Before styling a grow hair doll's hair, you may wish to clean it first. Using any type of mild shampoo or mild dish soap is fine. "Plastic" hair is not benefited by human hair products. The main idea is to just get it clean if it needs it.

Sometimes the ends are frizzy. If that is the case, curling the ends can hide it well. First, you must perform a strand test. YOU MUST do this to every grow hair doll that you intend to curl. If you don't, you may end up melting someone's hair. Start a small pan of boiling water. After the water has come to a full rolling boil, remove the pan from the burner and dangle a thin strand of the doll's hair in the boiling water. If it melts, shrivels, or otherwise gets very short very fast, you MUST NOT proceed. If it appears unaffected, you are okay and may continue with this process.

Assemble end wrap papers, small pink sponge rollers and a rat tail comb. Make the doll's 'tail the desired length. Some people just prefer to keep the 'tail long and curl the ends as they originally were. Using the rat tail comb, separate small "rollable" sections in the 'tail. Fold a wrap paper in half (not longways) and place around the ends of the section. End wraps are a necessary step to avoid fishhooking the ends. Do not skip this part. Begin rolling on a sponge roller. Most dolls will need at least 6 rollers to just put the curl in the 'tail. Be careful of the bands that hold the roller in place. If they put a lot of pressure on the strand, they will leave a mark on the hair when you are finished.

Now that the hair is rolled, pour some boiling water in a child's sipper cup. Drizzle boiling water on the rollers until <u>completely saturated</u> over the sink. Now cool the hair off quickly with cold water from the tap. Using a clean towel, squeeze out the excess water from the rollers. You may take the rollers down while the hair is wet. You have heated up and reformed a synthetic fiber. Being dry is not required to hold the curl. When plastic is melted and formed it will hold the shape regardless of whether it is wet or dry. Human hair requires water to break down the hydrogen bonds and then it must be dry to reform them into the new curl. As you can see, this doesn't work for Crissy and her family.

You have taken down the rollers and now you see nice curls. Use a comb or wire pick to place them "just so" and allow her hair to dry on its own.

Note: Crissy dolls with hair to the floor usually can not be curled. They have the very early flossy hair that shrivels. The foundation hair is generally the flossy hair too and cannot be safely curled. Early black Velvet and black Crissy dolls also have hair that shrivels. Do NOT attempt to curl it.

Strand testing prior to this method of curling doll hair is required to ensure that you won't damage your doll. These instructions are provided in good faith that you will practice safety measures around yourself and small children. If a good result is not acquired while practicing this method, you accept all responsibility. The author accepts no responsibility if the doll owner is not pleased with his or her results.

Copyright by Beth C Gunther, 1999

These directions are not available for reprint under any circumstances and my rights will be pursued legally should that be needed.