

Jean Greenhowe's Meet the Ghostlys



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JEAN GREENHOWE'S - MEET THE GHOSTLYS

This quartet of ghostly funsters like to haunt in style. Not for them those old white bed sheets – each one is a spooky hoot.

Lady Lavender is famous for her lilac ensemble and for delightful afternoon tea parties, where she entertains the other three Ghostlys with cucumber sandwiches, dainty cakes and a tune on the harp.

Moping Mona and her Kitty-Cat make a flourish in fluorescent green. **Mona** only pretends to be a moaner so that everyone will go 'Ahh' and give her lots of cuddles, not forgetting **Kitty**, who also likes to look sad so he too can enjoy lots of tickles.

Bertram Spookalot-Smythe dons grey apparel as befits a thespian fond of Shakespearian tragedy. Obviously the audience gives him a standing ovation for his performance with the huge ball and chain.

Foghorn Fred is the noisy one. He likes to appear in bright yellow and his midnight 'WOOO-OOO's can be heard from the dungeon to the ramparts. It's no wonder that his wee **Pumpkin** friend looks bewildered – 'What's it all about'?

The Basic figure and all the other pieces are simple rectangles or strips, knitted in garter stitch. Each character measures about 8cm [3in] in height and they all stand up on cardboard bases. Only oddments of yarn are required and small amounts of stuffing.

Happy haunting!

MEASUREMENT: The basic figure measures about 8cm [3in] high.

MATERIALS

Knitting yarn: Small oddments of double knitting [USA Patons Astra or Bonus DK; Australia 8 ply], in colours stated in the instructions.

Stuffing: Only very small amounts are required.

Knitting needles: A pair of 4mm [No 8, USA 5]. Use these for all the pieces unless otherwise stated.

A larger size needle about 6mm [No 4, USA 10].

ABBREVIATIONS

cm = centimetre[s]; g-st = garter stitch [every row K]; in = inch[es]; K = knit; mm = millimetres; st[s] = stitch[es].

USA GLOSSARY

Cast off – bind off

Tension – gauge

TENSION The tension for garter stitch on 4mm [No 8, USA 5] knitting needles is 22 sts = 10cm [4in] in width.

OTHER EQUIPMENT

- *Compasses are required for drawing circles.
- * Large glass-headed or plastic-headed pins. These should be used at all stages of construction. Ordinary pins should not be used as they can pass into the item between the knitted stitches.
- * A darning needle for gathering and sewing.
- * Plastic glue-on wiggle eyes [also called google eyes, USA moveable eyes], two 7mm diameter for each character, two 5mm for the Witch's cat and the Pumpkin.
- * A permanent fine line marker pen.

OTHER MATERIALS

Cardboard: Cardboard is used in the base of the characters so that they will stand up. Use cuttings off washing powder packets, breakfast cereal packets or the stiffened backs of note pads. The 'plain' side of the packaging should always be placed against the knitted stitches.

NOTES

Casting on and casting off: The thumb method is recommended for casting on. Cast on and cast off loosely.

Garner stitch: Is the same on both sides and therefore has no right or wrong side. However, for the neatest end-results, always assume that the first knitted row after casting on is the *right* side and the cast off edge is the wrong side, unless otherwise stated.

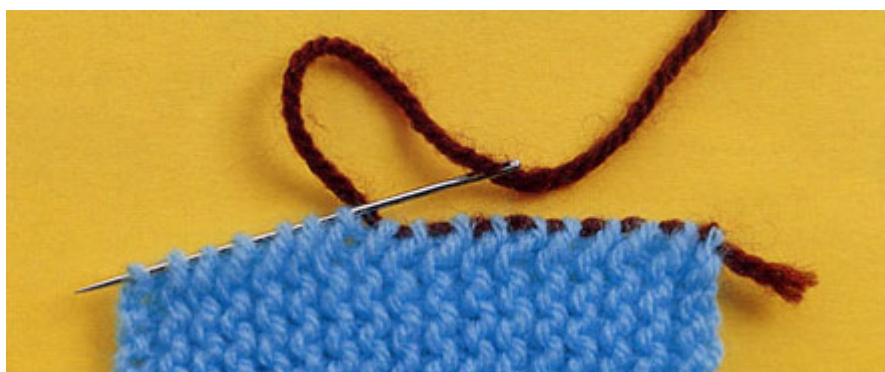
Counting rows: The required number of rows is given in the instructions for each piece. Row counting is quite easy with garter stitch knitting. After casting on and working two rows, there will be one garter stitch ridge on the 'right' side of the piece, which means you have knitted two rows.

