

POPPETS

also known as Traditional Handkerchief Dolls

Also commonly known as pew dolls or church dolls, poppets were popular toys for young girls to take to church. During the American Colonial period, church lasted all day and children became antsy trying to be quiet for such a long period of time. A poppet could entertain them, but if it was dropped it would not make any disruptive noise.

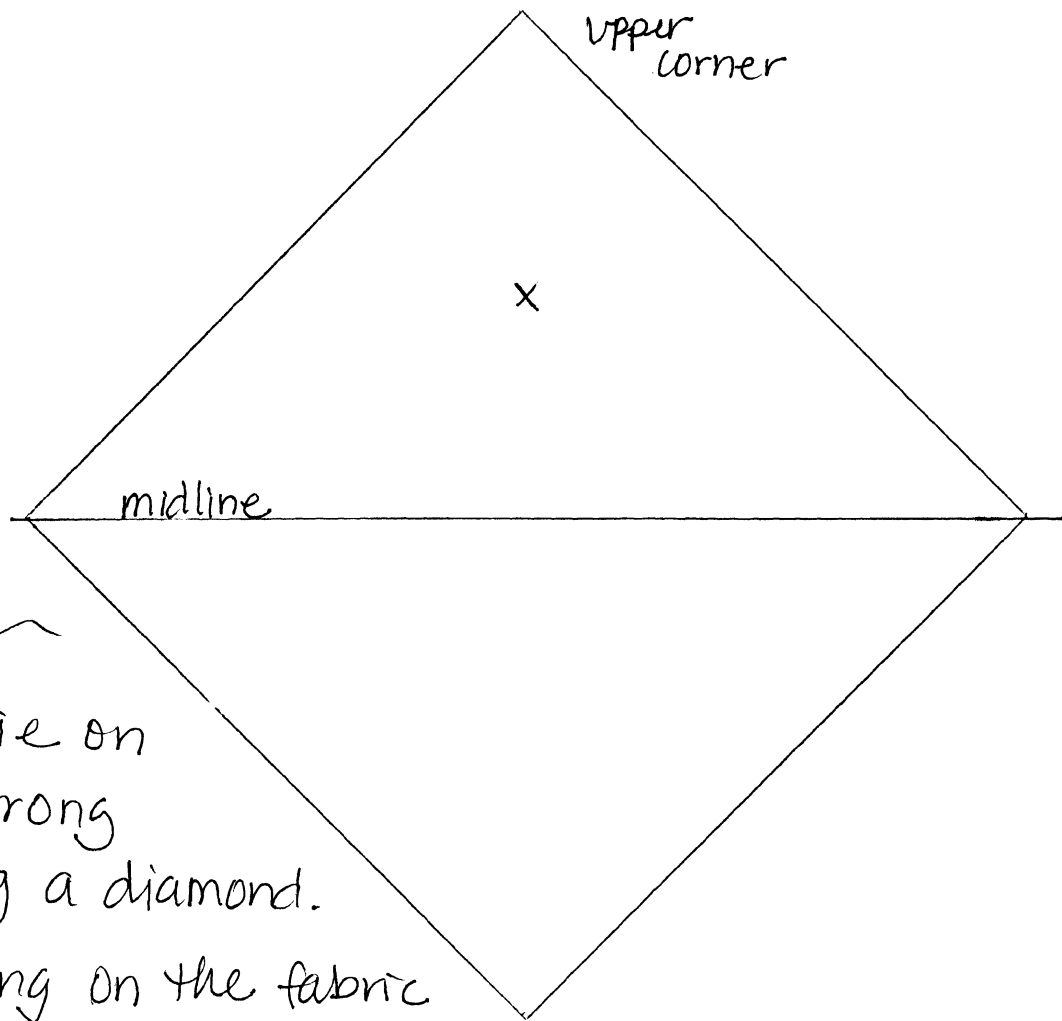
The notions for a poppet are simple and in the most rustic form a poppet may consist of a fabric square knotted at three corners, forming a head and two arms. More commonly, a small bit of stuffing is used in the head and then bound by thread, ribbon or yarn. Any type and color of fabric can be used, but you may best recognize a poppet made from a handkerchief.

The handkerchief of yesterday was larger than the pocket ones we are familiar with today. It could have evolved from a *fichu* – a decorative piece of fabric women used around their necks for modesty or warmth – or more likely from a kerchief, which is a triangular piece of fabric worn around the head for warmth, protection, or decoration. At some point in history, a kerchief was designed to be held in the hand, and the handkerchief was born. Early handkerchiefs were not of the uniform square sizes we are familiar with today. It wasn't until 18th century France when King Louis XVI decreed that the length and width of a handkerchief would be equal. The square handkerchief has dominated ever since.

Follow the instructions on the other side of this sheet to make your own poppet!

Needs

- 1 square hankie or other fabric
- cotton batting, enough to make a 1 1/2" ball
- thread
- pen or embroidery



1. lay your hankie on a flat surface, wrong side up, forming a diamond.
2. place the batting on the fabric about 1/2 way between the upper corner and the midline (marked w/ the "x")
3. fold the upper corner over, bringing the corner at least to the midline or just past it.
4. Carefully gather the hankie around the batting to make a neck. Tie with thread. Be sure the left and right corners are not caught.
5. Pull the left corner out and tie it in a knot. Don't pull to tight. Repeat on right corner. These are the arms.
6. Turn the doll so the front faces you. Draw or embroider closed eyes.

