

Scrap Doll or KNOT DOLL

Depreciation Lands Museum

Pioneer Living Week



You will need:

Light colored muslin:

One piece 32"x5" (for the head & body)

Wool fleece about the size of a walnut for stuffing the head

One piece 12"x3" (for the arms)

Pieces of contrasting woven homespun fabric:

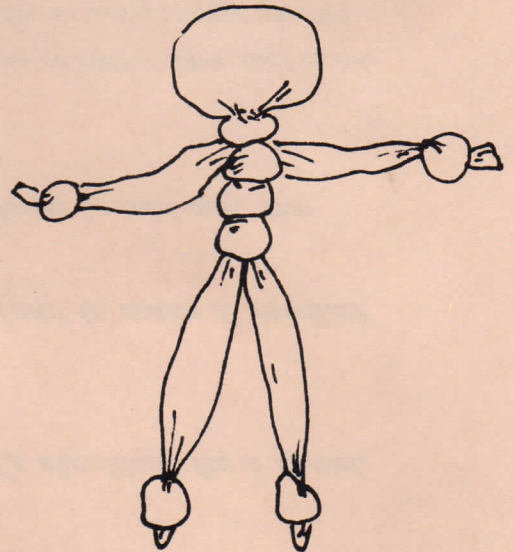
One piece 12"x7" for the petticoat

One piece 5"x4" for the apron

One piece 1 1/4"x12" for the bodice

One triangle 8"x4"x4" for the kerchief

One triangle 8"x4"x4" for the shawl



To make the doll:

Find the center of the 32"x5" piece of cloth.

Wad up the wool into a tight ball, and place it in the center of the fabric. Fold the fabric into thirds lengthwise, trapping the wool ball in the center.

Tie a granny knot in the muslin. This will be the doll's head. Tie a second knot, under the head to make a neck.

Take the 12"x3" piece of muslin and fold it into thirds lengthwise. Tie knots at either end to make hands. Center this between the two "tails" of the big piece of muslin under the head. This makes the doll's arms. Tie a third knot in the bigger piece to hold the arms in place.

Tie two or three more granny knots to form the body. The remaining fabric will become the doll's legs. Knot the ends to make feet.

Wrap the 12"x7" homespun piece loosely around the doll's torso to cover down to the doll's ankles. If this "petticoat" is too long, fold it over at the top to let the feet show.

Place the 5"x4" piece on top of the petticoat for an apron.

Center the 12"x 11/4" piece on the doll's waist on top of the petticoat and apron, and tie in the back.

Wrap a triangular piece of homespun over the doll's shoulders for a shawl, and tuck the ends into the "bodice".

Tie a contrasting triangle of fabric onto the doll's head to make a kerchief.

(This doll does not really need a face, but if you choose to add one, two dots for eyes and a dot for the mouth will suffice.)

Playthings like this, constructed simply and quickly of rope or fabric have been made by parents for hundreds of years. Examples of rope dolls (some using round, smooth stones for heads) have been dug up at the sites of ancient forts, and may have been used to amuse soldiers' children.

Susan Claus

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