As the work progresses, count each garter stitch ridge on the right side of the piece as two rows – 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 etc.

With odd numbers of rows an extra row will be worked after the last right side garter stitch ridge, so that you will be casting off with the *wrong* side of the piece facing toward you.

Sewing up the pieces: Only two methods are used – oversewing the edges together or gathering. Oversew the edges together on wrong side of the pieces. Take care not to oversew too tightly.

Seams: Place the oversewn seams at the back of the characters when gluing on the eyes.

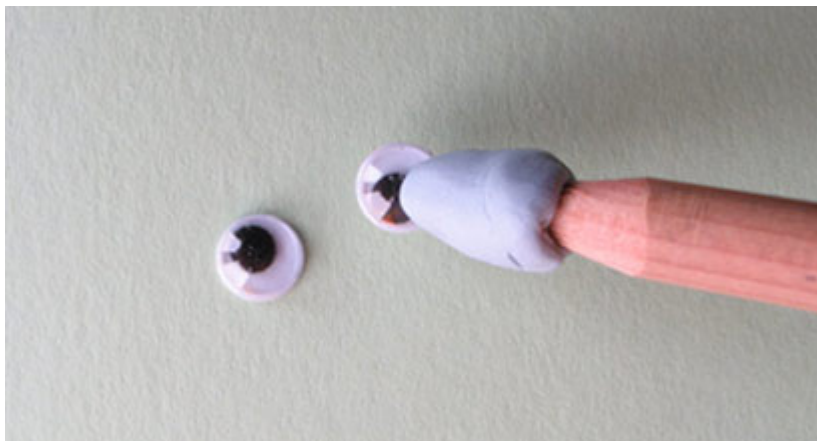


Gathering the row ends: When the instructions specify that the row ends should be gathered, work as follows. Slip the darning needle through the very edges of the projecting set of garter stitch loops only.

The illustration shows an example, using a contrast colour for the gathering yarn for clarity. When the gathers are pulled up tightly and fastened off, this method gives a smooth finish without any puckers.

Gluing on the Eyes

The smallest 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. If using a slow-drying glue, lay the item down, so that the eyes are in a horizontal position, until the glue is dry.



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TOY SAFETY

The items in these patterns are not suitable as playthings for babies or very young children. It should be noted that the package 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, cardboard and plastic glue-on wiggle eyes. Do not add any other materials such as wire, pipe cleaners, buttons or beads.

TO MAKE THE BASIC FIGURE

Main piece

Using the colour required, cast on 18 sts and g-st 25 rows.
Cast off.

Oversew the cast on and cast off edges together. Gather round one set of row ends, pull up tightly and fasten off, for base of the figure. Turn right side out.

Cut two 3.5cm [1 $\frac{3}{8}$ in] diameter circles of cardboard and glue them together. Push the circle inside the knitted piece and flatten it against the gathered row ends, with gathers at centre of the circle.

Stuff the lower section of the piece to the same size as the base, then gradually stuff more lightly to make a tapered shape. Gather round the remaining set of row ends, pull up tightly and fasten off. Glue on the eyes, about 1.5cm [$\frac{5}{8}$ in] below the centre top of the head, except for Moping Mona. Glue on her eyes a bit lower down, to allow for the hat. Use the marker pen to mark on the mouth as shown for each character.

Arms piece

The arms are knitted as one piece, which is threaded through the body.

Using the colour required, cast on 26 sts then cast off. Sew one of the tail-ends of yarn into the piece and trim off excess length.

About half way up, push your knitting needle through the body from one side to the other side. This makes a channel through the stuffing. Remove the knitting needle and repeat the process with the larger size knitting needle. Push the needle back and forth and wiggle it about, to make the channel larger.

