

Jean Greenhowe's Easter Egg Treats



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JEAN GREENHOWE'S EASTER EGG TREATS

These little characters are all based upon the easiest of patterns. The main piece is just a garter stitch tube, with one half pushed inside the other half. This double knitted thickness and the stretchiness of garter stitch holds a chocolate egg securely in place, until it is squeezed out.

The addition of wings, ears etc transform the main piece into four versions – Chick, Duck, Bunny and Mouse. From our postbag we know that knitters are always looking for simple Easter patterns, so I'm sure these designs will be very popular.

The main piece with egg inside measures 6cm [2 $\frac{3}{4}$ in] from the base to the top end and only bits of yarn are required.

MATERIALS

Knitting yarn: Small oddments of double knitting [USA Astra or Bonus DK: Australia 8 ply]. Colours – white, yellow, fawn [or brown] and orange.

Knitting needles: A pair of 4mm [No 8, USA 6] and a pair of 3mm [No 11, USA 2].

Chocolate creme eggs: Any variety, providing the eggs measure about 5cm [2in] from base to the top – the size of Cadbury creme eggs.

Plastic glue-on wiggle eyes: [Also known as joggle eyes or moveable eyes in the USA], two 7mm diameter eyes for each character.

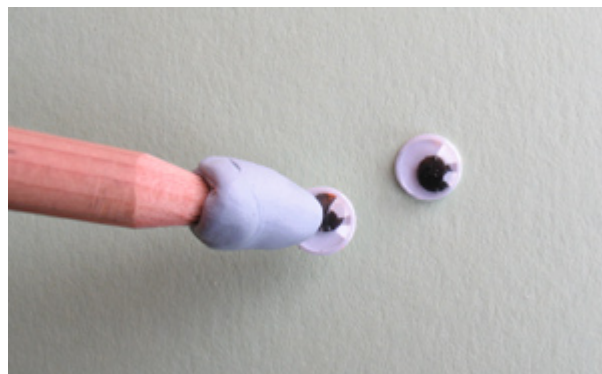
Glue: A quick drying adhesive such as all purpose UHU.

NOTES

Abbreviations: sts = stitches; g-st = garter stitch [every row K]; mm = millimetres; cm = centimetres; in = inches.

Casting on: The thumb method is recommended.

Applying the wiggle eyes: Wiggle eyes are fiddly to handle, but they can be applied as follows. You will need a bit of reusable putty adhesive such as Blu Tack [USA: Elmers Tack]. Mould the putty adhesive around the pointed end of a pencil. Pick up the front side of the eye with the adhesive-covered pencil point. Now apply a little glue on the flat side of the eye directly from the tube. Alternatively, put a blob of glue on a piece of paper and dip the flat side of the eye in the glue. Press the eye in position on the knitted piece. Release the eye from the pencil point with your finger-tip. Press the eye firmly in place.



TOY SAFETY

The items in this pattern are not suitable as playthings for babies and very young children. It should also be noted that the packaging on glue-on plastic wiggle eyes is labelled 'Warning, not suitable for children under 3 years of age'.

The materials used for the designs which appear in this pattern are : knitting yarn and plastic glue-on wiggle eyes. Do not add any other materials such as wire, pipe cleaners, buttons or beads.

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KNITTING NOTES

The first knitted row is right side of all the pieces. Cast off [USA: bind off] in the K stitch throughout all the patterns.

MAIN PIECE, FOR ALL VERSIONS

Using the colour required and 4mm [No 8, USA 6] needles cast on 30 sts. G-st 27 rows, then cast off.

To make up

With wrong side outside, oversew cast on and cast off edges together. This seam will be at centre back. Now gather round one set of row ends as follows. Slide the sewing needle through the edges of the projecting set of garter stitch loops only. Pull up the gathers tightly, then fasten off yarn securely. Turn the piece right side out.

Gather the remaining set of row ends as before. Push this end right inside the tube, so that both sets of row ends are together. Push the chocolate egg inside, with narrow end at position of the gathered row ends. Leave the egg inside when adding the other pieces.

CHICK AND DUCK

Main piece

Use yellow for the chick, white for the duck.

For the top knot, use matching yarn. Work a few loops of yarn at centre top of gathered row ends, securing each loop with a small oversewing stitch.

Eyes

Position the eyes as follows.

Ignoring the oversewn centre back seam, there are 13 garter stitch ridges on the main piece. Place a pin across the centre ridge, so that there are 6 ridges on either side of the centre.

Glue on the eyes at either side of centre ridge, side-by-side in the depressions between the g-st ridges and with tops of eyes about 2cm [$\frac{3}{4}$ in] below gathered top. Press the eyes firmly in place.

Beak

Use orange for the Chick, yellow for the Duck.

