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Invisible Jointing Directions

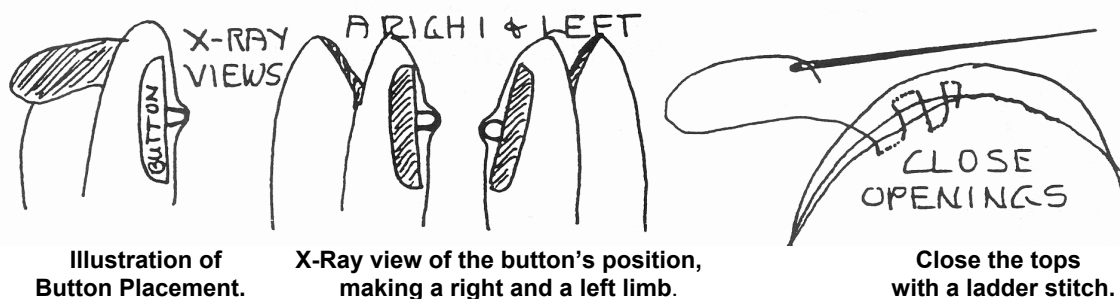
by Judi Ward - ©1980-2005

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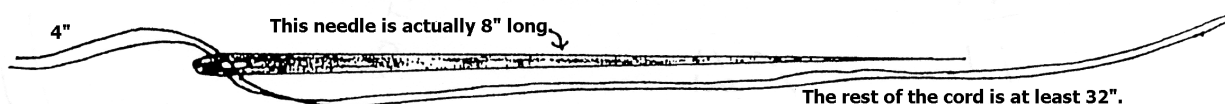
BIG GIANT NOTE TO REMEMBER BEFORE YOU START!!!

The cords go through the body ONLY ONCE!!!

1. Put the closed, metal shank buttons down inside limb tops. Be sure the buttons are placed in the inner side of the limbs. The shank of the button will push against the dolls "skin". Don't put stuffing between the shank side of the button and the "skin". You do need to have the other side of the limb stuffed very firmly, all the way to the top. REMEMBER, you need a right and a left leg and arm! The edge of the button needs to be almost even with the seam allowance at the top of the limb. Don't push the button way down in the limb.
2. Close the opening in the limbs with a ladder stitch, adding cotton balls as you close to make it easier to make nice smooth closings.



3. When you get to the end of the closing, bring your needle out near the button, and stitch in place there, rather than at the end of the seam. This way, the stitching in place, to secure your stitching, will be hidden after your doll is jointed.
4. With all of the limbs fully stuffed and closed, you are ready to joint your doll. Thread 2, ONE-YARD long strands of heavy nylon cord.... OR ... 4, One-Yard long strands of nylon dental floss onto your big jointing needle. Pull it through eye of the needle only about 4", leaving the rest of the cord long. A needle sculpture needle won't work for this. You need a big, fat, at least 8" long jointing needle.



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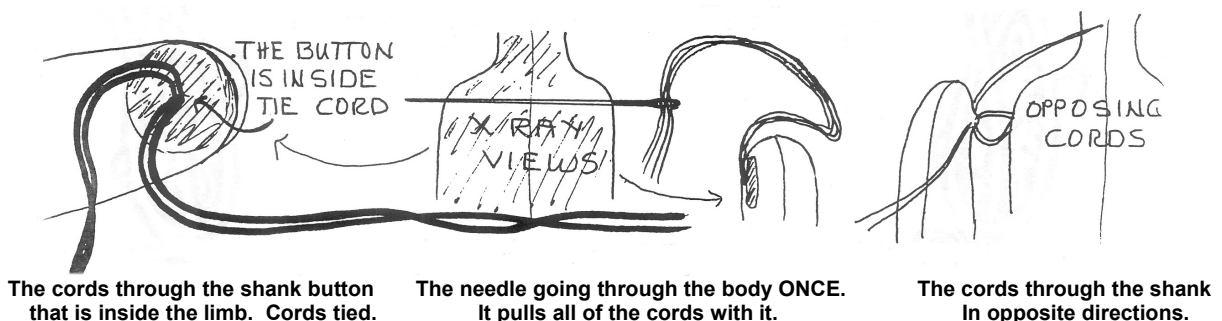
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5. NOW, Put the needle through the shank of the button for one limb, then pull it ½ way through and tie it in a knot. Remember, the shank is inside the limb, but you can see the bump of the shank makes in the fabric, so you can see where to put the needle through.
6. NOW, With the cords through the shank, put the limb up against the body side to see where the limb should be located, before you put the needle and cords through the body. The arms should be placed so they make a nice shoulder line. The legs need to be low on the body so your doll is not "spraddle legged". If you feel the need to, you can mark where the shank touches the body side, and put the needle in at the mark.
7. NOW, put all 4 (or 8) cord ends through the eye of your jointing needle, and pull them only a little ways through. (4")
8. NOW, put the big jointing needle through the body, twisting as you push. (I work from my right to my left. You may be more comfortable working from your left to your right.) Sometimes it is quite hard to get the needle through the body. Don't get frustrated!! Don't panic. It goes through with the twisting motion and a little patience. Think Happy Thoughts, and think "this too shall pass" as you are twisting and pushing at the same time. If you timed this process, I know it wouldn't be longer than 30 seconds, but it seems like an eternity until that needle point pops out the other side of the body! Think of it as "drilling" it's way through, and the drilling takes a little time.

