

## Scalping – SBL Blythes

Sawing is not as scary as it sounds! The Superior head mold brings in some challenges to the customizer, as the whole top of the head is one solid dome of plastic, sealing the front and back head pieces. We now have to use a jeweler's saw to cut across the dome to separate the two halves of the head.

1. The first step will be to cut along the scalp line with a sharp x-acto/pen knife. You will cut just the back half if you are doing eye surgery, all the way around if re-rooting.



2. We've noticed a trend in later SBL models - their scalps are attached with far less glue than the first few dolls released, and in some cases, the scalp flanges come out cleanly. Puchimadam recommends you make your first cut across the back of the scalp line only 2-3mm deep, then gently tug the hair plugs to see if the flange will pull out. It may lift in some areas, but stay glued in others. You can selectively trim off the glued flange sections, salvaging as much flange as possible. When the time comes to re-attach her scalp, you will need to use sharp scissors to trim the long sections of flange down to 5mm. the full-length flange is nearly impossible to fit back into the channel.



3. If you are only opening for eye surgery, stop cutting a little past the side seams, then carefully lift her scalp away from the head and fold it inside out towards the front. If there is a lot of glue underneath the scalp you will have to use an x-acto knife to slowly slice through the glued bits so that the scalp can go free. (Try not to cut hair roots otherwise those roots could fall out.) If you plan to re-root, try pulling the front flange out. If it is glued too tightly, continue cutting the rest of the scalp.



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4. I like to make a cutting guide by pulling a piece of masking tape across her head from side seam to side seam. Start cutting her across the top of her head... move carefully, slowly, and keep the saw horizontal. Be sure to protect your work surface from dust, wear protective eyewear and keep your mouth closed!



5. After you have sawed just up to the point where the channel starts, insert an x-acto knife into the crack, and then with a careful and slow sawing and prying motion against the dome, cut through the layers of plastic inside the dome. Please do it away from your body so that if anything goes flying when it breaks through, you don't cut yourself.

Also stick the tip of your x-acto knife into the rubber flange that is left in the channel and slice it so that it too is severed and ready for popping open.



6. You may want to just cut as much as you can, and then periodically stick a screwdriver into the crack and do little twisting motions in an attempt to 'pop' the last bits of the seam. It may be all it needs to finally come open. If she is folded over and scalp still attached to the front side, you may want to let her scalp go back to its normal resting place (unfold it!) so that it does not stretch out the rubber. You can always fold it again to put her together.

