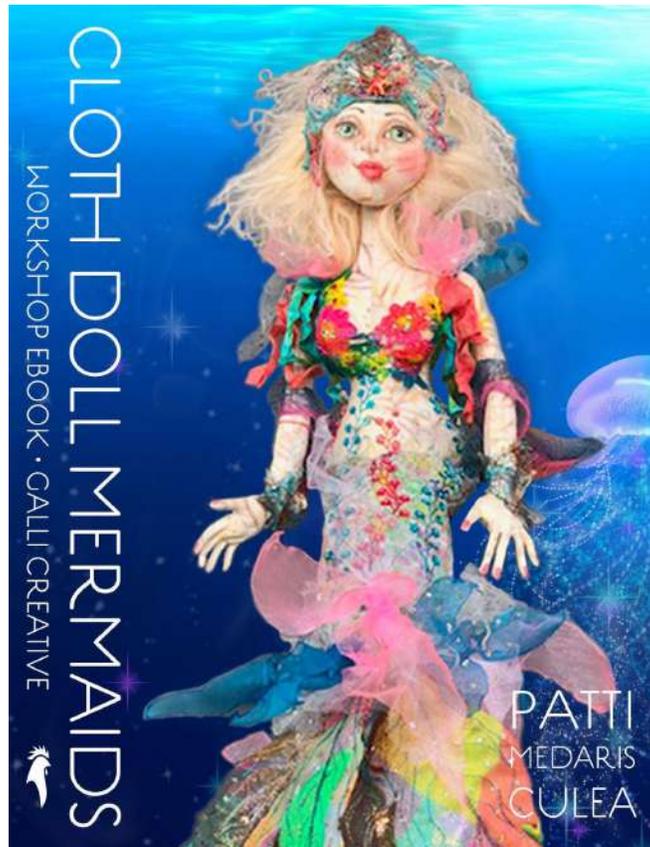


Cloth Doll Mermaids

WORKSHOP eBook



Oceane, Keeper of the Starfish
20-inch Art Cloth Doll & Perch

Instructions by
Patti Medaris Culea

Formatted by
Andrew Galli

www.gallicreative.com



*Oceane, Keeper of the Starfish, 20-inch Art Cloth Doll,
Perch and Pin Cushion*

CLOTH DOLL MERMAIDS

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	3
Introduction	5
Watch Video → "Introduction"	5
Things You Will Need	8
Watch Video → "Things you will Need"	8
Things you will Need - Supplies	10
Important -- before starting:	12
Laying out the Pattern	13
Watch Video → "Laying out the Pattern"	13
Sewing the Mermaid Body	15
Watch Video → "Sewing the Mermaid Body"	15
Stuffing and Giving Weight to the Body	19
Watch Video → "Stuffing and Giving Weight to the Body"	19
Sewing the Hands	22
Watch Video → "Sewing the Hands"	22
Sculpting the Hands & Sewing the Arms	23
Watch Video → "Sculpting the Hands & Sewing the Arms"	23
Stenciling the Lower Body	26
Watch Video → "Stenciling the Lower Body"	26
The Mermaids Face: Draw, Sculpt, Color	27
Watch Video → "The Mermaids Face: Draw, Sculpt, Color"	27
Stamping & Beading her Arms	29
Watch Video → "Stamping & Beading her Arms"	29
Embroidery Work for her Tail	31
Watch Video → "Embroidery Work for her Tail"	31

Coloring her Lacy Body Trims	33
Watch Video → "Coloring her Lacy Body Trims"	33
Dyeing the lacy trims:	35
Dyeing Lace	36
Organza for Tail Flukes and Wrist Cuffs	38
Watch Video → "Organza for Tail Flukes and Wrist Cuffs"	38
Oceane's Hair	44
Watch Video → "Oceane's Hair"	44
Pulling her All Together	47
Watch Video → "Pulling her All Together"	47
Sewing, Wiring & Stuffing the Perch	49
Watch Video → "Sewing, Wiring & Stuffing the Perch"	49
Beading the Starfish Perch	53
Watch Video → "Beading the Starfish Perch"	53
Adding a Pin Cushion	55
Watch Video → "Adding a Pin Cushion"	55
Conclusion	57
Watch Video → "Conclusion"	57

