

# TECHNIQUE SHEET

## Grace

by Catherine Mather

### Eyelashes



Black for lower lashes  
a combination of fine and thick strokes in a random style, starting short at the center eye and lengthening at outside edge of eye, strokes start 1mm from eye rim and are thicker at the base and tapered at the tip.

### Eyebrows



Shadow brow Russet  
Russet brow strokes are irregular at the top and bottom, and a combination of thick and thin strokes, ending in a fine tip. Strokes start above the eye dot and extend out over the brow arc.



### Lips



Rose red gloss, soft colour on outer edge of lips, graduating into a heavier colour at center of mouth, add fine detail lines to lip creavices.

### Nose & Eye Detail

Rose red, for nose detail, darker center fading to a light pink, at the edge of nose opening. Eye corner colouring red

### Blush

Cheek blush, soft graduating to a denser colour at cheek bone. Blush temples, chin and nose bridge, softly

### Skin - tone

Bisque-tone 1, overall wash, two shades deeper than disque

### Limbs

Bisque-tone 1, over wash all doll parts, remove blush from finger and toe nails. Blush body details, backs of hands, and feet. A glaze may be added over the whole of the nail and the pieces refined.

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## Materials Needed

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Set of Grace Molds            | <input type="checkbox"/> Brushes:                | <input type="checkbox"/> Plaster                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French Antique Porcelain Slip | Large China Mop                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Surgical Mask                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> China Paints:                 | #2 Lip   | <input type="checkbox"/> Kiln Prop                     |
| Russet   | #1 Lash  | <input type="checkbox"/> Silica Sand (Optional)        |
| Rose Red   | #1 Brow  | <input type="checkbox"/> Stringing Materials           |
| Bisque Tone #1   | Accent Liner                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Eye Setting Materials         |
| Black Matte  | Cat's Tongue                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 10mm Diameter Wooden Dowels |
| Check Blush  | Deerfoot Stippler                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Pate                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flux                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Cosmetic Sponge         | <input type="checkbox"/> Size 8/9 Wig                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area Medium                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Assorted Cleaning Tools | <input type="checkbox"/> 12mm or 14mm Brown Eyes       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Line Medium                   | <input type="checkbox"/> P.V.C. Glue             | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Eyelashes               |

Grace, a delicate and demure young lady, was sculpted so that her body and limbs would enable the doll to sit with her legs gracefully curled. Since this doll relies on the correct positioning of the body, I have given highly detailed directions for the cleaning and firing of the porcelain. Perfectly fired body parts will enable you to reproduce Grace with predictable results. The doll stands 12½" tall.

**Step 1** — Cast the body and leg molds a little thicker than usual. Slowly pour the slip from the molds to allow time for the air to enter. When emptied too quickly, a vacuum can form and cause the greenware to collapse—especially the torso.

On damp greenware, cut out the eye holes, the crown, and the holes in the body for the arms and legs. Don't cut these holes too large; they can be refined later. Cut an elongated hole in the body's neck socket, from front to back, for stringing. Elongate the neck hole so the head can be posed looking up or down.

Leave all the mountings on the legs and arms for correct stringing. Drill stringing holes in the arm mountings, one at the top and one directly underneath.

To position the holes on the left leg, lay the leg in the identical position of the assembled, posed doll. On the bottom side of the leg mounting, drill a hole at the top and another directly under it. Place holes for the right leg on the seam lines of the mounting—one on each side.

## Special Preparation Directions

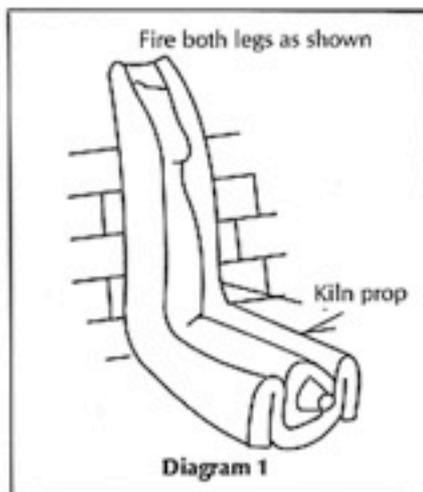
**Step 2** — Clean the greenware as usual. Check the fit of the limbs into the body. Don't enlarge the arm and leg holes too much, as that can cause the leg to sit out of line when the body is strung.

Bevel the eyes. Leave the tear ducts intact at the inside corners. Bevel until the lower edges are quite thin to insure proper fit for the eyes. Deepen the nostrils.

For the slightly open mouth, carefully cut a 6mm opening with a sharp scalpel. Accentuate the top lip by cutting upward on either side of the fleshy center lip. Soften and tidy the mouth opening with a square shader.

## How to Prepare the Greenware for Firing

*NOTE: Before working with the kiln prop, consider my method of the prop with a thin layer of silica sand. This lessens the chance for graining of the porcelain. This is an optional step.*

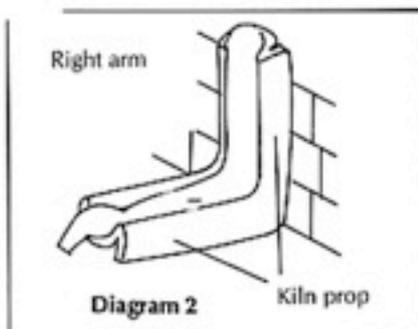


**Step 3** — Cut 2 strips of kiln prop, 45cm x 24cm, and bend the fiber lengthwise to a 45 degree angle and place inside the kiln with half the prop on the shelf and the other half up the side of the kiln wall (see Diagram 1).

