

Guide BL, EBL, SBL, ADG, Kenner

- **BL**

Takara's first attempt at a Neo-blythe in 2001. She had the quirky, posable body of their existing fashion doll, Licca. The first 6 dolls (BL-0 through BL-5) had extremely-open ("boggled"), far-glancing eyes and soft matte faces. After BL-6, they adjusted the eyelids so more was visible, changed the eyeball mold so the eyes did not look as far to the left and right (see pic), and changed the facial complexion to be very shiny. They continued to use the Licca body until they released their first anniversary doll in 2002. (Miss A.)
- **EBL**

Takara celebrated their first anniversary of Blythe with a new Blythe model, "Excellent-Blythe." She featured a body molded very closely to the original Kenner body, but used the same shiny-face/relaxed-eye configuration as the later BLs. With the exception of Cinnamon girl, who was molded in all darker plastics and rubbers, they continued using this combination until Fruit Punch, when they tried a new type of translucent grayish plastic in the eyeballs, as well as new brighter plastics for the eye chips, themselves. Fruit Punch was the "last" regular release EBL. (however, they did release Margaret Meets Ladybug and Samedi Marche long after they stopped regularly producing EBL dolls).
- **SBL**

in 2003, Takara promised eager fans a major overhaul of Blythe, saying she would be based on precise scans of the original Kenner dolls. Superior Blythe, or SBL, was the doll they delivered. She featured all new facial modeling, including interior architecture, eyeballs, eye mech, chips, and scalp. They continued using the grayish eyeball plastic, but changed the eyeballs to have a similar structure behind the chips as Kenners, and the chips were molded to be smoother on the back, producing a much sparklier eye (see pic). The new scalp set-up involved a 3-piece head design, which was much harder to open than the previous 2-piece construction. Eager customizers found the safest way was to actually cut through the top "dome." The first three SBLs had issues with their eyemechs that some blythe fans had a difficult time putting up with - their eyes rested in a very downward position after you pulled the string. Takara corrected the problem beginning with SBL-04. Two EBL-faced girls were released in the middle of the SBL-period - Samedi Marche and Margaret Meets Ladybug. Takara has recently begun to follow in customizer's footsteps, releasing stock SBL dolls with "mods," such as alternate lip styles, foiled chips, custom chip colors, colored eyelids, custom pullrings, custom skintones, painted nails, and tattoos.
- **ADG**

Hasbro (Takara's American cousin) began producing Blythe in the U.S. with Ashton Drake Galleries. During Research and Development, the company worked with the original Kenner doll, however the resulting product is vastly different than any Blythe before her. She shares no molds with her Japanese cousins, however certain parts of her eye mechanism will fit Takara and Kenner Blythes (see pic for

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a Kenner with ADG eye parts and ADG scalp). So far she has been released as a redhead, blonde and brunette, in reproduction Kenner dresses and boxes

- **Kenner Blythe**

Kenner Blythe is the original doll, produced for a short time in 1972. Concrete details on the production volume and standards of the dolls is vague so speculations and educated guesses are all we really have to go by. She was made in 4 general hair colors; blonde, redhead, dark brunette and auburn brunette. Blondes only seem to have been produced in side-parted hairstyles, but the rest of the colors were produced in side part, chunky bangs, and wispy bangs (as well as texture variations) - some combinations are more rare than the rest. There appear to be several mold variations as well as plastic and makeup color variations, with the most common being a very pale pink translucent skin with bold green eyeshadow, pink blush and medium pink lips painted in a sweet smile. Kenner Blythe's soft rubber scalp is attached via an ingenious system using a cap that clips to her head, meaning she has no glue holding her parts together, with the exception of her eye chips.

- **Commonalities**

All the variations of Blythe dolls share the same basic mechanical apparatus - a spring-loaded eye mechanism with 4 sets of eye-positions that change when you pull her string, cleverly hidden behind her eyelids. They all have the same basic proportions with subtle differences creating their distinct personalities. All production Blythes have rooted hair in a rubber scalp.