

DOLL Rx

Newsletter of the Doll Doctors' Association

Volume No. 10 Issue No. 3

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2005-2007 OFFICERS**

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Doll Doctor's Association

Join your fellow doll doctors for the
Association's semi-annual meeting and

10th

Anniversary CELEBRATION

December 3, 2005 - 6:00 p.m

Gaithersburg Hilton
620 Perry Parkway, Gaithersburg, MD

Dinner orders will be placed from the menu at 6:00. To
make reservations, contact Peggy Shunk at
peggy.shunk@verizon.net

Bring cash or check...

****CREDIT CARDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED****

A fun packed party is being planned to celebrate this great
milestone! You won't want to miss out on all the fun,
games, gifts, and door prizes that are planned for this
event. Mark your calendars and make your plans now to
attend. See you there for all the festivities!

For more information or suggestions, please contact Jo
Kershner at dolldoc@localnet.com or Joyce McDonald at
dollsrjoy1@juno.com.

2006 RESTORATION CONTEST

Just think of all of the talented members who belong to this Association. Let's showcase this talent! The restoration contest will be held in 2006. Document your progress...take those photos! We'll have tips and suggestions for your entry. Watch for more details in the March newsletter!

Begin planning NOW.

ANNOUNCING Brand New Doll T-Shirts



\$12.95

Plus \$3.85 shipping
M, L, XL, XXL

We also have a limited supply of DDA T-shirts (Polo Style with Collar) and totes available for purchase.

Shirt with National Image \$19.95
3 L - 5 XL - 3 XXL

Tote with National Image \$18.00
Only 2 Available

Tote with PA Image \$18.00
Only 5 Available

To order:

Jo Kershner
P. O. Box 22
Angelica, NY 14709

Or email her at dolldoc@localnet.com to order

FROM THE EDITOR

THANK YOU for all the great submissions I received since our last newsletter! I hope everyone enjoys the wealth of information and ideas! PLEASE keep up the good work! We love to know what you are doing. Sharing and learning among the membership is a fun and informative part of our association. We invite each member to share your techniques, products or specific do's and don'ts of your projects. Remember: This publication is FOR the members and BY the members!

Publication Deadlines

For publication in Article must be received by:

March
July
November

February 15th
June 15th
October 15th

Anything received after those dates may be held over until the next publication. Feel free to send your article at ANY time, however! (Of course, we all know that if it weren't for the 11th Hour, a lot of things would NEVER get done!!

PLEASE notify me of any changes in your email address or regular mailing address. Each publication has several returns. We want to make sure that everyone receives a newsletter!

-Ila Marvel, Editor
3049 Morris Road
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Email: imarvel@bis.midco.net



MICHIGAN CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

Submitted by Madelaine Conboy



L to R: Rob Robbel, Marilyn Weitzman, Marlene Robbel, Rosemary Sloan, Cindy Miranda, Michael Wolk-Laniewski, Elaine Carps. Photographer, (Not in photo), Madelaine Conboy

It was a very hot July day in East China when the Michigan Chapter of DDA held a meeting at the home of Rob and Marlene Robbel. The group was very enthusiastic to show their Naked Compo dolls we are preparing for painting.

Since it really was too hot to go out to paint, Rob gave a good inspection of the dolls progress, and made comments and suggestions for completing the preparation job. He suggests Spot Putty to fill the fine pit holes and light sanding over the Poly-Tech after it dries.

We had a good discussion about articles for the Rx Newsletter. Michael showed the certificate he received for writing an article last month on A New Material to Repair Bisque. We are encouraging others to write articles, or write into the "Letters to the Editor" or give samples of tricks and techniques that make a repair job easier to do.

We discussed repairing the voice box of a compo doll, and Marlene said that she would write an article for a future Rx Newsletter. We have some good photos to accompany the article, Marlene!

Cindy said she could write an article on the Schoenhut dolls. She has an excellent and rare doll with cutouts showing the arm and leg mechanisms. Rosemary said that she could write an article on clothing. Marlene could also write an article on painting eyebrows or curling hair.

