂ **Tuck or gather** — you can take up extra fabric in some costumes by putting in small tucks (like on page 93) or gathers (page 22).
- ✂ **Add fabric** — for necklines that are too large or too low, adding a collar (or similar piece of fabric) can make the opening smaller. (See page 57.)
- ✂ **Restyle or reuse** — even if a costume comes out totally too large, you may still be able to use it. Maybe you can learn to live with it. Maybe it would look fine with an extra shirt (like a blouse or turtleneck) underneath. Or maybe it would fit another puppet.

Too small

- ✂ **Add fabric** — you can enlarge many costume parts by adding strips of fabric along the seams. These pieces can be decorative (like the cuffs on page 59) or simply functional. Try to make them as inconspicuous as possible by adding them along the back seam or sides. (See page 93 for an example.)
- ✂ **Redo the hems** — if the costume isn't wide enough, you can redo the hems along the opening (if the costume has one) by removing the stitches and making new hems that only turn under a 1/4” or even an 1/8”. (See page 21 for hemming techniques.) If the neckline of the costume comes out too small, you can turn the hem under another 1/4” or more and restitch it. You'll have to remove the collar first (if the costume has one) and reattach it.
- ✂ **Change fasteners** — some fasteners take up less room than others, like the velcro strips shown on page 36. This can give your puppet the room it needs to perform.





Cover story



Outside front

- ✂ **Supersheep** — it's a bird, it's a plane, it's a...shirt (page 53), shorts (page 88), and cape (page 98)! Planet cut from fabric and zig-zag stitched to shirt. (See page 24.)
Fabrics: blue and red polyesters, cartoony cotton
- ✂ **Juggling jester** — a floppy tube hat (page 102) with bells tops off this jovial shirt & pants combo with alternating fabrics and dryer sheet ruffles.
Fabrics: multi-colored cotton, green stretch-knit, dryer sheets
- ✂ **Dutch girl** — this gathered skirt (pages 22, 77) with attached jumper top (page 84) and button-down straps (page 86) makes a

beautiful dirndl when worn with a gathered-sleeve white blouse (page 47). A white felt hat (page 106) tops it off.
Fabrics: blue cotton calico, white poly-cotton, tan and white felt

- ✂ **Sou'wester** — hidden suspenders (page 95) keep these pants ship-shape.
Fabrics: nylon
- ✂ **Tap dancer** — a brimmed tube hat (page 102) with dapper red & white hatband (page 113), bow tie (page 113), and matching vest (page 67) make this suit ready to get up and dance.
Fabrics: blue polyester, red, white, and tan cotton
- ✂ **Bo Peep** — a cloud of dryer sheet underskirting (pages 8) peeps

from beneath this lavender jumper with detachable, button-on lace sleeves. Framed by a matching dryer sheet bonnet (page 105).
Fabrics: dryer sheets, lace, lavender cotton

- ✂ **Accordion player** — these lederhosen (page 96) and matching hat (page 106) are perfect for any puppet polka.
Fabrics: polyester stretch-knit
- ✂ **Carmen Miranda** — this leftover apron material became a feast of fancy when trimmed with beads, a holiday garland (75% off!) and artificial fruit. Gathered sleeves (page 49) and jumper top (page 83) complete the look.
Fabrics: cotton

Inside front

- ✂ **Princess** — what a difference a hat makes! Except for the lavender tube hat (page 102) trimmed with dryer sheets, this is simply the Bo Peep outfit from the outside front cover with the skirt pulled down.
Fabrics: cotton, dryer sheets
- ✂ **Suitor** — with a gathered hat (page 105), gathered sleeves, and gathered knickers, this outfit is perfect for romantic gatherings.
Fabrics: velour, panaleur, light blue stretch knit
- ✂ **Jungle Sheep** — this proves that even “Cinderella’s sack dresses” (page 72) can be masculine when made from the right fabric.
Fabrics: tiger-striped polyester
- ✂ **Sir Teddy the Sheepish** — with a removable silver hood (page 106) and a plume of synthetic doll hair, the Tin Woodsman from the back cover became a knight in shining armor! *Fabrics:* polyester

- ✂ **Magician** — by borrowing “Fred Astaire’s” tuxedo (outside back cover) and the Supersheep’s cape (outside front cover), this puppet put together an outfit like magic!
Fabrics: red and black polyester, velour lining, wool pants
- ✂ **Magician’s “assistant”** — this dazzling drippy “Cinderella’s sack dress” (page 72) steals the show.
Fabrics: SNORK (Sorry, No One Really Knows)
- ✂ **Rabbit ears** — even Teddy (the sheep puppet) gets into the act with this clever disguise.
Fabrics: white fake fur
- ✂ **Disco happy** — a short “Cinderella’s sack dress” (page 72) with matching headband (page 113) goes perfectly with a yellow ribbon waistband and nylon shoes (the same ones worn by Carmen Miranda and the cheerleader, made from the leftover Sou’wester material).

Fabrics: purple polyester-rayon, yellow nylon

- ✂ **King** — of the dance floor in a purple polyester robe (page 53) yellow cotton crown (page 102).

- ✂ **Flapper girl** — a “Cinderella’s sack dress” (page 72) decked with fringe and a matching headband (page 113) goes beautifully with a boa and Dorothy’s red shoes (outside back cover).
Fabrics: red poly-cotton, sequined polyester shoes

Inside back

- ✂ **Fire fighter** — a black shirt with yellow stripes (page 24) and a red helmet (page 106) provide perfect puppet protection.
Fabrics: leftover flapper girl material (inside front cover), black wool, yellow cotton

✂ **Chef** — it didn't take much to cook up this outfit...just a combination gathered/tube hat (page 102) with a white shirt (from the tuxedo and tap dancer suits) and pants (from the soldier groom below).

