



*Body Suit 1: Curved Neckline*

## AG Basic Body Suit

This set of patterns is designed to fit the 18” American Girl and other similarly sized dolls.

For each version, I have included instructions for a seamless version and a seamed version.

These patterns were knit for a doll with these measurements:

- Hips – 11 3/4”
- Waist – 10”
- Shoulder width across front - 4 1/4”
- Shoulder width across back – 4 1/2”



*Body Suit 2: Spaghetti Strap*

**Gauge:** approximately 6.5 stitches per inch

**Needles:** #5 needles or size to obtain gauge.

**Yarn:** Light DK-weight yarn (sport weight) or yarn to achieve gauge; crochet hook, size C or D

**IMPORTANT:** Please try this outfit on your doll frequently. Make adjustments as you go along so that it will fit well.

The best way to make sure your gauge is going to work out is to compare your starting triangles with the doll’s panties. Just lay the knitting on top of the panties and make sure that both pieces are approximately the same width.

This is a pattern that is easily adjustable to fit your doll, and if you want a good fit, you will need to try the project on your doll regularly as you knit it.

I’m a fairly tight knitter, so you may need to make some adjustments (like using smaller needles).

There is a lot of variation in the hip/waist circumference for various 18” dolls, even between AG dolls. So take the time in the beginning to make sure your body suit will fit your doll.

### **All versions start the same:**

Start knitting the body suit at the crotch. First, you will knit up the front. Next, you will join again on the other side of the start and knit up the back.

[Click here to view the Glossary.](#)

## Instructions:

Cast on 9 sts. (#5 needles) (long tail cast on works great)

**Rows 1, 3, 5, 7:** purl (*This will be the inside of your outfit*)

**Increase on even rows:** (*This is the knit side or outside of your outfit*)

**Row 2:** k1, kfb, k5, kfb, k1

**Row 4:** k1, kfb, k7, kfb, k1

**Row 6:** k1, kfb, k9, kfb, k1

**Row 8:** k1, kfb, knit to within last two stitches, kfb, k1

**Odd rows 9 and up:** p1, M1 (put a back loop on right needle), purl to last stitch, M1 (back loop), p1

**Note:** *The M1 increase on the purl side gives you a better edge, with a little more stretch.*

Continue working kfb increases on the knit side and M1 increases on the purl side until you have 39 stitches on the needle for the seamed version or 37 stitches for the knit-in-the round version.

**Note:** *This is the place to make basic adjustments for dolls that are slimmer or plumper. Increase more or less according to your doll, and make sure that your knitting matches the width of your doll's panties.*

Leave these stitches on the needle or on a separate needle or holder.

Go back to start of your work, join the yarn on the knit side, pick up and knit 9 stitches.

Start on the purl side and **work 2 rows** (in other words, purl a row, knit a row)

Now, begin increasing exactly as you did for the front piece, beginning with Row 1 above and continue increasing until you have 2 more stitches than you have on the front piece needle. (39 for seamless version, 41 for seamed version or according to your doll)

If your next row is on the knit side, work 2 more rows of plain stockinette. If your next row is on the purl side, work 3 more rows of plain stockinette. (so that the next row is on the knit side)

Attach a safety pin or other marker to this back piece triangle so that you will remember that this is the back.

**Note:** *These extra rows of stockinette make the back side of the body suit a bit wider at any given point than the front side.*

Now you need to decide which version of the body suit you want to make (spaghetti strap or curved neckline) and also if you are going to knit flat and seam, or knit in the round and avoid seaming:

[Spaghetti Strap – seamed](#)

[Spaghetti Strap – seamless](#)

[Curved Neckline – seamed](#)

[Curved Neckline - seamless](#)



## Spaghetti Strap – seamed version:

You will work the front side and the back side in the same way.

*Front side = 39 stitches*

*Back side = 41 stitches*

**Important:** Before you start knitting the body, attach yarn markers (use contrasting color) to your work on the right and left edges next to both front side and back side needles, to mark the points where you will begin sewing the side seams.

Work straight for 1 inch.

