

Replacing Broken Fingers

By Serenity of Serenity's Dolly Rehab

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We have all seen them. The poor Barbie's that are reduced to the dumpster simply because of a missing appendage or two. Well no more. I say let's liberate these sad beauties from a fate of stinking decomposition. The time has come to free damaged Dolls everywhere from the garbage and lift them back to the pedestals they deserve.

What you will need

The doll you wish to repair
Aves Apoxie Sculpt
A sculpting needle (a toothpick will work just as well)
An exacto knife or other sharp implement
Warm soapy water (I suggest Dawn dish soap)
Ultra fine sandpaper
Paint
Paintbrush
Clean water



Where to start

At the beginning where else! As with everything you will want to begin with a nice clean work area so give your girl a nice bath. Hey what girl doesn't like a spa treatment now and again!? Clean of any residue or dirt that may be clinging to her.

You may need something a little stronger for some of those more stubborn stains or any nail polish that may have found its way onto your divas body, but we will save that for a later time. After you have made sure to get her clean and dry you are ready to begin your repairs.

Apoxie Sculpt?

What is it? Apoxie Sculpt is a two part molding compound that has the properties of both epoxy glue and sculpting putty. If mixed properly you will not need any glue or other compounds to hold your newly sculpted piece on to your doll. The best part is that if you get over zealous and accidentally break off the piece that you just spent so much time sculpting you can simply mix up a bit more and use that to reattach your piece.

Let's get to the sculpting!

I have found that when you are working with something as small as a Barbie size pinky you will have an easier time of it if you mix up a bit more of the sculpting compound than you think you will need and glob it on. It is easier to sand it down and detail it if you have more rather than less.



Warning! Apoxie Sculpt is VERY sticky when it is first mixed up and it will bond to almost anything if not everything. Make sure that you wash off any that may be on your hands and such before touching anything that you don't want it on.

Now that you have the base to your missing fingers attached to your doll let the compound set for a while. This way it won't be too sticky for you to work with. I waited about 2 to 3 hours.

After it has set up a bit you can use your exacto knife to sort of carve away some of the excess and begin shaping the detail. Use your best judgment on where creases and wrinkles should be. If you have another doll with similar features use it as a guide. Remember the human body is not perfect. Your doll doesn't have to be either. Just so long as you are happy with your work it doesn't matter. Your putt will move around a bit so use caution. I just carved off a little at a time then stretched it out and reshaped it then carved a little more until I was happy with what I saw.

After you have worked your sculpt to a suitable point and are happy with the results let it cure for 24 hours before attempting to do any thing else with it. Put you doll in a safe place for the night and let her have a good rest. She has had a big day after all.

Time to sand out the rough spots.

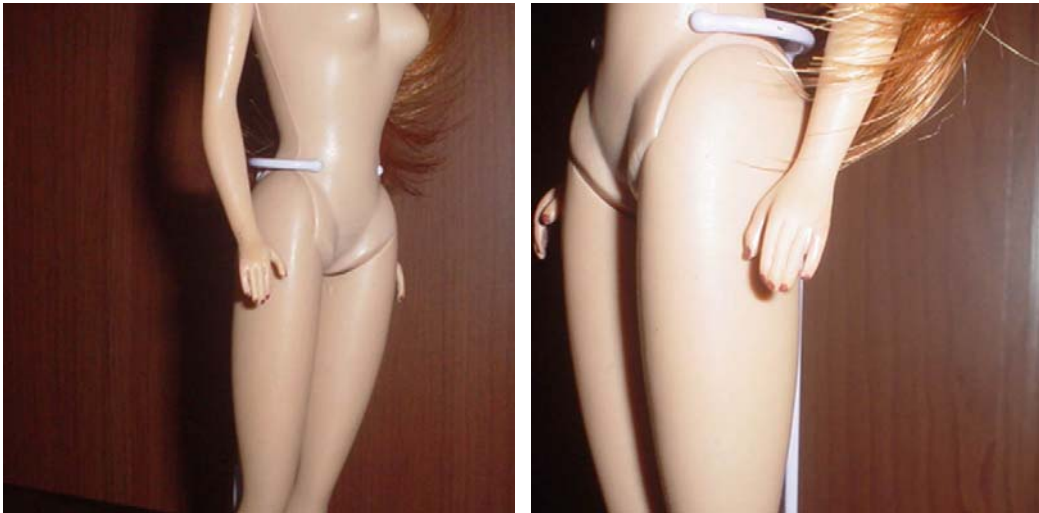
AAHH she is nearly done. If everything went well then your doll should now have a nice solid set of digits. Using a very fine sand paper; gently rub away any excess material.

You can round off the edges and work your details a little finer at this point.



A little paint, A little polish and you're done

Now that your dolls new digits are sculpted and smoothed out it's time to try and match the skin color. Unfortunately this is a trial and error process. Since there are any number of circumstances that can affect the coloring on your doll it would be impractical for me



to tell you exactly what colors to use to match your paint. On this doll I used a blend of dark flesh and flesh from Delta Ceramcoat to match with her skin color. You really don't need to apply a primer to your sculpted area. I prefer to use one that is made by the same company as my paint. A little tip: if you want your newly painted area to have a little more shine than your paint will give but not as much as you would get with a gloss; apply a little of your clear primer to the area after you have painted it and give it a light buffing.



One of the dolls above has been repaired using this method. The other doll is all original. Can you tell the difference?