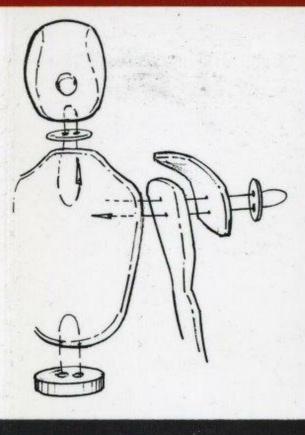
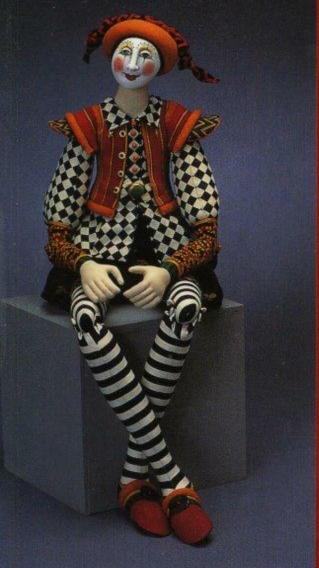
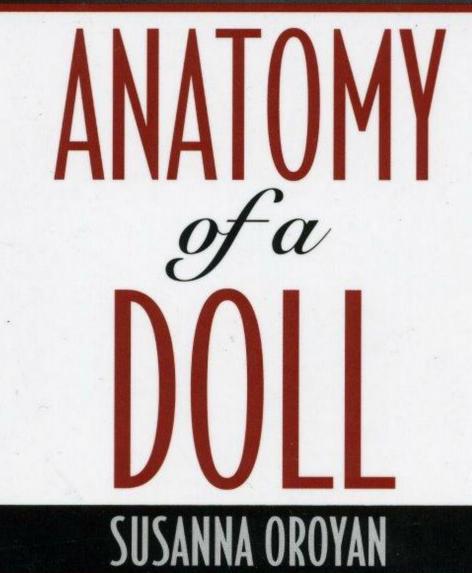
THE FABRIC SCULPTOR'S HANDBOOK





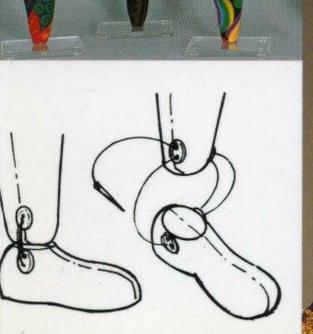






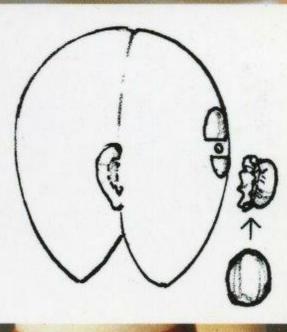






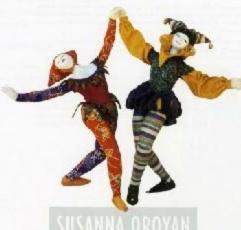








ANATOMY DOLL



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FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPHS (clockwise from top):

Snow Sprite by Peggy Flynn; 15°, cloth. Photo by Mark Carleton.

Ned and Ellie by Kezi Matthews; 141/2" and 151/2", soft sculpture with wool roving hairdo. Photo by Kezi Matthews.

Lady in the Forest by Jane Darin; 21", cotton knit. Photo by Joe Darin.

Joint detail of Amelia Undressed by Shelley Thornton; 24", cotton knit, stitched bead joints, body joints designed. Photo by Ron Brown.

African Princess by Sandra Feingold; 16*, cloth. Photo by Bob Hirsch.

Celestial Seasonings by Julie McCullough; 32", cloth. Photo by John Nollendorfs.

Spirit Seekers by Anne Mayer Meier; 24", fabric. Photo by Photo Pro. Jester by Akira Blount; 26", linen, cotton. Photo by David Luttrel.

TITLE PAGE PHOTOGRAPH: Dancing Jesters by Akiko Anzai; 18*, fabric over paperclay. Photo by Akiko Anzai.

BACK COVER PHOTOGRAPH: Mrs. Peepers by Lisa L. Lichtenfels; detail, nylon over wire armature. Photo by Lisa L. Lichtenfels.

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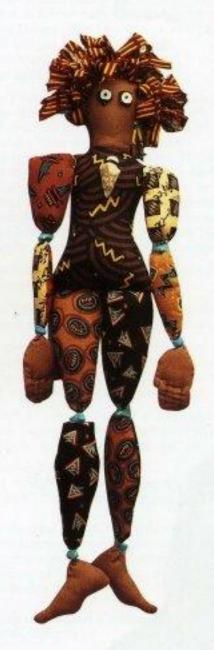
and with love and very special thanks

to my husband Tom Oroyan who, once again, has helped make my dreams come true.



Oroyan; 18", stuffed cotton, cotton over

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Scrap dolls (two versions) by Virginia Robertson; 8* to 10*, cloth. Photo by Virginia Robertson.

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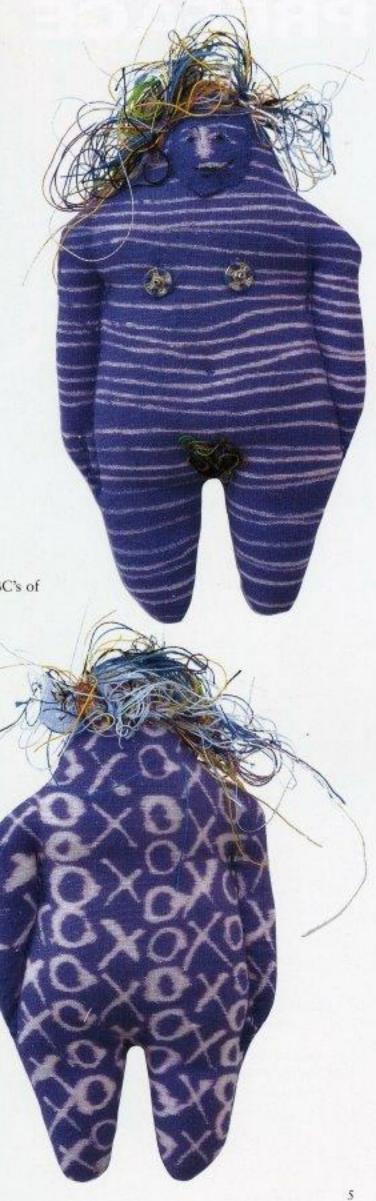
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Sewing Basket Doll (front and back) by Margi Hennen; 8" to 10", cloth. Photo by Warren Dodgson.

Of Winter Fields Lately (two versions) by Margi Hennen; 8" to 10". Photo by Warren Dodgson.





As a teacher and writer in the field of dollmaking, I am often asked questions such as, "I have a head and hands, where can I find out how to put them together?" or "I want to make a doll with a bust, where can I learn how this is done?" In most cases the questioners do not want to be referred to a specific pattern or project book because they do not want to take the time to work through another's design. They just want to know the particular technique or set of techniques that they can incorporate into their own projects. The problem for me in answering them is that there are usually several possible approaches. I find myself saying, "You could do this, or this, or if you did that, you could do this," which is a little too much for the questioner to take in all at once. Often the conversation ends with both of us saying, "I wish we had a standard reference book that could cover all the bases."

This book is an attempt to outline as many methods of doll construction as possible, so that beginning or working dollmakers have a handy answer book. The book might best be described as a technical reference book with expansion capabilities: a workbook to

help dollmakers develop ideas.

When you think, I want to make a pressed felt head, how can I do this?, you should be able to find a few basic approaches within the sections. Then, I hope, you will invent, create, expand, or change the idea using your

imagination.

Dollmaking is a multi-media construction. It really doesn't make any difference which type of dollmaker you are, or want to be. Nor does it make any difference which particular technique you choose. The main considerations when making a doll are to understand the desired effect or impression you want to make, then to be willing to play with variations of your idea and explore any directions that are suggested. And to take into consideration the effects of a technique when you use or manipulate a certain material. This book explains how to achieve certain effects and helps to answer the "what happens if..." questions.

I hope you will find the material useful for practice, for play, or for reference when solving a problem. Use the book as a practice manual or exercise book. If you're a beginner, work through the exercises that relate to the outlined techniques in order to teach yourself a good, general course in dollmaking. If you have some experience with dollmaking, try the techniques that are unfamiliar to you—at the very least, the result would be learning those which you

did not like, or those that you found uncomfortable. At best, you will have given yourself an enlarged repertoire of possibilities to draw from when solving design problems.

As you work through the sections, you'll find that many, many artists shared photographs of their work in order to expose a reader to the equivalent of four or five gallery exhibits. In most cases the photographs accompanying the sections show examples of that method, but, do note, they are often variations on the theme. Artists being artists, they "do their own thing." Accordingly, use the photo examples as a guide for your own inventions by studying where the stitches are placed and how the parts are shaped. Also study the number of possible variations that can happen using just one method, and think about how many techniques you can identify on just one piece. Looking,

studying, and experimenting are the ways that most of us learned to do what we do...and so

can you.

Unless otherwise noted, the drawings and diagrams are either generic forms (not an integral part of a copyrighted or patented pattern), or they are parts of original patterns or models that I have developed. In most cases the pattern shapes will not be directly usable to create specific finished doll forms. Either reproduce or copy the shapes to use as an aid

or as a basis for variation when developing your own designs.

Always remember that there is no clock running and no graded test at the end. None of us got it right the first, second, or even the forty-second time. The goal is to have fun and to feel the rewards of figuring out how to make your idea real. Experiment and enjoy!

> Homage to Erica Jong by Lois Schklar; 18", cloth. Photo by Les Bricker.

FACING PAGE: Alya, the Child's Creative Spirit by Gretchen Lima; 21", fabric, hard sculpted hands. Photo by Bill Lemke.

Designing Original Dolls

THE CREATIVE PROCESS

This book is full of pictures, pattern shapes, and drawings of technical details: lots of parts and images that you can use to create forms with your hands. You'll see how to bend wire this way, cut cloth that way, sew them together this or that way. What is this all for? Designing your original dolls.

In order to access the materials presented, you need to use your mind. You will need to have an idea, or a feeling for the specific expression of that idea, and some understanding of the basic principles of design. You will have to have a general idea of what you want to happen so you can put together methods and mate-

rials to achieve the best expression.

Some of you have made original dolls already. You probably took a look and said, "I've never done a jointed doll or inserted an armature, so I think I'll try that." Some may never have tried to make a doll without a pattern, but are just itching to try. And some of you are saying, "Hey, wait a minute, I can't create an original design, I'm not creative." Yet creativity and design are abilities everyone has. If you are one who doubts her own potential, say to yourself, "I am and I can," and read on.

First, you need to think about who you are, and you need to have an idea. Neither of these are scary. To begin, you might say, "I am a person who makes, or wants to make, small representations of human beings that people might call dolls." The so-called creative person will just go make them whether he or she knows anything about creating a form or not. For these people, the wanting to do it is stronger than anything else. They will figure it out, trying and failing, until they get what they want. To the uninitiated this looks like work. To the people who do it, it is actually useful fun. They enjoy trying out new ideas and learning from their mistakes.

However, self-styled noncreative individuals will hesitate because they think there must be a right way, or because they are afraid to fail, or because they think all the good ideas have been used already. Let's get rid of this old baggage. There is no such thing as a right way. Whatever works for you is the right way. If whatever you feel works is right, then no one but you can say whether you failed. Self-criticism is good, but only if constructive. Say to yourself, "This isn't as good as I wanted, so I will do it over again differently, and this time I will do X instead of Y." Always remember you are in control. Artwork is self-satisfaction. The best artists are the ones who are always looking to improve something or to do it differently.

Ideas are pretty much universal. We all identify with the idea of historical figures, characters, pretty ladies, social and cultural events, and the general shapesreal or abstract-of the human body. It is your variation and interpretation of these ideas that make your work original or creative. The very minute you notice (see, hear, feel, read about) something in your environment, you have an idea that can become a doll. Two people drinking coffee in a restaurant or one piece of interesting fabric can be an idea for a doll. Opinions, emotional reactions, and personal preferences can be ideas, too.

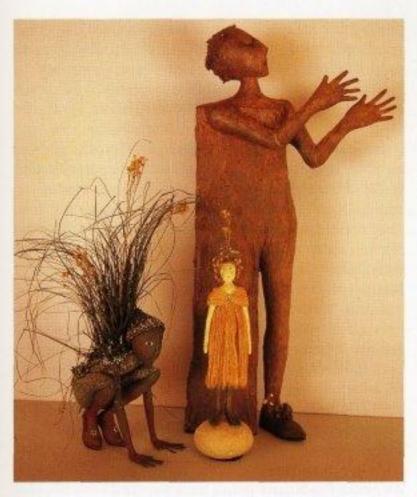
For a recent challenge exhibit, dollmakers were given the theme of Shakespeare's play A Midsummer Night's Dream and a selection of four fabric patterns to use. The results varied from traditional figures in Renaissance costume, to fairies and elves, to a wall, a bonfire spirit, and even tree figures. Each artist personally reacted to some particular element of the play or made a unique connection between the play and the color and pattern of the fabrics.

For a dollmaker, creativity is essentially the ability to manipulate the elements of an idea. The "tools" for the manipulation are questions you ask yourself throughout the process. Sounds fairly heavy duty, but creativity can be learned!

THE DESIGN PROCESS

Let's take a look at doll design. When making dolls, we are concerned with these major elements of design: form, color, texture, pattern, scale, proportion, mechanics, and expression. Form is the shape of the figure you want to make in dollmaking, which also includes that very important element of mechanics, or answering the question, "I want this shape, how will I put the pieces together to get the shape?"

Scene from A Midsummer Night's Dream by Christine Shively; 16", cloth, wood, needlesculpture. Photo by Azad.



Scene from A Midsummer Night's Dream: Mustard Seed, Stray Sod, and Stout as the Wall by Brenda Gehl; 6" to 16", cloth, various media. Brenda Gehl accepted the challenge and used the products to create a very different and very unique interpretation of three of the characters in Shakespeare's play. Photo by Azad.

Color is the choice of a set of colors that appear to coordinate with each other or to enhance a dominant color. It is also the choice of colors to portray a message. It can be the choice of colors used in unexpected ways to jar the viewer. In western culture, for example, a bride dressed in black would certainly be contrary to expectations. Put a baby in a white dress with lots of ribbons and laces, and you would be underlining and emphasizing the idea of "cute baby."

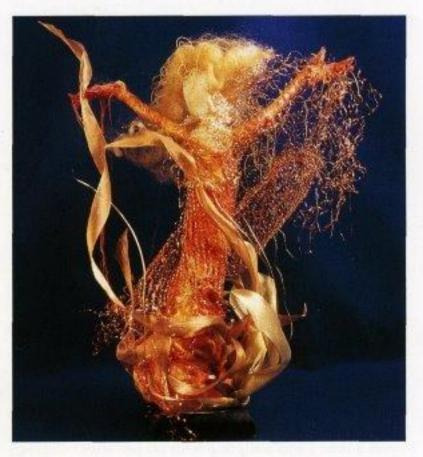
Texture is usually thought of as the dimensional surface of a material, but it can also be things applied to a surface. We choose specific types of fabric to deliver particular messages that underline the idea of the doll. Polished cotton creates a slick and hard look, velvet a soft look, and slubbed linen a rather rough, homespun look. Metal and leather can convey hard, dangerous, or crude appearances, or a bright, slick, and chic appearance, depending on the type used. Adding paint or embroidery for dimension can also add texture.

Pattern is repetition or variation of similar elements. Beads may form a pattern. Buttons may form a pattern. Changes in colors or the color of repetitive shapes can create pattern.

Scale refers to making a figure conform in all parts to a specific size. Scale usually enters into dollmaking when there is a specific desire to create a realistic human figure. For example, if you were to do a figure for a doll house that was built on a one-inch-equalsone-foot scale, it would become very important to size all body parts and clothing to that scale.

Proportion enters in when you begin to distort or abstract. Proportion means that there is a balance given to the design elements. For example, one large element would be balanced by two small elements. A good example is seen in my Ample Annie design (Ladies in the Steam Bath, see page 72). Annie's major emphasis is her big, bulky torso. In order to maintain and emphasize the image, I purposely made her head, hands, and feet in a smaller scale. Another purposeful choice in Annie is the lack of detail in her hands and feet. If her hands and feet had fingers and toes, the viewer's eye would tend to spend a little more time examining the detail. Similarly, if her face had been painted or needlesculpted in detail, the viewer would get carried away with a character interpretation. The message Annie wants to project is "large," and all elements are scaled, balanced, and proportioned to underline that message. Additional messages in Annie are determined by the clothing (or lack of it).

Mechanics and expression are the elements that connect creativity and design. You use them when you decide which method of construction will give maximum expression to your idea.



St. John's Eve Bonfire by Susanna Oroyan; 14", cloth over wire. Photo by Susanna Oroyan. The Bonfire figure was created to show the products of four different manufacturers, using the challenge theme. Traditionally, bonfires were built on Midsummer Night, so orange fabric was chosen as the ground. Gold paints, glitters, and metallic ribbons were used to emphasize the idea of flame. The end result is that the figure personifies fire.



Ange! by Susanna Creyon; 18', w.rc, reads. Photo by Eon Smith.

All the elements of design mentioned are based on the pleasing and efficient organization we observe in nature: the placement of leaves on a twig, the whors of a shell, the patterns of cristals, an animal's coloration, the way limbs are arranged on a human being to allow movement. We tend to intitute these satisfactory organizations or the design of nature when we make things. But in order to do this, we have to inventigenations for the design of nature when we construction methods that fit our desired expressions. For instance, our bodies' limbs are moved with joints, muscles, and tendons. In a doll we have to use other materials, such as wire, thread, and buttons, to limitate joint action.

FINDING YOUR IDEA

Let's go back to the concept of ideas and the questions we must ask ourselves in the process of design. Once upon a time I was scalpting with no particular character in mind. After awhile, a got the idea that the head shape had sort of an angele expression. I thought maybe he'she wanted to be an angel. Then I asked myself, "What is an angel?" Scholars have worked on that question for centuries, but the answer that

pupped in the wast a frestille of light, why next question; how do I make a doll of hard and soft mate tials look like light? The key words here are to "make" of "out together," which equals mechanics, materials, and expression. Light, however, indicates absence of material, so the problem now became how to make something without moterials. The answer was to make it with as few raw materials as possible and use them to suggest emptiness. The final figure was composed of a sculpted head, hands, and a chest conoccupd with wires, so light passes through it. The ligare was made to be suspended lightweight, and was embelished with many fine wires and bright, southly beads - reflected light. Iff you see an angel as a winged creature, then your design suggestions will probably have to do with how to make and attach wings.) My definition of the idea suggested the required mechanics.

With the figure called Mctherbood, the initial idea was one of a mother weighted down by her children's needs (a heavy, plodding figure). At first I saw this as a hard, scalpred figure on a fixed wire armature body. Then I saw the idea as a woman who is carrying on with her responsibilities, as messy and demanding as they may be. Since I didn't have to work with the idea of weight, I could choose to make the figure in cloth. I chose not to use color so that the positions of the fig. ares would convey the expression. If I am successful, the viewer knows without being rold the name that the idea of motherhood is being expressed. The viewer can project his or her positive or negative reaction onto the figures. You could do this same idea and needlesculer. or paint a radiant lace or a dejected one. Pick what the idea requires. As you use this book, you will be work ing with your idea to find the best method of expressing your idea mechanically.

Ideas can be doodles, phrases, or mental images lideas can be fragments. For instance, you might see a picture of a big sed hat and think, I like that idea, what kind or a doll would look good in that big red hat? Picking the type will depend on your tastes. You might be more inclined to see a pretty lady in a big red hat than a wizehed elf.

So, you can see that creativity involves some serious thinking about the elements of design in order to enhance an idea and its particular message.

Can you learn to do this? Sure you can. Following someone else's pattern is a wonderful learning root. It reaches you particular methods, and if you analyze what you are being rold to do, it should reach you to under stand the designer's thought processes and/or to be entitical of them. The way you start is to concentrate on independent thinking. When you follow a pattern, but still choose your own favorite facing patterns and finishing details, such as hairsyles and wig materials, you are being independent. You are designing. Those choices are based on what you like or want. Finding an idea or

vision you like, even if a little part is applied to another's pattern, is the start of being creative.

Many people believe that to be creative you must sit down and sketch up a complete idea right out of thin air. Mistaken notion. Who says patterns are required to spring out fully detailed? Many dollmakers just cut the fabric freehand, sew it, and see if it works; if it doesn't, they change, cut, and sew it until it does.

Creative design usually starts with "What if?" What if...I use this shape of hand? If I do use this shape of hand, what sort of head do I use? Or, it might start with a piece of fabric. What kind of doll or costume does it suggest? When you answer questions for yourself, you are using your imagination creatively. When you ask and answer a number of questions, applying some consideration to the elements of design, you are being creative.

I should note that being creative or considering the elements of dollmaking does not make art, or an idea good, or the design successful. The end product is based on the quality of work or the personal vision and how much the maker wants to work to refine his or her personal vision into a very tightly integrated, well-designed and well-defined artistic statement. Being creative means giving yourself the freedom to explore, the freedom to fail, and the permission to try again.

DECIDING CHARACTER

Millions of words can be written, have been written, in an attempt to define art and the elements which make the piece. For dolls, it seems to me that two words suffice: depth and power; in particular, depth and power as they relate to the expression of human character or personality in the piece. The play doll probably needs to move, probably has removable clothes, but most importantly, it allows the player to decide who the character is. The art doll is expected to tell the viewer, hint strongly, or make the viewer think about certain aspects of the human condition. Both pieces need to please, educate, or amuse the viewer. At the very least, they need to provoke an emotion or intellectual reaction that will hold the viewer's attention for longer than a passing moment. The more thought that goes into the design and construction of a piece (depth), the more likely there will be an evocative or provocative reaction (power).

As you get to the finished product, "What if..." is still the main question. Use a number of directional phrases to point yourself toward solutions. Creativity is problem solving. A great deal of it should happen before you even start to work. I make 90% of my dolls while kicking back in a comfortable chair, feet up on the desk, with my eyes closed. I like working the problem out as much as possible by running a mental movie of the idea and solving the "What happens if..." questions with as little expense of time, material, and energy as possible. I might run my mental movie a week—or three—taking time out to check my fabric boxes or look up costume references. Sometimes, but not often, I will actually make a sketch or notes.

Here is a list of just a few directional words you can use to help with solutions for making your ideas real and designs workable: stretch, expand, narrow, reduce, lighten, darken, shade, contrast, reverse, mix, break, bend, contract, multiply. As you work on your design, you will find you can identify many other change words.

What happens if you...

expand the waist,
insert wire,
joint the limbs,
lighten the fabric (choose a lighter color,
a lighter weight),
reverse the print (use the wrong side),
needlesculpt the face,
paint the face,
multiply the number of buttons,
mix the colors together,
expand the size of the limbs,
well, what happens is...

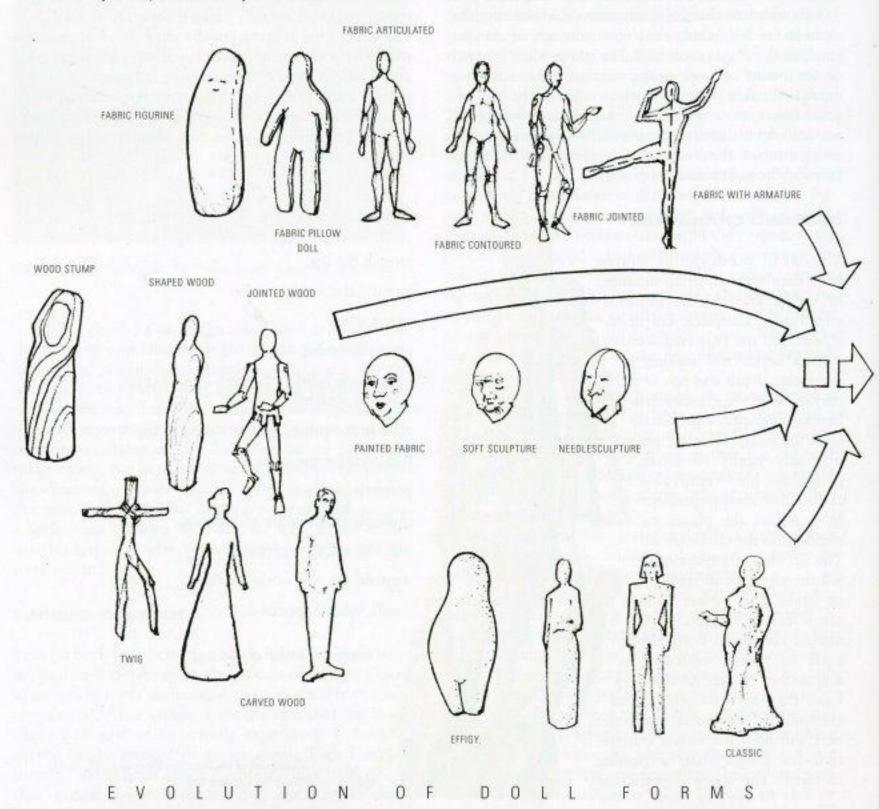
you create a new doll form!

What is a bott? TION OF THE DOLL

Do you really know what a doll is? I am sure I don't. The best description we can offer is that a doll seems to be a representation of the human figure. People make dolls and like dolls because they are interested in other people, what they do, how they look, what they wear, how they feel...a doll is just another way we appreciate the infinite variety of our fellow humans. When you consider the creation of dolls, there is really nothing new under the sun in dollmaking. Most of the techniques used in dollmaking can be traced back at least 100 years, and in many cases, 200 to 300 years. What makes doll-

making an ever changing, always fascinating art form is that the subject matter, humans, can be seen and thought of in a never-ending multitude of ways. Also, the artists who portray dolls continue to be inventive and exciting by varying the techniques with differing shapes, materials, and surface treatment combinations.

The question of why humans want to make representations of themselves leads us to some interesting theories. Could it have been because the early woman gave her girl child a baby-like toy to train her for future maternal duties? Could it have been because a man



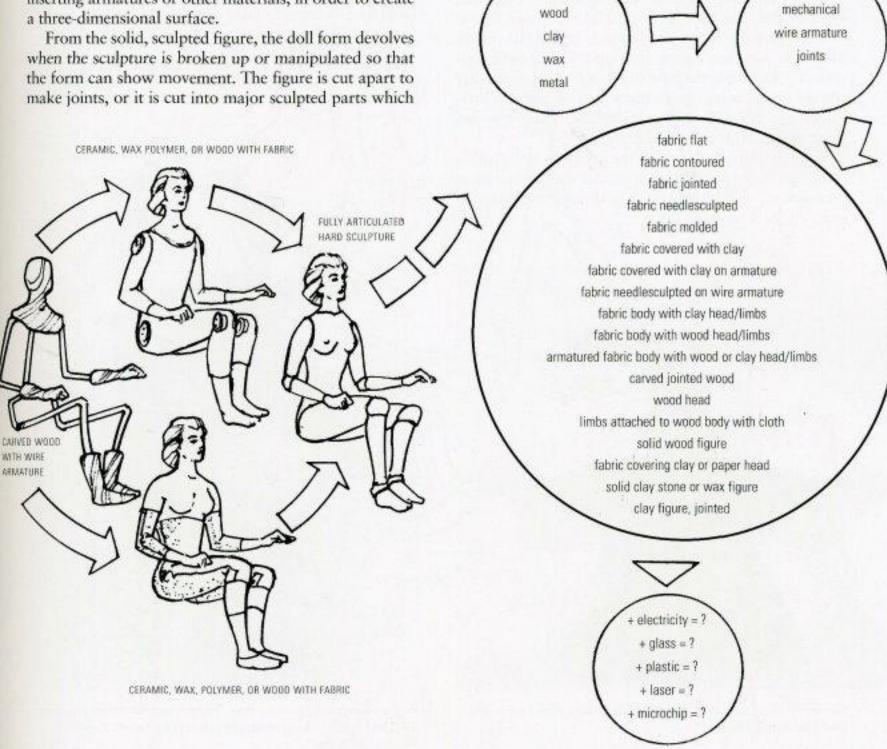
wanted a figure to represent a great hunter who might bring him luck and bravery? Although we will never know for sure, we can see how the child-occupier became today's toy and the talisman became a religious figure. Whenever the maker had no apparent reason for making a figure, but did so anyhow for the sheer joy of creating, we have the purely esthetic or art doll figure.

How we make these "little people" seems to have evolved in two different ways. On one hand, a form can begin from a solid, sculpted figure, or an elemental form, which we might call a statue or figurine. On the other hand, a form can begin by joining two pieces of fabric together and adding padding to make a dimensional form, or an outline form, which we might call a cookie cutter or pillow doll. From this form, a flat form evolves when the two pieces of cloth are manipulated by turning the flat parts, by seaming the curves, by needlesculpting, by jointing, by molding the cloth over a solid base, or by inserting armatures or other materials, in order to create a three-dimensional surface. are then assembled on a body made of another material. You can think of these processes as breaking down from one side and building up from the other.

It seems that dollmaking is often thought of in terms of "either/or." It either involves some form of solid sculpted work, or, it requires some form of fabric assembly. The truth is that most dollmaking falls within a large middle area where elements of both meet. A good dollmaker will use any element that will work for the design. For example, cured or fired sculpture pieces might be assembled on a body constructed of cloth, stuffing, and wire.

You should become at least familiar with, if not experienced with, as many techniques as possible in order to solve design problems that might occur while you're working between the first idea and the finished piece.

fabrics



Elemental Forms

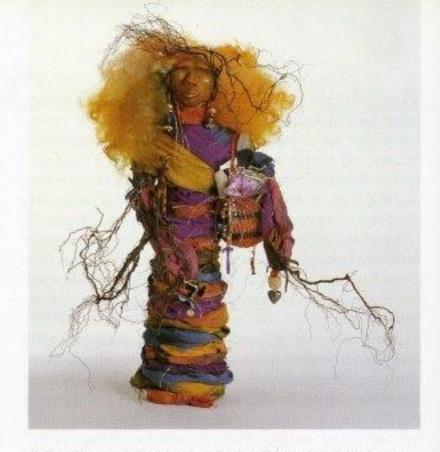
Almost every society and culture has a history of using elemental materials—commonly stone, wood, clay, wax, hide, or bone, depending on the location—to make dolls. Nowadays, we lump these natural elements with everyday items and call them all "found" materials. Today's dollmakers still play with these elemental forms; we see this in mascots, little fetishes, wearable figures, and even larger abstract figures. None of these forms require instructions or patterns because they are usually created by assembling an assortment of materials, moving them around, noting the suggested form, and combining the materials to accentuate the form.

It is interesting to theorize which came first—the form or the idea for the form. Did the shape of the twig suggest the figure of a person, or did the maker decide on a person figure, pick up a handy twig, and make it? Assuming the human thought process doesn't change much, it was probably a little of each—a little wanting to make something and a little of seeing something suggested in a natural material.

For the individual, or for the group, a dollmaking challenge based on found materials can be exciting, therapeutic, and surely a non-threatening way of enjoying how to make dolls.



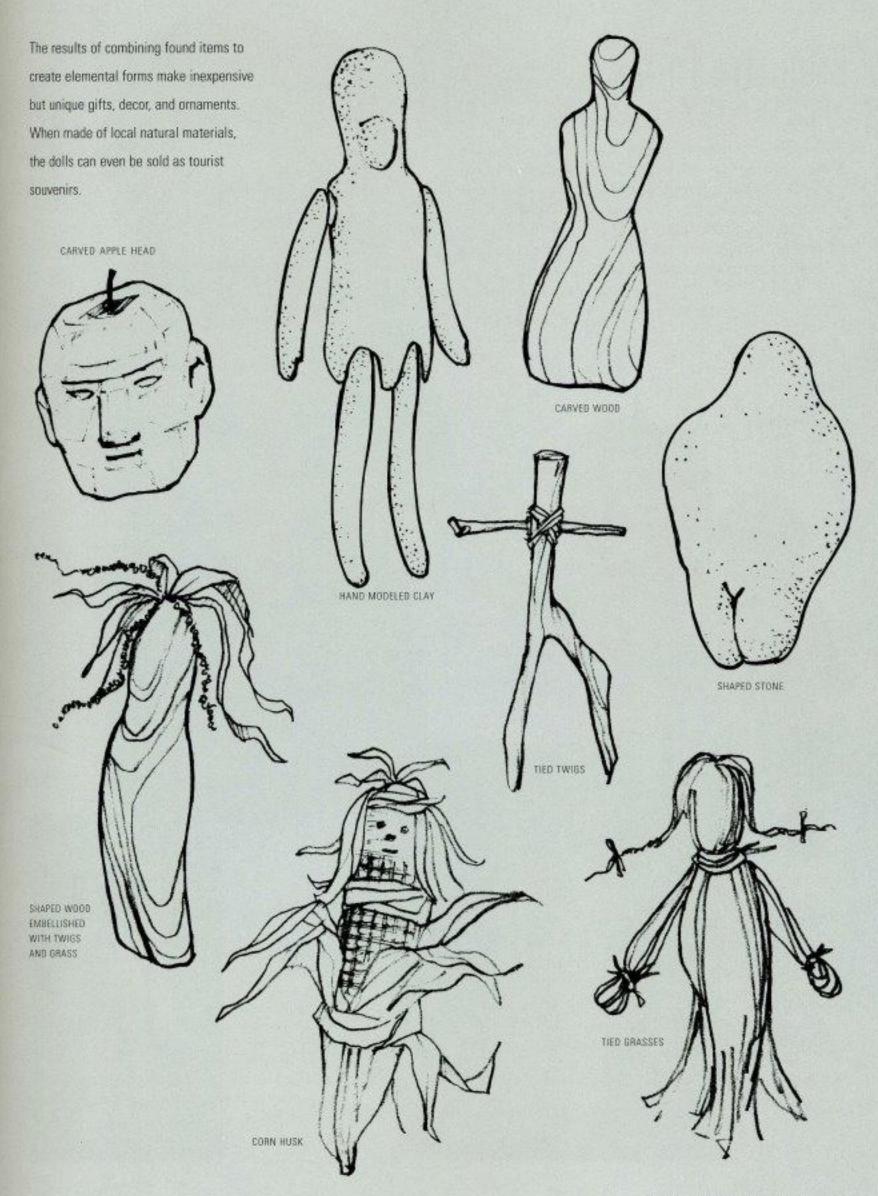
Clarity by Tracy Page Stillwell; 26", fabric, clay, found materials. Photo by Beth Ludwig.



Pulling Up Roots by Tracy Page Stillwell; 18", dyed fabrics, clay, found materials. Photo by Beth Ludwig.



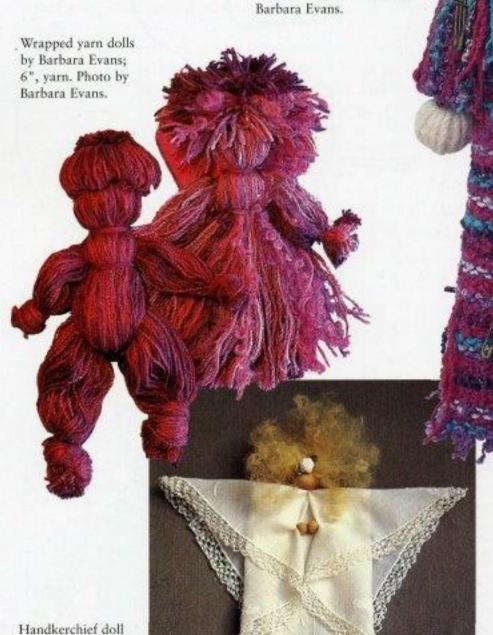
Not a Chance: Spirit of the Fine Frosty Friday by Margi Hennen; 10", leaf printed cloth, embroidery, found materials. Photo by Warren Dodgson.



Primitive Forms

Dolls defy a neat evolutionary scale of classification. However, if we say that the "first" cloth figure was made by wrapping, tying, or draping a woven material to make a variation on an assembled elemental figure, then primitive dolls are best described as the adaptation of the elemental found-material forms to the manufactured products of civilization.

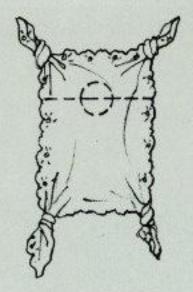
Wrapped yarn doll with woven dress by Barbara Evans; 8", yarn. Photo by Barbara Evans.



Felt doll by Barbara Evans; 8", felt. Photo by Barbara Evans.

by Barbara Evans;

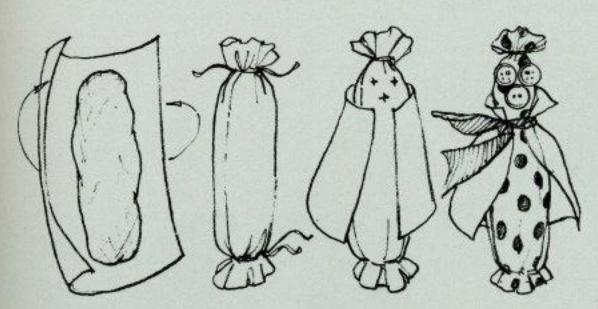
6*, cloth. Photo by Barbara Evans. All of the forms are made by folding, wrapping, and tying. Although no stitches are necessary, do note that sewing is basically a method of wrapping and knotting. We just work today in more elaborate patterns with tools, much finer threads, and sophisticated machinery.



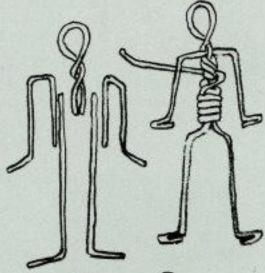


The handkerchief doll shows how a doll form can be created from a flat piece of woven material. Place a pad of stuffing to form the head, tie a string around the "neck", then tie the corners to make hands and feet.



