

MIRRORS

By Stephanie Ehmen, GMDMEd



These beautiful porcelain hand mirrors created by Stephanie from Seeley's Hand Mirror mold make wonderful accessories for any type of doll.



Stephanie's 25" Fashion Jumeau (S357) is using her porcelain hand mirror to put the finishing touches on her coiffure.

Mold: SC261 *Hand Mirror* mold (3 mirrors)

Sizes: Large: 5 5/8" x 2 3/8" (mirror area 2" x 2 5/8")
Midsized: 4 7/8" x 2" (mirror area 1 3/4" x 2/38")
Small: 3 3/8" x 1 3/8" (mirror area 1 1/4" x 1 5/8")

Porcelain Slip: Lady White

Porcelain Hand Mirrors to Enhance your Doll's Image

While visiting a friend's home, I noticed a tiny silver hand mirror on her bathroom counter. I commented on how cute it was (thinking to myself what a nice addition it would make to a doll's wardrobe). This sweet friend gave me a little gift at Christmas and to my surprise that little sterling silver mirror was tucked inside a pair of pretty slippers. My dolls and I have treasured this gift and the thoughtful person who gave it to us ever since!

Now you can make your own doll-size porcelain mirrors using Seeley's *Hand Mirror* mold. With three sizes in the same mold you can make mirrors for all your dolls. The detail on these mirrors is beautiful. It provides you the opportunity to decorate the porcelain in a simple way to show off the sculpting, or more elaborately to enhance the detail. The addition of lace and flowers dipped in Deco Dip would add charm and interest. The possibilities are only limited by your imagination! Make a collection for yourself and your dolls, and don't forget your doll friends at holiday time!



Casting and Cleaning

Use Seeley's Lady White porcelain slip to cast these little mirrors. Stir the slip well and strain and pour it into a small measuring cup with a spout. Thin the slip with Slip Thinner according to directions on the package until you achieve the consistency of light cream. Pour the slip into the mold along the side of pour hole in a steady stream, but slow enough that the slip does not fill up the hole. Allow the slip to sit in the mold for about 30 seconds. Empty the mold by holding it at a slant and using the end of a small brush to poke open the bubble that will form over the pour hole as the slip drains. When the pour hole will stay open so that the excess slip can drain, set the mold upside down at a slant to finish draining. If slip is too thick or is left in the mold too long, it will cause the mirror to collapse because it cannot drain.

Let the casting sit in the mold until it opens easily. Remove one half of the mold. Leave the casting in the other half until it falls out into your hand when you turn the mold over and tap it lightly with the heel of your hand. The narrow section of the handle is **very fragile**. Have a piece of spare ready on which you can place the casting. A puddle of slip that you have poured on the side of the mold also works well. This will allow the handle to just barely rest on the work surface and will help prevent warping or breakage.

Once the greenware is leather hard use damp KwikClean Brushes to gently clean seams and any other areas that need smoothing. It will be helpful to use your Doll Master Head Lupe and a good light to see any tiny casting lines in the deep sculpting. If you prefer to patch the pour hole, first place a tiny hole into the handle on the back, hiding it in the sculpting. The tiny hole is needed for venting during bisque firing. Use a Palette Knife to pick up a bit of the thick slip from the inside of the slip container and apply it to the hole to make a patch. Use a small KwikClean Brush to smooth over the patch. Place the mirror in the kiln on top of a little Firing Sand or Porcelain prop. Bisque fire to cone 6.

China Painting

This article features three very simple and quick projects. Feel free to customize the mirror to fit your taste and your doll's wardrobe. Below are listed the paints and techniques used in the mirrors pictured here.



This mirror is painted with the pastel metallic china paints of the Glitter Collection and decorated with raised dots of Rochard Paste.

