

Cloth doll – Cynthia Thornton

Materials:

1/2 yard of linen fabric
Scissors
Pins
Stuffing
Marking pencil
Inktense color blocks
Paint brush
Iron or steamer
Yarn for hair
Thread
Needles
Buttons
Ribbon

Instructions:

1. Draw out arms, legs directly onto fabric, or draw a pattern on paper and cut it out and trace onto fabric, pinning the right sides of fabric together. Keep in mind that the pieces will look thinner after being stuffed. Also, really thin limbs (1/4") will be difficult to turn, even with tweezers or hemostats.
2. Sew 1/4" around the pattern, leaving a 2" opening to add stuffing at the base of each limb. If you have detailed pattern pieces (for fingers, toes, ears), using a darning foot and an embroidery hoop in a free motion sewing technique might be useful.
3. Cut out the pieces.
4. Turn the pieces inside out, using long tweezers or hemostats.
5. Use the long tweezers to stuff the parts that are skinny with polyester filling or pieces of scrap cloth. Scrap cloth is great torsos, to give firmness and a bit of weight.
6. Pin the stuffed pieces in place and sew them together. Attach arms by using a long doll needle and sewing back and forth through body to make joints. Tuck legs into torso and pin in place and sew across to joint.

7. Attach yarn hair by pinning sections and sewing down. A crocheted cap can be used to cover head and long lengths of yarn sewn to the stitches.

8. Use Inktense blocks and a brush with water or alcohol to paint dress and face and heat set with an iron. If you aren't happy with what you drew, it can be washed out until it is heat set. Also, if more detail is required, make an Inktense slurry with a brush and water until it is fairly concentrated. Use this thicker paint to add eyelashes, or freckles. When dry, heat set with a iron pressed over the surface. Be mindful of steam, it could blur sharp edges.

9. Add buttons and trims to decorate. A bit of embroidery around the eyes and mouth with make the face more lively.

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