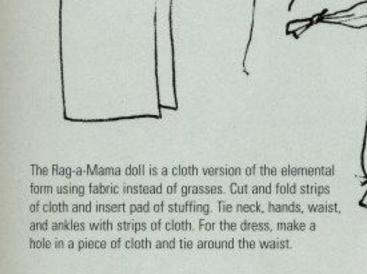


The rolled figure reflects both the corn husk and the stone fetish forms. Place stuffing to form the body, roll the center, then tie the ends.



The wire figure is a variation of the skeletal form of a twig doll. Bend wire or pipe cleaners to the desired shape, then wrap the torso to create thickness in form.







Simple Forms

Almost every dollmaker has played with the simple form and variations on that theme. Simple forms may be seen to fall between the nonsculpted, stitchless primitive form and the more sophisticated, engineered figure. Since the forms require a minimum of sewing and technical skill, a dollmaker can quickly create and construct a form that can then be embellished or given greater character. Personality is applied by embellishing with paints, patches, beads, or what-

Ofuku-san by Sizuyo Ogawa; 8", Ogawa's large pieces are built over bottles. Wonderfully textured and patterned Japanese fabrics are wrapped and stitched over the bottle form to portray traditional costumes. Photo by Masayuki Tsutsui.



PMS Doll

(right) pin

by Elaine

Oroyan.

Anne Spence and

author's collection:

Photo by Susanna

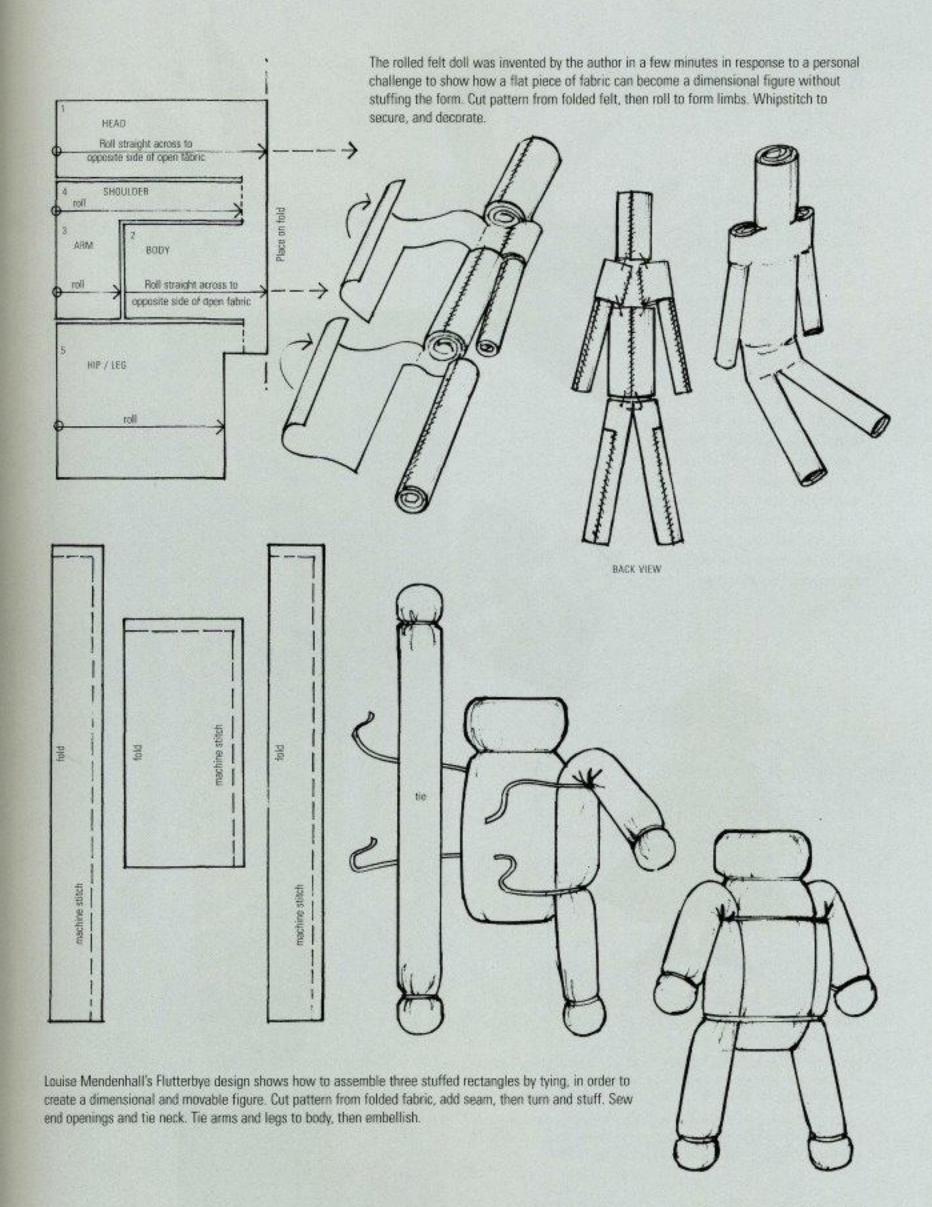
doll pin (left) in

3" to 4", cloth.

Leprechaim and Two Little Girls with Their Dollies by Jane Wagner; approx. 1", cloth. Jane Wagner makes her tiny two-piece dolls by machine sewing the basic form with felt. Photo by Richard Wagner, Jr.



Three artist-designed pins in the author's collection; 3" to 5", cloth. Photo by Susanna Oroyan.





At this stage of dollmaking a bit of design cuters in Imread of mornishing found marerials, or manipulating given forms, we are now beginning to think about creating shape curselves and controlling the outcome of the product. For most of us, creating a simple form herpeny about the time we tay to stitch run pieces of shaped fabric together. It certainly happens when we also stuff some other material between the two pieces to add dimension. The key word is now "shape " Although the pieces might just be squares, triangles, rectangles, or stars, will we make them long or short, will they become flat or bound, or will they become a combination of several shapes?

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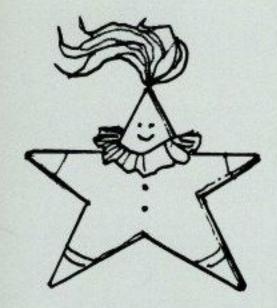
anowing Fig. 2 Kuc by chima peace bades, 6 ', quited cloth. Phone by Surama Orogen

OFFER ROLLIN Star Ladfes by Sally Limpt; 2", our dispess of paintad clich. Sally created a very strong dission of motion by Limbing and cloquating the points of the unit, Proto by Sally Lampi.

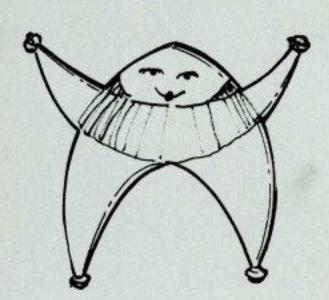
100 BK & DHIL African Princes: by Santra Feinguld, 11.*, dish, A rectang dar form is well-used to set c). As stoon, diagonal articles of Sandwa's African Princes well. Phono by Bub Flinch.

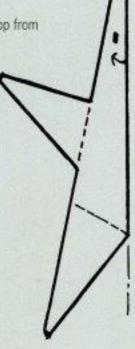
The sketches shown on this page give us a small sample of what a designer can do with just a pencil, straight edge, and compass.

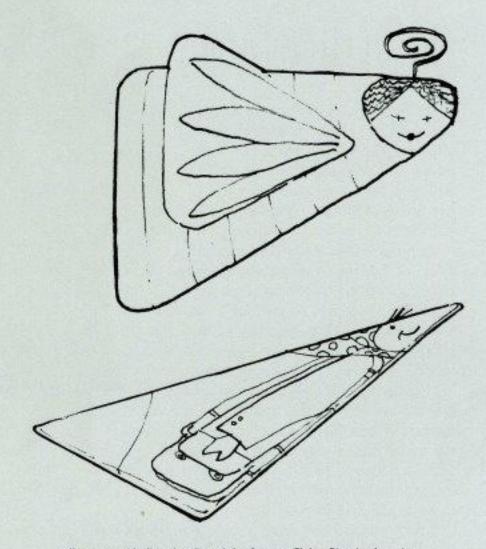




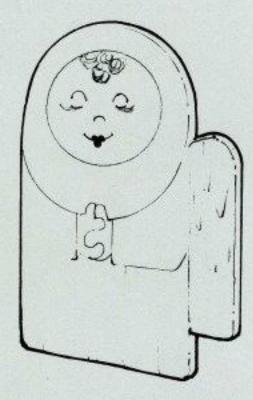
These sketched star figures show how two very different forms develop from a basic five-pointed star form.







elinor peace bailey developed the famous Flying Phoebe form by playing with the triangle idea of the folded paper airplane.



The Outline Form

Another simple doll shape is the outline form, which can be called the pillow doll or cookie cutter doll. The outline form takes shape when we cut two pieces of fabric to outline a specifically human shape, sew them together with right sides (printed or finished sides) of the fabric facing, turn the piece inside out so the raw seam edges are on the inside, and stuff to give the form dimension. Although these steps seem simple, they actually involve some complex problem solving when we have to decide how to create the shape, hide the raw edges, insert the stuffing, and select the material to use for stuffing. When selecting the fabrics and finishes, the maker also needs to have specialized tools, such as scissors, pencils, needles, and a sewing machine to construct the form. Maybe there is no such thing as a simple basic form!

Many artists have created very powerful art pieces working with the outline form. Sometimes the effect comes from surface embellishment, but usually it comes from expanding or varying the outline of the piece. Depending on the maker's ability to draw an interesting shape and to manipulate the fabric for curves that the shape might require, a high degree of motion, and emotion, can be communicated with the outline form.

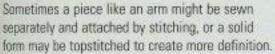
Angel by Sally Lampi; 10*, needlesculpted cloth. Photo by Sally Lampi. Matron Saint of Safe Credit by Margi Hennen; 13", beading on cotton, Photo by Warren Dodgson.

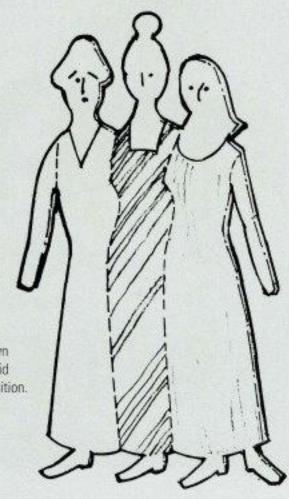
Spirit Seekers by Anne Mayer Meier; 24", fabric with modeled clay faces. Photo by Photo Pro.



Pillow shapes, or shapes with simple, large outlines, can be used for decorations or displayed as mounted sculptural pieces.

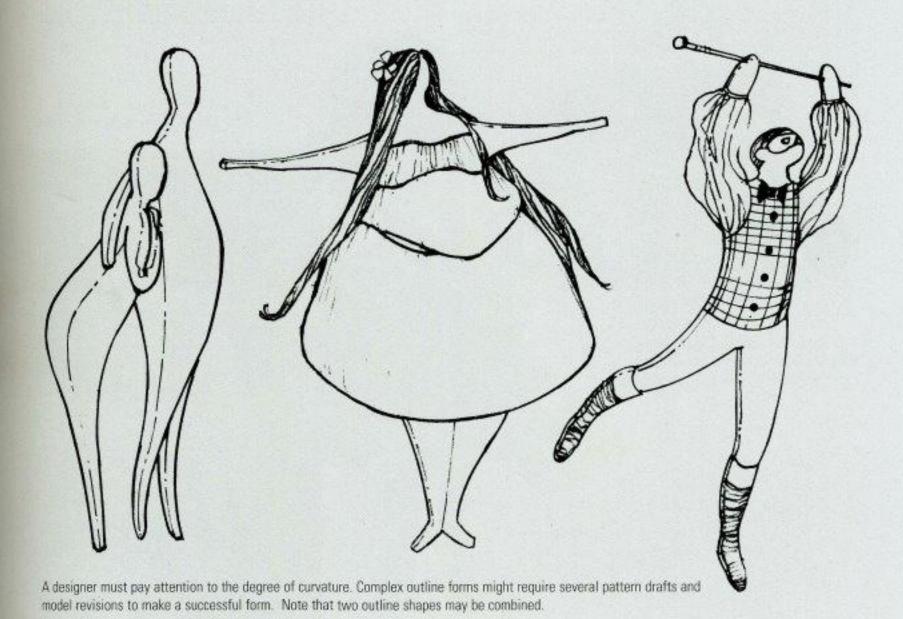
More simply outlined forms are often created as play dolls for children, and smaller forms easily become wearables.







Patterns for outline forms are created by first making a drawing of the desired doll, Add the seam allowances to the drawing.



23

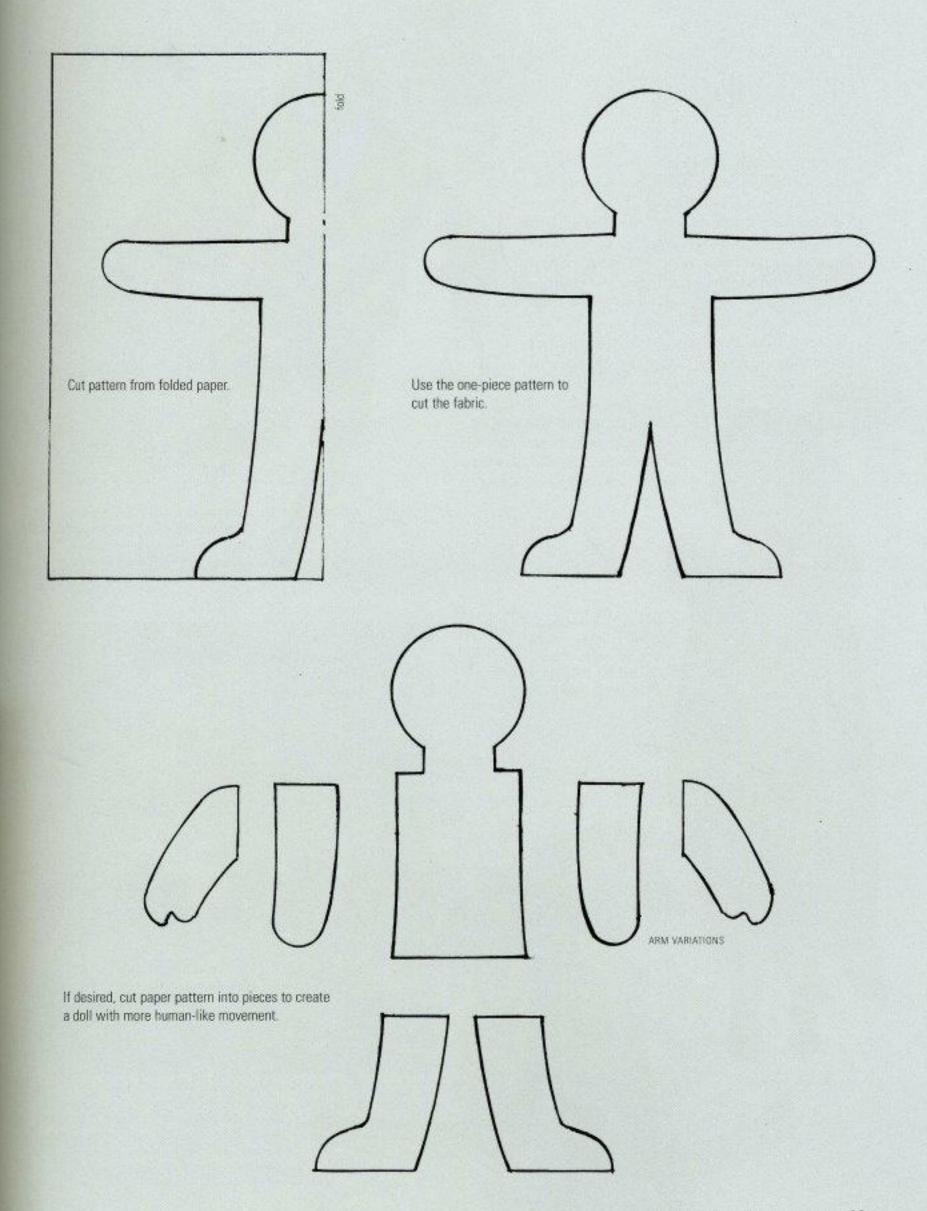
The Basic Rag Doll

The basic rag doll, a traditional flat form, can be considered the greatgrandmother of cloth dolls. This doll is purposely built for "flop and fun." During play, a child often imposes the character and action on the doll-the form doesn't have to do anything in particular. After awhile though, the doll usually starts bending in the narrow areas, such as the neck, hips, and ankles. Working with this tendency to bend, many dollmakers find themselves taking the first steps toward making a jointed threedimensional form when they compose this form.



Dressing Up by Rebecca Swanson; 14", cloth. Photo by Don Smith.





Variations

Here is where real fun begins! As you view the photographs, you will notice that there are many ways to make very complex figures in cloth. The marvel of dollmaking is that inventive and imaginative dollmakers put materials together in their own unique ways, and you quite often have to look very closely to see the basic form. The reality is that 80% to 90% of all cloth dolls are variations of the basic rag doll form.

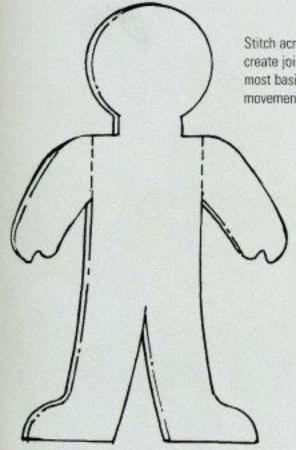
From this point forward, there is no particular order of the possible variations for dollmaking. You are like a squirrel standing in the fork

of a tree. You can select any branch, run out to the end of any twig, then leap across to a different branch. It is your choice as a designer of dolls.

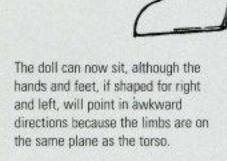
> Bliss the Twisted Sister by Elaine Anne Spence; 15", cloth. Consider the way Elaine uses the rag doll form as an abstract expression. Photo by Bill Bachhuber.

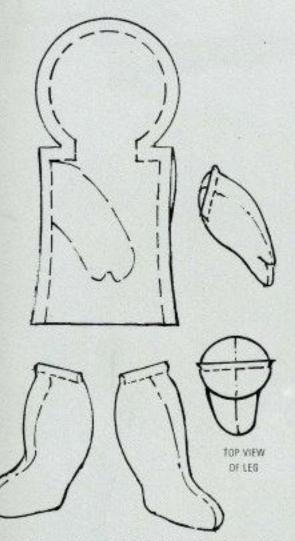


The Donkey and the Elephant by Sandy Belt; 15", cloth. Note how Sandy adjusts the rag doll form to create animal whimsies. Photo by Christine Garcew.



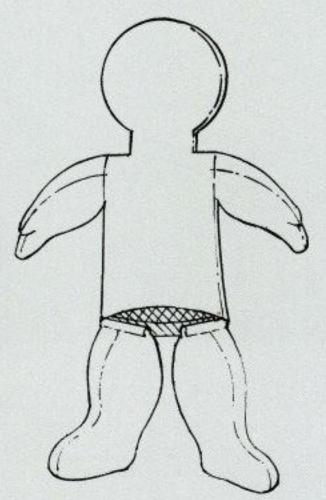
Stitch across the stuffed form to create joint bends. This creates the most basic joint and allows for movement in the doll.





The stitched joint allows the limb to move in a fully circular, non-human motion, which may allow too much flop. This type of a joint gives a lot of scope for play poses, but, when hand stitched, may require the maker to repair attachments from time to time if the doll is used by an active child.

Usually the solution is to turn the legs so that the feet point out in front of the body and the arms are turned so that they hang naturally at the sides of the body. When the machine-sewn figure is turned right side out, the toes and fingers will point in the right direction. Length of the limbs can be adjusted for the design.



Out apart the pattern and re-attach the limbs in order to create more acceptable human-like positions for the hands and feet. Add extra seam allowance at the top of the leg and arm pieces, then sew each limb together. Turn under the raw edges, sew the ends, and stitch to the body.

An alternative solution is to position the limbs at a quarter turn (90°) to the body, then sew the separate parts into the seam between the two body pieces.

Adding Dimension

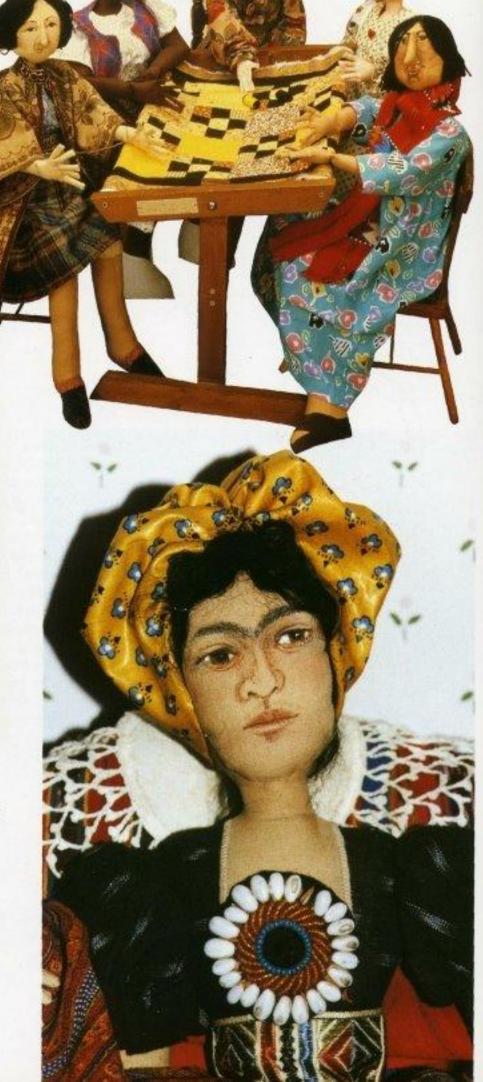
To make dolls look more human, most dollmakers like to add depth or dimension to their pieces. For the head, the first step toward adding dimension is simply to take the head off, then sew it back to the body in front of the neck. This type of a head provides a flat surface for the face, which is suitable for dollmakers who like to apply paint or appliqué.

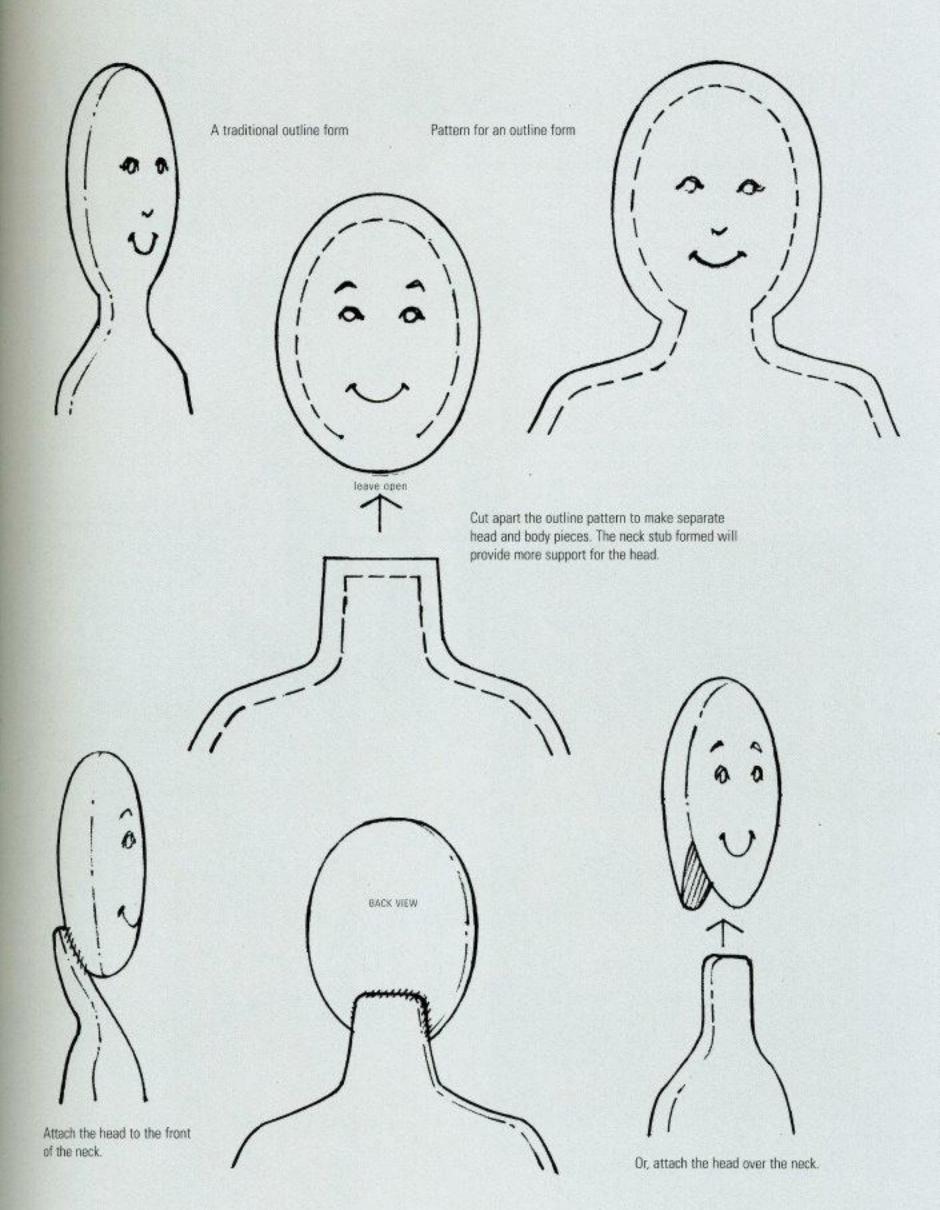


ABOVE: Nigerian Madonna and Child by Lawan Angelique; 14*, cotton knit. Photo by Christina Florkowski.

UPPER RIGHT: The Quilters by elinor peace bailey; 24" x 24", cotton. Photo by Isaac Bailey.

LOWER RIGHT: Frida Kahlo by Virginia Robertson; 18*, cloth. Photo by Virginia Robertson.





Turns and Curves

To add more dimension or more realism, collinakers often play with the pattern designs. For example, a dollmaker can change the head pattern so the seam runs down the front of the face. Since the head seam is now 90° away from the shoulder. seam, the head and body pieces cannot be sewn together as one piece. The head then becomes a separately attached form. Also, with the head seam running down the front of the face, the front can be curved autward to form a nose. The back could be divided into two curved pieces to give the head ever more dimension. New the dollmaker has a round head with a nose and a chin-You can see from the sketches just how much scope for character development can be had by changing the shapes of the beau pieces,

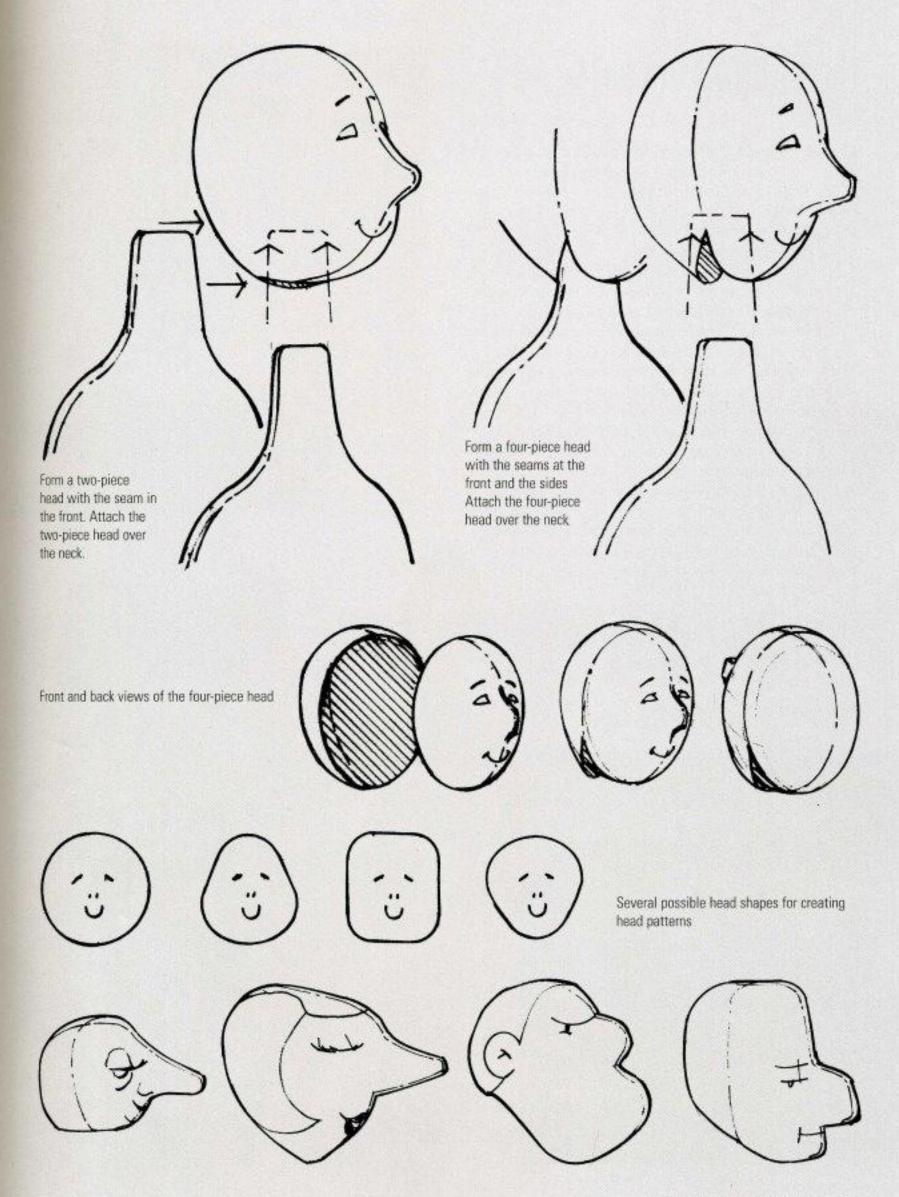
Maily by Joyce Patterson, 16", glota, Photo by Joses Patterson,

Margie McOwie by Bonnie Hooven 11.5, north. Photo Ire Soon House.

> Go Altera by Kart Debug. 24", comon. Photo by Lea Bricker.

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Look Familian 14 Saft Fourant by Satheryn Tidwell Fours, 241, fifther over wire armature. Photo by Lea Bricker.



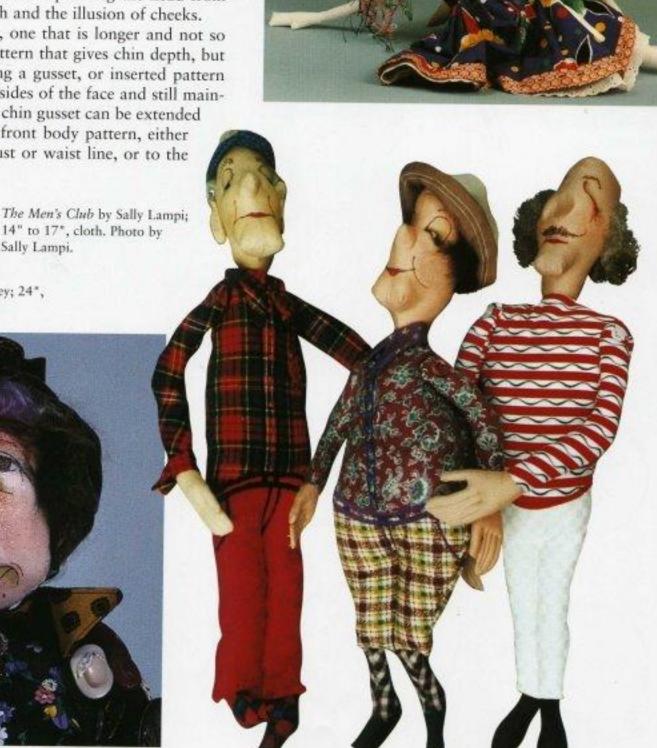
Darts and Contours

Dollmakers often have to choose which contour of the body they want to follow. The contoured head, often called the seamed baseball head, is a common shape that was very popular in the construction of play dolls from the 1930s to the 1970s. The head is constructed of two pieces that form a curved center front. Once the side and front pieces are sewn, the head gets width at the cheek when stuffed. If you want to make a chubby cheeked doll, try this method of head construction.

If you want a round head without a seam in the center front, cut a pattern with a dart. To keep the form rounded, the dart must follow a curved line at the chin. The dart must also be sewn so that it develops smoothly into a point. Separating the head from the neck provides depth and the illusion of cheeks.

A more adult face, one that is longer and not so rounded, requires a pattern that gives chin depth, but no cheek width. Adding a gusset, or inserted pattern piece, spreads the two sides of the face and still maintains a nice shape. The chin gusset can be extended to become part of the front body pattern, either carried down to the bust or waist line, or to the full body front.

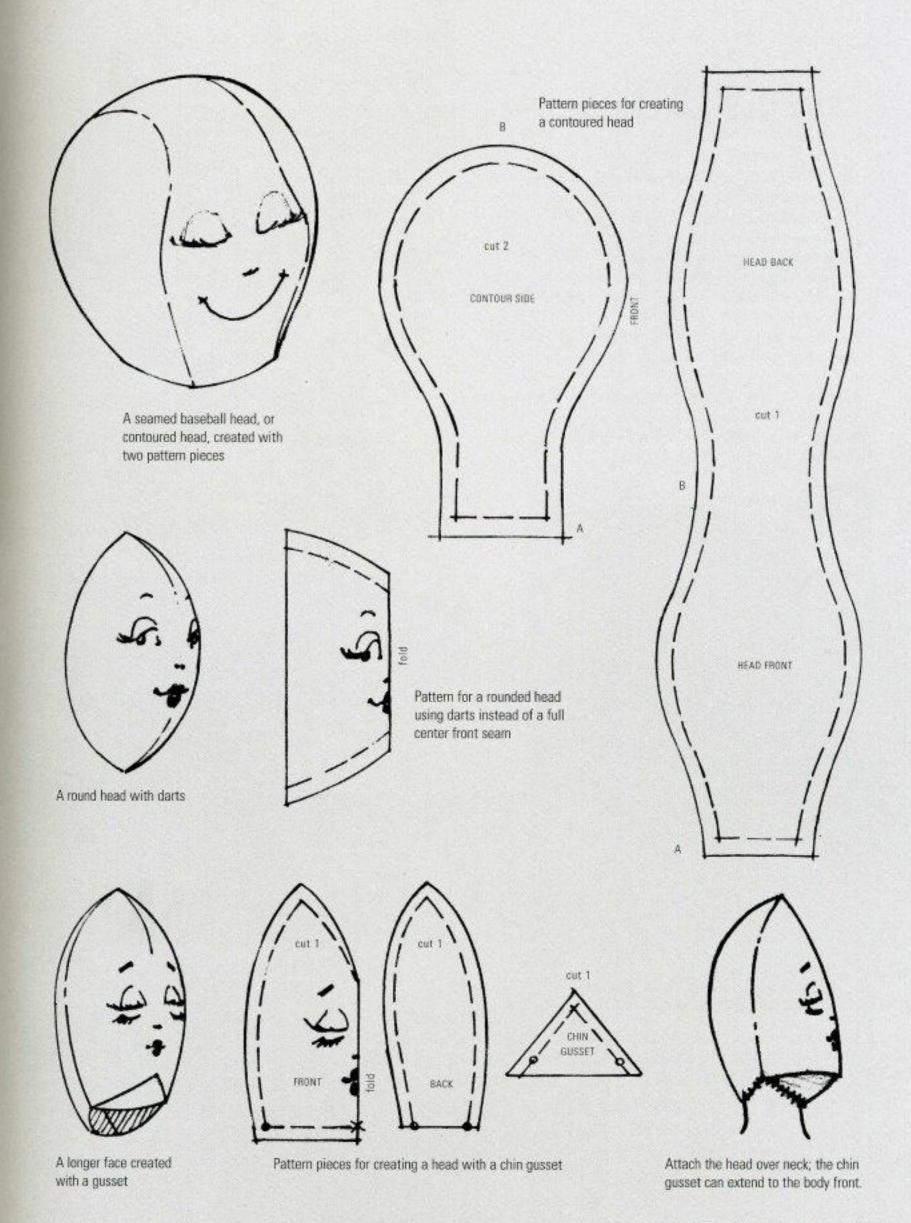
Sally Lampi.



Modella-models of a pattern by Susanna Oroyan; 20", cloth, Photo by Don Smith.

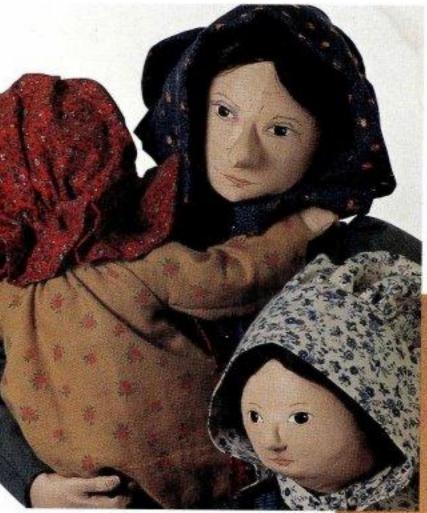
Zellnora by elinor peace bailey; 24*,

cloth. Photo by Don Smith.



