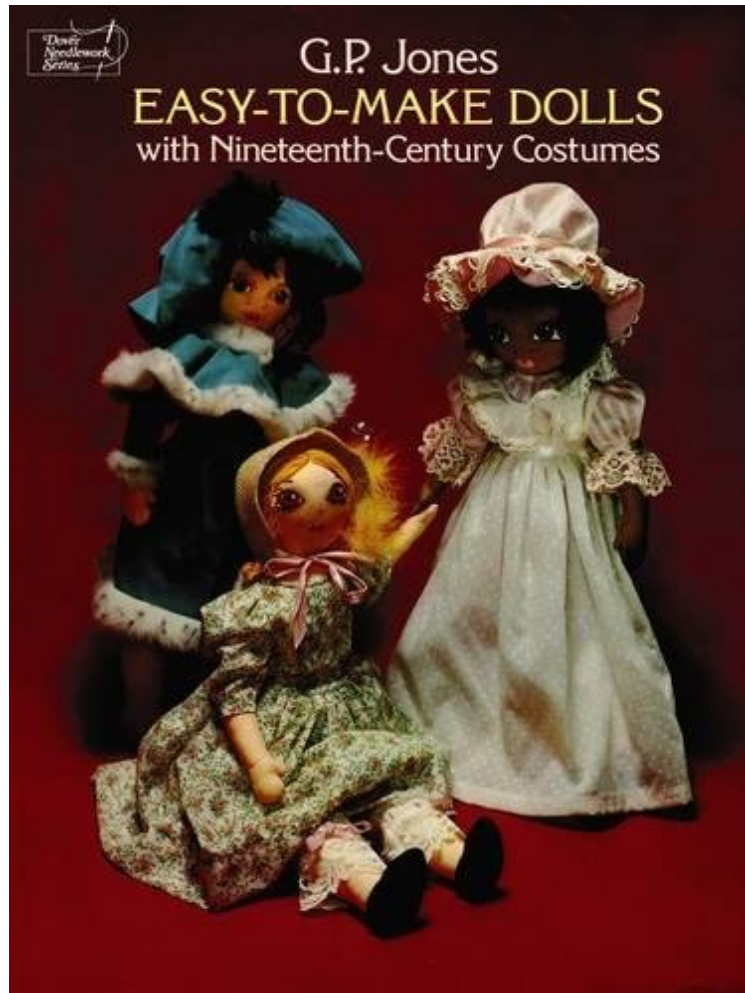


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Easy-to-Make Dolls with Nineteenth-Century Costumes (Dover Needlework)

G. P. Jones

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G. P. Jones : Easy-to-Make Dolls with Nineteenth-Century Costumes (Dover Needlework) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Easy-to-Make Dolls with Nineteenth-Century Costumes (Dover Needlework):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Not too shabby for the price By Customer This book, first published in 1974, is really not that bad. The patterns are very large, however, making a doll around 20 inches. I reduced the pattern to about 90% and had a nice result. The doll head and body are connected with darts to give some shape. The body has a flat bottom, and the legs are sewn like a hinge to the bottom. The arms do have two varieties, one with mitten hands with over-stitched fingers, the other with thumb, index and pinky finger free, with ring and middle finger

one wide finger that's over-stitched in the middle. The patterns include a bust helper (two stuffed circles to fill out the chest) and a bustle, as well as chemise and corset. J. Niblick mentioned several doll body patterns- this is not the case, at least not in my version- mine was an earlier 1977 issue. There are two patterns, one for a flat chest and another for a shapely torso with bust darts. I had no issue modifying the clothing patterns to fit the other doll body. I did lengthen the limbs, since I thought they were too short. The instructions give enough written instruction, but some of the pages have more than enough room for illustrating another step. Each doll comes with her own face, and some of them are quite charming. Each face represents the era the doll's clothing came from, from a china doll to a rough-cheeked wooden doll. The clothes are well made for the period they represented, and included color and print ideas, as well as accessories. She also includes instructions for using the pattern as a body for a doll with china head and hands. The dolls are, in order of appearance, Josephine from 1820s, with a shawl, empire waist dress, and hair with a rolled bun on top. Her face has large, circular cheeks and a distinguished nose. Victoria from 1830s, with a walking outfit and boots. She has a sweet face and a large hat. Mistress Black from 1830s, wearing an 1830s housemaid dress and mob cap. She's the only black doll in the book, and there are three options for her hair: turkey work, long stitches, and a covering of french knots. Her face is sweet, like Victoria's, as they were both inspired by the same source. Pretty Rags from 1840s, much like a prairie girl in a poke bonnet and long pantaloons, and long braided hair. Melissa from 1850s, wearing a charming short-sleeved, knee length dress with shot turkey-worked loops for hair. Her face is round and cute. Bell of the 1860s, a southern bell with a snood and a voluminous dress. Her features are open and pretty. Jocelyn of the 1870s has an interesting face. The face is a 3/4 view with a nose in profile. It's striking and strange at first, but the more I look at it the more I like it. It reminds me of Frida Kahlo. She also comes with a 'normal' face. Penelope of the 1890s shares a body with Jocelyn. They use the body with darts at the bust and stomach to make a more 3D form. It works nicely. Penelope wears a high-necked dress with leg o'mutton sleeves. Next is a Seminole Lady, a Native American doll with light rust skin and black hair wearing a vividly colored dress. She's really quite nice, and G. P. Jones gives instructions on how to piece the patchwork dress. The Seminole Tribe were known for their colorful and elaborate use of patchwork in their clothing, and it is well portrayed in the doll dress. Last is Hiruko, a Japanese doll. Since the kimono she wears is large blocky shapes she only includes measurements and the pattern for the neckline. I'm not sure how accurate it is, but it looks right to me. All in all, the book is almost old hat for experienced doll makers, but some of the instructions are a bit hazy for a new sewer. Still, I really enjoy the patterns and individual faces, as well as the brief history the author includes on the fashion and eras the dolls come from. Knowing what the book is like, I would still buy it if I didn't already have it. The dolls are dear, the clothing nice, and I had fun making Jocelyn. Check it out, it's not, as of this writing, too expensive, and would make a nice gift to a doll maker.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Toy dresses By teresa ketchum This are toys clothes. Not historically accurate. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Hours of fun, literally! By Book Geek I had this book when I was a child, and I sewed several dolls from it probably around age 11? I made most at full size, but like another reviewer I did scale the patterns down for one of them. I think it's a great gift for a crafty kid: relatively easy, and requiring a modest amount of material, but developing real sewing skills. I remember feeling proud that I could make them without my mom's help.

The ten attractive dolls displayed on the covers of this book are designed to capture the prevailing fashions of the nineteenth century as reflected in paintings, drawings, and photography of the time and you can make them all with the help of the step-by-step instructions and full-size patterns contained in this book. This book contains instructions and patterns for making basic bodies, including variations such as sewing the bodies out of felt and adapting the body patterns for use with china heads. Each doll is then featured with special instructions and patterns for clothing, and instructions for creating an authentic face and hairdo. Full-page photographs of the completed dolls are also included. The clear and precise instructions are easily understandable to anyone with a basic knowledge of sewing, and they include additional suggestions and guidelines for more ornate work that's well within the boundaries of authenticity.