



Traditions

- Never made with sharp objects
- Never stick sharp objects into the doll
- Winding the thread must always be done clockwise and with positive thoughts
- A doll made for a child or ceremony must be made with extreme responsibility and care
- Dolls must not be made on Friday or Sunday

Lunar Influences during creation

- On the full moon - to provide the doll with protective and protective functions
- On the waning moon - as a countermeasure against diseases and failures
- On the growth of the moon - for success in any business



Simple instructions for a motanka doll

Inspiration



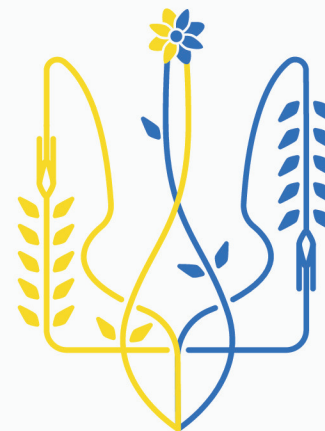
Motanka dolls can be as elaborate or as simple as the maker wants. The more time and effort put into the creation of a motanka doll the happier ancestors will be!



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Slav-tember: All about the Motanka Doll

Slav-tember celebrates the Slavic heritage from Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus.



History of the Motanka Doll



Motankas are ancient Ukrainian family talismans. They are a symbol of prosperity, goodness, and hope. The first dolls appeared about 5,000 years ago!

The name "motanka" originated from the word "motaty" meaning to wind or spin. These dolls were made by layering fabric and winding string to secure the materials down. It is believed that the dolls should not be cut or pierced. Generally the dolls were in the shape of a human figure, usually a woman or child, and were made from the extra fabric cuttings from family members' clothes. As time continued and the motanka needed to be repaired, more family members could add fabric from their clothing, creating a layered ancestral doll.

The dolls differ from others as these don't have faces. Ukrainian ancestors believed that giving a doll a face could tie a person's soul into it or allow an evil spirit to nest within the doll. So, the dolls have layered thread to create an image on the face of the doll.

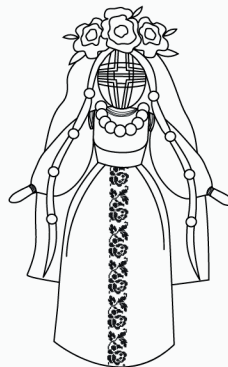
The doll itself is not given a name. It was believed that giving a name to a doll would disturb your ancestors or summon an evil spirit.

Now, dolls can be made as simple or complex as the artist desires with a variety of materials, colors, and patterns.

Ceremonial/Ritual

The motanka dolls were made for certain holidays and had specific names attached to them for that holiday or purpose.

- *Ochysna* (cleansing) was used to get rid of negative energy in the house
- *Desyatyrychka* (ten-handed) dolls helped the woman of the house with household chores
- *Knayahynya* (princess) female talisman that helped with family affairs
- *Kapustka* (cabbage) dolls displayed in the window for a successful marriage
- *Nerozluchnyki* (inseparable) were gifted at the wedding to preserve unity and fidelity
- *Narachena* (bride) this is the most beautiful and decorated doll as a symbol of a long married life
- *Rodyuchist'* (fertility) gifted with a wish so that many children would be born into a family
- *Podorozhnytya* (traveler) to be well fed, warm, and safe during travel
- *Peřenashka* (swaddle) placed in a baby's crib for protection from illness. If a baby became sick and survived, the motanka was believed to have absorbed the sickness and is then burned.
- *Berehynya* (guardian) associated with mother, symbols for care, love, and prosperity. This doll has her head covered with a shawl.



The dolls were often made placing healing herbs and coins inside. Play dolls for children was encouraged as it was a safe activity because the dolls are not made with anything sharp!

Significant Colors

Red: protection against diseases and evil spirits

Yellow: the life-giving power of the Sun

Green: rebirth, health, youth, and Mother Nature

Brown: Mother Earth and fertility

Blue: continuous movement of the healing water

White: divine heaven, purity, and harmony

