Voodoo doll

Materials needed:

- regular fabric
- regular thread
- conductive fabric
- conductive thread
- 1 or 2 LEDs
- needle
- 3V coin battery
- glue gun & glue
- stuffing
- scissors
- marking pencil

Step 1: Plan and Sketch Out

Get a piece of paper and plan out the design of your doll. Draw out where you want the LEDs to be placed and where you want to place the battery. Plan pathways where positive and negative conductive thread will go. Note that the negative thread will go straight to where the battery is located and the positive will head towards the chest or belly of the doll where the conductive fabric is and then head to the battery. Remember the positive and negative threads cannot cross! If crossing is necessary, glue the thread that is on the bottom with a glue gun. Wait for it to dry and then place the other thread on top. This will help prevent interference. But be careful: the glue gun is HOT and too much might ruin your project.
Step 2: Gather Materials and Get Started

Grab a piece of fabric of your choice and double it up so you have a front and a back. Draw your doll’s body out on the fabric using the design you sketched. Make sure that you leave about 2 centimeters where you can sew the fabric and stuff the doll when you are done. Take your scissors and cut out the fabric doubly until you have two complete halves of the doll. Review your notes and visualize where everything will go on your doll. In this document’s example, we will start with connecting the conductive thread and then sewing up the doll. You could sew up the doll first and then add your conductive thread so that it is on the outside.

Step 3: Add Conductive Thread and LEDs

Now that you have two sides of your fabric you can begin creating your doll. Following your sketch, make a note of which side of the LED is positive and which is negative. Remember that the negative side has a flat surface at the head. Once you spot the difference, begin to curl the LEDs legs. Use different curling styles for the positive and negative legs to not get them confused. Make sure that the positive legs line up so that sewing will be easier. Once the LEDs are ready, glue them onto your doll. When your LEDs are secure begin connecting them with the conductive thread. Make sure to follow the sketch you made. You can think of creative ways to place your battery. In the picture example a pocket was created and the thread was sewed in so that the battery touched the wire when placed in.

Step 4: Creating the Doll

In this project the circuit should only be completed when the needle is placed in the center of the doll. The LEDs will be connected to one conductive fabric patch and the battery will be connected to another conductive fabric patch. Regular fabric separates these two patches so that they do not touch. Placing the needle
through these three layers connects the circuit. Test it out on your doll and then you are ready to stuff it.

Step 5: Check Check Check Check

Make sure to check that your threads are connecting. You don’t want to finish and not have a working project. Also check to make sure that the circuit is not being completed where you don’t want it to be. Once you’ve finished the doll and everything is working great, tie the needle onto the doll. When done, add any last minute touches.

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