



MINIATURE WIGMAKING FOR BEGINNERS

By Sharon Maggott




The thing I hate about making wigs is those loose fibres which float around, stick to everything and fly up my nose! This method helps to eliminate the “wispies” and most of the wastage. I have been using the “Donut” method for quite a while now and find it successful for many styles. The secret is to add details (ringlets, buns, different size curls, braids, etc) instead of starting with a great lump of hair and trying to force it all into an arrangement.

*(When you see **, please go to the collection of Hints & Tips at the end)*

You need:

- 1 doll's head *1
- Hank of Viscose – colour of your choice *2
- Tacky glue – I like Aileen's
- A selection of knitting needles ranging from small ($\pm 1\text{mm}$) to large ($\pm 4.5\text{mm}$)
- Fine knitting needle / large darning needle / corsage pin to hold, press and poke at the wig *3
- Fine toothed comb
- 1 pair clean hands
- Your favourite hairspray
- Bows, flowers, ribbons, feathers, no-hole beads / pearls, hat, etc

1. Wind viscose onto a large knitting needle e.g.: 4.5mm. *4 (See the “Pulling Hair” page). A wet knitting needle helps to hold the dry viscose as you begin to wind it smoothly around the needle. (It is important to get a nice smooth wind as it is almost impossible to neaten later on) After the hair has been wound, wet thoroughly, (just hold the needles under a tap) then dry in a low temp (70°C / 150°F) oven. Plastic needles in this temperature should be fine, but don't expect to be able to use them for knitting again. An oven with a fan is great, but don't use a hairdryer – it will blow up the wispies! Allow the curls to cool properly before sliding gently off the needle.
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2. While the hair is drying and cooling, mark a natural hairline with a pencil on the porcelain head. *1 Apply a thick, even layer of glue to the head and allow to set up slightly.
 3. Take a large curl ($\pm 4.5\text{mm}$) and gently press into the glue as shown. The middle of the curl should be placed over the forehead, then work to the ends of the curl, around behind the ear and to the back of the head; forming a donut shape on the head. If the curl is too short – just cut another piece to fill in. Don't worry that the hair is too “poufy”; it will be flattened as you work.
 4. Gently smooth and ease and flatten the rolled curl into the glue as in the photos. My favourite tool is a fine toothed comb with a metal spike as a handle. I also use a corsage pin or a large darning needle. The heat and natural oils in your hands will help as well; but be careful you don't over do it.
 5. This is the basis of the wigs shown below. Now add details such as a bun, different sized flat curls, fine ringlets, a pony tail, etc to fill in the bald spot you probably have in the middle of the doll's head

To make:

Ringlets:

Make a smooth wind on medium ($\pm 3\text{mm}$) to small ($\pm 1\text{mm}$) needles. Two or three medium ringlets can be grouped at the back of the head and dangled over one shoulder. Or many ringlets placed next to each other in two layers to form a long hairstyle. The ringlets can be gently separated and loosened with a corsage pin. Small ringlets can be glued in front of the ears to soften the hairline.

Curls:

Make various sized ringlets and cut into curls. These can be used to make the basic donut more elaborate.

Twisted Curl:

Make a small hank of smooth viscose as before. Now twist tightly and as you twist, wrap the twist around a needle as in the photo. Wet and dry as before. Can be gently separated to form waves



Braid: Make a smooth hank of viscose and tied off one end tightly with matching thread. Seal the end with glue. When dry, pin the end to the table cloth, or your trouser leg, divide into three strands and braid. Tie off with thread. A single thick braid can be glued to the back of the head, or two matching braids attached near the ears make cute pigtails. A fine braid can also be glued across the head from ear to ear as decoration.




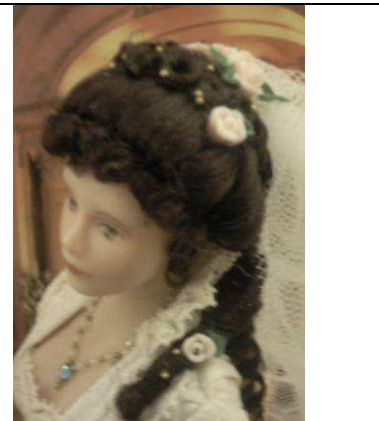


Buns: Braided – coil a braid and tuck under the ends. Glue in desired position.
 Rolled – gently coil a ringlet. Be careful not to flatten accidentally.
 Knotted – make a smooth hank and twist tightly. Tie a basic knot, tuck under the ends, trim off excess and glue.