(On next knit row, k1, SSK, knit to last 3 stitches, k2tog, k1.  
Work 5 rows plain.)

Repeat these 6 rows two more times.

Knit straight until your work reaches the desired underarm length. (approximately 3 1/2” – 4” from yarn marker) End after a purl row.

Now you are ready to bind off for the armholes:

BO 3 stitches, knit to end.

BO 3 stitches, purl to end.

SSK, knit to within 2 stitches of the end, k2tog.

Work 4 rows in stockinette.

Bind off all stitches. Leave a long tail. You can use this for your chain stitch shoulder strap.

Join your yarn and repeat for the other side.

### Finishing:

Using mattress stitch, sew up the side seams, matching up the front and back yarn markers. Note that the back of the body suit will be slightly wider along the leg line than the front.

Try the body suit on your doll. Using a crochet hook, join yarn to front top right corner and chain approximately 18 stitches or length to reach to the back corner. Attach yarn.

Repeat for the front top left corner.

Darn in loose ends.



## Spaghetti Strap – seamless version:

*Front side = 37 stitches*

*Back side = 39 stitches*

**Back:** Knit to the end of the row. Fold the knitting up (like a taco), purl sides together.

Organize your stitches so that you can work in the round. (use dpns, magic loop, etc.)

Place a marker on both sides where the front and back join. (You can place markers on the needle, or attach a marker to the knitting between the stitches where the front and back meet.)

Start each round at the center back. Continue knitting around. Knit around for 1 inch, measured from your side seam yarn markers.

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Starting from the center back, knit to 3 stitches before first side marker. SSK, k2, k2tog, knit to 3 stitches before 2<sup>nd</sup> side marker, SSK, k2, k2tog, knit to start of round. Knit 5 more rounds.)

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Repeat these 6 rounds (between \* \*) two more times.

Knit until you reach the desired length to underarm (approximately 3 1/2" - 4") End at the center back.

Now you are ready to bind off for the armholes:

Knit to within 2 stitches of 1<sup>st</sup> marker, BO 4 stitches. Knit to within 2 stitches of 2<sup>nd</sup> marker, BO 4 stitches.

Now you will work the front and the back separately:

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### **Back side:**

Knit across.

P2tog, purl to last 2 stitches, p2tog.

Work 4 rows in stockinette.

Bind off all stitches. Leave a long tail. You can use this for your chain stitch shoulder strap.

Join yarn on the Front side and repeat from \*\*\*.

Try the body suit on your doll. Using a crochet hook, join yarn to front top right corner and chain approximately 18 stitches or length to reach to the back corner. Attach yarn.

Repeat for the front top left corner.

Darn in loose ends.



## Curved Neckline - seamed version:

**Important:** Before you start knitting the body, attach yarn markers (use contrasting color) to your work on the right and left edges next to both front side and back side needles, to mark the points where you will begin sewing the side seams.

**FRONT:** (*Start with 39 stitches*)

Work straight for 1 inch and then begin following instructions for decreases.

(On next knit row, k1, SSK, knit to last 3 stitches, k2tog, k1. Work 5 rows plain.)

Repeat these 6 rows two more times. (= 33 stitches)

Knit straight until your work reaches the desired underarm length. (approximately 3 1/2" - 4") End after a purl row.

Now you are ready to bind off for the armholes:

BO 3 stitches, knit to end.

BO 3 stitches, purl to end.

SSK, knit to within 2 stitches of the end, k2tog. (= 25 stitches)

Work 7 rows.

On next knit row, k10, BO5, k10



<b>Front right:</b> ( <i>start with 10 stitches</i> )	<b>Front left:</b> ( <i>start with 10 stitches</i> )
Purl across	Join yarn on knit side and knit across
BO2, knit to end	BO2, purl to end
Purl across	Knit across
SSK, knit to end	p2tog, purl to end
Purl across	Knit across
SSK, knit to end	p2tog, purl to end
Purl across	Knit across
Knit across	Purl across
If needed, work additional rows until you reach the top of the shoulder. Place remaining 6 stitches on a holder	If needed, work additional rows until you reach the top of the shoulder. Place remaining 6 stitches on a holder

**BACK:** (*start with 41 stitches*)

Work straight for 1 inch and then begin following instructions for decreases.

