

ALAN DART *designer of knitted & fabric toys*

Initial Imps



MEASUREMENTS

38cm/15in tall, to tip of hat.

MATERIALS

For each imp you will need: Of standard D.K. yarn: 15g in Flesh Tone; 15g in each of three colours for tunic, hat and shoes, chosen from Royal Blue, Yellow, Red and Grass Green; 10g in either White

or Primrose for tights shade; oddments of Black and Pink; scrap of felt to contrast with tunic shade, plus matching sewing thread; pair of 3mm (U.K. no.11) knitting needles; 65g of washable toy stuffing; 60g of PVC beanbag granules; a 20cm diameter circle of muslin; red pencil, long tweezers.

TENSION

26 sts and 36 rows to 10cm, measured over stocking stitch worked D.K. yarn on 3mm needles.

ABBREVIATIONS

beg = beginning; cont = continue; dec = decrease (by working 2 stitches together); inc = increase (by working into front and back of stitch); K = knit; P = purl; ss = stocking stitch; st(s) = stitch(es); SKPO = slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over; tog = together.

NOTE

Cast on by using the cable (two needle) method and begin all pieces with a K row.

BODY make 1 piece

With tunic shade cast on 24 sts for shoulder edge and ss 2 rows.

Shape sides, 1st inc row: K5, (inc 1) twice, K9, (inc 1) twice, K6 [28 sts].

P 1 row.

2nd inc row: K6, (inc 1) twice, K11, (inc 1) twice, K7 [32 sts].

P 1 row.

3rd inc row: K7, (inc 1) twice, K13, (inc 1) twice, K8 [36 sts].

Ss 13 rows.

Work tights: Beg with tights shade, cont in stripe sequence of 2 rows tights shade and 2 rows hat shade thus:

Ss 2 rows.

4th inc row: (K1, inc 1, K2) to end [45 sts].

Ss 3 rows.

5th inc row: (K2, inc 1, K2) to end [54 sts].

Ss 3 rows.

6th inc row: (K2, inc 1, K3) to end [63 sts].

Ss 9 rows.

Shape base, 1st dec row: (K4, K 2 tog, K3) to end [56 sts].

Ss 3 rows.

2nd dec row: (K1, K 2 tog, K1) [42 sts].

Ss 3 rows.

3rd dec row: (K1, K 2 tog) to end [28 sts].

P 1 row.

4th dec row: (K 2 tog) to end [14 sts].

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

HEAD make 1 piece

With Flesh Tone cast on 16 sts for base edge and ss 2 rows.

1st inc row: (Inc 1) twice, K4, (inc 1) four times, K4, (inc 1) twice [24 sts].

P 1 row.

2nd inc row: (K1, inc 1, K1) to end [32 sts].

P 1 row.

3rd inc row: (K1, inc 1, K2) to end [40 sts].

Ss 3 rows.

Shape cheeks, 4th inc row: K9, (inc 1) four times, K14, (inc 1) four times, K9 [48 sts].

Ss 15 rows.

Shape top, 1st dec row: (K1, K 2 tog, K1) to end [36 sts].

Ss 3 rows.

2nd dec row: (K1, K 2 tog) to end [24 sts].

P 1 row.

3rd dec row: (K 2 tog) to end [12 sts].

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

NECK make 1 piece

With Flesh Tone cast on 10 sts for base edge and ss 6 rows.

Cast off for top edge.

EARS make 2 pieces

With Flesh Tone cast on 16 sts for outside

edge and K 1 row.

Dec row: P2, (P 3 tog) four times, P2 [8 sts].

Cast off.

NOSE make 1 piece

With Flesh Tone cast on 6 sts for side edge and ss 4 rows.

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

LEGS make 2 pieces

With tights shade cast on 16 sts for ankle edge and, beg with tights shade, cont in stripe sequence of 2 rows tights shade and 2 rows hat shade as given for body.

Ss 40 rows.

Cast off for top edge.

SHOES make 2 pieces

With shoe shade cast on 28 sts for base edge and ss 2 rows.

Shape heel, 1st inc row: K12, (inc 1) four times, K12 [32 sts].

P 1 row.

2nd inc row: K12, (inc 1) eight times, K12 [40 sts].

P 1 row.

Shape front: Cast off 3 sts at beg of next 6 rows [22 sts].

Dec row: K3, (K 2 tog, K1) five times, K 2 tog, K2 [16 sts].

P 1 row.

Cast off for ankle edge.

ARMS make 2 pieces

With tunic shade cast on 16 sts for wrist edge and ss 20 rows.

Shape top: Cast off 3 sts at beg of next 2 rows for underarm [10 sts].

Dec 1 st at beg of next 6 rows [4 sts].

Cast off for top edge.

HANDS make 2 pieces

With Flesh Tone cast on 16 sts for wrist edge and ss 4 rows.

Cast on 3 sts at beg of next 2 rows for thumb [22 sts].

Cast off 3 sts at beg of next 2 rows [16 sts].

Ss 4 rows.

Shape end, 1st dec row: K1, (K 2 tog, K3, SKPO) twice, K1 [12 sts].

P 1 row.

2nd dec row: K1, (K 2 tog, K1, SKPO) twice, K1 [8 sts].

Cast off.

