

Rooted Lashes on Vinyl Fashion Dolls



1. Remove the doll's head.

Warm the vinyl around the neck knob with warm water or a blow dryer, using care to protect the hair. Trim the hooks on the neck knob of newer dolls to make it easier to replace the head and remove it again later.



2. Prepare the doll.

If you are replacing painted lashes with rooted lashes, remove the painted lashes using acetone-free nail polish remover on a cotton wrapped toothpick. Wash the vinyl afterwards with warm soapy water to remove the remover residue.

If you are replacing the lashes on a MOD doll, using tweezers and working from the inside of the head, remove any partial or loose eyelash plugs or remove all of the existing lashes.

If you are doing lashes on a customized doll, paint the face first, seal with a top coat of clear matte acrylic and allow to thoroughly dry before starting the rooted lashes.



3. Mark the position of the lash plugs.

Using small dots of white pencil or white acrylic paint mark the position of the plugs. Mark dots on either end of the lash line and in the center. Evenly space 2 or 3 dots between each end and center dot. If you add 2 dots to either side of the middle, you will have a total of 7 plugs per eye. Using 3 dots will give you a total of 9 lash plugs. If you are replacing the lashes on a MOD doll, use the existing holes instead of marking new holes. DO NOT position the plugs too closely to one another or the vinyl might rip open between the holes.

4. Thread the needle.

Decide how many strands of synthetic hair you want to use for each lash plug. Count out the appropriate number of long even strands and thread them through the eye of your needle. On this doll I have used 12 strands, but you can use more or less depending on the look you want to achieve.

Tip: To make threading easier –

Pinch the strands approximately 1-inch from an end and trim them evenly. Moisten the ends with a bit of saliva (the old fashion way works best) and thread them through the eye, OR, try cutting a short piece of bead wire and forming a threading loop. Thread the hair through the wire loop and then thread the two ends of the wire through the eye of the needle. Pull the wire loop through the eye and the hair will follow.

5. Sew the lashes into the head.

Work from the outside of the head. Position the needle downward from the outside white dot to the neck opening. Insert the needle and using your pliers pull the needle out through the neck opening. Pull the needle until just a few inches of hair strands remain on the outside of the eye. Loop the threaded needle around your hand and insert the needle into the vinyl in the position indicated by the next dot. Continue this process until you near the end of your hair strands.



6. Cut the hair and knot the loose ends.

Cut the loops approximately 1-inch from the doll's face and tie the ends at the neck opening. With a match or a lighter, carefully melt the hair together just below the knot to further secure it. (Carefully is the key word here because you don't want to have "Barbie-Q".) Working from the outside, pull the lashes so that the knot is pulled tight up inside the doll's head.



7. Repeat steps 4 to 6 until all the plugs are done.

8. Trim and curl the lashes.

Curling the lashes is optional. It's easiest to do this if the lashes are at least 1-inch long. Dampen the lashes and hold them, smoothed in position, curled around the handle of a paint brush or other cylindrical object. Heat them for a few seconds with a blow dryer, being careful not to melt and frizz the lashes.

Trim the lashes to the desired length. Try trimming the lashes a little shorter towards the ends for a more natural tapered look.

