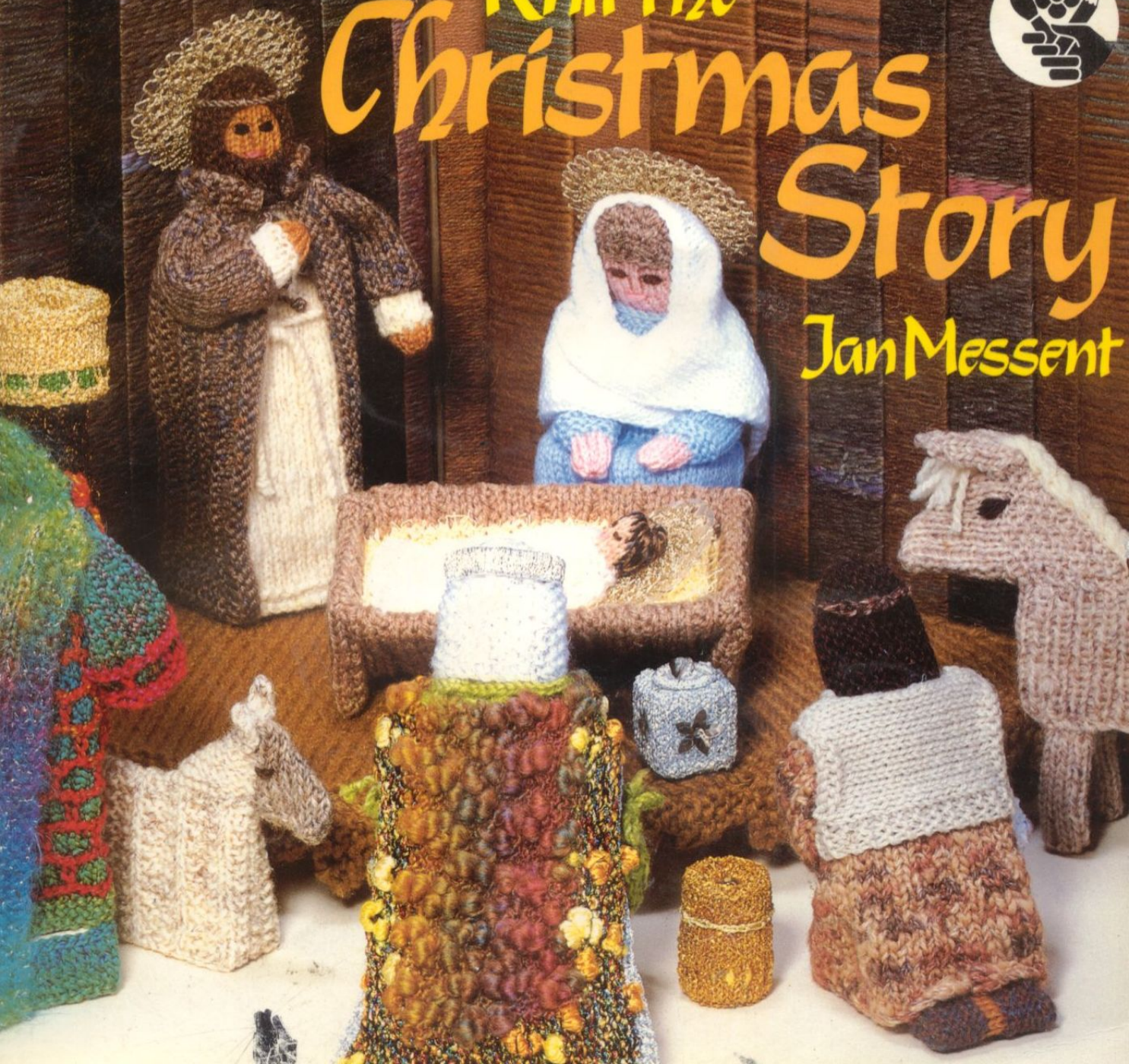




Knit the Christmas Story

Jan Messent





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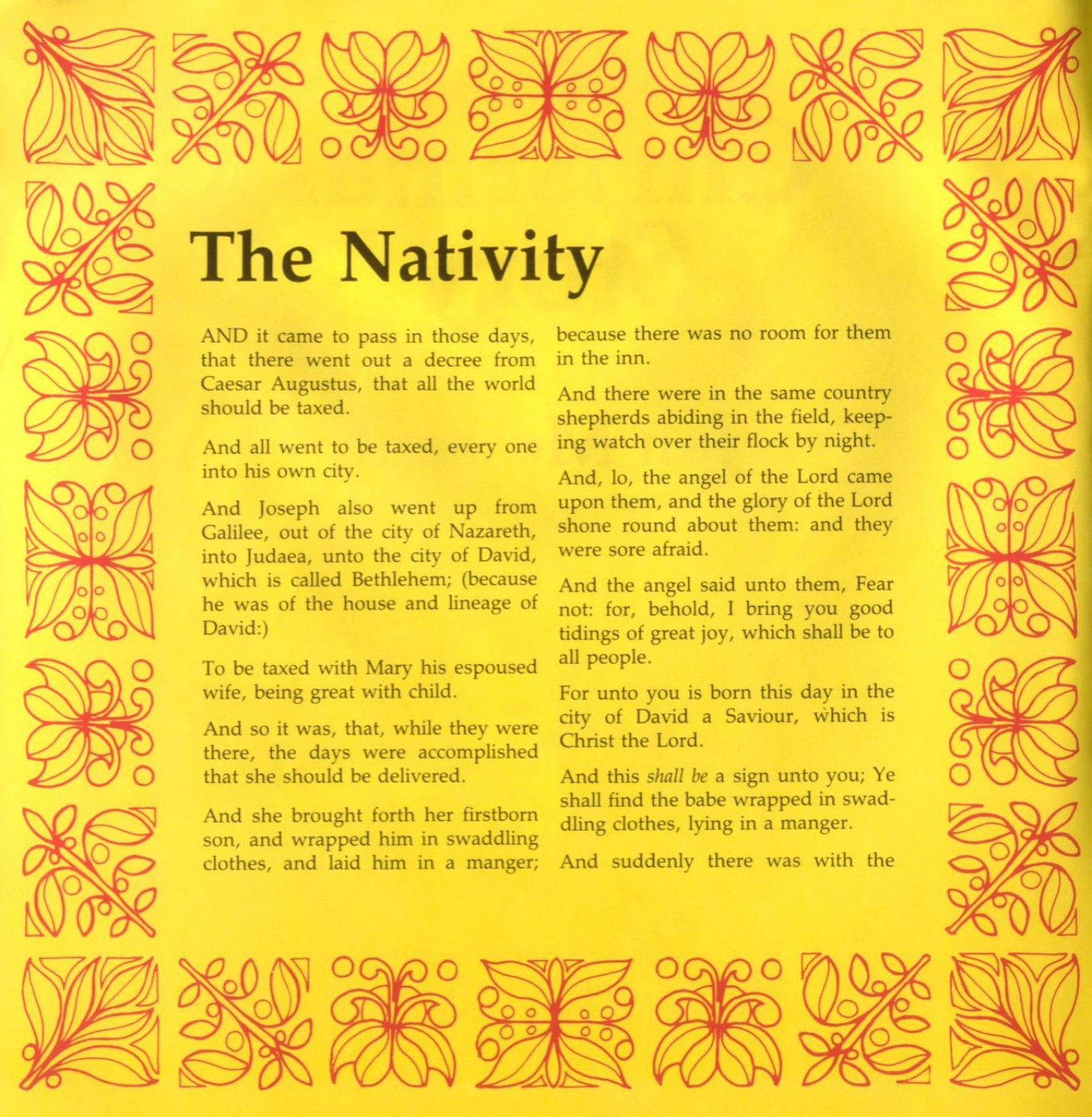
Jan Messent

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The Nativity

AND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger;

because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the



angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen *it* they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard *it* wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered *them* in her heart.

St. Luke, chapter 2, verses 1, 3 to 19.

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found *him*, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

St. Matthew, chapter 2, verses 7 to 11.

Introduction

The most important Christian festival is a time of coming together for families and groups, and what better way could one have than to share the joys of creating the Nativity scene, small enough to be manageable and large enough for all to have a hand in its making, from the older, more experienced knitter, to the youngest beginner.

The patterns are presented in a way which allows for individual interpretation, both of yarns and of stitch patterns, and the simple card figures are easily made from thick 'box card' which can be obtained quite easily. This is where those not so keen on taking part in the knitting activities can be of help. There is even a simple yarn-wrapping activity for young fingers, as the whole of the stable wall is covered in this way.

The knitted garments will provide many hours of enjoyment for those who create them. The materials needed are simple and inexpensive; it should be quite possible to provide all the requirements from home or school.

Materials and tools

1. Thick 'box card' – straight, clean, undamaged pieces cut from grocery boxes, and larger pieces for the stable.
2. A very sharp craft knife, old scissors, small pliers and wire-cutters.
3. Ruler and tape-measure.
4. Pins, large and small. Stapler – optional but useful.
5. Pencils and coloured fibre-pens for faces.
6. Strong carpet glue – a large pot.*
7. Sticky-tape – strong parcel-tape is useful. Double-sided sticky tape is essential.
8. Paper clips and bull-dog clips.
9. Synthetic wadding for padding – small amounts.

10. Needlework scissors, wool (tapestry) needles for sewing.

11. A range of knitting needles from size 3–6 mm., and a medium sized crochet hook for chains.

12. An assortment of double-knitting (D.K.) yarns. Check individual instructions for colours and types, and see separate heading for quantities.

13. Useful bits and pieces include small tubular centres from reels of sticky-tape, for head-dresses and gifts, sequins, beads, braids and fancy cords for decoration.

14. For the halos and stars, pieces of transparent plastic; the kind used for small disposable pots from the food counters of grocery stores. This should be pliable enough to cut with scissors.

15. Pliable wire needed for the shepherds' crooks, (see instructions for specific amounts), or use wooden ones if you prefer.

16. Strips of hook and pile fabric fastener to hold the roof in position. Optional.

***Glue:** the use of glue in this project is not a poor substitute for sewing. A good strong glue, carefully applied with a brush, is the best way to attach rigid parts to each other in this kind of project where ease, speed, efficiency and neatness are important. It can be re-enforced by staples and sticky-tape if necessary. It is perhaps safer to have an adult in charge of this department.

YARN AMOUNTS

It is virtually impossible to say how much yarn will be needed for these figures, as so much depends on the varying thicknesses of D.K. yarns, individual knitting tensions and stitch patterns used, but the largest garment will only need, at most, a 25 gm. ball, and the other parts only very small oddments. The main thing is to acquire a large variety of colours from which to choose, dull ones as well as bright ones, plenty of whites and flesh colours, and browns. The largest part of the project is the stable. The roof/floor is knitted with a heavy rug-type yarn on thicker needles, but the walls, again, are made from oddments wrapped around card strips, and these yarns can be any thickness as long as the colours

blend in with each other. This part should be supervised by one person so that an overall unity is achieved in the colours and the 'window landscapes'.

The actual yarns/colours used for each figure are shown separately to help you identify thicknesses and yarn-types, (see pages 9 and 10).

Abbreviations and hints

The main stitches used are stocking stitch (i.e. alternate rows of knit and purl), which is abbreviated as s.s., and garter stitch (i.e. every row knitted), which is abbreviated as g.st. Reverse s.s. is the reverse side of stocking stitch, abbreviated as rev.s.s. Other general abbreviations are as follows:

beg.	beginning
cm	centimetre(s)
dec.	decrease
foll.	following
gm.	gramme(s)
inc.	increase
in	inch(es)
k.	knit
k2tog.	knit 2 sts. together
mm.	millimetres
psso.	pass slip st. over
p.	purl
p2tog.	purl 2 sts. together
rem.	remaining
rep.	repeat
R.S.	right side
sl.1	slip 1 st. without knitting it
st(s).	stitch(es)
tog.	together
W.S.	wrong side
y.fwd.	yarn forward
y.r.n.	yarn round needle

PATTERNS USED

Picot pattern: used to make holes and for lacy effects.

Row 1: *k2tog., y.fwd., rep from * to end of row.

Row 2: p. or k., including the y.fwds. of the previous row.

These 2 rows form the pattern.

Single rib: on an even number of sts., every row is k.1, p.1 to the end.

Double rib: on multiples of four sts., every row is k.2, p.2 to the end.

Moss stitch: on an odd number of sts., every row begins k.1, p.1 and continues like this to the end, thus making the k. and p. sts. move one place on each row.

Double moss stitch: does the same as moss st. with pairs of sts.

HELPFUL HINTS

Curled edges: When knitting small pieces in stocking stitch, such as capes and cloaks, you may find that the edges roll inwards. There are several ways of avoiding this problem; one is to work an edge of garter stitch (about 4-6 sts.) on each side and along the bottom; another way is to work a crochet edge all round, and yet another solution is to pin the piece down flat and press it gently under a damp cloth. Garter stitch, rib patterns and similar dense stitches do not cause this problem.

How to make a cord: Take a piece of yarn at least 60in (151cm) long, fold it in half and knot the 2 ends together. Loop one end over a door handle, a hook or friend's finger, and slip a pencil through the loop at the other end. *Keep the yarn absolutely straight and taut at all times.* Pull away from the hook to tighten the yarn and hold the pencil end of the yarn in the left hand while using your right index finger to rotate the pencil very quickly (like a propeller) round and round in the same direction. This will twist the yarn, keeping it under tension, until it is *very* tightly twisted indeed. *Keep hold of the pencil.* Now place your left index finger, (still keeping it under tension), at the centre point of the twisted yarn and move the pencil end to the hook end, slipping the latter on to the pencil. Now the twisted yarn is folded back upon itself, and as soon as you let go with your left hand, (keep hold of the other ends with your right hand), it will spring up and the two halves will twist together. Slide your left hand down the cord to pull out the kinks and tie the loose end in a knot to prevent it unravelling. You should now have a tight, firm cord.

Box stands to make figures taller: This little stand is a useful method of making some of the standing figures taller so that they can be seen more easily when placed behind others, especially the Angel and the three wise men. Cut pieces of card as shown (see Fig 1), and use sticky-tape to hold the four sides in place. Cover the four side edges with a narrow strip of knitting in the same colour as the bottom of the gown, and then stick this in place with glue making

sure that the join is placed at the back. The figure may then be stuck on top and the join will be disguised by the border of the gown. In our photographs, you will see that two of the wise men are standing on theirs (see page 32).

As an alternative, the size of the figures can be altered by halving, or doubling, the measurements and materials recommended for each one.

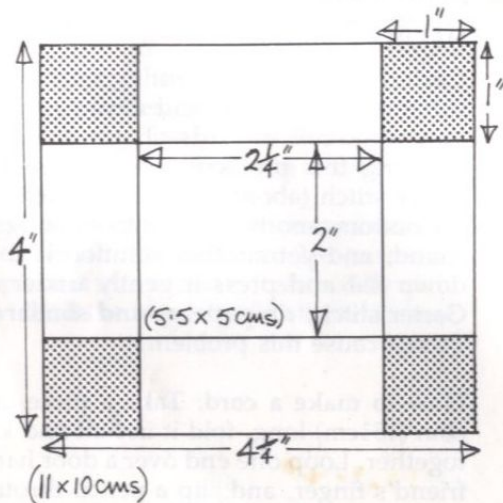
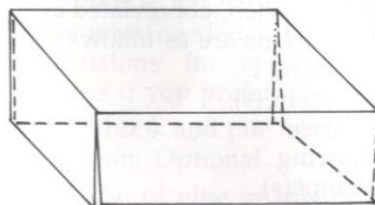


Fig 1

BOX STAND FOR FIGURES



CUT OUT THE SHADED SQUARES AND SCORE LIGHTLY ALONG THE REMAINING LINES. FOLD AS SHOWN ABOVE.

STICK KNITTING ROUND EDGES AND LEAVE THE TOP BARE.

Colour Samples

Mary

gown head-dress face hair

Joseph

gown undergown face beard and hair

Infant and manger

gown face hair manger straw

Animals

ox donkey sheep sheep

Red shepherd

gown jerkin head-dress face beard

Blue shepherd

gown head-dress face beard

Kneeling shepherd

tunic waistcoat face hair lamb

Angel



Little boy



Little girl



Yellow wise man



Persian wise man



Green wise man





table

This must be very sturdy, (see page 12), so thick and rigid card is needed, or even two pieces stapled together for extra strength. Two of these extra strong pieces are needed, each measuring $23\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ in (60×36 cm) and these are used for the backing. As well as these, two more pieces to the same measurements are needed but these need not be quite as thick as the first set, as they will be cut into strips and wrapped then stuck down on to the thicker backing. These two inside pieces of slightly thinner card are first cut to

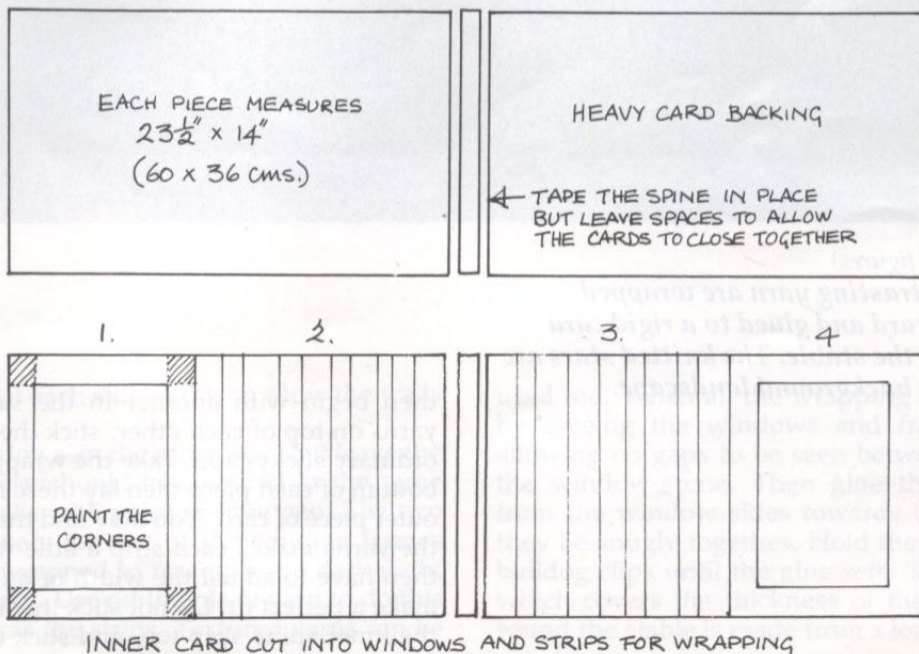
make four, (see Fig 2), the smaller pieces being for the windows and the others to be cut into strips.

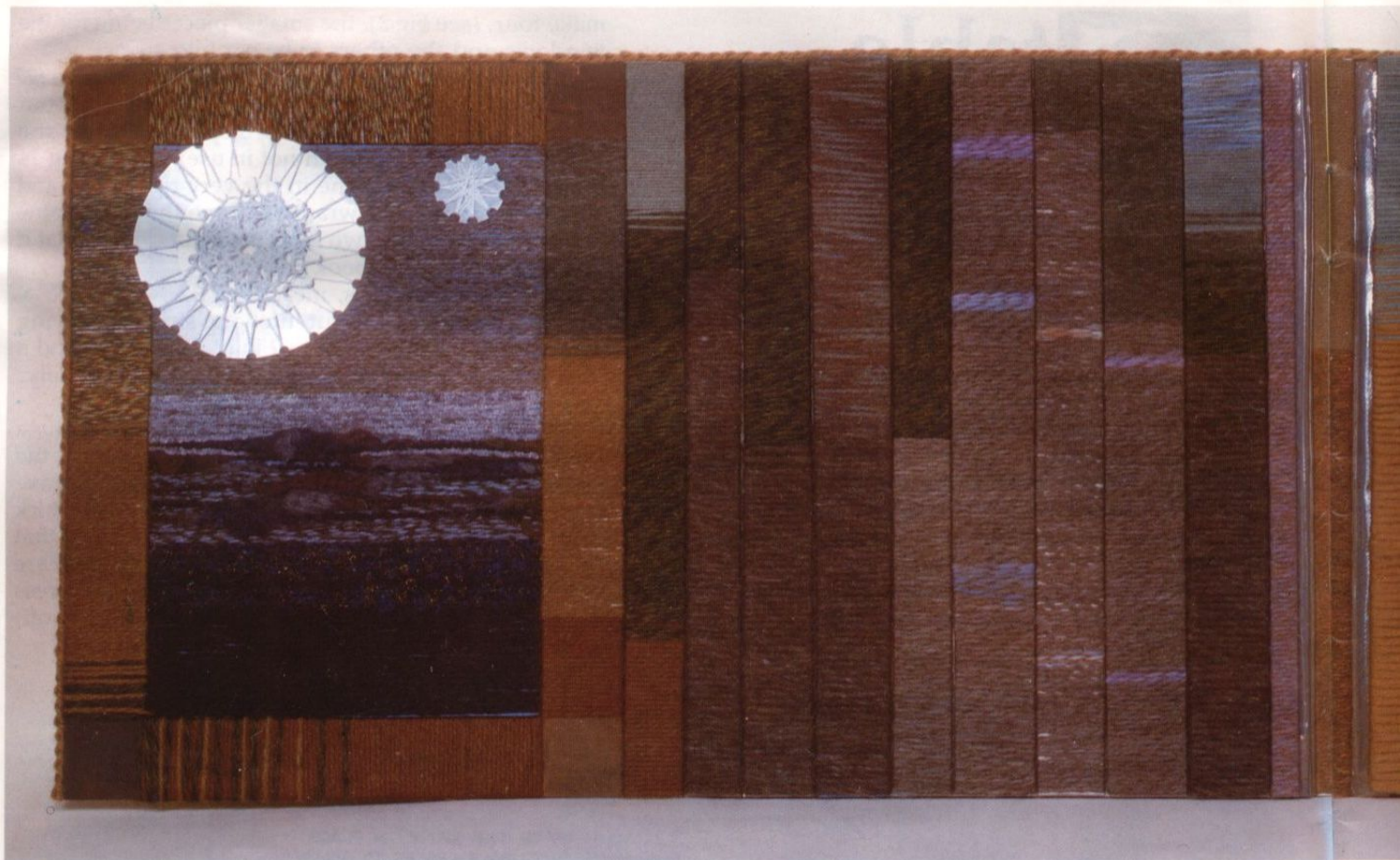
From the two pieces which measure $10\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ in (27×36 cm) cut out 'windows' leaving frames of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ in (4 cm) all round. Cut two spines, (so that the stable will fold away when not in use), measuring 14×1 in (36×2.5 cm), one in the very rigid card, and one thinner one to be wrapped. Tape the outer spine in place between the two rigid pieces of card so that it closes like an empty book cover.

