

Jester on a Vintage Spool

by Darlene Lane

The idea for this creation came out of a need for a centerpiece for a doll luncheon. Through fabric choices, et cetera, this concept is useful for numerous purposes. To cut costs, I painted the eyes, made the wig, bought all the fabric supplies at a mill ends store, and raided my "stash."

I chose Jane Zidjunas' 21" Georgia because of her large, beautiful eyes, and the smaller Bru shoulder-plate (drill the shoulder-plate holes).

The following steps are for painting the iris only. For the rest of the face, paint as desired or follow the Color Guide. Wash white porcelain with 2 parts each Dusty Rose Pink and Primrose Rose to 1 part Flux (rule for flux is 4 parts china paint to 1 part flux), omitting the eyes.

EYE PAINTING TECHNIQUE

Helpful hints when painting eyes are:

1. Keep the correct iris shape.
2. Larger pupils are prettier than small ones.
3. Elevate the pupil and keep it round and centered.
4. Keep all lined edges on the pupils and irises neat and crisp.
5. Shade the upper portion of the iris darkest to prevent the staring eye.
6. Line the upper eyelids heavier and darker than the lower eyelids.

Step 1 — Mix Sea Foam, a tad of Smokey Blue; add medium. Line the U-shape of each iris. Use a toothpick to pull this line toward the center, leaving the outer edge of the U-shape solid.



Finished Eye

Step 2 — Use a china paint eraser to remove the excess color from the center to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the total iris area.

Step 3 — Mix a creamy Outlining Black. Paint large, elevated pupils. Do not touch any of the blue iris.

Step 4 — Use a damp toothpick to remove a small pie-shaped wedge at the 5 o'clock position in both eyes.

Step 5 — Line the eyes with the lash color, painting a heavier line along each upper eyelid. Keep away from the eye corners.

Fire to cone 018.

Step 6 — Stipple the iris color over the toothpick-pulled lines. Mix some Black into the iris color. Darken the upper $\frac{1}{3}$ portion of the irises and line east and west sides of each iris.

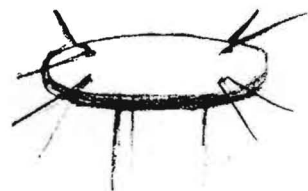
Step 7 — With a double ball stylus, dot a White highlight at the 10 o'clock position in each pupil.

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Step 8 — To assemble, cut four 8" lengths of narrow ribbon. Glue the center of each ribbon section to the top of the spool at the shoulder-plate hole position (see diagram). Connect the head to the shoulder-plate and tie the shoulder-plate to the top of the spool.

Materials Needed

- ◇ Georgia Head Mold
- ◇ Bru Breveté 4 Shoulder-Plate
- ◇ Blue White Porcelain Slip
- ◇ China Paints: Black 74, Rosebud, French Blush, Eye Shadow, New Jumeau Brow, Sea Foam, Smokey Blue/Outlining Black, Dusty Rose Pink, Primrose Rose
- ◇ Flux
- ◇ Painting Medium
- ◇ 1 Yd. Narrow Ribbon
- ◇ Lining & Hat: $\frac{2}{3}$ Yd. Satin
- ◇ $1\frac{1}{2}$ Yd. Muslin
- ◇ Bodice Hat: $\frac{2}{3}$ Yd. Print Fabric
- ◇ Matching Threads
- ◇ 4 Yds. Narrow Gold Cord
- ◇ Sm. Pc. Gold Tulle Net
- ◇ $\frac{1}{4}$ Yd. Crinkle Metallic Silk Organza (Optional)
- ◇ Hat Base: 2 Felt Squares
- ◇ 1 Yd. $2\frac{1}{2}$ " W Sequin Trim
- ◇ 3 Yds. $\frac{1}{2}$ " W Sequin Trim
- ◇ 2 Yds. Narrow Sequin Trim
- ◇ Lg. Decorative Button
- ◇ Gems, Bells
- ◇ Jump Rings
- ◇ 1 Yd. $1\frac{1}{2}$ " W Metallic Wired Ribbon
- ◇ Fiberfill
- ◇ Gem Tac Glue
- ◇ 1 4" Pate
- ◇ Head Shoulder-Plate Connector
- ◇ $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3" Vintage Spool
- ◇ Mohair Skin Wig
- ◇ Tacky Glue
- ◇ Toothpicks
- ◇ Staple Gun
- ◇ China Paint Eraser
- ◇ Double Ball Stylus
- ◇ Suitable Brushes
- ◇ Straight & Corsage Pins
- ◇ Sewing & Crewel Needles
- ◇ 5 Sheets $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x 11" Paper



JESTER HAT

Step 1 — Position the wig on the head and glue in place.

Step 2 — Hat base: Cut a slit halfway into the center of the 4" pate, overlap $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1", depending on wig bulk, and staple in place.

A project worthy of beginners and advanced doll crafters includes patterns.



Color Guide

Color Wash Dusty R. Pink/
. Primrose Rose/Flux
Mouth Color Eye Shadow
Lip Detailing Eye Shadow
Cheeks French Blush
Eye Shadow Eye Shadow
Nose Dots Rosebud
Eye Dots Rosebud
Eyelashes Black
Eyebrows New Jumeau Brow
Painted Eyes Sea Foam/Smokey
. Blue/Outlining Black/White

Step 3 – Cover this base with felt, glue outer edge, and trim off excess. Repeat this step with satin fabric, folding under edges $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Glue to the inside of the base. Repeat this step if using the optional crinkle metallic overlay.

