

Death by Killer Mop Doll

CRAFT PROJECTS

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Basic Mop Doll

Materials:

24 oz. mop head (available in the cleaning section of most hardware stores, discount centers, and supermarkets), 4" Dylite® (smooth craft foam) ball, 5" x 5" natural muslin, wooden craft stick, 3/16" black half-round beads, rubber bands, tacky glue, glue gun (optional), blush or pink powdered chalk.

(NOTE: all gluing can be done with either tacky glue or a glue gun except for attaching the muslin to the Dylite® ball. This step must be done with tacky glue.) Cut a 4-3/4" diameter circle from muslin for the face. Snip 1/4" cuts around the perimeter of the muslin circle. Using tacky glue, glue the muslin to the front of the Dylite® ball, smoothing out any wrinkles.

Poke a hole in the bottom of the Dylite® ball directly under the muslin face. Glue the craft stick into the ball, allowing approximately 3-1/2" of the stick to extend.

Spread the mop apart on a table. Randomly pull 26 strands from the mop. Set strands aside. With the bottom of the doll head adjacent to the top of the mop, glue the craft stick centered over the mop tape. Glue several strands of mop closest to the head down over the craft stick and mop tape to conceal them. Flip the doll over and repeat the previous step to conceal the mop tape on the reverse side. Wrap one of the set-aside mop strands around the doll's neck, gluing in place.

At both the left and right sides of the doll, take the top 18 mop strands. Trim 3" from length, saving trimmed pieces to use for hair. Braid strands for arms, securing each wrist with a rubber band.

Tie the body together under the arms with one mop strand to form a waist. Trim ends even with bottom of mop.

Set aside 8 mop strands for pigtails. Cut remaining 16 strands into 3" lengths. Run a line of glue around the edge of the muslin for hairline. Fold strands in half, gluing folded edge to the muslin. Run a second line of glue in front of the hairline. Glue a second row of folded strands in front of the first row. Place the doll face down. Working in even horizontal rows from the base of the neck to the top of the head, continue gluing hair in place.

Cut remaining 8 lengths of mop strands in half. Tie each half in the middle with one strand. Glue tied section to each side of head for pigtails.

Glue beads in place for eyes.

Use blush or chalk to color cheeks.

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Curly Doll Hair Directions

You can create curly doll hair for any size handmade doll, not just mop dolls. Choose a yarn, crochet cotton,

or embroidery floss that suits your doll. Bulky yarns work best for bigger dolls; worsted weights for medium sized dolls; and finer yarns, crochet cottons, and floss for small dolls.

Tie the yarn to the end of a knitting needle and wrap tightly, tying off the yarn at the opposite end of the needle. The smaller the knitting needle, the tighter the curls. You can also use shish kabob skewers or dowel rods of varying diameters.

Soak the wrapped needles in hot water, then remove and use a towel to blot up the excess water. Allow the yarn to air dry thoroughly before removing from the needles. You can also place the needles on a cookie sheet and heat in a 225 degree F oven to speed up the drying process.

When the yarn is dry, carefully remove it from the needles. Cut into pieces twice the desired length. Apply to doll's head in the same manner described in the Basic Mop Doll Directions.

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Bunny Mop Doll

Turn a basic mop doll into a bunny with these simple additions.

Materials (in addition to materials used for Basic Mop Doll):

one white and one pink felt square (9" x 12"), fusible web, two 1-1/2" white pompoms, one 1" pink pompom, two 12mm pink oval wiggle eyes, water-soluble fabric marker, iron and ironing board; six straight pins.

Cut the white felt in half to 6" x 9". Following manufacturer's directions for the fusible web, fuse the pieces together. Cut two pieces, each 6" x 2-1/4". Mark the centers of the sides, top, and bottom with the water-soluble fabric marker. For each ear, at the bottom edge measure out from either side of the center 5/8". Draw a curved line from the center side markings to the 5/8" markings. Then draw a curved line from the center side markings to the top center, rounding the point where the two lines meet. Cut out both ears. Remove the pen markings with a spritz of water.

Following the manufacturer's directions, apply fusible web to the pink felt. Using the white ears as a pattern, cut two pink inner ears. Trim the inner ears 1/4" around the sides and top edges. Fuse a pink inner ear to each white ear.

Apply a drop of glue to the bottom center of each ear. Fold the ears in half to form a dart. Allow the glue to dry. (Hint: hold the ears together with a spring type clothespin while the glue dries.)

Before applying 3" lengths of the mop strands to the doll head, glue the ears in place on either side of the head. For additional security, dip straight pins in glue and pin through the felt into the head at bottom edges of the ears. Apply mop doll hair as directed in Basic Mop Doll directions, omitting the pigtales.

Glue a pink pompom to the center of the face for the bunny's nose. Glue white pompoms horizontally centered under the pink pompom to form a muzzle. Glue the eyes in place.

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Angel String Doll Ornament

Materials:

24 yds. white/silver metallic crochet cotton, small amount of white crochet cotton, 18mm painted wood head bead, 1/2 yd. each 1/8" wide red and green satin ribbon, three miniature red silk poinsettias, 12" silver chenille stem, 5" x 5" piece of cardboard, tacky glue or glue gun, scissors.

Cut three 10" pieces of white/silver crochet cotton and set aside. For the body, wrap white/silver crochet cotton around the cardboard 70 times. Tie at one end with one of the 10" pieces of crochet cotton. Cut through all the lengths of crochet cotton at the opposite end.

Thread the loose ends from the body tie through the bead head. Apply a dab of glue to the bottom of the bead head to secure the head to the body. Tie the ends into a knot at the top of the head. Tie another knot close to the cut ends to form a hanging loop.

For the arms, wrap white/silver crochet cotton around the cardboard 12 times. Cut open at one end. Cut the second piece of 10" crochet cotton in half. Use one half to tie off one end of the arm 1/2" from the cut edge. Braid the lengths for 5" from the tied edge. Tie off the braid with the second 5" piece of crochet cotton. Trim the arm ends 1/2" from the tie.

Place the braid centered in the middle of the body. Using the remaining 10" piece of crochet cotton, tie the body under the arms.

For hair, cut 1" lengths of white crochet cotton. Fold in half. Glue the cut ends to the top of the bead head for looped bangs. For the remainder of the hair, cut 3" lengths of white crochet cotton. Glue in the same manner around the sides and back of the head, working in even rows from the neck up to the crown.

Fold the chenille stem into a sideways figure 8. Bend the loops up slightly. Tie the chenille stem to the center back of the angel with a piece of white/silver crochet cotton. Secure in place with a dab of glue.

Make a small bow from the green ribbon. Glue under the bead head at neck. Make a small bow from the red ribbon. Glue to the top of the head.

Twist the poinsettias into a bouquet. Glue the arms around the bouquet. Tie the remaining ribbon together into a bow with long streamers. Glue the bow under the flowers.