

# Special Instructions (Stringing)

## Preparation of Small All-Porcelain Doll Parts for Stringing

Another part in the series of free Downloads for Doll Makers. Most of the supplies needed are available in kit form from Expressions.

You will need Doll parts, arms, legs and torso and head, ready for stringing, fired with color wash already applied. A wooden stand or scrap of wood board. 2 inch sections of brass rod and tubing, Drill for drilling hole in stand, wire hooks for the arms, Dental plaster, paper cup and water for mixing plaster, stick or plastic spoon for mixing the plaster, kneaded eraser, Polyfil for stuffing arms, white or light colored clay such as Sculpey,

We have found that care must be taken in setting the hooks in the arms of the all porcelain dolls for proper pose-ability. A very small hook should be used that will not interfere with the movement of the shoulder joint. We make the hooks for the arms out of wire or paper clips. We provide the properly made hooks in the Assembly Kits.

Another important part of excellent preparation has to do with proper mounting of the doll. The proper pose is determined at this stage. This applied specifically to the Wednesday's Child Body and the Sweet Petite Body.

*Note: The 10 inch All-Porcelain Portrait Body leg is treated in a similar fashion. See details below.*

Instructions:

### Preparing the Right Leg

Use your stand or any piece of wood to make a temporary stand.

Step 1: Drill a hole with a 7/64" drill bit (smaller in circumference than the brass peg) and at least 1/2 inch deep. Tap the peg into the hole. You will use the peg to install the tube in the leg.



Step 2: Put the 2 inch length of tube on the peg.

Step 3: Take a small marble size piece of kneaded eraser and press it down over the tube allowing a tiny piece to fill the top opening of the tube. Press the rest of the eraser around the base of the tube and flatten to about 1/4th inch thick.

Step 4: Place the right leg over the tube inserting the tube into the hole in the bottom of the foot .

Step 5: Press the foot into the eraser so that the leg is angled slightly to your left as shown in Illustration.

Note: When making the 10 inch all porcelain portrait doll such as Little Lou the leg should be angled slightly also but less than the Wednesday's Child or Sweet Petite body.

The rubber eraser will help keep the leg in position and keep the plaster from leaking out of the hole.

#### Preparing the Arms for Setting the Hooks

Step 1: Loosely fill the arms with polyfill up to rounded shoulder area. If the stuffing is loose the plaster will be able to expand inside the arm as it hardens, preventing cracking of the arm when expansion takes place.

Step 2: Press the arms into blocks of clay so that the opening is level, ready for pouring in the dental plaster.

Have hooks ready. Place each hook over a 1 inch length of elastic. See Photo

Have right leg ready also. When the plaster is mixed you will want to pour the leg and arms immediately as the dental plaster sets up rather quickly. Photo

#### Mixing the Plaster

Step 3: Mix plaster for setting the tube in the leg and the hooks in the arms. Put 1/4 cup of dry dental plaster in a paper cup. Add about a tablespoon of water and stir. Add water gradually while stirring until the mixture is like gravy in thickness.



**Step 4:** Pour into the right leg to top of tube. photo

**Step 5:** Pour into the arm hole openings to the rim. photo

**Step 6:** Place the arm hooks into the wet plaster and position hooks as shown, with wire loop aligned with the upper arm.

**Flocking:** This technique serves to make the joints fit better for posing and be quieter when moved.

You will need: Flocking, Ultimate glue or other craft glue, paint brush for spreading glue, small plastic bag, parts to be flocked: torso and head. Paper for catching flocking.

**Instructions:**

The Ultimate Glue will work for this if you add a little bit of water until it is creamy and self leveling. You might want to mix a bag of thinned glue for this purpose.

**Areas to be Flocked:**

Apply a layer of glue to the surfaces of the areas to be flocked. On the head, the rim around the neck hole should be flocked. On the arm hole rim should be flocked. On the leg opening, the area to be flocked is the rim around the hole and the flat area around the rim. This will keep the leg joint from squeaking.

Spread glue even with a brush.

Work over a piece of paper so you can reclaim the excess flocking.

While glue is wet hold each piece with glue surface up and sprinkle with a generous coat of flocking. Shake tap or gently blow off excess.

Allow to dry before touching flocked surface.