Fully Sculptural

The fully sculptural head is often used to create needlesculpted and built-up, cloth-covered faces. This variation makes a smoother join with the neck and, if the neck is reinforced with wire armature, a very firmly seated head. To create the head, first construct a two-piece head front (which may or may not have a nose) by sewing entirely around the circumference of two circles. Cut a hole in the back, then turn and stuff the head through the hole. Cut two head back pattern pieces. Sew the head back pieces together, then pin the head front to the back. Handstitch to secure the head, leaving an opening at the center bottom of the head. A neatly seamed head is now formed that can be very securely stitched to the neck.



Sara Goings by Ellen Turner; 30", cloth. Photo by Anne Hawthorne.



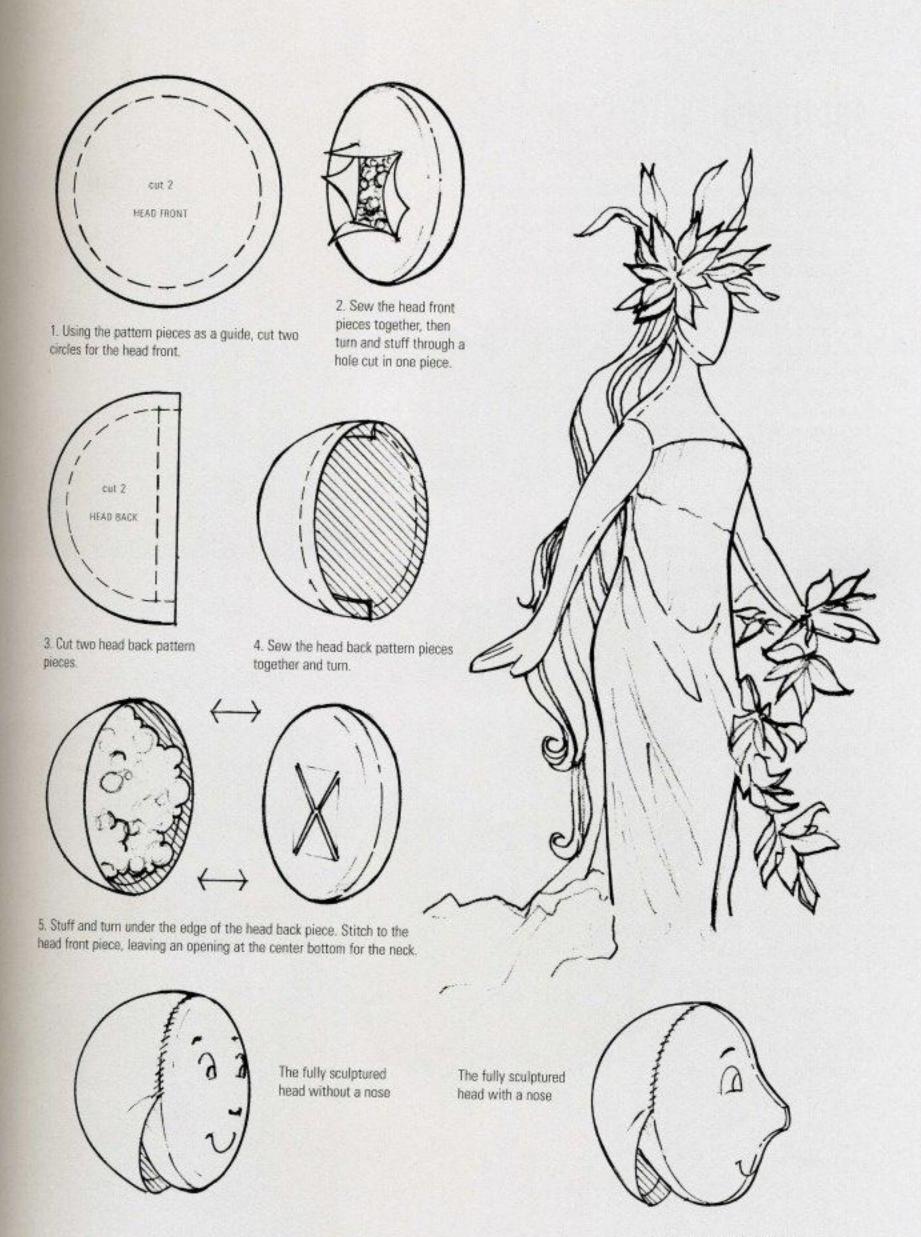
Knights by Virginia Black; 13", cloth over wire armature. Photo by Virginia Black.

The Sandman by Marlene Denn; detail, cloth. Photo by Les Bricker.



Island Exotica by Susanna

Making Valentines by Lesley Riley; 8" seated, cloth. Photo by Lesley Riley.



Appliquéd Features

Just as a dollmaker begins with flat figures and adapts dimensional techniques, such as jointing and contouring, to express form in space, the same dollmaker can express more realism or character in facial features by adding dimension. Applying or appliqueing another

piece of fabric on top of the basic form is the simplest

way to add dimension to the flat body. You can think of this

method as patching. Pieces are added with hand or

machine stitching, or by using glue or fusible iron-on materials. Appliquéd, or patched,

features may be flat or they may be padded to add even more height. The patched piece may itself be contoured with darts or gathered to create additional

dimension.

Almost any body part or feature can be accentuated by appliqué methods. Usually, the knees, elbows, bust, ears, and sometimes even fingers and toes are added to the body. Noses. eyelids, mouths, and sometimes wrinkles are added to the face. Take your pick-mix and match!

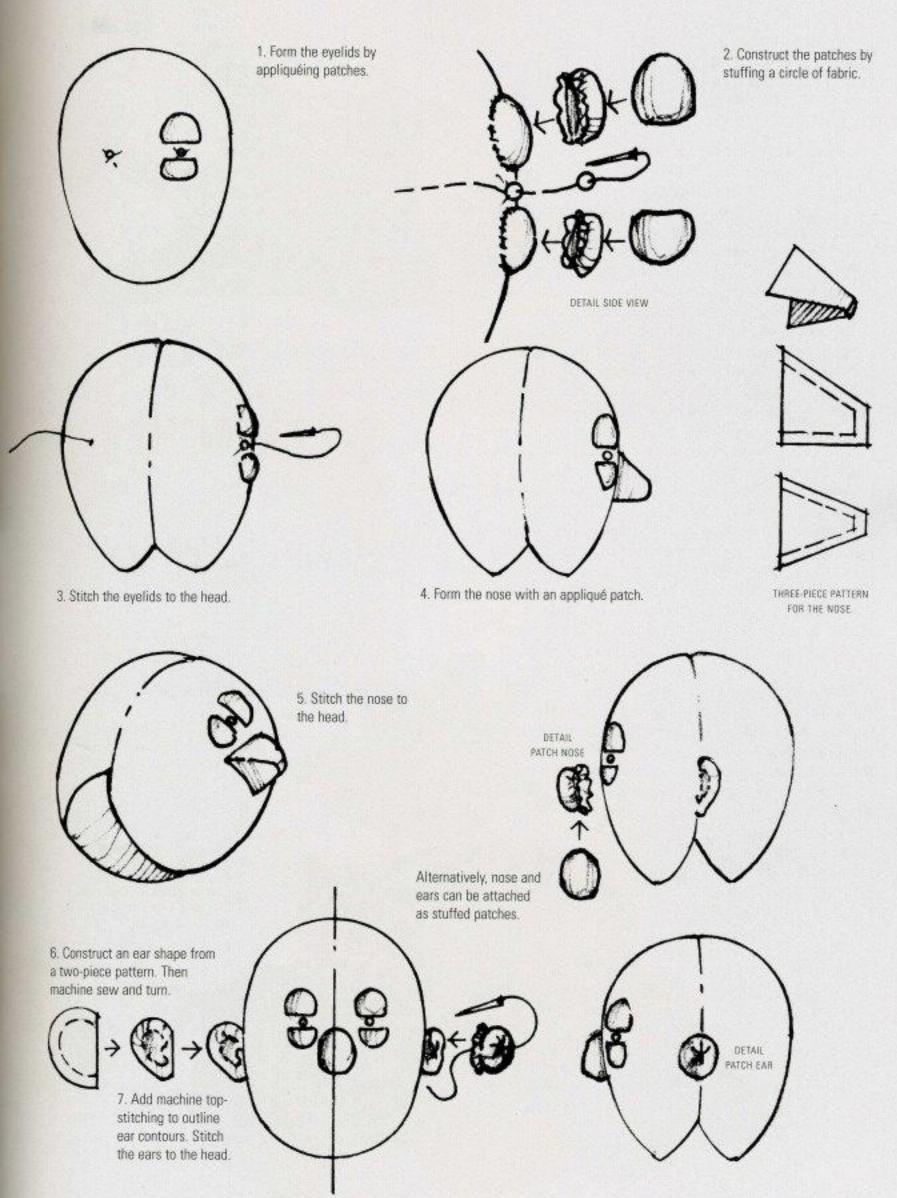


Dumbdolly by Susanna Oroyan; 30", felt. Photo by Don Smith.

Flapper by Barbara Evans; 22", felt. Photo by Barbara Evans.



Harriet by Tracy Page Stillwell; 20°, cloth with felt appliqué. Photo by Don Smith,



Beginning Needlesculpture

Needlesculpture is creating raised sculptural features, such as noses, by stitching the surface fabric to the inner stuffing so that the raised parts will be outlined and secured. Basically, two things happen when you make a doll of woven cloth filled with cotton or polyester stuffing. The first is that the stuffing moves, or can be moved, under the body surface fabric. The second is that the surface fabric stretches as the interior is packed with stuffing.

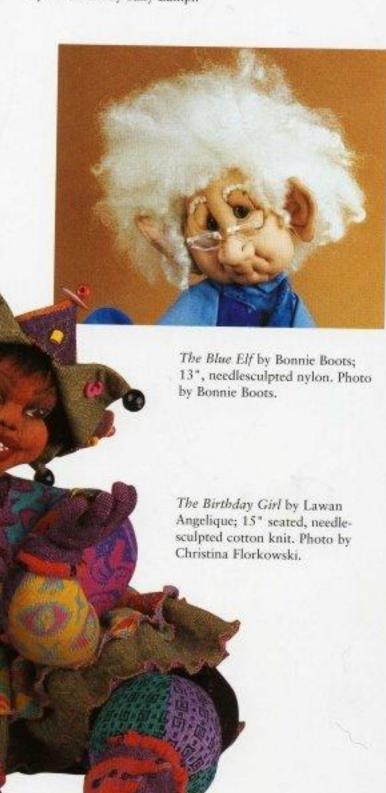
One problem when making a flat or contoured doll is overcoming the lumps and shifting stuffing so the doll looks smooth and well finished. However, this "problem" can be put to use in needlesculpted dolls. Specifically, one can create raised features if a bump is created in a desired place, such as the nose area, then fixed in place. It might be helpful to think of needle-sculpture as quilting, except that not all the stitches go

through to the backing fabric layer.

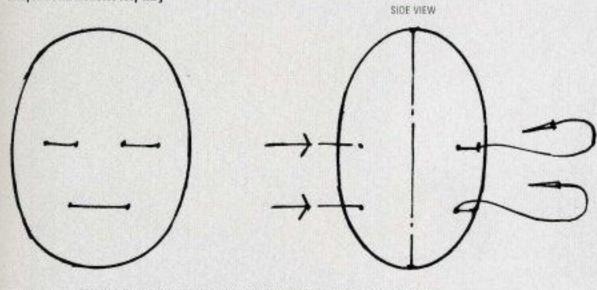
have not, are attracted to experimenting with needlesculpture.

Needlesculpture falls into three categories. The first involves securing a covering over an existing underlayment simple form such as a stuffed head. Essentially, the dollmaker is adding tacking stitches in places that will delineate features. (This method is shown in the illustrations.) The second is the "poke, pick, and stitch to secure," or direct method, which is sculpting a stuffed head without a covering. The third is often called the enhanced underlayment, where extra pads of stuffing material are used to build up the features underneath the covering. Depending on the stitch choices and fabrics, a wide variety of looks can be created. Because needlesculpture has many facets, anyone who has ever held a needle, and many who

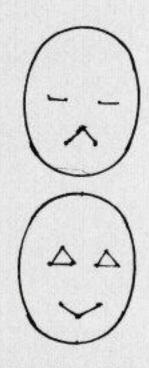




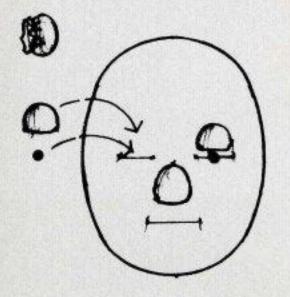
Simple Form Needlesculpting

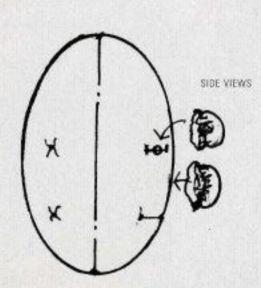


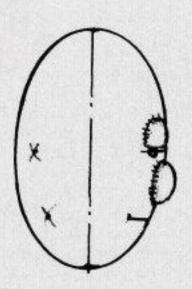
Stitch from the back of the head to define the eyes and mouth area.



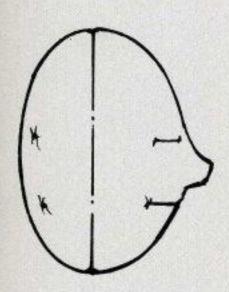
Very simple expressions can be made by tacking long stitches.



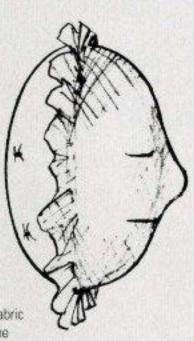




Add more definition by stitching or gluing small wads of stuffing to the face to form eyelids, cheeks, noses, and chins.



Tack a layer of loosely woven fabric to the sculpted head, to keep the stitches nearly invisible.





Paint or embroider the facial features.

Beginning Stitches

Any fabric can be needlesculpted, although most dol makers prefer a mediumto loose-weave outton or a stretchy labric. Swimstir. and lingeric fabrics, cettenknits, and nylen stockings are the most commonly used materials. What makes the difference in effect is the choice of fabric. For instance, if the stitches are made on a stuffed hall of nylon stocking material for a soft hear. two or three times. as much material needs to be gathared, which gives a

very bulgs or curiouslike effect. If the same attribes are made on startled waves corran for a head, it will be more difficult to "pick" or "poke" up a large amount of starface; therefore, the result will be a more controlled look. To get the heigy look, needlescalpt a rough from, tren cover the face with a second layer of light, stretchy farme and tack down with very small, hidden strickes. Since surface stricking shows very little, a highly scalptural effect is achieved

with a nice smooth look.

because needlesculprum remains the delimater to be able to put tension on both the threat and fishric, most needlesculpting is done with a double-threaded needle. In most cases common sewing weight thread wall suffice however, for larger areas or for hearyweight hibries, a deli-duty weight hiread might be come advisable. Needlescalpting also requires the dollmaker to stitch through according to require from less than an inch to over six turbus of fabric and stuffing, which requires using a longer, stronger needle. [Needles specially created for dell needlescalpting are found at cruft or searing suppliers. An option is to use a milliner's needle.] Achieving success with needlescalpting comes with experimentation. The best way to learn it is to tay—again and again.



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> May 8, 1945 by Dorse Pakin: 257, noof esculpter content. Photo by Lee Bricket

Garl ward Rel' by Junior Linvield, 14°, each. Shore by Julia Saxman.

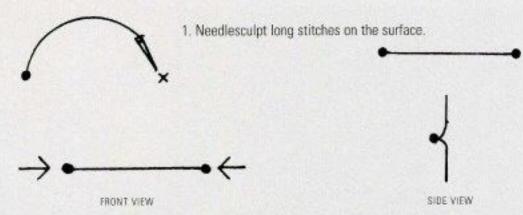


character.

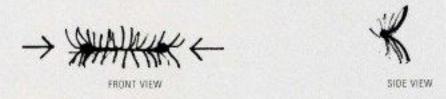
The stitches secure the nylon to the head.

Typical Stitch Patterns

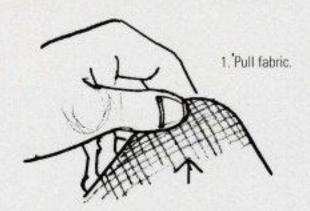
The dot indicates where the thread comes out of (or goes into) the back of the head, or the underlayment, to the surface. The line indicates a long stitch that is pulled slightly to form a depression, or gathered to form large areas.

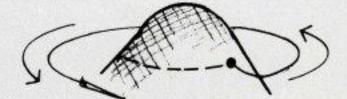


2. Gather or pull the long stitches.

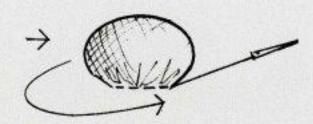


Flesh puffs are where fabric and stuffing is poked or pulled with the point of the needle to form a mound (puff).

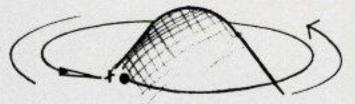




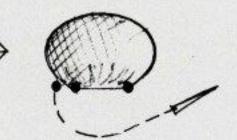
2. Stitch around puff.



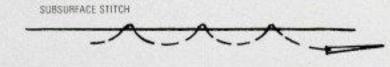
3. Pull thread to form a high, rounded shape.

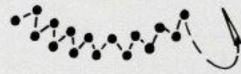


4. Or simply loop thread around raised area.



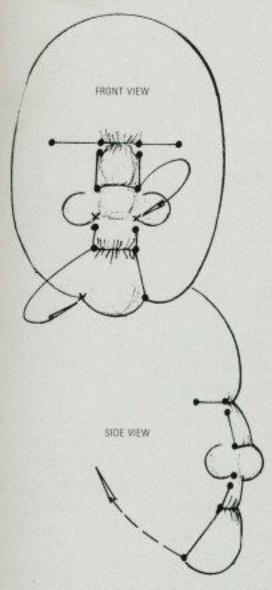
Subsurface needlesculpting (see photo at right) is where thread is run in a zigzag from point to point while taking up a small amount of the underlaying padding.







Needlesculpture Stitches



Lady with a Parrot by Jane Darin; 21", cotton knit. Photo by Joe Darin.





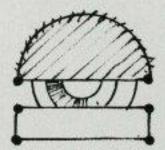
Male Angel by Jane Darin; 15°, cotton knit. Photo by Joe Darin.



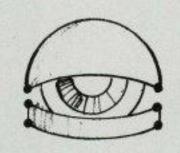
Typical Stitch Patterns

These needlesculpted stitches are "puffier" and show the result of sculpting a very soft, loosely woven fabric such as nylon stocking.

Eyes



Lay a long stitch between the dots.

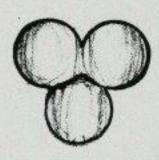


Stitch to bring the ends together.

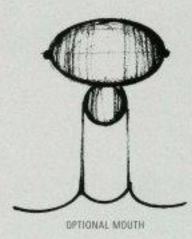


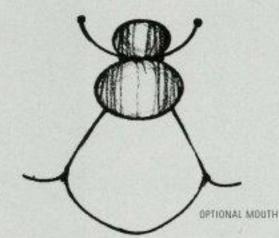
"Bag ridges" can be substitched (page 42) for more definition and more exact placement.

Puff mouth

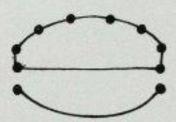


Form lips with a series of puffs.





Straight mouth



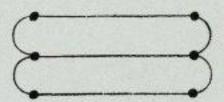
Stitch at dots and gather, then lay thread in center to define upper and lower lips.



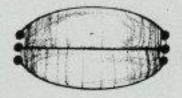
Increase tension on center thread to create full mouth.

Define cheek/jowl by bringing the thread in at the inside eye, then lay along the face and under the chin.

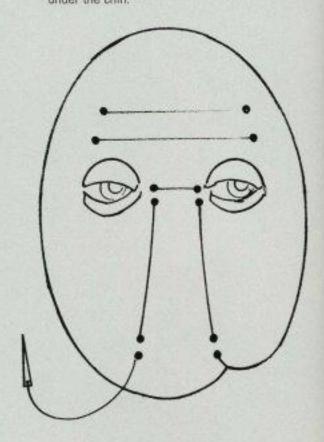
Alternative straight mouth



Stitch at dots and pull to gather. Then lay thread in center to define upper and lower lips.

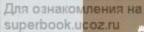


Stitch to form mouth. If desired, pull apart lips to form open mouth.

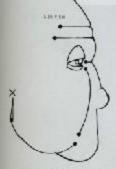




Maket of the Dary by Payers Knoop, 22°, arches cipted commission. Photo by Lee Bricket



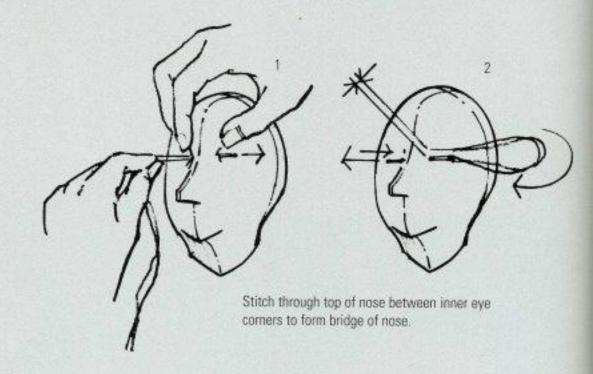
Enveloped Total Common by Totalio Massaburg 15°, cont., herd excelption. Home country of lattic Lasfed.

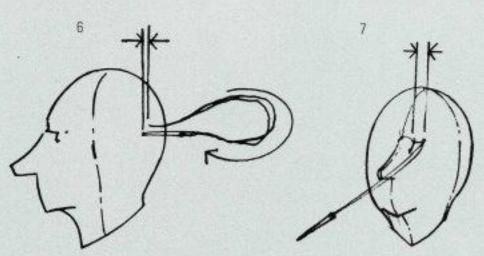


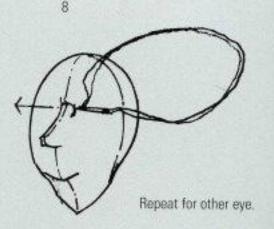
PM is form in set/chin and secure threat at back of hours.

Direct Needlesculpture

The following stitches show what might happen when a medium-weight woven cotton is needlesculpted. The result is a tighter or controlled look. Varying the amount of stuffing will also make a difference in the final result.

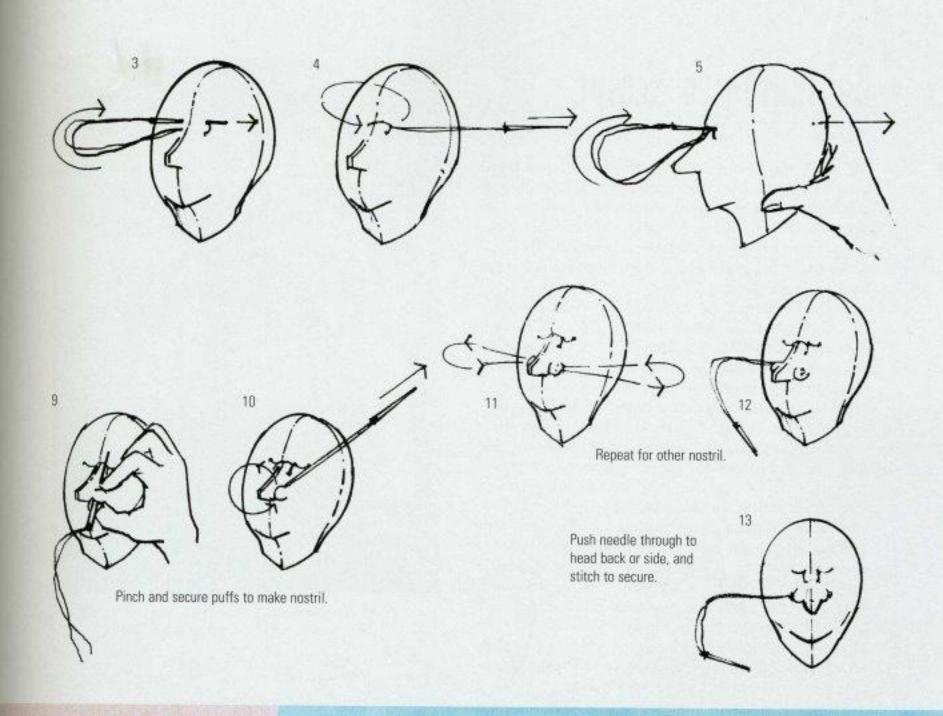


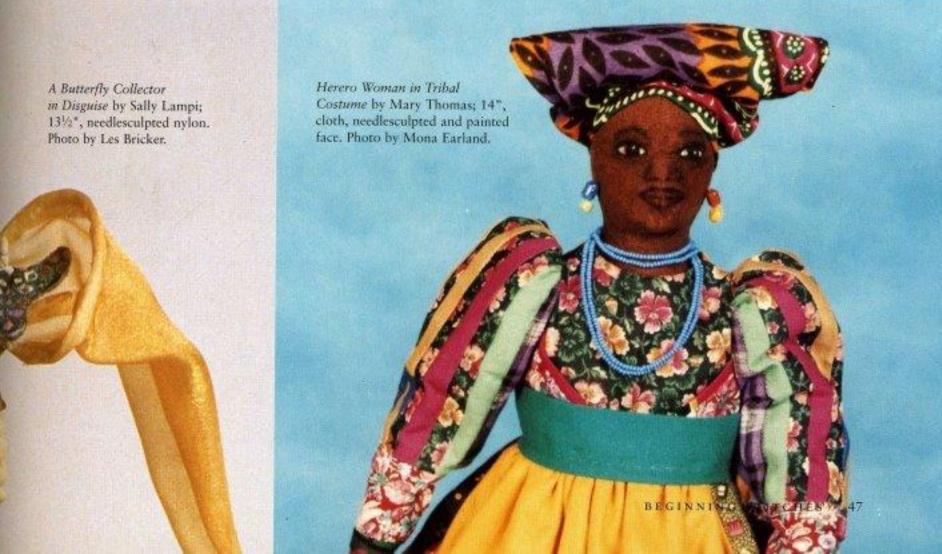




Stitch from outside eye corner to back of head to complete definition of eye area.







Beginning to Sculpt

Use any of the head construction methods shown previously as a base to make what we call a built-up head. If a little needlesculpture and a little clay sculpture are combined and covered with cloth, a smooth face surface is made that has a suggestion of real features. This type of head provides a very easy way for cloth dollmakers to begin realistic sculpture.

With the advent of paperclay products (Creative Paperclay™, LaDoll) artists making cloth dolls with painted surfaces started covering the fabric surface of the head with a light layer of paperclay to make a smooth, sandable painting surface. Once they added a bit here and a bit there, noses and chins began to appear. (As they worked, the "wheels" started turning; soon they thought, If I can do this with a head, I could probably solve the problem of flat fabric fingers if I sculpted a layer of paperclay over them!) In order to hide seams on a face that will be painted, dampen paperclay until it forms a mushy paste. Apply paperclay in thin coats with a brush, letting the layer become almost dry between coats. To add eyes to the face, glue on glass or plastic eyes before covering the head with either paperclay or a second layer of cloth. If using cloth, slit the fabric first and work it around the eyes to create eyelids. You can achieve a similar effect by building up the surface with artist's modeling paste or gesso (these products are usually found where artist's oil paints are sold).

However, without a fabric cover, once all the clay and paint materials are applied it is questionable whether the figure is truly a cloth doll. (We generally define the type of doll by the visible surface material.) But lines

and boundaries are only imposed by those who are afraid to go over them. Fortunately, in the doll world we have many free spirits who are quite willing to ignore the rules, step over the lines, and adapt whatever techniques and materials seem necessary in order to get the results their imaginations require.

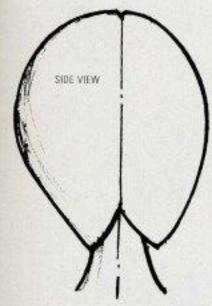


Hannah's Angel by Jacqueline Casey; 18", a light coating of paperclay was used to smooth the surface for painting. Photo by Jaqueline Casey.

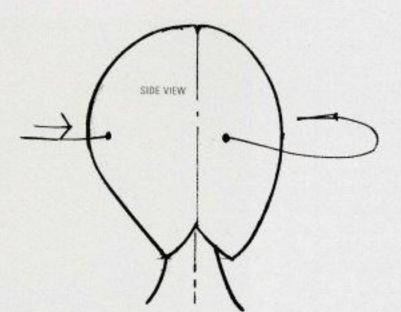


Ian and Colin by Rebecca Swanson; 14", a heavier coating of paperclay used under the painted surface. Photo by Rebecca Swanson.

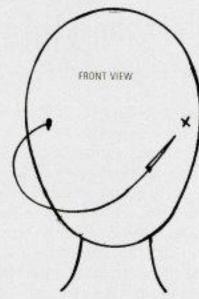
Queen Victoria by Jacqueline Casey; 20", cloth. Photo by Jacqueline Casey.



If the head is to be fully covered with fabric, it is necessary to stuff the cloth head very firmly (so no denting can occur).

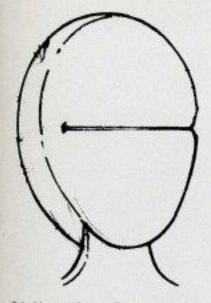


Stitch from the back of the head to the outside corner of the eye.

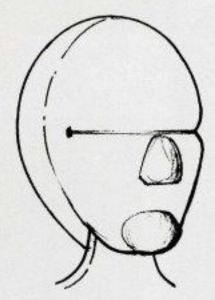


Lay the thread across the face, and then stitch to back of head at the other eye corner.

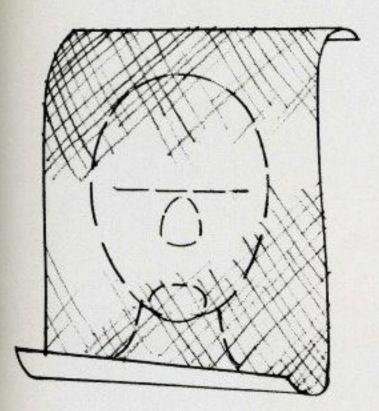
SIDE VIEW

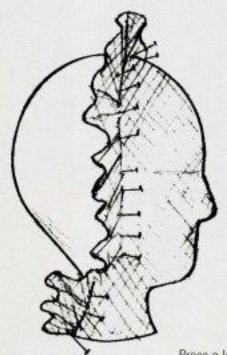


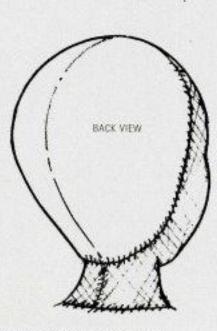
Stitching at the eyeline creates the eye depression and forehead definition.



Build clay to a depth of 1/8" over the face, and then blend to the fabric. Add paperclay to form nose, chin, or facial contours. After the paperclay has dried, apply a light coating of glue to the face.







Press a loose weave fabric over the face. Then pin and stitch to the head.

Pressed Cloth

The "So-Easy-It's Kidiculous" method, or, the "Anyone Can Do It" doll head.

Try this rechnique first a shows at basic formall the things you will be doing when making more complex forms. In addition to building the basic form bead with Stronform? you could ake use it as an around for making paperclay or paper making scalpted beads. Simply build the material around the head to a '4's' thickness, leaving a hote for the teck. Let dry, then hollow the Styrmform marion with a melen-baller or attraction; then hollow the strong a hote for the teck. Let dry, then hollow the Styrmform marion with a melen-baller or attraction; the neck stub. Try two or during just for fun.



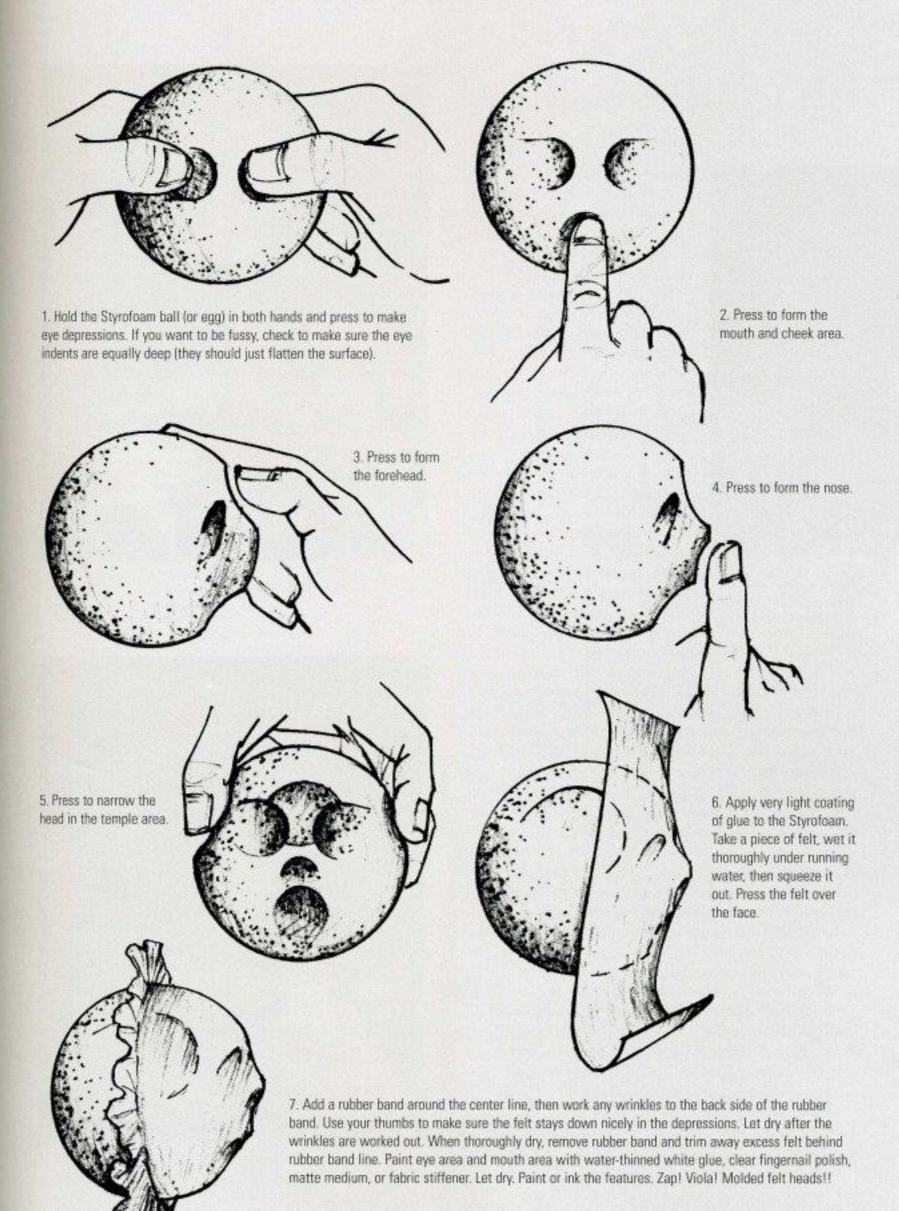
My Limb ranged by Jennie Reuse, dentil, chain, Photo by Waltara Fevr. Sulfreen.



demake by Justice Sweeper, all 1, cloth. Photo by Les Bricker,



Sanahr by Teny links, 50%, clack, Photo by Die Compton.



Fabric-Covered Sculpture



Daddy's Home by Carla Thompson; 24" seated, cloth over sculpted face. Photo by Carla Thompson.

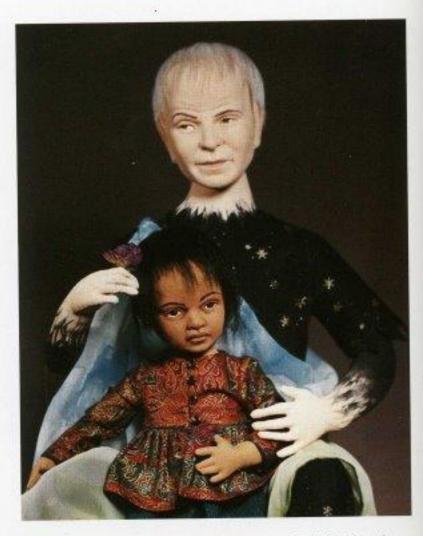
The principle of the fabriccovered sculpted head is the same as the simple pressed cloth head (page 50) made by pressing felt over a Styrofoam ball. However, there are two differences.

The first difference is that the artist starts with a sculpted head. Some artists use a model sculpted in soft plasticine clay or a wax head; some use one made of oven-cured polymerclay, and other artists make molds from their original sculpture and use the mold to cast several heads with poured resin or composition material. If soft clay or wax is used, the result is usually a half head or mask that shows the facial features. The mask fabric is stiffened, then pressed over the hard-sculpted head form. A coating of craft glue or plastic wrap under the fabric allows the mask to release from the original when

dry. Once the fabric mask is removed, it is stitched to a stuffed fabric head base. In commercial manufacture, fabric masks are made by steam forming fabric that is sandwiched between metal molds.

The second difference is that the artist must take more care when choosing the fabric for covering the head, which is a bit more painstaking in the application. Whatever the fabric chosen, it must be stretchy or of a fairly loose weave. Cheesecloth, felt, swimsuit knits, stockinette knits, and nylon stocking are possible choices. Since there are more "ups, downs, and corners" in the sculpted head, the artist must work slowly and carefully to work the weave and the bias or stretch of the fabric smoothly over the sculpted features. When the fabric is permanently applied to a cast head, the artist usually applies a very light coating of glue or spray adhesive over the face, then begins working the fabric into place around the nose, the mouth, and the eyes. If a soft clay or fabric form is used, pins can be pushed into the sculpted head to hold the fabric in place until all the parts are in place and the glue is set.

