

First a disclaimer-

I DO NOT condone the changing of eyes for many reasons; there is too much room for fraud for one. There was a HUGE shake-up in the Chatty Cathy collecting world quite a few years ago and lots of people lost just TONS of money -thousands of dollars we're talking here. There was this person that learned that brown-eyed Chatty Cathy dolls with blonde hair are pretty hard to find. So this person gathered common brown-eyed brunettes, removed their eyes, and put them into blondes. They were sold for quite a sum of money to unsuspecting collectors. As of now, anyone with a brown-eyed blonde has to be suspicious that his/her doll is not factory original. The market is flooded with them. I also don't like it since it has diluted the market for true rarities. There are now NO factory error dolls in existence since so many have been switching eyes. If someone tries to tell you that they have a Crissy family doll with "rare" eyes to sell, you should question that quite a bit.

There just is no way to tell what a real rarity is and what is not. I would now never buy ANY doll that is called RARE (i.e. a factory Tressy with Kerry eyes... give me a break). Be very suspicious of so-called factory rarities. Somewhere along the way, the eyes were switched. I cannot stress that enough.

Second disclaimer-

This info is provided in good faith. It does not work every time. You WILL break a bunch of eyes and ruin a lot of dolls trying to learn this. I AM NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DAMAGE. You take this chance of your own accord. You may injure or burn yourself or others in your surroundings. Keep children away from the work area. Nuff said.

Now-

Braid and tie her ponytail to keep it in a single strand. One of the members of the Yahoo Crissy Club wraps her doll's ponytail in aluminum foil to keep it in one easy-to-handle piece when working with a doll that must have her head removed! Great idea! (Thanks Peggie!)

Pop the doll's head off that is receiving an eye transplant. Do a strand test on her foundation hair to make sure the boiling water won't melt her hair. (Just dip a strand into the boiling water - if it melts, you should NOT proceed.) Use tongs and hold her head face down in boiling water for about 30 seconds; set her face down on towels. Let it cool SLIGHTLY. Put a thumb against her eye inside the head - and press HARD. I cut the fingers off of a latex glove and put them over my fingers

so I don't burn myself. After you remove all the eyes from both heads (the donor head and the receiving head), use the tongs to hold her face down in the water again to re-soften the face vinyl.

When you press the eye in from the FRONT, don't press on the eye itself as the tabs break off the rockers and it will mash the eye into the socket, then it's no good. The eye is then ruined. Push it into the softened head by holding the eye with your thumb and forefinger. Once it's about halfway in, press it in all the way by using another tool instead of your fingers. I use something like a chopstick to adjust with. I press on the outside of the eye-cup, remember NOT the eye itself, as they are very fragile. You MUST set her face down on a towel for a day or so to get the water to drain out. It will more than likely rust otherwise. Actually I have one that is rusting already and I did everything "right."

After you've let the eye sockets "drain" for a day or two you have to put that head back on! I start a pan of boiling water. Turn off the heat. Pin her hair up and use tongs to hold her head, neck area only, in the water about an inch deep about 30 seconds. Quickly dry her head. The head goes on VERY easily over the neck cone. First though, you will need to push her pre-braided ponytail up through her neck hole and then through the hole on the top of her head, using the needle - nose pliers. Then I like to use a friend to hold the body while I use the needle - nose pliers to pull the neck opening over the cone.

IF YOU ARE SELLING THEM ON EBAY- Collectors prefer that they are signed and dated in indelible ink so that future collectors won't be misled that they may have a rarity or something. Even the custom and fantasy dolls that I've done and am keeping in my collection, I've signed.... just would prefer that there is no confusion later!

Now have fun
Peace, Beth