

# Half Doll

## Molds and Supplies



# Welcome to the world of Half Dolls

When people first get into half dolls, besides the obvious question of “What half doll molds do you sell”?, there are always tons of other questions. To that end, we have put together this half doll catalog in order to introduce you to the other products we carry that you can use on half dolls that you might not be aware of. At the end of the catalog will be photos of the molds we carry by size.

## WHAT SLIP SHOULD I CHOOSE?

The first thing to consider when doing half dolls is the slip that you want to use. The original antiques were done in white with everything done in china paints. Of course the variety of china paints back then was limited compared to what we now have. If you are wanting to do your dolls in white we recommend either Magnolia White (natural white) or Alabaster (blue white) in the Ultra Chic line.

However there are a lot of people who also cast their dolls in flesh so that they don't have to do a wash on the face and arms. If you are casting in flesh you want a pale flesh. The two most popular ones according to sales, are Dresden, which is a neutral color, and BJD 1, which is pale flesh with a rose cast to it. Although developed for BJD dolls it works wonderfully on half dolls as well.

## WHAT DO I USE TO PAINT THE CLOTHING, ETC?

If you choose white porcelain then the entire world of china paints is open to you. In order to help with choices here we have developed a limited line of colors specifically for half dolls.

1. Basic Half Doll Kit: This kit includes Basic Flesh, Basic Blush, three hair colors, Black and White. All colors are also available individually.
2. Half Doll Clothing Kit: This kit was made for those who have a hard time coming up with pale colors for clothing on half dolls. It includes Delicate Pink, Yellow, Blue, Green, Peach, Lavender, and Aqua. Again each is available individually.
3. China Glaze: China glaze is just that. A clear china paint (glaze) that fires at a china paint firing. It is perfect to add shine to the lips, eyes, buttons, etc.

If you are casting in a flesh then consider our Designer Strokes for the clothing. Designer

strokes can be used on the greenware and fire all the way to a cone 6. They may be left matte or glazed....Your choice. And you may glaze and china paint over them. So it is wide open to you if you use the Designer Strokes.

Something new for half dolls is our Classic Porcelain Colors (Spanish Oils). They are wonderful as a background for china painting on top, or as a background for decals. They are soft and muted in tone. They are applied to the greenware and actually soak into the porcelain so they have a depth of color you can not achieve any other way. Again, they take decals and china paints on top for extreme depth to your half dolls.

### **ONCE I FIRE THE DOLL HOW DO I GLAZE AND WHERE?**

There are several methods of glazing the doll. Of course we recommend our Diamond Clear glaze, which fires anywhere from an 04 to a cone 8 easily.

You also have a choice of whether you want to glaze the entire doll, as most antiques are done, or just parts of the doll, as some modern artists are doing. This is called spot glazing. Most artists who spot glaze are leaving the flesh areas without glaze and some are even leaving the hair unglazed. Simply use a brush and apply two coats to where you want the glaze. Allow it to dry and fire only to cone 04-03. If you fire much hotter than this the glaze will travel past where you want it and your flesh will come out sort of glazed as well. Glaze travels a great deal on porcelain at high temperatures.

If you choose to glaze the entire doll then simply spray or brush two coats on the doll and fire to a cone 3-4 which is a hotter temperature., and better for overall shine.

### **WHAT COMES NEXT?**

If you are using decals, this is the time to do those. There are two theories on decals. The first is that they fire very cool and should be done last, but we learned years ago that for a decal to look as if it was hand painted on the doll and is not a decal it needs to fire hotter. Fire the decal to a cone 015. Glaze begins to soften at a cone 017, so firing to this hotter temperature allows the decal to fire down into the glaze. The decal will have more depth and be permanent. Thus allowing you to fire to many china paint firings without doing any harm to the decal. We suggest that you even fire your gold at this time and to this temperature so that it fires down into the glaze to protect it and allow it to keep its shine.

## HOW DO I FINISH THE DOLL AFTER THE DECAL?

Now you're ready to china paint and we have you covered there with almost 200 china paint colors, including soft pearls, metallic shimmers and even fired china paint glitters. You have two methods depending on whether you used white or flesh slip.

**Method with white porcelain slip:** After you have done your glaze, gold and decal your next step is to use the basic flesh in the kit and do a wash on your skin areas. Use this step if you glazed over all or if you spot glazed. Paint the flesh and then use a very soft blushing brush and blush out the china paint until you get a soft flesh color. You may also paint the hair at this stage and blush it out. Fire your doll.

The next step is to paint the clothes, if you have not used Designer Strokes or Spanish Oils. If you have used either of these then use a contrasting or deeper color to paint the creases and highlight the clothing, blushing out these highlights. If you did not block in color then you can block in the clothing first, fire, and then highlight.

You may now continue with blushing of cheeks, painting eyes, lips, etc., until the doll is the way you want it to be. You can safely fire good quality porcelain to seven or eight china paint firings so you are only limited by your imagination.

