

Victorian Bellpull

By Pam Rashilla

A bellpull is a woven textile that is connected to a bell or wire which rings a bell when pulled. In Victorian times, bellpulls in various rooms were attached to a group of bells in one room where the servants awaited their call. Depending on which bell rang, the servants could tell where they were needed.

What You'll Need:

- 4" or 5" length of decorative trim ribbon
- 1 fancy bracelet/necklace toggle set
- Glue (I recommend Aleene's™ Fast Grab Tacky Glue)
- Embroidery floss to complement ribbon
- 1"-wide piece of heavy cardboard (or use a flat ruler)
- Round toothpick

Ribbon

1. Fold back cut ends of ribbon and glue in place, so to have a finished edge and keep the ribbon from fraying. You may want to snip the corners at an angle (bevel them) first, so they don't stick out.

2. Glue one piece from the toggle set to each end of the ribbon. Depending on the shapes of the toggles, it may be best to glue part of the toggle to the back of the ribbon or glue the toggle to the very edge of the ribbon. Decide this before applying glue.

3. Set aside to dry.

Tassel

1. Cut a 12" length of embroidery floss.

2. Remove one strand from the six in your skein of floss.

3. Lay this one strand lengthwise on your heavy cardboard. This is the string that you will use to attach your tassel to your bellpull.

4. While holding the single strand in place, wrap the remaining five strands around the cardboard widthwise several times. If you need an extra pair of hands, ask an adult.

5. Being careful not to pull the single strand out, gently slide the wraps off the cardboard.

6. Lay wrapped strands down on the table and tie the single strand in a knot around the wrap. Now, one end of your looped floss should be tied together.



7. Slip a round toothpick through your loops right below the knot, making sure to keep the ends of the single strand above the toothpick.



8. Remove another single strand from your 6-ply floss. Cut to approximately 8" long.

9. Lay this strand on the table beneath the loops and right below the toothpick.



10. Tie a knot around the loops, keeping knot close to the toothpick.



11. Remove the toothpick and smooth the floss that is hanging down. You may need to wet the floss to make sure no stray strands want to stick out.

12. Cut off the end of your tassel so it is ¾" long or less.

13. Decide which end of your bellpull is the top and which is the bottom. I prefer the end with the straight part of the toggle to be the top.

14. Using the first single strand of floss, tie the tassel onto the bottom toggle. Secure this knot with a tiny dab of glue and let dry before cutting off the ends very close to the knot. Your bellpull is ready to hang.

Note: Tassels can be used to decorate anything from pillows to curtains and shades to ladies' fans or parasols. They can also be hung on furniture knobs to resemble being hung from furniture keys. ■

Pam's been decorating a Victorian dollhouse her husband built for her. She lives in Ligonier, Pennsylvania.

