

Oriental Bru Headpiece



by Darlene Lane
Photography by Darlene Lane

The original Oriental Bru was painted with two different techniques, one being the oriental wash with exotic eyebrows, the other with the traditional Bru look. Both were dressed in kimono.

For my reproduction of the Oriental Bru, I chose the Bru

8 and dressed her in kimono with the traditional Obi knot. For reference, I used a photo of an antique Bru wearing a headpiece of metallic flowers in a golden crown.

My version of that headpiece was constructed over a buckram pate and utilizes vintage silk flowers and velvet leaves from France, and a one-inch wide ivory and gold trim. Usually, I am not a hot glue addict, but given the fact that the first doll I completed was lost (another interesting story), I hurried the process along this time by using hot glue instead of needle and thread. Either works, but hot glue is faster.

Please, before you begin this project, cover your dolls' face and hair with plastic wrap and secure it with a rubber band around its neck. NOTE: The best hat form to use in any type of head creation is the finished doll head with the wig in place.

Instructions

Cover a small pate with matching kimono fabric. To do this, cut a circle larger than the pate and glue the fabric over the top. Secure the edges underneath.

Glue the 1" wide trim at the back and front bottom edges of the pate, while allowing the sides to extend 1 1/2" beyond this edge. Create an oblong shape (instead of a circle) by pinching the trim together at these extensions and sewing in place.

Add a floral spray from a vintage hat, placing it slightly forward of center. Attach so it stands up. Cut a 6" piece of trim; fold to form a point. Center this point and secure the raw edges underneath the side of the pate. If desired, add narrow looped trim to the edge of this piece, while keeping the original pointed shape.

Attach 2 long floral pieces to each side, draping downward. For fullness, add vintage silk flowers and leaves at each side above the draped side pieces. For support and fullness at the back, place 2 larger vintage silk flowers behind the original top spray.

For additional interest at the front section, secure a 4" piece of a different trim between the original trim at pate front edge and the added front point.

Cut three 4" pieces of ivory/gold trim. Fold each in half.

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Glue the raw edges together. Place the first loop at the top of the headpiece between the original floral spray and the added back flowers. Place the other two at either side. Hot glue all three to secure. Add an interesting ornament (dragon in photo).

Lastly, conceal the exposed raw edges on the underside of the headpiece with a circle of felt.



Supplies

Small 2 1/4" Buckram Pate

Vintage Silk Flowers

Vintage Velvet Leaves

Hot Glue

1 Yard 1" Wide Trim

Extra Suitable Trims

Small Piece Felt

Ornament (Dragon)

Needle & Matching Thread

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