Introduction



Watch Video → "Introduction"

I have been intrigued by Mermaids my whole life. Even as a child watching movies or visiting aquatic parks seeing women in mermaid swim costume I knew that's what I wanted -- to be a mermaid! Of course we grow up and we forget many of our childhood dreams, but one of the magical things about making dolls is the opportunity to relive those moments as we draw, sew, stuff, paint and embroider our handmade creations.

Oceane (a name given by my daughter to the mermaid project) is a doll that was inspired by several conversations I had with my film producer, Andrew Galli, over the years. I think it began by me telling him about my time as a flight attendant and then the work I did for Aloha Air Lines; all the time I spent in Hawaii both for work and for fun! I recall Andrew saying, "let's make a mermaid movie in Hawaii!" and of course ... we never did.



Years later we met again and the conversation came up -- “why did we never make that mermaid doll workshop?”. We both agreed that we didn’t actually need to go to Hawaii to make it; maybe just by having a child-like spirit and a bit of fantasy and creative spark we could muster up a bit of the ukelele sounds, the feel of sea salt from the surf, and a warm, sunny day at the beach right at home in my craft studio.



So Andrew and I would like to welcome you to “Cloth Doll Mermaids” -- our latest doll workshop and my latest creation. I have made many mermaids for book projects and otherwise over the years, but something tells me that Oceane is going to be one of my favorites; I hope she will be yours, too!

Before we get started — a request...please read thru the entire eBook and if possible, watch the video lessons in entirety before beginning your project. I do tend to jump around at times and offer some important advice often after the assembly of a part or use of a tool, so you may want to use the opportunity to go thru all the materials before you get started to ensure the best possible outcome.

Enjoy!

Patti Medaris Culea
San Diego, California
May, 2019

Things You Will Need



Watch Video → "Things you will Need"

In this section we will talk about fabrics and why I prefer cotton batik fabrics for doll bodies. We explore which stuffing to use, as well as the threads and necessary tools. We show all the materials used in this workshop – laces, dyes, paints, stamps, beads, etc., and offer some tips and advice on getting started.

On my website I have a Resources Page that provides a lot of options for where to find the things you will need for this workshop. For batik fabrics, there are many suppliers these days and I recommend that you do spend some time finding the right fabrics for your Oceane because that will be important towards getting the results you are looking for.

Some batik fabrics have distinct patterns and are fine as they are for providing guides for your embroidery and beadwork. Others are more plain and you may prefer to use a stamp as I demonstrate in the workshop in order to get a distinct pattern to follow for her body artwork. Plain fabric is suitable as well however will not provide the same amount of character to your finished Oceane so for this doll I do recommend having some fun locating the right batiks for your project.

In the Resources Folder I have included a PDF entitled "CDM-Workshop Materials List".

I suggest you print it out and use it as a checklist before you start the project and workshop as you may have many of the things you need already. Then take it with you when you go to the store or use it when you order online for a checklist of all the many things you will want to have to make Oceane.



Things you will Need - Supplies

(The information presented here is the same information as presented in the Materials List.)

