

Cotton Pioneer Doll

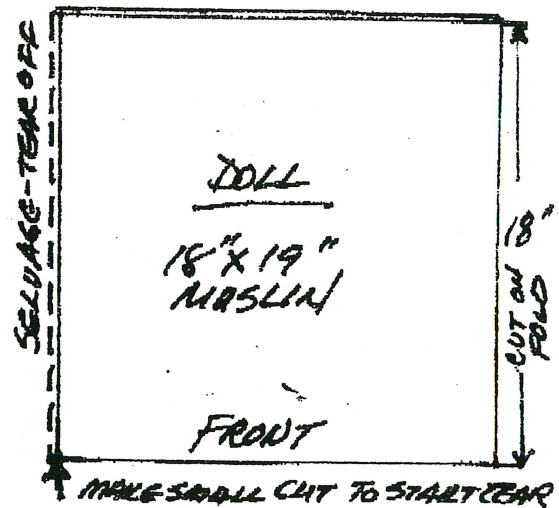
These dolls have also been called "Prairie Dolls" or "Rag Dolls." In the early to mid 1900's they also became known as "Church Bables" and made from handkerchiefs while the child was sitting in church. It helped the child play quietly.

Materials Needed:

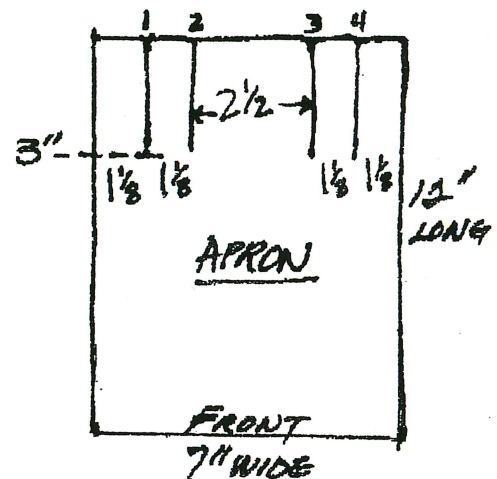
38" wide light colored muslin
42" wide Calico material
batting

One yard of muslin will make four dolls
One yard of Calico will make 18 aprons

Unroll muslin and leave folded in half. Cut muslin every 18" running lengthwise on bolt. Cut each or tear each 18" segment in half at fold, creating 18 x 19 inch "squares."

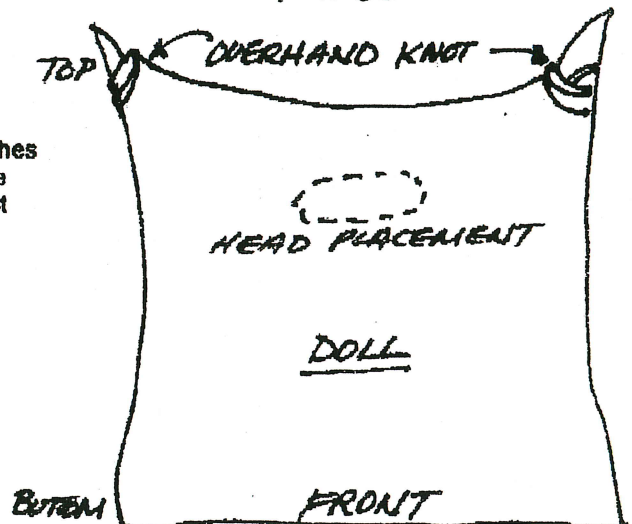


1. Make a small cut along the selvage approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ inches wide, to help start tearing the selvage off. Tear the rest of the selvage off by hand from each 18" square. Save selvage.



