

Steiner Jester

by Darlene Lane

If I were to describe the painting techniques found on antique Steiner dolls I'd have to say "varied" is what comes to mind. The examples I have seen are anywhere from crude to exquisite and anything in between.

Known for his inventiveness, Jules Nicholas Steiner produced dolls that were extraordinary. Walking, talking, kicking, and crying babes were just a few of the many patents that attributed to the unique appeal of his craft. It is believed that he was a "clock maker". His first patent, taken out in 1855, was for a mechanical doll. On the documentation it states his profession was that of a "clock maker". Where he learned this craft is yet unknown.

From "clock maker" to doll maker extraordinaire, Jules Nicholas Steiner made his mark in the French toy industry - a mark that lives on today.

Pour the mold in Blue White slip. Pierce the ears through the lobe. Cut and size eyes to accommodate 26mm hand paper weight eyes.

Fire To Cone 6.

WASH

Apply a wash of 4 parts Dusty Rose Pink to 1 part flux.



Mix this to a creamy consistency with 275 medium. Remove the wash color from the center of the lips when doing the "SIE C Bourgoin (Steiner)". The term "Bourgoin (Steiner)" depicts the time period at which the Steiner firm was leased by Monsieur Bourgoin from 1880-1886/87, a time when the Steiner firm produced some of their most appealing dolls.

Fire at cone 017

LASHES

Most often the lashes were shades of black, but on some mulattos they were brown. Mix Ebony Black with medium to a creamy consistency. Pick up a little lip additive on the Pro Liner and dilute a small portion of this paint. Apply lashes, medium in length, that slant toward the ears.

SHADOW BROW

Mix Ash Blonde with medium to a creamy consistency. Using a Cat's Tongue, apply a brow somewhat high on the brow bone. Stroke back and forth through the shadow brow making sure the color is completely even and perfectly smooth.

NOSE DOT

Using a Cat's Tongue apply a large pale nose dot with the wash color.

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LIPS

Using the wash color and a Cat's Tongue, apply this color to the center of the lips but avoid the space between. Blend to the shape of the lips using the Mini Shader. The space between the lips is without lip color on the G series and without any color on the C series Bourgoin. Be sure the upper lip outside corners are squared.

Fire to cone 018

BROW

Pick up a little Lip Additive on the Precision Brow brush and dilute a portions of the brow mix. Apply long flowing strokes. The brows are mismatched as in a Bru - the right side laying down and the left side flying up.

EYE SHADOW

Mix 2 parts Eye Shadow and 1 part Dusty Rose Pink to a medium consistency using medium. Apply an even application of this to the eyelid area using a small blender brush. Carry this color towards the bridge of the nose area and avoid the area beyond the outside eye cut.

LIPS

Mix 2 parts Rose Bud and 1 part Dusty Rose Pink to a medium consistency with medium. Using the Cat's Tongue apply a line of color to the bottom edge of the top lip and the top edge of the bottom lip while avoiding the crease line between the lips. Use a Mini Shader or Small Blender to blend this color. Keep the outer parts of the lips pale and be sure to retain the upper lip squared off corners.

EYE DOTS

Eye dots are the Rosebud/Dusty Rose Pink mix applied with the Cat's Tongue.

NOSE DOT

Using the same color, apply smaller nose dots within the larger nose dot. Be sure to keep the outer edges of this dot perfectly crisp.

EYE LINER

Line the insides of the eye, top and bottom, using the Pro Liner and the lash color. Be sure to line the tear duct area as well.

BROWS

Apply additional brow color using the Cat's Tongue to the shadow brow area. Blend with a Mini Shader.

LIP ACCENT LINES

Using the Rose Bud mix and the Ultra Lash or Pro

Liner, dilute to the proper consistency using lip additive and paint the lip accent lines. These lines fall slightly below the upper lip edge and slightly above the lower lip edge. Keep these lines crisp and even.

CHEEKS

Apply medium to the cheek and chin area. Mix French Blush to a stiff consistency with medium. Using the blusher brush of your choice, apply the cheeks. Dust the chin lightly with the remaining paint in your brush. Be sure the center of the cheek remains darker.

Fire to cone 019 ♥

SUPPLIES

Mold MD2741 G Series Steiner

Porcelain

Blue White

Brushes

RBB004 Blusher Brush

RBB006 China Mop

RBB102 Mini Shader

RBB204 Precision Brow

RBB207 Pro Liner

RBB210 Ultra Lash

RBB404 Cat's Tongue

RBB600 Small Blender

RBB602 Medium Blender

China Paint

CPO342 Dusty Rose Pink

CPO305 Flux

CPO382 Ash Blonde

CPO384 Rose Bud

CPO385 French Blush

CPO386 Ebony Black

CPO392 Eye Shadow

CPO275 Medium

CPO295 Lip Additive

Miscellaneous

26mm Hand Glass Paperweight Eyes

20" French Composition Body

Mohair Wig