

Finishing the Arm/Legs

When tracing your arm or leg pattern leave the opening at the top. If your pattern did not call for the opening at this point, then you must extend your pattern about 1 1/2". Mark with an air solvable pen (on the right side of the material) where the *top* of the arm or leg should be. This will keep both legs or arms the same length when you get ready to sew them on your doll.

Sew and turn the arm or leg as usual. Stuff firmly up to the mark for the top of the arm/leg.

Now, gather your material up on the inside of the arm/leg and twist it a little (once you have the hang of this you won't have to twist it any longer.) Now mark with an air solvable pen an oval gathering line *around* where the material is twisted. Make sure that you are at least a 1/2" away from your shoulder mark.

You can now let go of the twist. Take your needle and thread (quilting, upholstery thread or I use dental floss) and run a gathering stitch along your oval marks (I go around the oval twice). Make sure that all of your stuffing is inside the arm/leg and that you have enough thread length (about 5 inches) on both ends. Make the first part (loop it three times) of a square knot and pull it tight (keep checking as you pull it tight to make sure that the stuffing stayed inside). Tie the second part of the knot and clip your ends.

Now, cut the extra material away from inside your gathered area leaving about 1/4" so that you can push it inside the center of your gathering stitch (I use Barbara Willis's small stuffing fork to push this inside). Once you have the extra inside, take a couple of stitches back and forth over gathered stitches to hold the extra material on the inside.

You now have a small neat round area that is invisible once you sew the arm/leg on to the body.

You are done!

