



STITCH FELT INTO A STYLISH

Ruby doll

This lovely lady is one of a family of gorgeous dolls from Louise Kelly's *Sew Your Own Doll*. Ruby's delicate lace skirt and peach crop top are the height of summer fashion, perfectly accessorised with a quilted chain bag and a beautiful blossom in her raven hair. A soft pastel colour palette will work perfectly with pale lace.

Get started

- Felt, chosen skin tone, brown, black, navy, white, green
- Cotton fabric, print (scraps), plain, 9cm x 35cm
- Lace, 9cm x 35cm
- Stranded embroidery thread, assorted colours
- Fine elastic
- Gold-coloured chain, 20cm
- Two 6mm buttons
- Two snap fasteners
- Glue pen
- Dissolvable fabric pen
- Toy stuffing
- Long sewing needle
- Blusher
- Cotton bud

Size

- Height: 33cm

Make a felt doll

1 Download and print the templates at sewmag.co.uk/templates. Cut out the doll body pieces from skin-tone felt, the hair pieces from black and the eyes from brown. Place two arm pieces together and backstitch all around, leaving a 1cm turning gap on a straight edge. Sew the legs all the way around in the same way, leaving the top open. Turn each limb right side out.

2 Place the two body back pieces together and backstitch with a 5mm seam allowance, leaving a 2cm turning gap. Tack the legs to the body front. Place the back and front sections right sides together so the legs are in between, backstitch all around the edge, then turn right side out.

Add hair & facial features

1 Glue the front section of the hair over the head piece, then backstitch all around the hairline. Sew the back hair section 2.5cm from the base of the neck, using the front face and hair as a guide. Sketch the face with a dissolvable fabric pen. Draw around the eye template, adding eyelashes. Make a small dash for the nose and add the lips directly below, drawing a curved line for the centre, and adding the top then bottom lip.

2 Glue the eyes in place then blanket stitch around with brown thread. Using backstitch and black thread, work the curved line at the inner part of the eye, stitching up over the top and out to the lashes. Thicken the lashes at the base by going back and forth. Add white French knots to the eyes for highlights. Make one or two tiny stitches for the nose, using a thread slightly darker than the skin tone.

3 Line the lips with lipstick-coloured thread in backstitch. Starting at the centre of the top lip, work satin stitch out to the side, return to the middle, repeat towards the other side of the mouth and then repeat for the bottom lip.

4 Place the front and back head pieces right sides together and backstitch all around, leaving a 2.5cm turning gap at the chin. Use an extra seam allowance for the side bun, then snip into the seam allowances to create a clean curved line. Turn the head right side out and fold in the neck. Stuff the legs, arms and body through the turning gaps until fairly stiff, then stuff the head. Close all the gaps with ladder stitch.

5 Use ladder stitch to lessen the gap at the chin to ensure the neck fits snugly. Close evenly either side with ladder stitch, checking that the head fits nicely onto the neck. Line the neck up directly under the lips, pin the head steady on the neck and secure all the way around with ladder stitch.

6 Sew doubled thread with a long sewing needle through the shoulders a few times then add the arms, sewing through an arm, the shoulders, then the other arm, back and forth, until secure. Add a 6mm button to each arm to keep in position.

Give her knickers

1 Cut two knickers pieces from cotton fabric. Using the template, sketch some sewing guides onto the wrong side of one of the pattern pieces with dissolvable fabric pen. Sew the gusset, then stitch down either side of the knickers. Make small diagonal snips into the fabric where the stitching starts and ends, then turn a hem to the wrong side. Sew around each leg hole, using running or backstitch.

2 Turn down a 5mm seam at the waistline and place some fine elastic in it. Stitch all around using running or backstitch, without sewing through the elastic. Before finishing, try on your doll for size, pull the elastic to gather and tie in a double knot. Remove the knickers, trim the elastic and finish sewing the hem closed.

Make the crop top

1 Cut the front and back crop top pieces from print fabric. Snip into the curve of the neckline on each piece, turn to the wrong side, and secure with glue. Turn over the small hem at the centre back of each back top piece. Backstitch around the necklines on the front and back pieces and also down the straight hems at the centre back. Place the front top and one back top right sides together

and backstitch together at the shoulder. Repeat for the other back top piece.

2 Open out the top, turn a small hem at the sleeves and secure with glue. Sew both sleeve hems, using running or backstitch. Without cutting the thread, place the top right sides together again and sew from the underarm to the waistline. Repeat for the other side and hem the bottom edge.

Stitch the skirt

1 Lay the lace strip on top of the plain cotton underskirt piece. If there is a finished edge to the lace, use that for the skirt hemline. Fold down 5mm to the wrong side at the waistline. With the right side of the fabric facing, sew a running stitch along the waist, gathering the fabrics every 2.5cm or so and securing with a small backstitch. Keep measuring against the doll's waist for fit.

