



## Rag Doll Hair Tutorial

One way to make hair for Dolls of Hope



### What you need:

- ♥ Yarn in the desired hair colour. This can be any yarn you like, from sock yarn to DK weight yarn to mohair. It all depends on the desired look.
- ♥ A ½” strip of fabric the same as the doll’s head
- ♥ Tissue paper
- ♥ Magic tape or light tack painter’s tape (regular sticking tape is too sticky!)
- ♥ Sewing thread in (preferably) the colour of the yarn you’re using for the hair
- ♥ A sewing machine
- ♥ A CD cover or book to wrap the yarn around
- ♥ Time and patience – it is a fiddly job!

### Method:

Cut a strip of fabric to match doll’s head approx. ½” x 4”.

Wrap as much yarn as you need to cover the head (from forehead to halfway down the back of the head) around a DVD cover or book (depending on the length you’d like the final wig to be). Make sure all threads of yarn are neatly arranged. A bit of overlap is OK, but there shouldn’t be any big gaps.

Secure the yarn with magic tape on **both sides** of your DVD cover or book. You should have an opening of about a 1” in the middle.



Once the yarn has been securely taped, cut it at the bottom end. Carefully remove the yarn from your DVD cover or book and lay it down on your strip of fabric. You should end up with something like this:



Cover the centre with a strip of tissue paper (I used pink because that was what I had to hand) and pin down the centre (the tissue stops the yarn from getting caught up in your machine), like this:



Transfer the whole package to your sewing machine and gently sew up and down the middle a few times, taking out the pins as you go. (3 is usually good). It is better to use the same colour thread as your yarn – I have used a contrasting colour for the pictures. You should end up with something like this:



Now remove the tissue paper - it has been perforated by the machine's stitches so will pull out easily. Then, carefully, remove the magic tape – gently so that you don't pull the yarn out!



That's it!

Pin the wig to your doll's head, like so:



You can sew the hair on with yarn if you have chosen one suitable, or just use your matching thread (a close woven head fabric will be very difficult to sew with yarn!). Use a long needle and backstitch your wig securely into place in the middle. Trim the excess from the fabric strip. It will look something like this.



Next, arrange the yarn to cover the head and stitch it into place all around the head, starting at the eye line, like this:



The end result should look something like this:



For a fuller head of hair repeat the process but omit the stitching at the side of the head.



Dolls of Hope are the symbol for  
*Bread Not Stones*  
which is a critical  
United Church of Canada  
project to raise awareness of  
and eliminate  
child poverty in Canada