The other two pieces, measuring 13×14 in (33×36 cm), now have to be cut into long strips of varying widths ranging from $\frac{3}{4}$ in to 2 in (2-5 cm) wide and a craft knife is needed to do this safely and accurately.

Wrapping: down the back of each strip of card, lay a length of double-sided sticky-tape. Take this to the extreme top and bottom edges, and do not leave gaps. Now with oddments of brown and green thick yarns, wrap round and round the card neatly so that the strands of yarn lie very closely together, and are pulled fairly tight. If you want to change colour, press the end of the yarn to the sticky back and cut it off,

Fig 2

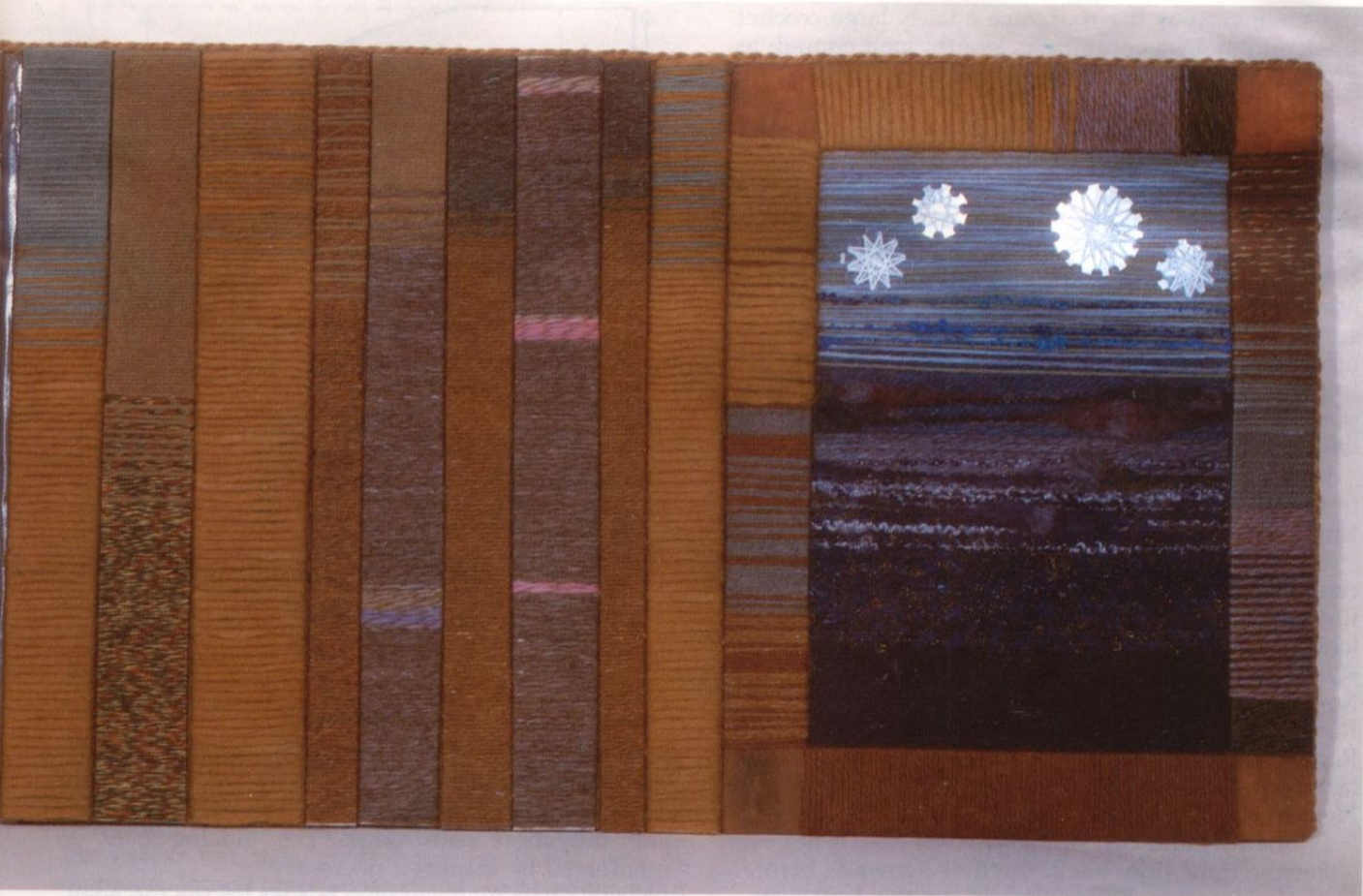




THE STABLE (without figures)

Oddments of contrasting yarn are wrapped around strips of card and glued to a rigid card backing to create the stable. The knitted stars are then added to the background landscape.

then begin with another in the same way. To lay yarns on top of each other, stick the ends down with ordinary sticky-tape. Take the wrappings from top to bottom of each piece then lay these in position on the outer piece of card. You may find that the thickness of the yarns makes each strip a little wider, so you will then have to adjust the width of one or two strips to make a perfect fit. Do not stick them down yet. Wrap the inner spine strip too, and stick this in position; a



gap must be left at each side of this to allow the walls to close.

Wrap the 'windows' in the same way, but leave the corners free. These should be coloured in the same colours as the walls with paint or fibre pen. The two oblongs which were cut out of the window frames now have to be wrapped to resemble the dark night and the eastern sky. Use oddments of yarn to do this in the same way as the strips. Textured yarns can be

used too. When all the wrapping is complete, begin by glueing the windows and frames in position, allowing no gaps to be seen between the frame and the window-scene. Then glue the wrapped strips from the window sides towards the centre, so that they lie snugly together. Hold the pieces down with bulldog clips until the glue sets. The narrow edging which covers the thickness of the card all the way round the stable is made from a long crochet chain in

the same yarn as the roof. Use a fairly large crochet hook and make a continuous length, long enough to go all the way round, and glue in place.

For the roof/floor: use thick strong card cut out to the shape, (see Fig 3), then fold the edges down to form a lid and tape these in position. For the knitted cover, a thick chunky yarn is best and you may need as much as 100gm. as this is certainly the largest knitted piece of the project. Check your knitting from time to time against the card roof/floor and adjust the number of stitches and rows if necessary. The two halves are made separately and joined down the centre, and the front edging is made afterwards and sewn on. If preferred, this section may be used as a floor, on which to place the various figures, (see Fig 4).

With size 6mm. needles, needles, for the left side, (seen from the front), cast on 38 sts.

Knit 2 rows and purl the 3rd row.

Begin the shaping, keeping 5 sts. straight for the centre as follows:

Row 4: k.5, sl.1, k.1, psso., k. to the last 4 sts., k2tog., k.2.

Row 5: p.

Row 6: k.

Row 7: p.

Repeat these 4 rows until only 10 sts. rem after the last dec. row. Work 3 rows straight.

Next row: k.5, sl.1, k.1, psso., k2tog., k.1. (8 sts.).

P. one row and cast off.

For the right side, begin the first 3 rows as before.

Row 4: k.2, sl.1, k.1, psso., k. to the last 7 sts., k2tog., k.5.

Row 5: p.

Row 6: k.

Row 7: p.

Repeat these 4 rows until only 10 sts rem after the last dec row. Work 3 rows straight.

Next row: k.1, sl.1, k.1, psso., k2tog., k.5.

P. one row and cast off.

With the two widest borders and R.S.s tog., pin the two roof/floor sections tog. and sew up the centre seam. Fit the card roof shape on to the corner of a table and place glue along the curved front edge, then stick the front edge of the knitted piece to this, allowing the first row to hang over the edge so that

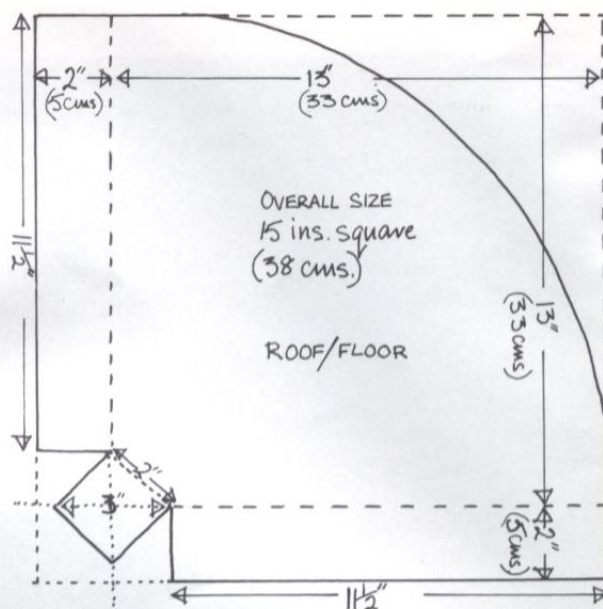


Fig 3

the border can be stitched on. Now glue along each side and a little way down from the top edge. Press the sides of the knitting on to these edges and then glue the short back edge. The glueing may be re-enforced by staples if necessary.

Make a narrow decorative border for the top edge, using the same yarn and needles, by casting on 5 sts. Knit 4 rows. Cast off 3 sts. at the beg. of the next row. Knit 3 rows on the rem. 2 sts. Cast on 3 sts.

Repeat these rows until the border is long enough to stretch from one corner to the other, then cast off. Stitch it to the overhanging edge of the roof/floor sections, and allow it to hang downwards as shown, with the extreme end 'flap' lying on top of the wall at each side.

To keep the stable roof in place, use self-adhesive hook and pile fabric strips at the extreme edge of the back flap, and also in the adjoining place on the back wall of the stable. The pieces will not show from outside, (see Fig 4).

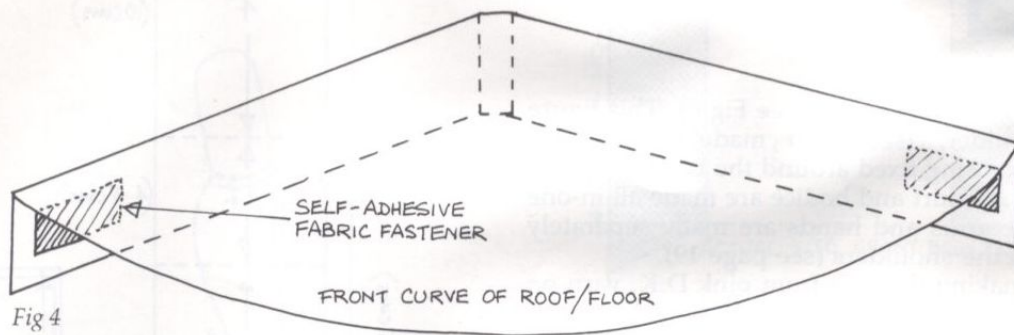


Fig 4

The stars

To make the large star in the east, (see page 32), work the centre part in exactly the same way as the halos, (see page 27). Use fine, white/silver glittery yarn and follow the same instructions. The outer ring of points requires the same kind of transparent backing as for the halos, but measures about $4\frac{1}{2}$ in (11 cm) in diameter. Punch holes about $\frac{1}{2}$ in (1 to 2 cm) apart but make these *on the edge* so that notches are made, rather than complete holes, (see Fig 5).

Using the chosen yarn, glue the beginning of this to the centre of the circle with sticky-tape, then wind *across* the circle from notch to notch, making two complete circuits. It helps to have an even number of holes, but this is not vitally important. Cut the thread and stick the end to the centre. Now glue the knitted centre-piece on top of this wrapped piece and then glue both of these to the background landscape.

The smaller stars are made in the same way as described above without the extra knitted centre-piece and using smaller circles. These can be drawn round small coins.

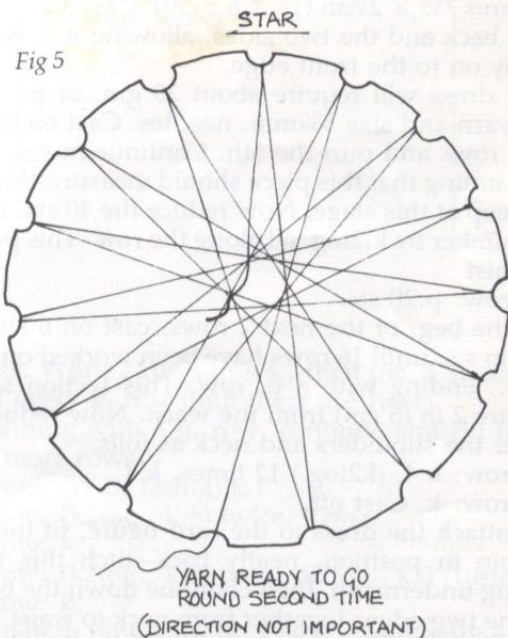


Fig 5



Make the card base for Mary (see Fig 6). This figure sits on a boulder, (see Fig 7) made from a long rectangle of knitting fixed around the back and sides of the base. Her skirt and bodice are made all-in-one piece and the arms and hands are made separately then sewn to the shoulders (see page 19).

Begin by making the face from pink D.K. yarn on size 3mm. needles. Cast on 12 sts. and work 18 rows in s.s. Cast off and attach to the head over the padding (see Fig 9).

The boulder on which Mary sits is made of grey D.K. yarn. Only a small amount of this is needed. Using $3\frac{3}{4}$ mm. needles, cast on 40 sts. and work in double moss st., (or garter st.), until the piece measures $7\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ in (19×6.5 cm). Cast off and glue to the back and the two sides, allowing it to overlap slightly on to the front edge.

The dress will require about 20 gm. of pale blue D.K. yarn and size $3\frac{3}{4}$ mm. needles. Cast on 40 sts., knit 4 rows and purl the 5th. Continue in s.s. for 29 rows, noting that this piece should measure $4\frac{1}{4}$ in (11 cm) deep at this stage. Now reduce the 40 sts. to half this number by k.2tog. all along the row. This point is the waist.

Next row: p.20 sts.

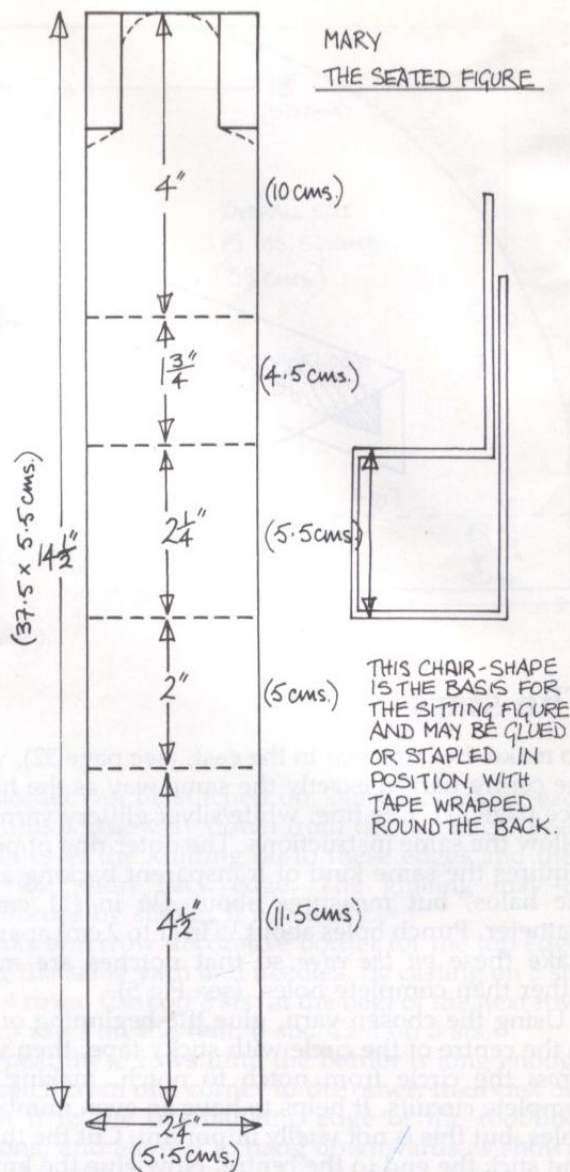
At the beg. of the next 2 rows, cast on 6 sts. and work in s.s. until 16 rows have been worked on these 32 sts., ending with a p. row. This section should measure 2 in (5 cm) from the waist. Now reduce the sts. for the shoulders and neck as follows:

Next row: k.4, (k2tog.) 12 times, k.4.

Next row: k. Cast off.

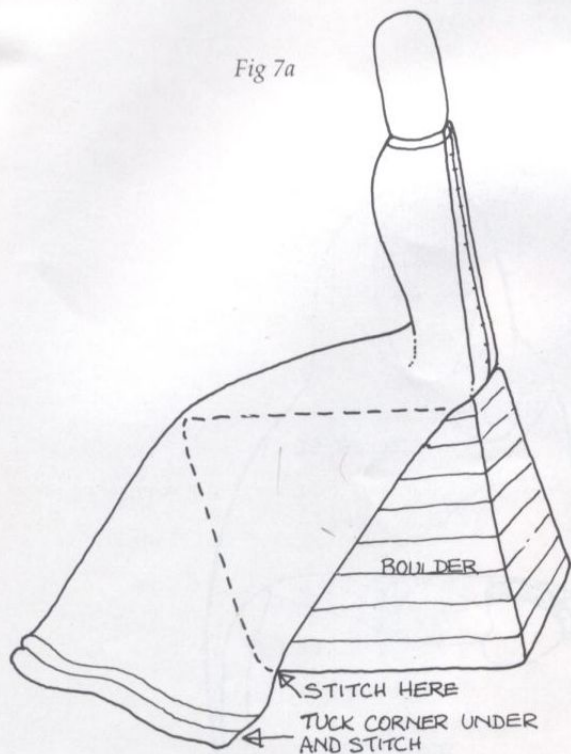
To attach the dress to the card figure, fit the neck and pin in position, neatly back-stitch this to the knitting underneath, then continue down the back to join the two edges together from neck to waist. Cut a small square piece of padding and insert this between

Fig 6



TO KEEP THE FIGURE IN A SLIGHTLY LEANING FORWARD POSITION, INSERT A PIECE OF CARD MEASURING $3\frac{1}{4} \times 2$ " (8×5 cms.) AT AN ANGLE ACROSS THE BOX.

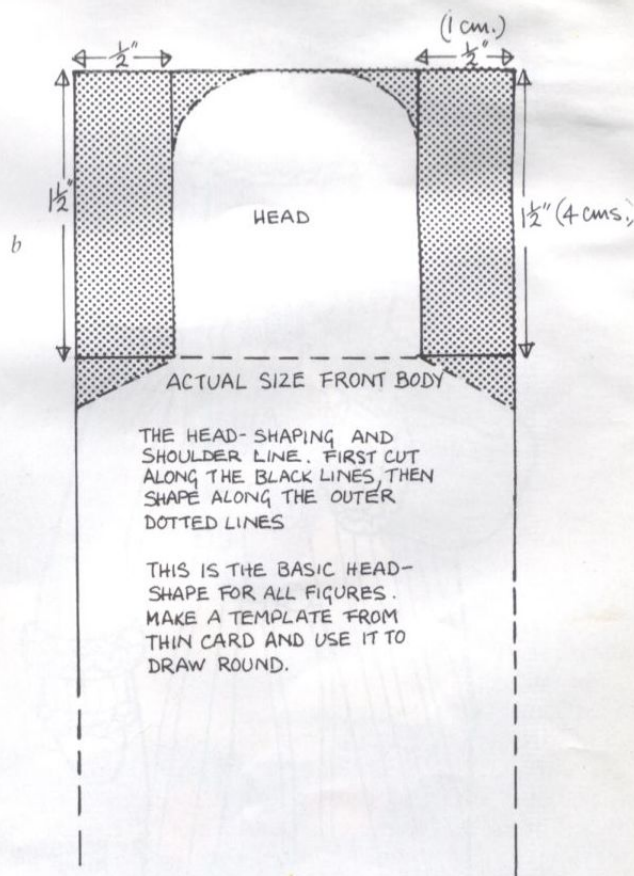
Fig 7a



the card and the knitting at the front to slightly pad the figure. Sew the lower edge of the back section to the knitted boulder, leaving the side edges of the skirt free at this stage.

