

Cardboard wedge soles for Barbie and Fashion Royalty



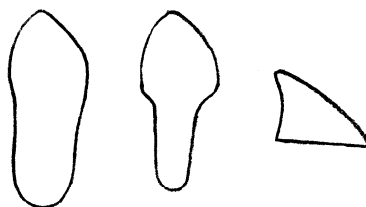
Shoes shown on Hollywood Royalty Lana Turner doll

These shoes will fit regular Barbies, Silkstone Barbies and Fashion Royalty dolls (and probably some other 12" dolls as well, if you modify the pattern as needed). When making the shoes, decide first, which dolls' feet they should fit in. From these dolls, select the one with largest feet and make the shoes using that doll. For example, to make the shoes fit all three mentioned above, you need to use a Fashion Royalty doll as they have the largest feet of the three.

These instructions were made for printing on A4 size paper, but you should get correct result on Letter size paper also, if you do not resize the pages during printing (there should be a resize option somewhere in the Print dialog, make sure it is not selected).

Pattern

Below are the patterns for insole, outer sole, and wedge. The first two are for the right foot, the wedge is same for both. Flip the insole and outer sole patterns to cut the pieces for the left foot.



Instructions

1.

Cut the insoles from cardboard. Glue them on another layer of cardboard pressing these against the sole of the doll's foot before the glue is dry to get the right shape (PVA glue works best as it lets you adjust the pieces after pressing them together). Cut away extra cardboard when the glue is dry. Repeat. You need at least three layers of cardboard to get sturdy enough construction. Add more, if you want a thicker sole.

Next, attach the straps. Use thin material for the straps—the thinner it is, the neater the result will be. Place the insole against the doll's foot, wrap the strap around the foot and glue the ends under the insole. Before gluing, make sure to check that the strap is not too tight and you can still get the shoe off the doll's foot.

2.

Cut the wedges from cardboard. Check against the shaped insole that the arch is as it should be (there may be some variation between different dolls). If not, shape as required. The arch of the wedge does not need to be perfect as glue and paint will close any small openings there might be.

Glue the wedges on another piece of cardboard and let dry. Cut away extra cardboard when the glue is dry. Repeat twice. You need at least four layers of cardboard in the wedges.

3.

Use the insole pattern to cut one left and one right piece. Glue them under the insoles. These will cover the ends of the straps.

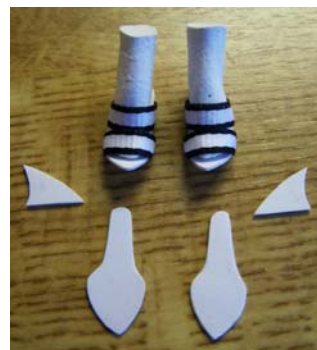
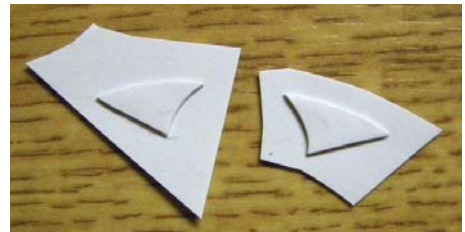
Then make the outer soles the same way as the wedges. They need to have at least three layers of cardboard. Add more, if you want a thicker sole.

4.

Now you should have the pieces shown in the photo. You can use the doll's feet when making the shoes, although plaster castings are easier to handle and ensure that the doll's feet are not stained by glue or paint. If you use the doll's feet, you can use saran wrap to protect them.

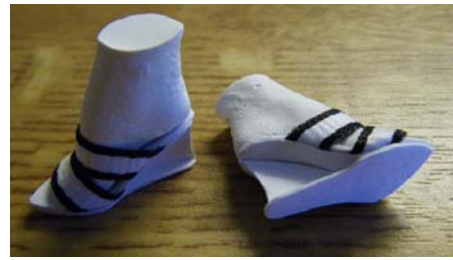


You can attach the straps any way you like as long as you are able to take the shoes off the doll's feet and put them on again.



5.

Glue the wedge and outer sole in place. You need to do this at the same time to make sure the wedge and outer sole are in correct alignment.



6.

Paint the soles. You can paint the edges of the insole using a toothpick and very small amounts of paint to get a neat result. Start from these edges as they need to be done carefully. After they have been painted, you can paint the rest using a paintbrush.



7.

As the soles are made of cardboard, they won't tolerate any moisture. If you want to protect them, add a layer or two of sealer on them. If you think the straps could stain the doll's feet, you can apply sealer to them as well (although you should note that some shiny materials, such as silk, will lose their shine when sealer is applied).