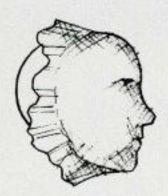
As you look at the dolls shown in this book, you will certainly marvel at some of the lovely pieces that have been made by applying cloth to a sculpted head.



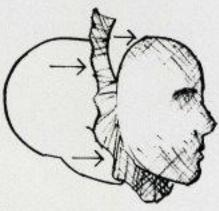
Oberon's Prize by Carla Thompson; 22" seated, cloth. Photo by Carla Thompson.



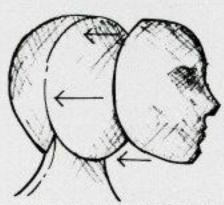
Shella by Carla Thompson; 23", cloth. Photo by Carla Thompson.



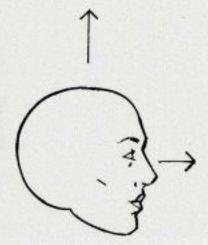
2. Cover the original sculpture with a coating of glue or plastic wrap, then press the stiffener-saturated fabric to the head. Secure with a rubber band.



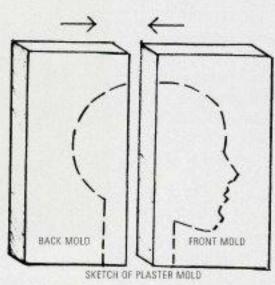
3. Remove the dry mask. Trim and paint.



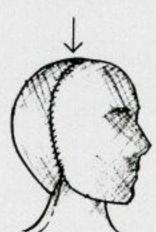
4. Apply the mask to a fabric head.



1. Form an original sculpture of hard or soft clay or wax.

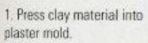


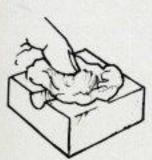
Use mold to cast a head form or to pull an impression.



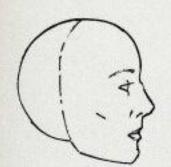
5. Completed face mask.

Method for Pressed Head

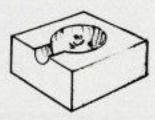


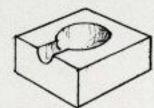


2. Pull impression from mold.



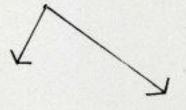
3. Join two halves to make a whole clay head.



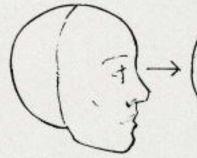




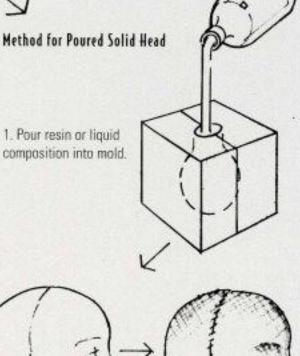
4. Or, half can be used to make mask form.



1. Pour resin or liquid composition into mold.



2. Remove solid head from mold.

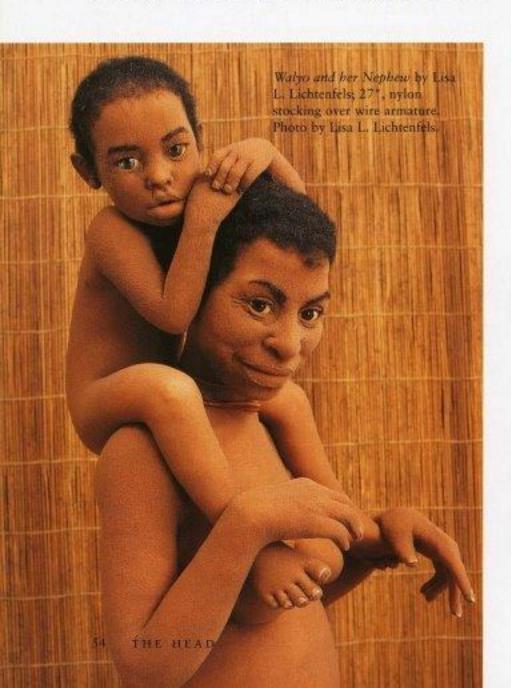


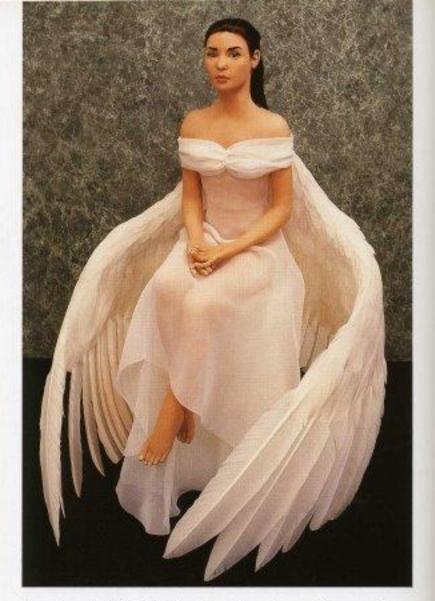
3. Apply cloth cover to solid head.

Blended Method

Lisa Lichtenfels' sculpted doll figures are the best representation of the contemporary blended method. Her figures are fixed, immobile sculptures to be looked at and appreciated. Lisa uses totally modern, synthetic manufactured products, such as aluminum alloy wire, polyester stuffing, and resin/polymer fiber-based fabrics, that were not available to dollmakers 100 years ago, or even 40 years ago. The surface represents the perfected layering of padding and needlesculpted detail. To achieve this effect, each figure is built on a jointed wire skeleton covered with layers of stuffing to simulate correct musculature. Altogether, each of Lisa's figures demonstrates almost every technique known to the dollmaker. Some of them even include controls so that eyes and jaws can be moved. It is easy to see this use of material and method, combined with computer chips and fiber optics, very nearly mimicking a living human form in motion.

Although the techniques and processes illustrated in this book are used regularly by a number of dollmakers, Lisa's methods are her own unique refinements of theseprocesses. An attempt by someone else to describe them





Persephone by Lisa L. Lichtenfels; 24", nylon stocking over wire armature. Photo by Lisa L. Lichtenfels.

or teach them from observation could only be superficial at best. In order to complete the discussion of the head construction techniques shown, Lisa has allowed us to excerpt and illustrate her basic approach, which she discusses in her book, The Basic Head: Soft Sculpture Techniques. Even in its simplest form, it is not a process for the faint of heart, but it is the one process using fabric and fiber where the results will most likely reflect the anatomical complexities of the human head.



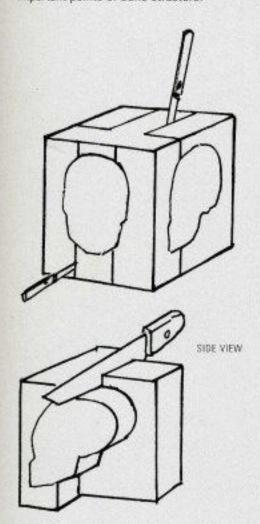
Belinda (Woman as Egg) by Lisa L. Lichtenfels; 15*, nylon stocking over wire armature. Photo by Lisa L. Lichtenfels.



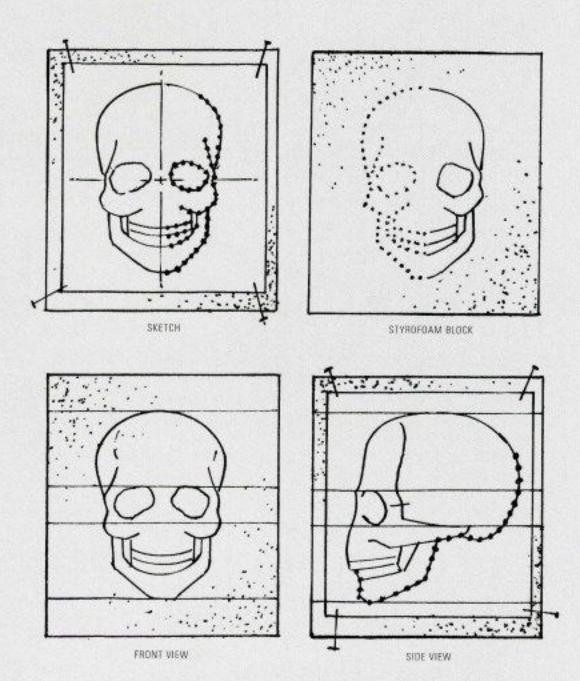
1. Draw a head to the correct anatomical proportions.



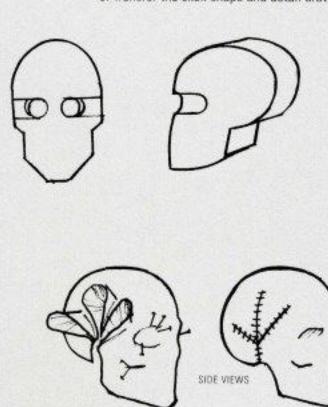
2. Draw the skull over the sketch to locate important points of bone structure.



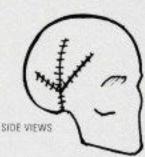
4. Cut away the Styrofoam and carve to form a skull.



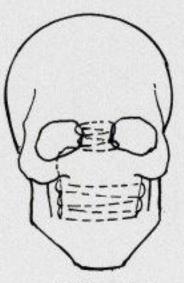
3. Transfer the skull shape and detail drawings to a Styrofoam block.



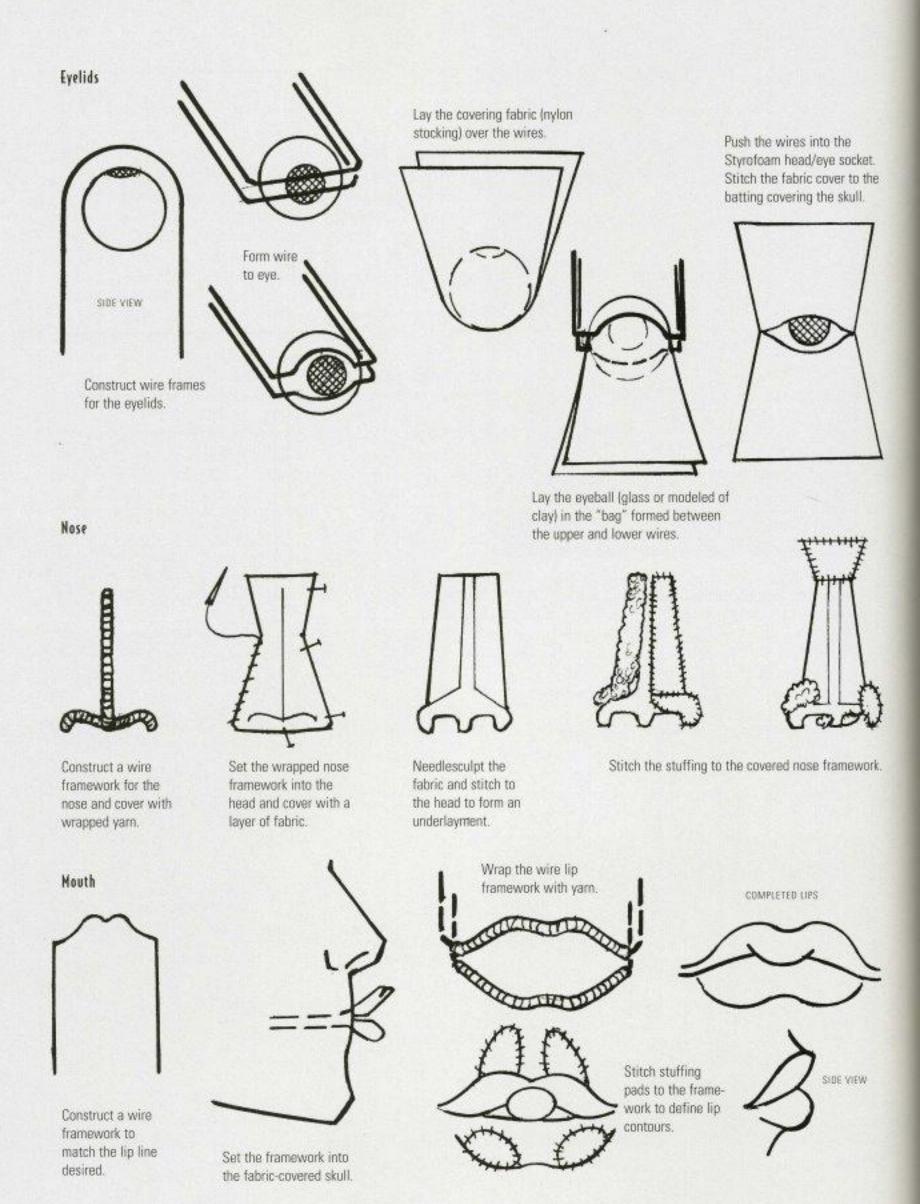
5. Cover the skull with a layer of batting.



6. Stitch the batting in place over the skull.



7. Stitch over the jaw and into eye socket depressions.



Adding Soft Tissue

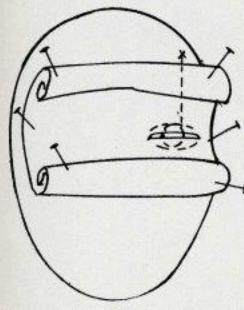
Form the soft tissues of the face after the feature framework and base padding is added. The older face will require more padded areas in order to provide the lines and contours of aging skin.



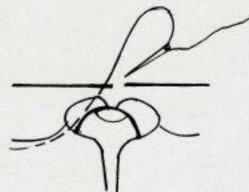


Finishing the head consists of pinning the "skin" fabric in place over the padded base. The stitches are run from the back of the head and sides of the skull, through or under the base padding, to secure the nylon around the framed and padded features.

Stitching the Eye Area



A final "skin" of nylon stocking fabric is laid over the face. The fabric is slit to allow the eyes to show.

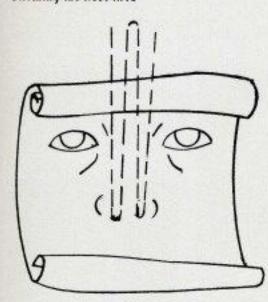


Variation: Instead of constructing an eye "bag" the cut edge of the top/skin layer is brought under eyeball/lid framework.

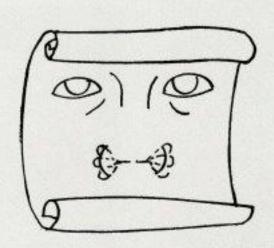


Secure the edges with stitches running from the socket to the back and sides of the head.

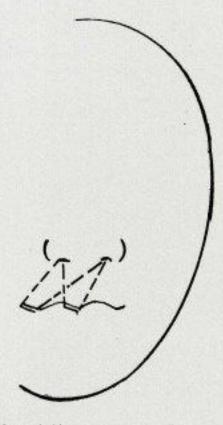
Stitching the Nose Area



When needlesculpting, all the stitching is done so that the surface is tacked as invisibly as possible to the underlayment.



Rolling the "skin" fabric as the stitches are placed enables working from the back and protecting the surface from possible snagging.



Subsurface stitching to secure upper lip.

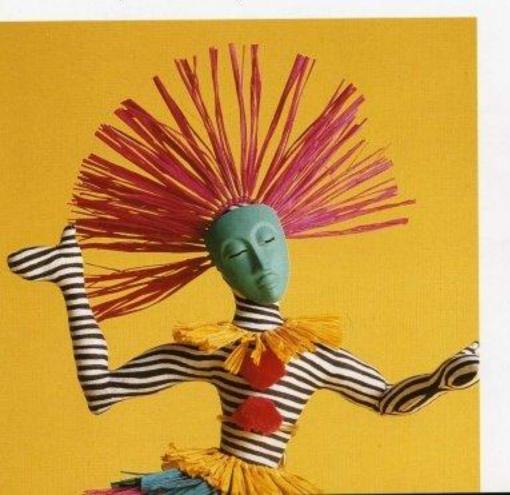
Masks

The external mask is a transitional step between the all-fabric figures and mixed-media figures. In many cultures the mask allows an ordinary human actor the ability to portray a spirit, a god, or a supernatural figure. Creating a doll with a mask adds to the dimension of character an artist can show. It also adds an element of mystery—what or who is under the mask?

A mask can be made of any material.

Masks made for fabric figures usually are sculpted or modeled of oven-curing or air-drying clay. Sometimes they are shaped by pressing fabric saturated with a stiffener over a clay or fabric model. This allows the fiber artist to play with another medium of expression. The mask can be carried by the figure or attached to the head with a string, ribbon, or rubber band. Or the mask could be hand carried in the traditional wearing modes, or hinged or sewn to the head...or, think of a unique method of attachment for your own pieces.

Trickster by Peggy Flynn; 12", ceramic mask on fabric, raffia hair. Photo by Mark Carleton.



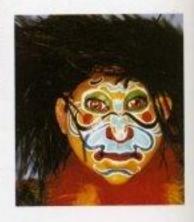


The Chess Players by Akira Blount; 16" x 24", needle-

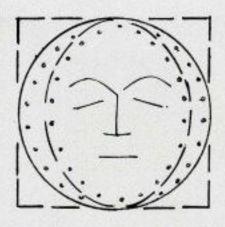
sculpted, gesso and fabric painted masks. When raised, the mask on each figure forms a hat that is an integral part of the figure's image. Photo by David Luttrel.

Monkey Masks by Andra Dunn; 19" seated, papier maché on velveteen. As Andra Dunn sees it, a mask is an element of how the figure itself wants to express its personality. Photos by Andra Dunn.

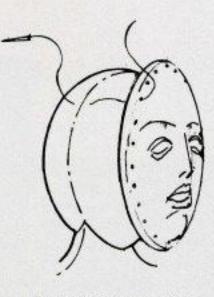
Gold Goddess by Susanna Oroyan; 30", gold lamé, Super Sculpey® mask. Photo by Don Smith.



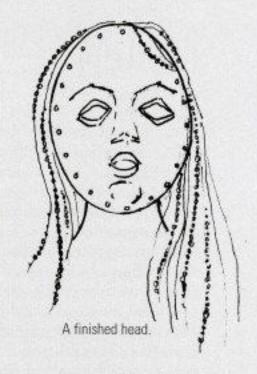
Method I



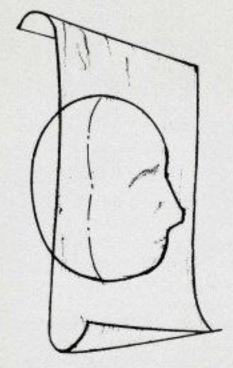
Make a ¼" thick pancake of air-drying or oven-curing clay. With a toothpick or modeling tool, sketch a simple face, then poke sew holes around edges.



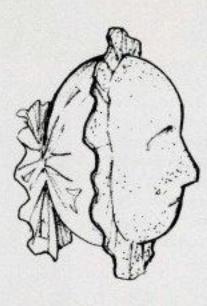
Cure or dry the mask, paint as desired, and stitch to cloth face.



Method II



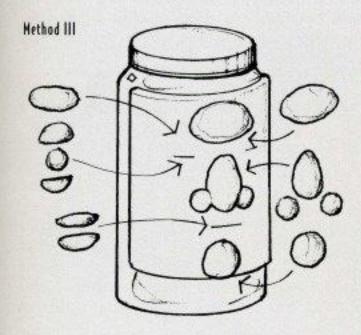
Cover a sewn fabric face with kitchen plastic wrap.



Over the plastic wrap, apply fabric saturated in fabric stiffener, then smooth the wrinkles to the back.



Let the mask dry. Lift it away from the head. Holes may be cut for the eyes and mouth. Beads, or plastic or glass eyes may be inserted, or clay can be added for more sculpture.



On a rounded, smooth surface, such as a jar or can, apply air-drying or oven-curing clay.



Model the simple mask form. Smooth, blend, and trim to desired facial form.



Slightly loosen the mask from the jar surface so it can be removed easily after curing. Air dry, or cure in oven, using the jar or can to hold the form.

Painting

There is no doubt that one of the attractions to do.! making is that it is an art that allows the action to use any and all mererials, embellishments, or medic nechaliques. Painting or dell's covers a number of known techniques. and any number of applications yet to be discovered by the experimental maker Almost any coloring medium, from bouse paint to eyeshadow, can be used on a doll. What follows are two basic "recipes" for painting, with some notes to get you started

If you have come to do looking without pran experience in drawing and painting, the first recommendation is practice. To develop your ability to cuntral the brush. pen, or pencil for the desired effect, practice on scrap fabrics or throw-away doll purps. Drawing and painting on fabric is not the same as working on paper because fabric has nap or fibers which cause drag on the drawing tools. Fauricialso has open spaces in the weave which absorb figured colors and make them bleed beyond a desired line. You will need to know how to control these factors to get a successful coloring on your doll.

The second recommendation is test. Do not apply paints, colors, or scalers you have not rested previously on strap fabric. Some take in commercially available pens will bigod on fabrics; some scalers applied to powdery colors, such as challes and eveshadows, will cause them to liquely and run. Know what will happen before you apply colors to the finished dall.

LIGHT BODY PAINT

Use this effect if you want to ten the body or cream an illusion of light and ahadow by varying the surface color. You will need a large, soft bristical brush, plus watercolor or acrylic paints, a paiette, and a cup of water.

Note: Watercolors from a painthoy will be very light and almost trens-



Tioman Worker by Parbara Bersey, 181, mined cloth. Photo by Hon Smith.

parent; watercolors from a rube may be mixed with water to achieve a transparent wash, or opaciet effects; and acrylic naints will be heavier and more oraque in effect. When these paints are applied direct ly, the weave of the fabric, the seams, and the arm has will abow after painting.

Applications Regin with a completed, stuffed body, Werethe brush and paint only the water onto the fabrio to dampen the surface. When the surface is damp, add color to the brush and paint turn to desirable color or color variation is achieved. Remember, the more water used with the point modium, the more likely the paint will "puddle," so paint quickly, keeping, the brush working over the whole surface until the best cours are satisfactors.

HEAVY BODY PAINT

Ose this method on weven cloth dolls (mushin, linen) if you want the end result to look like an oil. painting, or when the desired result is a smooth glossy surface.

Nata: The completed, stuffed body must be printed with gesso and/or a fabric stiffence to create a hard, smooth surface that will receive paint Priming eliminates much of the surface fiber or fuzz. It also seals the spaces in the weave so

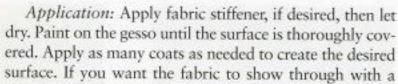
Fair delibron Frame and Josephine by Helen Pringle: 36", sinffert, of passes. Places by T. R. Willer.



that paint will not bleed. You should be aware that a hard-painted surface on a soft stuffed body can dent. Since dents are difficult to fix, the possibilities for denting can be reduced if the body is stuffed very tightly.

Heavy body paints may be applied with any type of brush. You will probably find a wide, medium-bristled brush most compatible for the base body color. A selection of fine- and medium-tipped brushes will be needed for painting facial features.

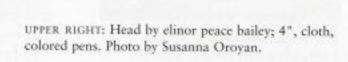
Priming is done with gesso, or a fabric stiffener may be used. If using the latter, apply the stiffener first, following the directions on the label. Use unthinned acrylics from a jar or tube, artist's oil colors, or latex household paints. Seal the finished painted surfaces, if desired, with matte or gloss sealers used for flat art paintings.



canvas effect, or if you want a brushstroke effect, you will need only one or two coats of gesso. Let the gesso dry, then blend and apply body surface colors. Let dry again and apply the features.

Caution: Artist's oil colors, certain dyes, and sealers should not be used on dolls which children may play with. Some paints and sealers are flammable, and many contain toxic chemicals. Always check labels and follow manufacturer's directions for use. Also note that over time and under some atmospheric conditions, painted surfaces can

crack and chip. Generally, fully painted surfaces are only used on dolls made as art pieces, primarily for display and, as such, handled minimally. Also note that some clear sealers such as shellac or fingernail polish may yellow over time.



UPPER LEFT: Meriheth by Beverly Port; 20", painted silk. Photo by Don Smith.

LOWER LEFT: Leslie by Norma Malerich; 33", painted cloth. Photo by Norma Malerich.

LOWER RIGHT: Chelsea by Charlene Westling; $15\frac{1}{2}$ ", cloth. Photo by Don Smith.









Regina by Rebecca Swanson 14*, painted cloth over paperclay Photo by Rebecca Swanson



Oriental Mermaid by Andra Dunn 17", painted papier mâché Photo by Andra Dunn.



Pandora by Jacqueline Casey 20", needlesculpted cotton Photo by Jacqueline Casey.



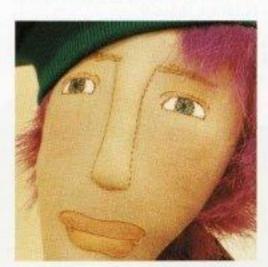
Yellow Mary by Marcella Welch 4 feet, fabric over sculpted paperclay Photo by Jerry Anthony.



Courting the Flame by Maggie Mayer 21", painted cloth Photo by Maggie Mayer.



Sarah Piper by Becky Craver 13½", needlesculpted Lycra Photo by Becky Craver.



Turtleman Waiting in a Chair by Deborah Spanton 12", embroidered cotton Photo by Sherrie Cummins.



Marlyn Macaroni by Linda Ewing 15", needlesculpted and painted cotton Photo by Linda Ewing.



Melony by Mary Thomas 18", needlesculpted and painted cloth Photo by Mona Earland.



Jester by Akiko Anzai 18', paperclay covered with fabric Photo by Akiko Anzai.



Under the Mask by Dinah Sargeant 25", embroidered and painted cloth Photo by Dinah Sargeant.



Alyssum by Jeanie Bates 16", knit fabric over sculpted head Photo by Willian Sean Sullivan.



Aunt Cora by Virginia Robertson 26*, needlesculpted cotton Photo by Don Smith.



Pearl by Barbara Spencer 27", cloth Photo by Pat Stark.



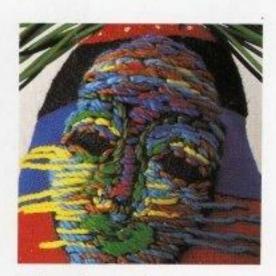
Love Temple by Pamela Hastings 15", paper, fabric Photo by David Egan.



Ice Princess by Julie McCullough 22", Lycra® over needlesculpted velour Photo by John Nollendorfs.



Appliqué Face by Susanna Oroyan 4", felt and embroidery Photo by Susanna Oroyan.



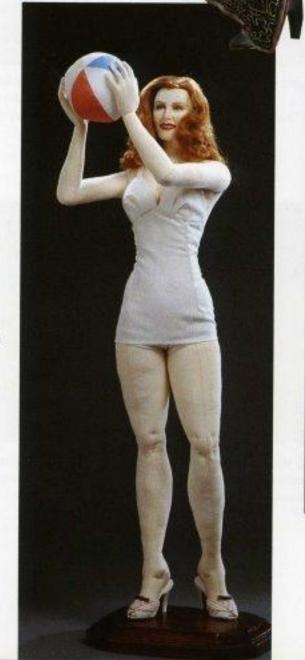
Helen Hundertwasser by Margi Hennen 10", embroidered cloth Photo by Warren Dodgson.

The Basic Body

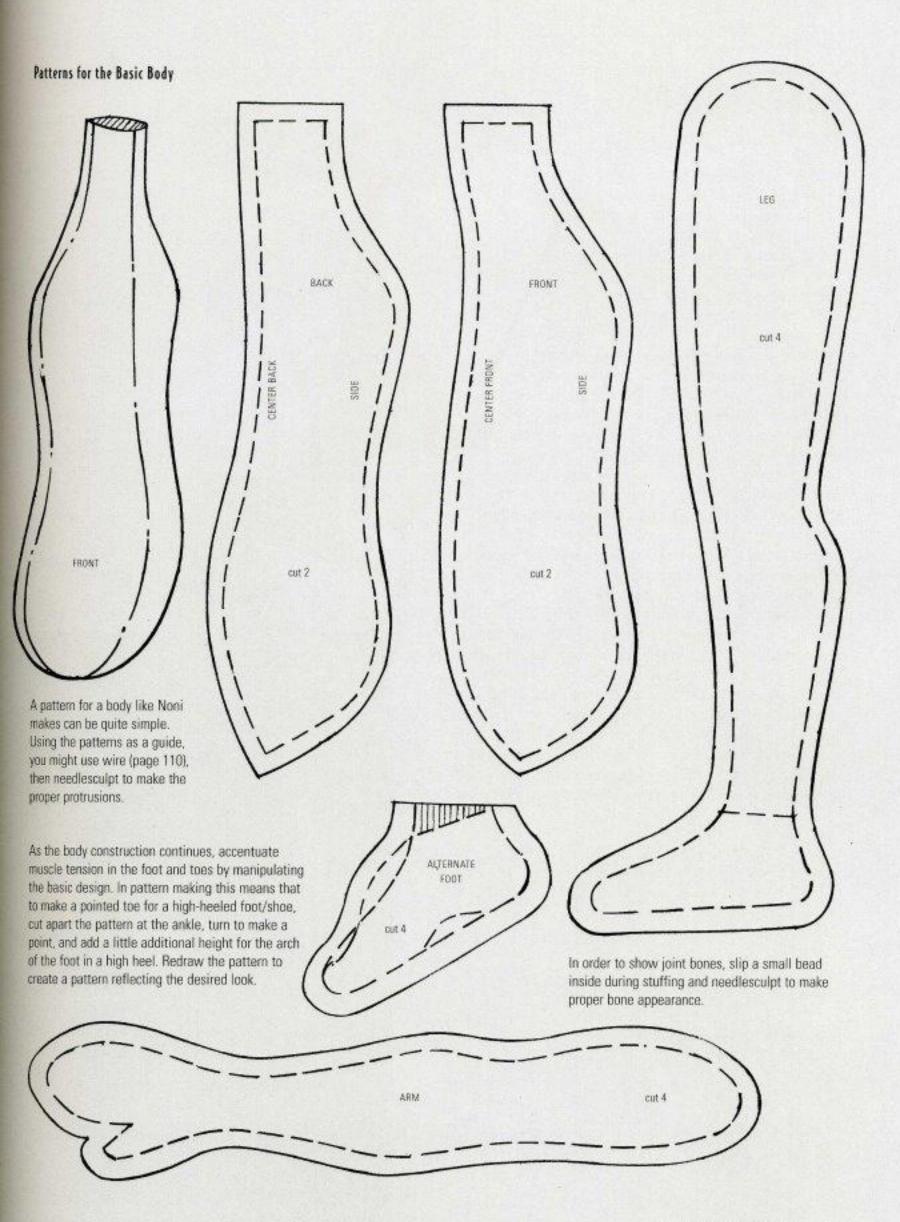
For the creative dollmaker the idea always comes first, then the pattern is created as a way to express the idea. As you look through this book and the many different examples of artist-made dolls, I hope you conclude that the pattern is not so important as the idea. What makes each piece unique is the detailing that the individual creator discovers and develops to express the idea.

The key element throughout the construction process is holding the idea. Let's look at how this might be done. In the works of Antonette (Noni) Cely, we see very realistic-looking lady figures. Their appeal comes as much from the excellent proportion, pose, and form as it does from the beautiful faces and meticulous detail. The basic pattern, however, might appear to you to be quite simple. Surprisingly, most doll patterns are quite simple. The "magic" happens when the artist applies specific details such as needlesculpture, wire armature, and carefully arranged costume draping.

A Slight Adjustment by Antonette Cely; 16*, cloth with cloth over Fimo. Noni visualizes the line and form of the pose she has in mind (here the lady reaching to adjust her stocking seam) and at each step makes inventions or decisions to bring that vision to reality. Photo by Don Cely.



Rita by Antonette Cely; 16", cloth with cloth over Fimo*. Photo by Don Cely.



Body Contours

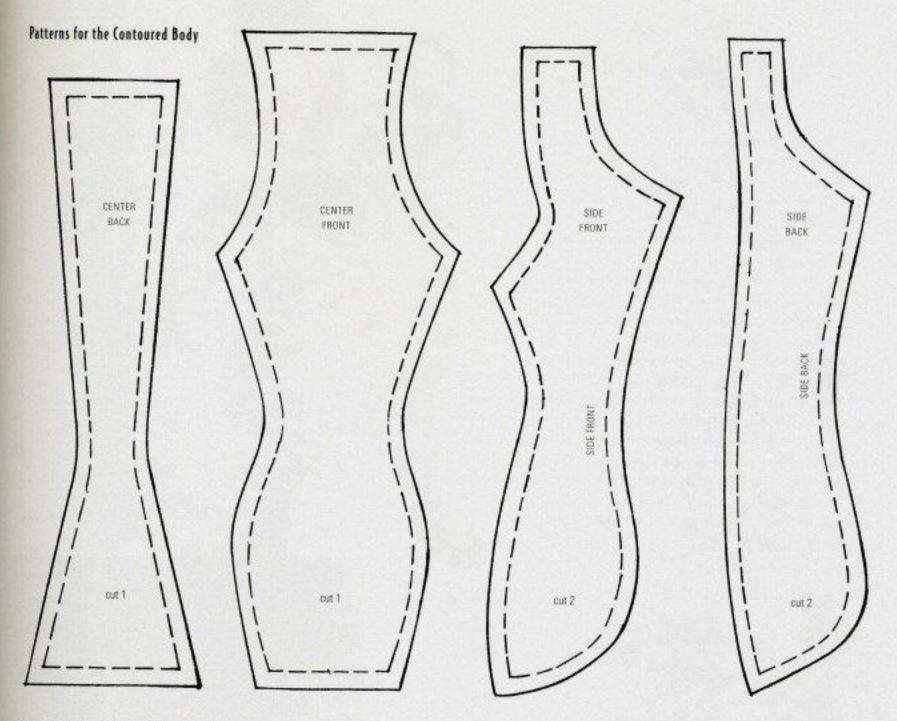
When dollmakers want to show depth with the form, or, essentially, want to show the figure as occupying space dimensionally, they are faced with figuring out how to make two pieces of flat fabric take on specific, rather than generalized volume when stuffed.

There are two typical ways of adding depth or dimension when designing patterns. The first is contouring the patterns, which means designing pattern pieces with curves, so that when the curves are sewn together and stuffed the effect is a rounded figure. The second method is the dressmaker's dart. While contouring usually involves three- or four-part body pieces, the dart can provide depth with just two pieces. In both methods the doll-maker needs to think about and become very aware of the planes of the body, or the "edges" of the form, from various viewpoints.

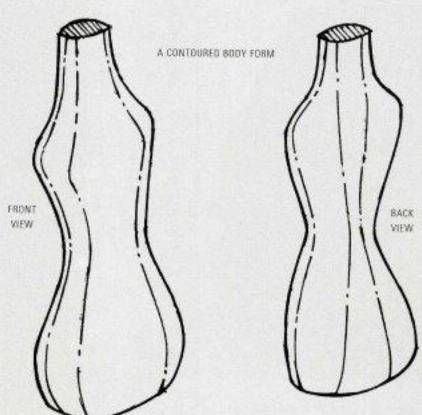
For instance, if we look at the lower leg from the side it looks as though it has two sides: the straight front, and the back curve that follows the line of the calf muscle. If we look at it from the back, it looks like one triangular piece. The question then is how to achieve both appearances. The answer: a three-piece lower leg pattern, or a dart at the upper back of the calf. To a certain extent careful stuffing of a two-piece outline form will achieve this appearance, but a self-challenged dollmaker often wants the more exact form.



Belle by Nancy Laverick; 19", cotton. Photo by Nancy Laverick.



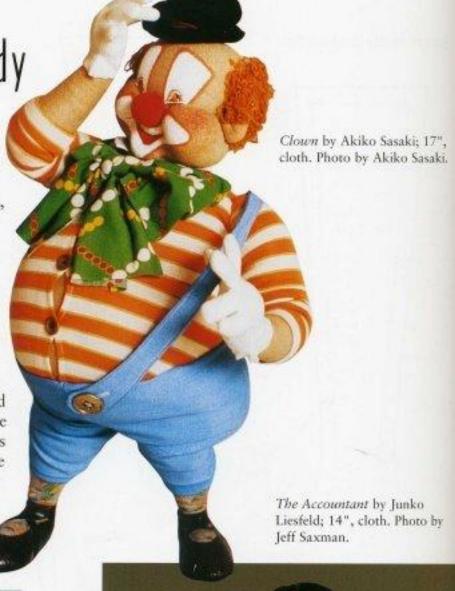
Pattern pieces for creating a contoured body, the arm and leg pattern pieces on page 65 may be scaled to fit this body.



Traditional Japanese Body

The tradition of dollmaking is ancient and highly respected in Japan. Many of the more complex techniques of Japanese dollmaking require materials not available in other countries. Of course, cloth and wire are universal, so the following method is one that anyone can make and adapt for many effects.