Take the side edges of the skirt and pin them to the front corners of the boulder, stitch in place, then turn in the corners of the skirt and stitch lightly to make the front edge and side seams into a continuous curve, (see Fig 7a).

For the sleeves, use the same yarn and size 3mm. needles. Leave a length of yarn for sewing and cast



on 4 sts. Work 2 rows in s.s., then inc. 1 st. at each end of every k. row until there are 16 sts.

Beginning with a p. row, continue straight in s.s. for 12 more rows.

Next row: (W.S. facing) k.

Next row: (k2tog., k.5) twice, k2tog.

Next row: k.

Next row: (k2tog., k.2) twice, k2tog., k.3 (10sts.)

Next row: k.

Change to pink yarn (R.S.facing) and work 6 rows in s.s. With R.S.s tog. sew the hand side seams, then

MARY AND JOSEPH

*Mary and Joseph in stable bare
Watch o'er the Child, beloved and fair;*

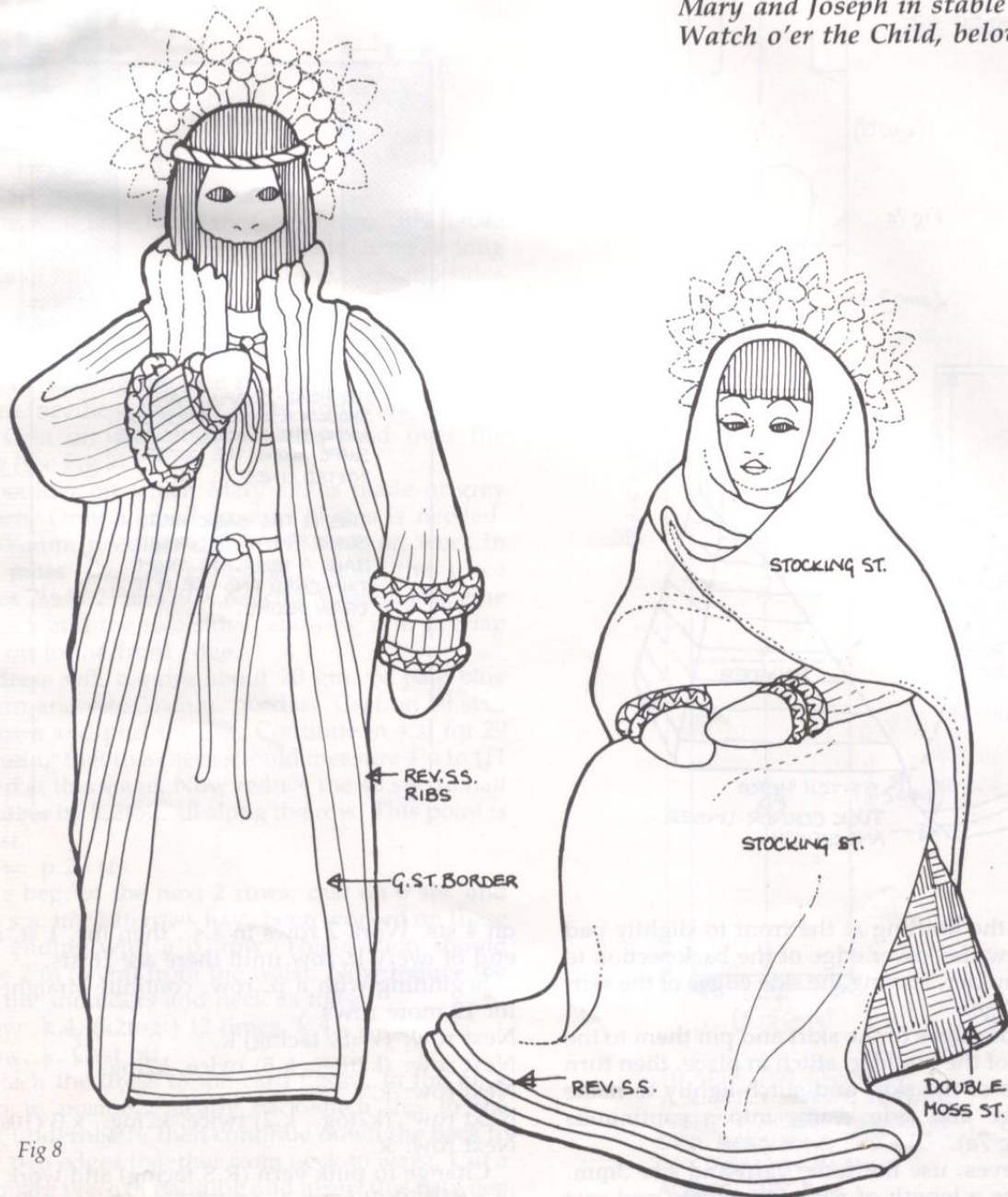


Fig 8



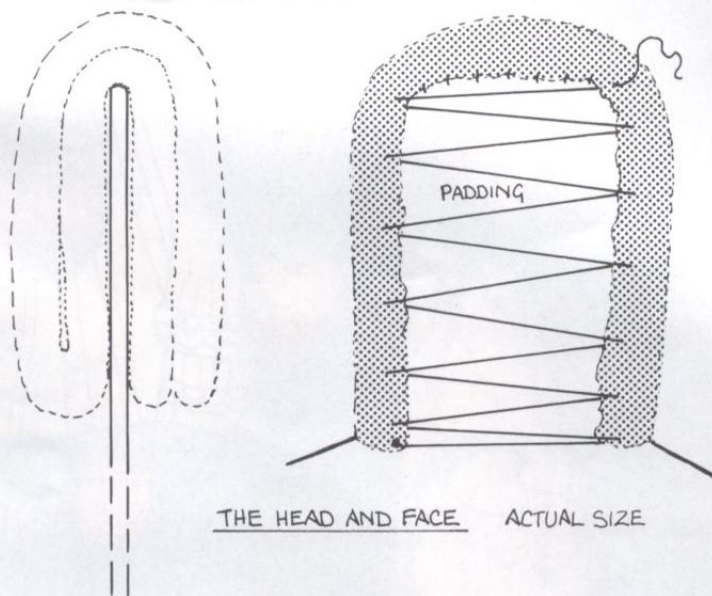
white sleeve seam as far as shaping. Leave the rest of the sleeve open. Make another one in the same way. No padding is needed for the hands or the arms. Attach the 4 cast-on sts. to the top of the shoulder next to the neckband, and sew round the sleeve opening to the bodice.

The head-dress is a large triangular piece of knitting in s.s. You will need a medium sized ball of pure white D.K. yarn and size 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. needles.

Cast on 60 sts. and work 4 rows of s.s., then dec. at

each end of every k. row until 2 sts. rem. Cast off. To neaten the long edge, (which goes over the top of the head), your may wish to work one row of crochet (d.c.) Make the hair from a strip of brown knitting and sew this in place, (only the top of the head shows), and then embroider the face. Wrap the white head-dress around the figure as shown and stitch this in place, (see Fig 8).

Attach halo to back of head-dress, (see page 27 for instructions).



CARD SEEN FROM THE SIDE WITH PADDING IN PLACE ON THE HEAD. CUT A STRIP OF PADDING $\frac{1}{4}$ " (.5cms.) THICK AND 8" LONG (20cms.) X $1\frac{1}{2}$ " WIDE (3cms.). FOLD THIS IN HALF AND PLACE OVER THE HEAD AS SHOWN. STAPLE OR GLUE THIS IN PLACE AT THE NECK. THIS PADDING GIVES EXTRA HEIGHT TO THE FIGURE.

FACE-COVERING SEEN FROM THE BACK. EACH FACE IS COVERED BY A SMALL PIECE OF FLESH-COLOURED KNITTING WHICH IS SEWN OVER THE PADDING. THIS IS THEN COVERED BY HAIR AND/OR BEARD.

USE ANY FLESH-COLOURED YARN IN D.K. THICKNESS ON SIZE 3mm NEEDLES. CAST ON 12 STS. AND WORK 18 ROWS OF S.S. CAST OFF.

PIN THIS PIECE IN PLACE ON THE HEAD TAKING THE SIDE EDGES WELL ROUND TO THE BACK. PULL THE LOWER EDGE DOWN ONTO THE NECK.

NOW STITCH THIS ONTO THE PADDING AT THE TOP, AND LACE THE TWO 'SIDE EDGES' ACROSS THE BACK AS SHOWN.

Fig 9



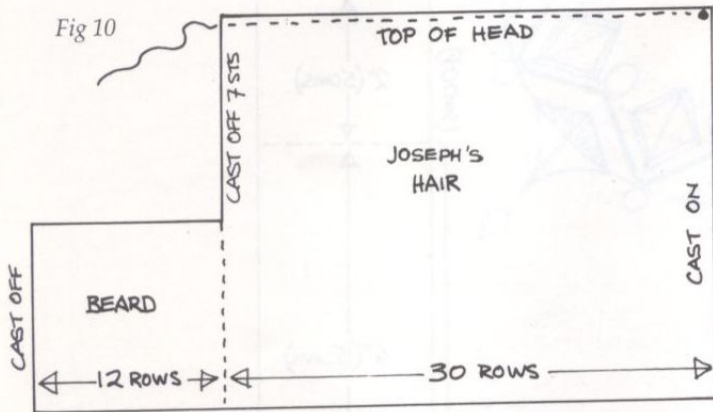
Joseph

Joseph is the next figure in our story, (see page 19). Make the card base for a standing figure, (see Figs 11 and 12).

Begin by making the face from tan D.K. yarn and embroider features.

For the hair and beard, use a small amount of dark brown D.K. yarn and 3mm. needles, (see Fig 10). Cast on 12 sts. and work in g.st. for 30 rows. Next row: cast off 7 sts. and k. to end of row.

Fig 10



Work on the rem. 5 sts. for 12 more rows, then cast off. Gather the top of the hair piece and draw up to fit the top of the head. Fit this in place and glue to the head. Sew the edge of the beard to the other side of the face and stick with a tiny dab of glue, pulling it down into a slight curve. Make a brown cord and fasten this around the head, (see Fig 8).

Joseph's white undergown is simply a rectangle of knitting stuck on to the front section of the card base, with the cast off edge at the top. A small amount of cream/white D.K. yarn is needed, and size 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. needles, or size 4mm. Cast on 12 sts. and k.2 rows, then continue in s.s. as far as the neck—about 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ in (19 cm). Stick this in place with glue and make a cord to tie round the front card section only.

Joseph's brown gown is knitted lengthwise, (i.e. from one side edge to the other side), in s.s. with rev.s.s. ridges. It wraps completely round the card body and slightly overlaps the undergown at each side. Use 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. needles and brown D.K. yarn. Cast on 40 sts. and k.2 rows, p. the next row, then k.3 rows.

Next row: k.4, p. to the end.

Knit the next 3 rows. Repeat the last 4 rows until the piece measures 7in (17.5cm) ending with a p. row.

Next row: (R.S.) p.

Next row: (W.S.) k. Cast off.

Fasten off all ends and gather the neckline with double yarn and draw up to fit the neck to make a collar as shown, (see Fig 9).

The brown outer sleeve is made separately from the white sleeve and hands, and the two pieces are then sewn together. For the brown sleeve, cast on 16 sts. and k. 2 rows. Continue in s.s. for 13 more rows, beginning with a p. row.

Next row: (K2tog., k.5) twice, then k2tog.

Next row: p.

Next row: k2tog., k.2, k2tog., k.1, k2tog., k.2, k2tog. (9sts.)

Next row: p.

Next row: (k2tog.) twice, k.1, (k2tog.) twice, (5 sts.)

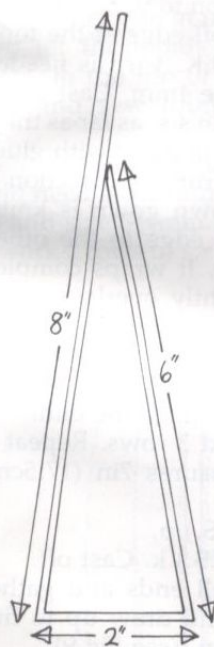
Next row: p.5, then cast off.

Sew up the side edges from the cast-on edge towards the top, leaving half the side open to attach to the body.

For the white undersleeves and hands, begin with the same yarn and needles as before, cast on 10 sts. and work 7 rows in s.s. Knit the 8th row.

Change to size 3mm. needles and flesh-coloured yarn (as for face). Work 4 rows of s.s., and thread the last row on to a length of yarn and gather up to form the hand. Sew the hand up the two side edges, then

Fig 11

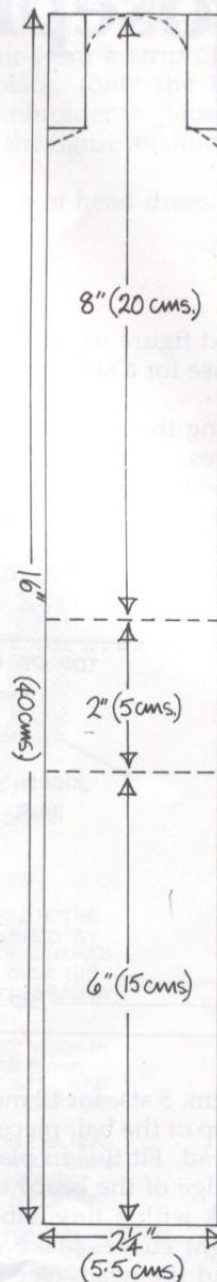


STAPLE OR GLUE,
USE ELASTIC BAND
—OR LEAVE FREE.

THE CARD BASE FOR STANDING FIGURES

SHAPE HEAD AND SHOULDERS AS SHOWN
AND SCORE LIGHTLY ALONG THE DOTTED
LINES TO FOLD INTO THE SHAPE SEEN IN
THE TOP DIAGRAM.

Fig 12

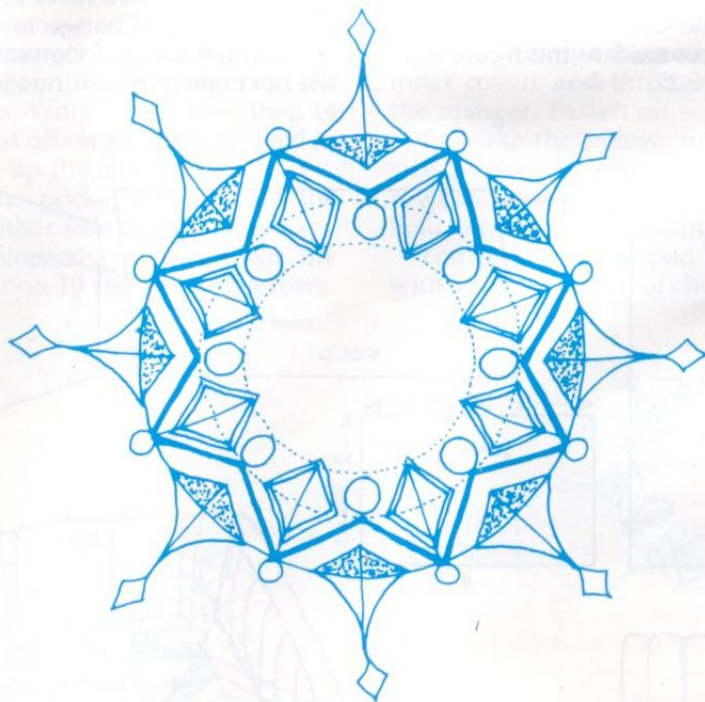


the white sleeve. Place a tiny amount of padding into the hand, leaving the rest of the sleeve empty. Insert the brown sleeve top into the outer (brown) sleeve end, and sew round the edge.

Attach each sleeve/hand to the body at the shoulder of the gown, with the top (cast-off) edge on the gathered neckline. Sew all round the sleeve opening, attaching it to the garment so that it lies flat and straight. Make a cord of the same yarn and

thread this through the neck gathers. Fit the gown on to the figure and arrange the neckline to leave a gap of about 1 in (2 cm) across the front. Tie the cord into a bow. Bring the two front edges of the gown on to the white undergown, overlapping slightly, then stitch in place as far as the collar. The arms and hands are arranged and glued in place, (see Fig 8).

Attach halo to back of head, (see page 27 for instructions).





anger

This is the centrepiece of the Christmas story and it must be large enough to accommodate the figure and robe of the Infant, (see page 27).

Yarns: light brown D.K. yarn and straw-coloured yarn.

Cut three pieces of card, one 5 in (13 cm) square, and two 3 × 2 in (8 × 5 cm), score and fold, (see Fig 13). These pieces are not glued together but are first covered by knitted rectangles, then sewn.

Use pale brown D.K. yarn and size 4mm. needles.

Cast on 31 sts. and work the following pattern:

Row 1: * k.3, p.1 rep. from * to the last 3 sts., k.3.

Row 2: * p.3, k.1 rep. from * to the last 3 sts., p.3.

Repeat these two rows until there are 22 rows from the beginning. Change to straw-coloured yarn and work in rev.s.s. as follows: k. the first 2 rows then p. the next one and continue in rev.s.s. until 28 rows of

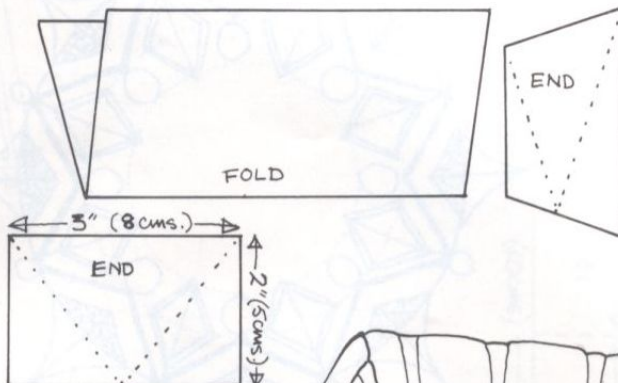
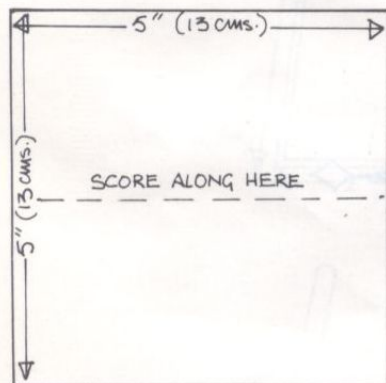
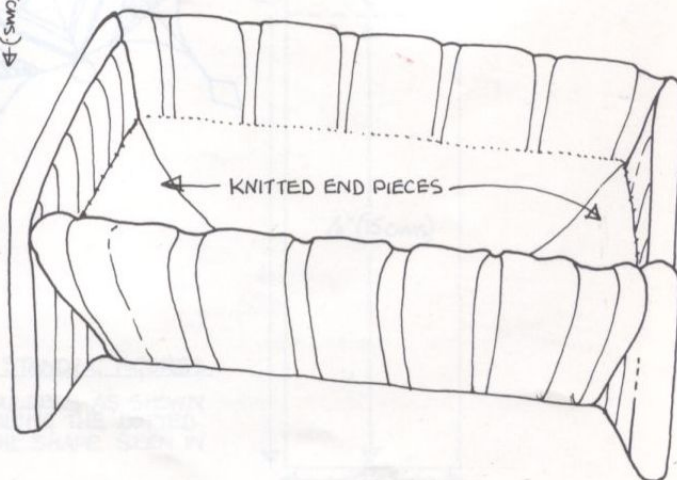
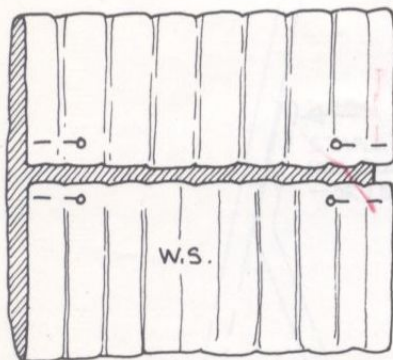


Fig 13



the straw colour have been worked. If the piece looks as though it might be too wide with the new yarn, change to a finer needle size. This piece should measure $3\frac{1}{2}$ in (9 cm). With the R.S. facing, change back to brown yarn and pattern as before for 22 rows. Cast off in pattern.

