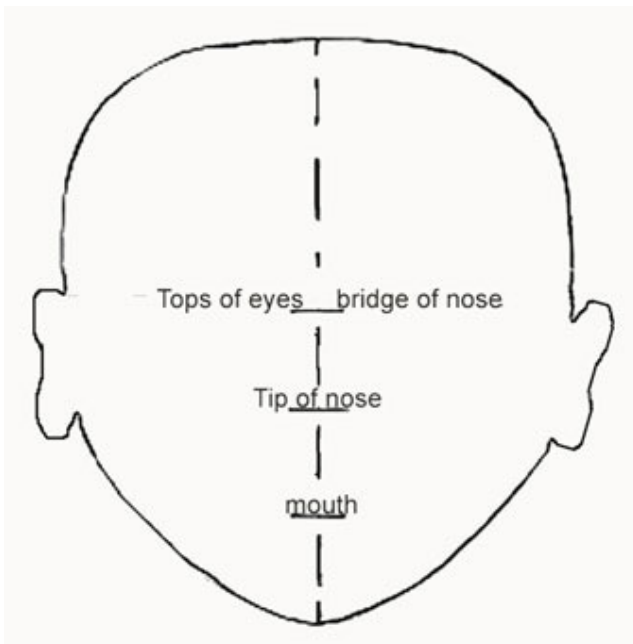


- It is the **FACE** gives your doll its individual character and therefore, requires some planning and care. Since the face, alone, can communicate a doll's personality, emotion, mood, age and gender, it is potentially the most difficult part to produce and not unsurprisingly, why so many novice Cloth Doll Makers fear creating faces for their dolls the most. Fear not, however, help is at hand!
- Being a great artist is certainly not a pre-requisite for making effective doll faces. However, **knowing some basic rules** is all that is required.
- As you become more confident drawing your own doll faces, almost certainly the type of face you produce will be very different from someone else's, reflecting your own individual style; influenced by the faces you see everyday, including your own facial features.
- **Teach yourself to NOTICE not just to look.**

Start a 'face scrap book' of magazine cut-outs look at the faces of the people around you including your own features.

As you examine these faces you can begin to break down the proportions and elements of the features into a useful diagrammatic structure.



Human Faces are conveniently divided into sections.

Our foreheads are quite large and the bridge of the nose and tops of ears are at the halfway point on the face.

FACE FACTS © Madeleine Sara Maddocks

From side to side, the face is divided in five sections (Fifths)

AND from top to bottom into thirds

Hairline to eye brow

Eye brow to base of nose

Base of nose to chin.

AND into thirds from

eyes to chin

Base of eye to tip of nose

Tip of nose to middle of mouth

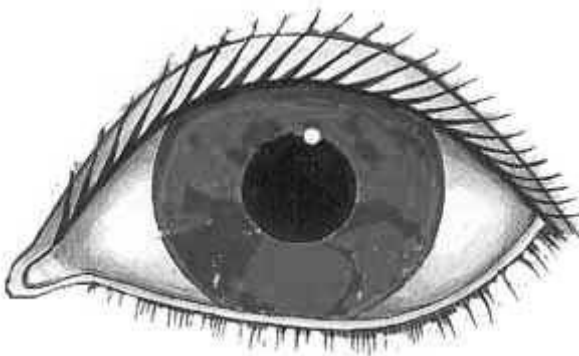
Middle of mouth to chin



A Common *mistake* made by novices is in the assumption that the human eye shape is a symmetrical oval.

Symbolic/Representational eyes (*left*) are often drawn as much too large ovals with a circle within them and usually positioned too high in the forehead.

The white highlight is often wrongly placed on opposite sides of each eye.



In fact the human eye consists of three circular shapes (eyeball, Iris and pupil) over which the upper and lower lids rest.

Also, unless a person is in shock or fear, the Iris and pupil of the eyes are not suspended in the middle of the eyeball, but are partially covered by the upper eyelids, making the overall eye shape appear oval.

The white highlight in the eye is on the *same* side for *both* eyes. (i.e. if you put it towards the left side of the left eye, you must also put it towards the left side of the right eye)

FACE FACTS © Madeleine Sara Maddocks

An eye should start as three circles, one within the other:

Eye Ball,
Iris
Pupil.

The Lids follow the contour/ curvature of the eye, rather than being straight lines across the eye.

The white highlight appears on the same side of each eye.

The Iris should include dark, medium, light shades of the chosen colour to give it depth and texture. Adding a little pink in the tear duct area also gives the eyes some authenticity.



More Face Facts:

Applying correct proportions to the face is a key factor.

- Small, close together eyes and fuller lips, make a face look more mature. The lower part of the face lengthens as we age. The lips and other features begin to thin/narrow as we get older.
- Children have more rounded heads. Their eyebrows are at the mid line of the face and their eyes and ears are lower down the face than an adult's, creating a high forehead. Their eyes are, also, slightly further apart and the Iris is larger.
- Women have higher, narrower eyebrows and narrower chins, making the eyes look larger in relation to the other features. Also the upper-lid, eyelashes are long.
- Men have wider noses, thinner lips, broader chins, lower, thicker eyebrows and shorter eye lashes.
- The colour, black, stands out quite starkly on embroidered faces, due to the small scale of the features. So unless you are intending a particular effect, as with the Goth figure, it is advisable to choose a shade of brown or dark grey, instead. Also try an off-white, instead of a bright white, for the eye; the effect will be more subtle.

TYPES OF FACE APPLICATION:

Embroidery

Practice your embroidery stitches on a spare piece of high thread count fabric and refer to an embroidery book . You can buy Anchor, DMC or Venus embroidery silks in a huge range of colours in skeins containing 6 strands each. You can then use 2 strands together to sew in the doll's features.

Useful Tools:

- Sharp, fine pointed embroidery scissors
- Embroidery needles: sizes between 5-8
- Stranded cottons or Coton à Broder
- Fade away marker pen or mechanical pencil &
- Fabric eraser
- Quick Unpick;
- Flat-bladed Tweezers (for pulling out unwanted threads) mini pliers;
- Embroidery Hoop (optional)
- Felt for Stumpwork (raised embroidery)

Useful Stitches: Outline; Couching; Satin; French Knot; Blanket / Button; Straight; Short & Long Stitch



Fabric Painting

I use fabric paints from craft shops applied undiluted to prevent colours from running. You will need some fine artist's brushes suitable for acrylic sizes: 0, 00 (2/0) and 000 (3/0).



It is always easier to add more paint than to remove it. The lips and Iris of the eyes can be shaded with darker and lighter colours to give them greater definition.

The paint can be heat set by ironing with a dry iron, you may wish to place a thin piece of cloth between the face and the iron surface. Clover mini-irons are ideal for doll faces.

Appliqué

You can create faces by applying pieces of fabric, felt, wool, beads etc. to make the features.

Fabric lashes have been applied to this painted and needle sculpted face.



Moulded faces/skinning

Face masks made out of clay, hollow plastic and papier-mâché which are then covered with squares of stockinette or calico muslin stretched over the features and glued in position can create some realistic faces.



Fabric Pencils, Pastels, Pens, Eye make-up

Recommended for fabric application are Berol Prismacolor or Derwent Coloursoft> A fan brush is a useful tool for cleaning the surface afterwards.



Needle Sculpture

A little like quilting, needle sculpture is a technique that involves stitching into the doll face to create raised 'sculptured' features, holding the stuffing in position to create shape and texture.



The best fabrics for needle sculpting are the stretchy ones, though it is possible to sculpt woven fabric faces.