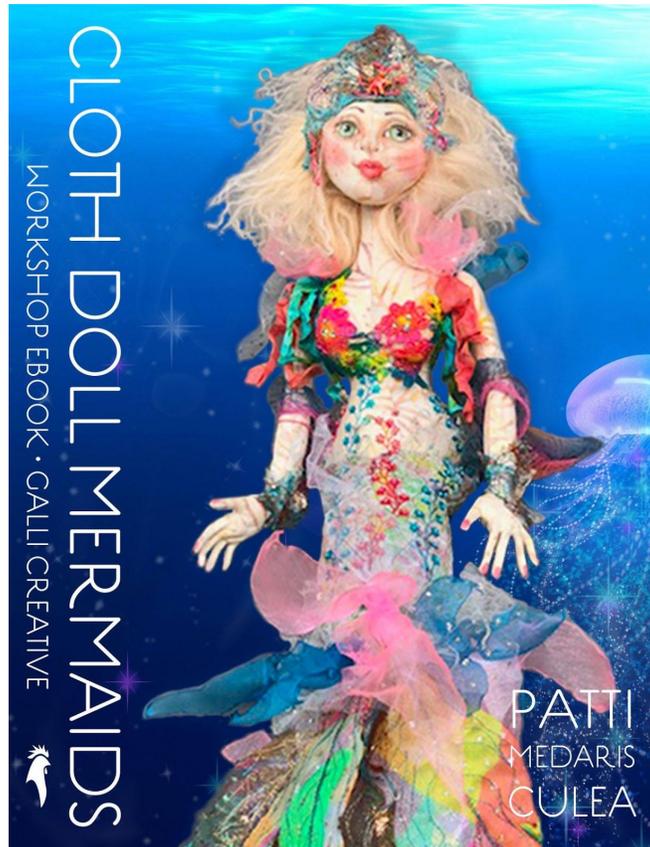


# Cloth Doll Mermaids

## WORKSHOP eBOOK

### SAMPLER



## Oceane, Keeper of the Starfish 20-inch Art Cloth Doll & Perch

Instructions by  
Patti Medaris Culea

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Andrew Galli

[www.gallicreative.com](http://www.gallicreative.com)



*Oceane, Keeper of the Starfish, 20-inch Art Cloth Doll,  
Perch and Pin Cushion*

## CLOTH DOLL MERMAIDS

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## Introduction



*Watch Video → "Introduction"*

I have been intrigued by Mermaids my whole life. Even as a child watching movies or visiting aquatic parks seeing women in mermaid swim costumes I knew that's what I wanted -- to be a mermaid! Of course we grow up and we forget many of our childhood dreams, but one of the magical things about making dolls is the opportunity to relive those moments as we draw, sew, stuff, paint and embroider our handmade creations.

Oceane (a name given by my daughter to the mermaid project) is a doll that was inspired by several conversations I had with my film producer, Andrew Galli, over the years. I think it began by me telling him about my time as a flight attendant and then the work I did for Aloha AirLines; all the time I spent in Hawaii both for work and for fun! I recall Andrew saying, "let's make a mermaid movie in Hawaii!" and of course ... we never did.



Years later we met again and the conversation came up -- “why did we never make that mermaid doll workshop?”. We both agreed that we didn’t actually need to go to Hawaii to make it; maybe just by having a child-like spirit and a bit of fantasy and creative spark we could muster up a bit of the ukulele sounds, the feel of sea salt from the surf, and a warm, sunny day at the beach right at home in my craft studio.



So Andrew and I would like to welcome you to “Cloth Doll Mermaids” -- our latest doll workshop and my latest creation. I have made many mermaids for book projects and otherwise over the years, but something tells me that Oceane is going to be one of my favorites; I hope she will be yours, too!

Before we get started — a request...please read through the entire eBook and if possible, watch the video lessons in entirety before beginning your project. I do tend to jump around at times and offer some important advice often after the assembly of a part or use of a tool, so you may want to use the opportunity to go through all the materials before you get started to ensure the best possible outcome.

Enjoy!

*Patti Medaris Culea*

San Diego, California

## Things You Will Need



Watch Video → "Things you will Need"

*In this section we will talk about fabrics and why I prefer cotton batik fabrics for doll bodies. We explore which stuffing to use, as well as the threads and necessary tools. We show all the materials used in this workshop – laces, dyes, paints, stamps, beads, etc., and offer some tips and advice on getting started.*

On my website I have a Resources Page that provides a lot of options for where to find the things you will need for this workshop. For batik fabrics, there are many suppliers these days and I recommend that you do spend some time finding the right fabrics for your Oceane because that will be important towards getting the results you are looking for.

Some batik fabrics have distinct patterns and are fine as they are for providing guides for your embroidery and beadwork. Others are more plain and you may prefer to use a stamp as I demonstrate in the workshop in order to get a distinct pattern to follow for her body artwork. Plain fabric is suitable as well however will not provide the same amount of character to your finished Oceane so for this doll I do recommend having some fun locating the right batiks for your project.

