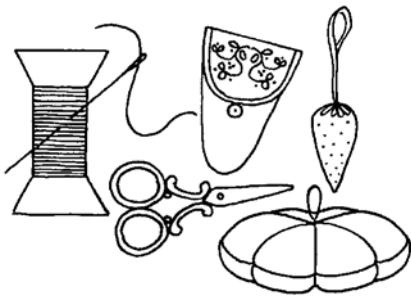


SMALL DOLL SEWIES TO MAKE FOR ACCESSORIES

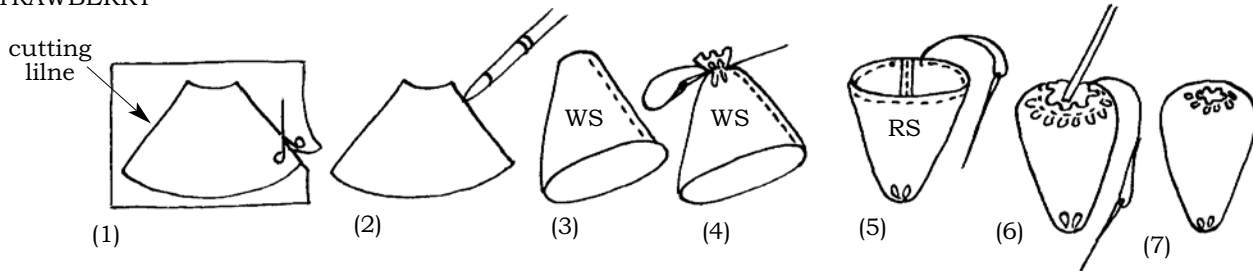
Gail Wilson © 2006



These patterns are for a very sweet set of sewing accessories for small dolls. Queen Anne ladies spent much time on their needlework which was often kept in their pockets. The patterns include a tiny scissors case*, flat tomato pincushion and a strawberry emery. All items are well under an inch and easy to make from your silk (or cotton) scraps. They are nice to hang from doll's apron waist on a narrow silk ribbon. *About the tiny scissors: These patterns were once part of a kit that included a tiny set of working brass scissors called Chatalaine Scissors (7/8" long). Order from catspawonline.com.

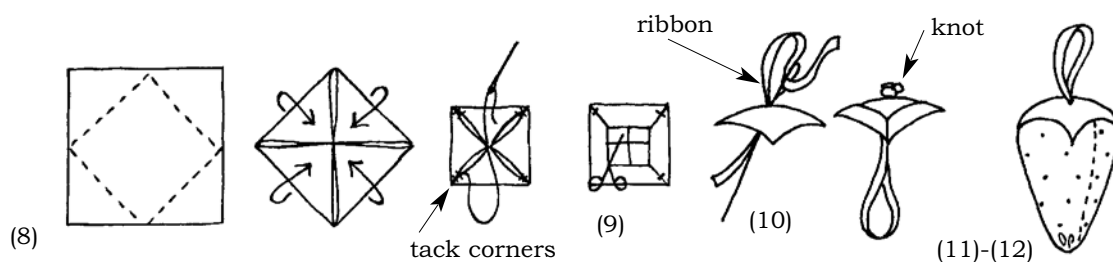
Due to the small scale of these items, it is recommended that you use scraps of a silk taffeta (or other fine silk that has some body like taffeta to it without the added weight). If you only have cottons, it can be done, but your results will be a bit coarser looking. Something about the way crisp silk taffeta behaves and stretches makes it perfect for these small things. However, you will need some kind of good white glue type fray preventer (no watery kind or it will spread into the silk), in fact, you can use Aleene's Tacky Glue and a paintbrush or toothpick to apply. If you treat cut edges with this, it will not fray and be easy to work, even at such a small scale. I like to use real wool stuffing for these. Just peel off about a pencil diameter width of wool roving when stuffing is called for. Do not try to use a slippery-type poly stuffing for this or you will not get good results. Wool was a favored stuffing for pincushions as wool wicks moisture and keeps pins and needles sharp and rust free, but for here I like it since it packs well. Both the strawberry and the scissors case lend themselves to embellishment with single thread embroidery and the scissors case can be closed by a bead, button or ribbon tie closure.