2 When you have the desired length, fold a small hem of both lace and cotton at each end. Hem the cotton underskirt – if the lace is unfinished, hem separately. Sew both hems at either end of the skirt. Attach half of a snap fastener to one of the top corners, then stitch the other to the opposite corner.

Sew a handbag

Cut the bag pieces from navy felt, then sew diagonal lines in backstitch to 'quilt' the bag. Attach the gusset to the bag front with whip stitch, going down one side, along the bottom, and up the other side. Sew the bag back to

Every dolls needs a quilted handbag – make one on a super-small scale!



Photography by Geoff Damm © CICO Books

the gusset in the same way, then fold the flap over the front and add a snap fastener. Sew a chain to each side.

Add a flower

Cut five petals from white felt, a flower centre from navy, a leaf from green and a small round scrap for the base. Blend some blusher to the bottom portion of each petal using a cotton bud. Glue each one to the felt scrap then position the navy centre on top and place the leaf underneath. Sew a few stitches through the middle and around the flower centre. Ladder stitch the flower to the head in the same colour as the hair.

Stitch the shoes

Cut two shoe soles and two uppers from navy felt. Sew around the opening in the front to strengthen, place a shoe upper and sole right sides together and stitch, leaving the top open. Turn right side out and stitch around the top. Repeat to make a second shoe, then place on the feet.

Designer tip

Haemostats are a great tool for turning out arms and legs. You could also use the rounded end of a pen or the wrong end of a knitting needle.

Find the project
for Noah in
*Sew Your
Own Dolls*



Photography by Geoff Damm © CICO Books

Reader offer

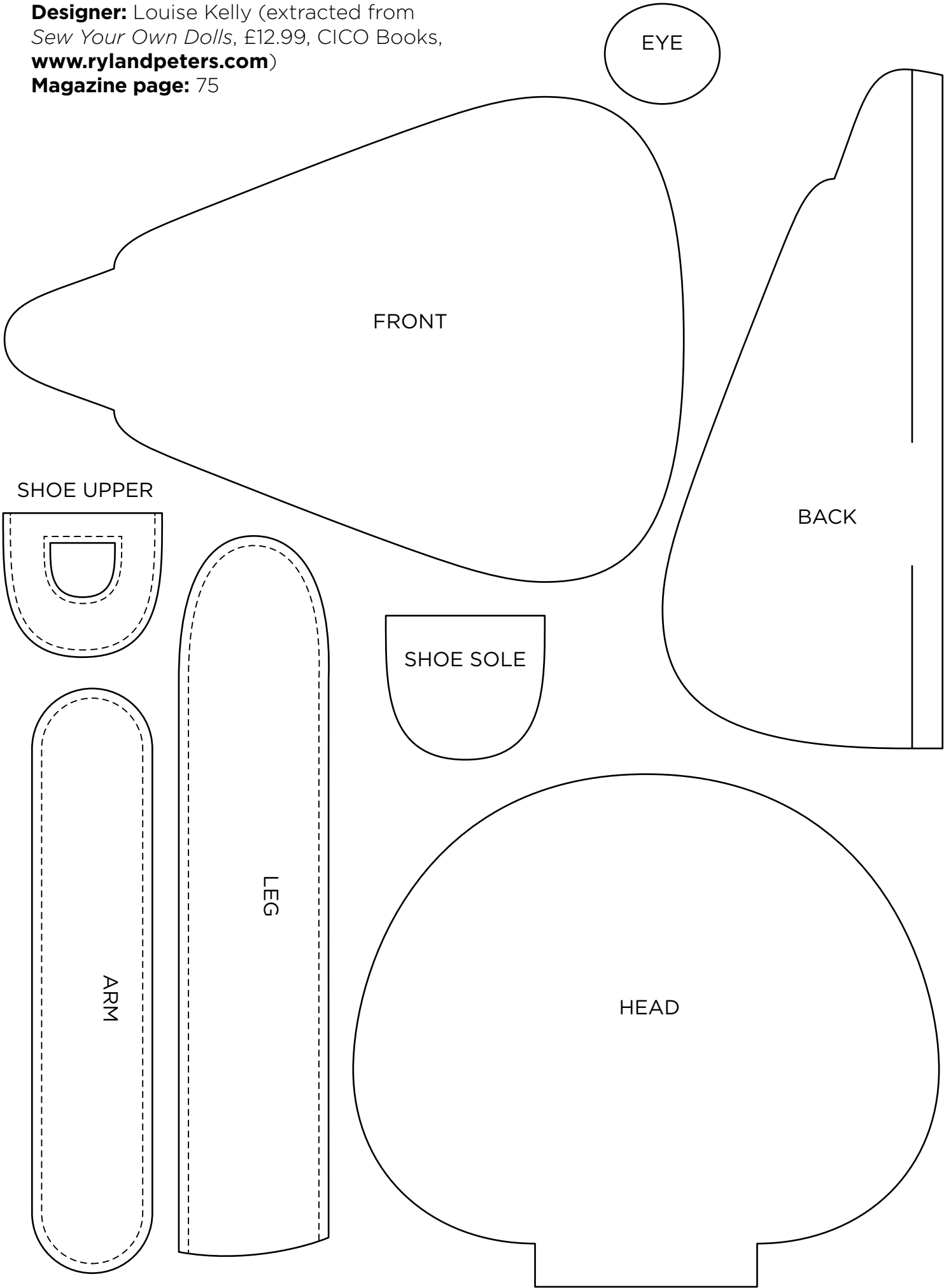
Discover more cute characters in *Sew Your Own Dolls* by Louise Kelly (£12.99, CICO Books). Get the special price of £9.99 with FREE P&P by calling **01256 302699**, quoting the code **KE6**. For more information, visit **makeetc.com**