Pastel Mirror

This mirror utilizes the soft pastel metallic colors of the Glitter Collection along with Gloss Rochard Paste and Gold Dust. Mix Rochard Paste with Line Medium to a very thick consistency. Paste should form a nice rounded dot when applied with a Double Ball Stylus. Set dots of Rochard Paste around mirror area. Fire to witness cone 018. Mix Pearl Glitter with Line Medium and apply a coat of paint all over the mirror using a Large Area Brush. Fire to witness cone 018. Use a Lip Brush or Medium Area Brush to apply various Glitter Collection China Paints to the raised designs on the mirror, letting the higher parts catch the paint to create more depth.

Paints used are:

- Rochard Paste Gloss
- Gold Dust
- Glitter Collection Kit

China Painting, continued

Gold Mirror

For the doll deserving of the very best, a gold or silver mirror is just what she needs! Do not sand the porcelain after bisque firing. Apply two thin coats of lead-free Sparkle Clear Glaze with a medium size KwikClean Brush. Let first coat dry before applying second coat. Glazed areas should not touch the kiln shelf while firing. It may be necessary to set the unglazed face of the mirror section on a small kiln post or a small stilt with prongs. Fire glaze as directed on the bottle.

Give entire glazed area a good coat of Liquid Bright Gold. Be careful that paint does not puddle in deeper parts. Use the brush you have dedicated to Liquid Bright Gold. Paint underside of mirror handle first, set mirror on stilts and paint top. Be careful not to touch painted area. Fire to 018 with kiln propped open for good ventilation. You might like to try Opal Luster for other fun effects.

Paints/Products used are:

- Lead-free Clear Glaze
- Liquid Bright Gold or Opal Luster
- Gold Essence



What could be more elegant for that special doll than this burnished gold hand mirror created by firing Liquid Bright Gold over Clear Glaze?

The “Wedgwood” Mirror

This is a quick project with a simple, but elegant look. Mix any color from the Decorator Line of china paints with Area Medium to a rather thin consistency. I used Colonial Blue. Use a Large Area Brush to apply a thin coat of paint over the entire mirror. Pounce and smooth the paint with a Super Doll Sponge until there are no brush strokes. Rinse the Super Doll Sponge and squeeze out all the excess water. With this barely damp sponge, wipe lightly over the mirror, removing the paint from the high parts of the detail. You may wish to china paint a flower in the center of the back of the mirror, or use a decal to add color. Fire to witness cone 018.

Stephanie created this easy-to-make version of the hand mirror by applying a thin wash of china paint over the entire mirror then removing the paint from the raised areas of the design with a damp Super Doll Sponge.



Finishing Touches

You can find small oval glass mirrors at the craft stores. Glue a glass mirror to the flat surface of face of the porcelain hand mirror. If the glass mirror is a little small use some decorative trim or cording to fill in the space. The addition of a glass mirror will make the mirror heavier, so an oval of cardboard neatly covered with aluminum foil or silver mylar might give you the look you want without the additional weight. Feathers and fringe can also add a nice touch. A small jewelry finding, bead or tassel can cover the hole in the end of the handle and give it that finished look.

All molds, porcelain slip, china paints and media, brushes and most tools and supplies available from Seeley's, Oneonta, New York. Other supplies can be found in craft or fabric stores.

Materials and Credit

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Porcelain Slip: Lady White

China Paints and Media

Gloss Rochard Paste

Gold Dust

Colonial Blue

Glitter Collection Kit:

Pearl Glitter

Pink Tourmaline Glitter

Citrine Glitter

Peridot Glitter

Turquoise Glitter

Aquamarine Glitter

Sapphire Glitter

Amethyst Glitter

Line Medium

Sparkle Clear Glaze (G500)

Liquid Bright Gold or Opal Luster

Gold Essence

Brushes and Supplies

KwikClean Brush Kit

Large Area Brush

Lip Brush or Medium Area Brush

Double Ball Stylus

Measuring cup with spout

Slip Thinner

Palette Knife

Super Doll Sponges

Doll Master Head Lupe

Firing Sand or Porcelain Prop

Oval glass mirrors

Glue

Decals, trims, beads, feathers, fringe, jewelry findings or other decorations of choice

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