

EXPRESSIONS[®]

Original Designs for the Doll Industry, Inc.

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March 15, 2013

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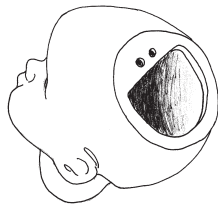
19" Portrait Pose-able Body

By Dianna Effner

Portrait Series Pose-able Body Assembly

Supplies & Tools

Sewn Body Kit
Pre-Assembled Armature
Porcelain Feet
Porcelain Hands
Porcelain Head with 2 holes for stringing elastic through the top of the head.
Porcelain Shoulder Plate
A good grade of Polyfill
Stick or tool for stuffing
Quilt Batting
20 gauge copper wire
Craft Glue
Hot glue Gun and glue sticks
Knee-hi Stocking
Steel shot (BBs from sporting goods)
Heavy duty thread
Large sewing needle
Large doll sculpting needle.
19" of stringing elastic 5/32" elastic



Pattern Pieces

1/2 yard flesh colored deer suede fabric

Cut 2 each of all pattern pieces.



Body front
Knee gusset
Body Back
Leg/seat
Leg
Upper arm
Lower arm

Sewing instructions.

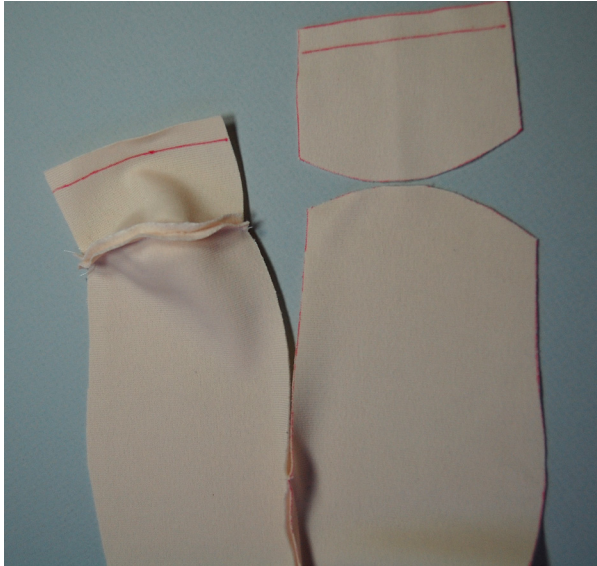
Stitch seams using 1/4 inch seam allowance.



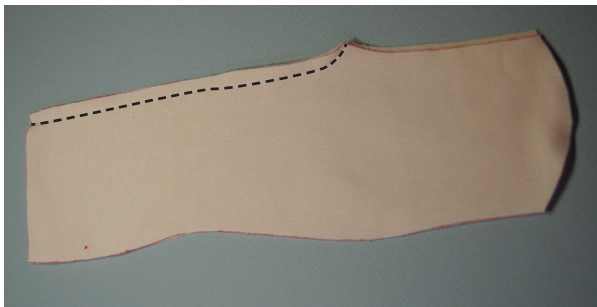
Torso/legs

Step 1: Match leg gussets to appropriate leg

Step 2: With right sides together pin, then stitch curved edge of gusset to curved edge of leg.



Step 3: With right sides together stitch center front seam tapering seam at the crotch. Press seam open.



Step 4: With right sides together stitch body back pieces to clip mark. Clip seam and press.

Step 5: Stitch seat pieces together at center seam. Press.



Step 6: With right sides together pin seat to back matching center seams.



Step 7: Stitch seat to back stopping stitching at dot and secure with backstitch.



Step 8: With right sides together lay front to back matching side seams and pin.



Step 9: Stitch side seams.

