

The Gaze Technique

Skill in China Painting comes from understanding the medium. Experience is the best teacher. The next best thing is to learn from an experienced teacher. Read *About China Paint and DEEP Technique* By Dianna Effner for detailed information and guidance in painting dolls with China paint

You will need:

Paints: For this step you will use the darkest shade for the doll you are painting or whatever is indicated in the painting instructions

Magic Medium
18/0 Spotter
18/0 Liner
18/0 Round or
10/0 Filbert
#2 Lip Blender

The Gaze Technique is tricky to explain. I am going to give a brief explanation here. Most students require more than one seminar on DEEP Technique to really grasp and master the gaze technique.

The purpose for the technique is to achieve a focused expression on the doll you are painting so that the finished doll appears to be looking at something rather than staring into space.

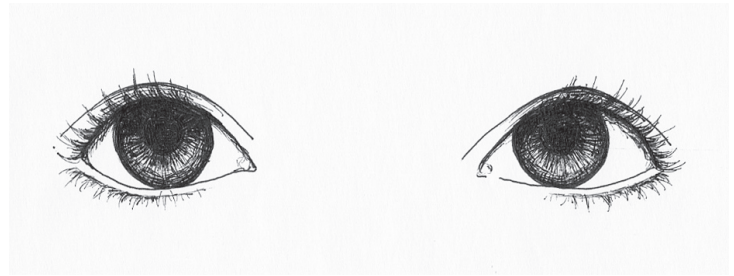
Here I am going to give the steps for achieving the effect of a good gaze without going into detail on the reasons behind them.

Use a Liner brush and mix some Magic Medium into your eye shade to a fluid consistency

Step 1: Find the mid point between the corners of the eyes and mark with a fine line in the center of each eye as shown. Illustration #1

Step 2: Mark a fine line half way between the top and bottom of the eye opening, forming a cross with the intersection at the very center of each eye opening. Illustration #2

Now you will plot the center point of each iris. The lead eye will establish the direction of the gaze. The other will follow the first eye. If the doll is to look to her left, the left eye will be the leader. If the doll will be looking to her right the right eye will be the leader.



Often we place the center of the lead eye on the center line but a little bit above the mid way from top to bottom. Prepare the color you plan to use for the darkest shade. Use a spotter to place a dot of color as shown.

Step 3: On the doll's right eye paint a dot on the center line just above the mid line as shown. Illustration #4

Step 4: On the doll's left eye paint a dot above the mid point and next to the center line toward the inside corner. Illustration #5

Step 6: Shape the center section of the lead eye where the pupil will be places by painting a concentric circle around the center dot.

Step 7: Paint the center section of the second eye the same of the lead eye. Strive to make the 2 circles nice and round and the same size.

Step 8: Paint another concentric circle that is equal distance from the center circle. Start at the lower lid and maintain the same distance as you paint the circle. Stop the line where it meets the upper lid. The top part of the circle is hidden beneath the upper lid.

Step 9: Paint the outer circle for the second eye.

Step 10: Use a Filbert or Round brush cleaned in water and blotted on paper towel to refine and perfect the shape of the circle.

Step 11: Fill in center circle with color. This should be a thin transparent layer of color. Stipple lightly with a tip of dry Blender to eliminate brush strokes

Continue to perfect the circles adding color with the Liner and refining with the Filbert of Round until the line is even, rounded and smooth.

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