

Jean Greenhowe's Knitted Nurse

This is a free pattern from our knitting booklet
JEAN GREENHOWE'S LITTLE GIFT DOLLS
Eighteen Delightful Knitted Characters



jeangreenhowe.com
April 2020

This publication is protected by the law of copyright.

Notes

When you want to send 'greetings', say it with a doll!

Here is a colourful collection of eighteen easy-knit characters designed to appeal to children and adults alike.

There is a doll to suit almost any occasion. Birthday dolls, a Bride and Groom, New-born Baby, a doll for good luck, a Christmas Tree Fairy, a Hallowe'en Witch, a Get-Well-Soon Nurse, a Tooth Pixie and many more.

Each doll measures about 18cm [7in] from top to toe, excluding the hats and all are based on one simple design. The main portion [legs, body and head] is knitted in one piece and takes only 14 grams [$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce] of yarn oddments.

I have also devised a very easy method of knitting the hair, thus ensuring perfect results every time.

Happy knitting!

Jean

General materials required

Oddments of double knitting yarn [**USA**, knitting worsted weight: **Australia**, 8 ply] in colours stated in the instructions, or colours of your choice. Note that you will need suitable colours for the hair and skin. These shades are not specified in the instructions.

A pair of 3mm [**old UK size** No 11, **USA 2**] knitting needles — used throughout for all the knitted pieces except where otherwise stated.

One 5½mm [**old UK size** No 5, **USA 8**] knitting needle — used only where stated in the instructions [for the knitted hair, Christmas Fairy's wings and Bride's veil].

Good quality washable stuffing — about 56 grams [2 ounces] for each doll.

A red colouring pencil for shading cheeks.

Plastic drinking straws — used as a basis for Witch's broomstick etc.

Abbreviations

cm = centimetre[s]; dec = decrease [by working 2 sts tog]; g-st = garter stitch [every row K]; inc = increase [by working twice into same st]; in = inch[es]; K = knit; P = purl; pssso = pass slipped stitch over; st[s] = stitch[es]; st-st = stocking stitch [K on the right side and P on the wrong side]; tog = together.

Special abbreviations

B & T tightly — means break off yarn leaving a long end, thread it through sts left on knitting needle, pull up to gather tightly, then fasten off.

B & T loosely — means same as above, but thread yarn through sts loosely and leave until later on.

USA glossary

Cast off — bind off

Tension — gauge

Instructions in round brackets

These are to be repeated the number of times stated after the closing bracket.

★ ★ ★

Stars are used to mark a place in the instructions which will be referred to later on. Meanwhile, follow the instructions in the usual way.

Tension and size

Worked at a tension of 26 sts to measure 10cm [4in] in width over st-st before stuffing, the finished dolls will measure about 18cm [7in] in height, excluding the hats.

Casting on

The thumb method is recommended.

Casting off

Always cast off K wise unless otherwise stated.

Working in st-st

Always begin with a K row unless otherwise stated.

Working in stripes

When knitting different coloured stripes, carry yarns loosely up side of work.

Making up

Join all seams having right sides of work together and back-stitch one knitted stitch within the edges, unless oversewing is stipulated. When attaching the various small pieces to the dolls, you can use ordinary matching sewing threads for a neat finish.

Colouring cheeks

Use the *side* of the red pencil lead and rub it against the knitted stitches with a circular motion.

Twisted cords

To make a cord from a single length of yarn [single twisted cord], cut a strand of yarn four times as long as the measurement required. Knot one end round a door knob or hook and knot a loop in the other end to fit round the index finger of your right hand. Now keeping the yarn taut, twist your finger round and round in a clockwise direction, steadying the yarn by holding your left hand cupped around it close to your right hand. Keep twisting until when relaxed, the strand of yarn begins to curl tightly back on itself. Fold cord at centre, bringing ends together. Allow yarn to twist tightly, knot ends and trim to length.

Use the same method when a double twisted cord is specified, but use a double length of yarn four times as long as the measurement required.

Toy safety guidelines

A certain amount of common sense should always be used regarding the safety factor in children's toys.

It is important to ensure that the toy you are making is appropriate for the age group of the child for which it is intended. For example, children under 3 years of age should not be given toys which have separate tiny parts, or any small attached pieces which might be pulled off.

The materials used for the dolls which appear in this booklet are: knitting yarn, polyester stuffing and plastic drinking straws. Do not add any other materials such as wire, pipe cleaners, buttons or beads.

Use only new, hygienic, washable stuffing which conforms to current safety standards — your craft materials supplier will advise.