With R.S.s tog., fold the 2 short edges towards the centre and pin in position, (see Fig 13). Sew up along the folded sides leaving an opening in the centre, (i.e. the cast on and cast off edges), where the card can be slipped inside. Fit the card corners into position neatly, then sew up the opening so that the seam lies along the bottom of the manger.

For the 2 end panels, cast on 15 sts. and work in the same 3×1 rib for 14 rows. Work one p. row, then 14 more rows in pattern. Cast off on a W.S. row. Fold in half, R.S.s tog., and sew up the side edges.

Slip the card inside the pocket and sew up the bottom edge. Make the other side in the same way.

To make the straw-coloured end pieces for the inside of the manger, cast on 10 sts. and knit 6 rows.

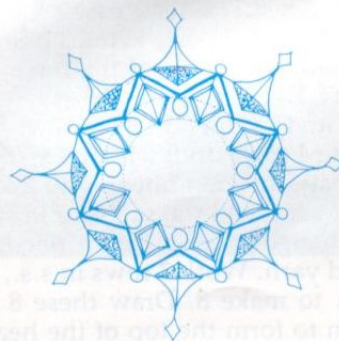
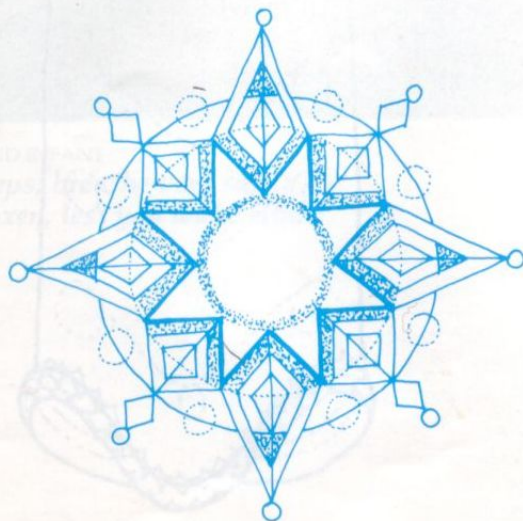
Now dec. 1 st. at each end of the 7th, 9th, 11th and 13th rows, then cast off. Make another in the same way. Pin each piece on to the loose side panels, with the cast on edges level with the same colour on the main sections, (i.e. about $\frac{1}{2}$ in (1 cm) down from the top edge). Sew this along the top but not down the sides. Take the points and pull them into the manger, then sew these down while the sides are still lying flat. Now fix the 2 side panels to the main section by sewing them together at each corner and at the underneath points.

To finish off, it may be necessary to tighten the knitted cover by taking stitches through the outer and inner covers and through the card at the bottom of the manger. Fasten off securely.

To make the pillow, use straw-coloured yarn and size $3\frac{3}{4}$ mm. needles. Cast on 10 sts. and work 20 rows in rev.s.s. Cast off.

Fold across, place padding inside and sew up.

You may wish to pad the bottom of the manger with a small amount of chopped straw-coloured yarn.





nfant

The baby Jesus is the most important figure in our story, (see page 27).

Yarns: white D.K. plus a fine sparkling yarn if you wish, and pale flesh colour for the face. A tiny amount of dark yarn for the hair.

The gown: this is knitted in an easy scallop st, but may be made plain if preferred. Using white yarn on size 3¾mm. needles cast on 29 sts. and k. 3 rows. Then work in pattern as follows:

Row 1: (yrn., k.3, sl.1, k2tog., psso., k.3, y.fwd., k.1) twice, then y.fwd, k.3, sl.1, k2tog., psso., k.3.

Row 2: yrn., and p. to end of the row.

Row 3: as row 1.

Row 4: yrn., and k. to end of the row.

Repeat these 4 rows until work measures about 3¼ in (8 cm) of pattern, then finish with 2 k. rows.

Now k2tog. across all sts. to make 15 sts., then k. 1 more row. Change to size 3 mm. needles and pale flesh-coloured yarn. Work 7 rows in s.s., then p2tog. across all sts. to make 8. Draw these 8 sts. on to a length of yarn to form the top of the head.

With R.S.s tog., sew down the back and pad the shape *very lightly* towards the head end. Run a small gathering st. around the neck, gently draw up and secure. Catch the lower edges of the gown together with a small stitch if it is scalloped as in the pattern, but if it is a straight edge it will have to be sewn right across.

Using dark yarn, thread up a sewing needle and take sts. round the head for the hair, with shorter sts. over the forehead. Embroider the eyes and mouth with finer yarn, (see Fig 14).

Attach halo to back of head, (see opposite page for instructions).

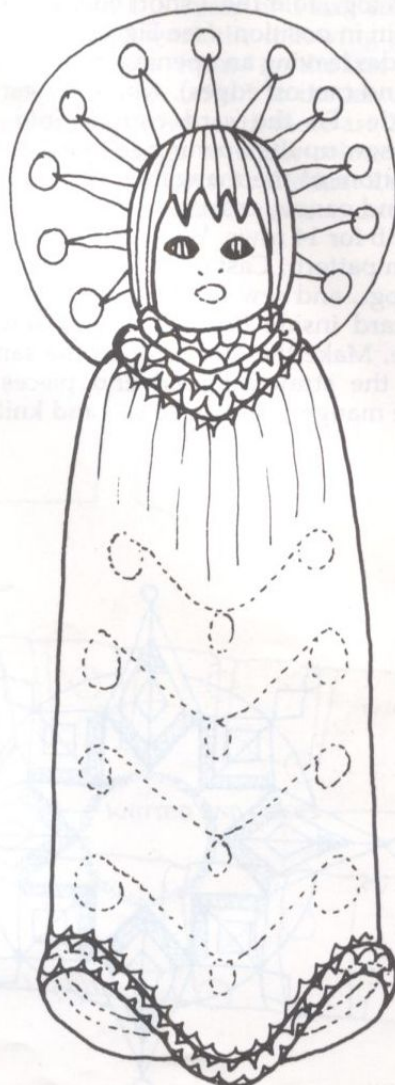


Fig 14



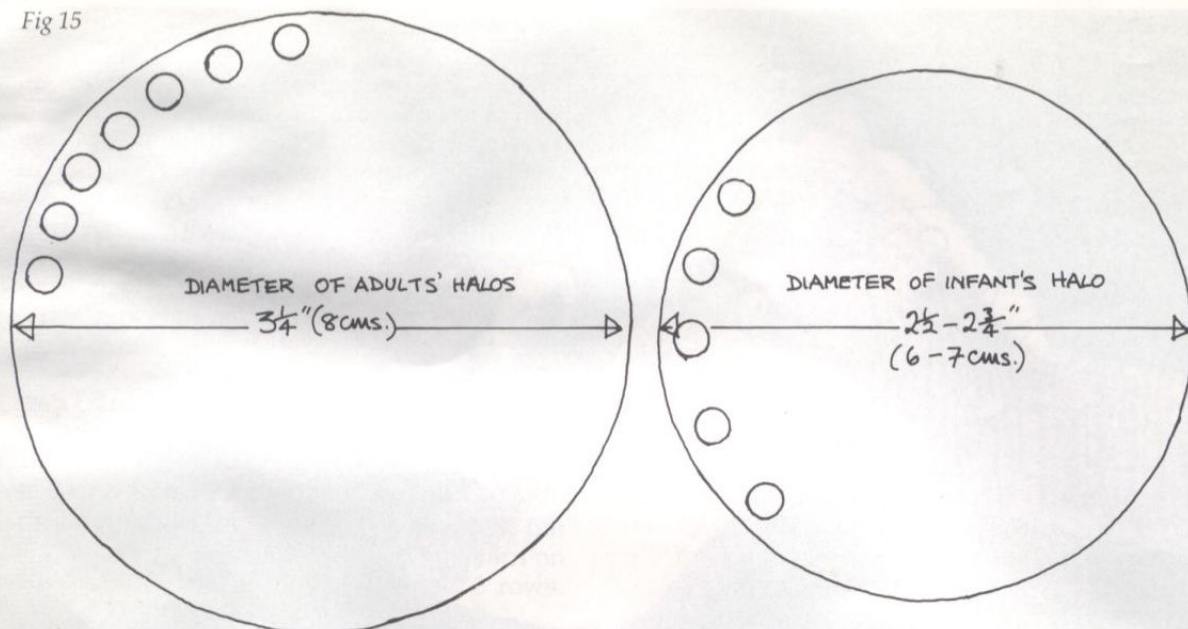
OX, ASS AND INFANT

*Jesus sleeps; breathe very softly,
patient oxen, lest you wake Him.*

The halos

The instructions for these are rather general, as the exact size, pattern and effect will depend on the various factors involved such as yarn-type and number of stitches needed. The idea is extremely simple and does not require circular knitting or complicated stitches. Try a 'sample' first and then you will be able to judge the best size and yarn, (see page 19).

Fig 15



The base is a circular piece of pliable transparent plastic, (cut from the bottom of disposable food containers), which has had holes punched in it round the edge. You can do this with an ordinary paper punch. The disc should be about the size shown in the diagrams, (see Fig 15), but this is not critical, and the holes should be spaced evenly.

Fine glittery yarn is best, gold for the most striking effect, and needles varying from sizes 3 to 6mm. You will need the same number of stitches as there are holes, or double the number so that you can lace through every alternate stitch if you prefer. It is the lacing thread which makes the points. To cast on, an easy *loose* method is used: instead of making each new stitch from between the last two, insert the needle into the previous stitch and make it from this one to achieve a loopy edge.

Now make a narrow strip of knitting and begin by

knitting one row, then work 2 or 4 rows of picot pattern, (see page 7). Make the 2nd row of the pattern k. instead of p. Remember that the last row of the knitting is the centre of the circle, (gathered up), and the cast-on edge goes to the outer edge, so very few rows are needed. On the last row, k2tog. across all sts. to make half as many, then slip the last row on to a long length of the same yarn. Gather the centre up and sew the two short sides to form a circle.

Place the circular piece of knitting in the centre of the plastic disc and use the length of yarn to lace through the holes, over the edge and through the stitches. Do this all the way round to make the points, then fasten off securely. You can use either side of the knitting, whichever is most pleasing.

The halos are stuck to the back of the heads with glue, and the transparent backing allows the lacy effect to be seen from both sides.



animals

The ox

Cut the base shapes from thick, strong card (see Fig 16) and tape the two body pieces across the back. Knitting instructions are for use with a chunky tweedy yarn, but if you are using something different you can check your measurements against the card shape as you go along. You will probably need almost a 50 gm. ball of yarn for this, and some tiny amounts of white, pink and grey for the details, (see page 27).

Use size 4mm. needles and begin with the four legs, all the same. Cast on 10 sts. and work in s.s. for 10 rows, then cast off. Make 3 more in the same way, sew up the bottom and side edges and slip these shapes on to the legs.

To make the body, cast on 34 sts. and work 2 rows in single rib. Dec. 1 st. at both ends of the next row, then p. one row. (32 sts.). Work 28 more rows of s.s., then inc. 1 st. at each end of the next row, then p. one more row, (34 sts.). Now work 3 rows in single rib, then cast off in rib. Fold the fabric in half and sew the two side edges together (R.S.s tog.), turn to the R.S. and slip this shape on to the card body. Sew the tops of the knitted legs to the ribbed edge, and glue the rest of the lower ribbed edge in place.

To make the head, cast on 14 sts. and work in s.s. for 8 rows. Now dec. 1 st. at each end of the next and every foll k. row until there are only 6 sts. left. Cast off p.wise. This piece should now be folded in half lengthways and used to enclose the head of double-card, the cast on edge being the top of the neck to the poll, and the cast off edge being the nose. Sew these two parts, and the dec. edge, but leave the

neck open to be sewn to the body, each side separately. Do not attach the head at this point.

Make the pink nose and white face separately. With pink D.K. yarn and size 3mm. needles, cast on 6 sts. and k. 5 rows. Change to white D.K. yarn and work in s.s. for 10 rows, beginning with a k. row. Now inc. 1 st. at each end of the next and every foll k. row until there are 10 sts. P. one more row. Now dec. 1 st. at each end of the next 3 k. rows, then cast off p.wise. Sew this piece to the front face, keeping the pink nose well up on the flat part and allowing the top (white) edge to carry on over the top of the head.

Make the ears, with the chunky yarn, and size 3¾mm. needles, cast on 4 sts. and work 6 rows in s.s. Next row: (k2tog.) twice and cast off.

Make another to match, and sew to the head as shown. Embroider the eyes in dark yarn. Now pin the head to the body and sew round the neck opening, then lower the chin on to the chest and stitch it in this position to keep the head lowered. Make the tail from a cord, crochet chain or narrow plait with a tassel on the end.

The horns, (optional) are made from 2 pipe-cleaners, or a 6 in (15 cm) length of wire bent double, to make four 3 in (7.5 cm) lengths. This is then wrapped very tightly with yarn, piling up towards the centre. Bend this into shape as shown and stitch, with the same yarn, over and over into the forehead, (see Fig 17).

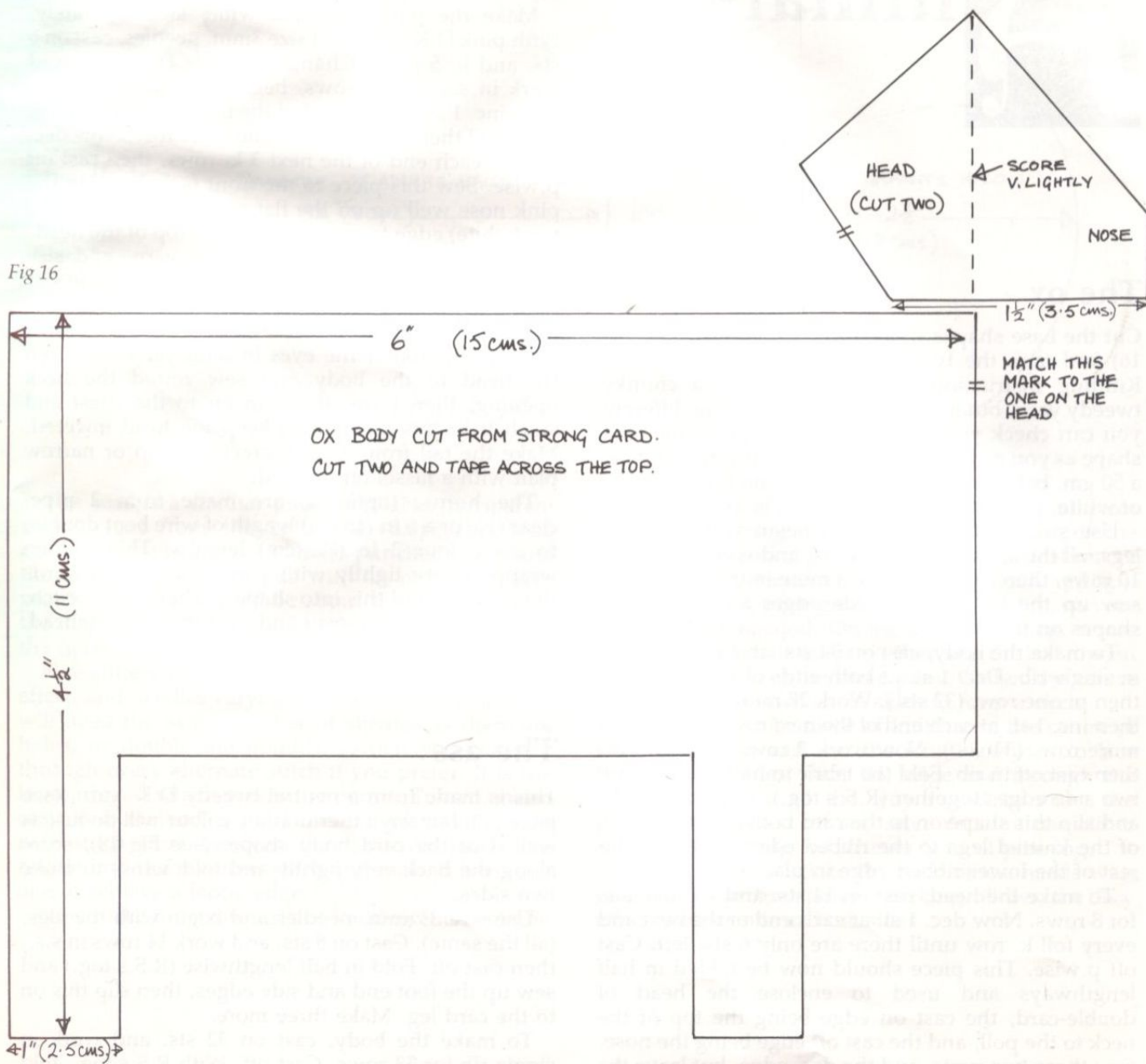
The ass

This is made from a neutral tweedy D.K. yarn, (see page 27), but any other donkey-colour will do just as well. Cut the card body shape, (see Fig 18), score along the back very lightly and fold across to make two sides.

Use size 3¾mm. needles and begin with the legs, (all the same). Cast on 8 sts. and work 14 rows in s.s., then cast off. Fold in half lengthwise (R.S.s tog.) and sew up the foot end and side edges, then slip this on to the card leg. Make three more.

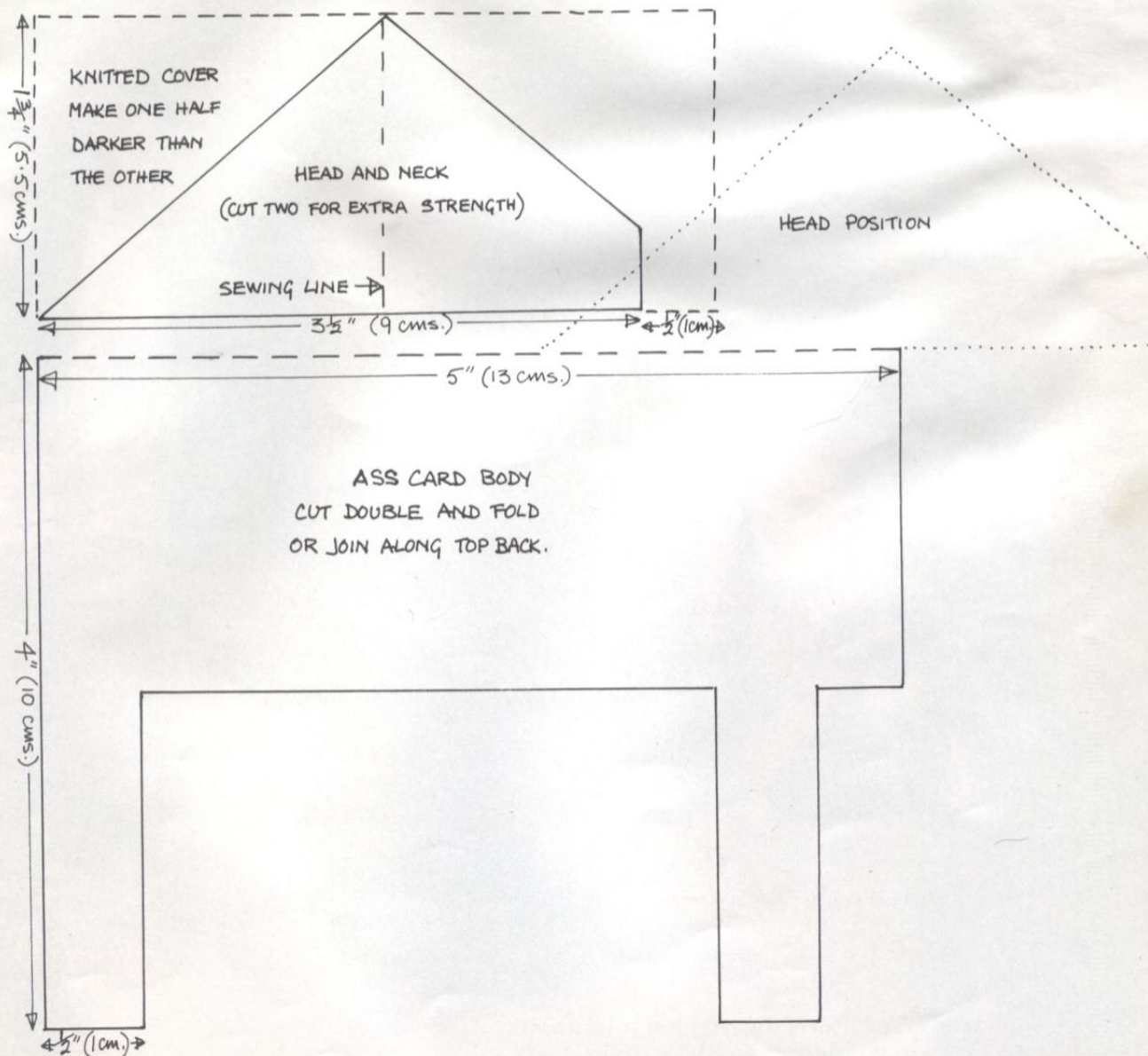
To make the body, cast on 32 sts. and work in single rib for 33 rows. Cast off. With R.S.s tog., fold

