

Design Resource

Socks Doll - Ahmednagar

DIY Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Hariharasudan T.
NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<https://dsource.in/resource/socks-doll-ahmednagar>



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2. Tools and Raw Materials
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Introduction

Dolls have always been an inevitable part of one's childhood. This being a symbol of changing ages, time, and culture, represented the history of a particular country always through them. Among its users, children, in particular, find great fun in playing with dolls, which helps them develop their intellect and imagination. In ancient times, dolls were made up of natural materials but gradually with time, they went through innovations, making the new age dolls of fibers, plastics, and rubbers. They were even considered to bring in good luck, hence were used in a range of situations like a kitchen decoration in northern Europe to welcome prosperity to house, in ships of Japan to protect fishermen from harsh storms. American farmers used to bury dolls to attain healthy crops. Most notably, healers believed and practiced invocation of pain and disease from a human body into a doll as a measure to cure the problem.

Around the world, among the dolls made by hand, socks dolls enjoy a special place as they are easy, soft, and washable. Their look and feel can be altered with types of stuffings and the design used, hence they make a unique collection of dolls. They are also considered apt for doll clothing. Here the rate of stuffing determines the doll experience, less stuffing makes it soft and fluffy while more amount turns it firm and solid. Sock doll making is one of the easily executed activities with the least investment, bestowed with the perks of fair employability and skill development scopes. Most of the hand-made doll units are run by women around the country, thus unfolding their passion for stitching and earning a living through it. These dolls in various colors, designs, and sizes are more popular in the shape of human beings. Today, dolls not only provide a diversion but also a colorful canvas for depicting Indian life in its excess of cultural beauties. An institute named Rachana Kala Mahavidyalaya is a place where doll-making training is given to artisans. It is situated in Ahmednagar, in the state of Maharashtra. Mr. Prashant Shekatkar is the principal of this institute. The institute has multiple courses related to art and handicrafts, it was started in the year 1998. Mrs. Varsha Shekatkar is the founder member of Rachana Kala Mahavidyalaya institute.

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Mrs. Kavita Gudewar, the senior artisan.



Paintings hung on the walls of the school.

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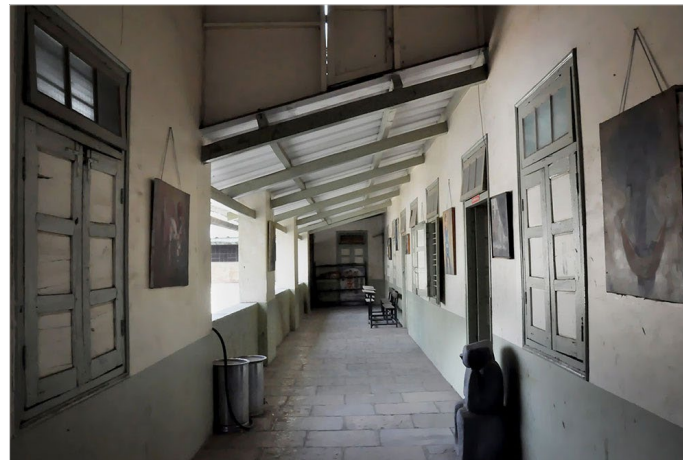
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Corridor of the school, which takes the stroller through a journey of art.



Walls portraying the works of students.

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Fiber statue of couples installed on the school premises. A modern statue art.

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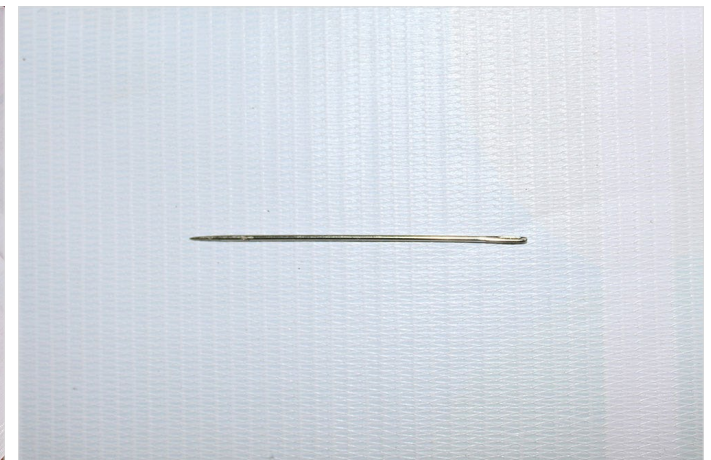
Tools and Raw Materials

The following tools and raw materials are used for making socks doll:

- **Socks:** It is the main raw material used for doll making.
- **Needle:** It is used for stitching purposes.
- **Sketch Pen:** It is used to mark the facial features of the doll.
- **Synthetic Fiber Cotton:** It makes the stuffing for the doll.
- **Sewing Thread:** It is a cotton fiber used to stitch the parts of the doll.
- **Scissor:** It is used for cutting purposes.
- **Black Bead:** It is glued over the doll to make its eyes.



