

"BLEUETTE"
In Cloth
AS
"ALICE IN WONDERLAND"
Online MINI Cloth Doll Class
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Chapter 4
THE GESSOED AND PAINTED HEAD

REMEMBER! I said I would show a fix for Tacky Glue Seepage? So I am going to put a "head back" onto the face that "seeped" and do a Gesso over....The "head back" directions for any head you do are the same.

Do put the head back on BEFORE doing a Gesso and paint layer! If you try to do it afterwards, you won't be able to sew the "head back" on.



Here is the face with the seepage. See it down on the chin, and inside of the ears? I thought it was going to be fine, so I was going to use it and "squish" another one,+ so I started to paint it ...but...then the seepage started to show up as the face dried.

It didn't show at all, until it dried completely! PERFECT! I will use it for the Gesso and Paint over.

- 1.** First, sew the head back onto the "seeped" or ruined in some other way face. Stuff the head as if you were going to put it on your doll. Make sure there is enough room for the neck!
- 2.** Place something up in the "neck hole" and paint a coat of Gesso over the face and back on the sides

and under the chin. I covered a white out bottle with plastic, and used that as my "stand".



2 coats of Gesso from the front.



From the side.

You can put as many coats of Gesso as desired, to make the head smoother and smoother. Sand with very fine sandpaper between each coat, until you are happy with the surface.

Fine polish, after sanding using pieces of brown paper bag. It is just rough enough to make a great polisher.

Now, there are 2 schools of thought for Gesso coated and painted heads...

One is that all evidence of the cloth below should be obliterated. This takes MANY coats of Gesso and very concentrated sanding.

The other is that you want a smooth surface, but the "knits" of the fabric can show through.

I personally don't have the patience to cover and sand as much as it takes to obliterate the evidence of fabric underneath, and anyway this is a cloth doll!



4 coats of Gesso before sanding.



4 coats of Gesso after sanding, as much as I am going to do.

Now, this little Bleurette is going to be a lovely brown skinned Alice . I have not made a brown Bleurette and I have this great velour that I have been using as a background. Actually I have 2 or 3 shades of brown so I need to choose one.

Even though the fabric base is peach, I will cover it with brown paint, so none of the peach shows.

At the lower back, and just inside of the neck hole I just painted the brown paint, so the fabric would stay a bit soft for putting the dolls neck up inside.



My 3 fabric choices to make my brown Alice.



I chose the brown on the lower right side.

Why? Because I had paint to match it exactly and I have a couple of yards of this lovely brown. It is not Velour, but the new Doesuede which is actually called Bucksuede. Works like velour, but has a mottled look on the fuzzy side. I will be using it with the smooth side showing when I make my doll, so the mottled look makes no difference.

The rest of the directions will be mostly pictures with descriptions below them. The feature painting is done exactly like for the cloth face, but for this brown head, with different colors of course.



One coat of brown paint. Sorry, another fuzzy pic.!



3 coats of brown paint.

When it is really dry, I will smooth it with a piece of brown paper bag.



Looking into the neck hole. I simply painted the brown paint all around it, so that when the head is attached no peach will show.



Shade as shown with a black colored pencil. I do this black shading before the eye whites and lips. The shine that is showing is actual shine from the light in the room. We will add some colored pencil highlights too, but with a sculpted face that is shiny with paint, the shine is natural.

I am going to spray this whole head with Clear, Matte Acrylic spray when I am all done, so the natural

shine will be less.

Let's do something different and fun!

I am going to make this doll a "breather" as they are called in the porcelain doll industry. With my big needle I am going to poke nostril holes! They don't go clear through to the stuffing, but open the nostrils so they look like holes.



There is also one coat of white Gesso in the eye shapes. I went out of the shapes a bit to make the eyes bigger.



Second coat of white. Eyebrows have been added with a pen.



Black iris's have been added and white highlights.

Next, mix a lip color. Red with some white, yellow and brown makes a good color for the top lip on a dark doll. It makes a mauve. Then you will add a bit more white for the bottom lip.



Top lip. Sorry another fuzzy pic!!!!



Bottom lip, a bit of white shine and dividing line.



**I turned the flash off for a muted pic. You can't see much detail like this.
In "real life" the face looks more like this though.**

I am going to blush the cheeks, forehead, and chin with dark mauve powdered blush on a cotton ball. You can really "scrub" it in and make a very smooth blushed look.



**You can see the blush scrubbed in.
The picture is too bright to show this.**

I have no black or brown Alice style wig for this head so I will try a couple of things on for fun.



**With this wig, she looks like one of the girls on the
old Cosby show!**



With Tibetan Lamb draped across.

Remember that curly blond wig? Well, I thought I would try it on this head just for fun and I like it!



Really different!

Well, that does it for this Mini Class! Not so Mini but I hope you have enjoyed it, and have taken away some new ideas and skills.

I don't have a body for this little dark doll, so she will show up somewhere at a later date. Perhaps for sale, or just to see at my Picturetrail site.

Dolly Hugs!

Judi

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