

Stargaze Sonja: A beaded wearable doll

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You've chosen a really fun project. She's great for the beginner beader and fun for the more experienced beader. There is no end to what you can do with her. You can make her from silk or cotton. Even a knit fabric or ultra suede. The body is very easy to make. That is so you can have fun beading her.

Important Information:

Look over the pattern pieces. There are just two – the body and the head. There aren't any seam allowances as this is the tracing and sewing lines. Use a sharp needle in your machine and a short stitch length. If your machine is set at 2.0, lower the stitch length to 1.8 or 1.5. Use sharp scissors to cut out the body pieces and clip all curves. Especially at the neck, arm pits and crotch.



Stargaze Sonja Supplies:

Fat quarter fabric for body – Pima/Egyptian Cotton, Batiks, silks, ultra suede, etc.
Thread to match
2 pipe cleaners – the kind from the tobacco shops
Hemostats for turning & filling with stuffing
Hand sewing needles and strong thread
Small amount of stuffing – I prefer Fairfield's Polyfil
9 different colors size 11/0 seed beads (20 grams each)
2 different drop mixes (these come in 20 gram containers)
Size A, B or D Nymo thread in a neutral color
Size 10 or 12 beading needles
Beading wax, or Thread Heaven
Colored pencils for coloring face
Zig Millennium or Micron Pigma pens in brown, red, black
White gel roller pen
Pin back
*Optional – Jacquard Dye Na Flow & Lumiere paints

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I find it helps to trace the pattern pieces onto the wrong side of the fabric with a colored pencil that is darker than the fabric chosen. Sometimes when using a lead pencil the lead bleeds through. Colored pencils don't seem to do that.

Instructions:

1. Trace the body and head onto the wrong side of the fabric of choice.



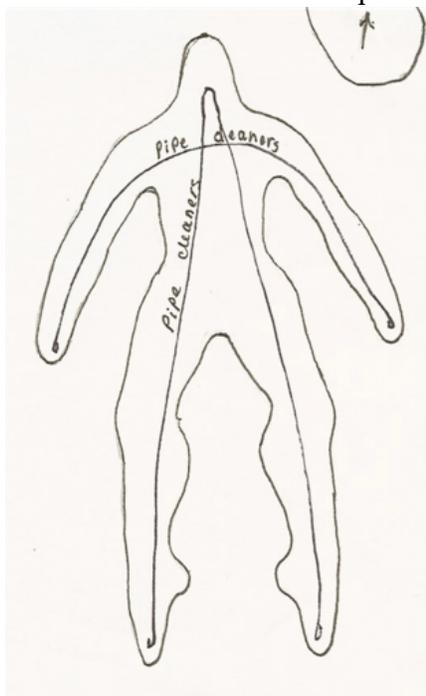
Double the fabric, right sides together and pin in several places. Cut out with sharp scissors. Clip curves.

- 2, Cut a slit in the back of the body, where marked on pattern piece. Also on the back of the head. I generally cut on the penciled side. Turn the body and head through this slit. To make it easy to turn, use a pair of hemostats.



3. Place a small amount of stuffing into the feet and ends of hands. Bend back the tips of two pipe cleaners. Bend one in half. Insert into the legs. Part of the pipe cleaner will be in the neck. This is what you want.

4. Measure and cut the other pipe cleaner so it will fit from one arm to the other arm. Bend back the tip of the cut end and insert into the arms.

