

Fairy Doll - HowTo



Part 3. *Painting Eyes*

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Part 3. of our HowTo when making Fairy doll is all about painting eyes. Tried to take photos to show you step by step how to use your paint and create eyes on your crocheted doll. Hope you will find it useful and enjoyable. For any questions you might have or help, please feel free to write and ask.

Wishing you happy painting!

As paint I suggest one in the bottles. Once you can apply with brush. It is textile paint you can find in any craft supplies shop. It doesn't have to be professional one, simple hobby, textile paint will work great for this work. Colors you will need are white and black. For the iris you can choose any color of your choice. I like this very light blue. Brush I'll use is No.1. If you can find thinner brush, work with it! Specially if you are not familiar with painting. With thin brush, mistakes you might make will not be that visible and you will have a chance to correct them.



Painting doll's eyes is giving you many options on what design to use and what expression to make on your doll. For fairies and most of my dolls, I like to go after this dreamy, cartoon looking eyes, that are very simple and easy to do. If you would like to try some different shapes, all over the internet you can find photos and designs you can apply on your doll. Some like manga or anime eyes, make such eyes on your fairy. If you prefer traditional oval looking doll's eyes, go for them. Possibilities

are endless. Don't be afraid to experiment and try different options. This photo tutorial will show you what steps are made when painting eyes on your doll. One thing you have to keep in mind. When painting eyes as well as making, crocheting doll yourself it is little piece of art you are making. If you work it with your heart it can't end up wrong. It will express you as creator of this piece. Whatever you do, and however it ends it will be your beautiful piece of art. Keep this in mind when making your dolls. Work with your hands but use your heart as guide and you will not go wrong!

Now let's continue to work and paint some :D

For this purpose I used pencil to draw the outline and position my eyes on the head. You can do that. Pencil works great and won't be seen after. Having an outline you can fill in with the paint will help you a lot if this is going to be your first try in painting eyes.



Now that we have idea where our eyes will be placed and how they will look, we can start applying the colors. First one, the base we'll make in white.

Use white to cover space inside the outline. Don't rush, take your time when painting. Use little bit of paint each time and try to fill all the stitches with this white. This is going to be our base for other colors later and we want to make it look as good as

possible. When you are satisfied with your work, and space between the outline is completely covered, let it dry completely before applying next color.

