

Jean Greenhowe's Tea Party Treats Part Two – Biscuits & Cakes



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JEAN GREENHOWE'S TEA PARTY TREATS

Part Two – Biscuits and Cakes

I hope you had fun with the **Jiffyknit Appetisers** and here is **Part Two** of the **Party Treats**, scrumptious Biscuits and Cakes to amuse your tea-time guests, while serving up the edible bakes.

This is how **Jiffyknits** began. In the late 1980s I developed a proposal for a hardback book of easy items for children to knit. This was set aside for a few years and when I returned to the project I completely changed tack. Because everyone learns to knit making garter stitch strips I decided to challenge myself – how many ideas could I come up with for making amazing and amusing things from garter stitch pieces? No increasing or decreasing allowed – just straight strips.

It turned into a marathon and **Jiffyknits** is the result which we published in 2000. I enjoyed creating these simple knits so much that I'm still producing new designs. And it seems unlikely that I'll ever get to the end of so many intriguing possibilities.

NOTES

Safety Guidelines: The items in these patterns are not suitable as playthings for babies and very young children.

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

Stuffing: Only very small amounts are required.

Knitting needles: A pair of 4mm [No 8, USA 5].

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

Special abbreviations: B & T tightly – means break off yarn leaving a long end, thread it through all the sts on the knitting needle, pull up to gather tightly, then fasten off.

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.

Tweezers are useful for turning small knitted pieces right side out and inserting small amounts of stuffing.

Cardboard: Cardboard is used to give shape to the knitted pieces. 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.

If the knitted piece is light in colour, glue a piece of white paper to one side of the cardboard or both sides if necessary.

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

Garter 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.

Cast off loosely.

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 with wrong side of the pieces outside unless the piece is very small. Small pieces are sometimes sewn up 'with right side outside', as stated in the instructions.

Take care not to oversew too tightly.

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.



Glue: Some of the pieces are assembled by gluing them together. You can use a quick drying adhesive for instant results. If a slow drying adhesive is used, pin the knitted pieces together until the glue is dry. Take care to keep the glue clear of the edges of the knitted pieces, so that it will not spoil the appearance of the finished item.

Pressing: Some of the knitted pieces require a light pressing. If the instructions specify pressing, proceed as follows. Use a warm iron over a *damp* [not wet] cloth. Press the piece very lightly on one side, then on the other side. Leave to dry. Take care not to flatten the knitted stitches altogether, especially when using acrylic yarn.

INSTRUCTION GUIDELINES

In order to avoid unnecessary repetition in the instructions, some details are described in the 'Notes'. It is important to read through this section in order to ensure the best end results. In particular, when the instructions specify 'Press', refer to the 'Notes'.

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JAM AND CREAM SPONGE

The finished cake measures 5cm [2in] in diameter.

Sponge [make two pieces]

Using light yellow cast on 14 sts and g-st 25 rows. Cast off.

Gather all round the edges of the piece and pull up gathers slightly. Stuff lightly and evenly. Cut a 4cm [1½in] diameter circle of cardboard and push it inside the piece. Pull up gathers tightly, but leave a gap at centre, about 1cm [¾in] in diameter. Fasten off.

Spread glue around gathered side of one of the pieces about 1cm [¾in] within the outer edge. Press both pieces together, then place them under a book or similar heavy object until the glue dries.

Cream

Using white cast on 28 sts, then cast off.

Sew one end of the cream to the gap between the two sponge pieces. Now wind the strip around between the two sponges, twisting it round and round as you go. Sew the end to the first end.

Jam

Use a length of red yarn and work irregular long stitches around the cake, underneath the cream.



ICED BISCUITS

The finished biscuits measure 5cm [2in] in diameter.

Biscuit

Use light fawn for plain biscuit, dark brown for chocolate biscuit and tan for ginger biscuit.

Using the colour required cast on 9 sts and g-st 41 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. Cut a 4.5cm [1³/₄in] diameter circle of cardboard. Push it inside the knitted piece, so that centre of the circle is at centre of the gathered row ends. Gather round the second set of row ends, pull up tightly and fasten off. Press.

Icing

Use brown for plain biscuit, white for chocolate biscuit and pink for ginger biscuit.

Using the colour required cast on 8 sts and g-st 27 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 and flatten the piece to form a circle, with gathered row ends at centre of circle. On the underside, sew the second set of row ends to the piece, leaving a 1.5cm [⁵/₁₆in] diameter hole at centre. Press.

Spread a little glue around underside of the icing, just within the edge. Press it centrally on the biscuit. Place under a book or similar heavy object until glue is dry.



Cherry

Using red cast on 14 sts and K 1 row, [right side]. B & T tightly, for top of cherry.

Catch the row ends together and turn right side out. Gather round cast on sts. Push a little stuffing inside the piece, pull up gathers leaving a small hole at centre. Fasten off. Glue underside of cherry to centre of the icing.

FONDANT FANCIES

The finished cakes measure 4cm [1¹/₂in] in diameter.

Cake

Use brown, yellow or pink yarn, for the icing.

Using the colour required cast on 12 sts and g-st 37 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.