Thread the yarn into a sewing needle. Refer to the Duck illustration below, as a guide to the following instructions. Leave tail-ends of yarn at each side of the main piece as shown.

Sew the yarn through one side of the main piece and bring the needle out just below centre of the wiggle eyes and to the left of the centre g-st ridge between the eyes.

Now work two small loose horizontal loops around the g-st ridge. Pass the yarn through main piece to come out at the opposite side, leaving a tail-end as before. These will be snipped off later on.

Put a small blob of glue on the loops. Pinch the loops repeatedly to form a flat pointed V-shape. Leave the glue to set. Now pull the beak to make sure that the glue has secured the beak to the fibres of the main piece. Repeat the gluing if necessary.



Now pull each tail-end of yarn tightly, then snip off close to the knitted sts. The ends will disappear into the main piece.

Wings [make two alike]

Use 3mm [No 11, USA 2] needles.

Using yarn to match the main piece cast on 5 sts tightly. G-st 5 rows, then cast off tightly.

Using one of the tail-ends of yarn, gather along the adjacent set of row ends, pull up gathers tightly and fasten off.

Pin each gathered edge to sides of the Chick or Duck halfway down the main piece and in the third g-st depression beyond the centre g-st ridge. Sew in place as pinned.

BUNNY

Use fawn or brown for the main piece and add the eyes as for the Chick and Duck.

Ears [make two alike]

Use 3mm [No 11, USA 2] needles.

Use yarn to match the main piece and cast on 8 sts.

G-st 5 rows, then cast off.

Fold the row ends which have the tail-ends of yarn, in half. Using one of the tail-ends, oversew across the row ends for base of the ear.



Pin ears to top of Bunny as illustrated. Using the other tail-ends sew ears in place as pinned.

Tail

Use 3mm [No 11, USA 2] needles.

Using white cast on 12 sts.

1st row: (K2tog) to end – 6 sts.

Break off yarn leaving a long end. Thread it through the 6 sts, pull up yarn to gather tightly, then fasten off. Catch the row ends together. Sew tail to centre back of the Bunny just above lower edge.

MOUSE

Use pink for the main piece and add the eyes as for Chick and Duck.

Ears [make two alike]

Use 3mm [No 11, USA 2] needles.

Use yarn to match the main piece and cast on 10 sts loosely. G-st 3 rows.

Next row: (K2tog) to end – 5 sts.

Break off yarn and gather the 5 sts as given for Bunny's tail. Now fold the cast on edge in half and oversew across the cast on sts. Sew these edges to top of the Mouse, side-by-side.

Tail

Use 3mm [No 11, USA 2] needles and cast on 30 sts. Cast off tightly.

Sew one end of tail to centre back of the mouse, level with base.



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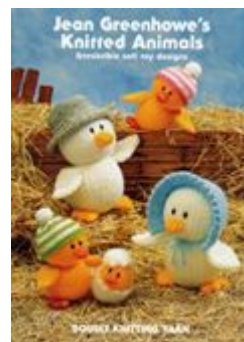
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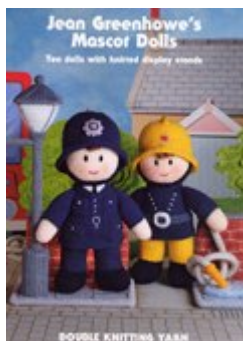
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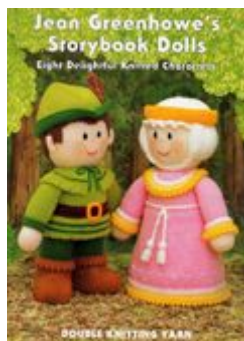
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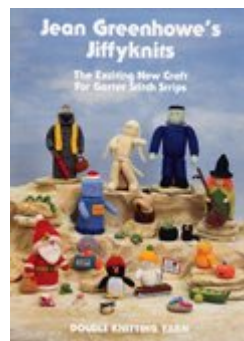
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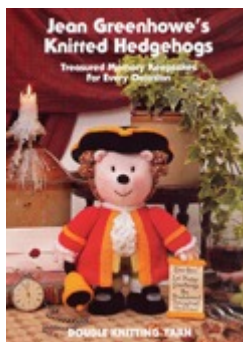
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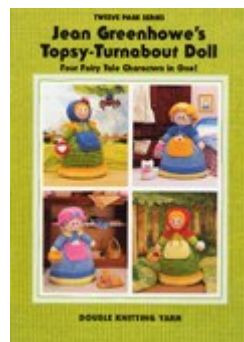
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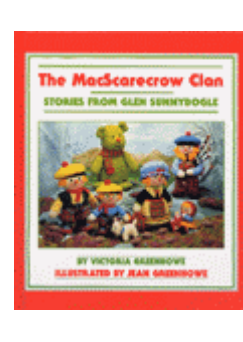
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