

Perfecting the Pleat

by Dana of Miniature Art

Glamorous Hollywood Movie stars of the 40's, instinctively knew how to capture that wonderful 'come hither' look ...simply by throwing back a shoulder of glorious wavy hair. Think Veronica Lake! ... (if you're too young to remember, look her up on the Internet). Veronica's hair helped shape a visual persona that you can easily give to your miniature creations, simply with reading my how to, practice and patience.

WIGGING

Many articles have been written on making the up sweep bun or braid.. (in fact you can click to www.MinatureArt.com and select FF (FRILLS AND FANCY) to read many online wiggling how to's). But for now, here are the basic's....

Step one is to glue a hairline around the doll's head with glue. The best example of this, is simply to go to a mirror, hold your hair up off your head, and see how the hair grows around your forehead. Your ears. The back of your neck. Next go to your doll head and repeat those same lines with glue. Gently smear back the glue onto rest of head so you have glue everywhere that hair should be. Let dry to tacky.

Step two is taking small sections of viscose and lay one nose to neck (gently pressing into glue) and another from ear to ear. (Think cross) Let dry. Then flip up sections to back of head, and twist into a bun. Hold with a pin (putting drop of glue underneath folds to hold in place).

Once you've accomplished this, you're on your way! Congrats!!! However, one of the easiest and or difficult techniques...is 'Perfecting the Pleat'. That is what I am going to share with you today.

PLEATER

Lets begin by looking at the d.Anne Ruff pleater. Years ago, she created a pleater that was manufactured with 'rounded' edges and is now created with square. Trade, Plead or steal one of those 'rounded' edged ones. If someone makes curtains, and has the older pleater....trade anything...because it sure makes a BIG difference in this kind of hair style. There are 3!! sizes of pleaters that I use. The 1/4" is great for ethnic hair because it gives the fiber a slight frizz. The 1/2" is all around, and 1" is IT! for those gorgeous waves.

-photo of difference-

HAIR

I use viscose for all my wiggling. Believe it or not, the best I've found is the WAVY LOCKS brand carried by many craft stores. Its easily accessible, inexpensive but only comes in 10 colors. Paulette Stinson also carries viscose in many colors for those wanting more fun.

Once you have your hair, pull a thin 1" section of viscose, and holding it between your fingers, lightly mist with a solution of 1 Tablespoon Downy (or fabric softener) to one cup water. Gently squeeze down fibers between fingers to smooth down any frizzies. Next lay section on top of pleater and pleat according to directions (basically take a credit card and groove in each section). Take a blow dryer with diffuser and dry hair. Let cool.

THIS...is the fun part! Creating your look! I have arranged the following directions for beginners, intermediate and advanced. Pick the one right for you.

BEGINNER

When you pleat hair, there are always sections that seem to stray into their own path. Don't worry! Gently pull hair from pleater and any side waves, carefully cut away. Now take the main pleated section, and lay across a glued hair line, pressing lightly into place. (hair strip should be laying nose to neck). When dry, flip hair up and over forehead, carefully 'combing' with corsage pin to gently tease in place. LIGHTLY spray with hair spray (protecting face) and pat any fuzzies down with a finger wrapped in plastic wrap.

INTERMEDIATE

Follow above directions, BUT take those tiny side pleats we mentioned and add on for glorious wavy bangs, or tendrils. One of my favorite tricks is to simply glue over the top of hairline and gently blend in with corsage pin. Another trick is to gently 'lift' up hair (on hairline) with corsage pin, put a dot of glue there, put tiny pleated section in place, and then drop down hair. Think inserting tendrils.

ADVANCED

Ok this is the fun part. I cut away a pie shaped chunk from my dolls head in greenware stage. This allows for a variety of options. I shape a fimo pie shape(to fill in head) but with a side part, center part, bang part etc as my style indicates. After baking pie shape, and gluing to head, I wig as usual.

MYTHS

-you don't have to wig the whole hairstyle in one long strand of hair. Think of it as seeing a picture, and noticing all the different colors. Dissect the hairline, curls, bangs, tendrils in your mind. Then create them, one step at a time, one curl, bang section etc at a time until you are happy with look.

-you don't have to use solid hair color. Highlight a section with a lighter shade of hair. This is great for the new contemporary styles. Simply do the basic hairline (laying a section of viscose nose to neck) BUT add a few strands of lighter/darker hair for accent by temples.

-this is a process that will evolve just like your doll dressing abilities. Don't try to be an expert in one day. Just enjoy the extra romantic fantasy of long wavy hair and your doll will turn out special.

For specific questions on my techniques, simply email me at miniart@excel.net. I will be glad to

further share my knowledge as time permits.

Happy Creating! Dana