Fabrics: white cotton, white felt

✂ **Shepherd** — this fetching robe (page 54) really reels 'em in with a matching belt (page 113) and contrasting scarf (page 115).

Fabrics: cotton

✂ **Woodsman** — by putting a green shirt (page 53) and brown belt (page 113) over the lederhosen from the outside front cover, this polka-meister does double duty.

Fabrics: green polyester stretch-knit, brown cotton

✂ **Little Red** — by borrowing Bo Peep's shoes (outside front cover), Dorothy's dress (outside back), and adding a detachable hood (page 106) to the Supersheep cape (outside front

cover), this Red Riding Hood is ready to roar.

✂ **Wolf** — with a furry shirt and hood (page 106) and the Scarecrow's pants (outside back cover), this big baaad wolf looks like one mean cookie.

Fabrics: fake fur ("fuzzy felt")

✂ **Soldier groom** — a red suit (page 60), white pants, black boots (page 112), and half-brimmed tube hat (page 102) make this soldier a stand-out.

Fabrics: cotton, cotton-poly blend

✂ **Bride** — for the story beneath this outfit, see page 109.

Fabrics: dryer sheets, lace

✂ **Cheerleader** — hooray for vests (page 67) and sectioned skirts (page 77)! This skirt shows alternating fabrics can be fun.

Fabrics: blue and yellow cotton

Outside back

✂ **Glinda** — it doesn't take magic to make a dress this pretty, just gathered sleeves, a layer of shiny fabric, pink beads, and a boning hoop (page 81). A crown (page 102) made of felt, leftover Tin Woodsman material, and two layers of shiny lace from the Ginger Roger's dress top it all off.

Fabrics: polyester satin, cotton lining, shiny sheer polyester

✂ **Jungle grrrl** — this "Cinderella's sack dress" (page 72) shows the wild side of fashion with artificial flowers & pink lace shoes.

Fabrics: poly-cotton stretch knit

✂ **French maid** — this maid has got it made with a black lace-trimmed skirt, attached shirt top, and fishnet stockings. A frilly apron (page 115) and gathered-trim cap top off the ensemble.

Fabrics: black cotton, white poly-cotton, black & white laces

- ✂ **Scarecrow** — this appliqué patchwork (page 24) and soft hat (page 106) may not scare anyone, but they make a great costume!
Fabrics: cotton, yellow ribbon
- ✂ **Toto** — my mom's real dog JoJo
- ✂ **Dorothy** — a simple sectioned skirt (page 77), shirt (page 53) and straps (page 113) let the ruby slippers (page 111) do the rest.
Fabrics: cotton, lace, red sequined polyester
- ✂ **Tin Woodsman** — this super shiny polyester shirt and pants was so stretchy it needed a stabilizer (page 23). A cone-shaped tube hat (page 102) tops it off.
Fabrics: polyester
- ✂ **Cowardly Lion** — there's no need to be shy when you're this well dressed with a matching shirt (page 53), hood (page 107), pants (page 88), and tail (page 113).
Fabrics: poly-cotton blend, yarn
- ✂ **Fred Astaire** — is puttin' on the ritz with this top hat (page 102), bow tie (page 113), and lined tuxedo (page 60).
Fabrics: black polyester, velour lining, wool pants, cotton shirt
- ✂ **Ginger Rogers** — “diamond” earrings grace this dazzling outfit (page 109).
Fabrics: dryer sheets, sparkle lace
- ✂ **Fortune teller** — I see a white blouse from the Dutch girl outfit (outside front cover), shoes from Carmen Miranda, Disco happy, and the cheerleader, a bright skirt (page 77) and matching scarf (page 115)...
Fabrics: cotton
- ✂ **Detective** — it doesn't take Sherlock Holmes to deduce how this outfit was made...soft hat (page 106), unlined coat with matching belt (page 113), and Fred Astaire's tuxedo pants!
Fabrics: wool pants, cotton hat, polyester coat

About the puppets

Teddy, a 30” tall foam-bodied hand puppet, looks dashing in just about anything. When he's not busy being costumed, his hobbies include weight lifting and yodelling.



Ginger Sweets, a 32” tall soft-bodied marionette, enjoys modelling, ball room dance, and para sailing. She is currently seeking a studio career in Manhattan (but will settle for Hollywood!) and has natural curls.



ABC

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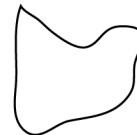
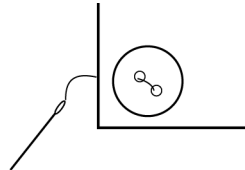
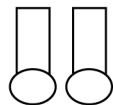
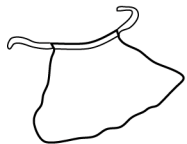
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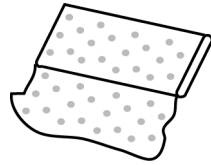
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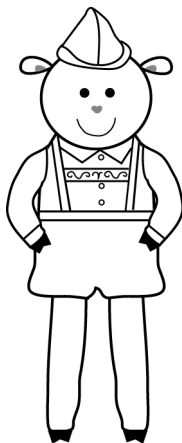
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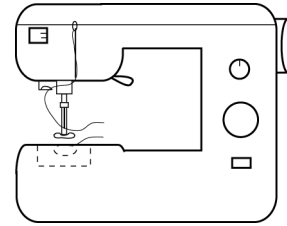
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