

Jean Greenhowe's Halloween Ghosties



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JEAN GREENHOWE'S HALLOWEEN GHOSTIES

This quintet of cute characters couldn't be quicker or easier to make from scraps of yarn and stuffing. They are knitted in garter stitch (no increases or decreases) and with one nifty stitch they stand up by themselves, like magic!

Moreover, children can join in the knitting. The smallest size only has 12 stitches and 19 rows and they are all worked on 4mm [No 8, USA 6] knitting needles – perfect for beginner knitters, grown-ups included. Even the arms are easy-peasy, just one cast on/cast off piece, which is threaded through the body.

There are instructions for five sizes ranging from 4.5cm [1¾in] to 7.5cm [3in] in height. You can knit them all year round, providing lots of amusing treats for the 31st of October.

MATERIALS

Knitting yarn: Small oddments of white double knitting [USA Astra or Bonus DK: Australia 8 ply].

Stuffing: Only small amounts are required. For best results use good quality polyester stuffing.

Knitting needles: A pair of 4mm [No 8, USA 6] and one larger needle, about 6cm [No 4, USA 10].

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

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

Sewing needles: A round pointed needle [tapestry needle] for oversewing seams and a long darning needle.

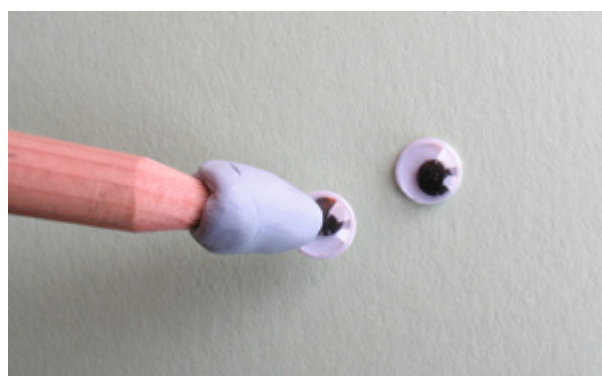
NOTES

Abbreviations: sts = stitches; g-st = garter stitch [every row K]; K = knit; mm = millimetres.

Casting on: The thumb method is recommended.

Applying the wiggle eyes: Wiggle eyes are fiddly to handle, but they can be applied easily 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, toy stuffing and plastic glue-on wiggle eyes. Do not add any other materials such as wire, pipe cleaners, buttons or beads.

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THE GHOSTIES

MAIN PIECE

Notes: There are five sizes ranging from small to larger versions. The small size is given first, followed by the other four in [] brackets. Note that first knitted row is right side of the piece.

Cast on 12 [14, 16, 18, 20] sts, leaving a long tail-end of yarn.

G-st 19 [21, 23, 25, 27] rows.

Cast off in the K stitch, leaving a long tail-end of yarn.



To make up all sizes

With wrong side outside, oversew cast on and cast off edges together. This seam will be at centre back.

Gather round one set of row ends, pull up the gathers tightly and fasten off for top of head. Turn right side out and stuff lightly.

Now gather round the remaining set of row ends, pull up tightly and fasten off as before but do not break off yarn. Thread the tail-end into a darning needle. Pass needle through centre of gathered base, up through centre of the main piece, to come out at gathered centre at top of head. Pull up yarn very tightly, to make a distinct depression in the base, then fasten off securely but do not break off yarn. The depression enables the ghosty to stand up unsupported.

Using the tail-end of yarn, work three small loops at centre top, with a small stitch at base of each loop to secure.

ARMS

[One piece]

Cast on 14 [16, 18, 20, 22] sts.

Cast off in the knit stitch.

Sew the tail-ends of yarn into the knitted strip, so that they meet at centre. Trim off excess length.

Using a 4mm [No 8, USA 6] knitting needle, push it through the body from one side to the other, about two-thirds of the way up from the base. Wiggle the needle and push it back and forth to make a channel through the stuffing. Remove the knitting needle. Now use the larger knitting needle and repeat this process.

Carefully pull out the knitting needle. Cut a short length of yarn and thread it into the tapestry needle, then thread yarn through one end of the arms piece. Remove the needle. Bring ends of the yarn together and thread them into the needle. Now thread the needle through the arms channel, then pull the arms piece through and even up the arm lengths at each side of the body.

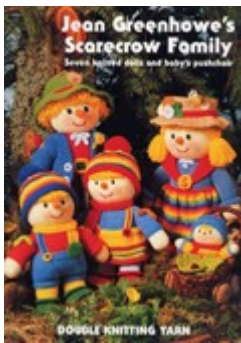
To secure the arms in position, work a few stitches where the piece passes through the body. Glue on the eyes, side-by-side as shown in the illustrations.



"I'm the little-est Ghostie and this is MY hat 'cos I found it in the big trunk and the others are bigger so they can't fit in MY hat and the stick is MY stick too 'cos I found that too and I'm going to scare everybody with my special scary haunted hat and stick and I think my idea is really scary and everyone will go OO-OO-OO look at that really, really scary haunted hat and stick and I'll go BOO! and jump out and they'll all run away very, very fast and very, very frightened ..."

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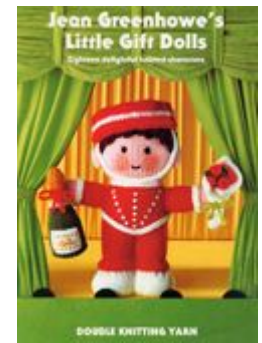
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Knitted Clowns



Golfing Clown



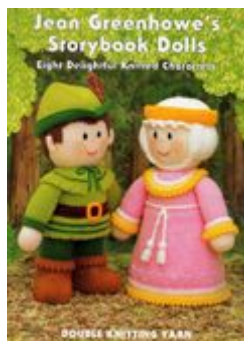
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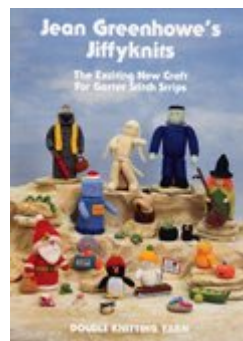
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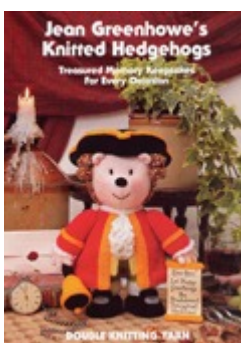
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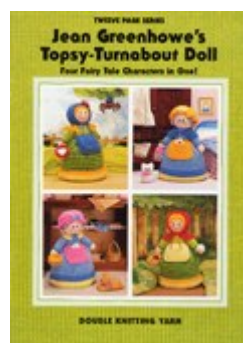
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MacScarecrow Clan Storybook

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