

Instructions for Long-term Messenger Dolls

Hair: synthetic yarn, wool, dryer lint, pet fur, your own hair, shredded bark fibre, string, embroidery thread, doll or wig hair.

Body, face and arms: Any cotton-type fabric; include multi-racial people, or choose a colour like blue.

Clothing and leggings: any colourful scraps will do, including old clothing, table cloths, napkins, rags, handkerchiefs, that shirt that s/her hasn't worn for ages.

Pantaloon: Add a little lace or tiny ribbons or flowers for fun.

Foot wear: bits of leather, synthetic leather, cardboard for the sole, felt, fur OR use acrylic paints and if you choose, embroidery thread laces. want laces.

Embellishments: an old ring makes a good bracelet, small buttons, old jewelry, bits of fur, feathers, rick rack, ribbon can be sewn onto the dress.. You can make tiny buttons using a hole punch.

Facial features: embroider, paint or use indelible markers. Do this before you cut and sew, in case you want to re-do. I use markers for the belly button and breasts, if you like. (Or sew on a tiny buttons) I add red powered rouge/blush on the cheeks.

Optional hat or hair net: use felt, fabric scraps or onion bags; add feathers or other embellishments.

Dress or housecoat: any fabric scraps, old towels or wash cloths, a piece of your blouse that has a rip or stain and you know that you'll never fix. If the fabric is thick (such as terrycloth), the pattern works well. If your fabric is thinner, make the dress a little smaller. For a shirt, simply shorten the dress.

Purse, knapsack or bag to carry the message: whatever you can dream up to make, or use a small change purse to which you add a strap to hang around the neck. The message could also become a scroll.

Stitching: If you don't have a sewing machine, you can stitch them by hand while you watch CBC news or your latest Netflix.

Stuffing: polyester or fleece stuffing, saw dust, dryer lint, whatever is in that old cushion or pillow you don't want anymore.

Instructions

1. Pin the pattern pieces to your chosen fabrics.
2. Draw on the facial features, breasts and belly button.
3. Stitch arms, legs, body and head, leaving open where indicated.
4. Turn all body parts inside out and finger press. Stuff the arms up to the elbows and put a few stitches in at the elbow to hold it in place). Stuff the legs up to the knees and stitch to hold stuffing down.
5. Stuff the head and stitch the opening closed.
6. Stuff the body. Stitch arms in place. Baste the legs in the leg openings and stitch in place.
7. Stitch the head on to the neck.
8. Turn the pantaloons inside out and stitch onto the doll's waist.
9. Finish the dress and put it on the doll. Add the hair.
10. Stitch the slippers and tack or glue onto the doll, or paint on shoes or boots.
11. Finish the purse, bag or knapsack by adding a strap for the doll to carry it. Pop in the message and voila! Your messenger is complete. Ta-da!