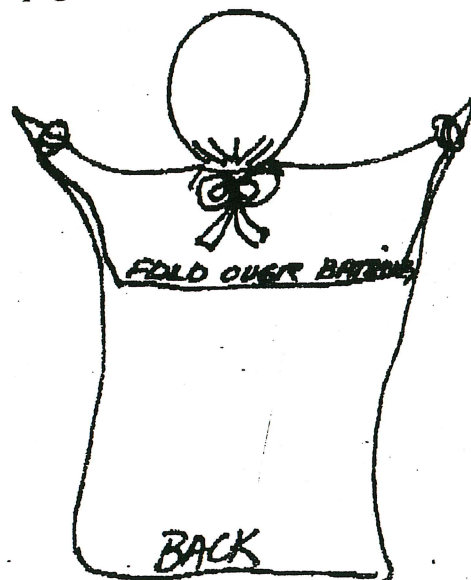
2. Cut apron from pattern provided or follow these instructions. Cut the Calico 12 inches from the end of fabric, perpendicular to the fold. Now cut the 12 inch side into 3 pieces, 7 inches each. Cut the piece on the fold in half along the fold. You should have six pieces of Calico 12 inches long and 7 inches wide.

3. Along one of the 7 inch sides make two cuts (1 & 2), 3 inches long. The first two cuts should be $1 \frac{1}{8}$ inches apart. Make the third cut $2 \frac{1}{2}$ inches from the second cut. Make the last cut (4) at $1 \frac{1}{8}$ inches from the third cut.



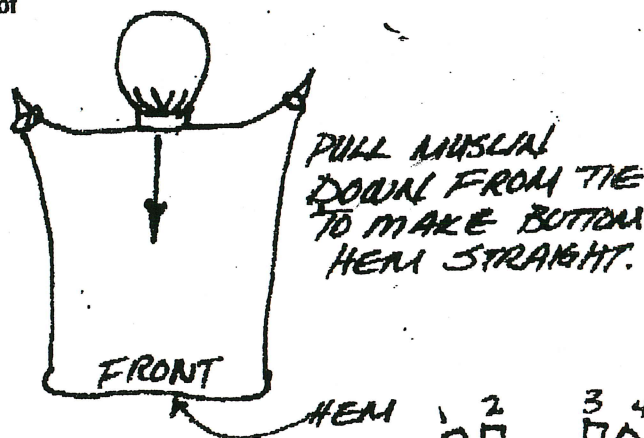
Cotton Pioneer Doll page 2

4. Tie both upper corners with a very small overhand knots pulled as far to the corner of the fabric as possible.



5. Compact a large handful of batting to about a 2 1/2 inch ball. Place batting about 1/4 to 1/3 of the way down from the Top of the back side of the muslin.

6. Fold muslin over batting and tie "Head" of doll with ripped selvage piece. Wrap the tie twice tightly around batting and muslin. Tie one knot and then a bow in the BACK of the head.

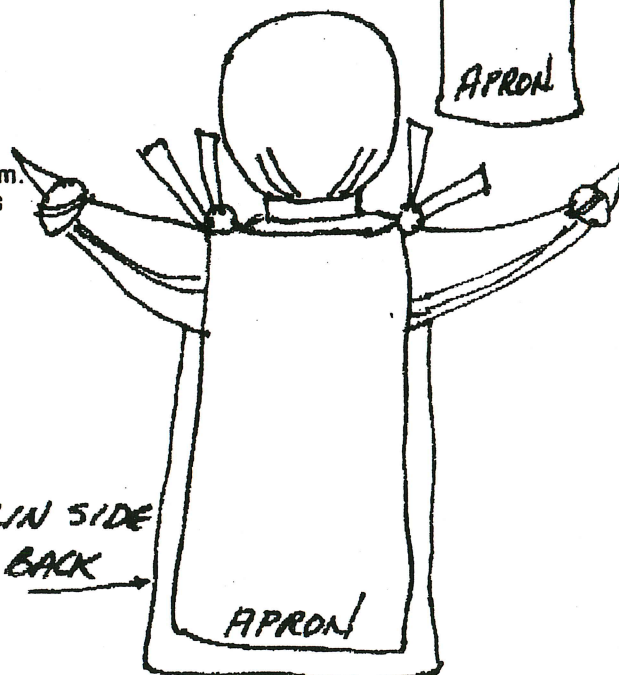


7. To put the apron on the doll, fold the center cut of the Calico apron down toward the back side of the fabric.



8. Put the folded edge of the apron under the "chin" of the doll.

9. Spread apart the first two cut strips (1 & 2) on the apron and bring one of the doll's "arms" through the cut. Tie the two strips together with one knot to form the doll's arm. arm. Tie the strips together as close to the doll's head as possible at what would be the top of the doll's shoulder. This makes the arms as long as possible.