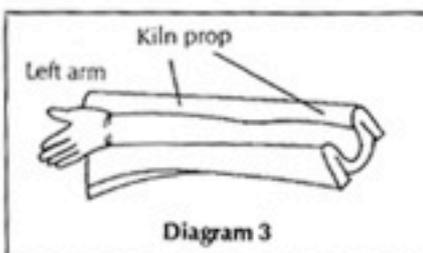
Place one leg on the fiber, with the toe pointing to the kiln lid and the thigh on the shelf. Carefully fold the prop upward to encase the sides of the leg. Place small pieces of prop behind the main sheet of prop until it holds the desired shape.

For the right arm, cut a piece of kiln prop 15cm x 15cm and place the piece lengthwise on the kiln shelf so that one end touches the kiln wall. Cut a second piece 34cm x 15cm and bend in half lengthwise at a 45 degree angle. Place half on top of the piece already on the shelf and the other end up the wall of the kiln (see Diagram 2).

The bottom piece has two layers to enable the fingers to clear the kiln shelf. Place the upper arm against the fiber positioned up the kiln wall and the lower arm against the prop on the kiln shelf. The prop should not reach down any farther than the center of the palm. The hand will shrink during firing and will need room to move. Fold up the prop at the side of the arm as with the legs.



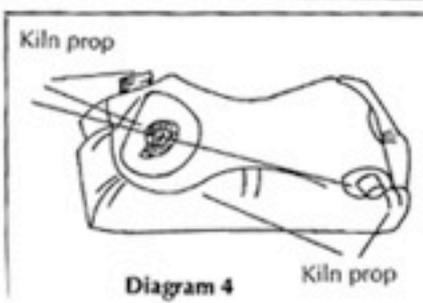
For the left arm, cut a length of prop 26cm x 15cm. Lay it flat on the kiln shelf. Place the arm on the fiber with the thumb pointing toward the kiln lid. Fold the prop up and around the arm. Leave the fingers exposed. Support the side palm of the hand, but don't extend the prop beneath the little finger.



For the torso, cut a long strip of prop 24cm x 30cm. Place the prop on the kiln shelf and lay the torso flat on its back on the prop. Push up the prop to conform to the contours of the body, especially around the waist and buttocks. Roll four lengths of prop and insert loosely into the body cavities. Reform the prop to conform to the body shape.

Fire to cone 6.

**Step 4** — Sand the bisque with a grit scrubber. Take extra care to smooth between the fingers and around the mouth and ears. Wash all the pieces with warm water and dry thoroughly.



### Painting Instructions

**Step 1** — Add a pinch of flux to Bisque Tone #1 and mix with area medium until creamy. Apply area medium to the bisque with a lint-free cloth and wipe until only a sheen remains.

Use a cosmetic sponge to apply the paint mixture. With the large china mop, evenly blend the color until two shades deeper than the original bisque.

Fire to cone 018.

**Step 2** — Mix Russet with area medium. See the photo for shape and positioning of the shadow brows; apply with the cat's tongue. Mix Black matte with line medium. Use the eyelash brush to stroke in approximately 16 lashes to each lower

Mix Rose Red with area medium; apply with the lip brush and blot. Use a deerfoot stippler to blend the color to a pale tone. Define the lip shape with kneadable rubber eraser. Add very translucent nose and eye dots.

Make a blushing cake from Cheek Blush and area medium. Apply area medium to the cheeks and chin; wipe to a sheen. Use the large china mop to apply and blend the cheek color to a realistic appearance.

Fire to cone 018.

**Step 3** — Use Russet with the brow brush to add fine hair strokes to the shadow brow. Outline the eye openings with Black Matte. With Rose Red and a cat's tongue, deepen the shading on the insides of

the lips. Stipple to a light tone at the outer lip edges. Use the accent liner to apply lines at the top and bottom.

Add darker dots of Rose Red within the existing nose dots. Paint the fingernails and toenails with Rose Red and stipple until transparent. If necessary, add more color to the cheeks. They should be intense at the centers, blended outward, with no visible lines.

### Assembly

**Step 1** — Apply felt to the limb mountings to avoid grinding of the porcelain pieces. Cut 4 rings of felt slightly larger than the mountings. Pull down the felt to cover the mountings. Glue in place and cut away the excess felt. If desired, apply felt to the neck socket. Place an 8.5cm long wooden dowel into the body through the leg opening. Position the dowel horizontally above the leg openings and push it up as far as it will go to lodge firmly against the porcelain. Spoon plaster over the ends to secure. Let the plaster set well before attempting to string the doll.

**NOTE:** *Wrap the hands and knees in plastic bubble sheeting before beginning to string the doll.*

Lay the torso on its back. Insert the end of the elastic through the neck opening, continue it down behind the wooden dowel and out the left leg opening.

Thread the elastic first through the top hole then the bottom hole of the leg mounting. Place the left leg away from the body and run the elastic back into the leg hole, across the crotch, and out the right leg hole. Thread the elastic through the inside hole of the right leg and out the other. Run the elastic back into the body, up and behind the dowel and back out the neck hole. Gently push the leg mountings into the leg sockets. Lay a small wooden dowel across the neck opening. Draw elastic up and tie off at the dowel. Place a neck button and hook into the doll's head and attach to the elastic at the neck. Remove the dowel and gently set the head into the socket. String the arms by running elastic through the right arm holes and out the left holes, completing a circle; tie the left holes, completing a circle; tie off at the left arm hole.