Fig 16



Continued on page 34

Fig 18



Continued on page 34





*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;*

Fig 17

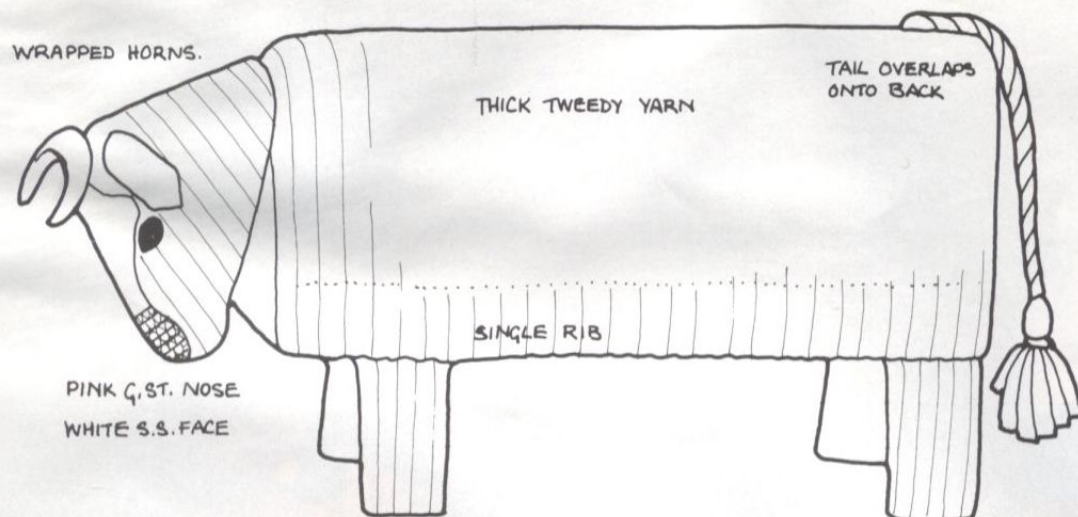
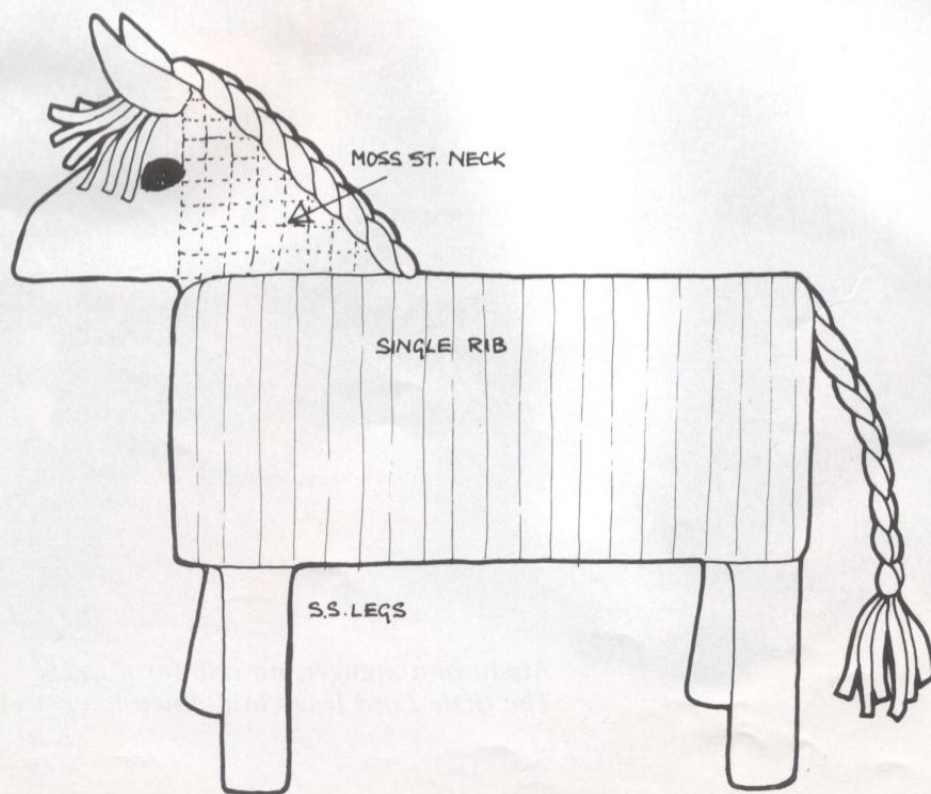


Fig 19



across and sew up the side edges, turn to the R.S. then slip this shape on to the card body. Sew the tops of the legs to the body and glue the in-between parts to the card.

To make the head, cast on 12 sts. and work 14 rows in s.s. Change to moss st. and work 16 more rows, then cast off.

With R.S.s tog., fold across the line between the two sets of sts. and sew up one side. Turn to the R.S. and squeeze it diagonally to form a triangle. Fit the card pieces into this with the blunt nose end at the s.s. side, and the neck at the moss st. side. Sew up the s.s. side only from the nose to the centre line.

Make the ears by casting on 6 sts. and working 8 rows in s.s. Dec. 1 st. at each end of the next and the foll. k. row, then cast off. Darn the cast off end in and sew the ears to the head, angled slightly forwards as shown. Embroider a large, dark eye on each side of the head.

Make a thick plait from 12 strands of white D.K. yarn and tie this at one end to leave a bunch of strands for forelock. Sew this to the top of the head between the ears. Now attach the head and neck to the body with stitches on both sides of the neck, matching the central line with the front edge of the body. Complete the sewing of the mane to the neck, taking the end just on to the body. Make a tail from a crochet chain, a twisted cord or a fine plait and leave a long tassel at the end. Sew this on to the rump, (see Fig 19).

The sheep

Cut card pieces, (see Fig 20), and fold the body piece across the centre to form the tent-shaped body. You may need to score lightly across the line first. Cut two head-pieces and use them together for extra strength. No legs are needed for this long-wool breed!

The body cover is simply a rectangle of knitting the same shape and size as the card, (see page 32). The exact number of stitches and rows will depend on the yarn you choose, and the stitch pattern too, but sheep are found in a variety of natural colours ranging from black to white, some both. You will only

need very small amounts of yarns; a 25 gm. ball will make several sheep. If you wish to make a short-wool breed, make the knitted body-cover shorter and draw, (or paint), legs on the card to show below the 'wool'. To make a lying-down sheep, cut the card a little shorter (i.e. not so deep) and make the knitted cover to match. Try putting the head on at different angles for variety. Look at photographs to give you ideas.

The sheep body pattern is worked in moss stitch rib, as foll:

Row 1: *k.3, p.1, rep. from * to the end of the row.

Row 2: *k.2, p.1, k.1, rep. from * to the end of the row.

These 2 rows form the pattern. Repeat them for the required length.

Use either double 4 ply or heavy D.K. yarn on size 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. needles and cast on 24 sts. Work in pattern for 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ in (13.5 cm). Cast off and fold across the centre, R.S.s tog. Sew the two side edges tog., turn to the R.S., and slip this on to the card body. Glue the lower edges in place.

To make the head, cast on 10 sts. and work in s.s. for 10 rows. This is the neck. Now k. the p. rows, and p. the k. rows for the face, using either the same yarn or a paler or darker one. Work 10 rows then cast off. Fold this piece diagonally as shown by the dotted lines in the diagram, (see Fig 20), and sew up one side edge. The smooth side of the knitting is for the face with the blunt nose, and the rough side of the knitting is for the neck. Tuck the card inside and fold in the nose-point. Sew all round and then embroider the eyes. Make two ears by casting on 4 sts. and then cast them off again without working any rows of knitting. Sew these on each side then attach the head to the body in any of the positions shown in the illustrations, (see Fig 21).

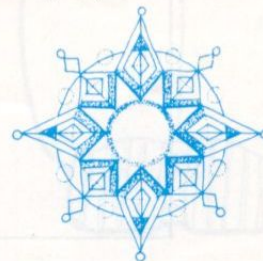
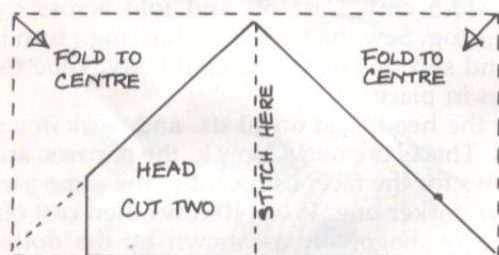
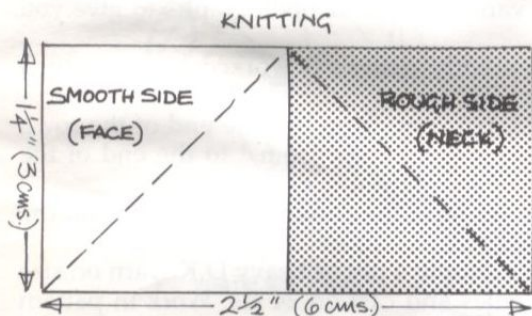


Fig 20



STITCH TO BODY HERE

SHEEP CARD BODY

CUT DOUBLE SIZE (ie. 4" x 5")

AND FOLD 10 x 13 cms.

ACROSS TOP OF BACK

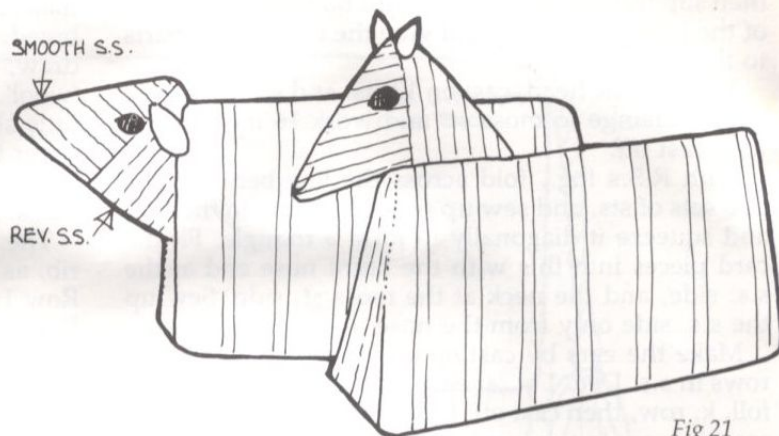


Fig 21



hepherds

Kneeling shepherd

This figure wears a brown textured tunic with long sleeves and a short waistcoat (vest) over this, (see page 2). He holds a lamb under his arm, and has feet showing underneath the lower edge of his tunic. On his head he wears a single band like Joseph's, (see below). Make the face, hair, beard and head band in the same way as Joseph's.

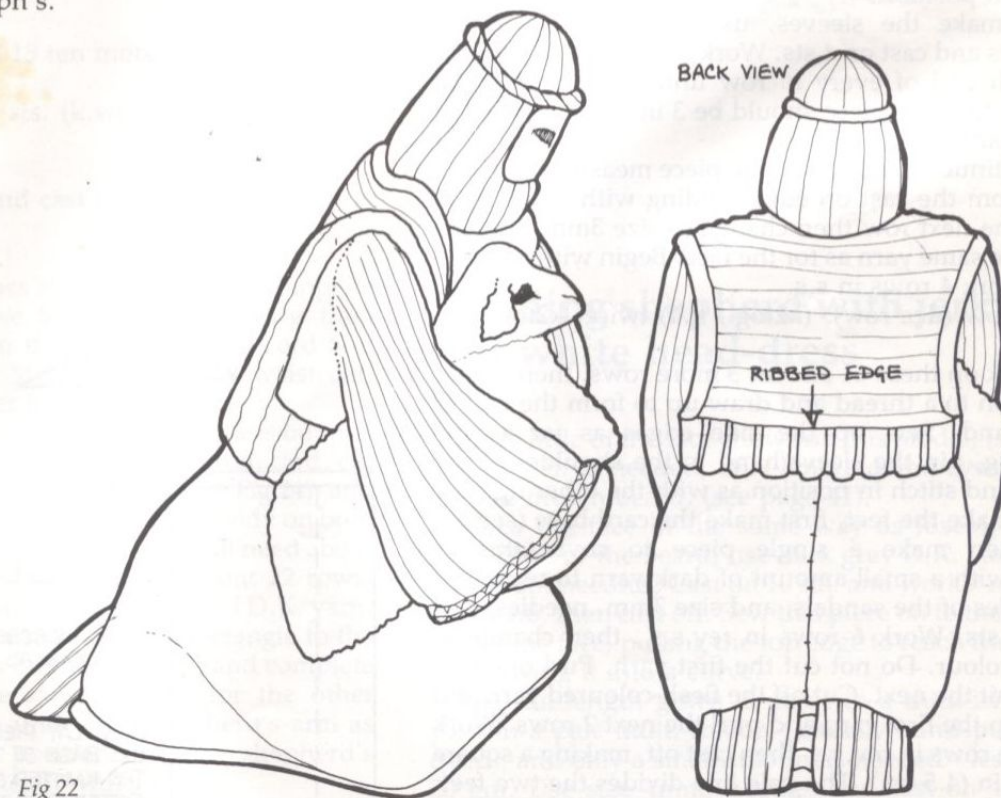


Fig 22

For the tunic, a chunky Aran-type yarn was used, so measurements have been given so that you can keep a check on the size as your work develops. The tunic should measure $8\frac{3}{4}$ in (22 cm) across the lower edge. With size 4mm. needles, cast on 40 sts. and work 8 rows in s.s., i.e. $1\frac{1}{2}$ in (4 cm).

Next row (dec. row): (k2tog., k.2) 10 times, (30 sts.).

Work on these 30 sts. for 9 more rows in s.s., i.e. $2\frac{3}{4}$ in (7 cm) from the cast on edge.

Next row (dec. row): (k2tog. k.3) 6 times, (24 sts.).

This should be wide enough to go easily round the top of the figure, i.e. 6 in (15 cm) wide. Work straight, without shaping, to the neck.

Last row: k2tog. across all sts., then cast off.

Pin the piece in position round the figure and sew up the back seam, then sew the neckline to the lower edge of the hair. Embroider the eyes and fix the head band in position.

To make the sleeves, use the same yarn and needles and cast on 4 sts. Work 2 rows in s.s. Inc 1 st. at each end of every k. row until there are 14 sts. noting that the piece should be 3 in (7.5 cm) wide at this point.

Continue straight until the piece measures $2\frac{3}{4}$ in (7 cm) from the cast on edge, ending with a knit row. Knit the next row then change to size 3mm. needles and the same yarn as for the face. Begin with a k. row and work 4 rows in s.s.

Next row (dec row): (k2tog., k.4) twice, k2tog., (11 sts.).

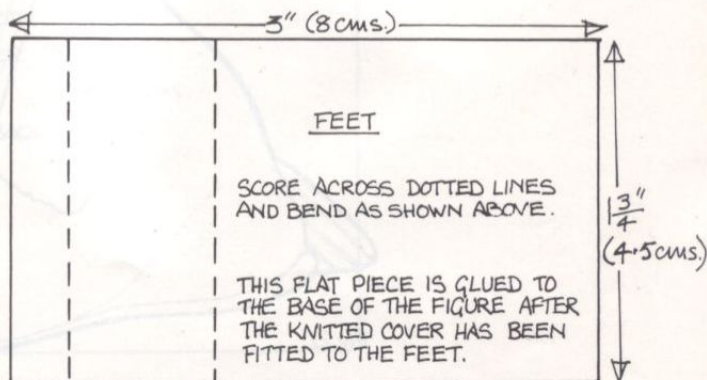
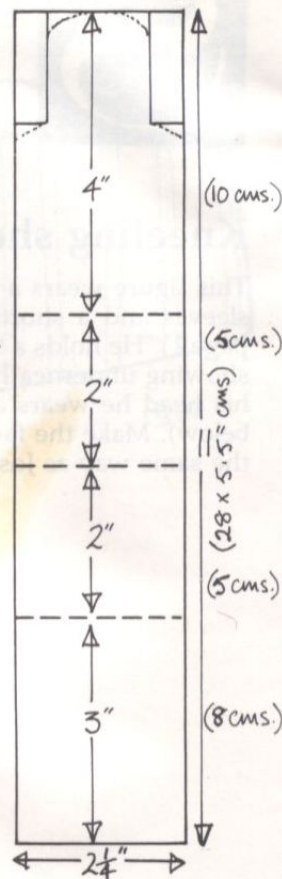
Work on these 11 sts. for 3 more rows, then gather them on to a thread and draw up to form the end of the hand. Sew up the side edges as far as the shaping, pin the sleeve/hand to the shoulder of the tunic and stitch in position as with the other figures.

To make the feet, first make the card base (see Fig 23) then make a single piece to cover this as follows: with a small amount of dark yarn to represent the soles of the sandals, and size 3mm. needles, cast on 14 sts. Work 6 rows in rev.s.s., then change to flesh colour. Do not cut the first yarn. Purl one row and knit the next. Cut off the flesh-coloured yarn and pick up the first yarn and purl the next 2 rows. Work 4 more rows in rev.s.s. then cast off, making a square of $1\frac{3}{4}$ in (4.5 cm). The pale line divides the two feet. Fold this piece in half and sew up the two sides.

Fig 23

THE KNEELING FIGURE

FOLD INTO THIS POSITION AND GLUE/STAPLE IN PLACE.
ANGLE TO LEAN SLIGHTLY FORWARD, AND BEND THE HEAD SLIGHTLY FORWARD TOO.



Slip the card foot shape inside, and glue this piece in position with the flat base underneath the figure and the short edge against the lower back as shown in Fig 22. The edge of the tunic can now be glued in position all round the base, slightly overlapping the feet.

The short waistcoat (vest) is made in a neutral shade of D.K. yarn on size $3\frac{3}{4}$ mm. needles. Leave longish ends and cast on 14 sts. Knit 2 rows.

Row 3: p.11, k.3.

Row 4: k.

Repeat these 2 rows once more.

Row 7: (W.S.facing) Cast off 10 sts. and k. to end of row.

Rows 8, 9, 10 and 11: k. 4 sts.

Row 12: k.4, turn and cast on 10 sts.

Row 13: k.14.

Row 14: k.

Row 15: p.11, k.3.

Repeat rows 14 and 15 ten more times.

Next row: k.3, p.11.

Next row: cast off 10 sts. (k.wise) and k. to end of row.

Next row: k. 4 sts.

Next row: k.4, turn and cast on 10 sts.

Next row: p.11, k.3.

Next row: k.14.

Repeat the last 2 rows once more. Knit 2 complete rows and cast off k.wise. Sew the shoulders tog. then slip the garment on to the figure. Make a cord and slip this through both lower points of the waistcoat, pull the edges together and tie securely.

The lamb does not stand up like the others but just tucks underneath the shepherd's arm. From card, cut one body shape and one head shape, (see Fig 24), and make a rectangle of knitting to cover the body on both sides, folded over the back ridge. You will need about 20 sts. on size $3\frac{3}{4}$ mm. needles and about 22 rows, using any small amounts of lamb-coloured D.K. yarn.

For the head, make a small knitted rectangle to the size of the dotted lines on the diagram, and complete the making-up in the same way as for the other sheep. Tuck the lamb under the shepherd's arm as shown and glue it in position. Join the shepherd's hands together underneath with a stitch.

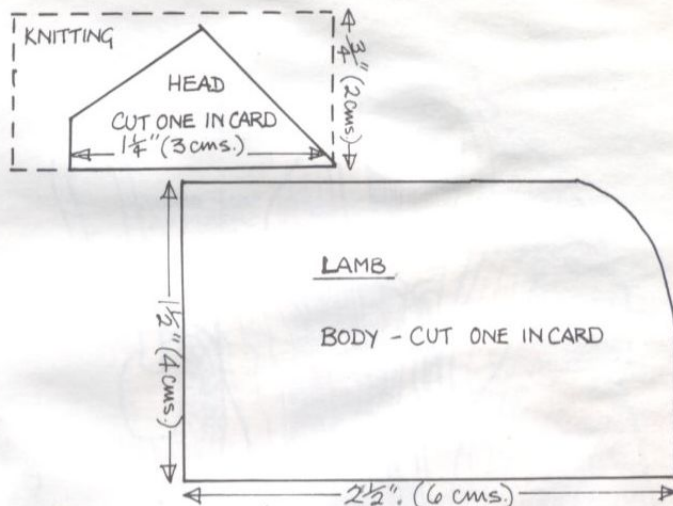


Fig 24

Standing shepherd with jerkin and white head-dress

As very little of the face shows on this model, (see Fig 25), no hair is needed, only embroidered eyes and a grey or brown beard, (see page 41).

Make the face in the same way as Joseph's (see page 21). For the beard, use dark grey D.K. yarn and size 3mm. needles. Cast on 10 sts. and work 7 rows in single rib, then cast off. Sew this piece on to the lower half of the face, pulling the top edge to reach the sides and sewing it into a curve.