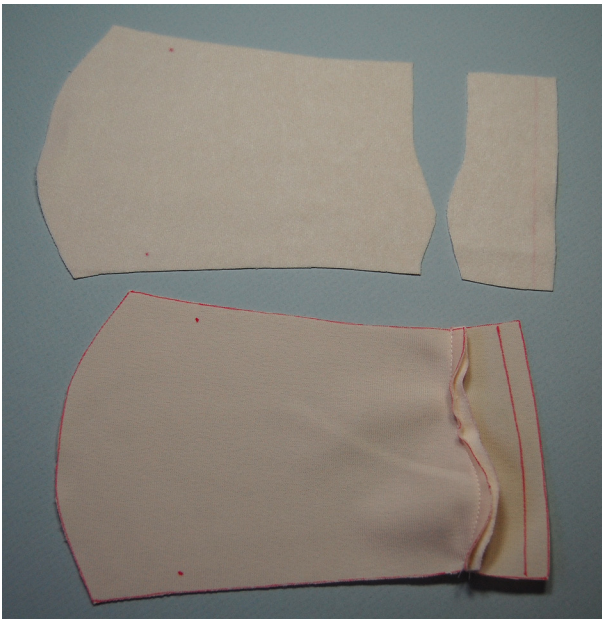
Step 10: Match crotch seams with right sides together and pin.



Step 11: Stitch crotch seam.

Arms

Step 1: Stitch arm gusset to arms. Press



Step 2: Stitch arm casings now if you plan to use method 2 for attaching arms. (See instructions for body assembly.)

Step 3: Stitch underarm seams to dot.

Body is stitched and ready to assemble.



Armature Assembly

You will need:

Lock line pliers for 1/4 inch plastic links

2 Y joints

1/4 inch lock line links cut as follows:

Spine, 8 links

2 Arms, 13 beads per arm

2 Legs, 17 beads per leg

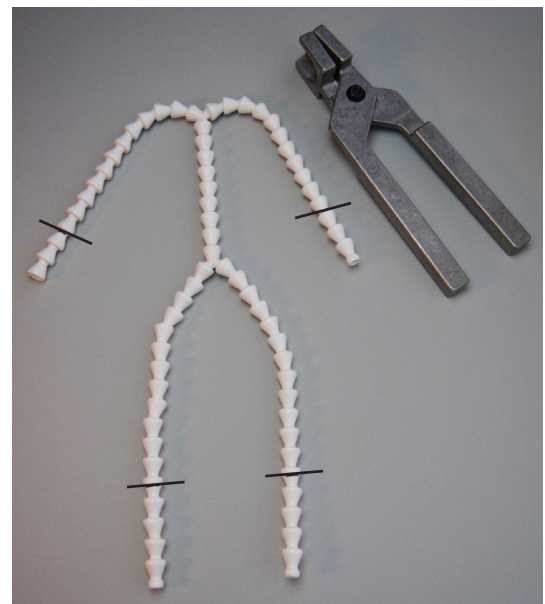
Attach Y joint to each end of spine

Attach arms and legs as shown

Mark legs 4 1/2 beads from the end as shown

Mark arms 3 beads from the end as shown,

These marks are to serve as guides when attaching the feet and hands.



Attaching Feet to Armature

Step 1: Stuff a bit of polyfill into the foot

Step 2: add some BBs for weight

Step 3: Insert armature legs into the feet matching marks on armature with the rim of the legs. Stuff around the armature with polyfil to hold the armature in place leaving room at the top for glue.

Step 4: When both feet are in place and balanced, fill the space at the top of the legs with hot glue.



The Spine

Step 1: Cut a piece of knit fabric 4 x 18 inches.

Step 2: Spread white craft glue along the spine.

Step 3: Fold the strip of fabric double and press short end into the glue.

Step 4: Wrap the cloth around the armature.



Step 5: Hand stitch to secure padded spine.



Wrapping the Legs.

The legs are padded with quilt batting

Step 1: Cut 2 strips of polymer quilt batting, 5 x 28 inches

Step 2: Apply glue to the armature of one leg.



Step 3: Press the short edge of batting into the glue and wrap the leg firmly with batting.

Step 4: Apply craft glue along edge of batting and press down to secure the wrap.

