

Making a Baby Doll

By Ruth Chopp

Make the buggy extra special by adding a baby doll and quilt. Small plastic dolls are widely available at craft stores and online, or make a cloth doll yourself by following these instructions.

Making the Doll

Use a ½" (13mm)-diameter wooden ball for the head. Drill a ⅛" (3mm)-diameter by ¼" (6mm)-deep neck hole in the head. Paint the head with fleshtone paint and let it dry. Use a small sponge to apply a French mauve blush to the cheeks. Make a heart-shaped mouth with a stylus using gooseberry paint, and make two black eye dots with the stylus.

Cut the body from wood, and then drill a ⅛" (3mm)-diameter by ⅜" (10mm)-deep neck hole. Cut a ⅛" (3mm)-diameter by ¾" (19mm)-long piece of dowel and use it to attach the head to the body.

Fold the arm and leg fabric with the right sides together. Pin and cut two each arms and legs on the fold. Sew the arms and legs as shown, and then clip wedges in the curves, being careful not to cut the seams. Turn the arms and legs right side out, stuff lightly, and sew the ends shut. Glue or nail the arms to the body at the top of the shoulders, and attach the legs to the front bottom of the body.

Making the Dress

Fold the dress fabric with the right sides together, and pin and cut the patterns. Unless otherwise noted, sew all seams with the right sides together. Using a ⅛" (3mm) seam allowance, pin and sew the sleeves to the dress front and back at the side shoulder.

Turn up the sleeve bottoms ¼" (6mm), sew, and press. Using a blunt needle, pull ¼" (2mm) round elastic thread through the sleeve hems. Stitch one end of the elastic firmly to the sleeve, and pull the thread to gather the sleeve. Stitch this end of elastic firmly, also. Repeat for the other sleeve.

Turn under ¼" (6mm) on the neck edge and stitch, leaving a ½" (13mm) gap in the seam at the center back. Use the elastic thread to gather the neck edge, leaving the ends of the elastic dangling.

Fold the dress in half with the right sides together, and stitch the side seams from the sleeve edge to the dress bottom. Turn up the hem ⅜" (10mm), press, and sew close to the raw edge. Place the dress on the doll, pull the neck elastic tight, and tie the ends in a knot.



Making the Bonnet

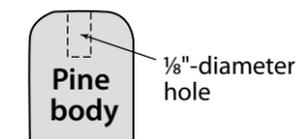
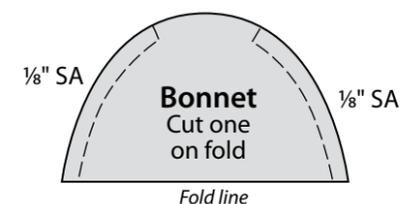
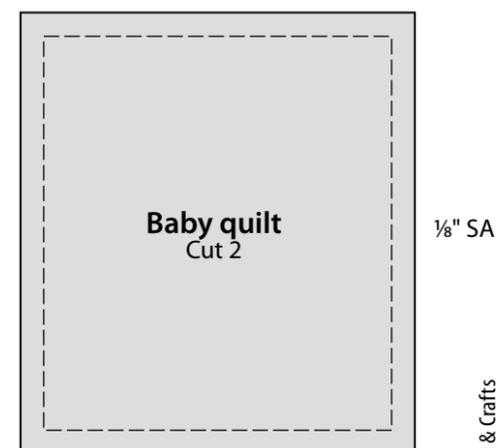
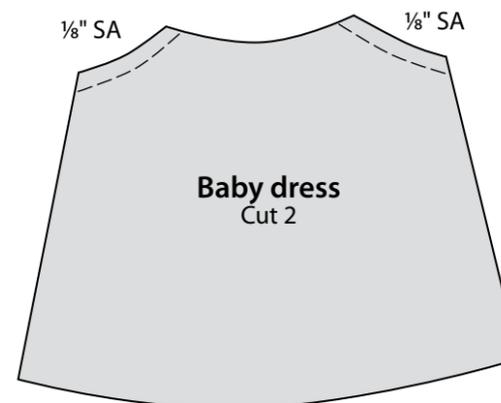
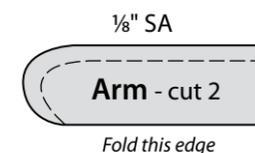
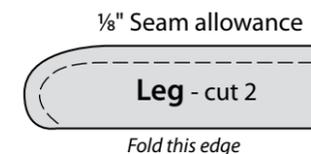
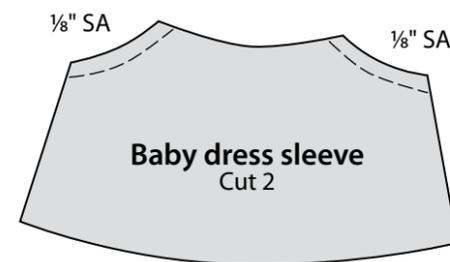
Fold the bonnet fabric with the right sides together. Pin and cut the bonnet pattern on the fold. Sew two seams from the folded edge to the center back of the bonnet. Clip the curve, being careful not to cut the seam, and turn the bonnet right side out. Hand-stitch the hole in the center back closed. Gather a ½" (13mm)-wide by 3½" (89mm)-long piece of lace and sew it to the folded edge of the bonnet. Using a needle with double thread, sew around the curved edge of the bonnet and pull it tight, gathering the bonnet at the neck edge.

Sew a piece of ⅛" (3mm)-wide ribbon on each side of the bonnet neck. Tie the bonnet on the doll's head. Put a dot of hot glue on the wood head under the bonnet to keep it in place if necessary.

Making the Quilt

With the right sides together, pin and cut two pieces of scrap fabric and one piece of flannel. The flannel will serve as the quilt batting. Sew the three layers together, using a ⅛" (3mm) seam allowance and leaving a ¾" (19mm) gap in the seam as shown. Clip the corners and turn the quilt right-side out. Tuck the seam allowance into the gap and press the quilt. Stitch around the quilt close to the edge, and then stitch again across the top ⅜" (10mm) from the edge. If desired, use decorative stitches to quilt the blanket.

Baby doll patterns



Materials & Tools

Materials:

- Pine, ⅜" (10mm) thick: doll body, ¾" x ¾" (19mm x 19mm)
- Wooden ball, ½" (13mm) dia.
- Dowel, ⅛" (3mm) dia.: ¾" (19mm) long
- Small nails: 4 each OR hot glue sticks
- Fabric for arms/legs, dress, bonnet, quilt
- Thread to match fabrics
- Lace, ½" (13mm) wide: 3½" (89mm) long
- Ribbon, ⅛" (3mm) wide: 12" (305mm)
- Round elastic thread, ¼" (2mm) dia.: 12" (305mm) long
- Acrylic paint: Delta Ceramcoat—fleshtone, black; DecoArt Americana—French mauve, gooseberry

Tools:

- Blades: #3 reverse-tooth
- Drill with bit: ⅛" (3mm)
- Stylus
- Paintbrushes
- Small sponge
- Sewing machine or hand-sewing equipment
- Basic sewing kit: scissors, pins, measuring tape, etc.
- Blunt needle
- Hammer OR glue gun

The author used these products for the project. Substitute your choice of brands, tools, and materials as desired.



Ruth Chopp began her career as a home economics teacher. When her children left home, she decided to try woodworking, noting that using a scroll saw and a sewing machine are really quite similar. Ruth loves wooden Christmas tree ornaments, so she designed her own; she now has about 300 patterns. Contact Ruth via e-mail at melchopp@comcast.net.

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