...VERY, VERY HELPFUL HINT...

Don't try to jam the needle through. It will jam stuffing ahead of it, and be impossible to get through.

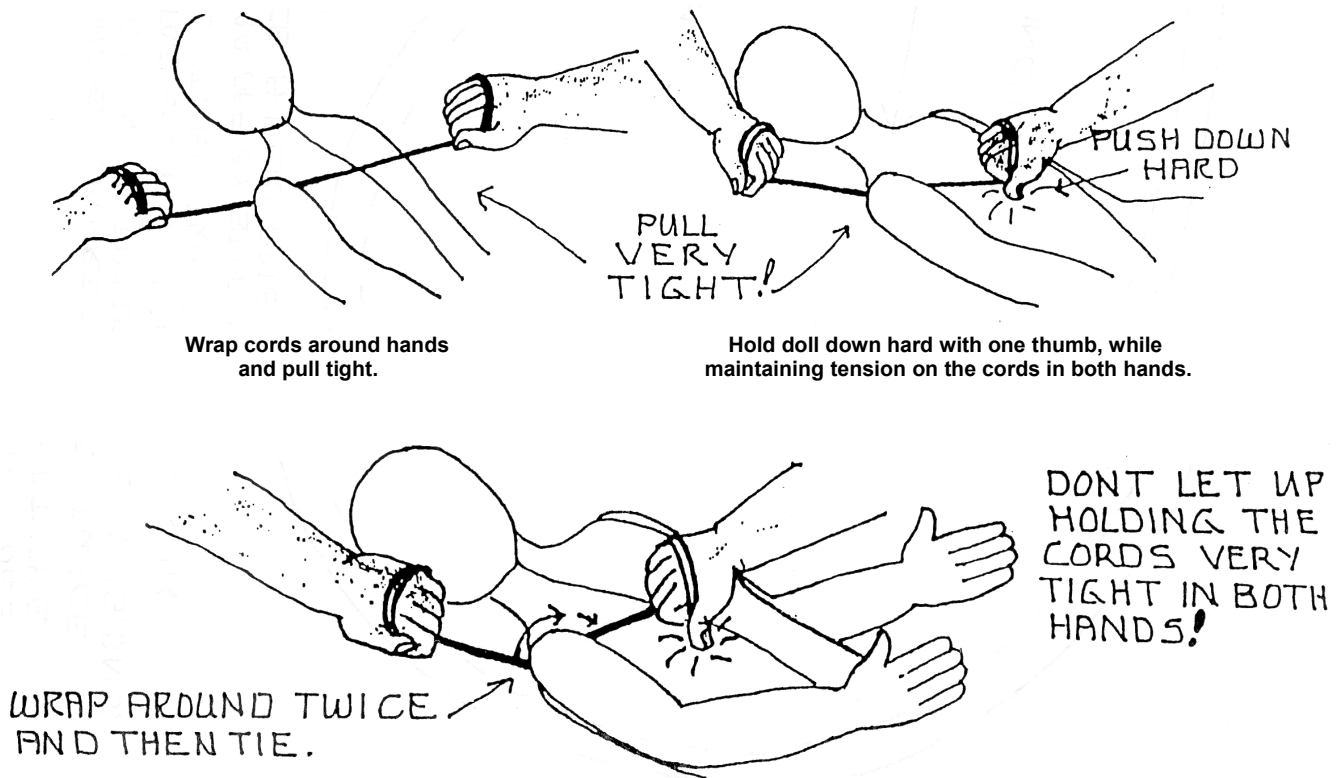
9. NOW, take ½ of the cords out of the needle, and put the other ½, that are still through the needle, through the shank of the button in the other limb, from the left to the right. Take the needle off.
10. NOW, Take the other ½ of the cords, thread them through the needle, and put them through the shank of the button from the right to the left. The cords must be coming out of the shank in opposite directions so you can pull them tight and tie them.



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11. NOW, you can pull the cords very tightly, because they are opposing, and pull the limbs in firmly against the body. BUT, YOU SAY, OH DEAR! How can you keep the tight while I tie them? I have no one here to sit on this doll! Here's how. It's easy, and you can do it all by yourself! You should have plenty of cord to wrap around your hands for pulling. YOU DIDN'T CHEAT, AND CUT SHORTER CORDS THAN 1 YARD TRYING TO SAVE CORD DID YOU? (If you don't have enough cord to wrap around your hands you won't be able to pull the cords tight enough.)

12. Pull the cores tight, then with one thumb, hold your doll's body down firmly on a table, while wrapping the cords that are tightly held in the other hand, around between the body and the limb. You only need to wrap it around twice, and it will hold the limb tightly in place. Now you can tie the cords in a square knot between the body and the limb. I like to tie them twice. Cut the ends of the cords, but no right at the knots. Poke the loose ends into the area between the body and the limb. See the following illustrations.



Quickly, wrap the cords around twice, between the body and the limb, then tie twice in square knots. The limbs will be tight and will hold a position, if you have stuffed very firmly and jointed very tightly.

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