

# FRILLS

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## TUTORIAL

Learn. Create. Be inspired.

*this issue*

*A complete gothic nightdress  
tutorial with pattern, directions  
& hints for your Blackwood  
Manor project.*

# Evangeline

## NIGHTDRESS TUTORIAL

PATTERN, DIRECTIONS  
AND HINTS

*Step-by-step guide to  
creating Evangeline's  
1890 gothic nightdress  
for your Blackwood  
Manor doll.*



BLACKWOOD MANOR

by DANA





# Welcome TO BLACKWOOD MANOR

A GOTHIC ROMANCE & DOLLMAKING EXPERIENCE  
by DANA & LADY D

**E**nter the world of Evangeline Blackwood,  
a young woman who unwittingly steps into  
the shadows of her family's past.

Within the walls of Blackwood Manor,  
she discovers forgotten letters, hidden rooms,  
and a legacy that refuses to stay buried.

This project weaves together storytelling,  
history, and the art of miniature dollmaking  
for an enchanting journey you won't forget.

## THE BLACKWOOD MANOR PROJECT INCLUDES:

- A Gothic Story told in chapters
- Exclusive patterns & tutorials
- Dollmaking inspiration & techniques
- Printable keepsakes & miniatures
- A community of kindred spirits

*More than a tutorial ...  
it's an experience.*

FIND THE PROJECT HERE:  
Go to **DANABURTON.com**  
Click **START**  
Then click the  
**ENTER BLACKWOOD MANOR** tab

**DANABURTON.com**

*Creating Fuel for your Dollmaking Muse*

— SINCE 1989 —

— A WORLD OF MINIATURES, STORIES & TIMELESS BEAUTY —



*Some secrets are  
written in blood,  
others in lace.  
All of them are  
waiting to be found.*





## NEWBIES we have you covered!

Here are the basic tips for doll assembly (using my DANA doll kits).

1. Cut the edge off a small plastic baggie and put it over her painted face, wrapping thread around her neck to keep her safe from superglue and draping hairspray splatters while you work.
2. Paint your shoes with two light coats of fingernail polish in your preferred color. Let dry.
3. Decorate the shoes as desired.
4. Insert aluminum wire (or pipecleaners) into the shoes and torso holes. Cut off excess length until she is 5 1/2 - 5 3/4" tall. Then glue legs into the torso.
5. Set the arms to the side until later.

## SUPPLIES for Assembly



1. Aluminum wire for armature (I purchase mine directly from Michaels in the Polyclay isle).
2. Thick yarn, or cotton wrap to wrap around legs/torso bottom to give a shape.
3. Florist tape to wrap around the torso wrap and make a nice smooth surface for gluing material too.
4. Triangle cosmetic sponges to glue on for hips, butts or double up for historic padding/panniers etc.
5. Zap a gap (gel superglue) and Aleene's original Tacky glue.
6. Old soft handkerchief to make a simple tube armature cover (slip).



## Unique Notes

My original doll is shown to the right. All sometimes changes things a bit without my consent <G>. HOWEVER I think she is very true to form in the Gothic photos.

## Candle

I stacked various jewelry findings to create the candle shape. Then made several light layers of fingernail polish over the stem. I like the gothic version better so I did not use my candle in photos.

## Materials

Do you have a family antique christening gown, blouse or handkerchiefs that are slowly aging and you'd like to use them in a way that can be passed down generations?

I found two old pieces (not a whole dress) and an antique lace collar. These were yellowing/rusting and distressed tears.

So I thought what better way to preserve the precious memory and incorporate it into Evangeline's Night Dress.



# Assembly ...

1. After your doll is assemble and on a stand, cut a small rectangle from sturdy cotton to act as an inner slip to hide and smooth your assembly material.
2. Now cut a rectangle of your pretty antique material, join sides and gather the top for low petticoat.
3. Repeat with at least two more layers to give the foundational bulk required to keep this Night Dress material out.

**\*\*NOTE\*\*** Notice that after I gathered the 2nd petticoat, I hand stitched this petticoat to the underskirt to hold in place.

THEN I smeared a line of heavy glue over top gathers to to press and flatten UP-WARDS with my fingers. This makes a nice, neat smooth line for the next layer.

4. Now is the PRETTY PART! Take your fanciest edging/tucking, lacy section of material and cut it into a rectangle and make it into a tube for her overskirt.

Repeat the directions (gather, glue) above.

Evangeline is now ready for her bodice.



# Bodice...

1. Using a section of your plain antique material (same as skirt) ... cut out a rectangle and turn the bottom edge under to the wrong side and glue.
2. Spread glue on the entire back torso and let get tacky.
3. Now stretch this rectangle around back of torso and cut off excess at sides, leaving the arm hold (porcelain) open.
4. Next cut a little rectangle, turn the side and bottom edge under. Glue up front of doll's front torso as photo shows to right.
5. Repeat on other side.
6. BEFORE SLEEVES go on - or you add the lace ... I like to drape the skirt so I don't accidentally mess up the laces while draping.
7. Then continue to decorate the bodice with decorative sections in your material. For mine (shown to the right), I cut out a stitched tucked rectangle to glue up her front.
8. I then covered this with silk ribbon, and glued lace around her neck and up the front.

REMEMBER you are working on a PUZZLE. The materials often have several decorative sections, lace, trims, gathers, tucking and more.

SEE what they could be ... using mine as an example and the dress will flow together like magic!



# Sleeve...

1. Cut a rectangle from pretty patch of your material. Form tube, gather top and slide up doll's arm.
2. Insert arm into shoulder hole - check length and glue in place.
3. Add a decorative piece of lace at the top of the arm/shoulder to hide any raw edges and balance out the lace around her neck.
4. Make sure - BEFORE YOU GLUE HER ARM/HAND into the torso .... that the hand is in position to look like she is carrying the candlestick/book etc.

**\*\*NOTE\*\*** My finished doll sample is being sold by Magpie Miniatures as a one of a kind. Therefore I did extra sculpting on the torso/neck and hand.



# Wigging...

1. For those that have problems wigging - please click to my DANA's Bulletin Board for my ART OF WIGGING ebook.

This is a FREE download (found inside the FILE section).

It will give you a wonderful



# WIGGING

1. Following my video on YOUTUBE chanel, wrap/twist viscose around knitting needle (less then a 5mm).
2. When curl is cool - slide off rod and gently spread a tiny bit and lay on top of glue EAR TO EAR. Let dry. Then comb two back edges together.
3. Now gently comb out waves into desired style.
4. If you want to soften her face with tendrils or bangs, use some of the small ends from curls.

AND she is now ready to wander the BLACKWOOD MANOR!

I hope you enjoyed dressing EVANGELINE for her nighttime attic visit!

Stay tuned for more tutorials and characters from BLACKWOOD MANOR in the months ahead.

HAPPY CREATING!  
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