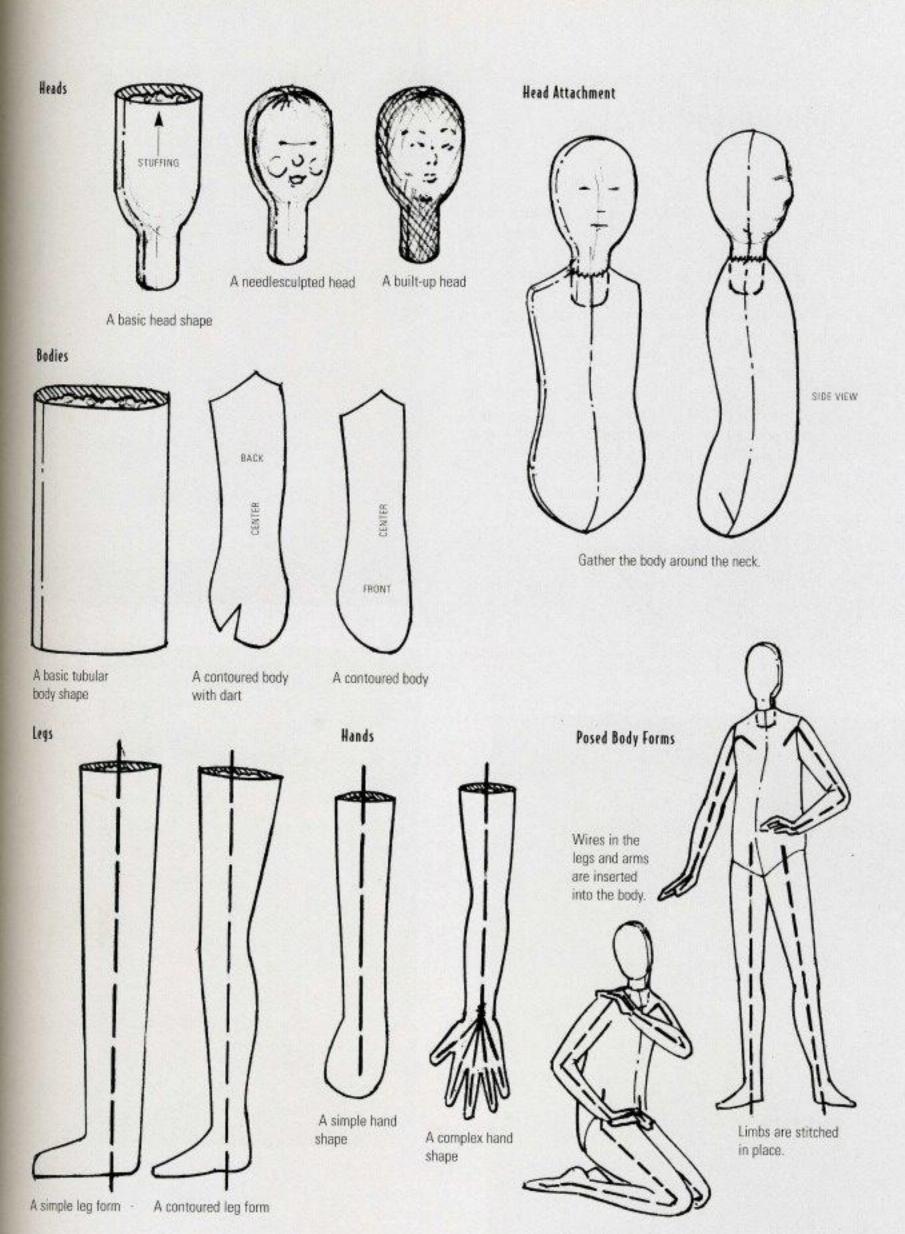
This method, shared by artist Junko Liesfeld, was taught to her by her mother, Toyoko Matsubara and, as you can see, used by her sister, Akiko Sasaki. Do notice how the same technique used by three different artists has developed into three distinct styles or statements for each artist. Another aspect worth noting is that the head is not attached to a neck stub, but is inserted into the body, which is different from most of the forms shown in this book. This is a good example of the choices a designer faces when deciding how to cut parts, where to show seams, and which elements of the body's anatomy to show in detail and how to make them move.





Grandma by Toyoko Matsubara; 10", cloth. Photo courtesy of Junko Liesfeld.





Shaping the Bust

Children under the age of eight are escally very accepting of abstract form in a doll, but after their eighth year children become very aware of dotads as the very much want their dolls to book realistic. It becomes important on little girls to have a wallstie fear ale forms for imaginative play and to dress in correct "grown-up lade" costumes. Little boys want figures that can move to simulate real life actions. As made we are attracted to realistic dentil in both the anatomy and destinating of a figure.

When designing the best for realism, the following approaches can be used: the simple spollogice patch, the slowed these form, the contour, and the undergarment. Many times the choice of type reflects the maker's particular artists, view or need when creating a costante form. The number of possible vactations on these methods is apparently incless, and certainly fascinating for the viewer.

are and Dotte by Deb Shittil; 21", cotton area wise action on Plants by Kate Cameron.

Are and Domichack view, note the interesting, starting contour is the nonzero.



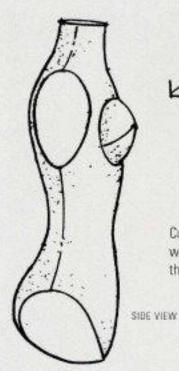


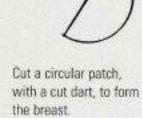


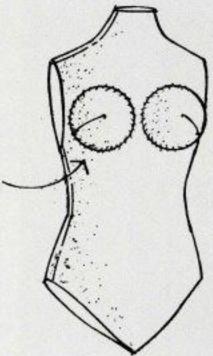
Versic by Akiko Anari; 3°, clock, soudbackpred. There he Akiko Anari;

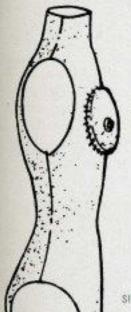
Appliquéd Patch Form

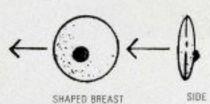
Form the chest with appliqued patches.







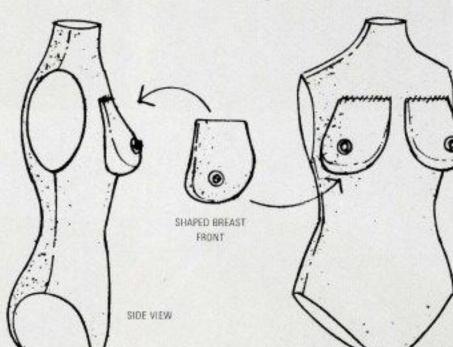




Form the chest with shaped appliqued breasts.

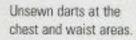
FRONT

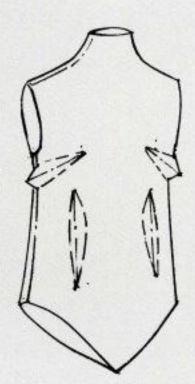
SIDE VIEW



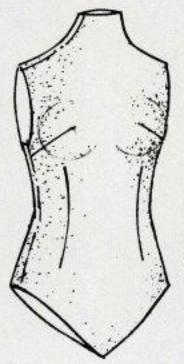
The Darted Dress Form

Form the chest with darts sewn at the chest area.

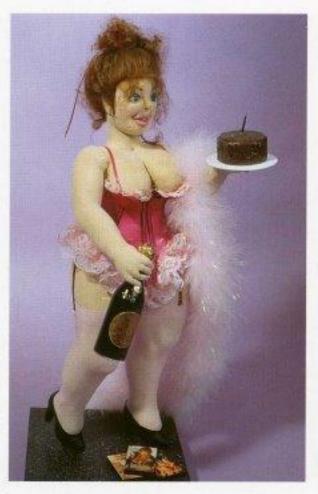




VIEW



Sewn darts form the bust and contoured waist.



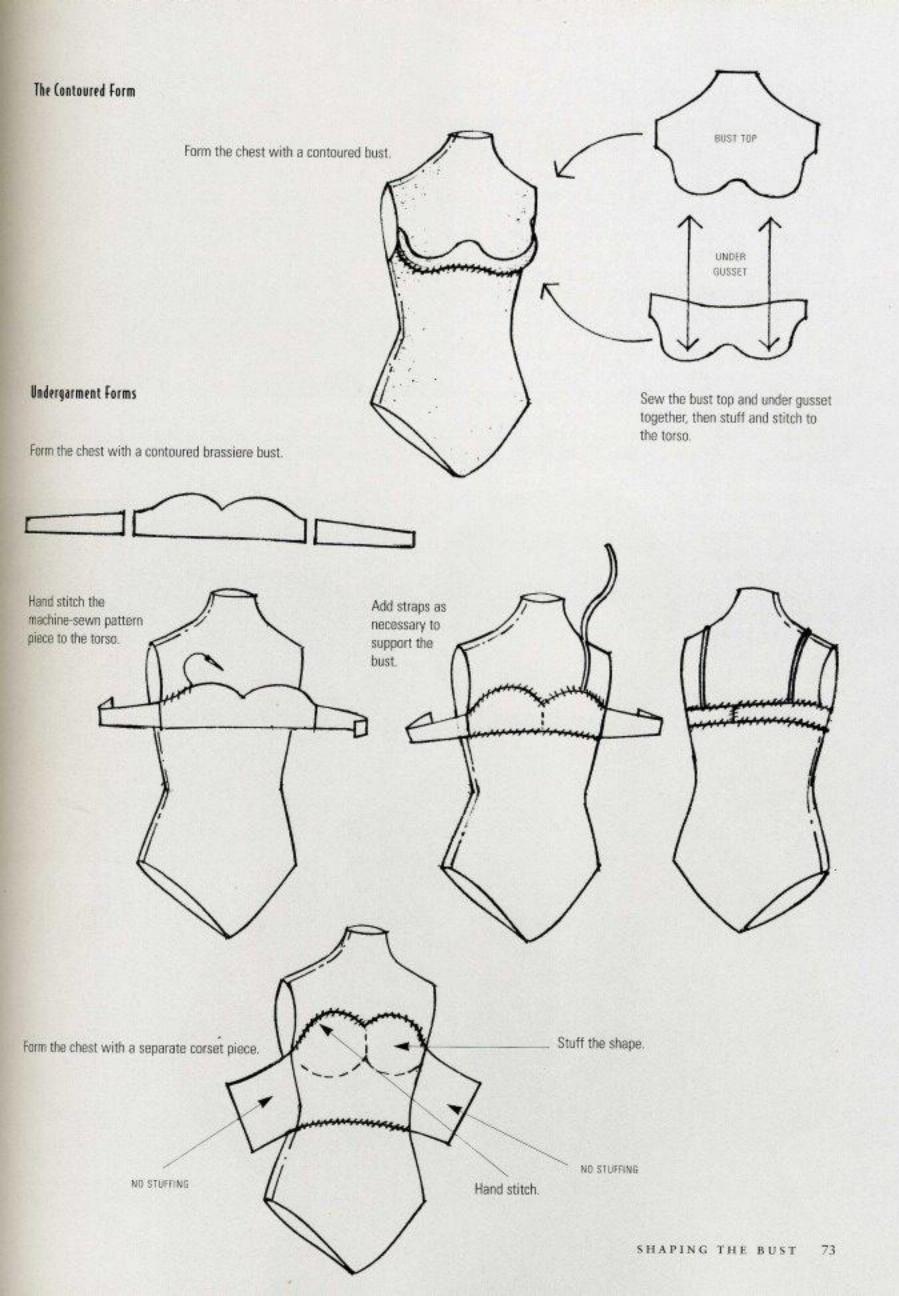


TOP: Happy Birthday Honey by Gloria Winer; 15°, cloth over wire armature. Photo by Jim Winer.

BOTTOM LEFT: Aunt Zorah Sunday Morning by Doree Pitkin; 24", cloth. Photo by Doree Pitkin.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Ladies in the Steam Bath by Susanna Oroyan; 12" seated, cloth with Sculpey" masks. Photo by Don Smith.





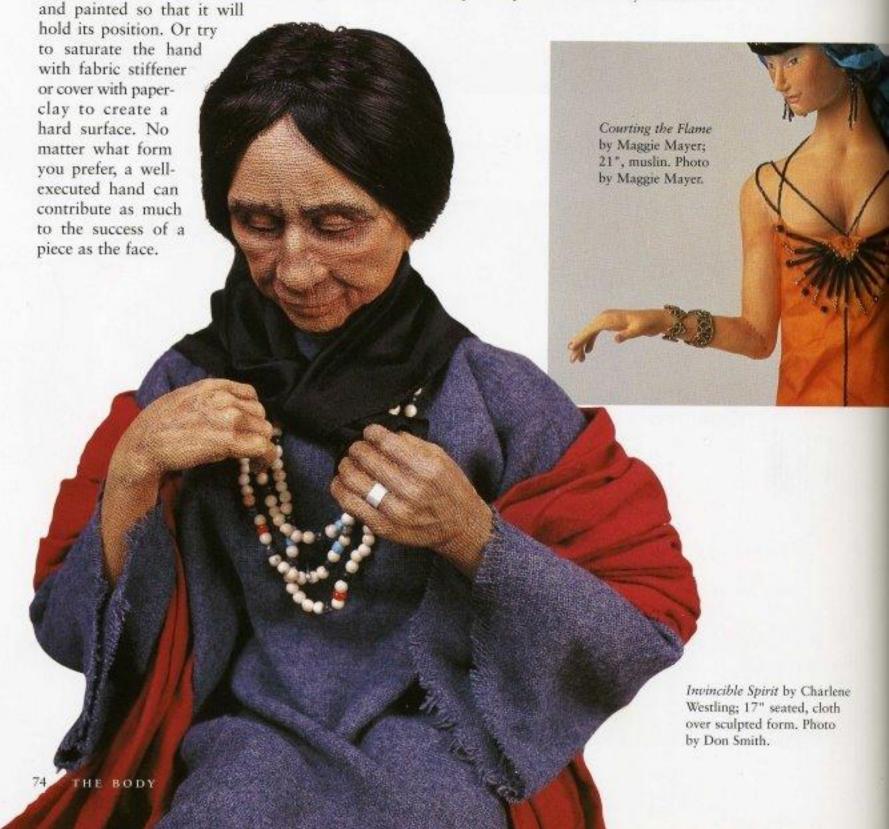
Hands

Because hands and fingers are usually very small shapes, they are a challenge for the dollmaker. Learning to choose the correct form for the piece, and executing it well, will make the piece very dramatic, no matter what type. Usually little skinny fingers and fat palms cause frustration when creating a hand. When the fingers, a very small area of fabric, are stuffed, the stuffing makes them even thinner. The palm has more fabric area, so when it is stuffed it gets fatter. What to do? Take darts in either the hand back or the palm to help even up the proportion of hand to fingers. Also note that a cloth hand may be posed, refined with needlesculpting stitches,

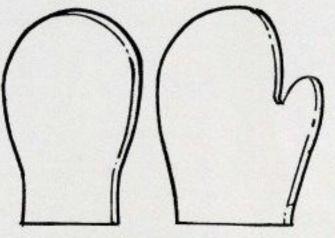
Renaissance Lady and The Meso-American Man by Ellen Rivford, life sized

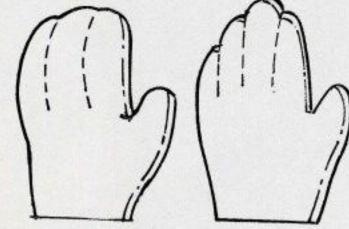
Renaissance Lady and The Meso-American Man by Ellen Rixford; life-sized.

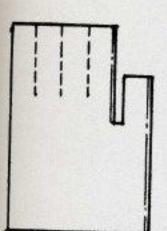
The lady is nylon over polyfil, with foam and wire understructure, and the man is sculpted and painted foam. Photo by Ellen Rixford.

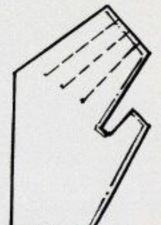


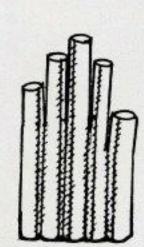
These basic hands adapt well to rag doll and basic doll forms. All of these shapes can be hand sewn or topstitched to define the fingers.

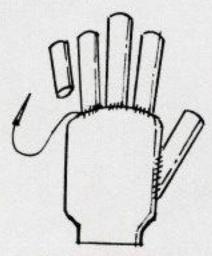


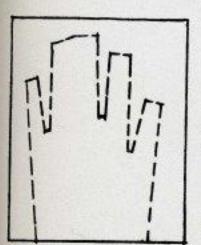


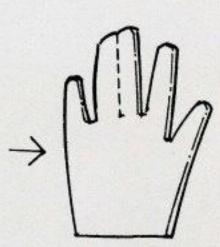








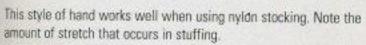


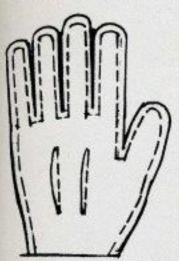


Try a unique hand design that has fingers of rolled and stitched felt.

the arm.

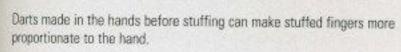
Movable fingers can be made by sewing and stuffing the fingers separately, then hand stitching each one to the stuffed palm.

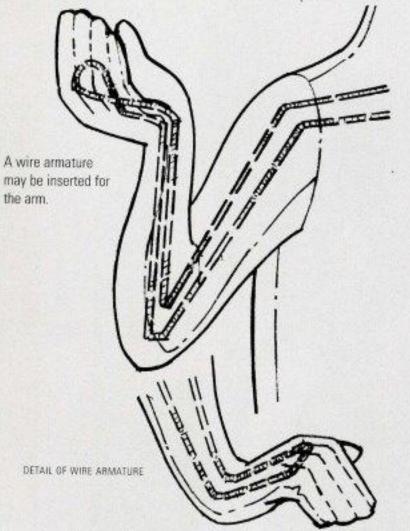




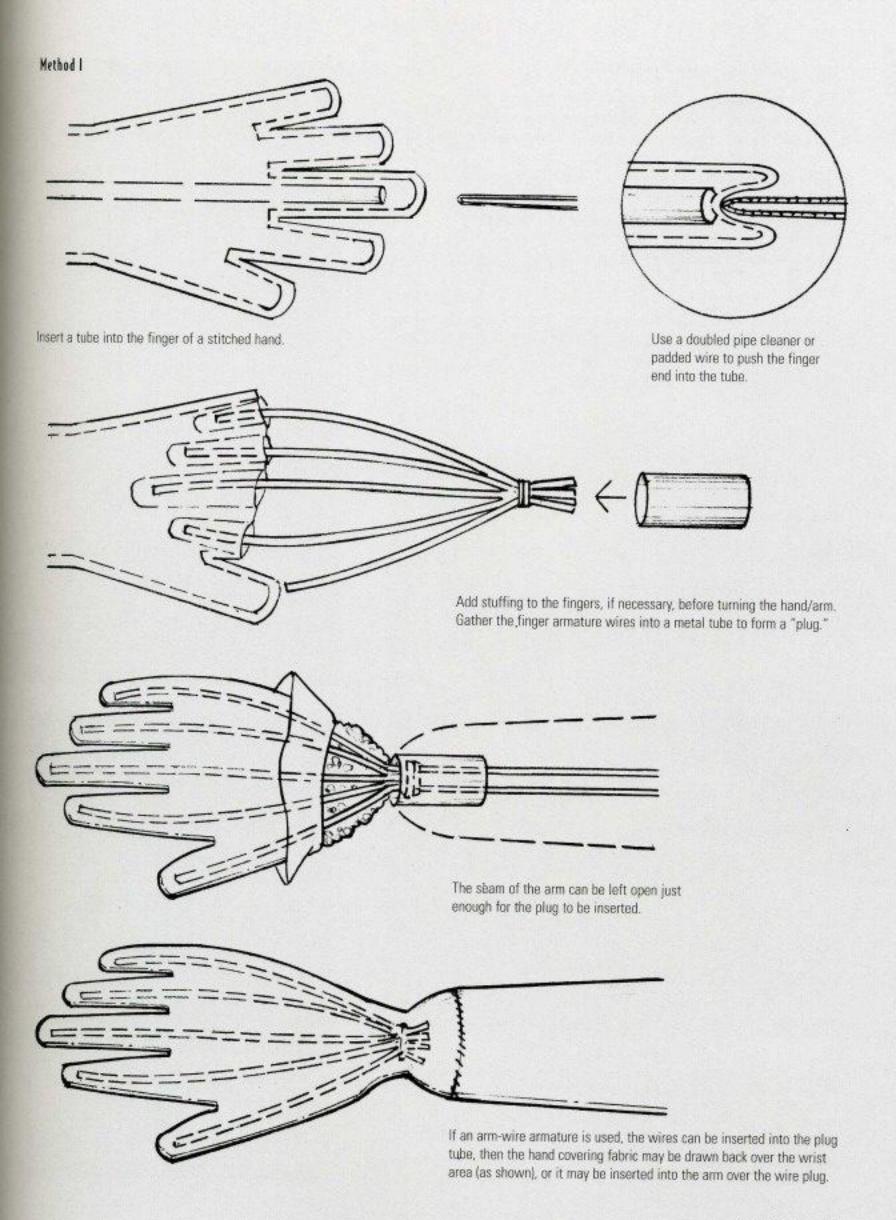


PALM OF HAND





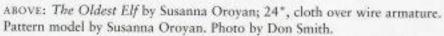




THE POSABLE HAND: METHOD II

This method of hand construction can be used with either a machine-sewn glove pattern or a hand sewn, needlesculpted covering. It is possible to create very realistic looking pads of flesh and bony protrusions if a lightweight, stretchy fabric is used with needle-sculpting. Any type of hand construction in cloth can be augmented or additionally sculpted by adding paperclay to the finished, stuffed hand. Heavy-bodied paints will also hide stitches if that is desired.





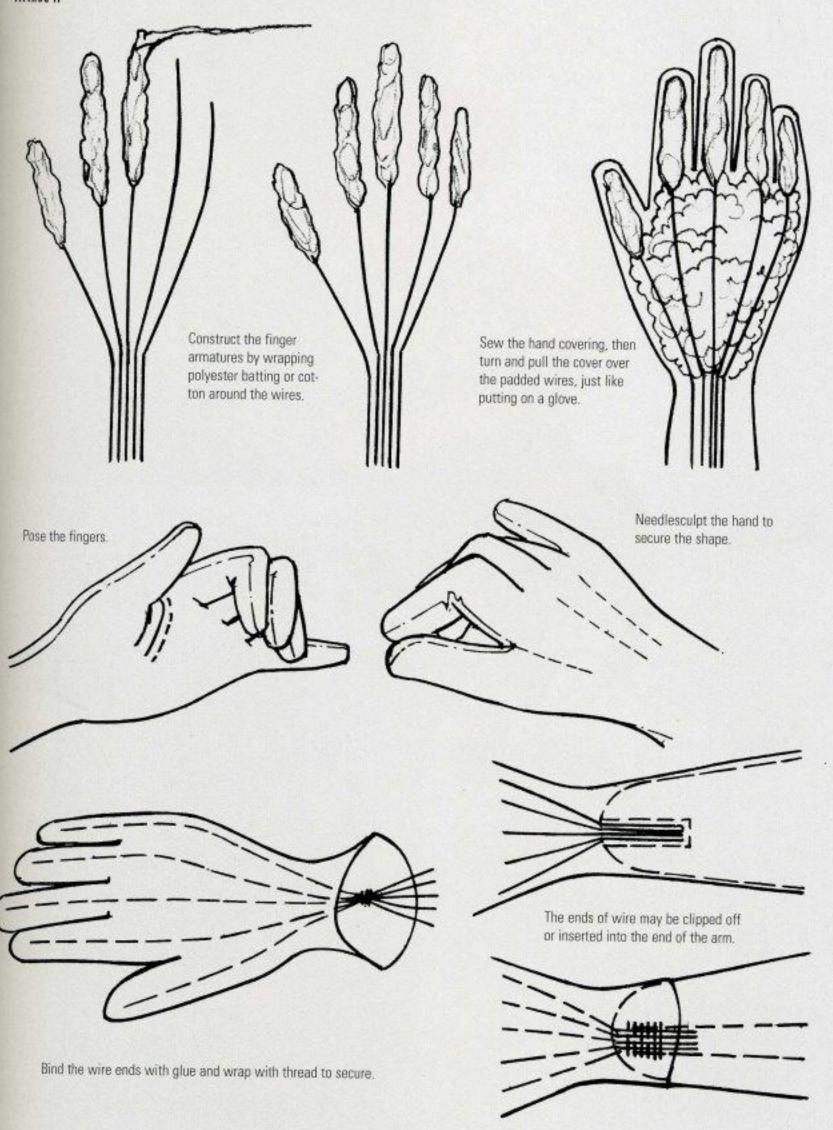
UPPER RIGHT: Good Fortune Fairy by Susanna Oroyan; 24", Ultrasuede over wire armature. Photo by Don Smith.

LOWER RIGHT: Rings on Her Fingers, Bells on Her Toes by Susanna Oroyan; 28", cloth. Photo by Don Smith.





Hethod II







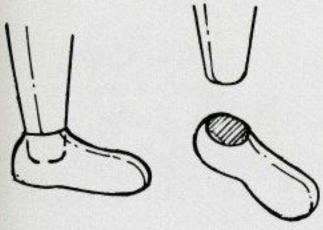
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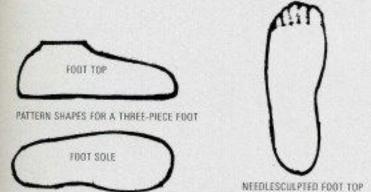
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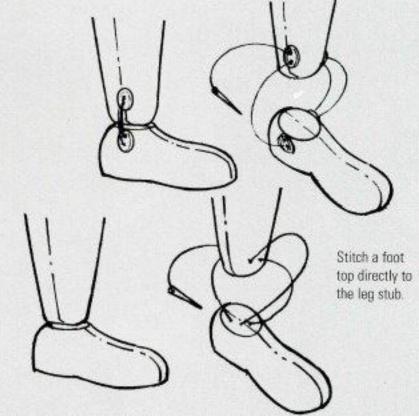
1999) Storm Ovales by Tomico Takahashi; 24°, cloth over wire armanga. Property Noberts Takahashi.

COVER BOOK! And by Kart Lander 15", don't. Kurh designed that he figure needed observationed noes, and the fact four worker well such the other designs of her design, so has book has an upper and lower piece. Photo by Lim Bristen.

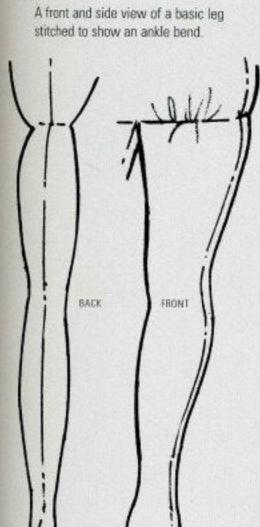


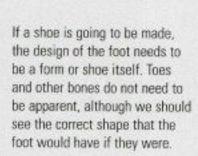
When an arch is desired the foot is constructed as a threepiece pattern with a foot bottom piece or a sole. (Even so, stuffing can still push the foot out of shape. To solve this, we can insert a cardboard inner sole.)

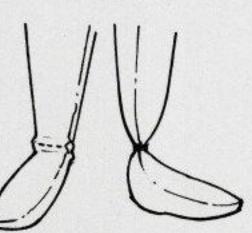




In cloth dollmaking the foot is often made in a different fabric to become the shoe (all in one). The designer looking for a flat foot still has to deal with the "plumping" of the stuffing, and making a decision about where to make the pattern cuts.







For dimensional toe, bring the foot in together and machine stitch to form toe line.

PATTERN FOR

A BASIC FOOT

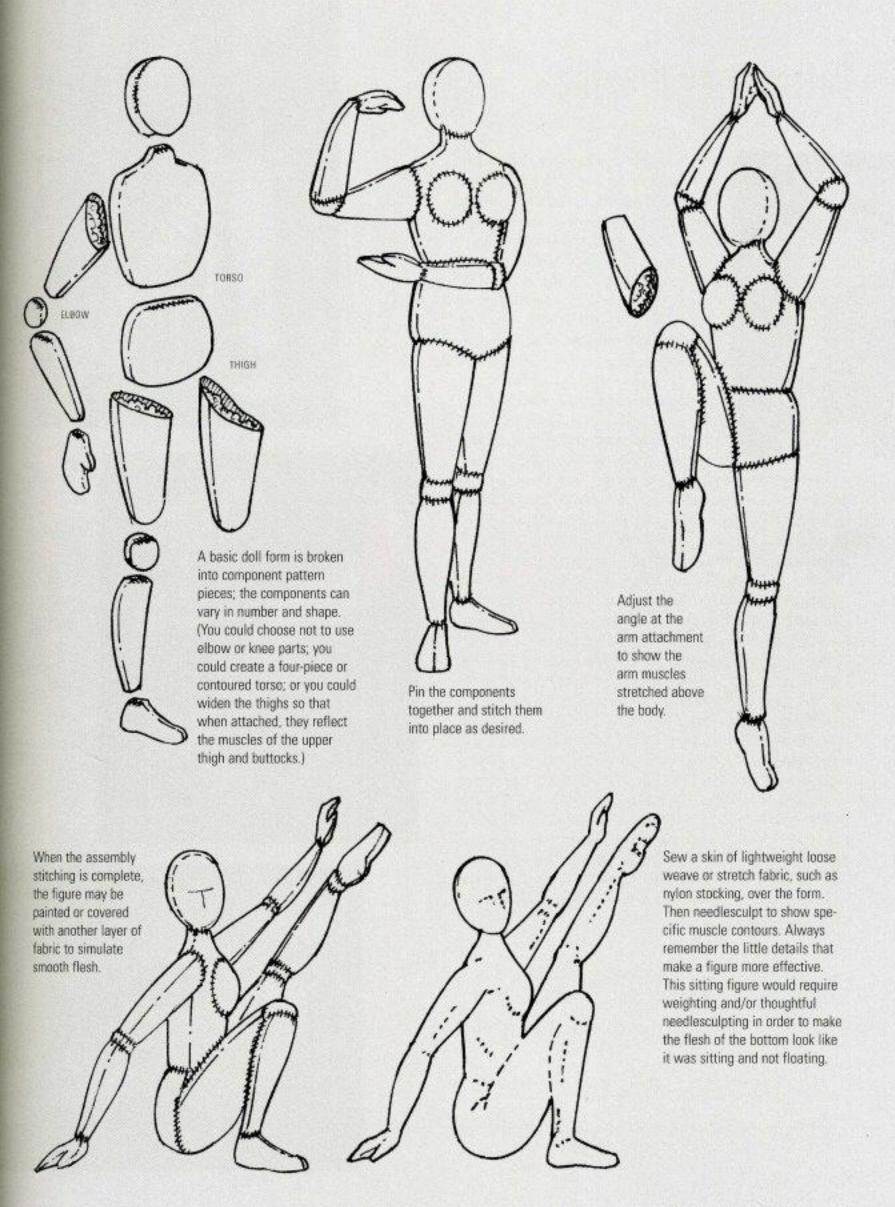


PATTERN FOR FOOT WITH DIMENSIONAL TOE

Foot is turned and finished.







Patterns by Draping



We began the section with a discussion of simple two-piece figures, and have gone on to look at a number of ways in which body parts can be constructed so they have three-dimensional character. Before we conclude this section, however, we need to look at the marriage of clay and cloth—the method of developing a whole-body pattern based on an existing solid figure.

The work of the late Lenore Davis started from her exploration of the flat, often monotone form or outline shape that expressed motion. Lenore expanded her figure-making by painting and dying the surface designs. In her later

figures she joined the concept of the human form in motion, and the concept of painted details, to figures that were based on completely three-dimensional solids. Lenore's method of creating dimensional figures was adapted from the traditional draping methods used by costumers and fashion designers. Although Lenore's method challenges the cloth dollmaker to undertake clay sculpture, the result will be pattern pieces for sewing that reflect the complex curves of a body in motion and that fit together correctly.

Many doll artists use this same method of draping (sometimes called French Modeling) over a sculpted or stuffed figure to develop tailored costumes that look as if they are moving with the body. When a pattern is developed on paper by design and sketching, there can be quite a bit of trial and error and sewing of experimental pieces until the pattern piece is satisfactory. By using the draping method, however, in just one or two steps the maker is able to create a usable pattern which will reflect the desired human anatomy of the clay model. If you are a costumer, the draping method allows the construction of a basic set of patterns (called a "sloper") that reflect a body. Once this basic pattern is made, it can be redrawn many times, with seam lines reshaped or darts and curves added to make specific fashions.

LEFT: Dancer Doing a High Kick by Lenore Davis; 34", painted cloth. Photo courtesy of NIADA Archive.

UPPER RIGHT: Acrobat on a Pole in Striped Tights by Lenore Davis; 34", painted cloth. Photo courtesy of NIADA Archive.

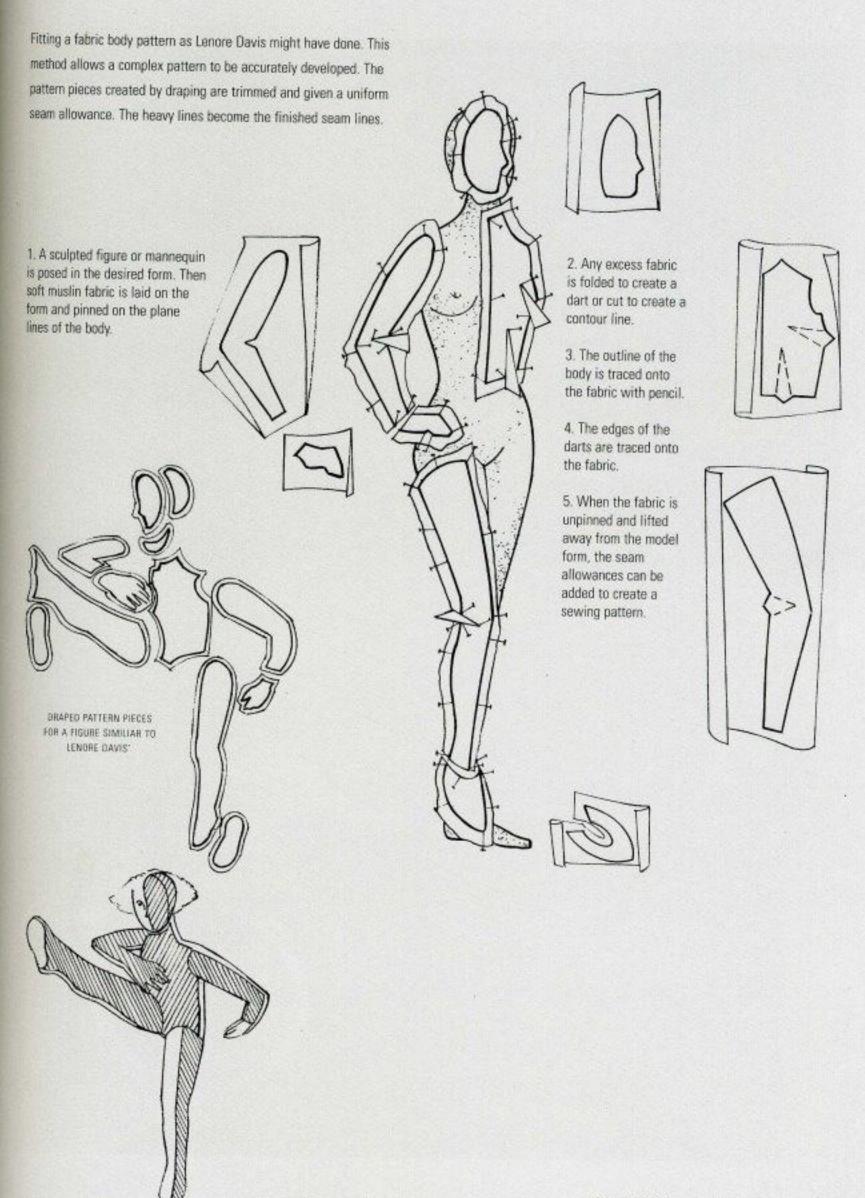
CENTER RIGHT: Acrobat on a Pole in Green Pants by Lenore Davis; 34", painted cloth. Photo courtesy of NIADA Archive.

LOWER RIGHT: Acrobat on a Pole in Blue Pants by Lenore Davis; 34", painted cloth. Photo courtesy of NIADA Archive.

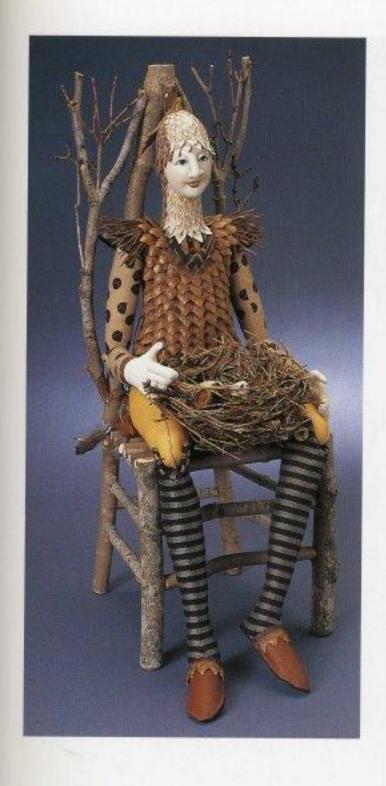


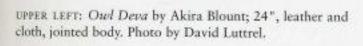








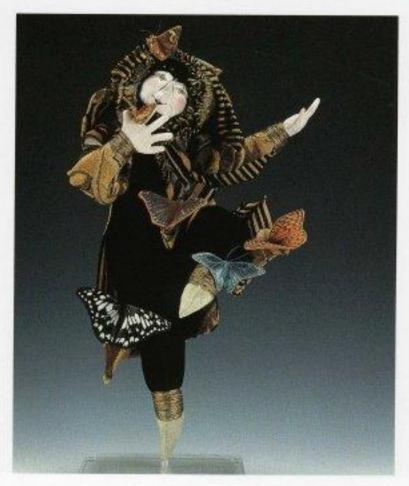




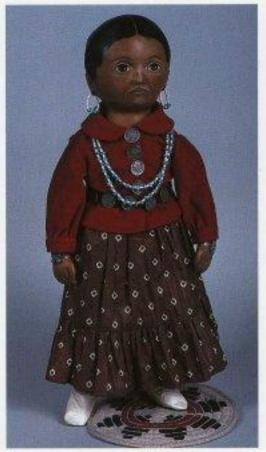
UPPER RIGHT: The Reader by Barbara Buysse; 12°, oil paint on linen. Photo by Douglas Neal.

