

Bereavement Dolls

for the Rachel's Vineyard Retreats for healing
after abortion

<http://www.rachelsvineyard.org>

Designed by Elaine Weickert

If you use this pattern for something else, please credit her.

Materials:

- Cotton knit fabric (<http://magiccabin.com>) or woven fabric in skin tones for head and hands (<http://dollmakersjourney.com/fabrics.html>)
- Polyfil
- Quilt batting (optional)
- Flannel (old nightgowns and pajamas are softer than new fabric and support recycling) for body and bonnet
- Matching threads
- Doll making needle
- Freezer paper
- RST = right sides together

1. Trace head, hands and body templates onto freezer paper and cut out. Note that there are different pattern pieces for using stretchy or non-stretchy fabrics for the head.
2. Fold head fabric RST, iron head template onto fabric and sew around edge leaving open where indicated. Cut out leaving ¼" seam allowance. Turn right side out. If you have created a crease in the fabric at the fold, iron it out.
3. Iron hands template to fabric folded RST. Sew all the way around. Cut out leaving 1/8" seam allowance. Cut hands in half and turn right side out.
4. Iron body template onto fabric. Sew around making sure to leave the sleeves open for the hands and the neck open for the head. Cut away excess fabric leaving ¼" seam allowance. Clip the seam allowance underneath the arms. **DO NOT TURN YET.**

Head 1 – Cotton Knit or other very stretchy fabric:

1. Take a ball of polyfil about the size of your palm and roll tightly into an "ovalish" ball.
2. **Optional:** Cover with a square of quilt batting arranging it over the face area so it won't be lumpy.
3. Insert the ball into the face rectangle.
4. To tie off the head, run a gathering stitch about ½" up from the bottom edge of the head. Check to see if the head needs any more stuffing before pulling up tightly on the thread. Wrap the thread around several times and knot off. Any extra batting or fabric sticking out is okay because it will add to the body stuffing when you attach the head to the body.

Head 2 – Woven fabric:

1. Before stuffing head, take a needle and doubled thread and bring it up at the top of the fold as shown. Bring the needle to the top of the curve at the back of the head and take a small stitch. Take several more stitches to secure and knot off.
2. Stuff and tie off the head as in Head 1.

Hands:

1. Stuff the ends of the hands lightly.
2. Insert them into the ends of the sleeves. The raw edges of the hands should extend beyond the raw edges of the sleeves.
3. Sew over the hands and the sleeves and turn body right side out.

Bonnet:

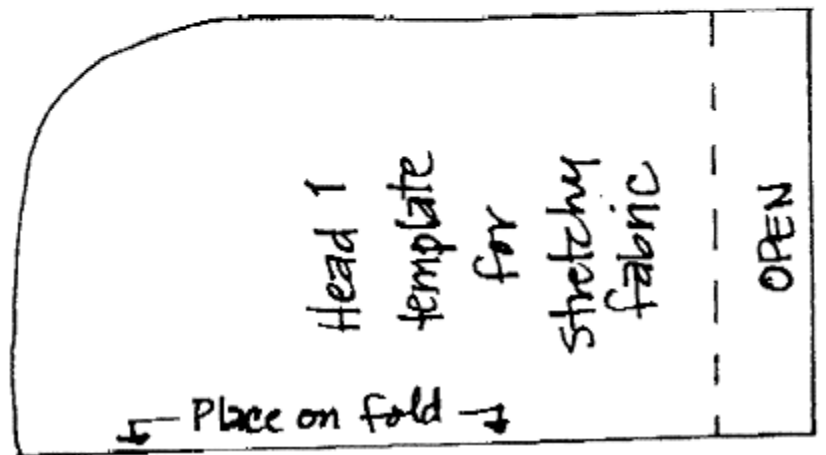
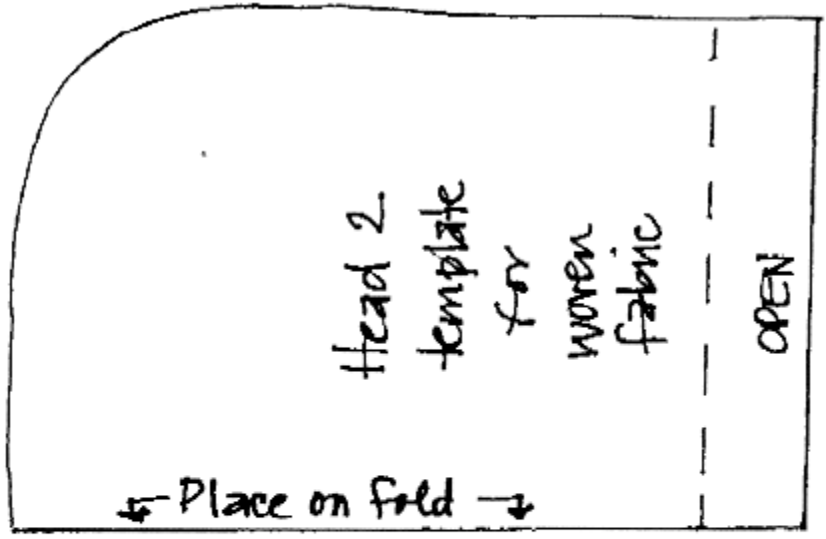
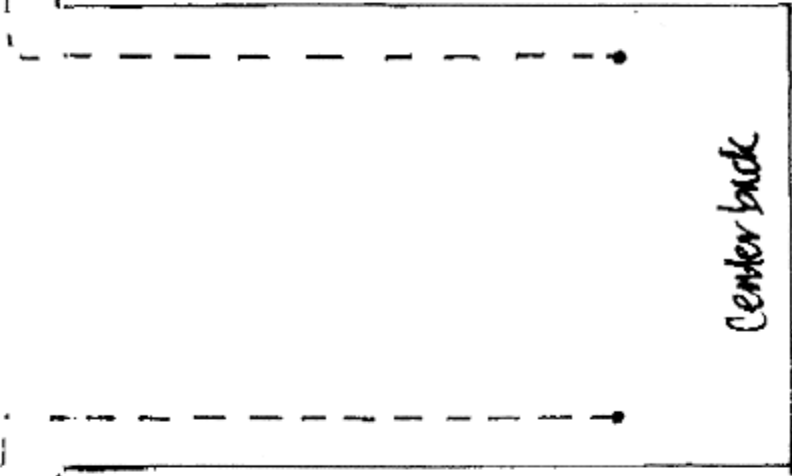
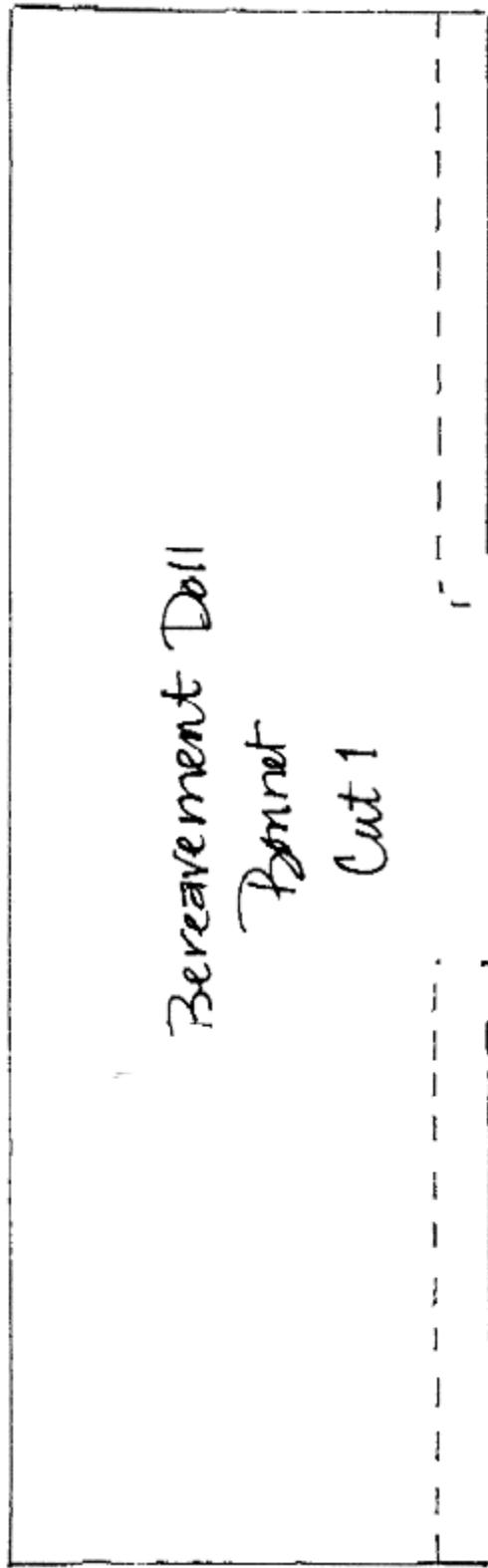
1. Press under long edge of hat ¼” and sew to form hem.
2. With RST sew back seams of hat as indicated. The center back of the hat will be longer than the sides.
3. Turn right side out.

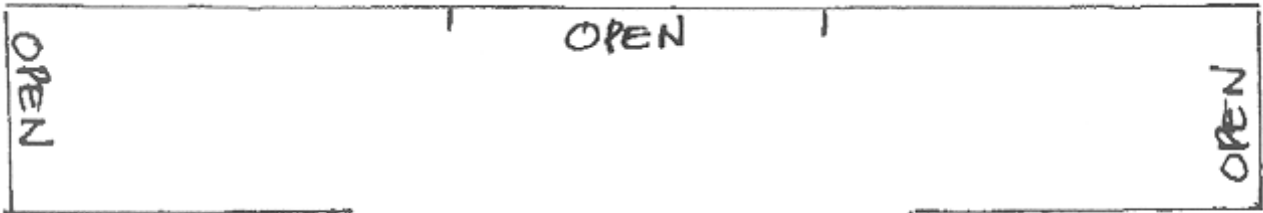
Assembly:

1. Stuff the arms and body firmly but not hard.
2. Fit the bonnet onto the head. With thread to match the bonnet/body, tack the sides of the bonnet together at center front of the head. The head should be about 3-1/2” high.
3. Stick the covered head into the trunk of the body tucking in all the raw edges. Hand stitch around the neck attaching the head to the body and sewing the body closed
4. Shape the body by threading a double thread on a long needle. Go into the body underneath one of the arms, pulling the knot inside the body. Come back out and take a tiny stitch to secure. Pass the needle from one underarm through the body to the other underarm and back again several times, pulling the thread to draw the arms slightly down. This gives the body a little shape and makes the arms look less like flippers.
- Knot off the thread and bury the ends in the body.

Take a minute to look at this sweet little creation. S/he will be a blessing to many.

Bereavement Doll
Bonnet
Cut 1





Bezzavement
Dau
Body

Iron template
onto folded
fabric