Thread the remaining tail-end of yarn into a darning needle. Pass the needle through the body channel, then pull the arms piece through the body. Adjust the arms to equal lengths at each side. Catch the arms to the body with a few stitches.

MOPING MONA (AND HER KITTY-CAT)

Make the Basic figure, using green.

HAT**Crown piece**

Using dark green cast on 10 sts and g-st 25 rows.
Cast off.

Oversew the cast on and cast off edges together, then turn right side out. Gather round one set of row ends, pull up tightly and fasten off, for top end of the hat. Gather round the piece about 1cm [$\frac{3}{8}$ in] below top end, pull up tightly and fasten off. Position the crown piece on the Witch's head, slightly tilted, then sew lower edge in place.

Brim piece

Using dark green cast on 24 sts. Cast off, using the larger size knitting needle. Cast off row is outer edge of the brim. Oversew the row ends together. Sew cast on edge of the brim to lower edge of the hat crown.

To taper the crown piece, secure a length of matching yarn just underneath the brim. Now slide the sewing needle through the knitted sts, spiralling around the hat toward the top pulling the yarn gently as you go. Fasten off at the top point.

HAIR

Use light green. Cut a 12cm [$4\frac{3}{4}$ in] length of yarn. Use a sewing needle to thread it through one stitch on the head under the hat brim, about 5mm [$\frac{1}{4}$ in] away from the eye. Pull yarn through to equal lengths, then knot them tightly against the head. Repeat this with two more lengths of yarn, behind and close to the first knot. Repeat at other side of the head, then trim all the yarn ends to about 2.5cm [1in] in length.

BROOMSTICK

Using dark brown yarn cast on 20 sts. Cast off, leaving a long tail-end of yarn. On the cast on side at centre of the piece, weave the darning needle in and out all along the length. Now using the tail-end of yarn, wind it tightly and closely around the piece and the darning needle along the length. When it is covered, sew the tail-end into the knitted piece and remove the darning needle.

For the bristles, cut ten 12cm [4¾in] lengths of fawn yarn. Starting 1cm [¾ in] above lower end of the stick, sew each length of yarn through the knitted piece, working around the stick toward the base and pulling each one down to make equal lengths. Secure a length of grey yarn above the bristles, then wind it tightly around the bristles to end of the stick, pulling the yarn strands down tightly as you go. Trim the bristles to about 2.5cm [1in] in length. Use a comb to tease out some of the yarn strands, then trim off any fluffy ends.

Bring the Witch's arms together at centre front and fold the left hand just over the right hand. Catch both hands to the body at this position. Push the broomstick handle under the left arm as illustrated.

THE CAT

Body and head

Use green to match the Witch. Cast on 8 sts and g-st 15 rows. Cast off.

Oversew the cast on and cast off edges together. Gather round one set of row ends, pull up tightly and fasten off. Turn the piece right side out and stuff.

Bring the oversewn seam to centre of the remaining set of row ends, then oversew across the row ends. This edge is top of the head. To form the ears, secure a length of matching yarn at centre of top of the head. Pass the needle down through the stuffed shape and bring it out at centre of the gathered row ends. Pull yarn tightly to depress centre top of the head, thus forming the ears. Fasten off.

To shape the neck, tie a length of matching yarn tightly around the cat, just over half way up. Sew yarn ends into the neck. Glue on the eyes as illustrated.

Tail

Using green cast on 12 sts, then cast off. Oversew the cast on and cast off edges together, pulling the stitches tightly to curve the tail. Sew one end to centre back of the cat at the base.



LADY LAVENDER

Make the Basic figure using lilac.

STOLE

Use a darker shade of lilac and cast on 44 sts. Cast off, using the larger size knitting needle. Cast off row is wrong side of the piece.

With right side outside and cast on edge nearest to the body, place the stole around the back and over the arms. Adjust the ends so that they are approximately even in length.

Smooth the ends down the body and pin to the lower edge, letting the extra lengths trail on the ground. Catch to body as pinned. Bend the left arm around the stole and catch the hand to the body.

HAIR

Wind lilac yarn 6 times around four fingers. Slip carefully off your fingers and tie a length of matching yarn tightly around the centre of the 'hank'. Sew the tied centre to centre top of the head.

