

Not surprisingly it seems that many cloth doll makers started out as costume designers and textile artists. I started the hard way, though, as a complete novice sewer.

Here are some Tips to get you started:

- Making CLOTHES for your cloth dolls isn't that much different to dressmaking for yourself, albeit on a smaller scale. So the sleeves on a blouse or the legs of a pair of trousers will still need to be sewn in the same way. If you don't already know how this is done, get some dressmaking books on the subject! However, there is an easier way (see below)
- You will need to choose SMALL DESIGNS: print, check and plaid will be in better proportion with the scale of your doll.
- You may wish to sew the clothes to the doll in such a way as to avoid having to attach FASTENINGS. Velcro strips can be easily attached for removable clothes. Buttons can be sewn as embellishment rather than being functional and can also be used as joints for shoulders, elbows, knees and hips.
- It is also possible to make the actual doll BODY parts in your chosen CLOTHES FABRIC to give an illusion of costume. This will considerably reduce the fiddliness and fuss of constructing miniature clothes.



- If you can sew the clothes and skin fabric together before sewing the body part shapes (e.g. hand skin fabric piece to arm/sleeve clothes fabric piece; bust skin fabric to clothes body fabric) then this will also help to reduce the fiddly nature of the task. You can then sew and cut the hand/arm or bust/body piece as one unit. It will work best though, if both these fabrics are good quality cottons that are less susceptible to fraying, stretching and laddering. (see also [fabric know how](#))
- Research other types of fabrics and how they are sewn. There is an excellent reference book:

Sew Any Fabric by Claire Shaeffer ISBN: 0873496434