

Jean Greenhowe's Rainbow Babies



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JEAN GREENHOWE'S RAINBOW BABIES

From our postbag we know that innumerable kind-hearted people knit my dolls and toys to raise much needed funds for charity and other worthwhile causes.

With this charity aspect in mind I have designed THE RAINBOW BABIES as the first new and exclusive free pattern on our website. Ideal as fund-raisers, these sweet Babies are quick to knit and each one only requires 25 grams [less than 1 ounce] of yarn and the same amount of stuffing. The doll measures just 17cm [6¾ in] high without the cap. The feet, legs, body and head are knitted in one piece and the 'babygrow' garment is part of the doll. The only separately knitted pieces are the arms, cap and scarf.

You can make pink or brown Babies, but be sure to choose lovely bright colours for the rest of the design, in keeping with the rainbow theme. For extra play value I have also included a cosy rainbow pocket. Popped inside the pocket, every doll becomes part of the RAINBOW! The pocket measures 8cm by 9cm [3in by 3½in].

With your help I hope the Babies will create a beautiful RAINBOW all around the world.

Note: A rainbow is composed of seven colours - red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. Because blue and indigo are very close shades, I have omitted indigo and used the remaining six colours for these designs.

NOTES

Knitting yarn: Oddments of double knitting [USA Astra or Bonus DK: Australia 8 ply]. A total of about 25 grams [less than 1 ounce] is required for each doll. Only very small oddments are required for the pocket.

Good quality washable stuffing: About 25 grams [less than 1 ounce] for each doll.

Knitting needles: A pair of 3mm [No 11, USA 2].

Other items: A red colouring pencil for shading cheeks. A darning needle. A tapestry needle with a rounded point for sewing up the pieces.

Abbreviations: K = knit; P = purl; st[s] = stitch[es]; st-st = stocking stitch [K on the right side and P on the wrong side]; g-st = garter stitch [every row K]; inc = increase [by knitting into front and back of st]; tog = together; mm = millimetres; cm = centimetres; in = inch[es].

USA glossary

UK	USA
K wise	K ways
Cast off	bind off
Stocking stitch	stockinette stitch
Tension	gauge

Instructions in round brackets: These are repeated the number of times stated after the closing bracket.

*

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

Tension: Using 3mm [No 11, USA 2] knitting needles, the tension for double knitting yarn is 26 sts = 10cm [4 in] in width over st-st.

Casting on: The thumb method is recommended.

Making up: Join all seams with right sides of work together and back-stitch one knitted stitch within the edges, unless oversewing is stipulated.

Working embroidered stitches: To hide the starting and fastening off of yarn ends inside the doll, proceed as follows. Thread a blunt-ended needle [tapestry needle] with yarn required and knot end of yarn. Pass the needle through the doll, *between* the knitted sts and bring it out at the position required. Pull the yarn to draw the knotted end right inside the stuffing. Tug the yarn to make sure the knot is caught in the stuffing.

Now work the required embroidered stitches. Pass the needle back through the doll to come out at a position *between* the knitted sts. Pass needle back through the doll again between the same knitted sts to come out at a different position. Repeat until yarn is securely fastened off, then pull end of yarn and snip it off close to the knitted sts. The cut end will disappear into the doll.

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 designs which appear in this pattern are: knitting yarn and polyester stuffing.

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 items always use large, glass-headed or plastic-headed pins. Ordinary pins should not be used as they can pass into a stuffed item between the knitted stitches. Take care to sew all the added pieces *securely* in place – for example arms, hats etc.

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THE RAINBOW BABIES

NOTE. Each basic doll is worked in the main colour, with a contrasting colour for the details.

LEGS, BODY AND HEAD

Begin at lower edge of one leg and using main colour of yarn cast on 10 sts.
P 1 row.

Next row: Inc K wise into every st — 20 sts.
Beginning with a P row, continue in st-st and work 5 rows.

Shape foot

Next row: K3, (K2tog, K2) 4 times, K1 — 16 sts.
St-st 13 rows *.

Break off yarn and leave sts on a spare double-pointed needle.
Work the other leg in the same way as far as *. Continue in the main colour and mark each end of the next row with a coloured thread.

