

#2 Miss Annie Sweet & her Sheep

Supply List:

- 1 Yard Osnaburg or Muslin
- 1/2 Yard Dress Fabric
- 6" or scrap piece of crocheted or lace trimming
- Doll Needle/long needle
- DMC Floss Red or Rust, Ecru or White, Black
- Acrylic Paint, Barn Red
- Stiff artists brush/stencil brush
- Button for dress (optional)
- Small bit of Sweet Annie (optional)
- Rusty Pin(optional)
- Sheeps Wool
- Felting Needle or needle & thread
- Wool Yarn for Doll Hair
- Disappearing/water soluble sewing pen
- Instant Coffee or Tea and Cinnamon
- Polyfil

Fine Country Living Primitives

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Enjoy!

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****Please read all instructions and assemble all materials and tools before starting any project!****

BODY

Trace out one body onto doubled osnaburg (or use muslin if you wish) and add 6 more inches to the bottom of the pattern for the doll's torso. **To make it more prim looking, I like to use black thread even though I am only staining the doll....the black thread gives it a more primitive feel! Sew on the traced lines leaving the bottom open and clip all corners and curves. Turn right side out and begin stuffing the doll firmly with polyfil.

Trace two arms and two legs on doubled osnaburg (or muslin). Sew on traced lines and clip all curves and corners. Turn right side out and stuff legs and to fill lines on the arms and sew closed. Attach arms to the shoulders by hand stitching and insert legs into the open bottom of the body, pin them in place and sew opening closed.

Next, we need to handstitch/sculpt the fingers on her hands. If you wish, you can draw lines on her hands to use as a guide. Using a strand of thread and a needle, needle sculpt the fingers pulling tight as you stitch.

FACE

Using a disappearing/water soluble pen, draw on her eyes, eyelashes, and even her nose and lips if you wish. Using a long length of black floss, and stitching with a satin stitch, fill in the pupils of her eyes as indicated on the pattern. I usually tie a knot at one end and enter through the top of her head come out at her pupil....the knot will be hidden later by her hair. When finished with her pupils, use the same long strand of floss and make her eyelashes. Then pull the strand either through the top of the head and knot off or take it down into her chest (where the dress will hide it) to knot off.

Next, take a long length of ecru or white floss and do the same with her iris of her eyes, only this time, make the satin stitches from the outside of the circle to the edge of the pupil and continue around in a circle. It doesn't have to be perfect, she is primitive after all, but this gives her a well defined eye. Exit through the top of the head and knot off.

Next is her nose and mouth. Using the red or the rust colored floss, primly stitch her nose and her lips. I tried to make a "heart" shape for her lips freehand and then added the little lines on each side for her "grin". This gave her a nice primitive smile! Exit through the top of her head or down into her chest and knot off.

STAINING

Mix a coffee mixture of 1 teaspoon instant coffee to one cup of warm water. I also like to add a splash of vanilla and a touch of molasses (but only if baking the doll to make it prim, otherwise it will be sticky). (I usually use leftover coffee from that morning ☺). With a sponge brush, stain your entire doll. Reserve the remaining coffee stain mix to use later for staining her dress. Sprinkle her lightly with cinnamon and rub it in. Bake your doll at a low temp to prim her up using the instructions on the Tips and Tricks sheet.

When Miss Annie Sweet is dry, paint on her rosy cheeks using the barn red paint and using the dry brush technique. Dip your stiff brush into the paint and wipe most of it off onto a paper towel. Then, using a circular motion, paint on her cheeks. Make them as rosy as you wish...

Also, using the same dry brush technique and the barn red paint, stripe her legs as indicated on the pattern.

DRESS

Trace bodice onto fabric making sure to place the pattern on the folds where indicated on pattern. Cut slit for neck opening where indicated on pattern. Topstitch or hand stitch/tack the crocheted lace piece all around the neckline for her collar.