The full length gown is made in a thick-ish D.K. yarn in a pale multi-colour, (actually handspun and dyed), and only a small amount is needed – less than 20 gm. Use size 4mm. needles and cast on 48 sts., working the first 8 rows in s.s.

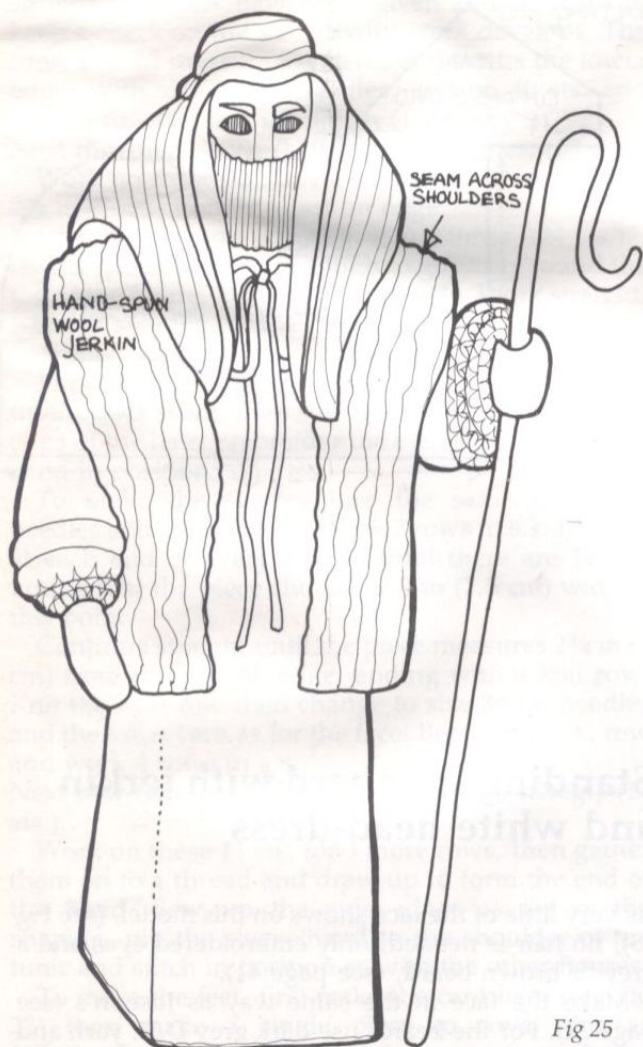


Fig 25

Next row: (k2tog., k.4) 8 times, (40 sts.).

Continue in s.s. for 42 rows measured from the cast-on edge, or 6 in (15 cm), then work 2 rows of picot pattern at neck, (see page 7). Cast off. Sew up the back seam and make a cord long enough to go through the neck holes. Slip the gown on to the

figure, draw up the cord and tie. Glue the lower edge of the gown to the card base.

The sleeves are made separately from the hands. Using the same yarn and needles, cast on 4 sts. and work in s.s. for 2 rows. Now inc. 1 st. at each end of every k. row until there are 16 sts. Work 4 more rows in s.s., then change to g.st. for 4 rows. Cast off. Make another in the same way.

Using the same yarn as for the face, make the hands as folls: with size 3mm. needles, cast on 8 sts. and work 8 rows in s.s. Gather the last row on to a thread and sew up the side seam. Turn to the right side and insert the hands into the sleeve openings. Sew together. Attach the sleeve/hands to the body in the same way as previous models.

The jerkin is made in a bumpy handspun wool of roughly D.K. thickness. Your measurements can be checked against your card figure. Use size 3¾mm. needles and note that the reverse side of s.s. is the R.S. Cast on 20 sts. and work from one front edge to the other. Work 8 rows in rev.s.s., then cast off 14 sts. and k. to the end of the row. Work 3 more rows, then turn and cast on 14 more sts. Work 8 more rows on these 20 sts., then shape the back neck, by casting off 4 sts. at the beg. of the next row, then k. to the end. Work 13 more rows ending with a p. row. Cast on 4 sts. to complete the neck and work 8 rows.

Cast off 14 sts. at the beg. of the next row and k. to the end. Work 2 rows on the rem 6 sts., then cast on 14 sts. Work 8 rows on these 20 sts. and then cast off.

If the piece tends to curl badly, soak it in warm water, squeeze gently, then pin it out to dry naturally, blocking it into shape. Sew up the shoulder seams and slip the garment on to the figure as shown.

The white head-dress is made from a creamy-white D.K. yarn in the shape of a large triangle, but is not as large as Mary's head-dress. The front, (cast-on), edge should measure at least 7 in (18 cm) wide, so use size 4mm. needles and cast on 40 sts. Knit the first 2 rows and p. the 3rd row.

TWO STANDING SHEPHERDS

*Shepherds in the fields abiding
Watching o'er your flocks by night.*





Fig 26

Now dec. 1 st. at each end of the next and every alt. k. row until only 2 sts. rem. Cast off.

Place the cast-on edge at the front of the head and pull well forward. Pin the two side points on to the front of the jerkin and sew in place. Do the same with the back point. Make a thick cord to go round the head as shown (see page 2), and stitch this securely in place to hold the white cloth on.

The crook is made from a length of sturdy bendable wire about 10 in (25 cm) long. If the wire you have is too fine, bend it double, or make a 4-thickness piece to this length. Fold a piece of double-sided sticky-tape over the two ends and wrap the whole length with pale brown yarn until the wire is completely covered. The last end can be darned in. Using pliers, bend the end into a crook shape as shown then sew the shepherd's hand around the staff.

Finish by embroidering the eyes on to the face.

Standing shepherd in blue with striped head-dress

Make the face in the same way as Joseph's (see page 21) and the beard as for the other standing shepherd, (see page 39).

The pale grey undergown is simply a narrow panel glued to the front of the card base in the same way as Joseph's, so follow the same instructions as those on page 21 and glue it in position, (see page 41).

A blue, random-dyed D.K. yarn was used for the overgown, but any other muted colour would be acceptable. You will need about 20 gm. of this. Use size 4mm. needles and cast on 40 sts. Knit 3 rows.
4th row: k.4, p. to the last 4 sts. k.4.
5th row: k.

Repeat these two rows until the piece measures 7 in (18 cm) from the beg. Now work the 2 rows of picot pattern, (see page 7). Cast off. Make a blue cord to go through the holes.

For the sleeves, use size $3\frac{3}{4}$ mm. needles and cast on 16 sts. Knit 2 rows. Beginning with a p. row, work 13 rows of s.s.

Next row: (k2tog.) 8 times.

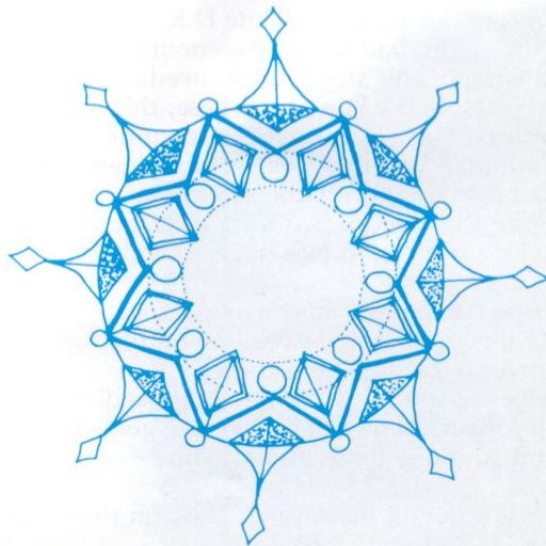
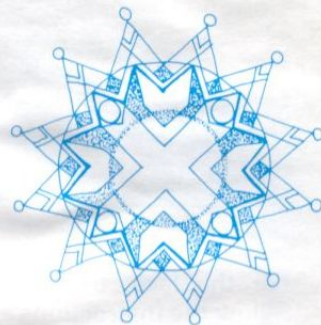
Next row: p.

Cast off and sew up the side edges.

For the grey undersleeves and hands, use the grey yarn and size $3\frac{3}{4}$ mm. needles and cast on 10 sts. Work 7 rows in s.s. and knit the 8th row. Change to size 3mm. needles and the same yarn as for the face and work 4 rows in s.s. Gather the last row on to a length of yarn to form the end of the hand. Sew up the side seams and insert the grey sleeve/hand into the outer sleeve opening. Glue or sew this in place.

To make the striped head-dress you will need two yarns, one a plain white D.K. and the other a random-dyed blue/white D.K. The pattern is exactly the same as for the other standing shepherd's head-dress (see page 40), except that this one has stripes made by 2 rows of white and 2 rows of blue alternately. The cord is made from blue yarn in the same way as the other one.

Attach the blue gown to the body, draw up the cord and tie. Glue the lower edges of the gown to the base, slightly overlapping the grey gown. Sew the two sleeves/hands in position angled slightly towards the front. Embroider the eyes, and arrange the head-dress on to the head, then sew firmly with the cord over this as shown. The crook is made in the same way as the other standing shepherd's, and can then be fixed into one of the hands.





ngel

For the face, use a pale, skin-coloured yarn and follow the instructions as for Mary, (see page 17). Use glitter yarns for the hair to the same thickness as D.K.: two metallic yarns used together made our model's hair, one gold and the other white pearl. Use size 3¼mm. needles and cast on 12 sts. Work in rev.s.s. for about 23 rows then cast off. Gather up along one long edge and make this fit the top of the head and finish off with a few long stitches over the forehead. Embroider the features on to the face.

The gown is a simple rectangle with no shaping and holes at the neckline allow a cord to be passed through. As you will use whatever suitable yarns you have for this, measurements have been given as well as numbers of stitches and rows, so check with these at all stages. For our model, a white D.K. shiny yarn was used, (a 25 gm. ball should be enough for both (gown and wings), and size 3¼mm. needles.

Cast on 50 sts. and begin at the base; this should measure at least 8 in (20 cm) wide. Continue in s.s. (with the addition of a few rev.s.s. rows here and there at the beginning), until the piece measures 6 in (15.5 cm) long. Now work two rows of picot pattern to make holes for the cord (see page 7). Knit 2 more rows and then cast off.

Sew up the back seam, and make a cord for the neck. Draw this up and tie in position on the figure. Glue the lower edge to the card base.

For the sleeves, use the same yarn and needles and cast on 16 sts. Knit 3 rows, then change to gold and k. 2 rows. Now knit one more row of white.

Next row: p.

Continue in s.s. for 12 more rows, then on the next row, (k2tog., k.5) twice, k2tog.

Next row: p.

Next row: (k2tog.) 6 times, k.1.

Next row: p.

Next row: k2tog., cast off 3 sts., k2tog., and cast off rem. st.

Sew up the side seams as far as the shaping and leave the rest open.

For the hands, use size 2¾mm. needles and the same flesh coloured yarn as for the face. Cast on 8 sts. and work 8 rows in s.s. Gather all the sts. on to a thread and draw up to form the end of the hand. Sew the side seams, insert the hands into the ends of the sleeves and sew, or glue, in place. Pin the sleeves/hands in position on the body, with the top of the sleeves on the same level as the neck gathering. Open out the top edges of the sleeves and angle the arms slightly forwards. Sew in position.

For the wings, (see Fig 27) make a base of firm white card. If your angel is to be seen from both back and front, you will need to make two sets of wings and stick these back to back on the card.

With size 6mm. needles, and any shiny white D.K. yarn, (a tubular rayon ribbon was used on our model), cast on 96 sts.

Row 1: * k.5, p.2, rep. from * to last 5 sts., k.5.

Row 2: * p.5, k.2, rep. from * to last 5 sts., p.5.

Work 8 rows in this pattern.

Next row: * k2tog., k.1, k2tog., p.2, rep. from * to last 5 sts., k2tog., k.1, k2tog. (68 sts).

Next row: * p.3, k.2, rep. from * to last 3 sts., p.3.

Next row: using a sparkling yarn of the same thickness (we used doubled metallic, one gold and one pearly) * k.3, p.2, rep. from * to the last 3 sts., k.3.

Change back to white yarn. Now work in pattern for 7 rows, then dec. again as follows:

Next row: * k3tog., p.2, rep. from * to last 3 sts., k3tog.

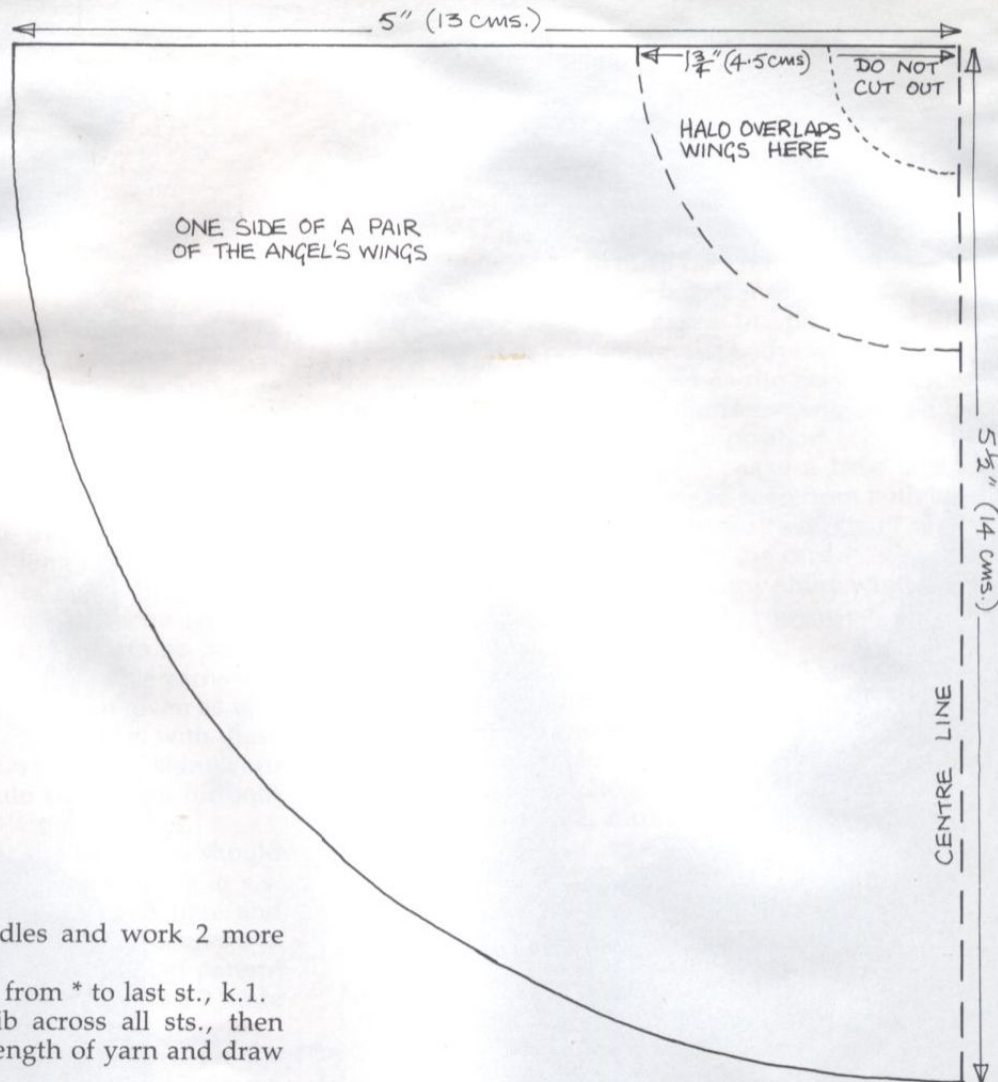
Next row: * p.1, k.2, rep. from * to last st., p.1.

THE ANGEL

*The Angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around*



Fig 27



Change to size 4mm. needles and work 2 more rows in pattern.

Next row: * p2tog., k.1, rep. from * to last st., k.1.

Next row: work in single rib across all sts., then gather the rem. sts. on to a length of yarn and draw up. Darn all ends in.

Gather the top edge to fit the small area left uncovered on the card and glue the wings along the top edges first, allowing the edges of the knitting to project a little beyond the card. Now glue the curved edge and ease the knitting into position, (see Fig 28).

To make the halo, cut a circle of white, gold or silver card measuring 3 1/4 in (8 cm) diameter and use this as the base. Using gold, single thickness metallic yarn, and size 3 3/4mm. needles, cast on 50 sts. and knit 2 in (5 cm) of g.st. On the last row, k2tog. across

all sts. and then gather the rem. sts. on to a length of yarn. Sew up the side edges and gather the sts. into a flat circle. Glue this on to the card base, then glue the complete halo on to the top edge of the wings as shown, (see Fig 29), to overlap the knitting by about 1 in (2.5 cm).

The angel should now be glued into position on the wings so that the head is in the centre of the halo. Glue the arms angled outwards, or folded across the front of the body if preferred.

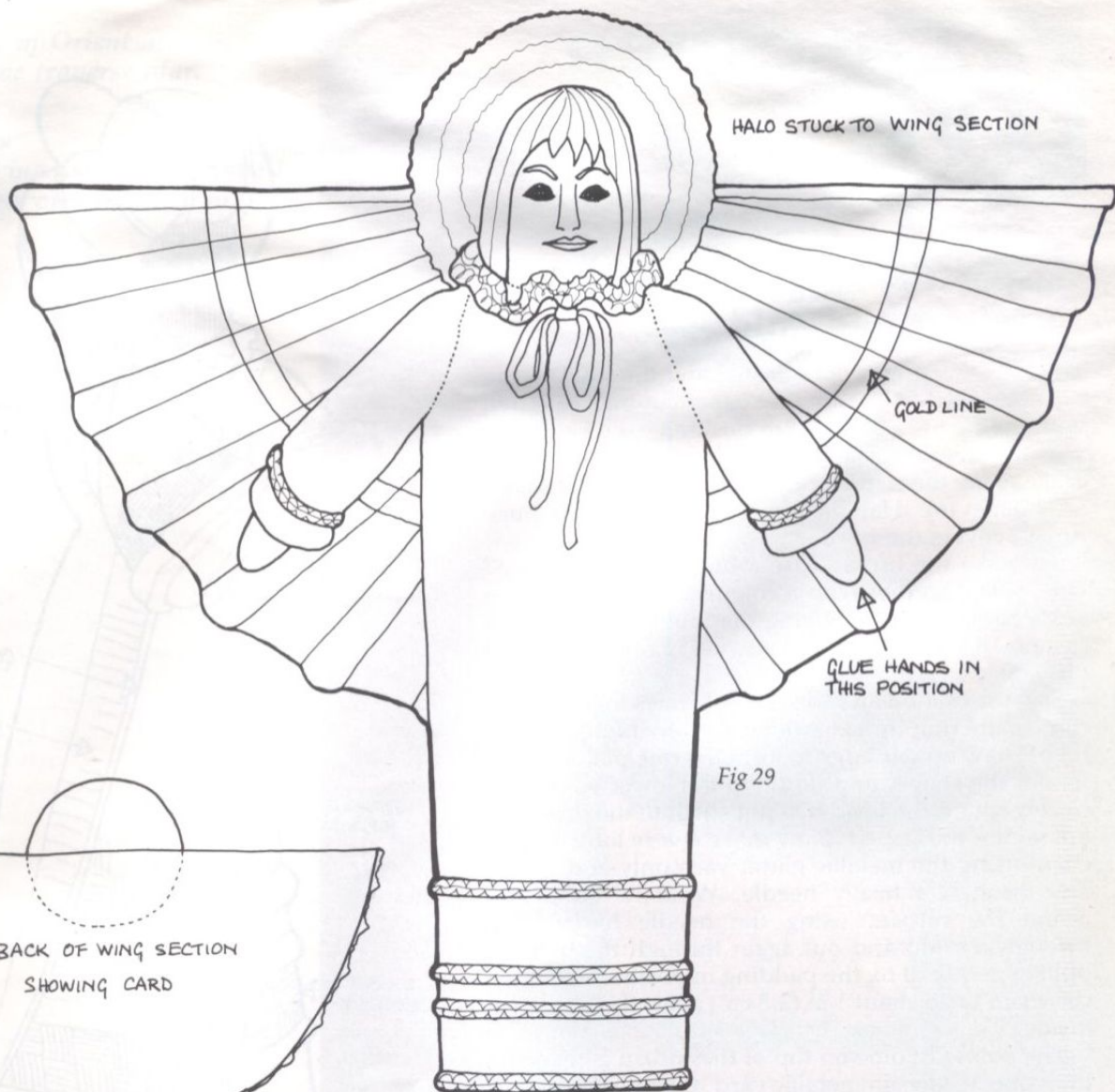


Fig 29

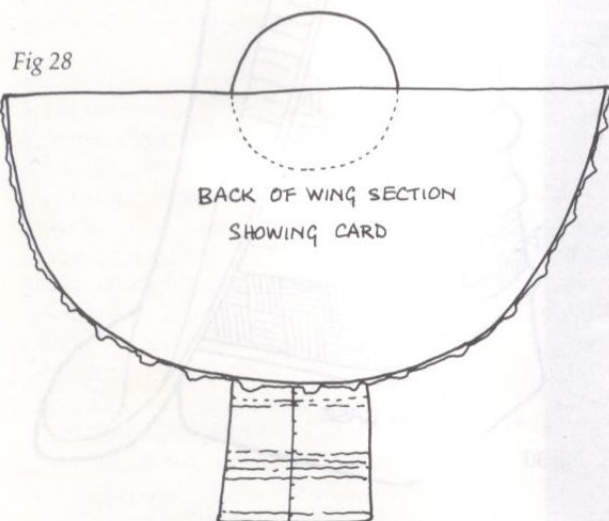


Fig 28



ise men

Caspar: the Egyptian wise man in yellow and gold

The face-covering is dark brown and the features are not embroidered but are tiny paper cut-outs coloured with fibre-pens and glued in position, (see Fig 30). A pair of tweezers is useful for holding these pieces while fixing them in place. Make the face as for Mary, (see page 16). Hair is not necessary as the huge turban covers the head.