With right side of st-st facing, K across the 16 sts on the knitting needle, then across the 16 sts on the spare needle — 32 sts.

St-st 15 rows. Mark centre of one of these rows with a coloured thread as a guide to positioning the button stitches.

Shape body

Next row: K7, (K2tog) twice, K10, (K2tog) twice, K7 — 28 sts.
St-st 3 rows.

Next row: K6, (K2tog) twice, K8, (K2tog) twice, K6 — 24 sts.
Break off yarn and join on skin colour.
P 1 row. This is the 'neck' row.

Inc for head

Next row: (K1, inc in next st) to end — 36 sts.
St-st 21 rows, marking centre of one of these rows with a coloured thread as a guide to positioning the facial stitches.

Shape top of head

Next row: (K1, K2tog) to end — 24 sts.
P 1 row.
Next row: (K2tog) to end — 12 sts.

Break off yarn leaving a long end. Use a darning needle to thread the yarn loosely through the 12 sts. The doll will be stuffed through this opening.

To make up

Join row ends of the body and head from the coloured threads to within 2cm [$\frac{3}{4}$ in] of the loose 12 sts at the top of the head. This seam will be at centre back of the doll. Gather along the cast on sts on each leg, pull up tightly and fasten off. Join row ends of each leg. Turn the piece right side out through open top of the head.

Stuff the feet then the legs. Each leg should measure 8cm [3in] around. Stuff the body next, to measure 16cm [6 $\frac{1}{4}$ in] around at the 'waist'. Stuff the neck, then the head. The head should measure 19cm [7 $\frac{1}{2}$ in] around at the centre. The 'neck' will be just a bit narrower than the body and head at this stage. Pull up the length of yarn tightly at top of the head and fasten off. If necessary, continue stuffing the head through the gap in the seam, to round off the top. Close gap in seam.

To shape the neck, use a length of matching yarn. Starting at the centre back seam, gather around the first knitted row of the head colour, [the 'neck' row]. Pull up the gathers very tightly and knot ends of yarn. Sew yarn ends into the neck.

Eyes

The coloured thread marks the centre of the face. Mark the eye positions with pins centrally on the face, placing pins 10 knitted rows above the neck row and leaving 4 clear knitted sts between the pins. The eyes are worked in back-stitch as described below.

Use a length of black yarn for brown baby, brown yarn for pink baby. Start and fasten off the yarn ends invisibly as described in 'Working embroidered stitches' at the beginning of the instructions.



Bring needle and yarn out at one marked eye position. Pass needle through the face 2 knitted rows directly above first position and bring it out at first position. Pull yarn through. This completes one back-stitch. Work another back-stitch in the same way. Now pass the needle and yarn through top of the eye and fasten off inside the head. Work other eye in the same way.

Mouth

Start and fasten off yarn as for the eyes. Mark mouth position with a pin at centre of face, 5 knitted rows above the neck row. Use a darker shade of pink yarn for pink baby, dark brown for brown baby. Work a small horizontal stitch at the marked position, covering half a stitch on either side of the centre.

Cheeks and nose

Colour the cheeks with red pencil as follows. Use the side of the red pencil lead and rub it against the knitted sts with a circular motion.

For the nose use red pencil to colour a small dot at centre of face, level with lower edges of the eyes.

CAP

Begin at lower edge and using main colour cast on 40 sts.
G-st 4 rows.
Break off yarn and join on contrast colour.
Beginning with a K row, st-st 16 rows.

Shape top

1st row: (K2, K2tog) to end — 30 sts.
2nd and every following alternate row: P.
3rd row: (K1, K2tog) to end — 20 sts.
5th row: (K2tog) to end — 10 sts.

Break off yarn and join on main colour for the pom-pom.
P 1 row.

Beginning with a P row, st-st 6 rows.

Break off yarn leaving a long end. Use a darning needle to thread it through the 10 sts, pull up tightly and fasten off.



To make up

Join the row ends from cast on edge as far as the first row of the pom-pom.
Oversew row ends of the pom-pom together. Turn cap right side out. Stuff the pom-pom firmly. Tie a length of the main colour of yarn tightly around the first knitted row of pom-pom and knot ends together. Sew yarn ends into the cap.