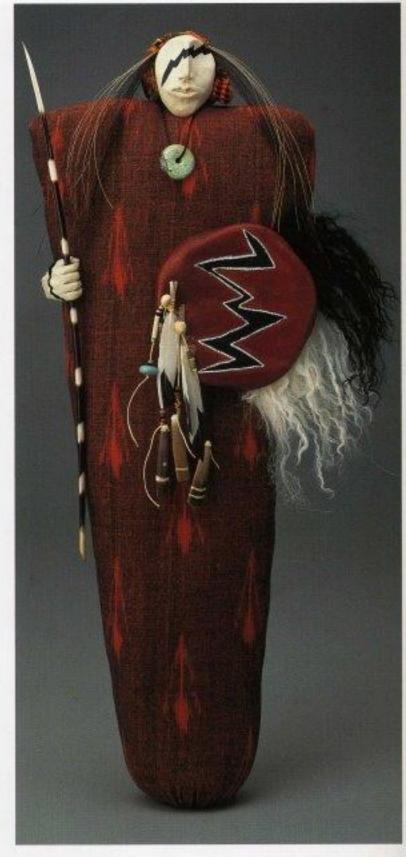
LOWER RIGHT: Spirit of Change by Kath Lathers; 20", cloth. Photo by Pete Draugalis.











UPPER LEFT: Astar by Lisa L. Lichtenfels; 38", nylon stocking over wire armature. Photo by Lisa L. Lichtenfels.

UPPER RIGHT: The Protective Spirit by Gretchen Lima; 24", sculpted face and hand, cloth body, leather shield. Photo by Bill Lemke.

LOWER LEFT: Nizhoni by Helen Pringle; 21", cotton, oil painted. Photo by Don Smith.





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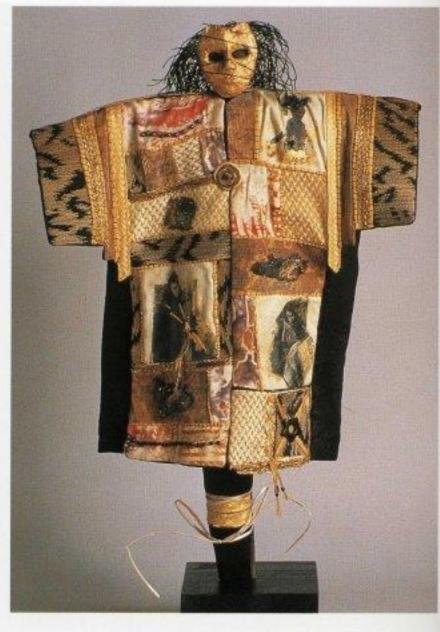
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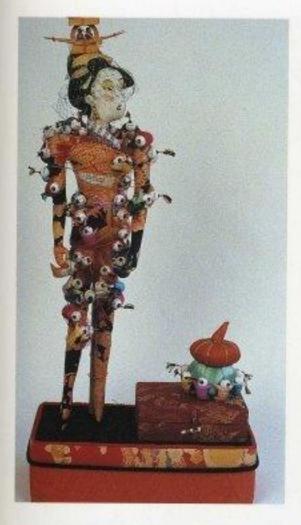


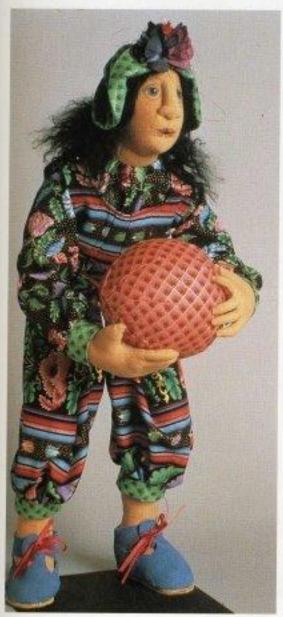
UPPER LEFT: Going Fishing by Hedy Katin; 18", cloth. Photo by Les Bricker.

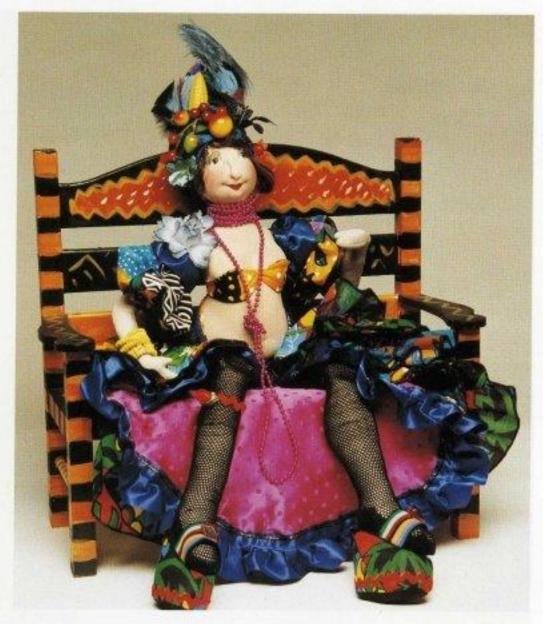
UPPER RIGHT: The Mask by Carol Stygles; 28", paperclay, silk, found materials. Photo by Les Bricker.

LOWER RIGHT: Mermaid by Dawn Kinsey; 14", needlesculpted silk. Photo by Dawn Kinsey.









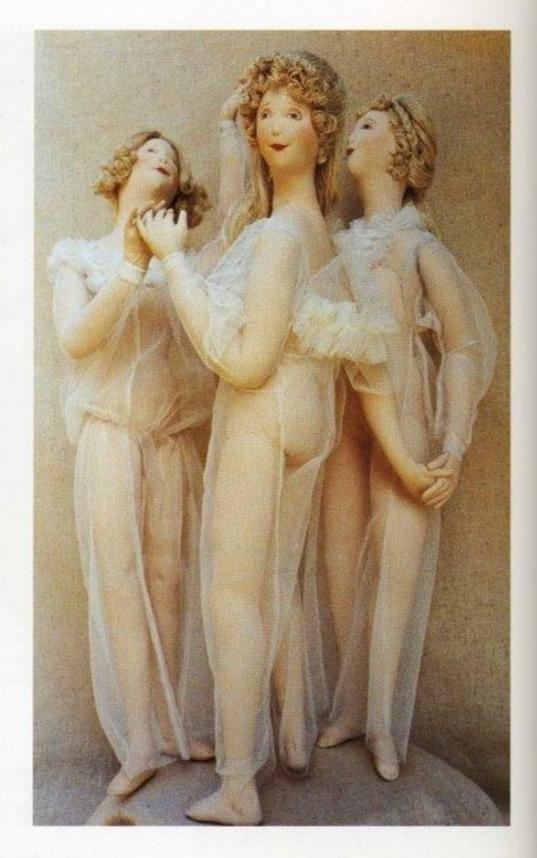
UPPER LEFT: Very Soon and in Pleasant Company by Zhenne Wood, Dollmaker; 24", one-of-a-kind cloth doll, painted silk face, body of antique kimono, pincushion babies, bamboo ornaments, and Chinese cookie fortune, 1990. Photo by David Bigelow.

UPPER RIGHT: Miranda Carmen by Julie McCullough; 28", Lycra over needlesculpture. Photo by John Nollendorfs.

LOWER LEFT: Reba by Beverly Dodge Radefeld; 15", cloth, needlesculpted. Photo by Les Bricker.



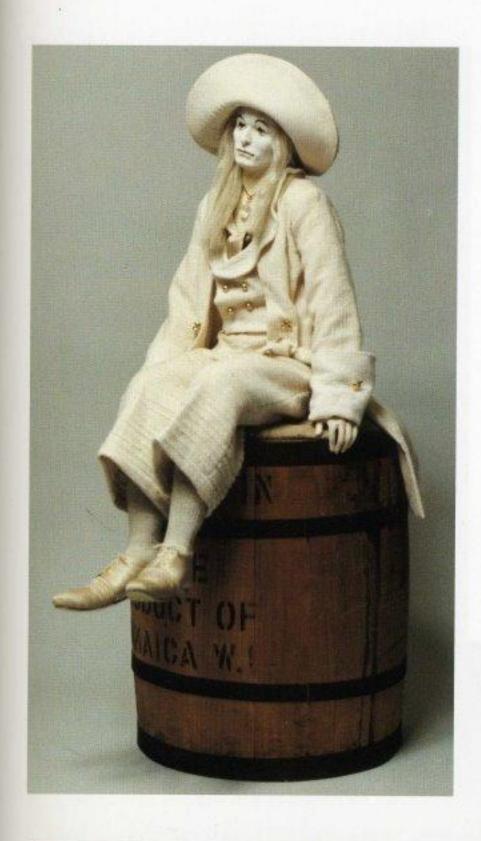




UPPER LEFT: The Midnight Mermaid by Julie McCullough; 24", cloth, painted. Photo by Les Bricker,

UPPER RIGHT: Botticelli Maidens by Jacqueline Casey; 18", cloth. Photo by Jacqueline Casey.

LOWER LEFT: Angel Alighting by Barbara Chapman; 20", cloth, bead embellishments. Photo by Les Bricker.

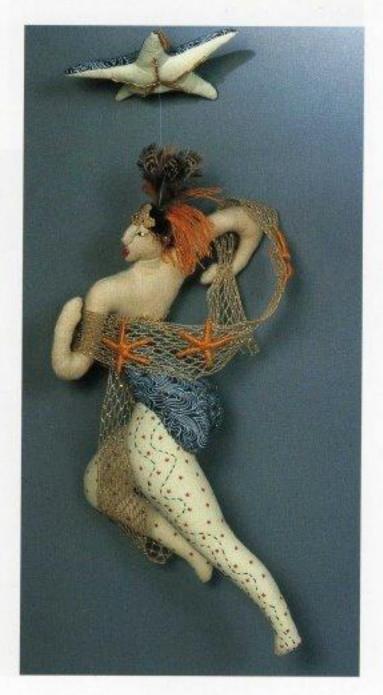




UPPER LEFT: Patist by Tomiko Takahashi; 34*, cloth. Photo by Noboru Takahashi.

LOWER LEFT: Cinderella After the Ball by Joyce Patterson; 10", jointed, fabric. Photo by Joyce Patterson.

LOWER RIGHT: Clara by Deb Shattil; 18", stuffed cotton. Photo by Kate Cameron.







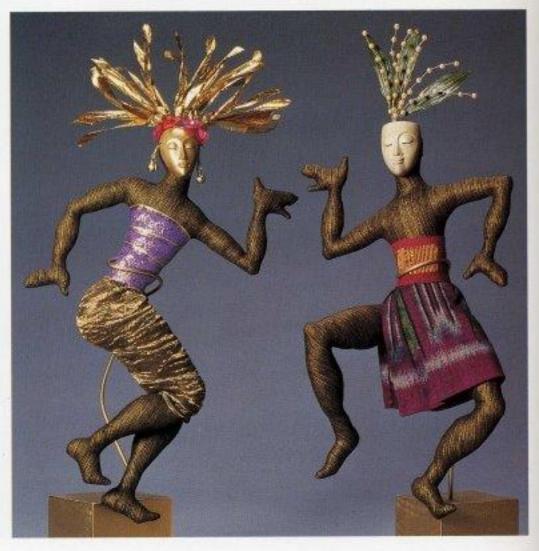
UPPER LEFT: Whitehouse Angel by Yvonne Porcella; 17", cloth. Photo by Sharon Risedorph.

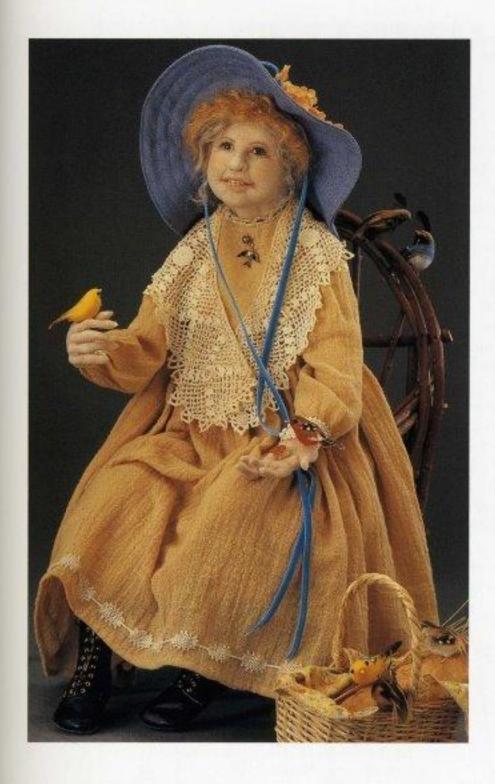
UPPER RIGHT: Jazz by Gloria Winer; 16", needlesculpted cloth over wire armature. Photo by Jim Winer.

LOWER LEFT: Go Fish by Jeanie Bates; 17", stretch knit over mask. Photo by William Sean Sullivan.

LOWER RIGHT: Bali Dancers by Peggy Flynn; 15", cloth with Balinese masks. Photo by Joe Saraceno.





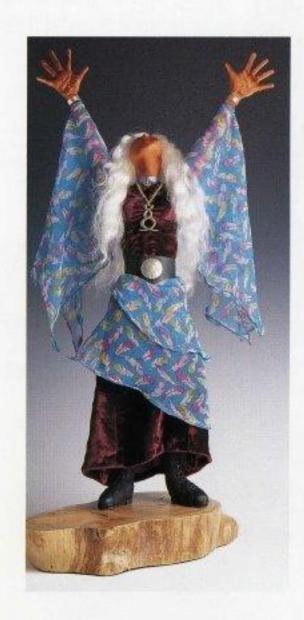




UPPER LEFT: Feeding the Birds by Margery Cannon; 16", nylon needle-sculpture over wire armature. Photo by Margery Cannon.

UPPER RIGHT: The Herbalist by Doree Pitkin; 24*, cloth. Photo by Doree Pitkin.

LOWER RIGHT: Praying for Healing by Kareena Bouse; 20", silk over sculpted head. Photo by Bob Hirsch.



Decorative Joints OINTS

Simple cloth joints—stitched, tied, ball, or slipped bead types—are not truly working joints. Although they accentuate a movement, or allow a figure to sit more easily, they are primarily for design interest. When solving a joint problem, we have to consider the actual motion of each individual joint: hips are ball and socket, a

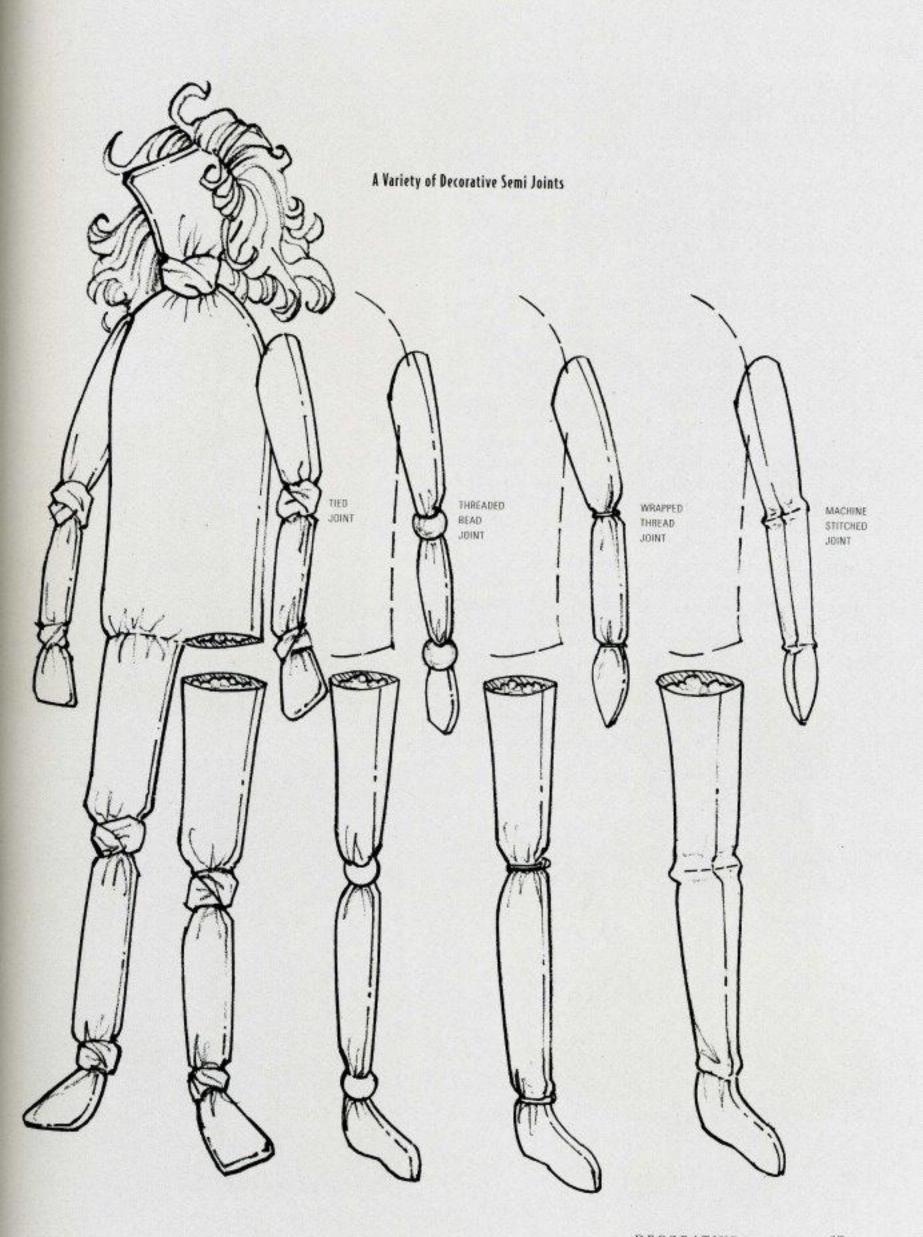
knee is a hinge, and none of the human joints revolve in a full circle. When you think about it, there are probably several complex ways joints can be contoured and assembled in cloth. However, it is at this point when we are tempted to say, "what for?"; meaning, "why do all that work for just a doll?" The answer is likened to the idea of climbing a mountain: Because I had the idea and it might look good for this figure concept.

Hawk Woman by Julie McCullough; 34", velour, button joints. Photo by John Nollendorfs.



Tahlia by Bonnie Hoover; 17*, button joints. Photo by Sandra Hoover.





Joint Options

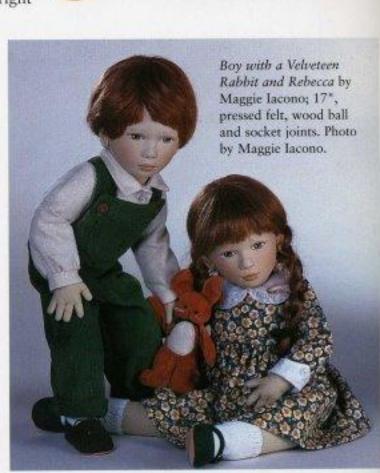
In order to achieve a well-designed doll, all the elements that you combine and all the choices that you make will require good reasons. When you choose to use one of the decorative, non-functioning joints, it is probably because you want to underline or delineate the idea that humans have parts (bones) that can move. Using a decorative bead or a metallic thread to make this delineation also provides more scope for working with texture and color. However, when you choose to include a functioning joint in your design, your reason needs to be a bit more specific because a functioning joint system implies a player. What is it that you want the player to be able to do? Do you want to limit or direct the play?

As shown in the photographs, doll designer Maggie Iacono wants her player to be able to play with the doll as they would a toy. Her dolls, therefore, incorporate the traditional ball and socket joint used in composition dollmaking. Making this type of a joint in fabric requires complex interior stringing as well as solving problems of achieving the necessary tension with soft parts. At the other extreme, the designer can elect to make very simple body connections, as in the marionette and nonjointed examples. With these the player can manipulate the fig-

ure in continuous motion (as in a working marionette) or position it to show a wide range of human action or emotion. There are many choices. Think about which choice will be the right

> Mary Quite Contrary by Maggie Iacono; 17", felt, dress embellished with stencil, ribbon

Maggie Iacono.



Body by Maggie Iacono;

17", note the joint con-

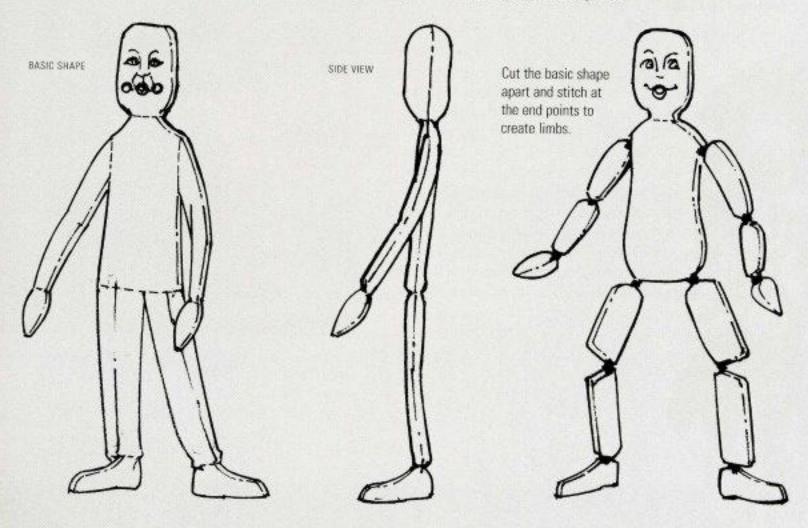
struction. Photo by

Maggie Iacono.



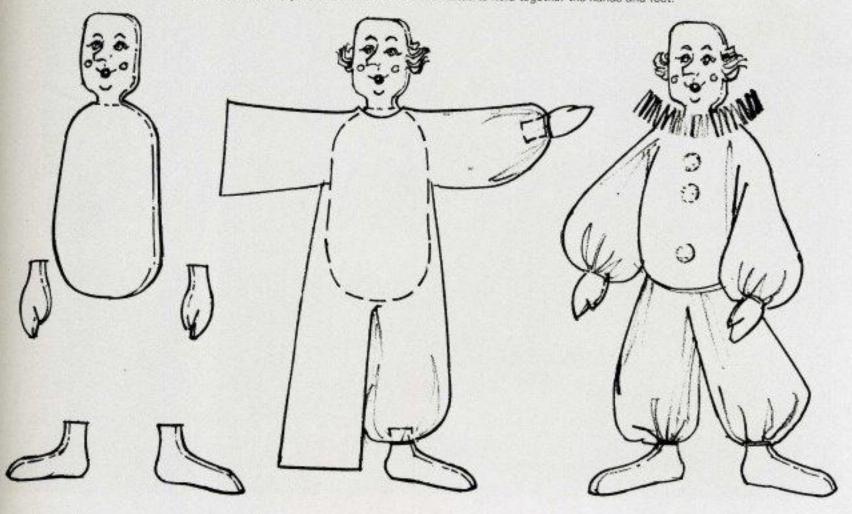
Marionette Joint

The most simple articulated joint in cloth is similar to a marionette joint. Movement is achieved by breaking the limbs of arms and legs entirely, and then stitching together the joints.



The Non-Joint

Movement can be suggested when the hands and feet are connected by gathering and sewing them to costume parts. The costume is constructed to hold together the hands and feet.



The Bead Joint

Bead joints are primarily decomine and will not inde a pose. For sconer or later in our search to make doll figures simulate a real human-to sit up, or stand up and behave-we find we need to make a joint that will hold a pose. Although the bead joint is primarily for deportative interest, it can preate a posable, non floppy band if the beads are wired. Here we can have the advantage of an interior wire armature to held a pose and, using a bead, a visible exterior sount a car.

> America Doff by Virginia Robertson: 12". hard Joints, Promy by Virginia Robertson.

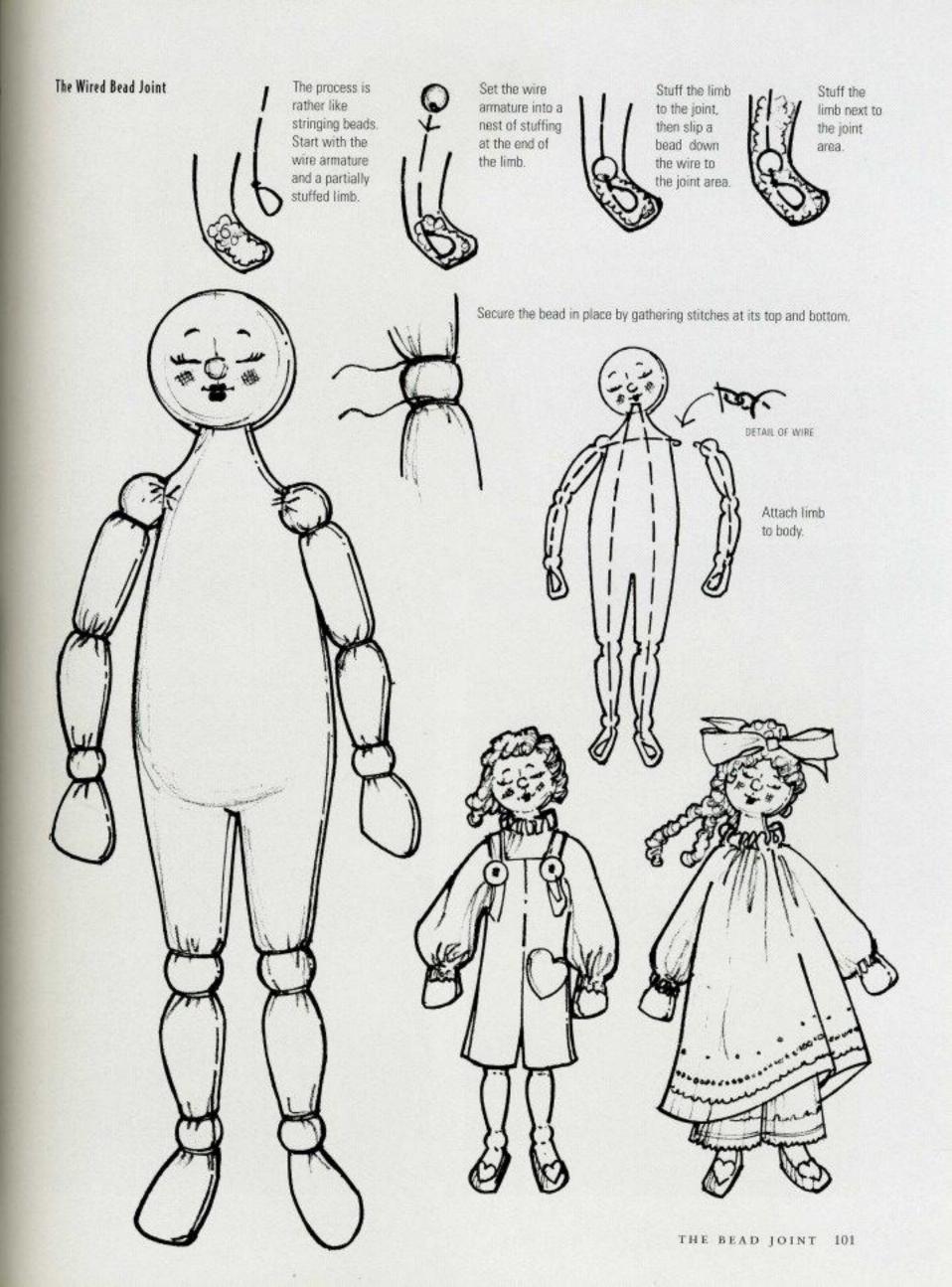


Berefor and Sonry by Scounce Census, 521, head yours, partial alors aftered by Uso South

Scrap dolf by Virginia Rotemon-12", bend sines Phone by Virginia Boherwert.







The Stitched Bead Joint

Shelly Thornton achieved her solution to the problem of creating a directed motion by modifying the stitched bead joint. This joint is actually quite human-like in that it combines the ball and socket contruction of the actual joint with the expansion and contraction of the tendons. Using the thread to simulate tendons also keeps the limb from turning from side to side in non-human motion. Although the visual appearance is quite different, note that the button and gusset joints on the following pages also function as tendons that limit sideto-side limb motion.

Amelia Undressed by Shelley Thornton; 24*, cotton knit, stitched bead joints, body joints designed. Photo by Ron Brown.

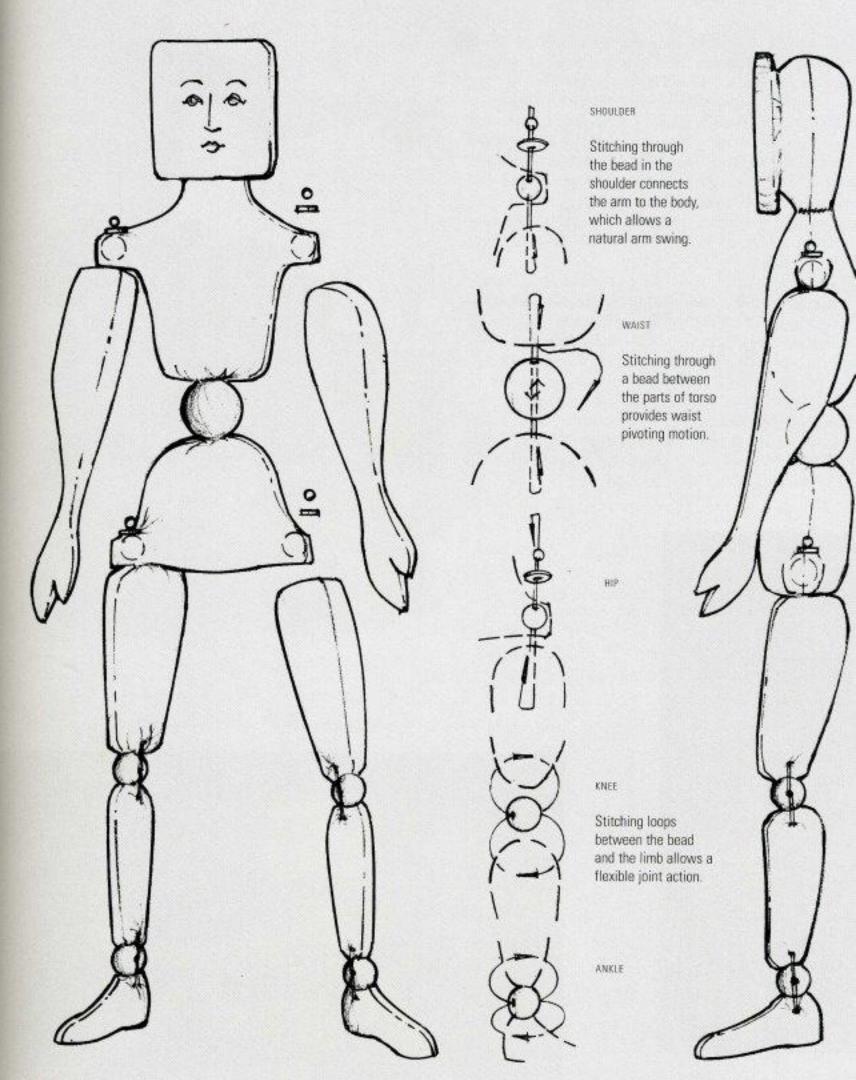
Asha and the Moon Ball by Shelley Thornton; 25", cotton knit. Photo by Don Smith.

> Posie by Shelley Thornton; 26", wool stuffed cotton knit, stitched bead joints. Photo by Roger Bruhn.



The Stitched Bead Joint

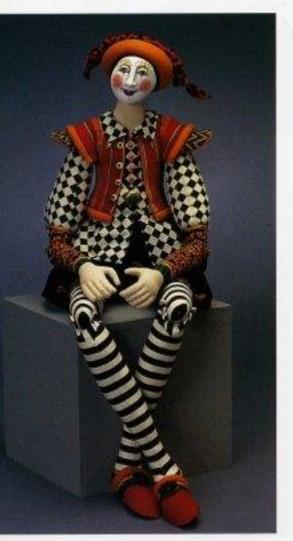
The stitched bead joint can reflect true joints in that the bead is placed between the two soft parts of the limb so that the joint can move freely and hold a position. An additional advantage of a joint of this type is that its movement is limited by the direction of the stringing pattern so that the limb can only move in directions that reflect human motion.



The Button Joint

Traditionally, motion in figures has often been achieved by stringing the limbs together by sewing through the body. Although this seems like an easy solution, the element of physics enters in: thread or string stitched through fabric, once pulled and secured to hold the pieces against the body, puts tension on the fabric of the limbs. Sooner, and certainly later, tension wears a hole through the fabric, and the thread will break after repeated movement. The solution that spreads out the forces of the thread tension and that provides a base to pull against is the old-fashioned, plain, button.

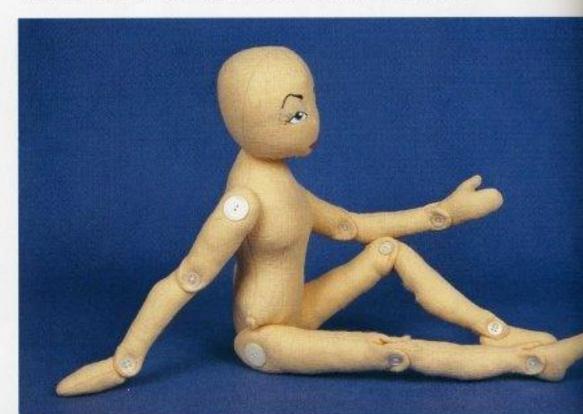
To closely match actual human movement, a doll-maker could use a combination of joints. Adding an interior wire armature would imitate the element of tendon and muscle movement so that the figure could be bent and held in place in defiance of gravity. With any of the methods shown, whether by adding beads, buttons, or stringing joints, a jointed figure could then be covered by a smooth "skin" made from fabric or leather. Imagine what such a figure might look like if covered with an elasticized fabric such as Lycra...almost real!

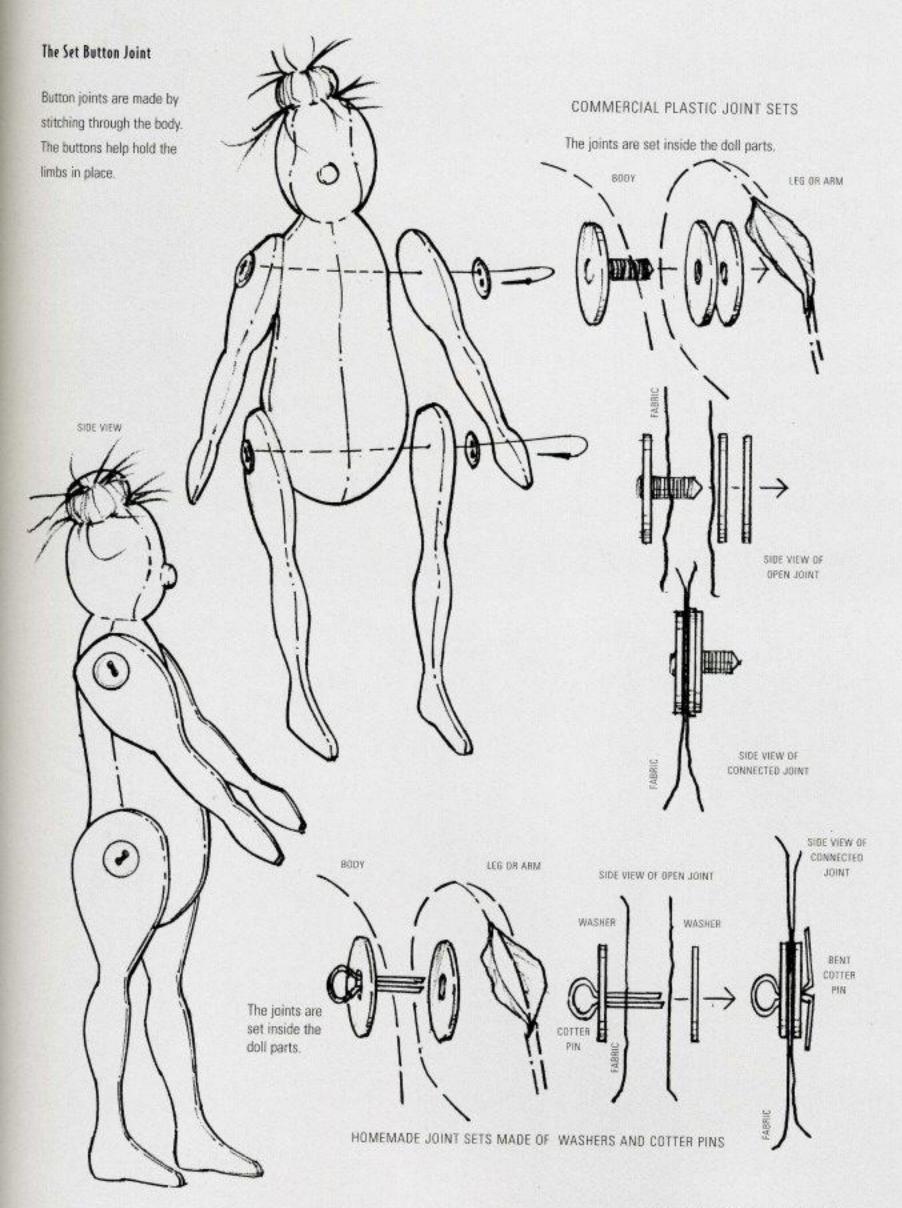


Jester by Akira Blount; 26", needlesculpted, button joints. Photo by David Luttrel.



