

MINI HINTS for doll dressing

A 10 minute CAMELOT CLASS taught by Viola Williams

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My ten minute topic today is going to be sharing tricks when making/dressing dolls.

Please hold your questions until I've asked for them.

- If you've bought antique fabrics or trims that have yellow "age" stains, they can usually be successfully removed by soaking the piece in dental cleanser. If you use the kind that turns the water blue, leave the piece soaking until the blue color disappears. Then rinse the piece with clear water.
- I often have to buy a minimum of one yard of the finer silks. Obviously one yard is way more than is needed for a mini doll. So I try to buy a piece with very wide colored stripes (at least 3-1/2" wide) The 3-1/2" width is enough to cut out a skirt and the rest can be used for bodice, sleeves etc. That way, one piece of fabric, because it has a variety of colors can be used as if it were actually several pieces.
- I have found that I can sometimes remove glue stains by scratching them with my fingernails to loosen them from the fabric... and then laying a piece of scotch tape over the stain and rubbing and scratching the tape in an effort to have the glue stick to it, so I can lift it off.
- For a nice "fall" to your skirts, check the fabric to see which way the folds fall naturally. Gather up one end.. then go the end right next to it, and gather that end too. Which end seems to make the best looking folds? Usually, if your skirt follows the direction of the salvage, you'll have the best drape.. however, sometimes both ends work equally well... other times I've found that the end next to the salvage works best.
- Someone told me that if you have a very slippery fabric and it's difficult to cut it, you can cut a pattern from very fine sandpaper. The sandpaper will cling to the fabric and prevent it from sliding around. I have not tried it, but it sounds good.
- Another way to handle that problem is to buy the thinnest possible fusible pella (I believe it's called Vilene in UK) and iron it rough side down to the

fabric. Then cut out the pattern. The material will now have more body. I would use that method only for the bodice, although it should also work for skirts that don't flare out, or straighter sleeves.

- If you glue your clothes and have trouble getting the two glued pieces to adhere to each other, try ironing them together.

Ok.. that's the end of what I had set up for you.