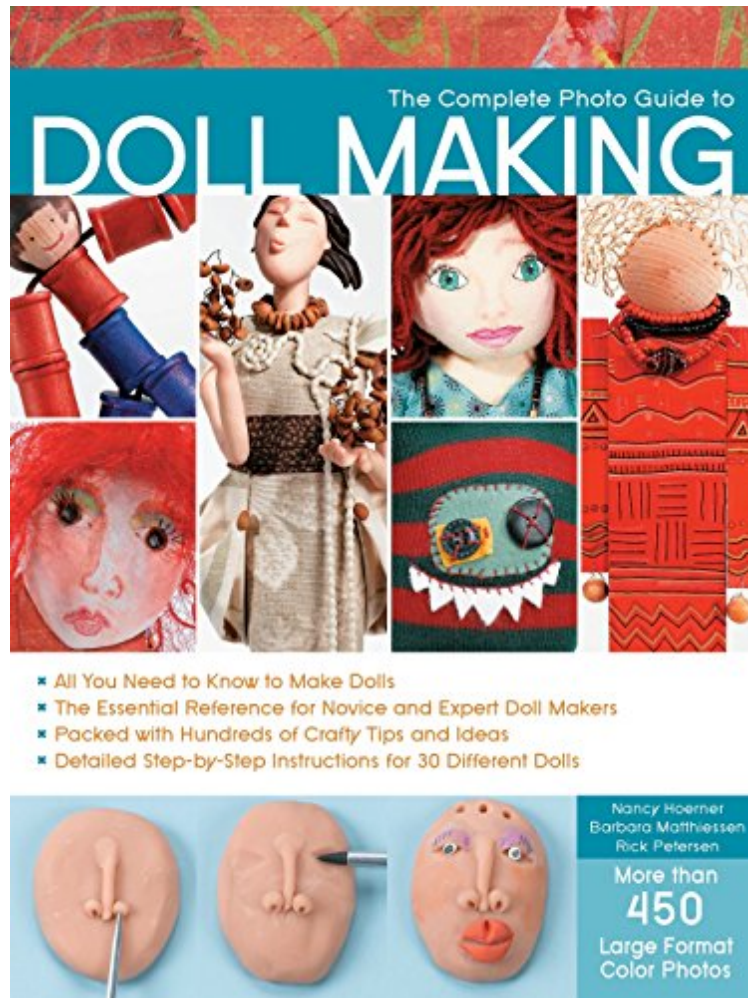


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Barbara Matthiessen, Nancy Hoerner, Rick Petersen
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56 of 57 people found the following review helpful. Some Good information - mostly for beginnersBy Terry WeissI

am giving this 3 stars, although if I could have had two choices I'd give it 4 stars for beginners and 2 stars for experienced doll makers. That said, there are some interesting techniques - especially the crayon on the hotplate face, which I've never seen before - and some of the book dolls were good ideas. Overall, I like the variety of dolls described and thought that was one of the strengths of the book. One thing that bothered me, as a long time cloth doll maker, was the loose weave of the fabric and big machine stitches on the cloth faces shown as examples. One of the first things a cloth doll maker learns is to use a tightly woven, top quality cotton fabric and to use the smallest machine stitches your machine can do without balking. This is so the seams don't pop open when you turn them - and the doll, particularly the head of the doll, doesn't stretch out of shape when stuffed. If you went by the photos - and I saw no text that contradicted this impression - you would think you could use a fairly loosely woven fabric and regular length machine stitches. You will end up frustrated and redoing your doll head many times if you try this. I thought there was a good variety of dolls presented, and the clay hands and feet instructions were quite good - you should be able to learn how to do that process from this book. I would suggest that you track this down in your local library before purchasing it, just to be sure you haven't got this information in other books you already own. If you don't own any at all, you may well be pleased with it. I thought the idea of using lots of photographs of techniques was a good one - but if you really want to learn how to make a good quality doll - particularly cloth, but also clay - buy one of the first two Susanna Oroyan books. They are still the definitive "how-to" books of doll making, and include the whole spectrum of dolls from simple to silly to artsy to rag. Elinor Peace Bailey's DVD is also a good investment if you want to focus on cloth dolls - although it does have a bias towards her own style, it's easy enough to translate to your own style using the basic info. Patti Medaris-Culea's books are also very good - but she makes a certain type of doll and her books are aimed towards that type of cloth doll specifically, with not much variety. The same is true of Barbara Willis' book, her dolls are very "pretty," but she has some great ideas for dressing the dolls. Li Hertzl's book is my favorite for fun and funky dolls, lots of good ideas for going off the beaten path. There are a lot of choices out there, and more due to come out in the next couple of months, so be sure this is what you want before making the purchase unless you are okay with buying all of them.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars
By KH
It's a nice book, but I'll keep looking.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great variety of doll types
By Ms. Lis
I am a true novice at doll making, and this book will help turn me into a pro in no time. My 6-year-old grandchildren are visiting this weekend and we will be making a couple of the art dolls made with sticks. Not that this book is meant for children, but it almost goes without saying that MY grandchildren are exceptional! The book includes a wide variety of types of dolls and it, therefore, a great overview of the genre.

This book is a comprehensive how-to book about all aspects of doll making. It serves as a reference and technique guide for making dolls in a wide variety of styles. Full-size patterns are provided as well as artist galleries for inspiration. The organization provides easy access to information with step-by-step directions and color photos. Other doll-making books focus on one particular doll style. Some are purely inspirational, showing dolls made by other artists and crafters. This book provides complete how-to instruction on all types of dolls.

About the Author
Nancy Hoerner (St. Paul, MN) is an accomplished artist and designer developing her artwork for the past 30 years. She has published art dolls and bead projects in nationally known magazines and studied doll making and beading with renowned artists. Many of her art dolls and bead work are held in private collections. Nancy also works with manufacturers in the craft industry. She is author of *Felt Inlays* (CPI, Spring 08).
Barbara Matthiessen (Port Orchard, WA) had a specialized degree from an interior design school and experience working for a design firm before she entered the industry as a full-time freelance designer. She has written 43 booklets and 3 books, contributed to 22 multi-artist books, and has done countless designs for magazines. While continuing to design for publication, she also works for manufacturers, developing kits, projects sheets, and sales models. Author of *Small Loom and Freeform Weaving*, CPI, spring 08
As a graduate of Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Rick Petersen (Edina, MN) has spent his life creating things. About eleven years ago he discovered polymer clay and has been expressing himself through this medium ever since. Rick has taught doll making, and has had his work published in national magazines, including *Art Doll Quarterly*.