To make the turban, use a bright, multi-coloured D.K. yarn together with a coloured metallic yarn on size $3\frac{3}{4}$ mm. needles. Using the multi-coloured yarn cast on 18 sts. and work in s.s. for 54 rows, then cast off.

Sew the cast-on and the cast-off edges together and run a gathering thread around the outer edges of the tube. Draw up one edge to form the top, pad inside to fill out the shape, and draw up the lower edge to fit closely round the head. Do not stitch to the head yet, but secure the thread. Now make a very long crochet chain using the metallic glitter yarn only and thread this through a heavy needle. Wind it round and round the turban, using the needle to insert it through the top and out again through the bottom, pulling gently to fix the padding in position. Arrange the chain to lie about 1 in (2.5 cm) apart then secure it inside.

The pointed dome on top of the turban is made on the same needles in metallic yarn. Cast on 18 sts. and work in s.s. for 8 rows. On the next row, k2tog. across all sts. then gather these on to a length of yarn and draw up. Sew this shape into a dome, padding the inside very lightly and sew it to the centre of the turban as shown. Do not glue the turban to the head until the clothes have been fitted.

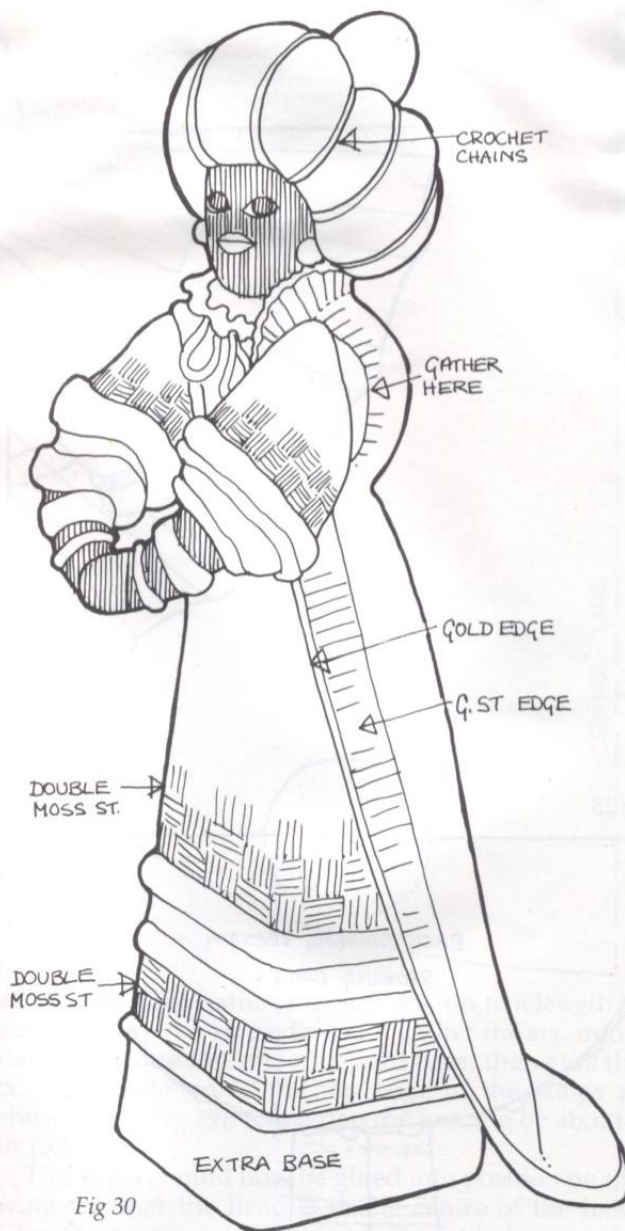


Fig 30

WISE MEN

*We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.*

CASPAR

*Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a deity nigh:*



For the yellow gown, you will need about 20 gm. of bright yellow D.K. yarn and size 3¾mm. needles, several small balls of darker and paler yellow yarns, and metallic and multi-coloured contrasts.

Cast on 50 sts. and k. 2 rows. Work 4 rows in double moss st. then change to the multi-coloured yarn and work 4 more rows of double moss st. Add the metallic yarn and use it together with the deep yellow, k. one row and p. the next. Cut the metallic yarn and leave the deep yellow hanging free. Change to pale yellow, p. one row and k. the next. Repeat these 2 rows.

Break off the pale yellow and pick up the deep yellow, k. one row and p. one row.

Next row (dec. row): (k.3, k2tog.) 10 times, (40sts).

Break off dark yellow. Change back to pale yellow and p. one row. Now continue in double moss st. until the piece measures 5½ in (14 cm) from the beginning when slightly stretched. Now change to s.s. for 12 more rows, then work 2 rows of picot pattern, (see page 7). Cast off.

Darn in all loose ends on to the W.S. and fold across with the R.S.s tog. Sew up the side edges, taking care to match the coloured bands and using the same colours to sew them. Make a cord for the neckline and thread this through the holes. Slip the gown on to the figure and tie the cord.

To make the two sleeves, begin with the deep yellow yarn and cast on 30 sts. K. the first 2 rows and p. the third. Bring in the multi-coloured yarn, k. the 4th row.

Row 5: k., then cut off this yarn.

Row 6: in deep yellow, k.

Row 7: bring in the gold (metallic) yarn and knit this together with the deep yellow.

Row 8: with the same 2 yarns, p.

Cut both these yarns off and bring in the pale yellow.

Row 9: p.

Rows 10 to 13: double moss st.

Row 14: work in s.s., dec. as folls: (k2tog., k.3) 6 times.

Row 15: p.24.

Row 16: (k2tog., k.6) 3 times.

Row 17: p.

Row 18: k2tog. at beg. and end of the row.

Rows 19 and 20: as rows 17 and 18.

Row 21: p2tog. across all sts. to the last st., p.1.

Cast off. Darn all ends in and sew the two side edges together, matching stitches and colours.

For the arms and hands, use dark brown yarn as for the face, and size 3¾mm. needles. Cast on 12 sts. and work 14 rows in s.s. Leave the yarn hanging free, and bring in the gold (metallic) yarn.

Row 15 and 16: k.

Row 17: p.

Row 18: k., do not cut the gold.

Row 19: with dark brown, k.

Row 20: p.

Row 21: with gold, k.

Row 22: k., cut off the gold yarn.

Continue in s.s. in dark brown for 6 more rows.

Next row: (k2tog.) 6 times.

Draw these 6 sts. on to a thread and gather them up to form the end of the hand. With R.S.s tog, sew up the side edges, turn to the R.S. and pad very lightly. Insert the open end of the arm well into the sleeve matching the two sets of seams, and pin in place. Run a gathering thread all round the cast-on edge of the sleeve and draw this up to fit the arm closely just above the first gold bracelet. Sew the arm and sleeve together.

Pin the top of the sleeve to the body just below the neck cord, and angle it slightly towards the front with the seams to the inside. Sew both sleeves in place. Glue the bottom edge of the gown to the card.

The sleeveless coat and train have been knitted in deep gold D.K. yarn on size 4mm. needles. An edge of gold (metallic) yarn has been crocheted around this garment, but could be embroidered if you prefer.

Cast on 20 sts. and knit the first row.

Row 2: inc., k. to last st., inc.

Row 3: k.4, p. to last 4 sts., k.4.

Repeat these last 2 rows until there are 30 sts. Keep straight in this pattern, knitting the first and last 4 sts. of every p. row, until the piece measures 7 in (18 cm) from the cast-on edge, ending with a p. row.

Divide for the arm-holes as folls:

Next row: k.5, cast off 3, k.14 (including the one on the needle), cast off 3, k.5 (including the one on the needle).

Work on the first set of 5 sts. in g.st. for 15 rows.

Cast off. Rejoin the yarn to the centre 14 sts.

Row 1: k.4, p.6, k.4.

Row 2: k.

Repeat these 2 rows 6 more times, then the first row once more. Cast off. Rejoin the yarn to the last 5 sts. and complete as for the other side.

Pin the piece out flat and press gently under a damp cloth. Sew up the shoulder seams and darn all ends in on the W.S. To make the arm-holes fit more closely at the back, fit the coat on to the figure then run a gathering thread through the fabric where it bulges, and draw up to fit. Fasten off securely. Sew large beads to each side of the head to represent ear-rings, then glue the turban well down on to the head. Stitch the ends of the two hands together as shown so that they will support the casket.

Balthazar: Persian wise man in green and red

A dark flesh colour is used for the face, which is made in the same way as for the other wise men, (see Fig 31). He has a very dark beard, and his hair is not worked on the top of his head, as this is covered by his tall head-dress. Use a dark brown 'crimped' yarn if you can obtain one, as this gives the impression of curls on a small scale, (see page 52).

Using size 3¾mm. needles, cast on 19 sts. for the hair and work in single rib for 6 rows, i.e. ¾ in (2 cm).
Next row: rib 7, cast off 5 centre sts., rib 7.

Working on each side separately, rib 5, k2tog.

Next row: p2tog., rib 4.

Next row: rib 3, k2tog.

Next row: p2tog., rib 2.

Cast on 5 sts. then rib across all 8 sts. Work one more row across these sts. then cast off in rib. Break the yarn and rejoin it to the other 7 sts.

Next row: k2tog., rib 5.

Next row: rib 4, p2tog.

Next row: k2tog., rib 3.

Next row: rib 2, p2tog.

Work 2 rows on these 3 sts. then cast off. Sew all short ends in, then sew together the two short edges on the forehead. Sew the hair to the head around the

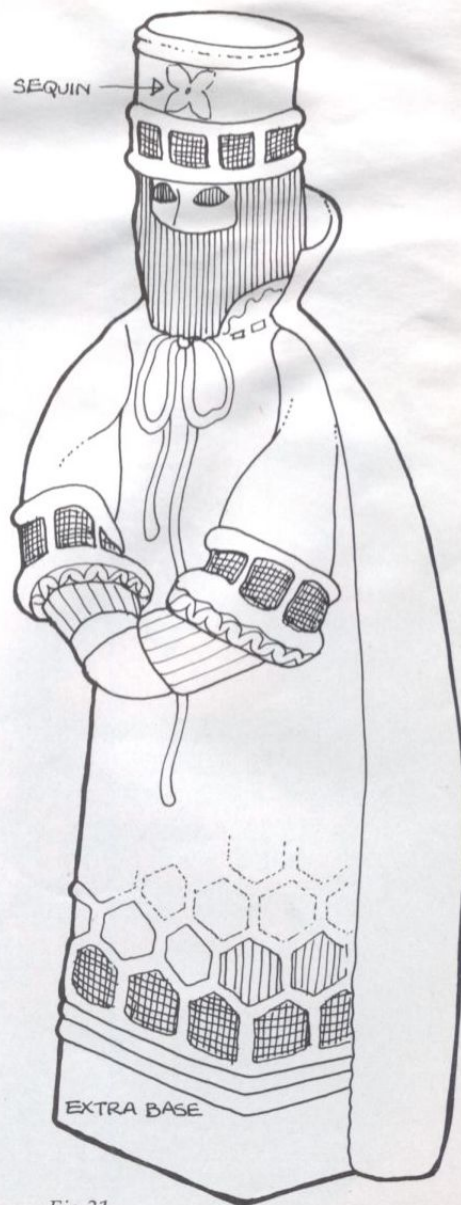
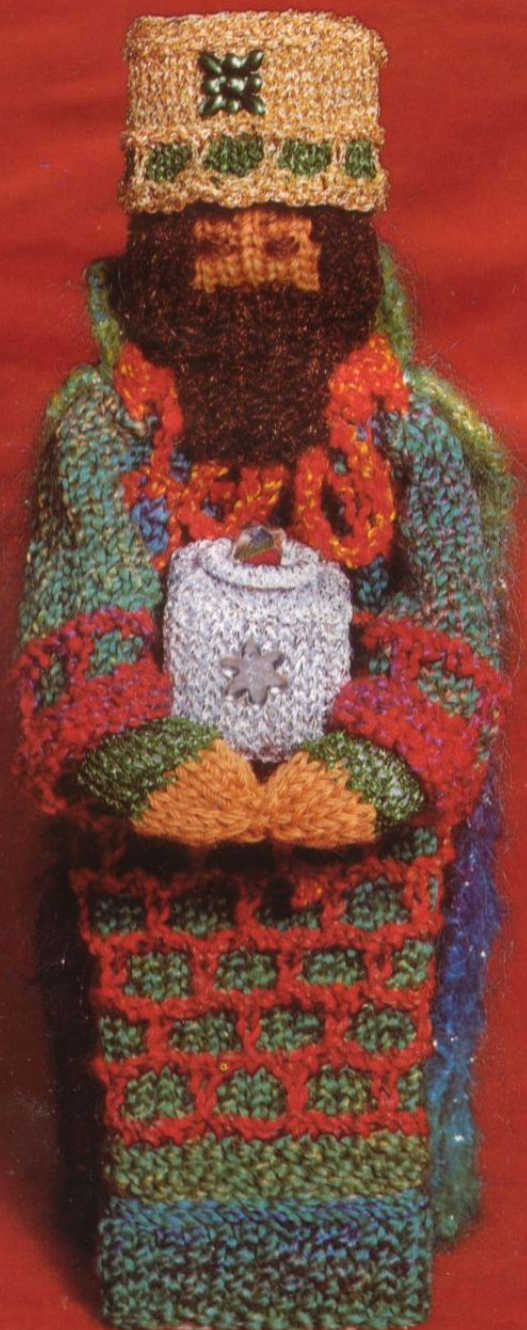


Fig 31



BALTHAZAR

*Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;*

face and the back of the head, but leave the top uncovered for the moment.

For the beard, cast on 7 sts. and work 8 rows in single rib. Cast off. Sew this in position, attaching it to the hair at each side and allowing it to hang well down on to the chest. Embroider the eyes with dark yarn.

For the gold hat, make a card base from a tube measuring $1\frac{1}{2}$ in (4 cm) diameter and $1\frac{1}{4}$ in (3 cm) deep. With size 3mm. needles and gold (metallic) yarn, cast on 39 sts. Knit one row then change to green metallic yarn. Work rows 3 to 8 of the gown pattern, (see below), then continue in gold and work in s.s. (beginning with a k. row) for 6 more rows.

14th row: p.

Cast off k.wise. Sew up the side edges and glue this to the tube. To make the top, cast on 38 sts. and work 3 rows in s.s. On the next row, p2tog. across all sts. (19 sts.). Thread these sts. on to a length of yarn and draw up tightly, using the same yarn to sew the 2 short edges together. Even out the gathers to make a circle and sew the outer edge to the top edge of the hat. A large green sequin has been sewn to the centre of the hat. This can now be fitted to the head of the figure and glued into position.

The pattern used on the gown and the sleeves, needs 2 colours shown here as red and green.

Row 1 and 2: with red yarn, k. Do not break yarn.

Row 3: with green yarn, (k.3, sl.1) to the last 3 sts., k.3.

Row 4: green, (p.3, sl.1) to the last 3 sts., p.3.

Rows 5 and 6: repeat rows 3 and 4.

Rows 7 and 8: red, repeat rows 1 and 2.

Row 9: green, k.1, (sl.1, k.3) to last 2 sts., sl.1, k.1.

Row 10: green, p.1, (sl.1, p.3) to last 2 sts., sl.1, p.1.

Rows 11 and 12: repeat rows 9 and 10.

These 12 rows form the pattern.

The green and red robe is knitted in a very simple slip-stitch pattern, (see above), and requires about 20 gm. of green and a small amount of red in the same thickness D.K. Use size $3\frac{3}{4}$ mm. needles and cast on 47 sts. Knit 3 rows. Now work 5 complete patterns, (i.e. 60 rows), then repeat rows 1 to 8 again. Break off the green yarn and work the 2 rows of picot pattern in red (see page 7). Cast off. Sew up the 2 side edges, make a cord and thread this through the neck holes.

To make the sleeves, cast on 22 sts. with red yarn and k. 3 rows. Do not break off red, but change to green and work rows 3 to 8 of pattern. Break off red yarn and k. one row of green, then p. one row. Continue to work in s.s., and dec. one st. at end of next and every foll. k. row until there are 8 sts. left. Purl one more row and then cast off.

To make the under-sleeves and hands, with the metallic green yarn and size 3mm. needles, cast on 14 sts. Work 7 rows in s.s., beginning with a k. row. Knit the 8th row and break off the green yarn, changing to the face-coloured yarn to work 4 rows in s.s.

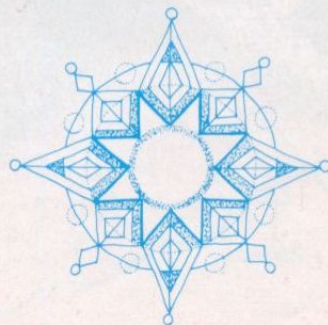
Next row: (k2tog.) 7 times, (7 sts.).

Gather the last sts. on to a thread and draw up to form the end of the hand. Make another in the same way. Sew up the side seams, pad very lightly and glue this piece into the sleeve opening. Sew the sleeves on to the shoulder area of the body, just below the neckline.

For the cloak, a green mohair-with-glitter D.K. yarn was used, but any other appropriate yarn will do as well. You will need about 20 gm. and size 4mm. needles. Cast on 30 sts. and k. 3 rows. Continue in s.s., but to prevent the sides from rolling inwards, make a border of g.st. at the beginning and end of every row. Work 60 rows.

Next row (dec. row): (k2tog.) 15 times.

Work in single rib for 10 rows for the collar. Cast off in rib. Darn the ends in, then gather across the base of the collar and sew this part to the shoulders, allowing the collar to fall back. Glue the edge of the gown to the card base all round the lower edge, and join the hands together with a stitch as shown in the photograph so that they will support the casket.





Melchior: Kneeling wise man in green and silver

This wise man wears a simple green gown with long sleeves gathered round the middle with a cord, (see opposite). Over this he wears a richly-textured cloak. His white hair and long beard show him to be a senior member of the trio. The face is made in a light flesh-coloured yarn in the same way as the others, and the eyes are embroidered in blue. He has white eyebrows.

Make the hair using white D.K. yarn and size $3\frac{3}{4}$ mm. needles. Cast on 19 sts. and work in moss st. for 18 rows.

Next row: (k2tog.) 9 times, k.1.

Gather these sts on to a thread and draw up to form the top of the head. Fit this piece in position on top of the head, pulling the two lower corners well on to the face, and pin. Make the beard as folls: cast on 2 sts. and knit them.

Row 2: inc. into both sts. to make 4.

Row 3: (k.1, p.1) twice.

Row 4: inc. into the first and last sts., keeping the single rib pattern correct.

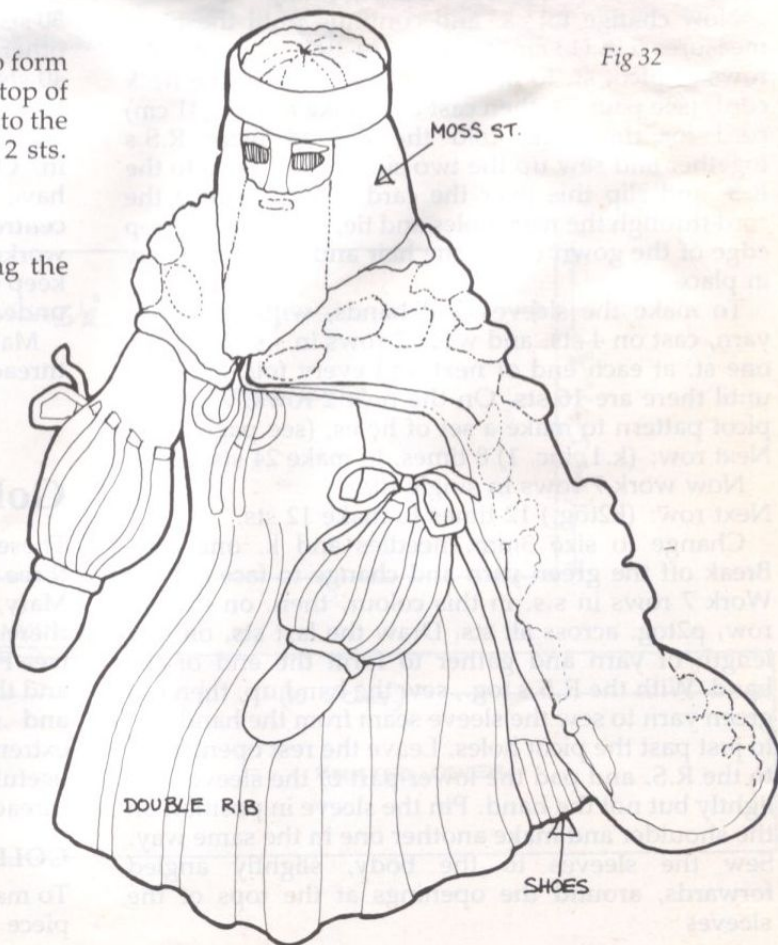
Row 5: single rib on 6 sts.