(On next knit row, k1, SSK, knit to last 3 stitches, k2tog, k1. Work 5 rows plain.) (= 39 stitches)

At this point (approximately 2 inches from top of leg) you will need to create a back opening, so that you will be able to get the body suit on and off the doll.

<p><b>Back Left:</b> <i>(starts with 20 stitches)</i></p> <p>Join yarn to knit side; knit to last 3 stitches, k2tog, k1 <i>(= 19 stitches)</i></p> <p>Knit straight until your work reaches the desired underarm length. (approximately 3 1/2" – 4") End after a knit row.</p> <p><b>Now you are ready to bind off for the armholes:</b></p> <p>BO 3 stitches on armhole edge, purl across. <i>(= 16 stitches)</i></p> <p>work 14 rows</p> <p>BO 8 stitches at center edge, knit to end.</p> <p>purl to last 2 stitches, p2tog</p> <p>k2tog, knit to end</p> <p><i>(6 stitches remain – work until top of shoulder is reached) (I worked one more row)</i></p> <p>Place stitches on a holder.</p>	<p><b>Back Right:</b> <i>(work the first 19 stitches)</i></p> <p>K1, SSK, k16. <i>(= 18 stitches)</i></p> <p>Knit straight until your work reaches the desired underarm length. (approximately 3 1/2" – 4") End after a purl row.</p> <p><b>Now you are ready to bind off for the armholes:</b></p> <p>BO 3 stitches on armhole edge, knit across. <i>(= 15 stitches)</i></p> <p>work 14 rows</p> <p>BO 7 stitches at center edge, purl to end.</p> <p>knit to last 2 stitches, k2tog</p> <p>p2tog, purl to end</p> <p><i>(6 stitches remain – work until top of shoulder is reached) (I knitted one more row)</i></p> <p>Place stitches on a holder.</p>
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### **Finishing:**

Using mattress stitch, sew up the side seams, matching up the front and back yarn markers. Note that the back of the body suit will be slightly wider along the leg line than the front.

Try the body suit on your doll. If needed, adjust the number of the rows on the shoulder pieces so that they meet nicely at the top of the shoulder. (either knit a few more rows, or rip out a few rows.)

If you prefer to sew, bind off all the shoulder stitches and seam the shoulders together. If you prefer, you may also graft (kitchener stitch) the shoulder seams or use a 3-needle bind off to join the front and back shoulder stitches together.

Try it the body suit on your doll again, and make sure you are happy with the fit.

On the back opening, decide how many buttons you want and how you want to space them. Make sure to place one at the top edge. Mark these spots.

Use a crochet hook and slip stitch around the back opening and around the neckline. On the left side of the back opening, when you get to a place where you need a button hole, chain 3-4 stitches, and then slip stitch into the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> space on the body suit, so that you are leaving a gap for the button. Test the opening with your button to make sure it is the size you want.

You may also slip stitch around the armholes for a nice smooth edge.

Darn all the ends.

## Curved Neckline Seamless version:

**Back:** Knit to the end of the row. Fold the knitting up (like a taco), purl side together.

Organize your stitches so that you can work in the round. (use dpns, magic loop, etc.)

Place a marker on both side seams. (You can place markers on the needle, or attach a marker to the knitting.) Mark the start of each round at the center back.

*Front side = 37 stitches*

*Back side = 39 stitches*

Continue knitting around. Knit around for 1 inch.

\*\*\* (Starting from the center back, knit to 3 stitches before first side marker. SSK, k2, k2tog, knit to 3 stitches before 2<sup>nd</sup> side marker, SSK, k2, k2tog, knit to start of round. Work 5 more rounds.) \*\*\*

At this point (approximately 2 inches from top of leg) you will need to create a back opening, so that you will be able to get the body suit on and off the doll.

Repeat the 6 rows (between \*\*\* \*\*\*) one more time. Simultaneously, after the next decrease row, **turn at the center back** (17 stitches in from the right edge) and work the remaining rows in flat row stockinette. (i.e. knit on the knit side to the center turn, and purl on the purl side back to the center turn.)

