

Blank Doll Project

Materials and Instructions

Fabrics

Doll Body: quilting cottons (Palencia, etc.) or other similar weight, heavier/sturdier fabrics also work well such as some bottom weights; muslin is a bit too “wimpy”; stick to cottons or cotton blends that don’t “bleed” when written on with markers

Colors: White, ivory, white-on-white or similar tone-on-tone prints; flesh-tones (try to avoid anything too dark for children to write on easily)

Gowns: Cottons or cotton blends in whatever print you like

Cutting

For the doll bodies, fold the 45” fabric crosswise, not lengthwise. Fold up about 18” or enough to trace the whole doll body. Then fold the fabric in thirds lengthwise this time so that you have six layers of fabric. Trace the body, the cut out.

For the gowns, fold the 45” fabric lengthwise twice so that you have 4 layers of fabric and trace the gown. Cut out; for each set of two pieces, slit one up the middle to make the back of the gown.

Sewing

For the doll body, leave a 3” opening along one side and take a ¼” seam around the perimeter of the doll. Sew the label into the side opposite where the opening is, ½” or so below the arm. Clip the curves to make turning easier.

For the gowns, sew the shoulder seams, taking a scant ¼” seam. Press toward the back of the gown. Finish the lower edge of the sleeves and the back edges of the opening by zigzagging or the method of your choice. Sew the side/underarm seams with a scant ¼” seam. Clip the corner and press the seams toward the back. Finish the lower edge of the gown with a zigzag. Cut about 29” of double fold bias tape to match the gown and apply to the neck edge with a zigzag stitch.

Stuffing/Finishing

The dolls have to be VERY, VERY FIRMLY stuffed because they get injections, IVs, casts, and all kinds of “treatments” while in the hospital! A 5-lb box of polyester fiberfill will stuff only about 7-8 dolls. Start with the head, then both arms, then both legs, then finish with the body. It’s most important that the head and extremities be firm. Close the opening with an overcast stitch or some other appropriate stitch.

Dress the doll in it’s gown and you’re done!