STRAWBERRY

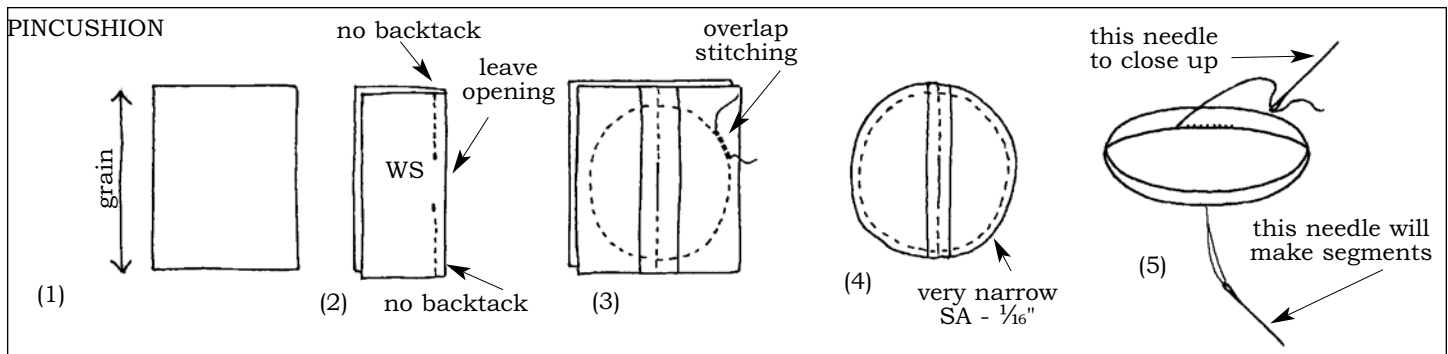


STRAWBERRY *(This is really out of scale as an emery - it is more like a pincushion scale on a small doll, but it is just meant to be a suggestive sewing ornament and not necessarily right scale).*

- (1) Draw the strawberry and leaves patterns on your fabrics and cut on the lines. It is important cutting the leaves that the original square is cut going with the grain.
- (2) Paint the fray preventer mentioned above on the cut edges. It will leave a small thin bead of glue that will shrink down and be invisible when dry.
- (3) For the strawberry, join the straight sides with RS together sewing a $\frac{3}{16}$ " SA using a very tiny machine stitch (20 per inch).
- (4) Leaving the knot on the outside, sew a row of gathering stitches with double thread around the smaller opening, pull up tight and secure thread by stitching back and forth through the "paper bag" end.
- (5) Turn strawberry RS out and run another row of gathering stitches using double thread about $\frac{1}{8}$ " away from raw edge of large opening and this time knot on the inside - leave needle attached.
- (6) Use a stuffing fork or hemostats to stuff and make the stuffing really tamped down inside the cone.
- (7) As you get up to the top, start to pull up the gathering threads, then add in more stuffing, pull up tight, add more until you cannot possibly get any more in. Then, one final time pull up gathering threads as snugly as possible and secure back and forth across the top opening.

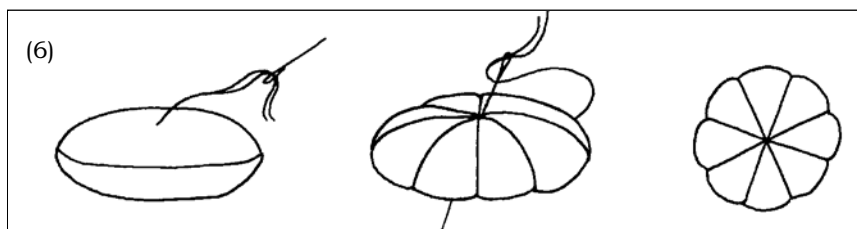


- (8) The leaves are made in sort of an origami way. Have a matching needle and single thread at the ready with a small knot all set to go. Fold in the four tips of the square to meet in the middle, ironing helps. Fold (and iron in the next four corners taking up the needle with single thread to catch with a couple of tiny stitches, the two edges that meet at the new corners.
- (9) Trim off the four corners to eliminate bulk.
- (10) Depending on how your strawberry will be used (suggestion is to be hung from the waistband of a doll's apron for which you should determine the length best suited), thread narrow silk ribbon into a long-eyed needle and go up from the WS of the center of the leaves through to other side then back down same hole to WS and then form a knot with both ends of ribbon so the loop on the RS is the desired length and trim knot ends. Pull loop out to its fullest, letting the knot keep it from slipping all the way through.
- (11) Center the leaves on the big end of the strawberry. If you cut and folded right, your points should all now be on a bias so they will stretch. Pull each leaf tightly and equally around the fat end of the strawberry and hold in place with pins - seam should be centered between two points. With matching thread, anchor each leaf at points to the strawberry.
- (12) Optional is to stitch tiny french knots spaced in stacked rows using a single thread in a color that either contrasts or is the same as leaves or strawberry, depending on your taste.