Cut or tear two pieces of fabric 12L" X 24W" for the skirt. Machine gather the fabric along the 24" side so that it matches up to the bodice. ~Trick~ I turn my stitch length to my longest length and stitch straight across the fabric. I then pull the fabric along the threads to gather the fabric. This also makes it easy to adjust the width to match the bodice. Just remember to reset your stitch length back to your normal setting before you continue on! With right sides together, sew your skirt pieces onto your bodice. Right sides together again, you may now stitch your arm seams, along the bodice and down the skirt sides. Clip your corners and turn your dress right sides out. I soaked my dress in my leftover mixture of coffee stain for about an hour. I then took it out, wrung most of the excess stain solution out and sprinkled a few granules of instant coffee onto the crocheted lace and dress then let them soak into the wet fabric. This gives the "just out of the attic" look to your doll's clothing. Bake your dress in the oven at a low temp (see Tips and Tricks sheet) or skip this step altogether if you wish, but I prefer the stained look of her clothes.

Put dress on doll and using a strand of floss, handgather the neck opening closed. You may wish to add a vintage button for an added touch as I have done.

I have added a small bouquet of Sweet Annie to her dress. I simply tied a few sprigs of the herb with a little bit of yarn that I am using for her hair. I simply pinned it to her chest with a rusty safety pin. This is optional, but I think it adds a little something special...afterall, her name is Miss Annie Sweet! :-)

HAIR

Cut 50 lengths of wool yarn about 4 inches long. (you may need more or less depending on how thick/thin you want her hair) Using two strands of yarn at a time, handstitch them to her head tacking them down as you go with matching thread. As you tack down one set of strands, lay down the next set and continue to tack them down all the way around her head from one side to the other. I took a scrap piece of fabric from her dress material and tied a bow into a few strands of her hair.

SHEEP

Annie Sweet wouldn't be complete without her sheep! Trace him onto double muslin (or osnaburg) and sew on the trace line leaving open where indicated on pattern. Cut out, trim excess, clip curves and turn. Stuff with polyfil and sew opening closed. Paint his face black and let dry. Using sheeps wool, I needle felted wool all over him except I left his pretty black face exposed. If you don't have a felting needle, you may handstitch wool onto him. Gloria Lowell from Lowells Country Gifts (she's on ebay and patternmart.com) usually carries a variety of sheeps wool that is cleaned and ready to use and most of the time offers FREE felting needles with the wool! I love needle felting and he only takes minutes to make using the needle felting technique. I also have sheeps wool on my website for sale, but in limited quantities and colors as available.

You are all done! Tuck her sheep under her arm and she is ready for that special place in your heart and your home! Don't forget to sign and date your completed work of art so that everyone for generations to come will know her creator!

Blessings and Enjoy! Mary Jo Elliott

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~Read all instructions and be sure to have all materials and tools necessary before you begin this project.
~Tracing line is the sewing line unless otherwise stated on pattern.

~TIPS AND TRICKS~

These tips and tricks are what I have found that work for me. You will develop your own sense of "prim" as you learn and probably already have a few tricks up your sleeve already! ☺

Painting

~Paint your project as per individual instructions using watered down acrylic paint unless otherwise stated in the pattern. You can wait for your project to air dry, or if you are impatient as I am, bake in a low temp oven on a sheet of kraft paper, turning until dry. My own special secret for drying fast....I have a very old, very large food dehydrator that has a high setting. These work great if you happen to have a food dehydrator specifically for your crafts.

Sanding

~Once you paint your project, the best way to prim it up is to carefully sand it. Use a very fine sandpaper, or my Favorite Tool.....an emery board used for acrylic nails! This works great for getting in between fingers and toes and in the nooks and crannies!
~Be sure to sand carefully as not to sand right through the fabric....if you do, that's okay, just mend with a prim stitch or two and it will just add to the charm!
~Sand here and there, not completely even so it looks as if some areas have more wear than others and gives it a great time-worn look!