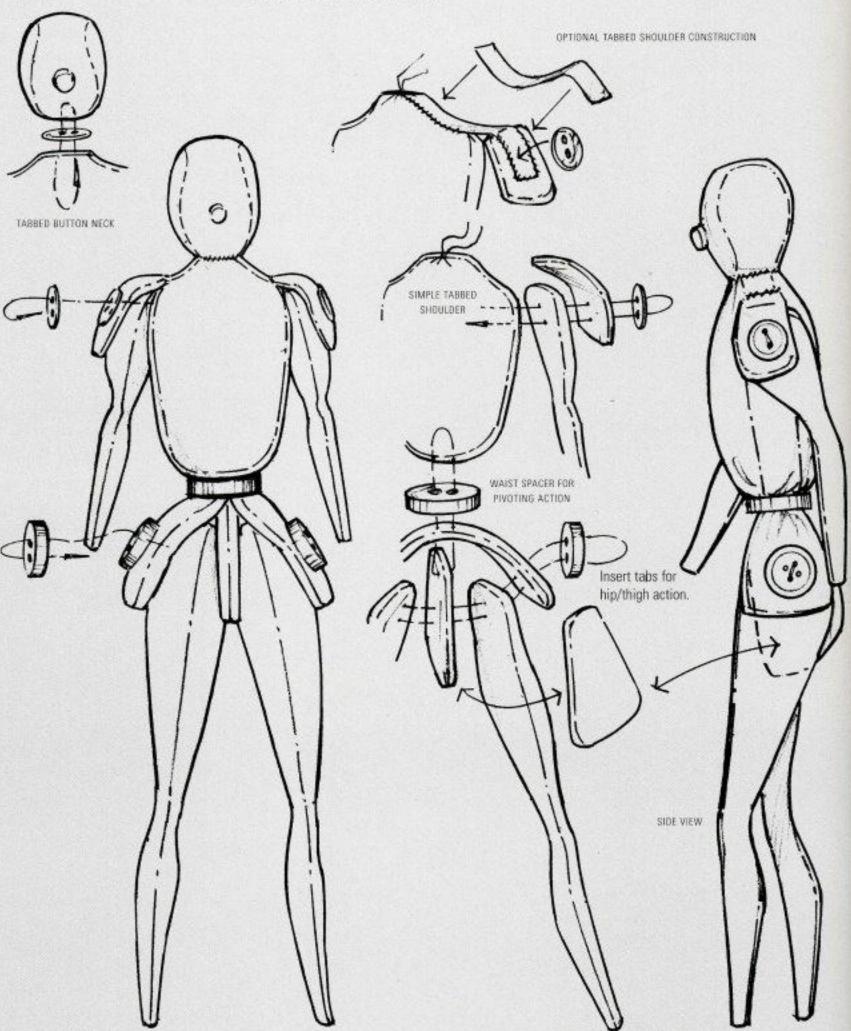
Study Model by Susanna Oroyan; 24", felt, painted face. Photo by Don Smith.





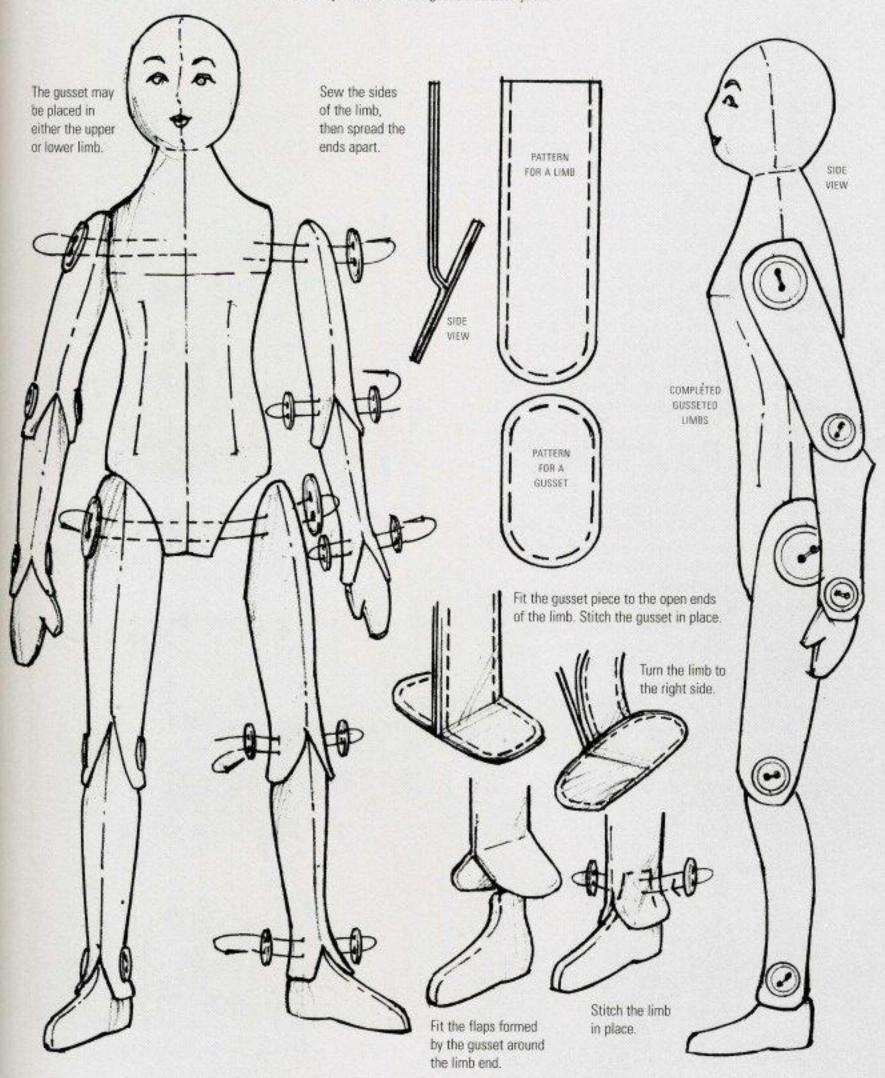
The Tabbed Button Joint

Taken one step further, the exterior buttons can become part of a joint hidden within the body. In most doll design this kind of joint is only used at the shoulder and hip. However, if it can go on the outside, it can go inside the body, too. It becomes a design challenge for dollmakers to find or make joints small enough to work for the dolls they are creating.



The Gusseted Button Joint

Some dollmakers enjoy the challenge of making a figure as real as possible. The ultimate jointing for a figure in cloth would be one which combines either the ball and socket or strung joint and the mortise and tenon joint, such as the gusseted button joint.



Working the Wire

Next to cloth, wire is probably the most important material in dollmaking. I always find it amazing when I hear an otherwise experienced dollmaker describe a problem that could have been easily solved by using wire. Everyone, it seems, should know about the use of wire in body making because wire has been traditionally and universally used for centuries. When I first started making dolls in the 1960s, there were less than a half dozen books on dollmaking; yet every one of them showed some form of wire armature construction. Unfortunately, many of the books and publications which described the various wire applications have had short shelf-lives or are very difficult to find. Perhaps some dollmakers do not want to attempt wire armatures because the process looks complicated and difficult. Although it is awkward to deal with floppy loops and ends that whip in the initial stages, the results are well worth the effort of mastering the technique.

What kind of wire should you use? Many kinds. And have a selection on hand. The types of wire are denoted by gauge. The smaller the number (or gauge), the thicker the wire. For doll bodies in the 10" to 24" range, 16 gauge galvanized (non-rusting) wire will be strong enough to support a head of porcelain or polymer clay. If economy is a factor, electrical fencing wire (17 gauge) comes in large rolls. Aluminum, copper, and bronze-colored craft wire can be found in jewelry sections of craft shops in the 18 to 30 gauge. Fine wire is handy for a number

of purposes, but 20 gauge is best for figures from 3" to 10" tall. Copper wire is tempting, but often too soft for making a well-engineered support. Generally, aluminum

wire is best. Aluminum sculpture wire is very flex-

ible, very strong, and relatively inexpensive. It comes in widths up to ½" thick. Also, electrical cable (interior wall type) and the ordinary coat hanger both have their uses in dollmaking.



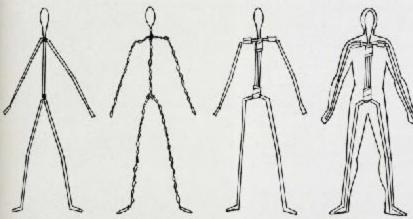
Christmas Memories by Margery Cannon; 24", cloth, wire armature. Photo by Margery Cannon.

Festival Later by Tomiko Takahashi; 12", cloth. Photo by Noburo Takahashi.



Adam and Eve by Akiko Anzai; 18" cloth, wire armature. Photo by Les Bricket.

If you refresen pose in a position where a human would have must same muscle court. against gravity to maintoin it, you might have to add weight to your ingure. Survice small hing, fill it will beet or popularly ghts, and effect or wire it into the lower to so. If your lighter will have an exceptionally heavy torse or lessel you, might somethis steps for preating the back and age, the adoubling the wires.

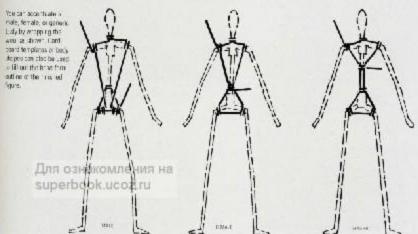


Always kerp the wires partilet.

Do not tweet The wrise except to tuck in the ends. He remuer. twisted wires make aprices. as of you process y week. strength rather than brunner.

Apply mps as you work to keep the wires pamilel and more menabeable. Always creats your ligure with width at the shoulder and ira. The shoulder should observe on wide enough to allow the tim to long near either rig.

When y inform Trighted your armature, stand it up and bond month in collences by itsolft. A well made figure should stand ov sell.



The Wire Armature

Before constructing a wire armature it is best to have an idea of how large the finished figure will be. If you have already made a head, here is the formula for ascertaining adult height in a doll: Multiply the height of the head by eight. For example, if the doll's head measures $2\frac{1}{2}$ " from chin to top of head, the total height of the body should be 20" (8 x 2.5 = 20). True human scale is 7.5 heads equal the body height; however, as dolls are commonly viewed by looking down on them, which foreshortens the figure, we usually put more length in the leg. A child's proportions, depending on age, will be between 4 and 7 heads. Most artist anatomy reference books give proportions for typical ages.

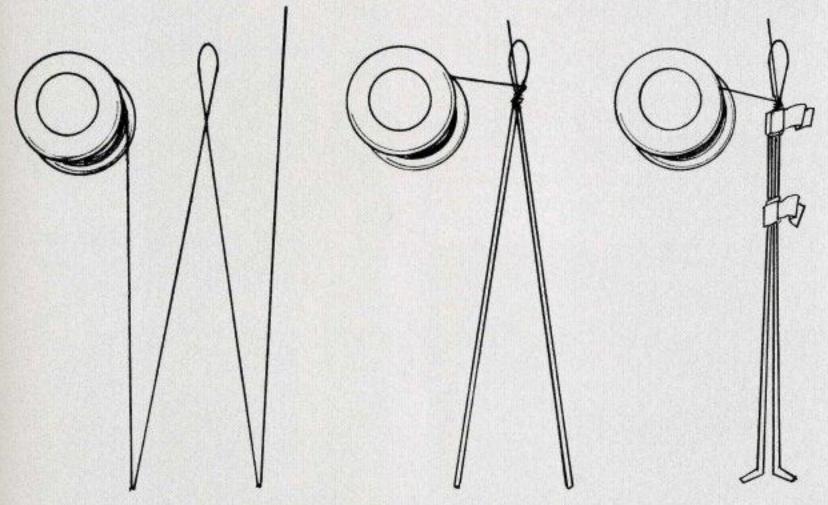
Once you have determined the height of the figure, sketch the shape you want, keeping fairly true to correct human anatomical proportions. Abstract or purposely exaggerated figures are more successful if they are exaggerations of the basic human shape. But always make sure that any abstracted or exaggerated form is balanced in design. For example, if you make the legs longer, then the arms should also be longer. Remember, any time you vary from the norm you must pay special attention to creating a harmonious, visual pattern or overall design. It is fine to jolt the viewer's expectation, but it won't work unless you provide the person with an understandable system.



Moth Nymph by Dawn Kinsey; 8*, silk, needlesculpture. Photo by Chester Majak.

Today I Shall Forgo the Hoop by Maggie Mayer; 21", cloth, needlesculpture. Photo by Maggie Mayer.

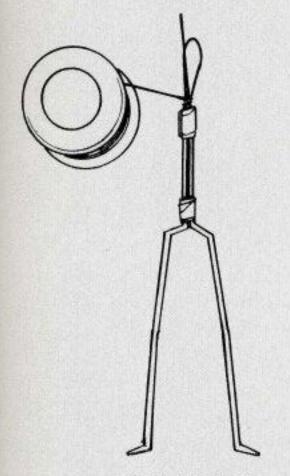
The illustration is drawn from a 4" figure constructed of 20 gauge copper wire that was intended for dollhouse use.



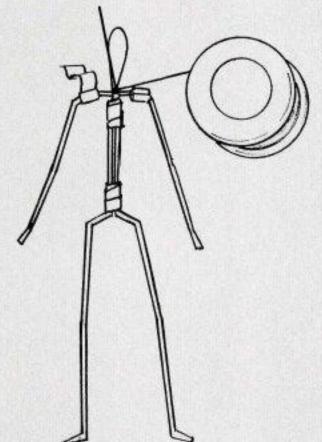
1. Make a "W" shape. The loop will support a head.

2. Twist the ends together at the neck.

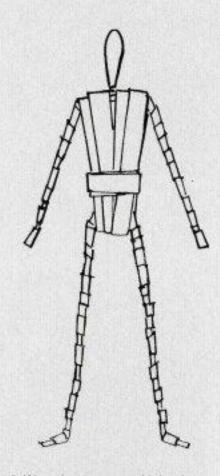
3. Tape the torso below the neck and above the hip.



4. Bend to form the hips.



5. Bend wire to form arms, and tape at the shoulders.



6. Wrap the armature with batting.

Inserting the Wire

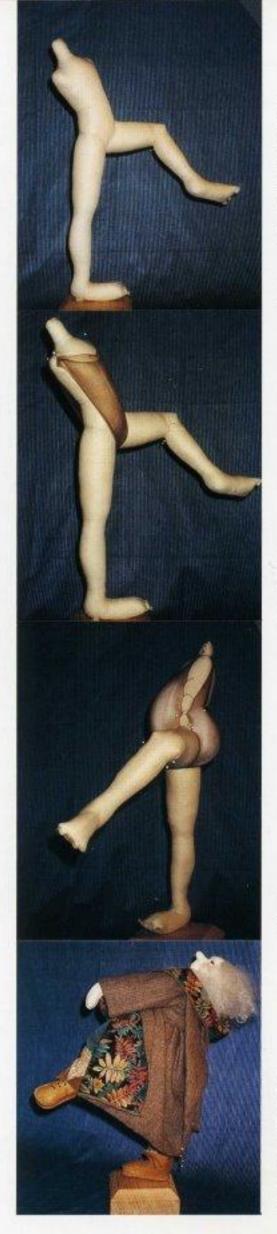
When a wire armature is inserted into a cloth body, the resulting doll moves toward becoming a purely esthetic form. The maker has total control over the look of the piece. The maker can experiment with poses and arrange the body and limbs to express a particular action or motion...and have the satisfaction of knowing they will stay that way.



Leap Frogs by Dawn Kinsey; 10", silk needlesculpture, paperclay. Photo by Dawn Kinsey.



The Gift by Susanna Oroyan; 15", cloth, wire armature. Photo by Don Smith.



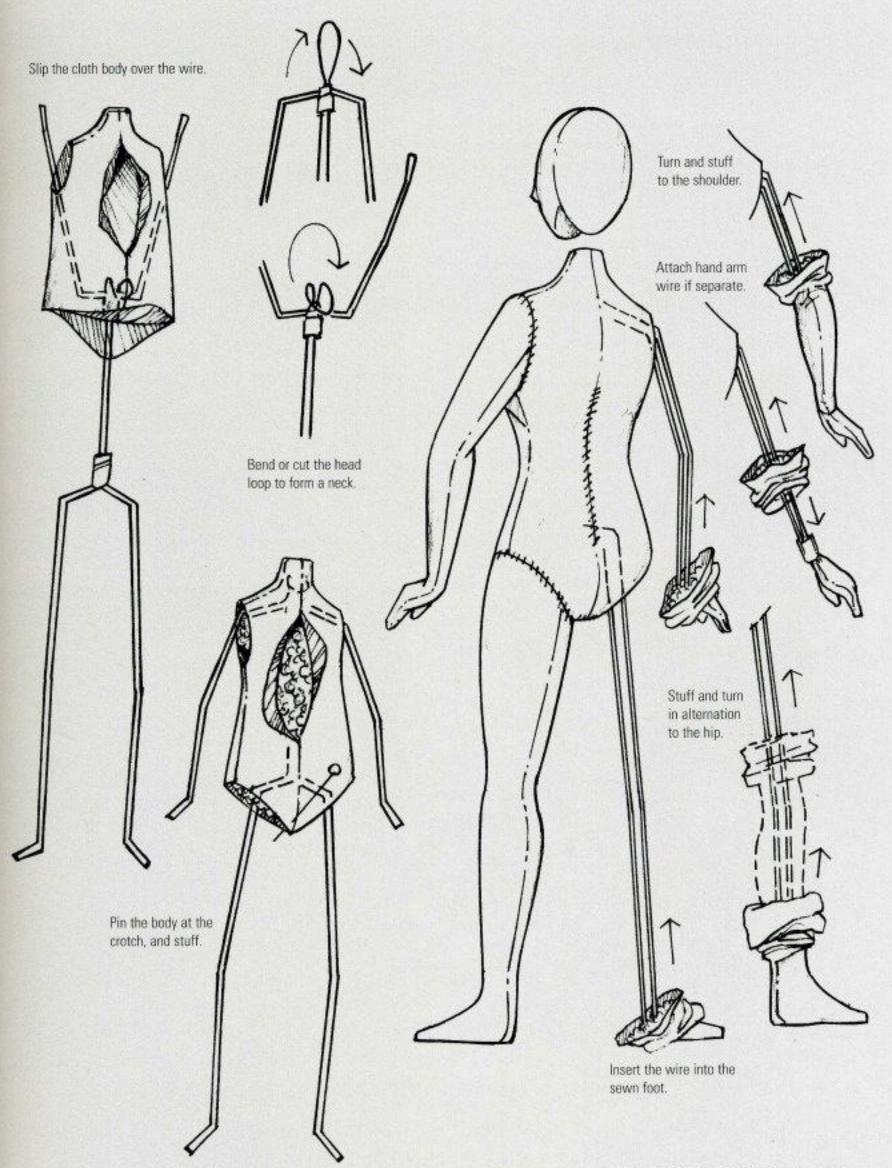
This series of photos by Molly Cokeley show how to cover a figure that has an inserted wire armature. Notice how nicely a balancing posture is achieved with the wire.

1. The figure shown has an inserted armature.

2. When the figure is positioned as desired, it is covered with pieces of nylon stocking.

3. Padding under the stocking creates a form which accentuates the pose.

4. The finished figure. Even though you may not see the actual tummy and bottom shapes, the fact that they are there makes the costume drape most effectively.

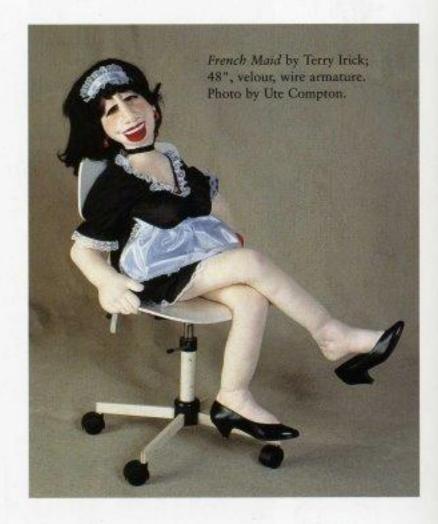


Covering the Wire

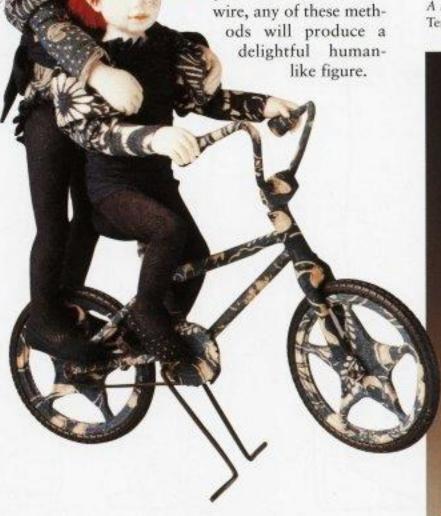
There are any number of ways a creative dollmaker can use the wire armature for creating a finished piece. One method is to wrap strips of quilt batting, cloth, string, or yarn around the wired form to pad out the figure. Or, the unpadded framework can be inserted into sewn cloth body parts and then stuffed. If sculpted parts have been made previously, the armature can be shortened to the length necessary to attach hands/arms or legs/feet. Wood or previously sculpted clay parts can be drilled for the insertion of wire. The

bare wire armature, wrapped with masking tape, can be used as a base for sculpting with paperclay products. Or, if you want to build a needlesculpted figure from the muscles outward, you can construct your armature with space between the arm and leg wires

be stitched on and
between the wires. If
you choose to cover the
wire, any of these methods will produce a
delightful human-

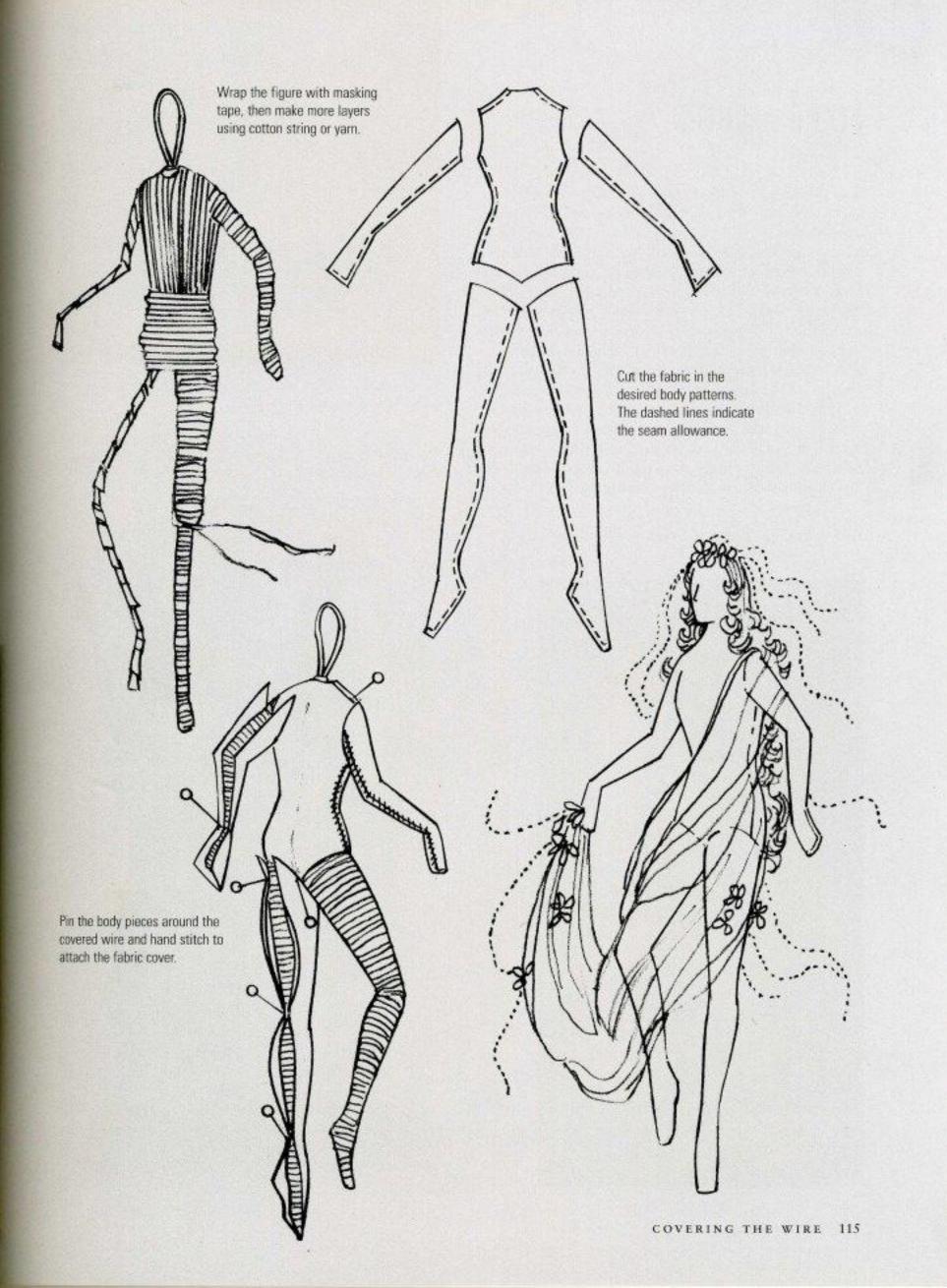


A Dull Day by Keiko Asami; 18", cloth, wire armature. Photo by Teruo Shimizu.



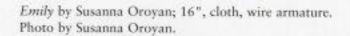
Children on a Bicycle by Tomiko Takahashi; 14", cloth, wire armature. Photo by Noboru Takahashi.



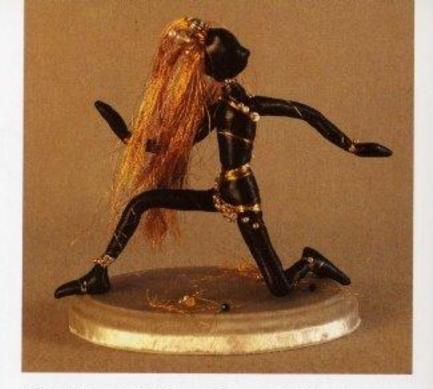


Fixed Figures

Any dollmaker who specializes in showing off fabric surfaces, or creating period or character costuming, can use the fixed wire figure construction method to advantage. The coat hanger wire and cloth armature allows the maker to create a posable, sculptural upper body without having to go into great structural detail below the waist (where the anatomy will not be seen or where it is not necessary to create form). With this method, the figures are usually covered or draped in a costume that reaches the ground or, if shorter, only the tips of the shoes or feet show. The method is also used for figures that bend or sway in positions that are difficult to achieve balance. Although a simplified body form is illustrated, the maker has the option of using any type of head, bust, and hand construction one might need or prefer to complete the form.



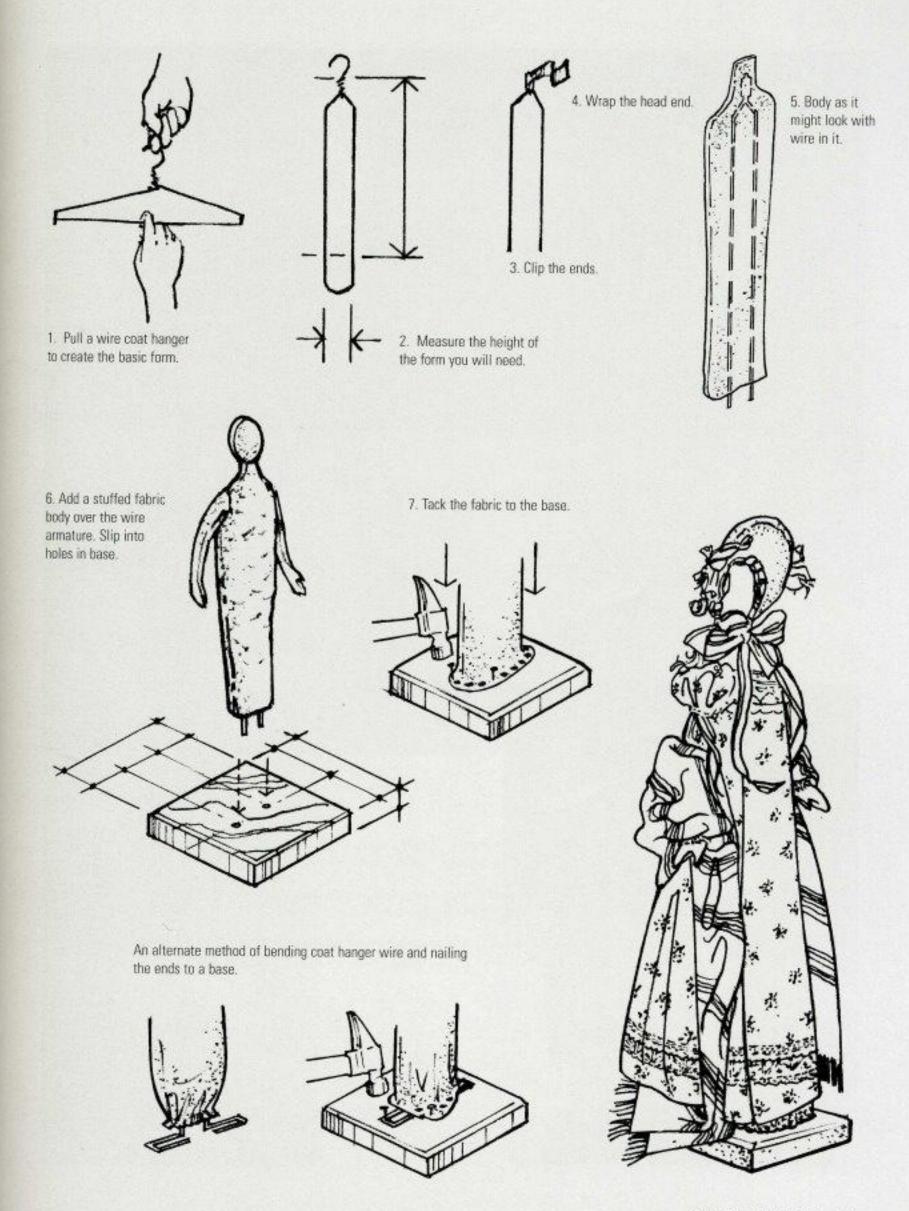




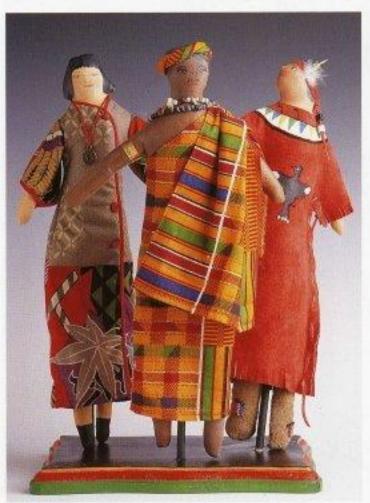
Sulkey Challenge '95 by Susanna Oroyan; 6", cloth, wire armature. Photo by Susanna Oroyan.

Titania and Oberon by Maggie Mayer; 18", cloth, needlesculpted. Photo by Maggie Mayer.







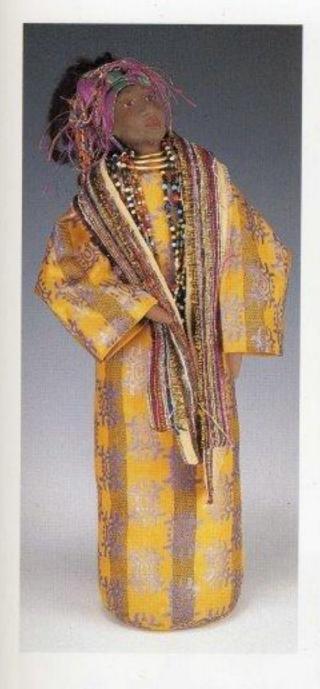


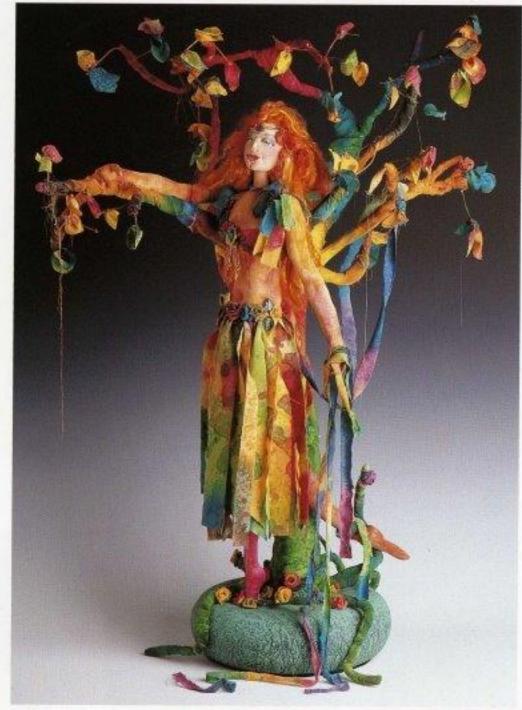


UPPER LEFT: The Fabric Clown by Jane Davies; 30", fabric-covered mask. Photo by Les Bricker.

UPPER RIGHT: Clown "Hallo!" by Akiko Sasaki; 17", cloth. Photo by Akiko Sasaki.

LOWER LEFT: Women of Color by Sandra Feingold; 13,* painted muslin. Photo by Bob Hirsch.







UPPER LEFT: Woman of Light by Marcella Welch; 18", cloth over resin. Photo by Jerry Anthony Studios.

UPPER RIGHT: Stargaze Rainbow by Patti Medaris Culea; 20", hand-dyed silk charmeuse, wire armature. Photo by Bob Hirsch.

LOWER LEFT: Someone to Lean On by Patricia Coleman-Cobb; 21", cloth. Photo by Les Bricker.



t -year. Let is Shawkay Cirl by Cany Carlin; 2.2° , hand pointed section. Photo by Even Emith

FORTH TITE Minimal by Sancy J. Lavenck; 11°, Ulmonetic ever some amounts. Proto by Sancy J. Lavenck.

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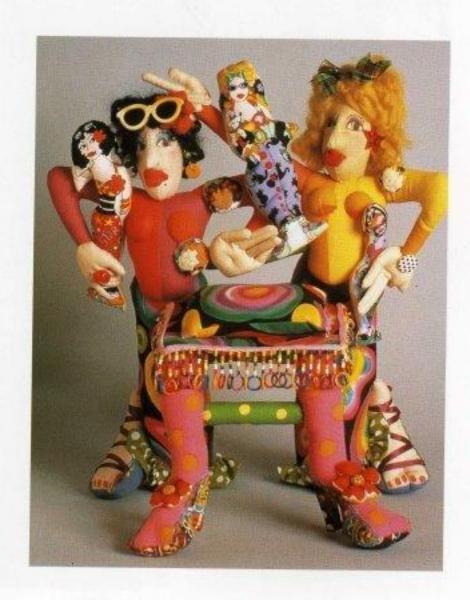


UPPER LEFT: Got a Kettle on My Head Blues by elinor peace bailey; 24*, cloth. Photo by Isaac A.R. Bailey.

LOWER LEFT: Clairvoyant by Sara Austin; 26", cloth. Photo by Les Bricker.

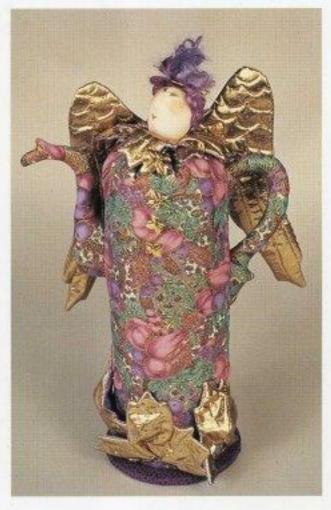
LOWER RIGHT: Madam Chairperson by elinor peace bailey; 24", cloth. Photo by Les Bricker.











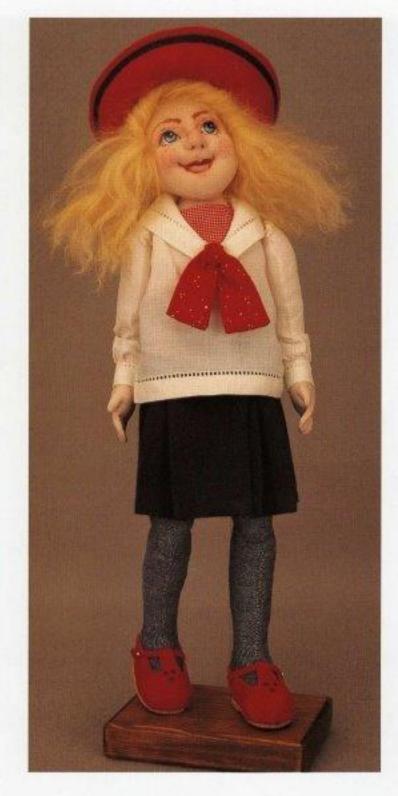
TOP: Lion Man, Laughing Jamaican, Jumpsuit Girl and Red Monkey Man Have a Conversation by Andra Dunn; 30", cloth with papier maché masks. Photo by Andra Dunn.

LOWER LEFT: Johann and Christian by Frances Petefish; 9" and 6", needlesculpted cotton. Photo by Bob Hirsch.

LOWER RIGHT: Heavens, It's High Tea by Ann Woodman; 14", cloth. Photo by Ann Woodman.







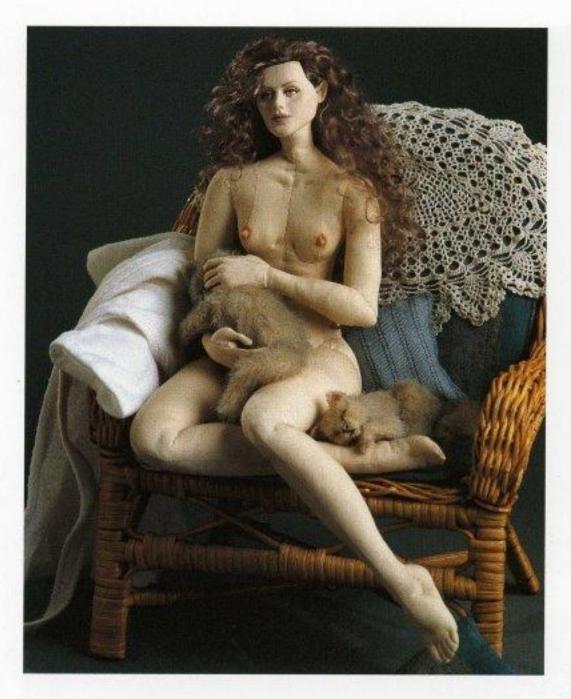


UPPER LEFT: Fleurette by Bonnie Stewart; 20", cotton head painted and glazed. Photo by Bob Hirsch.