Step 5: Repeat for other leg.



Step 6: Tuck a dab of polymer between the layers at the knee.

Step 7: Wrap some polyfil firmly around the armature between the wrap and the top on the leg to fill in the gap.



Attaching Cloth Body

Step 1: Cut 2 pieces of 20 gauge copper wire 9-10 inches long.

Step 2: With body turned wrong side out position legs to slip over feet. Slip cloth leg up over feet until raw edge of fabric matches top edge of leg. Align side seams with the sides of legs.



Align casing line with groove in porcelain leg. Wrap wire around leg where the groove is located. Twist wire to hold in position. Make adjustments and finally tighten the wire with pliers until the wire grips the cloth firmly settling into the groove. Take care not to twist too tight until wire breaks. When cloth is held securely trim wire with cutters and bend flush with the groove.*



Step 3: Pull up cloth body until it fits smoothly on the legs.



*Alternate methods: Use strong string, dental floss wrapped twice around or small narrow cable ties to attach the legs.

Step 4: Use a large sculpting needle to work and shape the stuffing at the knee.



Stuffing the body

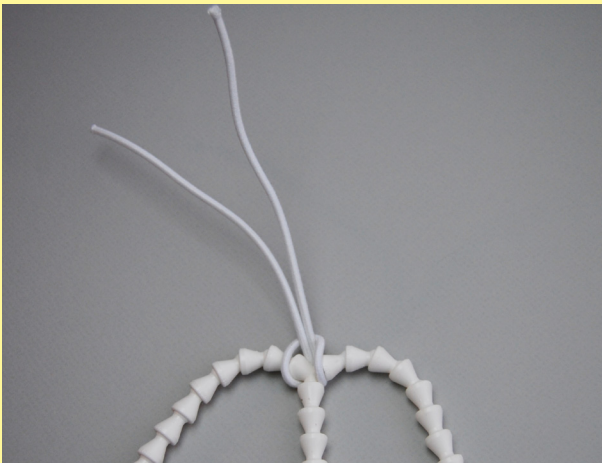
Step 1: Make 2 weights to keep doll balanced when seated. Put a handful of BBs into a section of knee hi panty hose. Tie shut, wrap and tuck in excess hose material. Repeat for second weight.



Step 2: Put some stuffing into the seat of the body. Wrap the weights with stuffing and place one into each side of the seat.



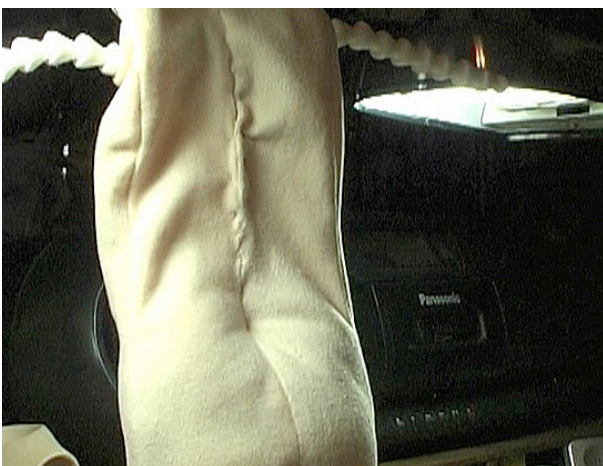
Illustration showing how to attach the elastic to the armature.



Step 3: Using strong button thread and needle hand sew back opening closed.



Step 4: Thread needle again and stitch up the spine, from lower back to top of torso, digging the needle in to catch the cloth that is wrapped around the spine. This is to keep the spine in position against the back to give the doll good pose-ability and posture. It also give the torso a better shape when stuffed.



Step 5: Stuff the belly of the doll adding large puffs of stuffing to make a smooth nicely shaped torso.



The torso should feel firm enough to support the shoulder plate but not too hard. Too much stuffing inhibits pose-ability. Don't add any extra stuffing at the tops of the legs and hips.