**Method with flesh colored slip:** When using a flesh colored slip then you can skip the flesh wash step completely. You can paint hair and do blushing of the flesh in the first firing. Then continue forward as stated above.

Once your doll is painted the way you want her you are ready to make the skirt (pincushion itself) and decorate it with an overskirt or whatever you desire. The overskirt can be made of most anything that you would like to use. Laces, silks, ribbons, and even cross stitch, which is one of the latest designs in half doll pin cushions. No matter how you decide to make the over skirt you still need the basic form which is pretty much the same with all designs. This basic form is what you will add your doll to before you decorate. The following two pages show the steps that some of our clients use to make the basic skirt form.



Step One: Decide how tall you want your skirt and how big around you want the bottom. Be sure to add about 1/2" to all sides for seams. Cut your circle for the bottom. Measure the circumference of the circle. This will be the length of your strip. Then cut a strip the height you want plus the 1/2" and this length.

Step Two: You need something to weight down the bottom. Either a circle of wood, or layers of cardboard and a metal weight as shown, or some people use a metal jar lid. Your choice basically.

This photo shows the weighted cardboard circles, all glued together and the two metal weights. You want something on the bottom that will keep the doll from falling or rolling over once decorated.



Step 3: Start by folding the strip over onto itself and sew a seam to create a tube.

Step 4: The photo shows how you will pin and then stitch the tube to the circle for the bottom. Once this is done turn it inside out.



Step 5: This photo shows the skirt after you have turned it inside out. You need to fold the top inside and use an iron to make a good crease so that it stays in place. Then run a basting stitch around the top, about 1/4" down. This basting stitch will be used to draw the fabric up around the half doll's waist.

Step 6: This photo shows how you will place the weight in the bottom. Then stuff tightly with fiber fill and you are ready to attach the half doll to the top. Below is an explanation of two ways to add the doll to the skirt.



You are now ready to assemble the doll. These are the two best ways to add the doll.

Method One: Pull the basting stitch until you have a small opening in which you can place the bottom of the doll just inside the opening. Use heavy embroidery thread or upholstery thread to sew it to the skirt opening. You should have four holes in the bottom of the half doll in which to run the thread.

Method Two: This is my favorite. Use bias tape and run it through each hole creating four loops. Pull the basting thread and make the skirt totally closed. You will have a slight bump on the top of the skirt. Sit the doll on this bump allowing the four loops of bias tape to lay nicely on top of the skirt. Stitch them all into place.

No matter what method you choose, you are now ready to create, create, create. Use ribbon, lace, or whatever you desire to create an overskirt.

# Half doll molds we carry.

VM0701	Isabella		4.5" Tall	VM0710	Louise		4" Tall
VM0702	Elizabeth		4.25" Tall	VM0711	Queen Anne		4.5" Tall
VM0703	Nancy		4.25" Tall	VM0712	Antoinette		4.75" Tall
VM0704	Helena		6" Tall	VM0713	Julieann		3.5" Tall
VM0705	Margaret		5.5" Tall	VM0714	Alexis		3.75" Tall
VM0709	Rosie		4" Tall	VM0715	Abigail		3.5" Tall

# Half doll molds we carry.

VMO716	Natalie		5" Tall	VMO723	Diana		4.5" Tall
VMO717	Emma		4.25" Tall	VMO724	Dominique		3.5" Tall
VMO718	Sophie		4.25" Tall	VMO725	Margo		3.5" Tall
VMO719	Ashley		4.5" Tall	VMO726	Martha		3.75" Tall
VMO721	Beatrice		4" Tall	VMO727	Claudia		4" Tall
VMO722	Beth		4" Tall	VMO728	Georgia		4" Tall

# Half doll molds we carry.

VMO729	Roxie		4" Tall	VMO736	Andrea		4.75" Tall
VMO731	Mercedes		4.5" Tall	VMO737	Katherine		4.5" Tall
VMO732	Carmelita		4.5" Tall	VMO738	Coquette		4.5" Tall
VMO733	Millie		4.5" Tall	VMO739	Danielle		4.5" Tall
VMO734	Charity		4.5" Tall	VMO740	Mata Hari		4.5" Tall
VMO735	Gwendolyn		4.5" Tall	VMO741	Doris		4.5" Tall

# Half doll molds we carry.

VMO742	Betty	 A half doll mold of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a green dress and a matching green hat with a large brim. She is holding a small object in her right hand.	3.5" Tall
VMO743	Irene	 A half doll mold of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a blue dress and a blue hat with a large brim. She has her hands on her hips.	3.5" Tall
VMO744	Lillian	 A half doll mold of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a pink dress and a green hat with a large brim. She has her arms crossed.	3.5" Tall
VMO745	Pauline	 A half doll mold of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a green dress and a green hat with a large brim and a pink flower. She is holding a small object in her right hand.	4.5" Tall
VMO901	Anna	 A half doll mold of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a white dress with a pink sash. She is holding a small object in her right hand.	5.5" Tall