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# The Making Of A Rag Doll: Design & Sew Modern Heirlooms



## Synopsis

Designer Jess Brown is known for her irresistible, starry-eyed rag dolls. In this inspiring book, Brown shares a custom pattern and simple instructions to sew, personalize, and accessorize your own rag doll. Illustrating the story behind these dolls, the book places emphasis on natural materials, vintage fabrics, beautiful notions, and quality craftsmanship. Make the dolls for the children of all ages in your life to love now and cherish for decades. After making the doll, follow Brown's patterns for darling accessories such as an apron, overcoat, and knickers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jess Brown is a designer of handmade rag dolls and a women's clothing and accessories line. Her distinctive Jess Brown rag dolls are available in shops around the world, and each doll is unique and cut and sewn to order. The Jess Brown rag dolls have been featured in major print and digital media internationally. Jess lives in Petaluma, CA. Learn more about her at [jessbrowndesign.com](http://jessbrowndesign.com). Tristan Davison is an award-winning photographer with over twenty years of experience. He lives in Marin County, CA.

I am so in love with these dolls. I saw them at Land of Nod last a couple years ago and ever since then I have been obsessed with them. I loved getting to read the back story and getting to hear more about the designer, Jess Brown. Seeing the process in which the materials are collected and the dolls are made was absolutely inspiring. I ordered this book on Kindle awhile ago, but I'm going

to be ordering the hardback based on reviews. I do love Kindle, but there is also something about actually having a book in your hands, especially one as lovely as this one. That being said, the pattern offered on Kindle would be much easier to alter (in my opinion) than the pattern provided in the book. I found the pattern downloading directions to be very clear cut and easy to follow. As far as the hair goes, There isn't really a pattern. I went through as many doll photos of hers as I could and just basically tried to copy a similar technique. If anyone has the hair figured out, please share with me!One of my favorite things mentioned in the book was how she uses thrifted clothing for her doll clothes. She uses lots of high quality natural fibers (old cashmere, linen, silk, ect) which for me would be way to expensive to buy those types of fabrics, so I have been on the look out for those types of materials when I go to thrift stores. However, the doll I made is not made with these cool, vintagey materials.The patterns are for a smaller version of the classic Jess Brown dolls, but with the pattern you can alter them to make a smaller, or larger doll. I decided to alter mine and \*try\* to make it look as close to her 22" doll as possible. My daughter loves her doll and I had so much fun making it!

This book will give you all the basic information you will need to make your own rag dolls. Not only that it is a pleasure to view and read about her philosophy behind making the dolls. I love the concept of using fabric from vintage clothing. I had no problem with the patterns even though they are printed on both sides. I used old dress pattern paper I found at a thrift shop and traced her pattern onto the thin pattern paper. It was easy to do and now I reuse the patterns for more dolls. I have made 10 dolls so far. I explored creative ways to make the hair using 100% hand dyed wool. You will need to get a bodkin tool to turn the legs from inside out as they are narrow. Also a pair of hemostats work well too. Pay attention to the quality of stuffing you use as this does make a big difference. The book gives you the groundwork to get started then you can add your own creative ideas once you get the basics down. So much fun to make these dolls. I have given them away as gifts and everyone really loves them! Even men!

This book has a pattern for one doll and her clothes there are good directions for the doll and clothes with the exception on the hair, very little direction and no photos of adding the hair. Doll and clothes are as you can see form the picture on the front simple and unfinished if you like this style then you will love this book if you don't then not so much.

This is a fantastic book! My six year old daughter and I traced the pattern for the rag doll together

and then we pinned it to the fabric( which cost \$2), cut it out and sewed it up. Altogether, it took us about four hours from start to finish. My daughter adores her doll and sleeps with her every night; she even makes her own rag clothes for her. The dolls are charming and simple at the same time. Oh, and this book is a work of art; stunning photographs, it is a visual feast and very well written( not too technical). I love the way Jess is always encouraging the reader to get creative and make something lovely!

Love the book but if you are truly planning on trying to make the doll be prepared for it to take a while. I had to take the patterns to Kinko's tonight because the 2 pages are double sided and can't be used! The pattern makes a doll that is overall much smaller than the usual dolls. Trying to invert the skinny arms on the pattern, even with a chopstick, is almost impossible! I'd suggest upsizing your doll 1/2" all the way around so it is much easier to invert. I guess the clothes would likely need to be upsized, too! Frustrating pattern but I still love the book!

This book is great for inspiration. The pattern, however , is not so good. I have other doll patterns that are far superior to this one. If I were reviewing the book alone my rating might be a bit higher. Just be aware when you order it that the pattern will more than likely be useless.

Such a well written and darling book. Bought it to make dolls for my baby girl and my niece. Pattern is just what I needed! Love this book!

This is a great book, the photographs are so inspiring that it makes you want to start right away cutting and sewing; the only thing I didn't like is that the patterns are printed back to back, so you can't just cut them, you'll have to make photocopies first.

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