

LIFE'S A CIRCUS!

Enjoy the magic of the circus with Alan Dart's little characters. Just 15cm/6in tall, they're knitted from D.K. yarn

BASIC DOLL

Body and head
(make 1)

Right leg

Cast on 14 sts for shoes or boots and ss 2 rows.

Next (inc) row: Inc in each st to end — 28 sts. Ss 5 rows. *

To shape top of shoes or boots: **Next (dec) row:** K2, [k3tog] 6 times, k8 — 16 sts.

Ss 9 rows for leg — ss 27 rows here for Stilt Walker. Break yarn and slip sts on to a st holder.

Left leg

Work as right leg to *.

To shape top of shoes or boots: **Next (dec) row:** K8, [k3tog] 6 times, k2 — 16 sts.

Ss 9 rows for leg — ss 27 rows here for Stilt Walker. Mark ends of last row.

For body

Next joining row: K across sts of left leg thus: k14, k2tog, then k across right leg sts thus: k2tog, k14 — 30 sts.

Ss 17 rows.

To shape neck: **Next row:**

[K2tog] to end — 15 sts. Ss 3 rows.

For head

Ss 2 rows.

To shape head: **Next (inc) row:**

Inc in each st to end — 30 sts.

Ss 17 rows.

To shape top of head: **Next (dec) row:** [K1, k2tog] to end — 20 sts. P 1 row.

Dec row: [K2tog] to end — 10 sts. Break yarn, leaving an end, thread through sts and secure.

Arms

(make 2)

Cast on 6 sts for top of arm and ss 2 rows.

To shape arm: Inc 1 st at beginning of next 8 rows — 14 sts. Ss 10 rows.

To shape hand: **Next (dec) row:** [K2tog] to end — 7 sts. Break yarn, leaving an end, thread through sts and secure.

Ears

(make 2)

Cast on 8 sts.

Next (dec) row: [K2tog] to end — 4 sts. Break yarn, leaving an end, thread through sts and secure.

MATERIALS

Each doll takes approximately 20 g D.K. yarn and 25 g washable stuffing; drinking straws; a red pencil; No. 11 (3 mm) knitting needles.

TENSION AND MEASUREMENTS

Worked at a tension of 26 stitches and 36 rows, to 10 x 10 cm, over stocking stitch, using No. 11 (3 mm) needles, each doll will measure approximately 15 cm (6 in) in height and Stilt Walker will measure 22 cm (8½ in) in height when completed.

ABBREVIATIONS

K, knit; p, purl; st, stitch; tog, together; inc, increase (by working twice into same st); dec, decrease (by taking 2 sts tog); ss, stocking st (k on right side and p on wrong side); gst, garter st (k plain on every row); rss, reverse stocking st (p on right side and k on wrong side).

NOTE

Instructions in the square brackets are worked as stated after the 2nd bracket.

TO MAKE UP

Press. Join each leg seam from base of foot to marker, fold each leg in half, so that seam is in the centre, then sew across base of foot. Join back seam from marker to waist and head seam from top of head to neck shaping row. Stuff legs, head and body firmly, then join opening. Run a gathering thread through every st on the 2nd row below the head shaping row, draw up tightly to form neck, fasten off securely, then sew in ends of yarn. Join seam on each arm, leaving shaped top section open. Stuff firmly, then place arms on body according to character. Work a French knot in black for eyes 3 sts apart. Embroider nose, using several back sts. Using straight sts, embroider mouth in a V shape. Colour cheeks lightly, using the side of pencil.



RINGMASTER

Make basic doll with shoes, legs and first 9 rows of body in Black, last 13 rows of body in White and head in Flesh. Work first 14 rows of arms in Red and last 7 rows in Flesh.

Tailcoat

With Red, cast on 30 sts for collar edge and ss 16 rows. Cast off 5 sts at beginning of next 2 rows — 20 sts.

Dec 1 st at beginning of next 14 rows — 6 sts. Cast off.

Hair

With Ginger cast on 5 sts and gst 46 rows. Cast off.

Top hat

With Black cast on 49 sts and gst 2 rows. **Next (dec) row:** [K5, k2tog] to end — 42 sts. K 1 row. **Next (dec) row:** [K4, k2tog] to end — 35 sts. K 1 row. Ss 15 rows. K 1 row.