UPPER RIGHT: Rosie and Her Red Hat by Becky Craver; 14 ½", needlesculpted Lycra. Photo by Becky Craver.

LOWER LEFT: Valentine by Barbara Willis; 23", jointed cloth. Photo by Photomaster.

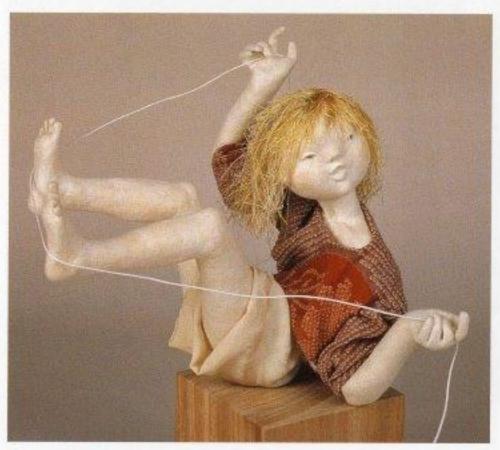
LOWER RIGHT: Mabel by Tracy Page Stillwell; 12", pieced cotton, handpainted. Photo by Beth Ludwig.



UPPER LEFT: Champagne Dreams by Antonette Cely; 13" seated, cloth. Photo by Don Cely.

LOWER LEFT: Girl with Jumping Rope by Junko Liesfeld; 8", cloth. Photo by Don

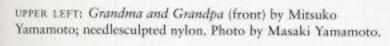
LOWER RIGHT: Gift of the Druid Queen by Karen Wooten; 16", wrapped wire armature, handpainted doe skin. Photo by Bob Hirsch.











LOWER LEFT: Grandma and Grandpa (back) by Mitsuko Yamamoto; needlesculpted nylon. Photo by Masaki Yamamoto.

UPPER RIGHT: Me and My Shadow by Marla Florio; 14" and 15", cloth. Photo by Les Bricker.

LOWER RIGHT: Celeste by Caterine Fulton; 17", soft-sculpted cotton. Photo by Bob Hirsch.











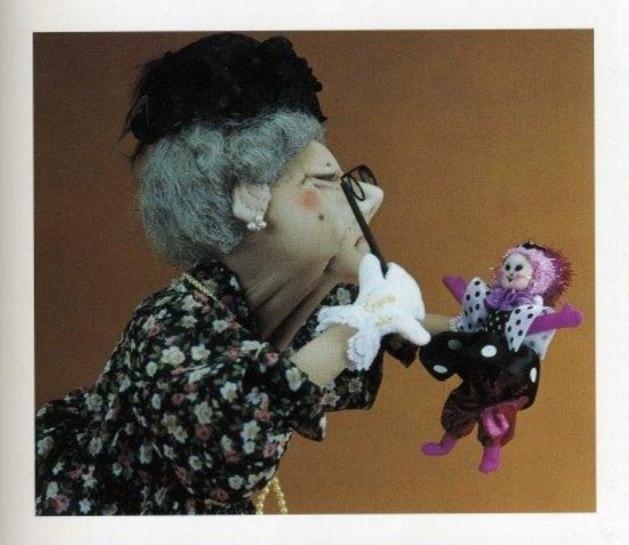


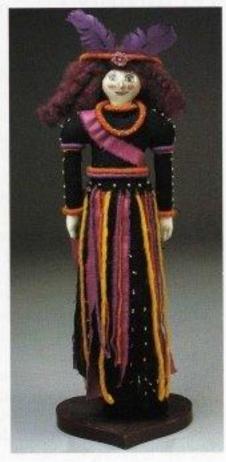
UPPER LEFT: Guardian Angel by Miriam Gourley; 12", cloth, built-up paperclay face. Photo by Darrel Jensen.

UPPER RIGHT: Courting the Flame by Maggie Mayer; 21", painted cloth. Photo by Maggie Mayer.

LOWER LEFT: Enchanted April by Christine Shively; 28", painted and embroidered cloth. Photo by Azad.

LOWER RIGHT: Shaunté by Carla Thompson; 18", painted head, cloth. Photo by Carla Thompson.







UPPER LEFT: The Doll Judge by Bonnie Boots; 18", needlesculpted nylon stocking over padded fleece. Photo by Bonnie Boots.

UPPER RIGHT: Magical Matilda by Susan Hale; 22*, painted canvas. Photo by Susan Hale.

LOWER LEFT: Tilly Willow Dolls by Catherine Fulton; 17", cotton soft sculpture. Photo by Bob Hirsch.

VG THE FIGURE Techniques

As you look through this book, you can see that dollmaking consists of about a dozen primary techniques that are infinitely varied by the artist's individuality, interest, material choices, and construction preferences.

Most dollmakers start with an idea, which is a picture or visualization of the finished figure. Usually, that visualization will be closely connected with a construction technique-modeled clay or needlesculpted cloth, joint mechanics, pattern outline, or color, texture, and pattern. A very good example of specific idea visualization was reported by Althea Church. When she was working on her dolls while traveling on a train, she wished she had little drawers built into her body so she could carry along her dollmaking supplies. Althea challenged herself to create a doll that had drawers, and the result was her Traveling Dollmaker.

No matter how you see your idea, you will have to build the form. In Althea's case, she worked with a variation of the basic cloth doll. In order to make operable drawers, she had to make a frame to hold them, insert it into the body, then build drawers to fit the frame. Her challenge was in making the actual mechanics within the form.

When the form is done, we face the initial challenge: How to complete the doll as you imagined itor near to it. Sometimes, we change in midstream and get really interesting surprises. Even Althea had to make clothes, hair, and the right accessories within the design framework for the type of doll she chose. Completing the piece for most of us is the part that is the most fun. Here we can delineate the character with clothing, embellishments, and accessories.

Usually, we have some notion about how to do it or what we will use, but the following few general suggestions are for your consideration.

COSTUMING

Many dollmakers have no difficulty when sewing and stuffing a body, or when creating a head. But when it comes to costuming, some get spooked. Will it help if I say there are no rules? Will it help if I say you can do anything you like as long as it works for you?

Many beginners think in terms of costuming a doll as they

would a real human: clothes that look real or that can be changed. A doll that is to be played with really must have removable clothing. But a doll that is to be looked at does not. In either case, the maker really becomes a fashion designer.

Even if you begin with an idea of what your doll will look like in clothes, you are always well-advised to have at least one or two books in your library which show photographs and drawings of costume throughout history. Try to make good use of your public library and doll book distributor's catalogs to find specific how-to books for pattern and accessory construc-

> tion. In addition to the reference material, your knowledge of home sewing for humans is invaluable. If you are familiar with basic pattern shapes for such items as trousers, sleeves, and jackets, you can cut your own clothing shapes and sew them directly to your doll. If you like patterns or the idea of removable clothing, start with commercial doll clothing patterns. These can easily be adjusted to fit your doll form. Creating the costume and finishing the doll is where one truly has scope for creativity. When costuming dolls, the most frequently asked questions are:

> > Traveling Dollmaker by Althea Church; 21", cloth, painted features. Photo by Althea Church.

make bases?

How do I make hair?

How do I make

shoes? and How do I



TOP: Birdwatching on Stargaze by Patti Medaris Culea; 18", needlesculpted face, colored with pens and pencils. Photo by Bob Hirsch.

LOWER LEFT: Ice Princess by Julie McCullough; 40", needlesculpted Lycra over velour. Photo by John Nollendorfs.

LOWER RIGHT: Le Que Sabe (The One Who Knows) by Melinda Small Paterson; 20", cloth. Photo by Don Smith.





Hair

Ler's begin wire rain Just about anytaing can be used for hair. Hair is usually thought of either as the individual filters or as the shape of the bairstyle, which gives us two fields of materials and approaches. Inmost cases, these materials are either glaed on (with tacky craft gine) or sown or. There really are no set methods. The late Robert McKinley, one of the best doll arriers in history, if not the best, once described his wigging method to me as follews, "Hency, you just grab a bunch or hair stuff, slap some glue on the bead, stick it down, then swoosh it around until it looks right."

Shown here are a few trad troug worgs of sewing years or thread hairstyles. See what effects you could achieve by using some of the "non-traditional" hair materials with them.

succest Julie McCallough's figure Sweptivitle Solvebow through how a fairly basic head and face can become a whomsely eventorality with the right choice. of him styre 30°, and a Photo by John Novembork.

LOWER RIGHT: Burbary Eve is used her old name saper and ribbons to create a bando for a wholese it doll; 19°, closic Photo by Barbara Evans,

KOWAS, LAFTE Many wenderful fibres can be out to good use in creating effect with easily stitched on has an alcount in Surer by Hebocali Spariter, 16% worth Photo by Stiernie Commiss.







Doll Hair Materials

raffia broom straw (both fuzzy and stalk ends)

flax (natural linen fiber)

bristles (from all sorts of brushes)

yam

(especially designer fiber mixes)

unraveled yarn (makes nice curly hair)

string (from unraveled twine to bakery package string)

ribbon

bunches of mixed ribbons

curled silk ribbon (use scissors to curl)

mohair

washed and dyed roving (spun, but unplied)

thread

silk floss

metallic thread

knitting machine cone thread

human hair and synthetic wigs lout parts of woven wig caps to fit doll, then take apart strips and re-sew to fit doll)

fibers pulled from fabrics

plastic bags

(cut into strips sewn on in wads)

at Mada?

Easter basket "grass"

tassels

pom-poms

chenille stems

beads

buttons

silk flower petals and leaves

laces

(varying lengths and patterns)

shoe laces

leather strips

pipe cleaners

fabric

braided strips

knotted strips

yo-yos (fabric)

felt

(rolled into curls, or cut

into fringe)

stuffed fabric shapes

fringe

dryer lint

fur, long and short (natural on skins or synthetic fabric)

sheepskin

polyester batting

cotton balls

scouring pads (copper)

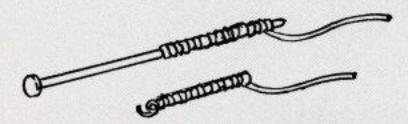
chains

wood shavings

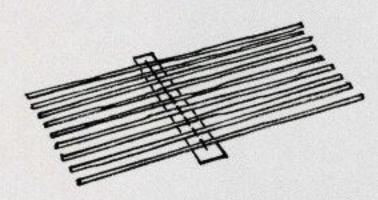
feathers

beads on wire

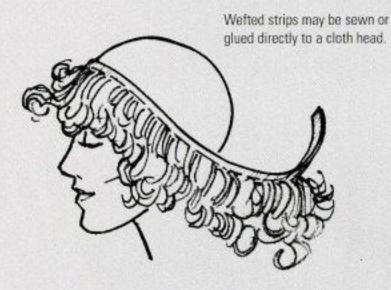
...and floor sweepings from under your sewing machine!

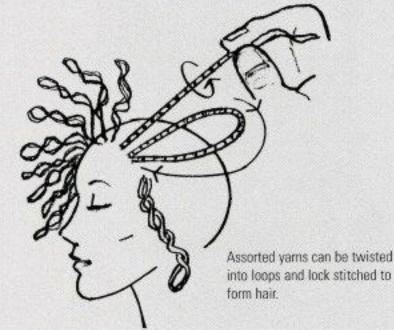


To make yarn curls, wind yarn on a metal knitting needle. Wet the yarn, then dry in a home oven at a low temperature setting.

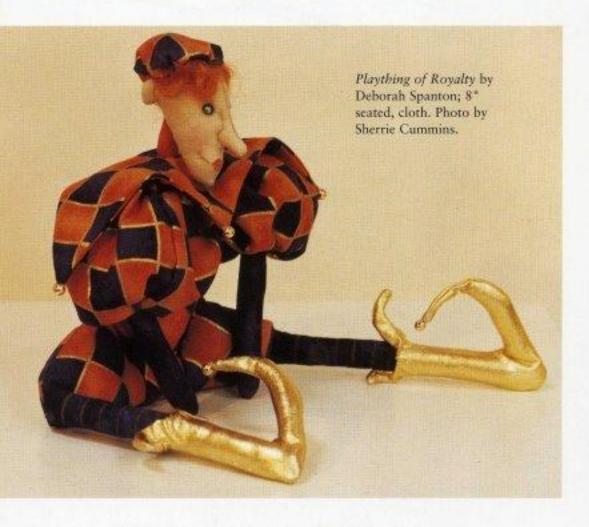


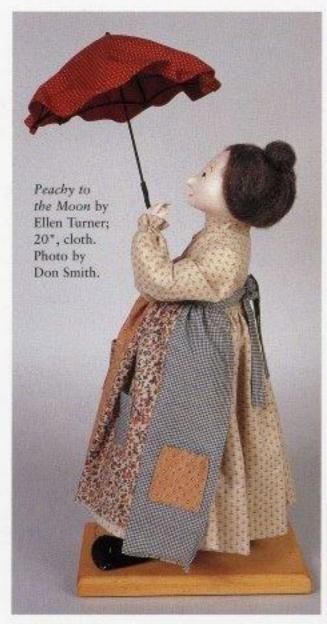
Human hair from purchased wigs can be washed, conditioned, and set using setting preparations and curlers, and then sewn on a fabric strip.





Shoes





Sassy by Genii Townsend; 19", felt over sculpted mask face. Photo by Donald Champion.



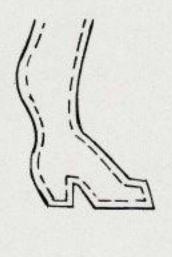
Debut: Lady on Staircase by Jane Darin; 21", cloth. When Jane created this scene, the concept of a lady descending a staircase, and the idea of "debut," meant that the step being taken and the shoe taking it had to be as detailed as any of the other parts. Photo by Joe Darin.





The shoes can be made an integral part of the body.

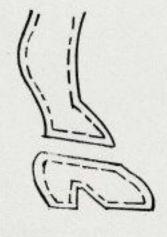
Shown here are a few traditional ways of creating shoes. Try different methods using different materials.







Decide a shoe outline and cut out the shoe shape from a different fabric, adding a '4" seam allowance.

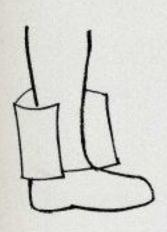




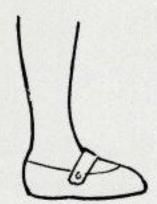


Seam the fabric to the leg piece.

Add embellishments to devise a shoe.

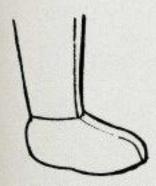








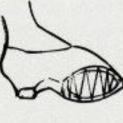
A two-piece foot is given width by adding a cardboard inner sole, essentially making a two-sided stuffed foot into a three-sided foot...with a flat bottom.



Figures with flat soles or very low heels, if firmly stuffed, will stand without external support.

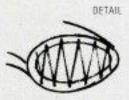


Lay the leg pattern on the cardboard. Draw a line from the heel center to the center of the toe. Cut one pair for the inner soles and another for the outer soles.





Sew and stuff the leg, leaving the open sole at the foot. Insert the cardboard inner form and trim as necessary to fit the shape. Run gathering stitches around the opening. Pull the raw edges over the cardboard inner sole.



Sew in a criss-cross fashion to secure the edges across the sole. Glue the outer sole over the foot bottom.

Bases

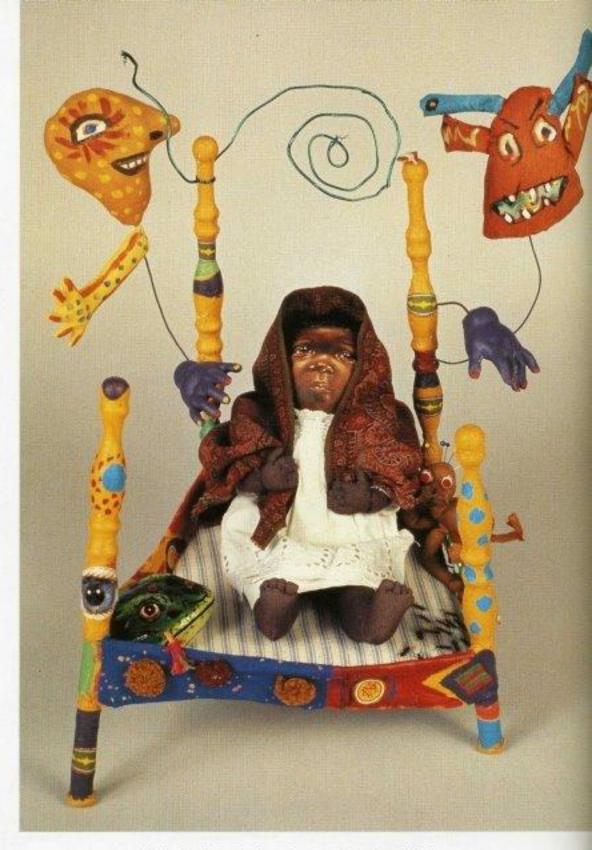
As dollmakers and collectors become more aware of the figure as a piece of art, they want a totally finished look and a secure base for permanent display. Remember, there is no rule that says all dolls are shown standing straight up on a purchased metal stand. Some might, but the joy of the doll is that it can be shown doing just about anything and in any way. As an art piece, the method of display is what can make or break an effective piece.

The most common way of showing a doll is on a wood base, which has either been stained, painted, or covered with fabric. Many ideas for bases and supports can be found in scrap and junk piles...keep your eyes and mind open. I have effectively used lazy Susan bases, wire candelabra, wooden salad bowls and any number of odd items found in the thrift stores. Sometimes the things you find for display will actually give you the idea for the figure to go in or on.

Ideas: A play doll can go in a trunk and have furniture and accessories, a play doll can have a dollhouse, a play doll can have a cloth traveling case or a decorative box. A play doll can have a nice wood or fabric covered base or it could have its own coordinating quilt. Any doll wearing a coated or skirted costume can have a little pocket sewn under its clothing where one could put

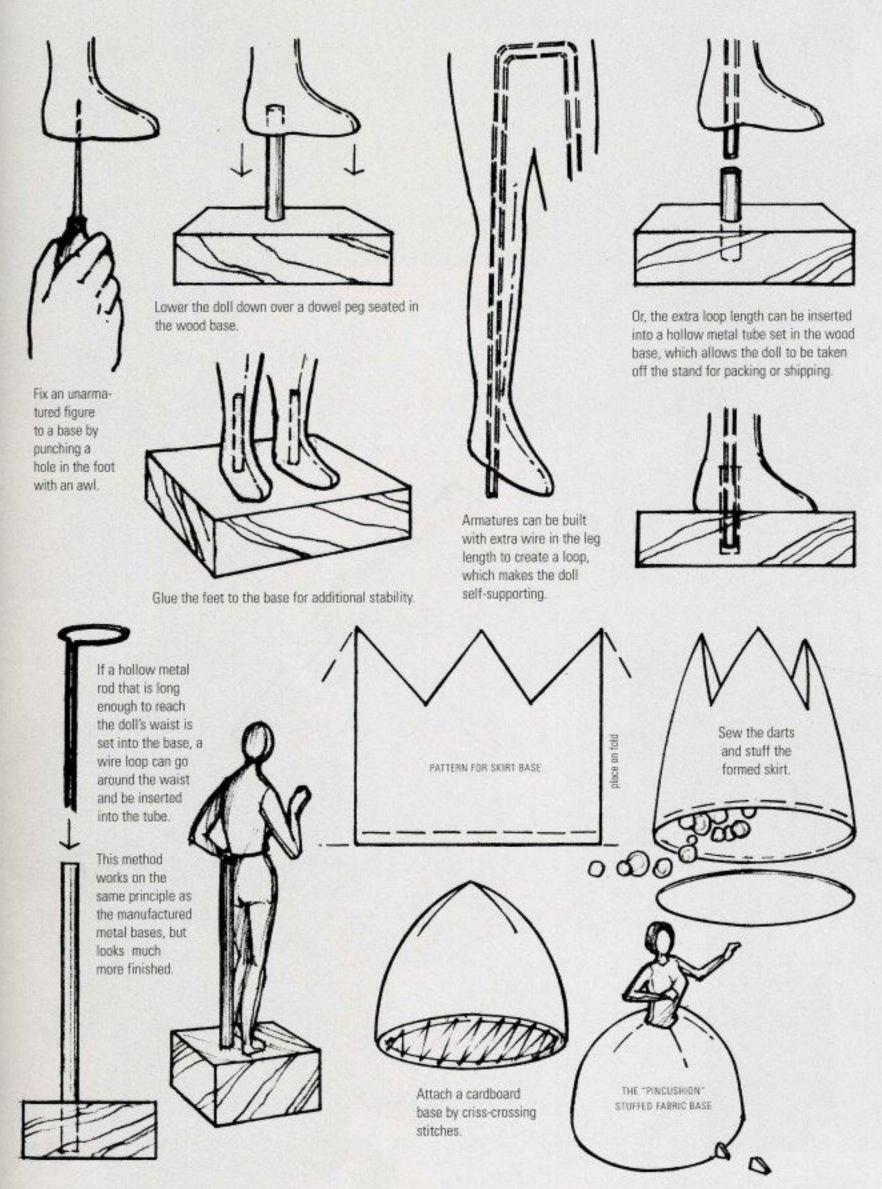
its story or other information. Doll figures can be built into boxes, picture frames, or hanging structures. A doll can loll on your piano, can hide behind the front door, or can sit in a chair at the dining table. Dust, of course; you have to do it regularly, but, if done carefully, a doll can be vacuumed. Many rag dolls actually look better after a run through the washing machine. However, always take care not to leave a doll exposed to direct sunlight as this can cause the fabrics to fade. Who says a doll just has to be planted...let it fly, let it peek out of a frame. Dolls don't have to be encased in museum displays either, just let them live with you.

UNICEF Children by Ellen Rixford; life-sized, needlesculpture over wire armature. Photo by Ellen Rixford.



Night Fright by Barbara Buysse; 12", painted cloth. Photo by Don Smith.

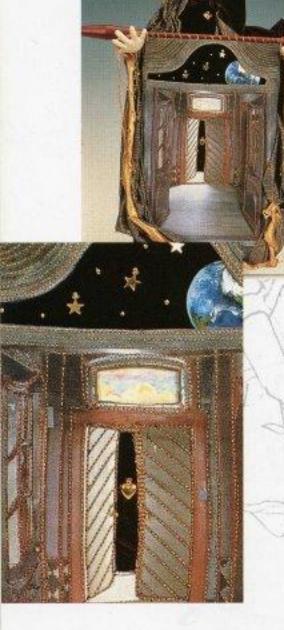




Embellishments

BEADS, FEATHERS, BUTTONS, LACE, TRIMS, RIBBONS, FLOWERS, CHAINS, TASSELS, CORDS, SPOOLS, CHARMS, RIBBON FLOWERS, RIBBON EMBROIDERY, CROCHET, KNIT, WEAVING, PAINTING, PRINTING, PHOTOS, DYING STICKS, STONES, DRIED MATERIALS, PINE CONES, THISTLES, GRASSES, BONES, BOTTLE CAPS, SMASHED CANS, SPONGES, LUFFA, COPPER POT SCRUBBERS, POPSICLE STICKS...

Follow Your Heart by Kath Lathers; 20", cloth over wire armature. Photos by Pete Draugalis.



Puppet Person by Barbara Chapman; 20", stitched muslin. Photo by Bob Hirsch.

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Whimsical Personage by Barbara Chapman; 24", wire armature, painted muslin face. Photo by Bob Hirsch.

...JEWELRY, PLASTIC TOYS, CANDLESTICKS, WOODEN SHELVES, CABINETS, WHATNOTS, CIGAR BOXES, LAZY SUSAN, KEY CHAIN PARTS, MESSAGE BUT-TONS, BOXES, BALLPOINT PEN PARTS, COLORED **GLUE STICKS, FRIENDLY** PLASTIC RUBBER LIPS, PLASTIC BUGS, MESSAGE **BUTTONS, TOURIST NOV-**ELTIES, ANTIQUE OR PUR-CHASED TEA SETS, SMALL FIGURINES, TOYS, BOOKS, PARTY FAVORS, HOLIDAY DECORATIONS, BASKETS, MINIATURES, WATCH/CLOCK PARTS

> Calling the Wind by Christine Shively; 16", cloth, beads. Photo by Les Bricker.

Teaching Yourself the ABC's of Dollmaking



Nubian Dancers by Marcella Welch; 36", cloth. Photo by Jerry Anthony.

The best way to learn is to do. Learning will be quicker and be more enjoyable if you allow yourself to have ideas, to play with them, and to experiment with the techniques. In this way you teach yourself to discover and develop your own ideas, and you use the methods which come naturally to you.

Once upon a time a lady who was commissioning me to do a portrait refused to send me a picture of the person. She gave a verbal description and said that she did not want to "mess up my mind with the reality" of a photo. The following exercises have no sketches and no step-by-step drawings because I would rather you made your own dollmaking realities.

Remember, it takes time and failure to master any technique. You are not performing to get a grade or to achieve perfection. If you don't like something the first time, do it again, and again, until you do.

A. DESIGN

Coordinating colors, textures, and finishes. Find an art print or picture that suggests a good doll subject. This should be an illustration where the artist has used paint, pencil, or chalk. Study the face and hands and decide what art medium was used—oils, watercolor, colored pencils, opaque or acrylic color. Look at the facial features and decide what method would be best to reproduce them: embroidery, ink or pencil, appliqué? Study the face and hands and decide what fabric you know of that would either (a) have the same look and feel as the picture or (b) could be painted to have the same look. Study the hair and decide what type of fiber you would use to make a doll's hairstyle to achieve the same look. Look at the clothing and note what fabrics and trims you would use.

Design exercise: Get a pencil and paper, and then pick three dolls shown in the book and try to figure out how the artist created them. Write yourself a set of instructions for making the dolls you selected, including a list of materials and a pattern.

B. ELEMENTAL FORMS

Take a walk around your yard or neighborhood. Collect dried leaves, grasses, twigs, cones, feathers, and pieces of bark. Lay them out and push them around until the bits suggest body parts. Start with a forked stick that suggests a body and legs. Weave or braid leaves and grasses to make costumes. Use feathers to make hair. Use the grasses to twist and secure interesting stones. If you do not have immediate access to the outdoors, have a look at your trash and experiment with plastic bags and containers.

C. COOKIE CUTTER

The adult dollmaker with no prior experience of pattern making will find it helpful to think of the basic flat doll form as one member of a chain of paper dolls. To design your own form, fold a piece of paper in half, sketch a simple half shape, and cut out. Open the piece of paper for a full pattern. If you don't like the shape, fold the paper and trim to suit your eye....or make a few more.

Drawn or painted embellishments are more easily done before sewing and stuffing. When finished with drawing and painting, cut out the pieces and sew them together. Turn and stuff through opening, hand sew to close. What can you do with this form? Christmas tree ornament, pot holder, a wearable pin, string to make a lei, appliqué on clothing...or whatever else can you think of. Make a few to have on hand for experimenting with new fabric colorings, paints, and pens, or for experimenting with faces and surface design ideas.

D. STUFFED DRAWING

On a large piece of newspaper, use a felt pen to draw the simple outline of a figure in motion. Try an acrobat or a dancer. Check the curves in your drawing to make sure they are not too acute. Think about how small a curve can be sewn and turned without a large amount of pucker. Trace your pattern on a doubled piece of scrap fabric, such as old sheeting. Sew, turn, and stuff this test piece to check your curves. Redraw your paper pattern if necessary to make it more pleasing and easy to sew and turn. When you are satisfied that your pattern will work to portray the shape you desire, trace it on your good fabric and complete.

Try again with another figure. This time, piece your fabric, both the back and front sides of the doll, as you would a quilt block. You might start by piecing in a different color for the skirt, or by using a flesh-colored fabric for the head, arms, and legs.

E. SIMPLE JOINTS

Referring to the drawings in this book and using your own imagination, draw a pattern for a simple rag form. Experiment with decreasing or increasing amounts of stuffing at the top of the leg and the arm. Note how the hang of the limbs is changed from very floppy to fairly stiff by the amount of stuffing used. By the way, if these exercise figures are made small (ten inches tall or less), you can embellish them and use them for wearables.

F. FACE PAINTING

Collect at least 6" square scraps of the following: plain weave cotton, linen-like fabric, silk, velvet and/or lightweight velour. Practice sketching and painting faces with watercolor, acrylics, and colored inks. Notice what happens to each fabric. Note which fabrics tend to bleed color. Keep a scrap bag going and every once in awhile treat yourself to an hour of experimenting with faces and mediums. Some of these practice pieces will turn into very interesting dolls!

G. NEEDLESCULPTING COTTON

Cut, sew, and stuff six or more heads of the center seam nose type (page 31) using plain woven cotton and then practice your needlesculpture stitches (page 46). Vary your practice by making heads of plain weave cotton, felt, and knit. Notice how the same stitch patterns will result in different sculpted effects on different fabric types.

H. NEEDLESCULPTING NYLON STOCKING FABRIC

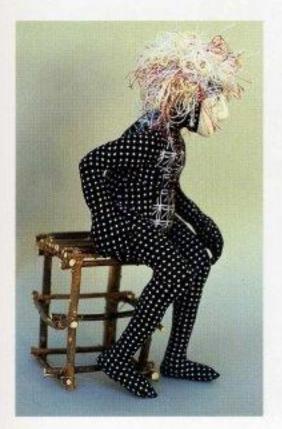
Cut two-way stretch panty hose into sections about 8" long. Stuff each section and gather each end to close. Practice your needlesculpture stitches (page 42). If necessary, cut a small hole in the back or open an end to add more stuffing. After you have done several with this method, see what happens if you sew a flat head of cotton fabric and then attach the stocking fabric face to the front of it. Or, try constructing a fully round head, pulling the stocking fabric over it and stuffing as necessary. Secure the needlesculpting stitches by sewing into a solid stuffed head.

I. SIMPLE FACE CONTOURS WITH CLAY

Construct at least six heads using the contoured method (page 33). Use doubled thread to create the eye-line contour. Use air-drying clay to build a nose and the chin area (page 49). When the clay material is dry, cover the face area with a light coat of craft glue and cover the face with a loose weave or stretchy fabric.

J. MASK FACES

Use oven-cured polymer clays or air-drying paperclays to sculpt a simple face mask form. Make several. Experiment with a variety of covering materials, such as cotton gauze, muslin, stockinette knits, swimsuit knits, or even leather.



Stand Up by Beverly Dodge Radefeld; 18", cloth. Photo by Beverly Dodge Radefeld.

Experiment with the effects of (a) painting the face, (b) insetting beads or purchased glass or plastic eyes, or (c) creating a separate eyelid. Ask yourself how you would create an open mouth. Always leave an overlap of at least ½" of covering fabric at the edge so that the mask can be attached to a stuffed head form by stitching.

K. SHAPING THE TORSO

Look at the various methods of shaping a bust. Then think of at least two more variations for each method (different shapes, different fabrics, different methods of attachment). Try them!

L. MAKING REALISTIC HANDS

Enlarge the hand pattern with fingers (page 77). Cut several patterns and practice sewing, cutting, turning, and stuffing them. See how small you can make a hand.

M. PRACTICING FOOT AND SHOE CONSTRUCTION

Construct a pair of legs and feet for as many foot designs as you can find in this book.

N. THE TIED JOINT

Stuff each limb to the joint. Hold the stuffing back firmly and tie the limb so the knot rests firmly against stuffed area. Try weighting the feet and hands, but do not stuff between joints.

O. THE BEAD JOINT

Study the stitched bead joint diagrams (page 103) and observe the forms of the undressed dolls made by Shelley Thornton (page 102) and Maggie Iacono (page 98). Then invent your own versions.

P. THE GUSSETED BUTTON JOINT

The illustrations of the gusseted joint (page 107) show the gusset in the upper limb. Try designing a pattern to make the gusset or attachment tab for the lower limb.

Q. DESIGNING BUTTON JOINTS

Can you re-design this joint (page 107) to be easier to make? How many joint variations can you make? How small can you make them? How would you joint a head?

R. WIRE ARMATURE

Construct several wire armatures (page 110) about 8" tall to get the feel of what is required to work with wire. Bend figures into different poses. Do the poses suggest particular actions or characters? Tear printed cotton fabric into half strips and practice wrapping wire bodies. As you wrap, take care to "sculpt" by wrapping thinly at joint areas and by wrapping several times at body parts where thickness is required. Add beads, buttons, or other embellishment materials and create a series of wearables.

Try covering a wire armature by wrapping it with cotton string or yarn. Wrap the string so that the strands flatten as you wrap. When the wire has been sculpted with the wrapped string to a full body shape, cut the felt pieces and cover the body by hand stitching felt around the limbs.

S. WIRE ARMATURED BODIES

Design or pick a basic cloth figure pattern. Cut, sew, and turn pieces. Lay unstuffed pieces out, overlapping parts about ½" (twice the amount of seam allowance). Construct a wire

ammune to it inside the body piaces. Check the sizing of the armature by laving it over the unstiffed bisors. Then insert the arrangere into the body as it putting on a saint, Staft, Pall the arms and legs over the ware, and staff and sew to the body. at the shoulder and hip. When the body is authed around the wire, the stuffing will expand or widen the body. This means that the armature will need to be a little shorter than the contens. Each type of labrac and your method of stuffing will produce a fferent results. Be ready to adjust or to repeat until your arman, re firs the body.

T. FIXED BASE PIGURES

Silver three or more woers of women printed entron that was have had for a long time, but perhaps never liked or found a good not for Study the fabrics and or the patterns or colors. tell you what sort of dails they would like to be. Wittin wood. black and a coar hanger, construct a fixed figure (page 117). Design a simple body form to go over the arms are and pick a state for the head and hands that matches your figure concapt. Complian the ligare using whatever finishes analymbells shments seem needed.

U. THE CONTOURED HEAD

Construct two or three contoured heads (page 33). Then make two or three more. See what happens (at if you applicate a note the if you needlescales the corners of the mouth, or (c) if compaint the near with a very thick layer of count.

V. RODY CONTOURS

Nancy Laverick's communed figures were suggested to her by odd shaped scraps on her sewing room floor. Can or find a few add shaped pieces of fith-fe------ least two of their should be identical. Measure around the outside edges and out a riboon of fabric about 2" wide and sa long sa your measurement, plus 1" for the seam allowance. Sew one ade of ribbon, to one more tright sides tegether), and sew the other side of the ripbon to the other piace, is this confusing? Try loosing at the photos to figure it out (page 66).

W. COVERING A BODY

Contract a jointed doll. Experiment with covering or "making an outer sking for it. Use stretchy fatous and needlescale. to emphasize muscle definition.

K. BODY DARTS

Design an arm with a simple form in a straight position. Cut two pieces and sew a dart at the inside ellow hend of each piece. Put the pieces right sides together, and then saw, turn, and striff. The darr will entare a horn arm. Vary the width of the dark to achieve maximum bend. Compare the darked elhow and kneet to a pattern where the head is designed into the form of the basic nations.

Y. BODY GUSSETS

A two-piece dall pattern a often "two skingy" in the calf or the lag and ringh. What happens if you construct a long trianguar gusset making a third leg back piece?

Z. FINISHING THINGS

Take all your practice pieces and lay them our on a table. Fash them around to see how many complete or nearly complete dolls you have from the parts. Decide now each might be completed. Think about working colors and textures to pull parts together. Think about what is missing and what you might do to fall in the missing part. Let the fabries, shapes, and faces suggest ideas to year. What you complete will be your own original colls. Consider which methods you enjoyed doing and which worked here for you. It is most likely that the methods you liked will be the best for you to develop in your own designs.

Averston by Ause Mayer Morer, 32" to 34", labor, with modeled city faces. Photo by Photo Pro.



APPENDIX B

The best means of finding out what is happening in the doll world and what is available is to subscribe to one or two periodicals. All of them provide valuable information, articles, updates of current events, and most provide patterns and technical tips.

A dollmaker can never have or read enough books. From books we learn what other dollmakers have done and what they are doing, as well as the technical processes associated with our craft. Most of the books available from large, commercial publishers are carried by the book distributors listed below. Write and ask for their catalog of titles.

Hobby House Press 1 Corporate Drive Grantsville, MD 21536

Scott Publications 30595 Eight Mile Road Livonia, MI 48152

Unfortunately, many valuable dollmaking books have limited print life and many more are privately printed and difficult to locate. Many interesting patterns are self-published by artists and only a small percentage can be regularly stocked by fabric and craft shops. On the artist list below, we have keyed(*/#) those who teach and/or sell patterns and books. If you write an artist for information, be sure to include a stamped, addressed envelope for the reply. For a few stamps and envelopes, you will find a whole new world of dollmaking opportunities.

ARTISTS

* = Patterns/books sold # = Available to teach classes

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Susanna Oroyan taught herself the art of dollmaking. Since 1972, she has made over 500 dolls, and her dollmaking has become a full-time career and a business. For the past decade, Susanna has been a motivating force in regional and national dollmakers' organizations. She has exhibited her dolls internationally and has written several books, including Fantastic Figures by C&T Publishing, and well over two hundred articles for doll magazines. She has also taught dollmaking classes at many major seminars as well as for individual dollmaking groups. Susanna's cloth-doll patterns are available from:

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