Knit to first marker, k1, k2tog, knit to 3 stitches before second marker, SSK, knit to start of round. (=31 stitches on front side; 35 stitches on back side)

Work until you reach the desired underarm length (approximately 3 1/2" - 4") End after a purl row.

Now you are ready to bind off for the armholes:

Knit to within 2 stitches of 1<sup>st</sup> underarm, BO 4 stitches. Knit to within 2 stitches of 2<sup>nd</sup> underarm, BO 4 stitches, knit to center back.



<p><b>Back Left:</b> (starts with 16 stitches)</p> <p>Join yarn to knit side; work 14 rows</p> <p>BO 8 stitches at center edge, knit to end.</p> <p>purl to last 2 stitches, p2tog</p> <p>k2tog, knit to end</p> <p>(6 stitches remain – work until top of shoulder is reached) (I worked one more row)</p> <p>Place stitches on a holder.</p>	<p><b>Back Right:</b> (starts with 15 stitches)</p> <p>Starting with purl row, work 14 rows</p> <p>BO 7 stitches at center edge, purl to end.</p> <p>knit to last 2 stitches, k2tog</p> <p>p2tog, purl to end</p> <p>(6 stitches remain – work until top of shoulder is reached) (I knitted one more row)</p> <p>Place stitches on a holder.</p>
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**FRONT:** *(starts with 27 stitches)*

Join yarn to knit side.

SSK, knit to within 2 stitches of the end, k2tog. (= 25 stitches)

Work 7 rows.

On next knit row, k10, BO5, k10

<p><b>Front right:</b> <i>(start with 10 stitches)</i></p> <p>Purl across</p> <p>BO2, knit to end</p> <p>Purl across</p> <p>SSK, knit to end</p> <p>Purl across</p> <p>SSK, knit to end</p> <p>Purl across</p> <p>Knit across</p> <p>If needed, work additional rows until you reach the top of the shoulder. Place remaining 6 stitches on a holder</p>	<p><b>Front left:</b> <i>(start with 10 stitches)</i></p> <p>Join yarn on knit side and knit across</p> <p>BO2, purl to end</p> <p>Knit across</p> <p>p2tog, purl to end</p> <p>Knit across</p> <p>p2tog, purl to end</p> <p>Knit across</p> <p>Purl across</p> <p>If needed, work additional rows until you reach the top of the shoulder. Place remaining 6 stitches on a holder</p>
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**Finishing:**

Try the body suit on your doll. If needed, adjust the number of the rows on the shoulder pieces so that they meet nicely at the top of the shoulder. (either knit a few more rows, or rip out a few rows.)

If you prefer to sew, bind off all the shoulder stitches and seam the shoulders together. If you prefer, you may also graft (kitchener stitch) the shoulder seams or use a 3-needle bind off to join the front and back shoulder stitches together.

Try it the body suit on your doll again, and make sure you are happy with the fit.

On the back opening, decide how many buttons you want and how you want to space them. Make sure to place one at the top edge. Mark these spots.

Use a crochet hook and slip stitch around the back opening and around the neckline. On the left side of the back opening, when you get to a place where you need a button hole, chain 3-4 stitches, and then slip stitch into the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> space on the body suit, so that you are leaving a gap for the button. Test the opening with your button to make sure it is the size you want.

You may also slip stitch around the armholes for a nice smooth edge.

Darn all the ends.



## **Glossary:**

K knit

P purl

Work continue knitting in pattern, e.g. stockinette, garter, etc.

## **Increases:**

kfb knit in the front and back of the stitch to make two stitches out of one

YO yarn over

M1 lace a back loop on the right needle

## **Decreases:**

k2tog knit 2 stitches together

SSK slip stitch knitwise, slip stitch knitwise, knit those two stitches together

p2tog purl 2 stitches together

SSP slip stitch knitwise, slip stitch knitwise. Move both stitches back to left needle. Insert right needle through the back loops from left to right and purl stitches together.

BO bind off