*** **Next (dec) row:** [K5, k2tog]



THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

STILT WALKER

Make basic doll, with shoes in White, next 27 rows and first 9 rows of body in Cream, next 13 rows in Pale Blue and head in Flesh. Work first 14 rows of arms in Mauve and last 7 rows in Flesh. With Pale Blue make shirt collar as for Ringmaster, hair in Rust instead of Ginger and turn-ups in Cream.

Straw boater

With Ochre, work as top hat to **. Ss 4 rows Mauve and 3 rows Ochre. K 1 row in Ochre. Continuing in Ochre, work as for top hat from *** to end.

Blazer

With Mauve cast on 30 sts and ss 20 rows. Cast off.

TO MAKE UP

As for Ringmaster, using Purple for bow tie. Embroider chain-stitch edging round blazer.



STRONG MAN

Make basic doll, with boots and first 6 rows of legs in Brown, last 4 rows of legs in Flesh, first 7 rows of body in Ochre, last 15 rows of body, head and arms in Flesh, hair in Rust as for Acrobats.

Loincloth top

With Ochre cast on 10 sts and ss 3 rows. Dec 1 st at beginning of next row and at this same edge on the next 6 rows — 3 sts. Ss 3 rows, then inc 1 st at beginning of next row and at this same edge on the next 6 rows — 10 sts. Ss 2 rows. Cast off.

Belt

With Brown cast on 40 sts and k 1 row. Cast off.

Dumbbells (make 2)

With Charcoal cast on 13 sts and ss 2 rows. **Next (inc) row:** Inc in each st to end — 26 sts. Ss 11 rows. **Next (dec) row:** [K2tog] to

end — 13 sts. P 1 row. Break yarn, leaving an end, thread through sts and secure.

Pole

With Charcoal cast on 33 sts and ss 4 rows. Cast off.

TO MAKE UP

As basic doll, working hair as for Acrobats, but placing slightly back off head. Sew on ears.

Embroider moustache with 2 straight sts. Sew loincloth top in

place, then Swiss darn brown

sts over Ochre loincloth to give a leopardskin effect.

Sew belt around waist, embroider Yellow buckle with straight sts. Cut a 13 cm length of

drinking straw, wrap pole strip around straw, placing purl side on the outside. Join seam on dumbbells, stuff firmly, then sew cast-on edge to each end of pole. Sew pole to hands.

ACROBATS (make 6)

Make basic doll, with boots and first 6 rows of legs in Maroon, last 4 rows of leg in White, first 7 rows of body in Royal Blue, last 15 rows of body in White, and head in Flesh. Work first 14 rows of arms in White and last 7 rows in Flesh.

Hair: Cast on 23 sts and work 12 rows in gst. Dec 1 st at beginning of next 12 rows — 11 sts. Cast off.

Collar: With Yellow cast on 26 sts. Cast off.

Cuffs (make 2): With Yellow cast on 18 sts. Cast off.

TO MAKE UP: As basic doll. Sew collar and cuffs in place. Sew hair in place, placing cast-on edge at front. Using matching colour, embroider a line of chain stitch to form parting. Sew ears in place.



to end — 30 sts. P 1 row. **Next (dec) row:** [K4, k2tog] to end — 25 sts. P 1 row. **Next (dec) row:** [K3, k2tog] to end — 20 sts. P 1 row. Break yarn, leaving an end, thread through sts and secure.

Trouser turn-ups (make 2)

With Black cast on 20 sts and k 1 row. Cast off.

Shirt collar

With White cast on 26 sts and ss 2 rows. Cast off.

TO MAKE UP

As basic doll. Sew shirt collar to neck and tie a length of Black yarn round neck in a bow. Sew tailcoat in place, turning back lapels and sew down. Sew down front edges of coat, leaving 2 sts on body free. Sew on arms. Join hat seam, stuff lightly and sew on head. Sew hair below hat brim, then sew on ears. Sew turn-ups round tops of shoes.

More patterns overleaf

THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH



TRAPEZE ARTISTES

Female Artiste

Make basic doll, with shoes in Turquoise, legs in Brown, first 15 rows of body in Turquoise, last 7 rows of body, head and arms in Brown. Make hat as for Plate Spinner, but use Black instead of Red and Turquoise instead of Jade.

Skirt

With Pink cast on 4 sts and ss 3 rows, then rss 3 rows. Repeat last 6 rows, 23 times more. Cast off.

Shoulder straps

With Pink cast on 36 sts. Cast off.

Feathers

(make 3)

With Pink cast on 4 sts and gst 10 rows.

Next (dec) row: [K2tog] twice. Cast off 2 sts.

