



Blue Heron Dolls

Deanna Hogan

ODACA Artist since 2006

Contact me: deanna@blueherondolls.com

The Fundamentals

Tip #4: Creating Realistic Nails



This technique came about as a complete accident. I was using chenille stems as armature for fingers and found that the wire was somewhat visible. Some of wire had even rusted a bit, making it even more obvious. I added fingernails to hide the rust, and after some experimentation found that this method created realistic looking nails.

The photo below shows the toes and fingers before beginning the nails. You do not need to draw the shapes of the nails with anything – you'll free-hand them with Mod Podge.



Using a very small paintbrush, paint a layer of Mod Podge in the general shape of the nails. It will be hard to see this first coat, as it soaks into the fabric a little.



When dry, add another layer of Mod Podge. It goes on white and dries clear.



When dry, add a third layer of Mod Podge, refining the shape of the nails.
This photo shows the nails with three coats of Mod Podge.



Next, paint the final nail shape with flesh-colored acrylic paint. Leave a little of the dried Mod Podge visible around the edges of the nail.



Now paint a fine line of white (acrylic paint) at the tips of the nails to create the look of a French manicure.



Add one more layer of Mod Podge over the paint.



The finished nails:



The hands and feet in the photos are from my “Averill” doll pattern:

http://www.blueherondolls.com/blue_heron_patterns.htm

You can find more tutorials on my blog:

<https://blueherondolls.blogspot.com/p/tutorials.html>