In the Resources Folder I have included a PDF entitled "CDM-Workshop Materials List".

I suggest you print it out and use it as a checklist before you start the project and workshop as you may have many of the things you need already. Then take it with you when you go to the store or use it when you order online for a checklist of all the many things you will want to have to make Oceane.



## Things you will Need - Supplies

(The information presented here is the same information as presented in the Materials List.)

- Fat quarter 100% cotton batik fabric for the body
- Fat quarter 100% cotton batik for the tail
- 5 fat quarters 100% cotton batik for the starfish
- ¼-yard tulle (fine netting) for tail, flukes and wrist cuffs
- ¼-yard each of 3 colors organza for embellishments.
- 12-inch piece of Angelina film
- 2 colors Angelina Fiber
- Scraps of fancy, lacy fabrics
- 1 roll beading wire
- Stencils and rubber stamps
- 3 yards 16-gauge galvanized steel wire.
- Wire cutters and needle nosed pliers
- 7 pipe cleaners for fingers and neck
- Threads to match body for machine sewing
- Strong thread for sculpting and putting body together
- Decorative threads for flukes, embellishments
- 3 colors size 11 seed beads (20 grams each).
- Heat fix crystals in 4mm size
- 3 colors 4mm round crystals for centers of beaded starfish
- 20 grams drop beads in colors to match your theme
- Beading needles in size 10
- Beading thread in a neutral color
- Accent beads for embellishing her head piece – I found a starfish for Oceane
- Good quality stuffing – I prefer Fairfield's Polyfil
- Stuffing and turning tools
- Fibers for her hair – I used Tibetan lamb

- 3 Yards Rayon bias ribbon
- Embroidery thread in two colors
- Lace trim for her bodice
- Lace doily for the starfish
- Colored pencils for coloring her face – Sienna Brown, Carmine Red, Crimson Red, White, plus colors for her eyes
- Permanent pens such as Micron Pigma for detailing face and finger nails – nib sizes .005 and .01 in brown, black, red
- Mechanical pencil and eraser
- 9-mm reloading shot (found at gun shops) or dried beans. If using dried beans, like lentils, put some whole cloves in the bag you'll make later. This prevents the beans from getting buggy. I also like putting a cotton ball inside just in case Oceane gets too close to moisture. Of course, if she were a real mermaid that would not be a problem. Plus, she wouldn't need to weight in her butt to help her sit well.
- 1 nylon stocking to make a bag for the shot or beans
- Fairfield plastic beads – small bag is all you'll need. If you can't find these lentils work well.
- Procion MX dyes in colors of choice.
- Soda Ash Sodium Bicarbonate (Baking Soda)
- Urea
- Faber Castell Gelatos
- Stencil brushes
- Various hand sewing needles which should include #7 long darners (sometimes called doll sculpting needles),
- Embroidery needles
- Sewing machine and basic sewing supplies

**Regarding materials:**

For Oceane's headpiece -- I had a small starfish laying around that I was able to use for the center. You might look for a button or small inexpensive piece of jewelry that is a starfish or something you prefer.

For Oceane's weighted backside -- If you plan to use dried beans like lentils instead of gun shot, put some whole cloves in the bag you'll make later. This prevents the beans from attracting insects or getting smelly. I also like putting a cotton ball inside the bag just in case Oceane gets too close to moisture. Of course, if she were a real mermaid that would not be a problem. Plus, she wouldn't need the weight in her butt to help her sit well!

Fairfield plastic beads – a small bag is all you'll need. If you can't find these, lentils work well.

**Important -- before starting:**

1. You'll find the pattern pieces a bit different from the average pattern out there. I recommend using a light box or window to trace the pattern pieces onto the wrong side of the fabric. This guarantees proper sizing of all body parts. Making separate templates from card-stock can add to the size.
2. Note those pieces that are sewn before they are cut out. This includes the profile of the face and back of head. Also, the arms and hands are sewn before they are cut out.
3. When sewing the fingers, lower the stitch length on your machine to either 1.5 or 1.8. Be sure you sew two stitches in between each finger and two across the tip of each finger. This helps in turning the fingers.
4. When starting out at the neck, wrists, and chin backstitch. This prevents these areas splitting when you are putting the pieces together and filling with stuffing.
5. To plump up her bust, leave the top of the neck open. After closing up the back, push stuffing down through the neck opening into the bust.
6. Use an open toed sewing machine foot. On a Bernina I use the #37 or #57. This foot helps you see the pencil marks. This is especially important when sewing the fingers.
7. When tracing pattern pieces onto the wrong side of the fabric's chosen, use a colored pencil in a darker shade. This is especially important when tracing the head pieces and hand pieces. Sometimes a lead pencil shows through. A colored pencil in a similar color won't show on the right side.
8. You'll see Notes in bold throughout the pattern. These are important to read. They include tips I learned while making this doll and other dolls.