Place cap on the doll's head with seam at centre back and cast on edge just above neck at back. At centre front, the cast on edge should be about 3 knitted rows above the tops of the eyes. Pin, then sew cast on edge of cap in place.

BUTTONS

Use the contrast colour. Starting in the 4th knitted row below the neck, work a small horizontal stitch at centre of the body in the same way as for the mouth. Work another stitch at same position. Work three more buttons, leaving one knitted row between each one.

ARMS

[Make two alike]

Begin at top edge and using main colour cast on 13 sts.
Beginning with a P row st-st 12 rows.

Next row: K.

Break off yarn and join on skin colour.
Beginning with a K row, st-st 5 rows.

Break off yarn leaving a long end. Using a darning needle thread it through the 13 sts, pull up tightly and fasten off.

To make up

Join row ends of each arm. This seam will be at the underarm position, when sewing the arms to the doll. Turn right side out and stuff. Fold the cast on edge in half, with the underarm seam at one side. Oversew across the cast on sts. Sew these edges of the arms to sides of doll, in line with the body shaping rows and 5mm [$\frac{1}{4}$ in] below the neck.

SCARF

Using contrast colour cast on 56 sts.
K 1 row, noting that this row is right side of the scarf. Cast off loosely K wise.

Placing the cast off edge against the doll's neck, wrap the scarf around the neck, stretching it slightly. Overlap the ends at one shoulder as illustrated. Pin at the overlap, then sew scarf securely to the body at the cross-over position.

THE COSY RAINBOW POCKET

The pocket is knitted in one piece.

Begin at top edge and using white cast on 44 sts.
G-st 6 rows. Break off white.

Join on and break off yarns as required for the rainbow stripes. Beginning with a K row continue in st-st in colours as follows.

Work 4 rows for each stripe - red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet.

Break off violet and join on white.

K 1 row.

Shape the base

Next row: P9, (P2tog) twice, P18, (P2tog) twice, P9 — 40 sts.

K 1 row.

Next row: P1, (P2, P2tog) twice, P2tog, (P2tog, P2) twice, P2, (P2, P2tog) twice, P2tog, (P2tog, P2) twice, P1 — 30 sts. Mark centre of this row on P side with a coloured thread.
Cast off P wise.

To make up

Join the row ends for centre back seam. Bring this seam to the coloured marker thread at the cast off edge. Oversew across the cast off sts. Turn the pocket right side out.



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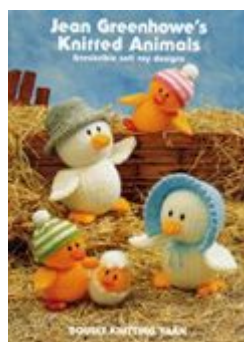
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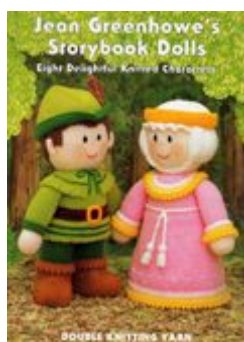
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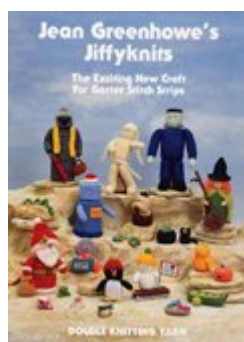
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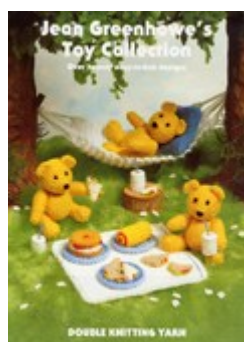
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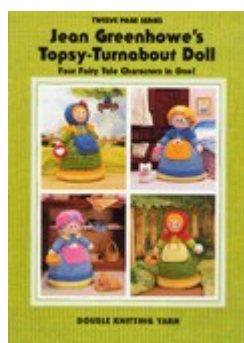
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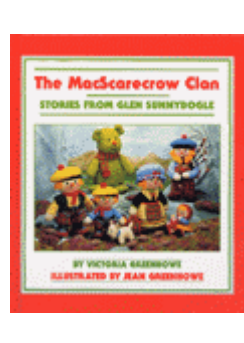
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