TO MAKE UP

As basic doll. Join cast-on and cast-off edges of skirt, run a gathering thread through one edge of skirt and gather up to fit, then sew in place. Sew shoulder straps in place. Sew hat to head and add feathers. Make several loops in Black and sew to sides of head for hair.

Male Artiste

As basic doll, but work shoes, legs and first 7 rows of body in Turquoise and last 15 rows of body, head and arms in Brown, work hair in Black.

Bolero

With Pink cast on 30 sts and ss 4 rows. Dec 1 st at beginning of next 8 rows — 22 sts. **Next (dec) row:** [K2tog] to end — 11 sts. P 1 row, then cast off.

TO MAKE UP

As basic doll. Sew on bolero. Sew hair in place, omitting centre parting. Sew on arms and ears.

HAPPY CLOWN

Make basic doll, with shoes in Black, legs and first 9 rows of body in Royal Blue, last 13 rows of body in Emerald and head in Flesh. Work first 14 rows of arms in Emerald and last 7 rows in Flesh.

Braces (make 2)

With Red cast on 26 sts and k 1 row. Cast off.

Buttons (make 2)

With Yellow cast on 12 sts.

Next (dec) row: [K2tog] to end — 6 sts. Break yarn, leaving an end, thread through sts and secure.

Bow tie

With Lilac cast on 10 sts and ss 5 rows. Cast off.

Bowler hat

With Purple, work as for Ringmaster's top hat to **.

Ss 6 rows. Work as for top hat from *** to end.

TO MAKE UP

As basic doll. Join hat seam and sew to head, turning up brim. Work hair as for Ringmaster. Sew on ears. Embroider nose in Red. Sew

braces in place, crossing over at back. Join button seams and sew in place, embroider crosses in Purple in centre of each button. Bind centre of bow tie, winding yarn round several times to form shape, sew in place.

SAD CLOWN

Make basic doll, with shoes and first 4 rows of legs in White, rest of legs and all of body in Cerise and head and ears in White. Work first 14 rows of arms in Cerise, last 7 rows in White. Work hair in Brown as for Ringmaster. Work 2 Green buttons as for Happy Clown.

Ruff

With Blue cast on 6 sts and work as for Female Artiste's skirt, but repeat the 6 rows 15 times instead of 23.

Cast off.

Hat

With Yellow cast on 36 sts and ss 6 rows. **To shape for point:** **Next (dec) row:** [K2,

k2tog] to end — 27 sts.

Ss 5 rows. **Next (dec) row:** [K1, k2tog] to end — 18 sts.

Ss 5 rows. **Next (dec) row:** [K2tog] to end — 9

sts. P 1 row. Break yarn, leaving an end, thread through sts and secure.



TO MAKE UP

As basic doll. Join hat seam, stuff lightly and sew to head. Work hair in Brown as for Ringmaster and sew in place. Sew on ears. Run gathering thread along one edge of ruff, place round neck, then join ends. Join button seams and sew to front of body. Embroider nose in Light Pink, using 2 straight sts, embroider mouth, reversing the V shape.

PLATE SPINNER

Make basic doll, with shoes in Black, 9 rows of legs and first 4 rows of body in Red, last 18 rows of body in Jade and head in Yellow. Work first 14 rows of arms in Jade and last 7 rows in Yellow. Make 2 poles as for Strong Man in Rust.

Hat

With Red cast on 40 sts and gst 6 rows. Change to Jade and ss 2 rows.

Next (dec) row: [K2, k2tog] to end — 30 sts. Ss 3 rows.

Next (dec) row: [K1, k2tog] to end — 20 sts. Ss 3

rows. **Next (dec) row:** [K2tog]

to end — 10 sts. Break yarn, leaving an end, thread through sts and secure.

Plates

(make 2): With Mint cast on 32 sts and work 5 rows in gst. P 1 row.

Next (dec) row: [K2, k2tog] to end — 24 sts. P 1 row.

Next (dec) row: [K1, k2tog] to end — 16 sts. P 1 row.

Next (dec) row: [K2tog] to end — 8 sts. Break yarn, leaving an end, thread through sts and secure.

TO MAKE UP

As basic doll. Join hat seam and sew to head. Sew on ears. Using 12 strands of Black, make a 4 cm plait, knot ends and trim, then sew to back of hat. Embroider edges of Jade section on body and arms with Gold chain st. Cover 2 drinking straws as for Strong Man's dumbbell and sew to hands. Join seam on each plate and sew to top end of each pole.