When sewing up the dolls always use large glass-headed or plastic-headed pins. Ordinary pins should not be used as they can pass into a knitted doll between the knitted sts.

Take care to sew all the added pieces *securely* in place — for example arms, hats, etc. If a yarn cord is tied in a bow on a doll, sew through the bow so that it can not be undone if pulled.

BASIC DOLL INSTRUCTIONS

All the dolls are knitted in the same way, except that colours are changed in different places on the main piece [legs, body and head], as shown in the diagrams below.

You should begin by referring to the instructions for the doll you wish to make. These instructions will specify 'make basic doll **No 1**, or **No 2**, or **No 3**' and state the colours to be used. You can then select your colours, turn to this section and knit the legs, body and head piece, following the appropriate set of instructions.

The instructions for the arms, hair and other basic details are given in this section also, since these are used on many of the dolls.

Always take care to refer *back* to the set of instructions for the actual doll you are knitting, after following any of the basic instructions.

Basic doll No 3

Legs, body and head



Using colour required for the shoes, begin at lower edge of feet. Cast on 28 sts, marking centre of cast on edge.

1st row: P.

Next row: Inc K wise into every st — 56 sts. Beginning with a P row, st-st 7 rows. Break off shoe colour and join on colour required for bare legs, [to match head and hands].

Shape feet

Next row: K6, (K3tog) 6 times, K8, (K3tog) 6 times, K6 — 32 sts.

Continue in st-st and work 13 rows, marking centre of last row.

Break off leg colour and join on colour required for panties and upper body ★.

St-st 18 rows.

Shape shoulders

Next row: K7, (K2tog) twice, K10, (K2tog) twice, K7 — 28 sts.

P 1 row.

Break off body colour and join on colour required for head.

St-st 2 rows.

★★ **Shape head**

Next row: K8, inc in next 12 sts, K8 — 40 sts.

St-st 23 rows.

Next row: (K2tog) to end — 20 sts.

B & T loosely.

To make up all basic dolls

Join row ends of the knitted legs, body and head piece, forming centre back seam on the doll. Turn right side out. Oversew across the cast on sts, matching the marked centre point to centre back seam.

To form the legs, use matching yarn to sew back and forth through the doll at centre, starting at marked centre of the cast on edge and ending at the marked knitted row on the legs.

Stuff the toes, legs, body and head firmly. Pull up the length of yarn tightly at top of head and fasten off. To shape the neck, use a length of matching yarn and gather round the first knitted row of the head colour. Pull up the gathers very tightly and knot ends of yarn. Sew yarn ends into neck.

For Bride, Christmas Fairy and Jelly Babies, shape the neck in same way, but gather round the *third* knitted row above the shoulder dec row.

Face

For each eye, cut a 30cm [12in] length of black yarn. Make a knot at centre of each length, winding yarn round six times before pulling knot tight.

Mark positions of eyes with pins, leaving four clear knitted sts between them and placing them ten knitted rows above head inc row. Thread one yarn end into a darning needle. Pass the needle through one marked point to come out at back of doll's head near to top. Pass the other yarn end through head in same way, taking it through face just below the first position. Draw the ends of yarn through until knot touches face, then knot the ends of yarn together tightly and securely. Sew yarn ends into head. Repeat this for the other eye.

For mouth, use a length of black yarn and a darning needle, starting and fastening off at back of head near top. Work two small stitches to form a shallow V-shape, placing centre of V four knitted rows above head inc row. Colour cheeks with red pencil.

Basic arms

The arms are the same for all the dolls. Make two alike. Begin at end of hand and using yarn to match head colour, cast on 7 sts.

1st row: Inc K wise into every st — 14 sts.

Beginning with a P row, st-st 7 rows.

Break off hand colour and join on yarn for sleeve, to match upper body colour. St-st 11 rows. Cast off loosely.

To make up

Join row ends of each arm, then oversew across cast on sts. Turn right side out and stuff lightly. Unless other instructions are given, sew the open cast off edges of arms to sides of body, starting level with the K2tog decrease sts on shoulder shaping row.

Basic sleeve cuffs

Make two alike. Using the colour specified, cast on 18 sts and st-st 3 rows. Cast off.

Oversew row ends together. Turn right side out. Sew cuffs to lower edges of sleeves.

Basic boot top piece

This strip either forms a cuff around the top of boots, or a cuff around lower edge of pants, according to the individual instructions for each doll.

Using the colour specified, cast on 50 sts and g-st 2 rows. Cast off.

Oversew row ends together and place the piece around the boots with one long edge level with top knitted row of the boots. Sew through centre of strip and doll as when forming the doll's legs. Sew the strip to doll's legs.