Most of the members decided that they would like to receive the Rx Newsletter by snail mail since we are asking members to select either email copy or hard copy, but not both. Members who were not present at the July meeting should let me know their requests or they will receive hard copy.

The next meeting will be October 24, 2005. We will again meet in East China at the Robbel's home to try to start the spray painting of the Naked Compo.

Rosemary Sloan and Madelaine Conboy will be going to Gaithersburg in December for the annual National DDA Meeting.



RESTORATION OF LARGE MISSING AREAS

Submitted by Dwaine Gipe
Founder and Past President, DDA

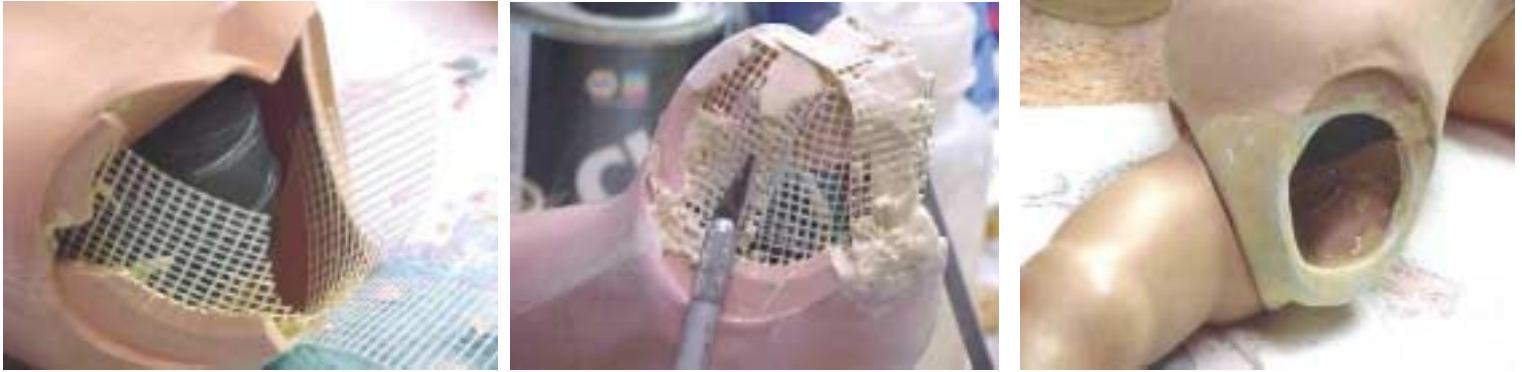


Photo 1 - We have here a Chatty Cathy with her whole crotch missing. The object of this article is to show how you can achieve success by approaching it one small step at a time.

Photo 2 - Use flexible synthetic webbing found, in the hardware store, known to them as wallboard seam sealer material. It is merchandised, in white, as well as other colors. From our viewpoint white is emotionally better when parts may show inside the doll. This is a get started somewhere challenge. I made the initial one-piece application, in two steps. First I attached the one end, of a narrow strip, to the hip with a dab of polyester. I formed a curve down to and back up, to the bottom, of the dolls stomach. The second step was, to get one or more pieces stuck, in there and attached, to the first piece. The second step pieces created a support, on both sides, leading, to something solid, upon which I could add other materials.

Photo 3 - Use epoxy to begin finger sculpting. Get close to the form and contours needed to form the crotch. Don't worry about over applied material. It will grind off. If you under apply you can always add more. While the first application is still workable use modeling tools, to form up the butt crack. I actually did this, in two under filled applications. When I got close to finish dimensions, I started working with polyester to finish forming the crotch. I left the leg hole a little smaller than the actual leg part. I did not cut out the leg hole until the crotch was structurally sound. The whole secret in a mess like this is to have a very strong bridge built so that you can push and form the contours without fear of caving it in. You use the leg to mark the leg hole in the soft epoxy. You grind it out to size after everything else is formed up. Remember if you are over applied you can sand it down. You can always add more epoxy or polyester, on the inside if you need, to take away some of the outside. I ended up doing a little of both to get the good look on this job.