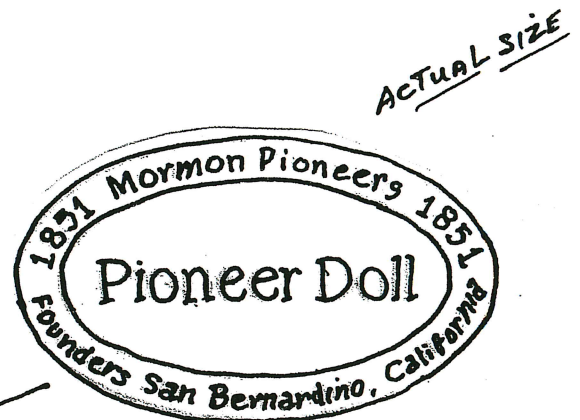
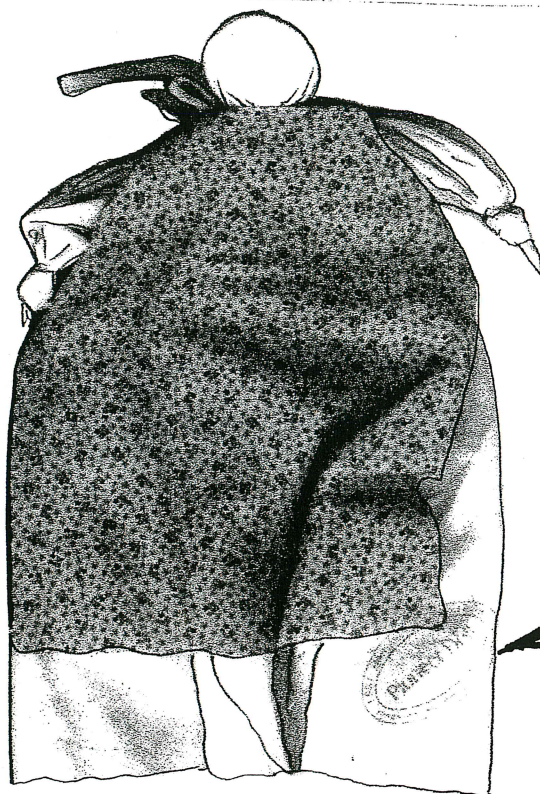
10. Repeat step 9 with other two cut strips on apron.

Note to Moms: Make more aprons for changing outfits. Make Valentine Aprons, Spring Aprons, etc. Better than Barbie!

Cotton Pioneer Doll (Page 3)

Sources for the cotton material for the doll are numerous. You may be able to get fabric stores to donate remnants if they know what you are using it for. They would most certainly consider giving you a discount on it. Don't overlook sisters in the ward who sew, as there is always more material sitting around than can be sewn in one lifetime.

Marilyn Mills has found success in asking for a \$1.00 donation for the cost of the materials from the people taking the doll with them. This would seem to be the best approach or the cost of this activity could become sizeable very quickly. Rather than take the doll home and forget who they got it from in a few months, Sister Mills developed a stamp to use to print the muslin so that every time anyone looks at the doll it identifies what it is and where they got it. **WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THE USE OF THIS STAMP IN THIS ACTIVITY.** The next page shows some design ideas created by Bonnie Silliman for customizing the stamp for the Sacramento Area. This should be done for your area and could be Ship Brooklyn or whatever your presentation might be.



Stamp Designed by Marilyn Mills
Showing location on doll.

Finished Cloth Doll

Cotton
Pioneer Doll (page 4)

Some design ideas created by Bonnie Silliman for customizing the stamp for the Sacramento Area.