WRIST AND ANKLE CUFFS make 4 pieces

With shoe shade cast on 16 sts and ss 2 rows.

Next row: K8, turn and work on these sts only.

*P 1 row.

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row.

Repeat the last 2 rows two more times [2 sts].

Cast off.**

Rejoin yarn to remaining 8 sts and K to end.

Work from * to ** once more.

TUNIC PEPLUM make 1 piece

With tunic shade cast on 64 sts for base edge and ss 2 rows.

1st dec row: (K3, K 2 tog, K3) to end [56 sts].

Ss 2 rows.

2nd dec row: (P2, P 2 tog, P3) to end [48 sts].

Ss 2 rows.

3rd dec row: (K2, K 2 tog, K2) to end [40 sts].

P 1 row.

Change to Black for belt and ss 2 rows.

Cast off P wise.

TUNIC COLLAR make 1 piece

With shoe shade cast on 16 sts.
Cast off.

HAT make 1 piece

With hat shade cast on 52 sts for base edge and ss 10 rows.

Shape top, 1st dec row: (K1, K 2 tog, K1) to end [39 sts].

Ss 3 rows.

2nd dec row: (K1, K 2 tog) to end [26 sts].

P 1 row.

3rd dec row: (K 2 tog) to end [13 sts].

Ss 7 rows.

4th dec row: K1, (K 2 tog, K1) to end [9 sts].

Ss 5 rows.

5th dec row: K1, (K 2 tog) to end [5 sts].

Ss 5 rows.

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

For best results, sew seams and join pieces using mattress stitch, working with right side of knitting uppermost. A one stitch knitted seam has been allowed on all pieces to accommodate this method. First make beanbag by sewing a line of large running stitches round edge of muslin circle. Draw up slightly and fill with granules, then gather tightly and fasten off securely. Should you prefer to omit the beanbag, simply fill entire body with stuffing.

Starting at gathered base edge, join striped tights section of body seam, stopping at waist and inserting beanbag. Now join remainder of body seam, leaving shoulder edge open. Stuff body, then, with seam running down centre back, fold shoulder edge flat and

join.

Fold base edge of head in half and join to form chin seam, then join back head seam, stopping 4cm away from gathered top edge.

Stuff firmly, then join remainder of seam. Join neck seam, then sew top edge to base of head, matching neck and head seams and placing neck at back of chin seam. Stuff neck very firmly, using tweezers to push stuffing in place, then sew base edge to top of body. Wrap tunic collar round neck, join ends at centre back, then sew in place with backstitch. Fold each shoe piece in half and join across base edge and up shaped front edge, leaving ankle edge open, then use tweezers to stuff firmly. Join each leg seam, then sew ankle edges of legs and shoes together, placing leg seam at centre back of shoe. Stuff legs lightly, using tweezers to push stuffing into place and leaving a space in the centre of each leg unstuffed so that knees will bend. Position and sew top edge of each leg to front of body, placing 14 knitted rows down from waist edge of tights, and spacing 10 knitted stitches apart. Fold each hand in half, join across end, down side, and round thumb, leaving wrist edge open, then use tweezers to stuff firmly. Join seam on each arm from wrist edge up to underarm, then sew wrist edges of arms and hands together, placing sleeve seam 4 knitted stitches away from hand seam in line with palm. Stuff arms lightly, then position and sew to sides of body, with top edges of sleeves in line with shoulder seam.

Following instructions on ball band, press tunic peplum, together with wrist and ankle cuffs, on wrong side.

Wrap peplum round waist, with side edges meeting at centre front, then join belt ends and sew in place by working Black backstitch over every stitch on first row of belt. Using Mustard or Primrose yarn,

carefully draw out a single strand and use the remaining 2 strands to embroider a rectangle of chain stitch over belt for buckle.



Wrap wrist and ankle cuffs round arms and legs and join first 2 rows up from cast on edge, then sew in place by backstitching over cast on edge.

Mark eye positions with pins, placing 8 knitted rows down from first dec row at top of head and spacing 3 knitted stitches apart. Now mark base point of mouth with a pin, placing centrally and 8 knitted rows below eyes, then mark ends of mouth with pins, spacing 9 knitted stitches apart and placing 4 knitted rows above mouth base point. Using 2 strands of yarn, as given for buckle, and fastening off ends at top of head, embroider each eye with a tiny, horizontal, detached chain stitch in Black. Now embroider mouth with 2 straight stitches in Pink, fastening off ends as for eyes. Join nose seam, use tweezers to stuff, then work a gathering thread through every stitch along side edge, draw up tightly and fasten off to form an oval shape. With gathered edges at each side, position and

sew nose to head, placing just below eyes. Blush cheeks with pencil, working in a circular motion to gradually build up colour.

Join hat seam, then pin to head with seam at centre back, positioning so that front edge is 2 knitted rows above eyes. Sew in place by working backstitch over base edge. Fold cast off edge of each ear in half and join, then sew ears to sides of head, placing 5 knitted stitches away from side of mouth. Find an initial in a newspaper or magazine that is about 3cm tall, trace it off and cut out from felt. The easiest method is to use an embroidery transfer pencil, since the design can then be ironed on to the wrong side of the felt before cutting out. Pin initial centrally on tunic and blanket stitch in place with sewing thread.

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