Photo 4 - Continued sanding with the Dremel or other sanders plus good old-fashioned handwork to get right down to finish. There were minor dimples and pinholes. I brushed on a coat of epoxy just prior to the final sanding. This also left me see where I needed to add a little dab here and there for the excellent contours and dimple filling



Photo 5 -The big secret that made the job easy: Notice the flange is ground off the leg. A hook is built in. This eliminates the need, to try the near impossible task, of rebuilding the flange socket. That cannot be done anyway because the flange was slipped into the original body as the doll was assembled. We have no more body that can be separated. The leg will now be strung straight across, through a hole, in the other leg and a knot will be, on the outside, of the one leg. That's simple enough if the customer is aware that this will be the procedure upon contract written procedural intents. I know, of no other way, to make, this restoration work.

Photo 6 - Airbrush the color match to the original body. Dry it overnight and give it two or three light misting coats of finish.

There she is! Miss Chatty Cathy up, on all fours, for your pleasure. The job took five hours and was priced at \$125.00 quoted, in contract. Chatty's mom was very pleased to get her only childhood doll back and standing up again.



MORE CHATTY CATHY from Marie Doll

I recently purchased a Chatty Cathy with two original dresses which I washed. Although I used cold water the dye from the colored trim ran into the yellow dress fabric. I know I was not the first person to have that experience as the next doll magazine I read contained a caution. Unfortunately it was too late for me. Having nothing to loose I placed the article into a solution of Dylon color remover. I was pleased to see that the product removed all the unwanted dye but did not remove the original colors. It did however cause a minor lightening of the colors but I could now consider that the dress was not totally ruined.



Doll Doctors' Association 10th Anniversary offer Doll Rx CD - 10 Years of Newsletters - \$10.00

Ten year's worth of issues of our newsletter, Doll Rx, are now available on one CD!
This CD is indexed to help you find that article you are looking for!
The cost is TEN DOLLARS.

Mark your check "Doll Rx CD" and make it payable to
THE DOLL DOCTORS' ASSOCIATION

Mail your request to:
Ashley Tanner
74 Myrtle Bush Lane
Venus, FL 33960

Pet peeve

Submitted by Stephanie Spika

There is one important issue concerning eBay that I just have to mention regarding the sale of dolls. One of my *pet peeves* is the frequent practice of stripping any kind of doll *buck-naked* before selling her, and every scrap of her clothing, in several separate listings just to make MORE MONEY. This is what GREED looks like, folks. It isn't pretty.

It just isn't right for a doll to be sold naked. This has nothing to do with being a "prude!" I love to study the manufacturing differences in dolls, and I would always provide a photo of the doll undressed if her condition was in question. But I think it's unkind to the doll and to every serious buyer to strip a doll of her (sometimes ORIGINAL) outfit and send all of those bits and pieces off in different directions all over the globe, just for the sake of a few extra bucks! In addition, we all know a doll's clothing often has clues that help to identify her.

Stripping a doll and selling all her worldly goods in bits and pieces is not the responsible or professional way to sell any kind of antique or collectible, and those out there who do it show how little they really care about professional, ethical selling. It's crass. It's low. And as my dear husband would say, "IT'S JUST WRONG!"

You will never see any of the dolls I post on eBay listed without original or vintage-appropriate clothing.

3^d quarter CHAPTER COACH REPORT

Our Chapter Coach, Linda Janney, reports a very active year. She has given organizing information to doll doctors in Western Michigan, New York/Western Pennsylvania; Colorado/Wyoming or Kansas and Nebraska and New England (perhaps comprising Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut).

The first organizing meeting of the New York/Western Pennsylvania group was held in early October. Congratulations to the organizing chapter!!! Thank you Linda!!!

NEW YORK CHAPTER NEWS



The formation group for the New York State Chapter of the Doll Doctors' Association met at Charlie's Restaurant in East Aurora, NY on Oct. 3, 2005. In attendance were Joan Kershner (temporary chairperson), Peggy Shunk and Joyce McDonald (pictured above).

The required two (2) meetings of the have been held and the group has requested certification by the National Organization. This matter will come before the meeting in Gaithersburg December 3, 2005.

The group is extending invitations to others who might be interested in joining. The next meeting is Nov. 7, 2005 at Charlie's. We plan to restring small dolls and have a great time.