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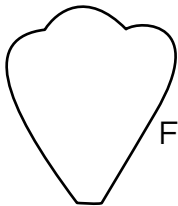
Designer: Louise Kelly (extracted from
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Magazine page: 75





NECK



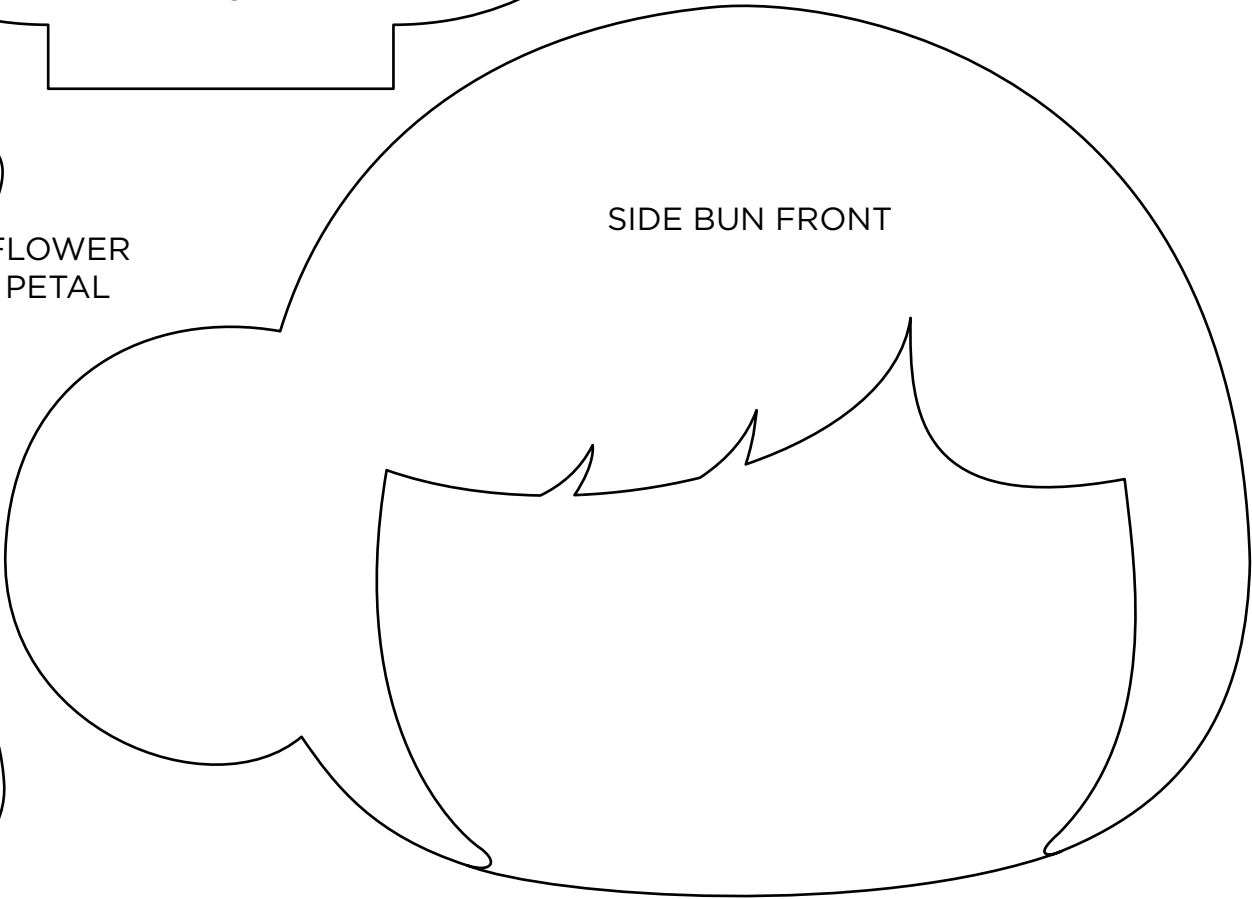
FLOWER
PETAL



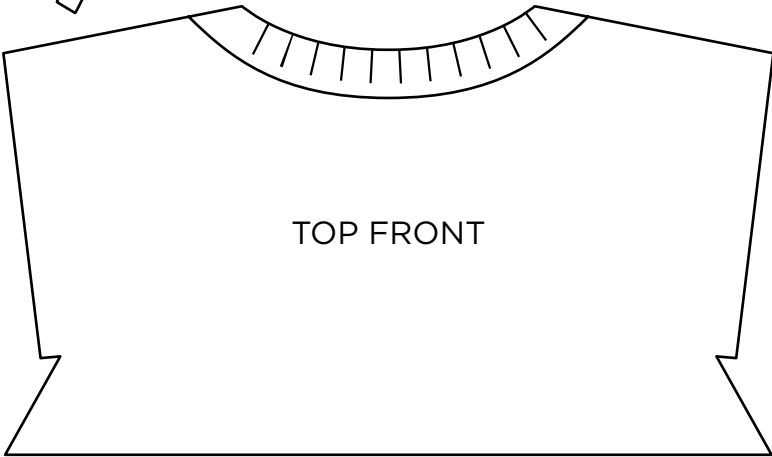
