

LIFE IN MINIATURE

Create your very own mini me with
Mélissa Tremblay's heirloom doll





HOW TO MAKE AN HEIRLOOM DOLL

MATERIALS

- 30.5 x 35.5cm (12 x 14") Kaufman Essex Linen Blend fabric in Leather Gold (ours was from www.fabric.com) (Fabric A)
- 1.25 x 0.75cm (3 x 2") Shannon Lux Fur Mongolian fabric in Caramel (ours was from www.fabric.com) (Fabric B)
- 25 x 25cm (10 x 10") Organic Cotton Sherpa fabric in Natural White (ours was from www.simplifabric.com) (Fabric C)
- 20.5 x 20.5cm (8 x 8") Worldly Crushed Velvet fabric in Gold (ours was from www.fabric.com) (Fabric D)
- Pale peach stretch knit fabric, one 28 x 25.5cm (11 x 10") piece and 1.25 x 30.5cm piece (3 x 12") (Fabric E)
- 12.5 x 7cm (5 x 2½") wool felt (we used wool blend felt in White Nectarine from www.dandelionfabrics.etsy.com) (Fabric F)
- 76.5 x 7.5cm (30 x 3") peach blush mesh (Fabric G)
- Two 1cm (⅜") pom poms in mustard (ours were from www.benziedesign.com)
- 16.5cm (6½") mini pom pom trim in cream
- 24.5cm (9½") lace trim
- Embroidery thread in brown, blush, pink, rust and yellow
- Matching sewing thread
- Embroidery needle
- Erasable fabric pencil
- Pink colouring pencil
- Soft toy stuffing

Wave goodbye to those plastic dolls of your youth, and hello to the kids' toy of today – a super cute carry-everywhere pal that's giving us serious outfit goals.

Personalise yours by choosing your own skin-toned linen, picking textured fabric to create the hairstyle of dreams, and putting together fabric scraps for a statement wardrobe that'll make all the other dolls jealous. Then, hand it over to your mini me and hope they love it as much as you do.

01 Using the templates provided, cut two face pieces, one head, cut four face pieces, one head, cut two arms and four legs from Fabric A. Place two leg pieces with right sides (RS) together and sew around them using a 0.25cm (¼") seam allowance, leaving the top



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short edge open. Repeat with the second pair of leg pieces, then sew the two sets of arm pieces together in the same way.

02 Place the **two face pieces** with RS together and sew along the least curved side, as marked on the pattern. Open the sewn piece out and pin to the head piece, RS together and aligning the raw edges. Sew around the outside to create the body piece, leaving the bottom edge open.

03 Using a knitting needle or similar long object, carefully turn the arms, legs and body through to the RS. **Fill them all** firmly with the stuffing, leaving roughly 2cm (¾") empty at the open ends.

04 Fold the fabric at the open edges of the arms to the wrong side (WS) by 0.5cm (¼"), then use

an invisible stitch to attach both arms to the body at the shoulder. Use the image as a guide to placement, and make multiple knots at the start and end of the stitching so the arms are secure.

05 Fold the fabric at the bottom open edge of the body to the WS by 0.5cm (¼"), then push the filling back **inside the body** and legs to leave space for sewing. Pin the legs in place using the image as a guide, and making sure both legs are the same length. Sew along the base of the body, then squash the doll to even out the filling.

06 Use the fabric pencil to trace the eyes, nose and the mouth onto the doll's face. Following the lines, **embroider the mouth** with pink thread, the nose with blush thread and the eyes and eyebrows with

brown embroidery thread. Use the pink colouring pencil to add blusher to the doll's cheeks.

07 Pin Fabric B to the top of the head, then sew using matching thread and **blanket stitch** to create the doll's hair.

08 Fold Fabric C in half along the length with RS together. Using the template on page 86, cut one jumper along the fold, as marked on the pattern. Cut out the neck hole. Pin the two layers and sew **along the underarm** and body on each side, leaving the sleeves and the bottom of the jumper open. If the fabric starts to fray, blanket stitch around the raw edges.

09 Turn the jumper through to the RS, then sew the two yellow pom poms **down the centre** on one side using matching thread. »



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10 Using the template, cut two legging pieces from Fabric D. Pin them RS together and sew along the **inside of the legs** and down either side, leaving the top and bottom of the leggings open. Turn them through to the RS.

11 Fold Fabric E in half with WS together. Place the headscarf template **along the fold**, as indicated on the pattern, and cut out. Next, cut a 30.5 x 7.5cm (12 x 3") piece from Fabric E.

12 Sew running stitch around the open edge of the Fabric E half circle, then pull the threads to **scrunch the fabric** tightly. Knot the ends to secure.

13 Fold the 30.5 x 7.5cm (12 x 3") Fabric E piece in half along the length with RS together and pin. Sew along one short edge and

the **open long edge**, then turn through to the RS through the open short edge. Fold the raw edges to the WS and sew closed using an invisible stitch.

14 Tie a loose knot in the middle of the Fabric E rectangle, then keep repeating, threading both ends through the hole of the first knot, until the fabric forms a small bundle, as shown. Once the knot has the desired shape, stitch through the fabric on the WS to secure it in place. **Sew the knot** to the gathered section of the headscarf using an invisible stitch.

15 Using the template, cut two bag pieces from Fabric F. Use the fabric pencil to trace three **rainbow shapes** onto one piece of felt, using the image as a guide. Next, use the yellow, pink and rust

threads to embroider over the marked lines, as shown.

16 Blanket stitch along the top of both bag pieces to hem the edges, then place both pieces RS together. Tuck the pom pom trim between the fabric along the **curved edge** of the bag, with the pom poms facing inwards. Pin, then sew around the edge, leaving the top of the bag open.

17 Sew either end of the **lace trim** to the top of the WS of the bag to create a strap. Turn through to the RS, neatening the trim.

18 Dress the doll, putting on the leggings, the jumper, and the headscarf. Adjust the hair, tucking it under the scarf, then add the bag. To finish, wrap Fabric G around the neck **as a scarf**, and tie in a little knot at the front.

MEET THE MAKER MÉLISSA TREMBLAY



Before jumping into dollmaking full-time, Montreal-based MéliSSa worked as an illustrator and animator. When she's not sewing or hiking, and you can find her on Instagram @petite.prunelle. www.petiteprunelle.com