PA CHAPTER NEWS

The PA chapter is doing something a little different now. For years we have been meeting at the same restaurant and have now decided to meet at our members shops or homes. Our last meeting, on April 16th, 2005, was held at Suzanne Daly's "Dollightful Things" shop in Chambersburg, PA. It is truly a delightful shop. Our program was on Beaded Doll Purses presented by Miriam Farlow.

Our next meeting will be held at Spring Seldomridge's place in Gap, PA. Our program will be on Leather Body Repair presented by Spring and Anne Vince.

We learn so much from each other and feel this is a great way to see each others shops and set ups.

Peggy Shunk, President, PA Chapter

A Charley McCarthy Doll gets refreshed

Submitted by Charyle Chiles

Mid June this year, a very nice lady wanted me to “just take a look” at her Charley McCarthy. She needed him “fixed up” to give to her 8 year old grandson for his Birthday, July 10th. I intended to meet with her and “firmly” tell her that I couldn’t take on any doll projects. I would have less than 3 weeks! Once I picked him up and handled him, I was stuck. She said that he’d been played with a bit. He had been dropped on his head so had a crack and small hole in the top. His handmade outfit of 60 plus years needed mending. His cloth body had a section of seam without thread, so was scotch taped together. He had a hole in the neck area of the cloth body, had a hole where the wire connecting the hand to the arm had poked through, and the edges of his shoes were worn considerably. One of his eyes had lost most of the paint, as had his mouth. His shirt was a man’s white handkerchief pinned at the neck. I think I was somewhat fascinated by his simplicity. I told her I’d try to fix him a bit, just try to refresh him, not make him look new. She didn’t seem happy. She stressed this was for her grandson and wanted him to look good. I doubted I’d be able to get him done for the party, but said I’d try, and I’d know better once I got him home and thoroughly inspected.

I started by taking photos before touching him (for once!!!). I figured at least I could give her some photos for the party. I knew nothing about these compo dummies so looked for some on E-bay, and found two Charlies for sale, one for over \$800 and one for \$300. I presented the value of the doll as perhaps a way to discourage the owner from giving him to her grandson, but it seemed to make her more determined.

Charley Before:



Above is the hole and crack. To the Right is the hole in the neck area. It was bigger than it appeared at quick glance. Yes, photo is out of focus (nothing wrong with your eyes). Also note the chip under chin, damaged when someone replaced his rubber band that makes him talk.



Charley After:



The neck hole is now fixed; arm attachment was weak, so running the cloth down to the arm base helped strengthen arm as well. Neck Chip now has some color. On the far right, Charley is ready to be dressed!



Advantage for taking photos can show what your eye can not see. The yellowish spot showed more paint needed.



I have to admit this was a fun, enjoyable project. I made a couple of trips to **Aaron Brothers** for paint, and discovered a “water-based” oil paint that worked great on the eye repaint (**Winsor & Newton**). They have the old original colors; can be thinned with water, but look like oil. (I find acrylic paint gives a gritty appearance.) If you haven't tried them, I recommend you may want to give them a try for “fill-in” compo painting.

What I did to refresh him:

1. Cleaned his face & hands; no repainting except to fill in the missing eye colors. Used **Prisma Color** Markers (Aaron Bros.) for mouth touch up, and hair color fill-in on top of head repair. These markers come in so many colors, esp vast array of oranges and have broad and narrow tip for various tasks. Seem to last fairly well.
2. Mended body, patched the holes, and used curved needle to attach the patches, re-sew the seam in body. Dyed patches with instant coffee for age.
3. Used **FixIt** by Aves Clay Co. for head & shoes repair. Takes on new color well, sands, can be carved, very versatile.
Web: www.aves.com.
4. Used **Duncan** sealer (Matte finish) from **Seeleys** to protect work once happy with it. Dries almost instantly.



For his costume, I got a toddler fancy shirt at a Thrift Store and cut it down to fit. I used the extra material in the trimming of body & sleeves to get the fabric for the bow tie.