FLOWER
CENTRE



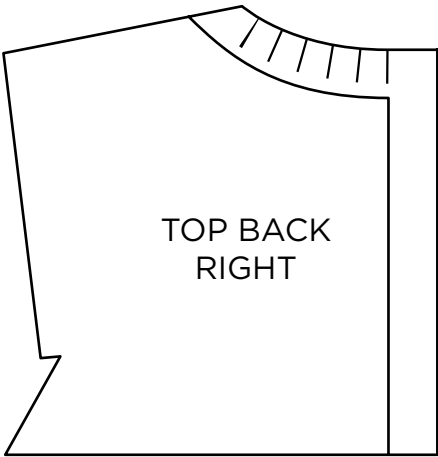
LEAF



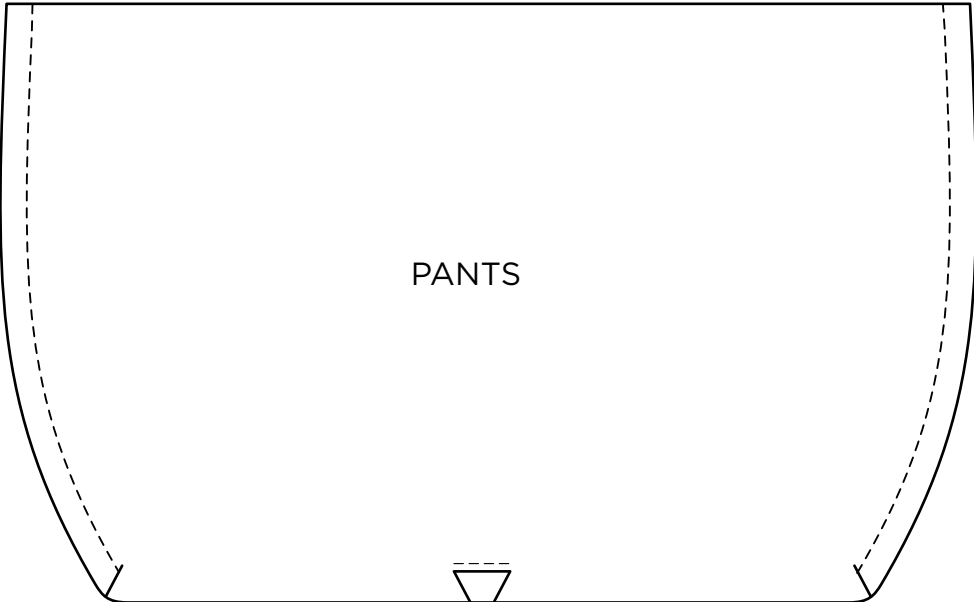
SIDE BUN FRONT



TOP FRONT



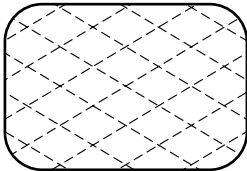
TOP BACK
RIGHT



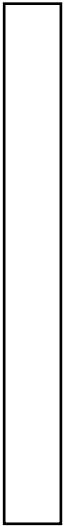
PANTS



QUILTED
BAG FLAP



QUILTED
BAG



QUILTED BAG GUSSET