- Fat quarter 100% cotton batik fabric for the body
- Fat quarter 100% cotton batik for the tail
- 5 fat quarters 100% cotton batik for the starfish
- ¼-yard tulle (fine netting) for tail, flukes and wrist cuffs
- ¼-yard each of 3 colors organza for embellishments.
- 12-inch piece of Angelina film
- 2 colors Angelina Fiber
- Scraps of fancy, lacy fabrics
- 1 roll beading wire
- Stencils and rubber stamps
- 3 yards 16-gauge galvanized steel wire.
- Wire cutters and needle nosed pliers
- 7 pipe cleaners for fingers and neck
- Threads to match body for machine sewing
- Strong thread for sculpting and putting body together
- Decorative threads for flukes, embellishments
- 3 colors size 11 seed beads (20 grams each).
- Heat fix crystals in 4mm size
- 3 colors 4mm round crystals for centers of beaded starfish
- 20 grams drop beads in colors to match your theme
- Beading needles in size 10
- Beading thread in a neutral color
- Accent beads for embellishing her head piece – I found a starfish for Oceane
- Good quality stuffing – I prefer Fairfield's Polyfil
- Stuffing and turning tools
- Fibers for her hair – I used Tibetan lamb

- 3 Yards Rayon bias ribbon
- Embroidery thread in two colors
- Lace trim for her bodice
- Lace doily for the starfish
- Colored pencils for coloring her face – Sienna Brown, Carmine Red, Crimson Red, White, plus colors for her eyes
- Permanent pens such as Micron Pigma for detailing face and finger nails – nib sizes .005 and .01 in brown, black, red
- Mechanical pencil and eraser
- 9-mm reloading shot (found at gun shops) or dried beans. If using dried beans, like lentils, put some whole cloves in the bag you'll make later. This prevents the beans from getting buggy. I also like putting a cotton ball inside just in case Oceane gets too close to moisture. Of course, if she were a real mermaid that would not be a problem. Plus, she wouldn't need to weight in her butt to help her sit well.
- 1 nylon stocking to make a bag for the shot or beans
- Fairfield plastic beads – small bag is all you'll need. If you can't find these lentils work well.
- Procion MX dyes in colors of choice.
- Soda Ash Sodium Bicarbonate (Baking Soda)
- Urea
- Faber Castell Gelatos
- Stencil brushes
- Various hand sewing needles which should include #7 long darners (sometimes called doll sculpting needles),
- Embroidery needles
- Sewing machine and basic sewing supplies

Regarding materials:

For Oceane's headpiece -- I had a small starfish laying around that I was able to use for the center. You might look for a button or small inexpensive piece of jewelry that is a starfish or something you prefer.

For Oceane's weighted backside -- If you plan to use dried beans like lentils instead of gun shot, put some whole cloves in the bag you'll make later. This prevents the beans from attracting insects or getting smelly. I also like putting a cotton ball inside the bag just in case Oceane gets too close to moisture. Of course, if she were a real mermaid that would not be a problem. Plus, she wouldn't need the weight in her butt to help her sit well!

Fairfield plastic beads – a small bag is all you'll need. If you can't find these, lentils work well.

Important -- before starting:

1. You'll find the pattern pieces a bit different from the average pattern out there. I recommend using a light box or window to trace the pattern pieces onto the wrong side of the fabric. This guarantees proper sizing of all body parts. Making separate templates from card-stock can add to the size.
2. Note those pieces that are sewn before they are cut out. This includes the profile of the face and back of head. Also, the arms and hands are sewn before they are cut out.
3. When sewing the fingers, lower the stitch length on your machine to either 1.5 or 1.8. Be sure you sew two stitches in between each finger and two across the tip of each finger. This helps in turning the fingers.
4. When starting out at the neck, wrists, and chin backstitch. This prevents these areas splitting when you are putting the pieces together and filling with stuffing.
5. To plump up her bust, leave the top of the neck open. After closing up the back, push stuffing down through the neck opening into the bust.
6. Use an open toed sewing machine foot. On a Bernina I use the #37 or #57. This foot helps you see the pencil marks. This is especially important when sewing the fingers.
7. When tracing pattern pieces onto the wrong side of the fabric's chosen, use a colored pencil in a darker shade. This is especially important when tracing the head pieces and hand pieces. Sometimes a lead pencil shows through. A colored pencil in a similar color won't show on the right side.
8. You'll see Notes in bold throughout the pattern. These are important to read. They include tips I learned while making this doll and other dolls.