As you can see from the last photo I took, the owner was very pleased with his outcome. I'm not sure what she expected. When I delivered him, I found her very appreciative. She noted that I'd added two small buttons to the front of the jacket so that it could be closed with a loop of cotton thread. She loved his new tuxedo shirt, and was happy that I had fixed the numerous seams that needed to be re-sewn. And she appreciated the body being redone, but not vastly changed from the original she knew and loved.

TEXAS CHAPTER NEWS

Lynda Ball, Secretary

Howdy from the Texas Chapter!

Our great state was well represented at our September 11, meeting at the Summer Palace in Waco. We had seventeen members and two guests, from as far north as Pottsboro, (that's close to the OK border), Longview (east), Houston & San Antonio (south) and San Angelo (west), and many points in between. If you're not familiar with the layout, it might be interesting to check a TX map, and see just how far some of these doll folks drove!

We approved a sample of our Chapter nametag, and will be getting those soon. It will be nice to have them not only for meetings, but also for doll shows and seminars, etc. We hope to have the beginnings of a Chapter notebook under way by the next meeting.

Pam Mayo, one of our newest members, gave a wonderful presentation on Chatty Cathy. It was great to learn some of Chatty's history, and to see the results of Pam's expert repair and restoration of these adorable dolls. We are grateful for her willingness to share her knowledge and expertise, and for bringing part of her collection for us all to see.

As always, we shared a great lunch followed by lots of informal discussion and visiting. We are looking forward to our next meeting on January 8, 2006 in Waco. If you are in the area please join us!



DOLL DOCTORS' ASSOCIATION Renewal & Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

*****IMPORTANT***** please make your \$10.00 check payable to **DOLL DOCTORS' ASOCIATION*****

Mail to:

Ashley Tanner

74 Myrtle Bush Lane

Venus, FL 33960

A SAFE PLACE to STRING a DOLL

Submitted by Madelaine Conboy



A plastic covered foam baby-changing pad, (with built up sides) makes a safe workspace while stringing dolls.

This portable pad has a rigid base and is easy to store on end. The built up sides creates a secure spot, especially for compo and bisque head dolls and all porcelain dolls too!

Working in a padded area such as this prevents accidental rolling, falling and banging fragile doll parts on hard surfaces, resulting in disaster and heartbreak! Search in second hand baby clothing stores for a good, clean used pad, or even a large department store such as Wal-Mart, or Meier's, etc. for a new one. The price is low either way, and the protection is priceless!

****MORE TIPS...** from Marie Doll

Emery boards, especially those that have a foam interior, can be very helpful to remove excess Evercoat which was not removed during use of the contour sander, or whatever product is used to fill cracks. Like sandpaper they come in various grit sizes and are firm while being flexible.

Next time you go to McDonalds for a cup of coffee, keep the coffee stir paddle and any extra ones you can obtain. The paddle end of the stirrer is perfect for applying Evercoat into fine cracks especially when working with bisque.

We Get Letters....

From our last issue: "Hi friends! I love the newsletter! So many helpful ideas... even after being a 20-year veteran of repairs. I have a question: Does anyone repair or know how to repair old voice boxes from composition dolls? There must be a trick that would help us. Thanks."

-Sharon Miller Algona, IA

We Get answers....

Hello Ila and all:

I am a new member and more of a hobbyist than anything else when it comes to doll repair. I was very happy to receive my first issue of your newsletter this week. Someone had asked about repairing the voice boxes for the old composition dolls. Well, I can't say I've actually repaired any, but I do have some instructions how to that were in the July/August 1980 issue of Doll World. I scanned the page and attached it but in case that does not come out so you can read it, here are the instructions. Let me know how it works for you.

HOW TO REPAIR VOICE BOX WITH BELLOWS

1. Take top off voice box
2. Pull out old bellows from bottom case.
3. Remove bellows from cardboard and top piece.
4. Measure a piece of cloth the same size as old bellows and brush on two coats of quick glue.
5. After glue is dry, glue new bellows back onto bottom of cardboard.
6. Glue bellows back into bottom case.
7. Glue bellows back to top section.
8. Glue down side seam of bellows to seal.
9. Put some glue around top piece; don't block airflow.
10. After glue is dry twist bellows slightly, depress out air and replace top; if you're lucky it will work again.