Staining Mix and Baking

~My staining mix varies with each project. For a lighter stain, I use a mixture of two tablespoons instant coffee with ¼ cup of water with a splash of vanilla extract OR leftover cold coffee from the morning with the vanilla extract. If you want a darker stain, I heat up the coffee mixture in the microwave and add a teaspoon of molasses stirring well until blended. Only use the molasses in the mixture if you plan on baking the project so that it isn't sticky afterward! This will give you a nice dark stain.
~I prefer using an a sponge brush for all of my basic painting and staining methods.
~For an even staining, you can paint the project with the staining mix and let air dry. For a "mottled" and very prim look, you may bake the project in the oven. Be sure to use a lower temperature, such as 180 degrees, and you may even wish to leave the oven door ajar just a bit. **WATCH IT CLOSELY TO AVOID BURNING or FIRE!** Turn the project every few minutes to prevent scorching. IF you want it REALLY prim....I have allowed the project to sit on a metal cookie sheet and scorch lightly, but you must be VERY careful!
~Feel free to sand your project again after the paint, sand and stain process....make it as prim as you wish!

Neck opening |

↑ FOLD

BODICE: Cut one on double fold

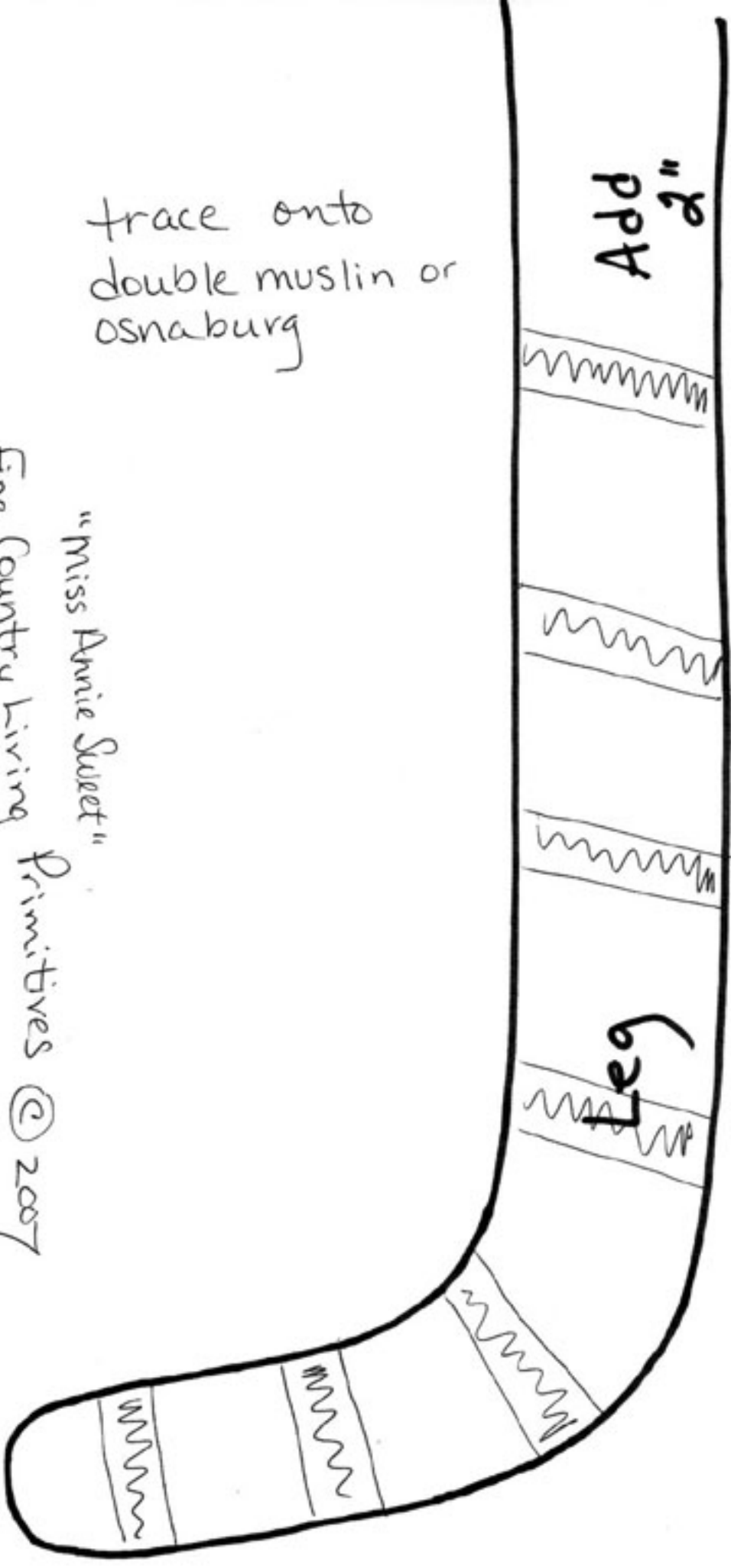
← FOLD

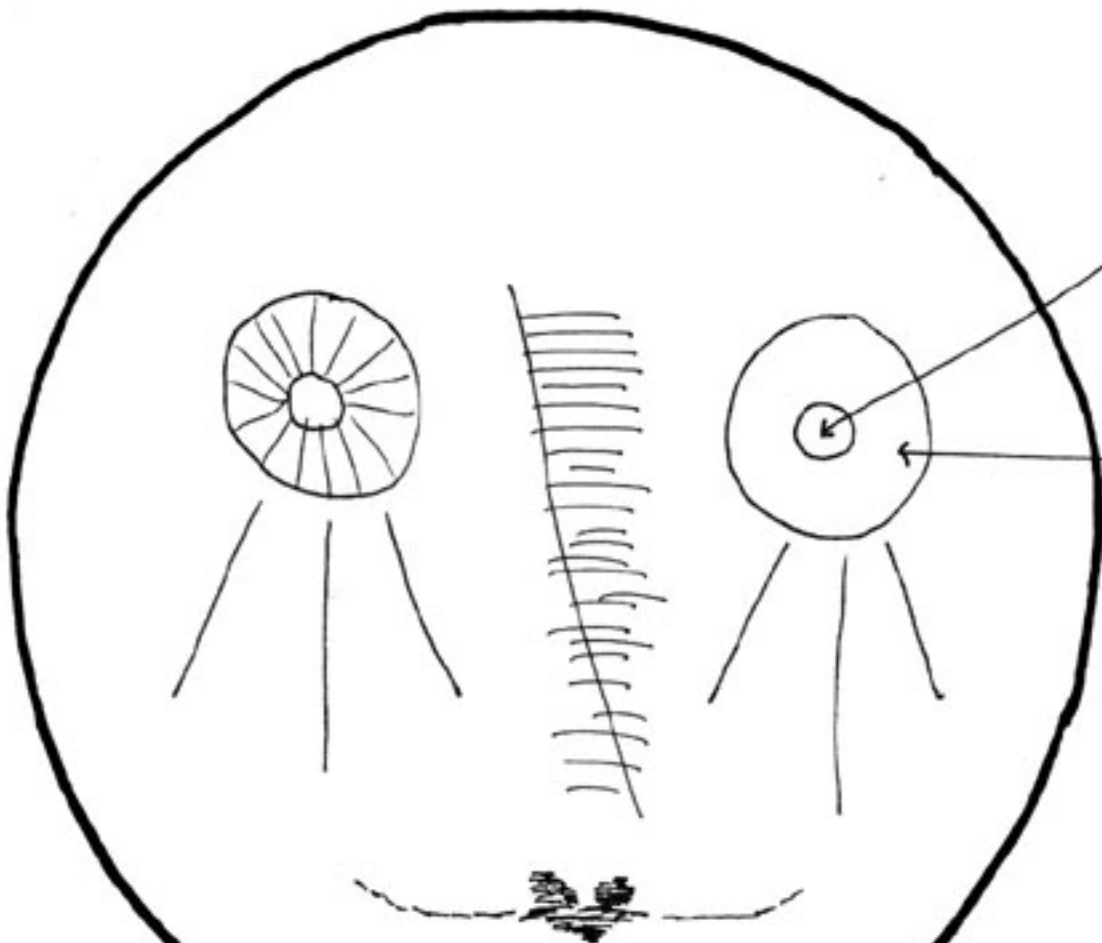


Skirt:
 cut 2 pieces
 12" L x 24" W

trace onto
double muslin or
osnaburg

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Black Floss
White/Ecru Floss

Trace onto double muslin or Osnaburg

BODY "A"

* Extend Body 6" + leave bottom open

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