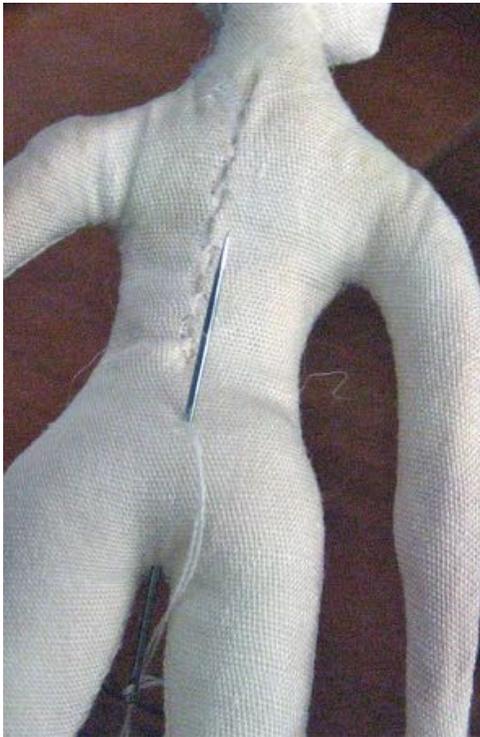


5. Fill the body with stuffing, lightly. She doesn't need to be firm as she'll be covered with beads. Fill the head with stuffing a bit more firmly.

6. Slip the head onto the neck and ladder stitch to attach. Use a hand sewing needle and 1 yard of regular sewing thread.



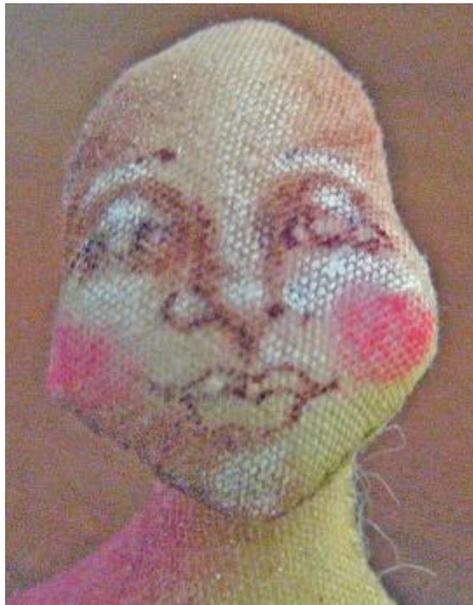
If you have enough thread on your needle weave down into the body and close up the opening at the back. You can also sculpt a belly button and buttocks if you want. Not necessary as they'll be covered with beads, but sometimes I let her belly button show. It depends on the outfit I decide to give her.



7. Trace the face template onto a piece of cheesecloth. Lay this on the dolls face. Using a brown Pigma or Zig pen go over the features. The ink will bleed through the cheesecloth giving you a guide. Remove the cheesecloth and outline the features with the brown pen.

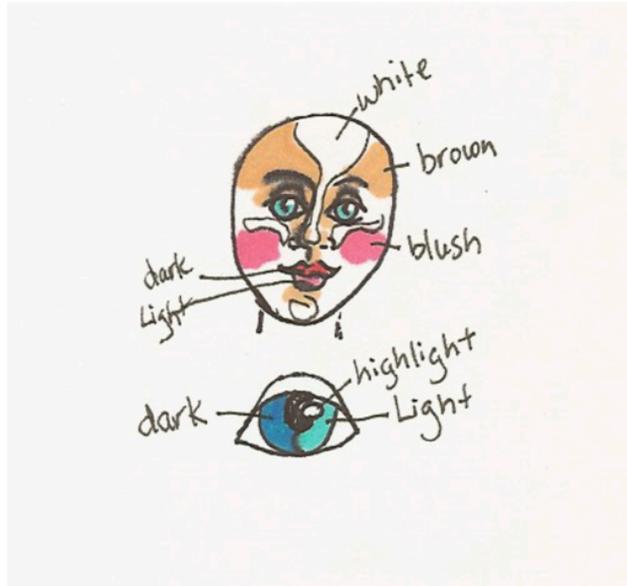


Color the face with colored pencils. First add shading and highlights with Sienna Brown and White. Blush cheeks. After this is done, blend the colors with a scrap of fabric wrapped around your finger.



Color the eyes with color of choice. Also the lips. Fill in the pupil with black ink. Add a dot of white on each pupil for the highlight.

Follow the face guide for coloring ideas.



After the face is done heat set with an iron.

***Optional**

If you want to dye the body, as the sample is, collect the dyes, paint brushes, container for water and paper towels. If you are using the ½ oz. bottles simply squeeze the dye directly onto the body. I spritz the body first with a sprayer bottle filled with water. This will give a more pastel color. Because of the beading I don't want the body to be colored too brightly. Unusual for me, but in this case it works better.