## Laying out the Pattern

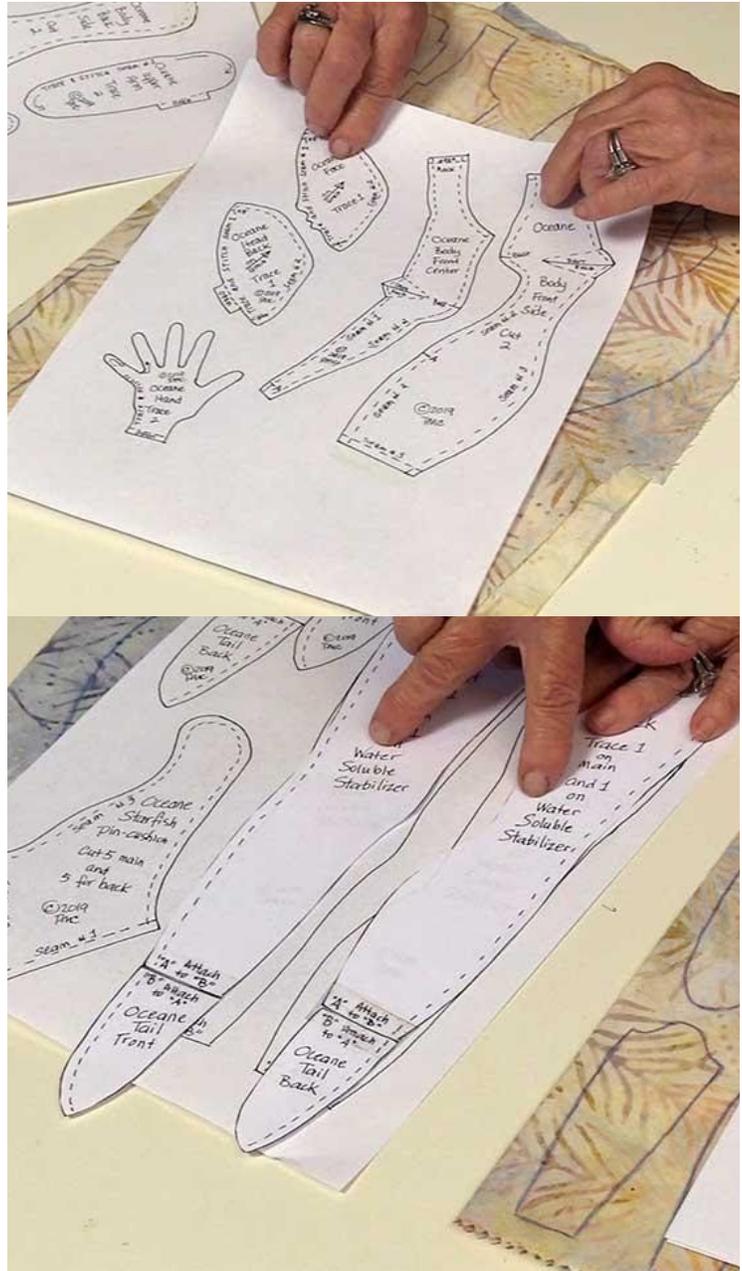


Watch Video → "Laying out the Pattern"

*Note: Please remember to tape the tail pieces of paper together before tracing the tail on the fabric. The video provides information about this step. The doll pattern is available as a separate PDF file named 'Oceane Doll Pattern'. Note the square with the unit of 1 inch measure. Print the pattern out first "as it is", and measure the square. If it is the same as 1 inch on your ruler, great! If it is larger or smaller than 1 inch, please adjust your printer output to size it accordingly and measure again to confirm.*

**Instructions:**

1. Trace all the body parts onto the wrong side of the fabric chosen; double the fabric, pin in several places and sew those parts that are sewn before cutting out. These are the profile of the face, (seam #1); back of head (seam #1), upper and lower arms (leaving open where marked), hands, and seam #1 on Body Back Center.
2. Cut out all of the pieces. When you come to the hands leave a scant 1/8-inch seam allowance and cut a “v” in between each of the fingers so that you won’t have any wrinkling. Lay hands + arms aside for now.
3. Open up the Face and Head Back and pin, RST (right sides together), at the top and chin. Sew all the way around seam #2. Clip curves and lay aside. CDM-31
4. Before sewing the darts on the body parts flip those pieces over and using the light box, or window, trace the darts. Remove the pins and sew all the darts. This includes the darts on the bust on the body front side and body front center, plus the darts on the body back side at the bottom. This gives her a nice round area so she’ll sit well.



The next few instructions you’ll follow along with the video. I show how to put the various body parts together, plus the details. These instructions are for you to refer to once you viewed the steps in the video. If you get stuck somewhere, go back to the video. I’m a visual person, but I also like some written instructions so I know I’m doing it all correctly. But, don’t forget, this is your doll. You’ll be adding your own personal touches to Oceane. I can’t wait to see what you do with her. Okay, onward we go...