DIY Doll Stand

Recently I decided I needed some additional doll stands. The ones I could find for sale were quite expensive and weren't really what I was looking for.

I remember once seeing a short tutorial on building your own so I decided to try making my own. While they aren't perfect they're quite satisfactory so I expect I'll wind up making several.

To the left is my boy Michael. He's far too floppy to stand on his own anymore so until I get around to tightening his stringing or selling him on he'll need to be on a stand. He is on one of my new stands and he is standing beside another of them.

Material:

You'll need a base of some sort. Wood is easiest to work with. I cut mine from hardwood flooring scraps I salvaged from our remodel.

You'll need a solid support. I used 1/4" stainless steel tube. I bought it from Amazon and a 3' length was $13.90 which is enough for 4 or 5 stands depending on the size of the doll. This was my only expense. It doesn't need to be stainless steel. Can be brass or aluminum or… just not plastic.

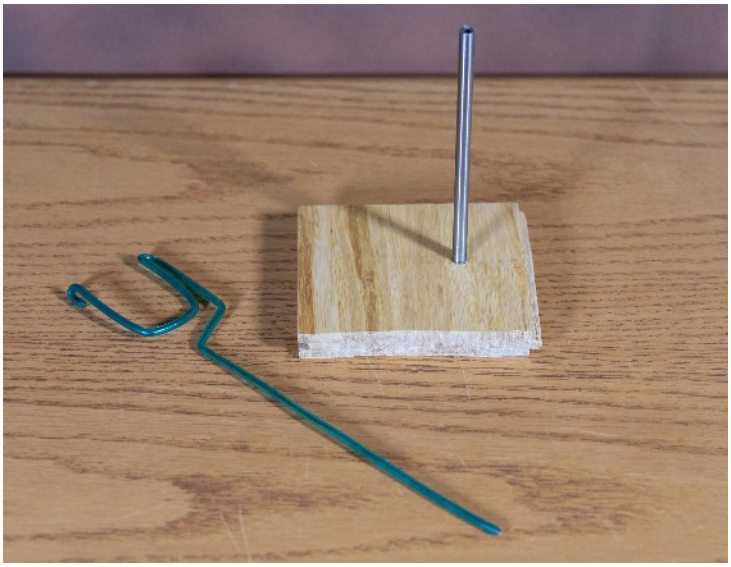
You'll also need wire to form into the saddle. I wound up using this coated wire that I purchased at Home Depot several years back for a different project. It was a 100' length so would make a *lot* of doll stands. As an alternative you can use wire coat hangar wire. Works great and likely free.

Bending the stand:

Starting at the top I used fine pointed pliers to bend a tight loop in the wire so that the sharp end of the wire wouldn't be against my doll. I formed the saddle by hand making it as wide as my doll is thick front to back. You can always bend it in or out a bit to accommodate. Then down and under and down again. You want the long vertical run underneath the doll. All of the sharp bends were done with the pliers.

Dimensions:

From the bottom of the saddle to the bottom of the support needs to be shorter than your dolls legs so that it doesn't bottom out and leave your doll dangling from the stand. I measured from the dolls crotch to the floor and cut it an inch shorter.



The length of the metallic tube should be about 2 inches shorter than the doll's legs. I made my first ones too short. Again pretty much just short enough so that the doll doesn't dangle in mid air. If you make it too short the saddle wire will want to bend where it exits the tube.

Finishing it up.

Drill a 1/4" hole in the base.

Insert the tubing making sure that it doesn't protrude through the bottom and scratching whatever it stands on.

Fasten with a drop or two of super glue.

Insert the saddle into the base.

If you use the coated wire the wire coating should provide enough friction with the inside of the tubing to hold it in place. If you use a coat hangar you may need to bend a little bit of an arc to provide that friction. You don't want the saddle to slide freely within the tube.