The colors I used on the sample doll were Sun Yellow, Cranberry Red and Periwinkle. I also rubbed in a bit of Lumiere Pearl White to make the colors even more pastel and to give a slight shimmer to the body.

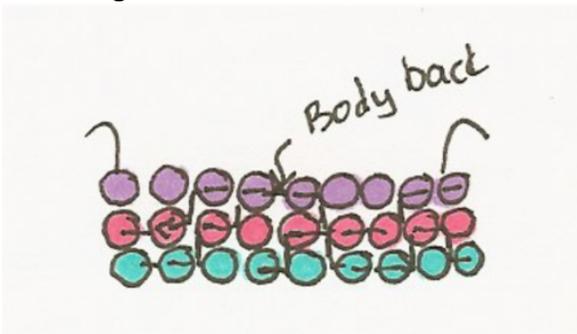
Let this dry then heat set with a hair dryer.

8. Collect the beads and bead supplies. Thread the beading needle with a wing span of beading thread. Tie a knot in the single end of the thread. Coat this with Thread Heaven or beading wax.

9. On the back of the doll where the seam is, attach the thread. Thread up enough beads on this thread to circle the body to circle the body.



Complete the circle by going through two beads where you started. Anchor this to the body by pushing the needle into the body and coming out at the front. Go through two beads and anchor this to the body. Continue anchoring this row to the body in at least 5 more places. Have two of these anchorings under the arms.



Go back to the center back of the body and come out a bead.

10. Place enough beads on the thread to circle the body again. Go through the first two beads where you started. Now start weaving in and out of beads to attach this row to the first row.

To do this, go up to the first row and through 3 beads. Then down to the 2nd row and go through 3 beads. Back up to the first row and through 3 beads. Down to the 2nd row and through 3 beads. Continue this all the way around the body.

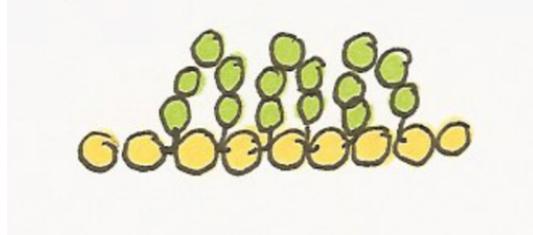
You can change colors with each row, as the sample doll does, or use just one color of seed bead.

11. Repeat Step 10 until you reach the area on the body you want. The sample doll stops at the midriff, or lower rib area. Weave the needle up to the center back and come out a bead on one side of the center seam. Thread up enough beads to go from the back to the front. This creates a strap. Anchor this to the body in at least 4 places. Do the same on the other side.

Add 3 bead picots along the strap and top of the bodice.

To do this come out a bead on the strap or bodice and add 3 beads, skip the next bead and go into the following bead. Do this all the way around the bodice and straps.

The sample doll has two rows of these picots. Each row is a different color of bead.



12. The skirt is branched or kinky fringe. If you have given your doll a short top, anchor two rows of beads at the hips, or where you want the top of the skirt.

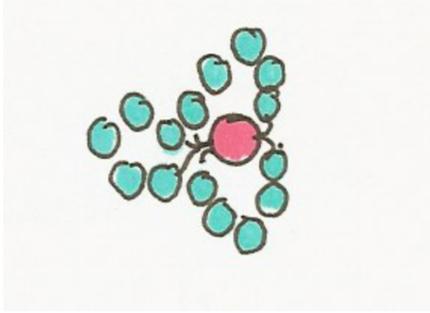


Before you start the fringe, add some “flowers” along the top edge of the skirt. These are really simple.

Come out a bead at the top of the skirt, thread up 5 seed beads and go back into the bead you came out but from the other end.

Add another five beads and do the same.