Cut two 3.5cm [1³/₈in] diameter circles of cardboard. Push one inside the piece so that centre of circle is at gathered centre. Stuff the piece, keeping it the same size as the base. Gather round the remaining set of row ends, then push the second cardboard circle inside. Pull up gathers tightly and fasten off.

Candy decoration

Using white cast on 8 sts. B & T tightly. Catch row ends together.

Glue one to centre top of each cake.



VIENNESE FINGER

The finished finger measures 7cm [2¾in] in length.

Using light yellow cast on 12 sts and g-st 13 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.

Cut a 1.5cm by 5cm [⅝in by 2in] piece of cardboard. Round off the sharp corners. Push the cardboard inside the knitted piece so that the oversewn seam is at centre of the cardboard strip. This will be the underside of the finger. Stuff the piece above the cardboard on top side. Gather round the remaining set of row ends, pull up tightly and fasten off.

Chocolate end pieces [make two]

Using dark brown cast on 4 sts and g-st 9 rows.
Cast off.

Gather along one set of row ends, pull up tightly and fasten off. With right side outside, pin the gathered end to one gathered end of the finger. Now pin the cast on and cast off edges in place, level with the cardboard at lower edge. Sew in place as pinned. Repeat with the other piece.



SHORTBREAD FINGER

Refer to the Viennese finger. Knit and cast off as given in the pattern.

With right side outside, oversew the cast on and cast off edges together. Cut a 1.5cm by 5cm [⅝in by 2in] piece of cardboard and round off the sharp corners. Push it inside the knitted piece so that the oversewn seam is at approximate centre of the cardboard strip. This will be underside of the finger. Now oversew the row ends together at each end of the piece.

SWISS ROLL SLICE

The finished cake measures 4cm [1½in] in diameter.

Chocolate section

Using dark brown cast on 4 sts and g-st 73 rows.
Cast off.

Cream section

Using cream cast on 4 sts and g-st 67 rows.
Cast off.

With both cast off edges level, roll up the two pieces, with cream on the inside. Secure the chocolate end with pins. Using dark brown yarn, sew the cast on end of chocolate in place, then sew back and forth through the rolled-up shape to secure.

MINI SWISS ROLL

The finished cake measures 4cm [1½in] in length.

Sponge section

Using light yellow cast on 10 sts and g-st 33 rows.
Cast off.

Jam section

Using red cast on 10 sts and g-st 23 rows.
Cast off.

To prevent the jam showing through the sponge section, cut a strip of paper handkerchief slightly narrower and shorter than the sponge section.

Place this between the two knitted pieces, with one end of the paper and both cast off edges level. Roll up the piece with jam on the inside. Pin, then sew the sponge end in place.



CHOCOLATE SPONGE CAKE

The finished sponge measures 5cm [2in] in diameter.

Sponge

Using brown cast on 10 sts and g-st 41 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. Cut a 4.5cm [1¾in] diameter circle of cardboard. Push it inside the knitted piece, so that centre of the circle is at centre of the gathered row ends. Gather round the second set of row ends. Stuff the piece lightly, then pull up the gathers tightly and fasten off.

Cream

Using cream yarn cast on 10 sts and g-st 4 rows. B & T tightly. Gather along both sets of row ends, pull up tightly and fasten off. You will now have a dome-shaped piece of knitting. Spread a little glue inside the piece around the lower edge. Press it in position at centre top of the sponge.

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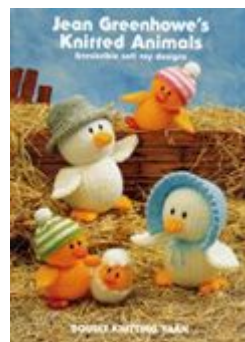
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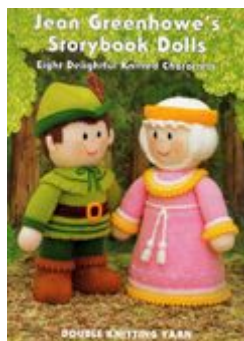
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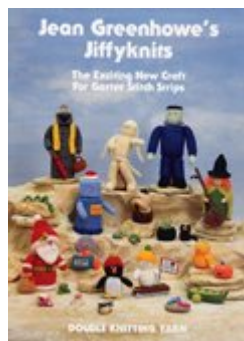
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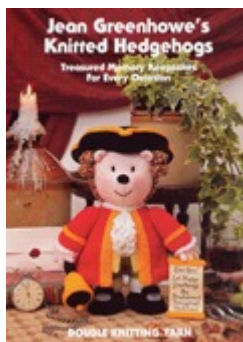
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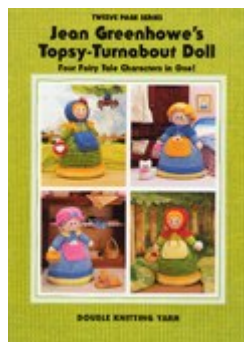
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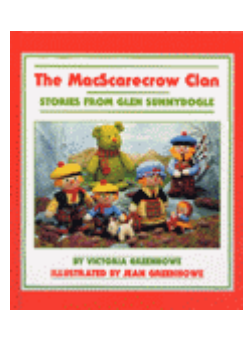
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