Step 4 – Cut out horn pieces: 4 print and 2 satin.

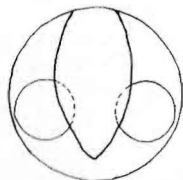
Step 5 – Flat-line the small horn pieces to a square of muslin, using $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam allowance. Trim off excess muslin.

Repeat for the satin fabric. If the metallic silk overlay is used, apply that first to the right side of the satin. Trim off excess, then flat line to the muslin.

Step 6 – With right sides together (RST), sew hat horn pieces as indicated on pattern. Turn right side out (RSO); stuff each with fiberfill.

Position the pate slit to the back. Place the large horn center seam 1" from the front edge. Fold under raw edges $\frac{1}{4}$ "; pin to secure to base. Stretch the large horn all the way to the back edge of the base; fold under $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Hand stitch to base.

Step 7 – Turn under raw edges as indicated on small horn pattern. Pin to sides of large horn, extending to within $\frac{1}{4}$ " of the side seams. Maneuver into correct position, pin in place and hand stitch.



V-shape extending slightly beyond the hat base. Hand stitch in place.

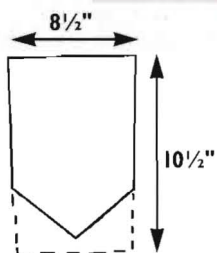
Step 9 – Decorate the small horns with a snake pattern of narrow sequin trim. Repeat on the large horn in a figure eight design. Add bells at each end, if desired.

Glue all decorative ornamentation, such as large buttons, gems, pearls, et cetera, to the front of the hat base.

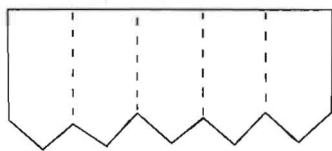
Step 10 – Line the inside of the hat with felt. Pin the hat to the head with corsage pins.

BODICE

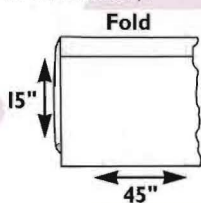
Step 1 – Trace the V-shaped pattern onto the 5 sheets of paper, extending the pattern to measure $10\frac{1}{2}$ " from top to bottom. Cut off excess.



Step 2 – Tape these five together to form a $42\frac{1}{2}$ " long petal pattern.



Step 3 – Measure/cut 2 lengths of contrasting fabrics $45" \times 15"$. With RST sew a 1" seam along the $45"$ edge. Turn and press a seam in the solid fabric so it extends 1" above the print (becomes top ruffle at shoulders).



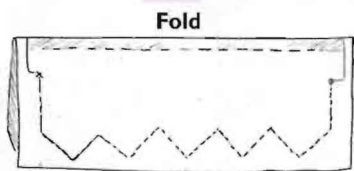
Step 4 – Fold inside out again, using the pressed edge line as the top edge of the two fabrics.

Pin securely along this pressed line to maintain its position.

Step 5 – Center the petal pattern in the middle of the fabric, straight edge along the folded line with fabric excess to the outside of each side.

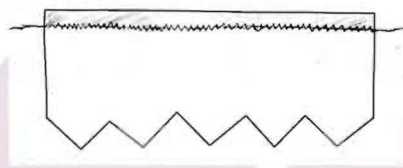
Trace the pattern onto the fabric. Draw extensions or tabs as shown in the diagram. Leave this area open for turning and the extensions folded to the inside after the piece is turned RSO.

Step 6 – Remove the pattern and pin the fabrics together to hold them in place as you sew on the traced line starting at the X and ending at the O, and leaving the extension open. Leave a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance; cut off the petal excess.



Step 7 – Clip the inner points and turn RSO. Pressing the petals isn't necessary. Tuck the extensions inside. Pin and hand sew closed.

Step 8 – Lay a very narrow piece of 46" gold cord along the lining seam. Zigzag across the cord. Do not accidentally sew through the cord.



Step 9 – Pull the cord to gather the fabric to fit the shoulder-plate. Knot securely in front and tie into a large bow. Attach bells with jump rings to the loops. Glue to each shoulder to secure the bodice in place, with the tie in front. Sew $\frac{1}{2}$ " sequin trim below the ruffle.

Step 10 – Gather the bottom of petals together, hold in place with one hand while wrapping gold cord several times around the spool pole to secure; tie off.

About 1" of petal will extend below the tied off cord; slide up slightly to puff out. If desired, stuff with netting or hide small jewelry sized gift boxes for your guests.

Step 11 – Stitch a strip of $1\frac{1}{2}"$ wide sequin trim to each side between the satin ruffle and the petal points.

Fold the mesh ribbon in half. Use a crewel needle and narrow gold cord to run a gathering stitch along the folded edge. Gather to fit above the petal points and tie in place. Pull the edges to shape the ribbon.

Step 12 – Gather one edge of the remaining piece of $2\frac{1}{2}"$ sequin trim. Secure to the spool base. Attach a circlet of beads or a piece of narrow trim around the neck.

"It's Party Time!"

Sources: Head mold by *The Doll Carriage*. Shoulder-plate mold by *Virginia LaVorgna*. Porcelain slip by *Bell Ceramics*. China paints by *Bell, Willoughby, and Jean Nordquist*. Address correspondence to *Darlene Lane, 3112 Tomahawk Trail, Tucson, AZ 85749*. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a reply. □

PATTERN PIECES IN PULLOUT SECTION