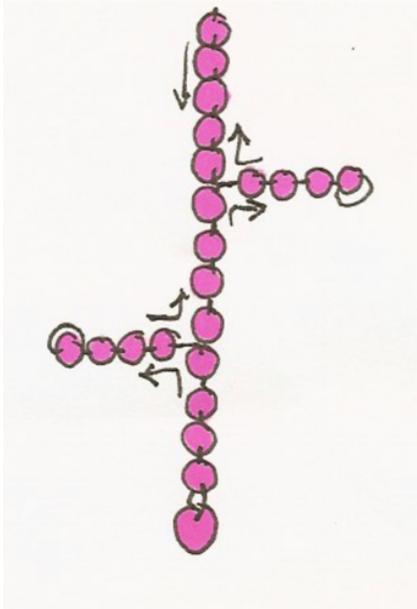
Then, add five more beads but this time go into the fabric by the bead you came out. This gives the effect of a 3 petal flower. Change colors as you circle the skirt with the flowers.



13. For the branched fringe follow the bead colors of the flowers, if you wish. Or you can stick with one or two colors.

Push the needle into a bead at the lower part of the skirt waist, or the bottom row you anchored to the body. Thread up 13 seed beads and one drop bead. Skip the drop bead and go up through 4 of the seed beads. Come out #10 bead (if you numbered the beads 13 was the last bead added before the drop bead. You'd then go through bead 13, 12, 11, and 10.

Add 4 beads, turning the needle around skip #4 and go through 3,2, and 1. Then into the main branch and up through 9,8,7, and 6. Come out #6 and add 4 beads. Skip #4 and go through 3,2,1 and up into the main branch. This time go up to the waist/skirt beads and into the next bead. Come out that bead and add another fringe.



Continue doing this all the way around the skirt. Change the amount of beads with each main part of the fringe. The above used 13 beads. Next time add 15 beads, then the drop bead. If you stagger the amount of beads on each fringe this will give the look of a very full and sassy skirt.



14. The hair is next. Thread the beading needle with 1 yard beading thread. Place a knot in the single end and attach at the nape of the neck. Thread up enough beads to circle the seam of the head. Anchor this as you've done with the bodice and skirt top. Add two more rows inside this first one and anchor to the first rows.



At the lower part of the back of the head do two rows of back and forth rows. This fills in the back for her "up" doo.

Fill in the top of the head with 9 and 11 bead picot's.

Along the hair line add 5 bead picots.



Bead a flower in her hair.

Also, using a crystal colored bead, give her earrings.

Come out the side seam of her head, in line with her nose.

Add a bead and go back into the head. Go through to the other side and add a bead there.

15. If you have enough thread on your needle after adding her earrings, push the needle back into the body and down to the neck to add a necklace. The sample doll has the crystal colored beads here. Come out the back of the neck and thread up enough beads to wrap around her neck. Go back through the first two beads added to complete the circle. Anchor this row to her body in at least 3 places.

16. Her shoes are colored in with a marker. On the sample doll I used a Twinklette marker by Marvy. This has glitter in it so adds a sparkle to her shoes. At the center of the shoe, up from the toe, add a beaded picot flower.

17. Lastly, hand sew a pin-back to the center of her back. You now have a very lovely brooch, or wearable.

When I taught her (she was formerly my Art Deco Faerie) some people made a necklace. To do this attach strong thread to the top of her head and then make a beaded chain. There are some terrific ideas for necklace chains in Carol Wilcox Wells book "Creative Bead Weaving".

As with all of my patterns you can make as many of these dolls as you want. You can sell them give them away, keep them. What you can't do is copy this pattern and sell it or give it away. That is what copyright protects.

Have fun making this little cutie.

Resources:

It is good to have a list of places you can buy more supplies when you run out. Or, where to get the paints and dyes:

Dyes/Paints

Dharma Trading Company

<http://www.dharmatrading.com>

1-800-542-5227 – for their catalog and ordering

Dick Blick Art Materials

<http://www.dickblick.com>

800-828-4548

Michaels Craft stores nation wide

Spotlight craft stores in Australia/New Zealand

Australia

<http://www.thethreadstudio.com>

Beads –

Any bead store and:

Caravan Beads

<http://www.caravanbeads.com>

On the pattern template on the next page, increase by 23%, or as large or small as you'd like to work. She's a 5-inch wearable doll, but she can also be an ornament, necklace or anything you'd like her to be.