Step 6: Tuck some stuffing into the back on each side of the spine.

Note: The head is attached to the body by elastic that is attached to the armature and tied at the top of the head. 2 holes must be made in the head large enough for the elastic to go through.

Step 7: Cut a 19 inch length of 5/32" stringing elastic. Form a loop and attach the center of the elastic to the top of the spine under the "arms" of the armature bring the 2 end up for attaching the head. (See illustration on page 7)

Step 8: Turn raw edges under along the top of the body opening. Hand stitch closing the top while keeping the strands of elastic in the center.

Attaching the Arms

Please note: There are 2 methods to attach the arms. One is to attach them the same as the legs. Care should be taken to make sure everything is lined up properly before tying on. This part can be confusing. The other method is to sew a casing and insert the wire into the casing before attaching it to the porcelain arms. This will make it a bit easier to line everything up but the wire twist will be on the outside. It can then be tucked in the stitched over by hand to hide the wire. We will demonstrate the second method.

Method II is shown here.

The hands have not yet been attached to the body.

Step 1: A casing has been sewn on the arms. Cut 2 pieces of wire about 9 inches long. Work the piece of wire through the casing.

Step 2: Take care to match right to right and left to left. Position the cloth arm over porcelain hand matching casing with groove. Align the underarm seam with the thumb.



Step 3: When everything is lined up, twist the wire to secure.

Step 4: Cut off excess wire to about 1/4 inch and bend to lie flat against the arm. To conceal wire twist, hand stitch pulling fabric along seam over the wire.

Step 5: Pull arm fabric inside out exposing the rim of the arm opening. Put some stuffing into the arm and try on armature. Match the edge of the rim with the mark on the armature. Tuck more stuffing into the arm around the armature to hold in place. Leave some room at the top of the arm for hot glue.



Step 6: Fill top of the arm with hot glue to fix the arm to the armature.

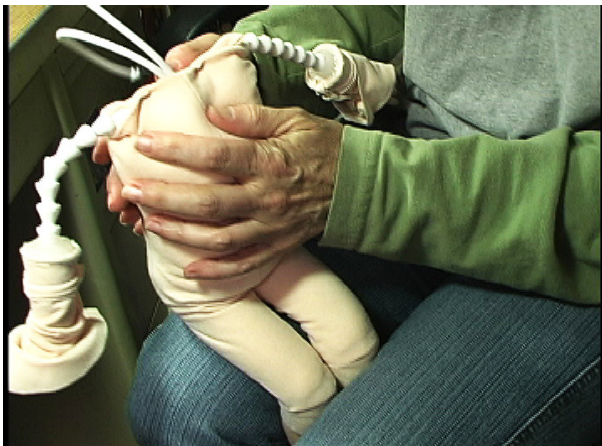
Step 7: Repeat for other arm.

Closing the Top of the Body

Step 1: Add some stuffing to the chest area making it firm enough to support the shoulder plate.



Step 2: Turn raw ends at the top of body under and pin opening closed keeping elastic in the center.



Step 3: Hand stitch the opening closed.



Wrapping and Sewing the Arms

Note: We use a good grade of polyfil that is full and fluffy with long fibers that shapes easily. This is essential for the method we use for wrapping the arms. It will take some practice too. Experience will teach you how much stuffing to use.

Step 1: Take a good amount of polyfil as shown.



Wrap and twist around the armature, turning and twisting with your hands until secure and smooth.



Step 2: Pull cloth arm up over armature so that right side is out and arm is smooth.



Step 3: Use large sculpting needle to work and sculpt the stuffing at the elbow until smooth.



Step 4: Align underarm seams and arrange fabric at the top of each arm to lay smoothly over the top of body.

Step 5: Turn raw edges under and pin.

Step 6: Stitch turned edges down.



Step 7: Slip shoulder plate on with elastic extended through the next opening. Pin the elastic in back to keep shoulder late in place until the head is attached.