Parting: Run a line of glue lengthwise along a large ringlet. Gently press it onto a matching ringlet so that there are two ringlets lying side by side. Allow to dry. On the undersides only – cut the ringlets close to the glue line, so that the “oo” opens out and becomes “m” shaped. Run a line of glue along this join, and press to the doll's head in either the centre or side position. Flatten the opened ringlets into position and glue the ends. Fill in the rest of the head with either a half donut or ringlets.



Remember that there is no wrong method – if you have done something your own way and it looks good – then that's great!

The dolls below (and more) may be seen in the Doll Diaries at sharonsminis.weebly.com

			<p>Very easy –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - basic donut - Hat glued into position - Tiny curls added to forehead and in front of ears - Rosebuds tucked in between hat & hair
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic donut - Bun made from braided viscose - 2 long ringlets made on ± 2.5 mm needles glued to back - Small curls & ringlets glued around forehead - Gold No-Hole beads to represent hairpins scattered over bun. - Pale roses added
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - half a donut from behind ears and around forehead - 2 rows of long medium size ringlets glued to back of head – 1 row at about halfway and 1 row at top of head, then gently separated to form loose curls - Simple little bun to cover join between donut and top of ringlets.



*Half a donut in the front
Back filled in with 2 rows of ringlets
Small curls along hairline in front*



*Basic donut
Twisted curl glued to the back of the head
and gently separated
Hat covers the join*





*Parting made long enough to fit from front to back.
Hair ends smoothed to behind ears and glued.
Matching braids glued into place.
Fringe is a large ringlet cut into "half curls", which are picked up with tweezers.
Only the curl ends are seated into the line of glue run along the hairline*



*Basic donut
Twisted curl glued high on the back of the head
and gently separated.
A circlet of twisted lace and ribbon glued to
the crown, loose large curls glued randomly
to partially cover.
Small ringlets around hairline.*



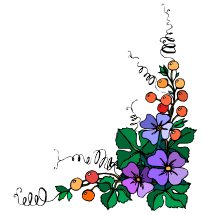
*See the tutorial for Bryony at :
sharonsminis.weebly.com*

			<p>A very elaborate hair do: *5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – basic donut made with centre parting – See Bryony for method. - another donut placed on top. -long braid at back is a twisted hank of viscose that has been allowed to loop back on itself. - lots of medium sized curls added on top with small curls and ringlets around the face. - gold embroidery thread has been sewn into the braid and Fimo flowers added. - a segment of a gold finding has been cut for the comb
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Add bows / flowers / ribbons etc if required. After all the glue is dry – mist the wig gently with hairspray. The hairspray will also help to secure the decorations and even preserve the curl in a feather!



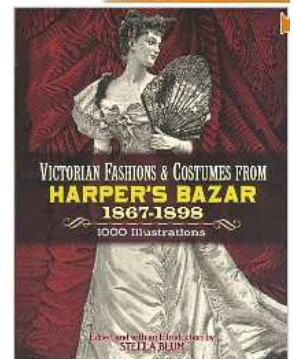
Congratulations – you have made a beautiful wig to enhance your gorgeous doll!



Hints & Tips:

- * 1 If you are not ready to wig your doll after she is dressed, cover the head smoothly with cling wrap and secure tightly around the neck. After the wig is dry, very often it is possible to gently pull the plastic right out of the wig. If not – just trim the plastic around the hairline. Add curls after the wig has been attached to the head to disguise.
- * 2 Never cut the viscose from the hank – only pull what you require from the bulk.
- * 3 Never allow a wooden toothpick anywhere near the viscose. The wood grain can grab at the viscose fibres and yank your perfect curl out of place.
- * 4 When you purchase viscose, request your supplier not to cut the hank, but rather pull the viscose apart – you will not have the shortened fibres and therefore less wastage.
- * 5 Look at pictures and photos of various hairstyles. Dissect the style and decide which parts can be made with various sized ringlets, curls, etc. Harper's Bazar has lovely sketches of ladies' hairstyles which can be analysed this way

Did you know that wet glue sprayed with hairspray can stay white for a very long time?



See also: "Bryony- wiggling" and "Caring for your Wig" on the Tutorials page of my website: <http://sharonsminis.weebly.com>