

**PRISCILLA PUPPET – Some Additional Helpful Hints**  
*gleaned from a completed project !*

Priscilla is a puppet used in the sessions for children **Ages 3-5**. The directions provided for the construction of this puppet are found in the center of the piece called **“From Start to Finish”**. They are geared for use by a person with considerable sewing experience. A novice should not try to make this puppet. Pass those instructions and this addendum to someone in your church who has sewing experience to create Priscilla, perhaps someone who wants to support the church school program in a manner other than teaching. These hints add some basics, which should help one who has experience with construction complete the project.

Several items that are usually found in pattern directions are missing from the main instructions. Here are some additions and suggestions!

**SUGGESTED FABRICS:**

• head/neck	A, B	corduroy, duck cloth, heavier weights of broadcloth
• beak and feet	C, D, E, I	broadcloth, light corduroy, heavier weights of broadcloth <i>(bottom of feet can be scraps of light weight fake leather or plastic)</i>
• ear	F	corduroy, duck cloth, heavier weights of broadcloth
• eyes	G	cut from felt
• lashes	G	Contrary to directions, felt is <b>NOT</b> my recommendation for the lashes; it pulls apart and the individual lashes pull off easily. Embroider lashes or cut some from light-weight fake leather or vinyl and glue them in place.
• legs	H	corduroy, duck cloth, heavier weights of broadcloth
• body and body gusset – J, K		fake fur, corduroy, duck cloth
• breast	L	same fabric as head/neck A, B
• tail	-	no pattern piece provided; cut 6” x 10” piece of felt or vinyl OR - 6 yards of thick yarn
• crest pad	-	no pattern piece given; cut from scrap – it goes inside and doesn’t show

**DESCRIPTION OF PIECES:**

A	head/neck	cut 2	J	body	cut 2
B	crest	cut 1	K	body gusset	cut 2
C	outer beak	cut 4	L	breast	cut 1
D	outer beak facing	cut 2			
E	inner beak	cut 1			
F	ear	cut 4			
G	inner eye	cut 2			
	(or purchase 2 wiggly eyes)				
	outer eye	cut 2			
	lashes	cut 2			
H	leg	cut 2			
I	foot	cut 2			

“Crest pad” – no pattern provided, cut piece 2.5” x 7” per directions. This piece goes inside the head and does not show at all; use scraps.

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

This project could easily be made out of scraps remaining from other projects.

Body and body gusset take about ½ yard.

Head/neck, crest, legs and breast take about ¾ yard if you want all these pieces to match.

Other pieces can be made from scraps; or buy 1/3 yard of the various colors you wish to use.

Thick yarn – for tail and hair/bangs – 1 skein or scraps. (6 yards)

Thread to match various fabrics

1 bag of polyester stuffing

**PROCEDURES:**

It takes about 20-25 minutes to cut out all the pattern pieces and to tape together the pieces that have been printed in segments.

There are no comments given about the grain of the fabric. If your fabrics have a distinctive grain/nap/direction, pay attention to this - laying out the pieces accordingly.

**READ THE INSTRUCTIONS ALL THE WAY THROUGH.**

They work well if you do not try to second-guess the process. The order of construction unfolds differently than one might expect, if you normally work with commercial patterns. Jump ahead or take a short-cut and you might regret it. I found the beak assembly to be very challenging – and time-consuming. I was also terribly pleased when I finally got it right!

**STEP 9:** is about creating a knee joint for Priscilla. That short, horizontal stitching across the legs, after you refold the leg lengthwise, is to fashion a bendable knee joint. It is on a different geometrical plane than the earlier stitching. The directions do not tell you what effect this short stitching across accomplishes, so it may be hard to visualize. Pay close attention to the diagram here.

**DO NOT STUFF ANYTHING** until it says “**STUFF**”.

Do not even think of stuffing the legs or feet until after step 17.

**DIAGRAMS:** They are small and not very clear, but they do provide help when the words are not enough.

**BEAK IMPROVEMENT:**

After you recover from the beak assembly, **AND** Priscilla is finally done, you'll notice that her beak acts like it is too flabby. To improve this, take the “inner beak” pattern piece, E, and cut one out of light-weight cardboard, or something about the thickness of 2 index cards. Trim ½ inch off of it all the way around. Fold it in half to mimic the shape of the beak. Insert it into the place where your hand is supposed to go – right up into the “upper lip” and the “lower lip”. Then insert your hand, and you'll find the beak acts better when you try to make Priscilla speak. The cardboard gives her “lips” firmer shape. This is an **amazing** improvement! Try it!

**COMMENTARY:**

I have been sewing for 45 years and it took me 12 hours+ to complete this puppet. I got snagged on the beak assembly. After a certain point, I pulled out some stitches, ignored the directions and did to it what had to be done. It helped to have another logically-thinking person nearby during the beak assembly. I read the instructions for the beak assembly aloud and we conversed about what we thought the directions meant. That helped me through that section. Also, it helped that I made the inner beak a different, lighter shade than the outer beak pieces, so I could tell what I was doing. Choose fabric that has no right or wrong side for the beak. That way if you get it together incorrectly, you won't have to worry about some of it being inside out. The “clipping to dots” you have to make during this time seem odd at the time, but just do what it says.

**RELATION OF HEAD/NECK ..... TO .....BODY**

I don't know how to explain this very well, but you need to know that only the front part of the completed neck is attached to the body. This is odd-looking. The 2 sides of the neck and the back of the neck piece are **not** attached to the body; – the opening up into the head/neck is where you put your hand and arm. The breast piece, L, is actually the only piece that links the lower body to the head/neck. To operate this puppet, you hold the body up under your armpit ..... then insert your hand and arm up inside the neck and head. You need to know it or you'll think you have done something incorrectly. It is an uncommon style of puppet – different from the other designs you may have made.

Teacher-tested by  
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O.S.P.M., (one successful Priscilla-maker!)