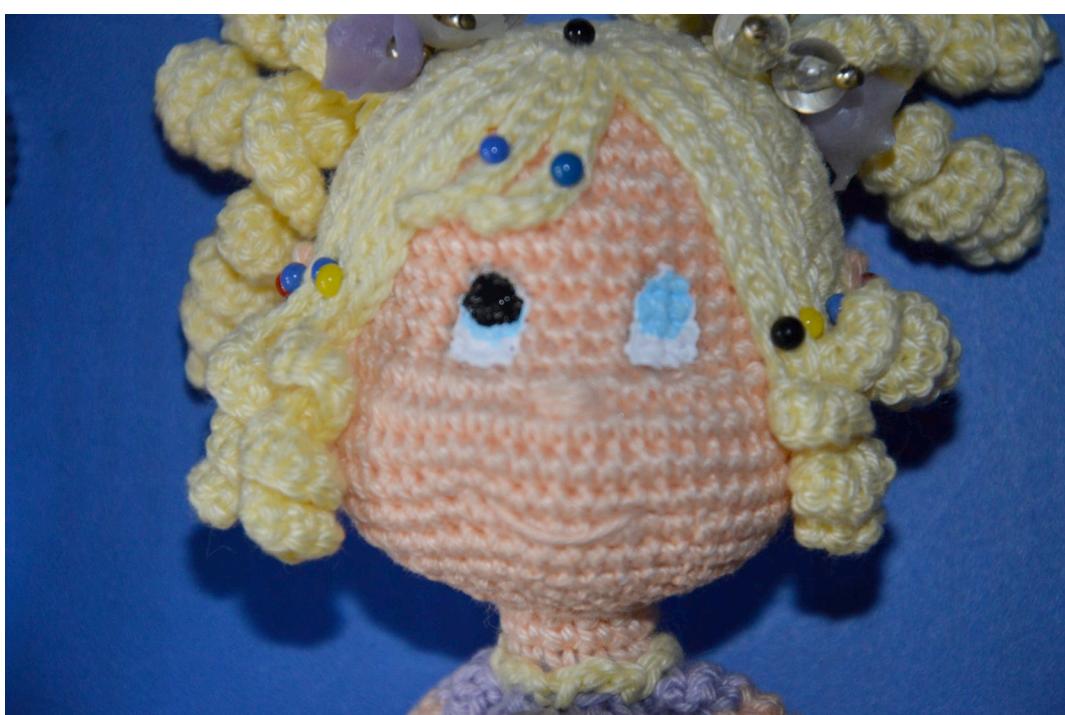


By now our white paint has dried and we can continue with adding next color, or making iris. Choose color that you like. I like this very light blue, baby blue or light sky blue. This color gives me soft kind of look and works great with peachy color of doll's skin. Try to find color that works the best for you. Most of these textile paints can be mixed what is giving you opportunity to make your own shades. Now back to work, applying second color and making iris. What is important in this step is to make iris round. Try to avoid making straight line that will cut and cover

half of the eye in color. Try to make it as round as possible. At the end of this tutorial I have made few eye designs you can use as your guide for your future paintings. Once you finish with painting iris, wash your brush(es) and let paint dry completely before applying next color.



Last but not least is adding pupil and outline in black. This is always the most difficult part; specially if the brush is not super fine. Best advice I can give you is to try to work this part with lots of patience. Color the pupil first. Make it circle, size smaller than the iris. For the outline, eyelashes and eyebrows, instead of making long lines, try to make them very short. Use little bits of paint on your brush and add these little lines here and there, trying to connect them as you go. You can help yourself with needle or toothpick; use them instead of brush. Dip them in the paint and make lines as you go. When adding black, less is always better than more. Specially with outline. Once finished with painting the pupil and outline, adding eyelashes and eyebrows, leave it dry completely.





There is one last touch to make. Little white sparks in eyes to bring life and light to it. We will create them using white.

Dip tip of your brush in white paint and simply make a dot on each of the black area on the eye. All you need is little white dot on each eye. Don't try to paint or make circle motions with your brush what might result making stains of white on black pupils or entire eye. Simple, little dot is all it needs.

After finished, let it dry completely.



And eyes are painted!!! Not that difficult, right?

Addition to painted eyes is making cheeks nice and healthy.

I have tried different methods and have to say, they all work great. You can blush cheeks with powder blush, or you can use textile paint. You can even use oil based pastels to add color to doll's cheeks.

Powder blush is great one. Only flaw, it doesn't stay in too long.

Textile paint is permanent and looks very nice on crocheted base. Texture it creates when applied is different than one left after powder blush is applied or crayons.

Paint will cover the area leaving no visible yarn color underneath. Many dolls ask for this "plastic" kind of look and if you are making one of them, use paint on cheeks as well. I wasn't sure which technique to use in this tutorial. I even prepared two of them. Many of my fairies I have blushed with textile paint and results were always great. At the end, for this tutorial decided to work with oil based pastels and show you how to apply them on doll's head and use as blush on it's cheeks.

Look around your crafty boxes or your children's crayons for nice pinky one you can use on your doll. Here is what I have found:



What you will have to do is simply apply the crayon on cheeks. Then use your fingers or Cotton bud to smudge the crayon into crocheted work.



And cheeks are done!



What is left is tiny little detail and that is to add color on doll's lips. If you prefer they stay in same color yarn as the rest of the head, then your doll is finished by now. If you like to add color on her lips, here is how you can do that.

And again you can choose among different techniques. You can use the textile paint again (same color you used for cheeks) and apply it on this little line we added for the mouth. Or, you can use some old and almost dry marker in pink or color of your choice and apply on this little line.

When making lips you don't need to apply or color it strong. Even here, the rule, less is more, works better. If you decide to use paint, add it little by little, trying to color only this one strand of yarn that is going from side to side. Do the same if using the marker. Work slowly and carefully. Use light colors, specially if working with markers as they like to "soak" the paint. Apply the color gently and all will work great.

For this doll I used old, half dried marker to add color on lips. Here is how:



And that is all! Our doll is finally finished.



I hope you have enjoyed. More than this I hope you have learned something new, and this tutorial have helped you make your first doll. Let me know how it works for you. Don't forget to send me photos of your work as well. Ask me if you need additional help!

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