-Karen Perry

And yet another reply:

I thought I would respond before I forget regarding how to repair an original crier from the old composition doll. This has worked for me, but only 98% of the time.

What is needed is a prophylactic. My husband refuses to buy them, so I do! However, I go to a store where I'm not known. Then I buy a large box.

Each crier can be different, so remember how you take it apart. Carefully remove the metal (or cardboard) covering. Sometimes, the squawker is on top; other times on the bottom. Remove the insides from the cardboard cylinder. Notice carefully how the dried, cracked and sometimes torn old material is placed. Carefully remove it. The prophylactic will be used in this place. Replace the insides in the prophylactic EXACTLY as they had been removed. Roll the excess prophylactic over the top of the cardboard cylinder to the outside. *Carefully* replace the metal (or cardboard) covering, as you don't want to make a hole in the prophylactic. WALLA! It should work!!

-Jean Reed

THANKS Karen and Jean! We appreciate your responses! If anyone else has questions they'd like answered, write or email:

-Ila Marvel, Editor
3049 Morris Road
Bismarck ND 58503
Email: imarvel@bis.midco.net

HAIR RE-ROOTING

Submitted by Peggy Shunk



This doll's hair had been pulled out or shaved off. I trimmed the hair off of an old human hair wig and wrapped a small piece over my finger and picked it up with the needle in the re-rooting tool. Then poked it through the holes in the vinyl head. After all the holes had been filled in with hair I rolled it up with large perm rollers and end papers. Then I spritzed it with water.

When it was the hair was dry, I styled it and touched it up with a small curling iron. I put a pink ribbon in on the side. She is ready to face the world now!



Left: This is a close up of the tool. A needle with the end cut off. Perfectly picks up strands of hair and goes through the holes in the vinyl head, deposits the hair and comes out clean.

Right: This is how I wrap it around my finger so the needle slides over the hair. Then I hold it on the needle with my finger until I punch it in the head. Let go and it's done.

ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWS

Submitted by Alice Johnson

Although we are a small group, we try to help each other by passing on repair tips and techniques, as well as getting body parts and sometimes even the actual repairs from other members.

For our October meeting, we first had Show and Tell which included antique to modern dolls. Some of the dolls shown this month included: Baby Dainty, an unmarked Shirley Temple with tin eyes, Miss Revlon Dolls, a 36" Bergmann porcelain head on a composition body, a Schoenhut doll, and an antique doll dressed in clothes made out of actual clothes worn during the Civil War.



Our guest was Marcia Dundore Wolter, owner of Dundore Dolls. She is a local doll artist who has been featured in Dolls Magazine and Doll Crafter Magazine. She is one of the artists featured in the new book Contemporary American Doll Artists and Their Dolls by Kathryn Witt. Marcia taught High School Art for twenty (20) years before turning to sculpting dolls. Marcia makes dolls out of porcelain, polymer clay, and felt over paperclay. She showed us pictures she used as inspirations for her dolls, and pictures showing the steps she goes through in making the dolls. Most of Marcia's dolls are one-of-a-kind.

A light lunch was then served and a group picture was taken. Front row, left to right: Marie Leonard, Marcia Wolter, and Alice Johnson. Back row, left to right: Rosalie Jostes, Carol Sieburg, and Phil Jostes.

Dolly Laundry

Submitted by Margaret Maginnis



Get a mayo jar.

Put in a slight tbsp of Oxy-clean in very hot water, which releases the oxygen.

Stir to dissolve.

Let cool to just warm, put in the article and swirl gently just a couple of seconds. Let set 15 minutes.

Drain and rinse the clothing without wringing nor squeezing.

Repeat the process, unless those steps did the job completely, as it does with loose dirt.

On second soak, you can shake it a bit harder, but don't go ballistic!

You may want it to soak overnight. You may want to repeat it again. When you do remove it for good, rinse several times in the jar, clear the water after each rinse. Depending on the garment, you can gently press out the excess water, or hang it on a plastic dolly hanger, or drape it over a glass..... or if not too wet, lay it in your countertop, press it smoothly with your fingers and let it dry.