Basic belt

Using the colour specified cast on 40 sts. St-st 3 rows, then cast off. Oversew row ends together. Turn right side out and place on doll where the pants and upper body colours join and with seam at centre back. Sew cast on and cast off edges to body.

Basic ears

Make two alike. Use on boy dolls if stated in individual instructions.

Using yarn to match the head colour, cast on 5 sts. St-st 5 rows, then cast off.

With right side of st-st outside, oversew cast on and cast off edges together, then oversew row ends at each side. Pin the oversewn cast on, cast off edges to sides of head, but do not sew in place at this stage.

Basic hair

If hair is required, it is the same for boys and girls. The hair is worked in g-st, using one 5½mm [No 5, USA 8] knitting needle, and one 3mm [No 11, USA 2] knitting needle. Use this pair of odd-sized needles to knit alternate rows.

Using the larger size needle and the required hair colour, cast on 12 sts.

1st row: K2tog, K to last 3 sts, turn.

2nd row: K to last st, inc in last st.

3rd row: K to last 2 sts, turn.

4th row: K to end.

5th and 6th rows: K.

Repeat these 6 pattern rows 11 more times. Cast off.

To make up

Oversew cast on and cast off edges together. Note that the wavy set of row ends is the face edge of hair. Gather up the opposite set of row ends tightly and fasten off. Turn right side out.

For boy doll, place the hair on head with oversewn seam at centre back. Adjust positions of ears to suit. Sew face edge of hair in place, pulling down each wavy edge slightly as you do this. Sew ears to head.

For girl doll, pull the hair a little further down onto the head at back and sides, then sew wavy edge in place.

Nurse

Make basic doll **No 3**, using white for shoes and blue for panties and upper body. Make basic arms using blue for sleeves. Add basic cuffs using white. Add basic hair.

Collar

Using white, cast on 32 sts, then cast off. Place cast off edge round doll's neck and oversew row ends together at centre back.

Skirt and apron

Using blue, begin at lower edge and cast on 66 sts.

G-st 2 rows, then st-st 2 rows.

Break off blue and join on white for apron.

K the next 2 rows. St-st 12 rows.

Next row: (K1, K2tog) to end — 44 sts.

K 1 row. St-st 3 rows. Cast off.

For the bib, use white and cast on 12 sts.

St-st 9 rows, but K the first and last st on every P row. Cast off.

To make up

Join row ends of skirt, turn right side out and place on doll with cast off edge under the arms and seam at centre back. Tuck cast off edge of bib just inside cast off edge of skirt at centre front. Sew bib and cast off edge of skirt to doll.

Cap

Using white, begin at face edge and cast on 54 sts.

St-st 4 rows.

Continue in st-st and cast off 8 sts at beginning of next 2 rows — 38 sts.

Now dec 1 st at each end of next and every following row until 24 sts remain.

St-st 28 rows, but K the first and last st on every P row.

G-st 2 rows, then cast off.

Oversew the short straight set of row ends together. Turn right side out. Place on doll's head with this seam at centre back. Sew cast on edge to head. Catch centre of cast off edge to cast on edge at centre back. Now oversew row ends of straight portion of cap to the shaped dec row ends at each side.

Hot water bottle

Using pink, begin at lower edge and cast on 12 sts.

1st row: Inc K wise into every st — 24 sts.

Beginning with a P row, st-st 16 rows.

Next row: (P2tog) to end — 12 sts.

K 1 row.

Next row: (K2tog) to end — 6 sts.

P 1 row.

Next row: Inc K wise into every st — 12 sts.

P 1 row, then cast off.

Oversew row ends together, with P side of st-st outside. Flatten bottle with the oversewn seam at centre back. Put a little stuffing inside, then oversew across cast on sts. Sew neck of bottle to doll's hand.

Bouquet

For each flower use yellow and cast on 10 sts.

1st row: (K2tog) to end — 5 sts. B & T tightly. Catch row ends together and take tail ends of yarn to back of flower. For centre of flower make a knot in one end of a short length of green yarn and sew it through centre of flower to back. Make six flowers. Bind and sew all stalks and tail ends of yarn together beneath flowers. Trim these ends to 2.5cm [1in] in length. Add a few loops of green yarn here and there in the bouquet for leaves, sewing them through to stalks.

For the wrapping paper, use white, cast on 16 sts and st-st 19 rows. Cast off. Wrap this piece around bouquet as illustrated with P side of st-st outside. Sew in place, catching in the flower stalks. Make a 16cm [6½in] single twisted green cord and tie in a bow round bouquet. Sew bouquet to doll's hand.