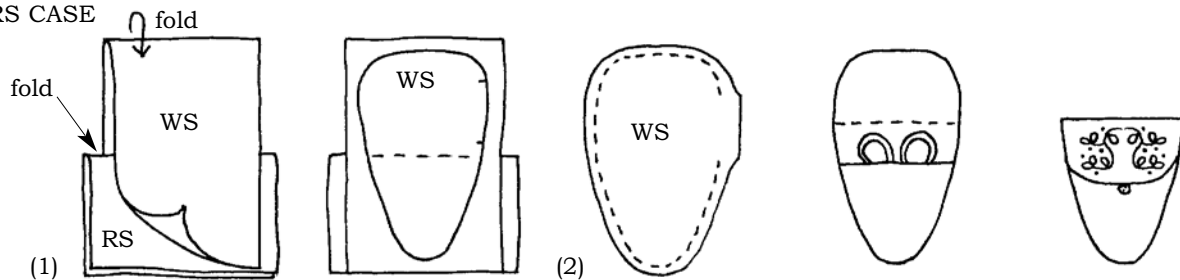


PINCUSHION

- (1) Cut a rectangle (at least 1½" wide by 2" long) and two small strips (at least 1" wide by 2" long) from your fabric. The most important thing here is to have the grain of the fabric (the arrow denoting grain is parallel to the selvage edge), otherwise, your pincushion will be oval. You will note the pattern itself is oval, but that is to account for the sideways stretch of cloth. Some fabrics stretch more than others, so you still may end up somewhat off from round, but this can be compensated by when you pull up your segmenting stitches.
- (2) With RS together, sew a ⅜" seam joining the two small strips. Use a very small machine stitch and only backtack on either side of a ½" opening left in the center as shown. Do not backtack at beginning and end - this will only create a bump when you open your seam allowance.
- (3) Iron open the SA and place this piece with RS's together with the larger rectangle. Center the pattern on the seamed side and make sure the grain on the oval pattern is going up and down same as the seam. Draw on the pattern using a fine pen or sharp white pencil so you can see the line to sew on. Sew on the line using the same very small machine stitch and to begin and end, do not backtack, but rather simply overlap beginning and ending stitches about ¼".
- (4) Cut out leaving a ⅛" SA. This is important so you get a good curve. If you are using silk, paint on some white glue (Elmer's or Aleene's) or GW fray preventer on the cut edge. When dry, carefully turn right-side out through the opening you left.
- (5) Stuff the pincushion trying for nicely rounded edges and making it VERY firm - this will be hard. Try to maintain a round but "flattish" shape with nice curves - not lumpy. Before you sew up the opening, thread a two strandss of peeled off floss into a needle. Make a knot in the end and sew through the opening and out the center of the top of the pincushion. Leave needle attached - this will be what you segment the pincushion with. With a separate needle and a single matching thread, hand sew the opening closed as neatly and inconspicuously as possible - best is a tiny ladder stitch.
- (6) With the first thread and needle (threaded with the floss), go around outside and then back through middle over and over making segments like pieces of pie. I do 12,6,3 and 9 o'clock first, then go half way between those to make 8 even segments, pulling up a slight bit as I do each one to slightly nick in the edge. Secure thread by sewing back and forth through center.



SCISSORS CASE



SCISSORS CASE

- (1) Cut two rectangles - one 1½" wide x 4" long and the second a 2" square. Fold each in half longways with smaller one RS out and larger one with WS's out. Place the smaller one so it is between the layers of the larger one - its ends will stick out showing you its position, so you can line up its fold with the lower solid line on the pattern. Once the lower solid line on the pattern is lined up with the folded edge, draw on the scissors case pattern noting where to leave an opening for turning RS out after sewing.
- (2) The drawn line is the sewing line. Once sewn, cut out leaving a ¼" SA except at the opening area - leave ⅛" here. Paint the glue fray preventer on the cut edges and let dry. Carefully turn RS out. On the pattern the dotted line is where the flap is folded over. Sew a tiny thread loop and button or bead closure or use two ribbons as a tie closure. If you want to add any embellishment such as embroidery (initials were common), do all of this while the opening is still there to run knots into. Close the opening last using a single stitch as invisibly as possible. This size case will fit the small working scissors that came with this small pattern.



PRINT-OUT SCALE:

The distance between arrow *points* must be 3" long in order for patterns to be correct size. See PDF Help on the Classroom Page if you do not get this scale.

PATTERNS - Cut patterns out by cutting in the middle of the printed lines. Make sure to follow instructions to know which lines are for cutting and which are sewing lines.