Woolen sock, the primary material for the craft.



A sewing needle used to sew the sock.

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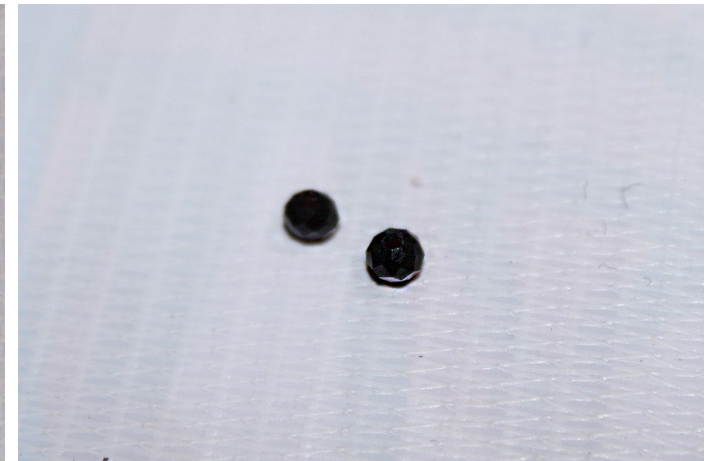
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Scissor is used to cut the sock and thread.



Beads, used as eyes for the doll.



The cotton used to stuff inside the sock to make the doll.

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Making Process

Firstly, a single sock is selected and cut into two, separating the cuff area and the rest of the even fabric, using a scissor. Here the larger section is taken to make the body of the doll while the cuff makes its cap. Folding the sock vertically, a straight cut is made through the center of the ribbed section for the leg part. Now turning the sock inside out, long straight stitches are made along the cut end with the help of a needle and thread. Once done, it is turned back and stuffed with cotton fiber. These stuffings are pushed right to give an even shape to the doll's body. The rims are then stitched again to hold the stuffings. Taking another sock of white color, the head part of the doll is created, where the cloth is stuffed and stitched along the edges. Once the edges are closed well, the thread is pulled to gather the stitches together. Next, the artisan takes to attach the body parts made and then stitches the sides of the body from front to back to create arms. After this, the ready hat is fitted over the head part, and the facial features for the doll are outlined with a marker. Then placing beads, stitches are run through them to make eyes for the doll, and by this, the doll is ready.



First, the sock is measured in half horizontally.



Using the scissor, the sock is cut horizontally to the measurement.

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The sock is folded in half vertically.



The sock is cut halfway through vertically to make the legs for the doll.



The sock is turned inside out for stitching.



Using the sewing needle and thread the legs are stitched along the cut.

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After stitching, the sock is turned back to tie the knot at the corners.



The lower body of the sock doll.



The rest of the sock fabric which was cut at the start is being sewed together through the edges inside out.



The ends of the sock are clustered together and stitched.

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The sock is turned back to the right side.



This makes a cap for the doll.



A white sock is used to make the face for the doll. And the sock is cut into half horizontally.



Cotton is stuffed in the right amount inside the sock.

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After stuffing, the sock ends are stitched.



The excess area of the sock projected is pushed inverts to make it look like a ball.



Stitches are run again to keep the cloth in place and to secure the cotton inside the sock.



The cotton is stuffed into the lower part of the doll.

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After stuffing, the ends are closed by stitching the opening.



Both head and body are stitched and attached.



The cap is also added to make the doll even more perfect looking.



Simple sewing is run through pre-indicated corners to make the hands for the doll.

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Semi-finished sock doll with head, body, and cap.



The eyes and mouth being marked with a black marker.



Small black beads are sewed to make the eyes.



In a curved shape, a thread is sewed to make the mouth.

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Products

Mrs. Kavita Gudewar, the senior artisan, has been trained in Rachana Kala Mahavidyalaya Institute. Socks of various colors and sizes are used to make the sock dolls that come in different sizes and shapes of human beings, animals, vehicles, etc.



The final look of a doll made out of socks.

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Video



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