

Miniature Rag Doll (a 2015 convention workshop)

This workshop takes a lot of preparation for the leader or club. The tiny doll's features are printed on with fabric paint (or could be embroidered) and the doll is sewn and stuffed ahead of time. One piece dresses are cut out and sewn up the sides and underarm. The hem is turned under and stitched as well. The size can be made larger if the leader wishes.

Supplies: muslin for the doll, fabric paint or embroidery floss for the features, red floss for hair, large-eyed needles, pearl cotton or other string for gathering, and small print fabrics for dresses.



Participants will complete and dress a 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch cloth doll. Doll will be provided as shown on the left in the picture. Participants will add the red hair and sew a small dress for their doll. Additional dresses or a pin back will be offered.

Skills: threading a needle, sewing with a running stitch, tying knots and a bow

Juniors use a large-eyed needle and red floss to put hair on the doll. A stitch is taken at the top of the head and then a second one is taken in the same spot. The floss is cut off and another "tuft" is applied. Juniors can put as many "tufts" on the doll as they wish, either just following the stitch line around the head or filling in the whole back of the head. "Tufts" are then frizzed by using the needle to separate the floss strands.

Keeping the wrong side of the dress toward themselves, the juniors fold over the end of each sleeve and run a gathering stitch of pearl cotton around the sleeve to hold the fabric back (leave long ends). An alternative would be to use fabric glue to hold the fabric back, but the running stitch is still needed. To adjust this sleeve to the actual size of the doll's arm, place the sleeve onto the doll's arm (still inside out and backwards on the arm) and tie the gathering thread firmly with a couple of knots. Cut off the string after the knots are done. Once both arms have been completed, the dress can be turned right side out. Next the neck edge is turned under and a running stitch holds that fabric inside. Have the juniors start at the middle of the front or back and go all the way around the neck. The juniors should leave long ends (5-6") and put a knot near each end of the pearl cotton to keep it from unraveling. When the dress is put onto the doll, this neck string can be tied in a bow to gather the neck and dress up the front of the dress.