The hair will be finished later on. Meanwhile, use a pin to pull down all the loops of yarn at one side of the head. Push the pin into the head to hold the loops in the stretched position. Repeat at other side of the head.

HEAD-DRESS

Using yarn to match the stole cast on 20 sts. Cast off, using the larger size knitting needle. Cast off row is wrong side and also lower edge of the piece.

Oversew the row ends together, then turn right side out. Place on the head as shown in the illustration, with seam at centre back. Pin, then sew in place along the centre of the strip, taking the stitches through the hair strands and into the head to secure.

Now cut through the hair loops and trim the strands to equal lengths at each side.

For the feather use a light shade of lilac and cast on 12 sts. Cast off. Fold the piece in half with cast off edge on the outside. Oversew the row ends together, then oversew across the cast on sts. Open up the feather and sew the row ends to centre front of the head-dress as illustrated.



BERTRAM SPOOKALOT-SMYTHE

Make the Basic figure using light grey.

HAIR TUFTS

Using light grey, sew two short lengths of yarn through the gathered top of head and knot them tightly together. Repeat with two more lengths. Now trim them to about 1.5cm [$\frac{5}{8}$ in] in length.

BALL AND CHAIN

Chain

Make a twisted cord as follows.

Cut a 2 metre [$2\frac{1}{4}$ yard] length of dark grey yarn. Knot the ends around a door knob or hook. Stretch the yarn tight and insert the index finger of your right hand in the folded end.

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 yarn begins to curl back on itself. Repeat, until the twists are tight. Now hold onto the centre of the cord and bring the ends together. Allow the yarn to twist, then smooth out the twists evenly, by stroking the cord along the length. Knot the ends together, 30cm [12in] away from the folded end. Trim off the ends near to the knot. Lay the chain aside for now.

Ball

Using dark grey cast on 7 sts and g-st 31 rows.
Cast off.

Oversew the cast on and cast off edges together. Gather round one set of row ends, pull up tightly and fasten off. Turn right side out. Gather round the remaining set of row ends, but do not pull up the gathers.

Stuff the knitted piece firmly, then pull up the gathers leaving a small hole. Push the knotted end of the chain inside the ball. Pull up the gathers tightly, enclosing the knot. Fasten off and sew through the chain to secure.

Drape the chain around the back of the figure above the arms, crossing it over at the front, as shown in the illustration. Catch the chain to the body at the cross-over position. Sew the right hand to the chain.





FOGHORN FRED (AND HIS PUMPKIN)

Make the Basic figure using yellow.

HAIR TUFTS

Refer to Bertram's Hair Tufts using green. Use a comb to tease out the yarn strands, then trim off the fluffy ends.

SCARF

Using orange cast on 50 sts. Cast off, noting that cast off row is right side.

With cast on edge uppermost, wrap the scarf around the body just above the arms, crossing the ends over one arm as shown in the illustration. Catch the ends together at the crossover position.

PUMPKIN

Using orange, cast on 5 sts and g-st 31 rows.

Oversew the cast on and cast off edges together. Gather round one set of row ends, pull up tightly and fasten off. Turn right side out.

For the stalk, cut a 14cm [5½in] length of green yarn and knot one end. Sew the yarn through gathered centre from wrong side to right side, so that the knot is against the gathered sts. Sew back again, leaving a small loop of yarn on the right side, then fasten off.

Put a small dot of glue on the loop. Now twirl it between your finger and thumb to stiffen and make the stalk-shape. Trim stalk to about 1cm [¾in] in length.

Now stuff the pumpkin, then gather the remaining row ends tightly and fasten off. Glue on the 5mm eyes as illustrated.

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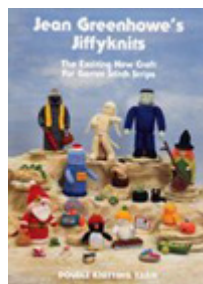
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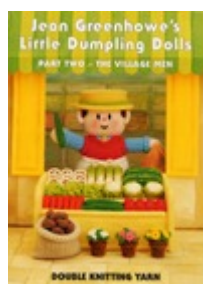
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