Row 6: as row 4.

Work on these 8 sts. for 7 more rows, then cast off in rib and pin the beard in position. Sew the side edges of the beard to the hair, and the top edge to the face. Now sew the rest of the hair in place except round the lower edge which has to overlap the neck-opening.

The circlet of silver on the wise man's head is made from a ring of card measuring $1\frac{1}{2}$ in (4 cm) diameter and $\frac{1}{4}$ in (1 cm) deep. This is covered, on the outside, with a strip of double-sided sticky-tape and then wrapped with silver metallic yarn. The ends can be stuck down on to the inside with sticky-tape. The circlet is then glued well down on to the hair.

Fig 32



MELCHIOR

*Born a king on Bethlehem plain,
Gold I bring, to crown him again.*

The green gown requires about 20 gm. of mid-green D.K. yarn and size 3¾mm. needles. The measurements are basically the same as those needed for the kneeling shepherd, (which is made from a thicker yarn), so either set of instructions will do, (see page 37).

Cast on 52 sts. and work in double rib for 14 rows. This will measure roughly 8¾ in (22 cm) when stretched.

Row 15: (k2tog., p.2) 13 times.

Row 16: * k.2, p.1, rep. from * to end of row.

Row 17: * k.1, p.2, rep. from * to end of row.

Continue to repeat the last 2 rows until the piece measures 3 in (8 cm) from the beginning.

Now change to s.s. and continue until the piece measures 5 in (13 cm) from the cast-on edge. Work 2 rows of picot st. to make a set of holes for the neck cord, (see page 7), then cast off. Make a 16 in (41 cm) cord for the neck, fold the knitted piece R.S.s together and sew up the two side edges. Turn to the R.S. and slip this over the card figure. Thread the cord through the neck holes and tie, then tuck the top edge of the gown under the hair and beard and sew in place.

To make the sleeves and hands, with the green yarn, cast on 4 sts. and work 2 rows in s.s. Now inc. one st. at each end of next and every foll. knit row until there are 16 sts. On the next 2 rows, work the picot pattern to make a set of holes, (see page 7).

Next row: (k.1, inc. 1) 8 times, to make 24 sts. in all.

Now work 7 rows in single rib.

Next row: (k2tog.) 12 times to make 12 sts.

Change to size 3mm. needles and k. one row. Break off the green yarn and change to face colour. Work 7 rows in s.s. in this colour, then, on the 8th row, p2tog. across all sts. Draw the last sts. on to a length of yarn and gather to form the end of the hand. With the R.S.s tog., sew the hand up, then use green yarn to sew the sleeve seam from the hand end to just past the picot holes. Leave the rest open. Turn to the R.S. and pad the lower part of the sleeve very lightly but not the hand. Pin the sleeve in position on the shoulder and make another one in the same way. Sew the sleeves to the body, slightly angled forwards, around the openings at the tops of the sleeves.

Make the feet in the same way as for the kneeling shepherd and fix them in position on the body (see page 38). Pad the top of the knees between the card and the gown, and then glue the lower edge of the gown to the card base.

The cloak fastens round the neck by two projections, and the yarn used should be the most sumptuous D.K. you can find. As the knitting is seen from the reverse side (rev.s.s.), the yarn should preferably be a slub one with a bumpy texture for the most impact. Basically, it is made as follows: use size 3¾mm. needles and cast on 40 sts. Work 6 rows in rev.s.s.

Cast off 10 sts. and work 16 more rows on the rem 30 sts. Now cast on 10 sts., (at the same edge), for the other shoulder projection and work 6 rows on these 40 sts., then cast off. Sew the 2 short edges together to form a hole for the head, slip the head through this and arrange the cloak to hang behind. Darn all ends in. On the illustrated version, two different yarns have been used, one for a border and one for the centre portion. A narrow border of crochet has been worked in silver thread round the edge, to help to keep it flat. The piece may need to be pressed lightly under a damp cloth.

Make short cords for the sleeve decoration and thread these through the holes to tie in bows.

Gold, frankincense and myrrh

These three caskets may be placed in the arms of the three wise men or laid on the stable floor at the feet of Mary, though the kneeling wise man has placed his there already, (see page 32). For these small caskets, (see Fig 33), pieces of card and tubes will be required, and the knitted covers can be embellished with beads and sequins. The amounts of yarn needed are extremely small, but metallic ones are particularly useful, as are fine yarns, such as shiny embroidery threads, which can be used double.

GOLD

To make the card base (see Fig 34). Cover this with a piece of knitting using a metallic gold yarn and size

Fig 33

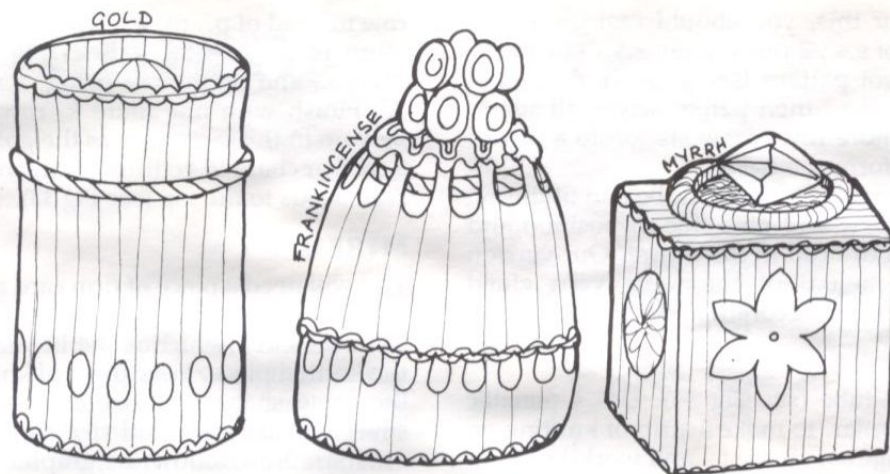
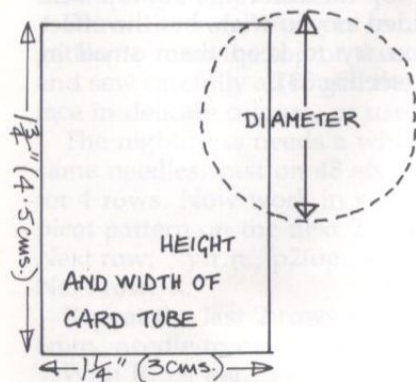
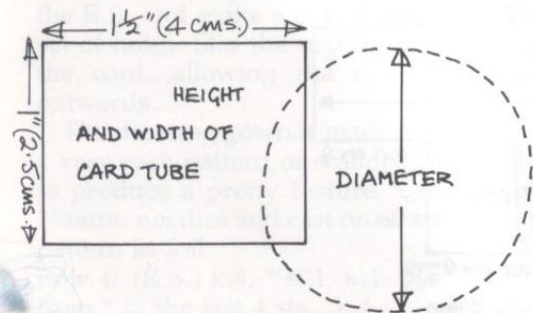
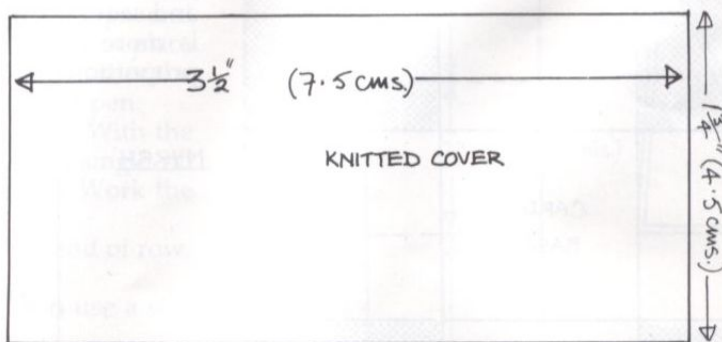


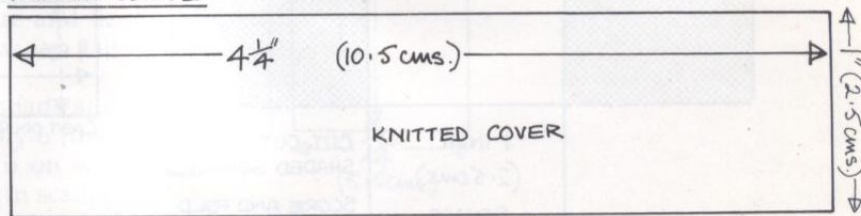
Fig 34



GOLD



FRANKINCENSE



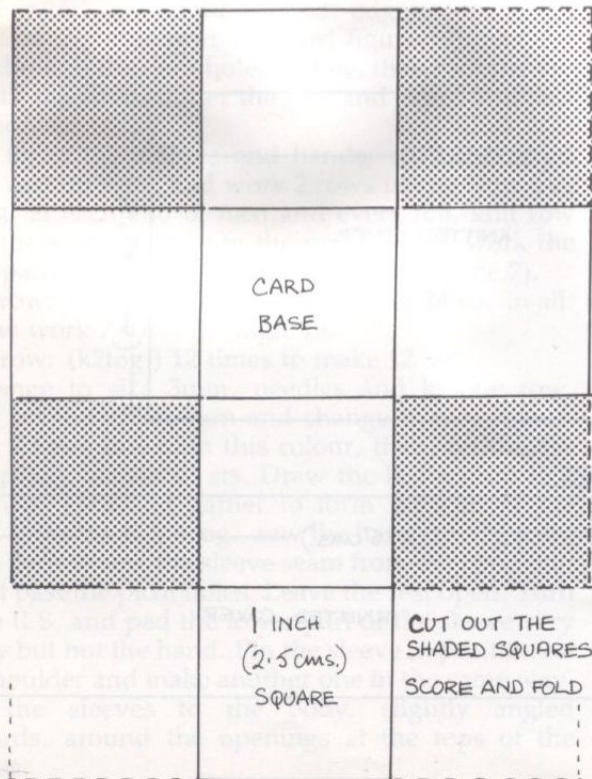
3mm. needles. For this, you should cast on 30 sts. and work 4 rows of s.s., 2 rows of rev.s.s., 12 rows of s.s., 2 rows of picot pattern (see page 7), 2 rows of s.s., 2 rows of rev.s.s., then p2tog. across all sts. to make 15. K. one more row, draw sts. on to a thread and gather up to form the base.

Stitch up the two sides to form a tube and fit this on to the card tube. Sew and glue this in position and place a large jewel or bead in the centre. Our version has a chain (crocheted) of the same yarn glued around the top for extra decoration, (see Fig 33).

FRANKINCENSE

To make the card tube (see Fig 34). Use a metallic copper yarn, or similar, to make a strip of knitting on size 3mm. needles. Cast on 40 sts. and work 4 rows in s.s., 3 in rev.s.s., then 3 more rows in s.s. Now work 2 rows of picot pattern, (see page 7), but k. the 2nd

Fig 35



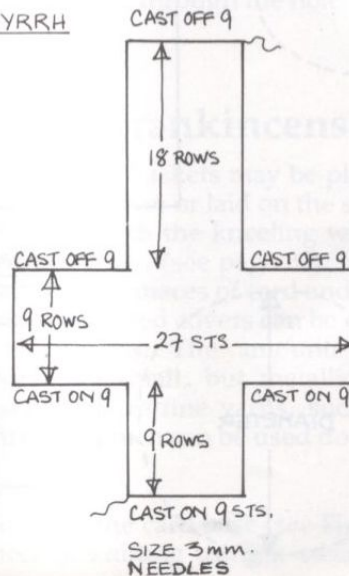
row instead of p., then work 6 more rows in s.s. and 2 more rows of picot pattern. Now work 2 rows of rev.s.s., and on the last p2tog. across all sts. to make 20. Finish with one more k. row and then cast off. Sew up in the same way as the gold casket, and make a cord or chain to go through the holes for decoration. Add beads to the top (see Fig 33).

MYRRH

You will need a piece of firm card measuring 3×4 in (or 9×12 cm). Divide this up as shown (see Fig 35) to form the cube which is the base around which to fit the knitted piece. Your piece of knitting will be exactly the same shape and size as this piece of card. Use silver metallic yarn and size 3mm. needles, and cast on 9 sts. Now follow the graphic instructions on Fig 35. Sew up the sides in the same way as you assembled the cube, sewing from the W.S. and slipping the card cube inside *before* you sew up the last seams.

A plastic curtain ring was wrapped with the same yarn and glued to the top for decoration, and jewels and sequins can be added as you wish, but the effect is more delicate if you try to keep them small in proportion to the box, (see Fig 33).

MYRRH





Children

These two children are little people from our own era who have come to see the Nativity for themselves (see page 61). They require only small amounts of yarn in pretty colours to contrast with the more sombre colours of the shepherds and the animals. The faces are made in the same way as the others.

Make the card base, (see Fig 36). To make the little girl in the nightdress and dressing gown, use dark brown (mottled) D.K. yarn for her hair and size $3\frac{3}{4}$ mm. needles. Cast on 18 sts., work 13 rows s.s. Row 14: (p2tog.) 9 times.

Draw the rem. sts. on to a length of yarn and gather to form the top of the head. Pin this in place and sew carefully all round the edges. Embroider the face in delicate colours, or use a felt-tipped pen.

The nightdress needs a white D.K. yarn. With the same needles, cast on 48 sts. and work in single rib for 4 rows. Now work in s.s. for 32 rows. Work the picot pattern on the next 2 rows.

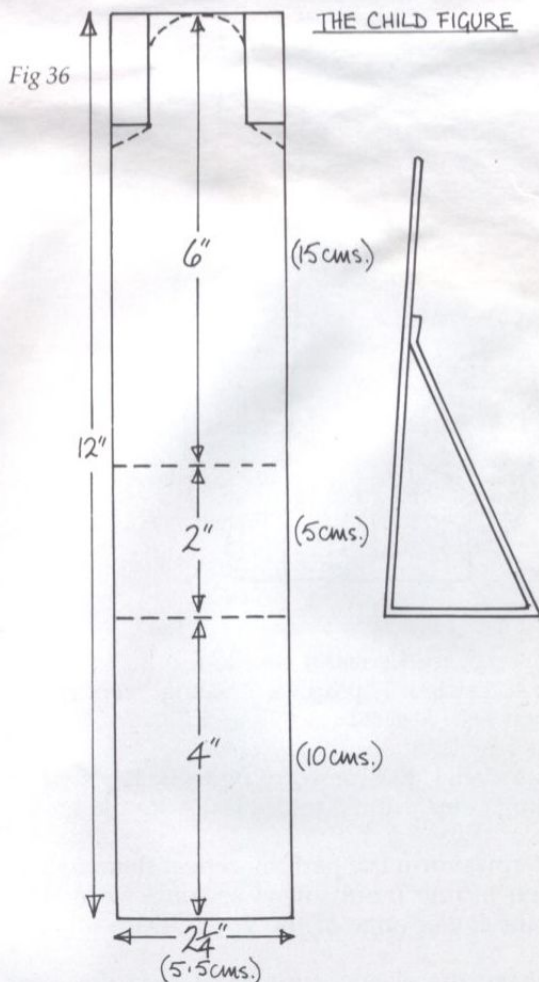
Next row: * y.r.n., p2tog., rep. from * to end of row.
Next row: k.

Repeat the last 2 rows once more, then use a size 6mm. needle to cast off k.wise.

With R.S.s tog., sew up the 2 side edges, turn to the R.S. and make a cord to thread through the first set of holes. Slip the nightie on to the figure and tie the cord, allowing the rest of the collar to fall outwards.

The dressing gown is made in an apricot shade and a very easy pattern of scallops, needing only 6 rows to produce a pretty texture. Use D.K. yarn on size $3\frac{3}{4}$ mm. needles and cast on 60 sts. working in scallop pattern as foll:

Row 1: (R.S.) k.4, * sl.1, k.1, psso., k.9, k2tog., rep. from * to the last 4 sts., k.4.



FOLLOW THE SAME INSTRUCTIONS
AS FOR THE ADULT FIGURE
(SEE PAGE 22)



Fig 37

Row 2: k.4., p. to the last 4 sts., k.4.

Row 3: k.4, * sl.1, k.1, psso., k.7, k2tog., rep. from * to the last 4 sts., k.4.

Row 4: as row 2.

Row 5: k.4, * sl.1, k.1, psso., y.fwd., (k.1, y.fwd.) 5 times, k2tog., rep. from * to the last 4 sts., k.4.

Row 6: k.

These 6 rows form the pattern: repeat them 5 more times, then k. one more row. Cast off k.wise. This becomes the lower edge of the gown. Darn all ends in.

** To make the sleeves and hands use the same needles and yarn, cast on 4 sts. and work 2 rows in s.s. Now inc. 1 st. at each end of next and every foll. k. row until there are 16 sts. **. P. the next 2 rows.

Change to white yarn and p. the next 2 rows, then knit one row. Change to pink (face colour) yarn and work 2 rows in s.s.

Next row: (k2tog.) 8 times, then draw the last 8 sts. on to a length of yarn and gather up to form the end of the hand.

Sew the side edges together (R.S.s tog.) using the correct colours in the same order to within about 1 in (2 cm) from the top. Do not pad the sleeves. Make another one in same way.**

Lay the gown flat and pin the sleeves in position with the top points at the neckline and the sleeves in the centre of the first scallop panel. Sew all round the armholes. With double yarn and a running stitch, draw up the neckline, arrange the garment on the figure and gather the neck to leave a gap of about 1 in (2 cm) between the two front edges, allowing the white collar to fall on top as shown. This may need a stitch or two to hold it down at the front.

Stitch the white neckline to the lower edge of the face, and glue the lower edge of the white gown to the card base. Make a cord for a hair-ribbon, tie it into a bow and sew in place as shown, (see Fig 37).

To make the teddy bear, use beige/fawn D.K. yarn and size 3mm. needles, and cast on 18 sts. working in s.s. for 14 rows.

Next row (dec. row): k2tog., k.4, k2tog., k.2, k2tog., k.4, k2tog.

This is the neck shaping. Now continue for the head, working 7 more rows on these sts., then cast off.

Fold this piece in half, lengthwise, and sew the top edges and the two side edges together. Pad the head end lightly, and gather gently round the neck. Stitch to hold the padding in place, then pad the body and sew up the lower edges.

To make the legs: cast on 10 sts. and work in s.s. for 10 rows. Cast off, and make another piece in the same way. Sew up the sides and across one end, pad lightly and sew up the other end. Sew these to the body so that they swing forwards as shown.

CHILDREN

*Oh come all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.*





Fig 38

To make the arms: cast on 8 sts. and work in s.s. for 9 rows. On the 10th row, (p2tog.) 4 times and draw up the last 4 sts. on to a length of yarn to form the end of the arm. Make another one in the same way. Make these up in the same way as the legs and attach them to the shoulders.

To make the ears: cast on 4 sts. and work 2 rows s.s. On the 3rd row, (k2tog.) twice and pass the 1st st. over the 2nd. Darn the last end in, and use the first one to sew the ear to the head at an angle as shown. Make another in the same way.

For the nose: cast on 8 sts. and work 2 rows of s.s. On the 3rd row, (k2tog.) 4 times and gather the rem. 4 sts. on to a thread and sew up the sides. Pad this shape with a tiny piece of padding, and sew the open (cast on) edge to the centre of the face well down towards the neck, (see Fig 38).

Embroider the eyes, and make a waistcoat, (vest), or perhaps a long scarf instead. To make the waistcoat, choose a brightly coloured yarn, (a very small amount), and the same sized 3mm. needles.

Cast on 10 sts. and work 4 rows in g.st. Cast off 5 sts. and k. to the end of the row.

Knit 5 more rows on the rem. 5 sts. then cast on 5 sts. Knit 18 rows then cast off 5 sts., and k. to the end of the row. Knit 5 rows on the rem. 5 sts., then cast on 5 sts. Knit 4 more rows then cast off.

Darn the ends in and sew up the shoulder seams, then slip the waistcoat on to the teddy. In our version, one hand has been stitched to that of the little girl.

To make the little boy, the face is made in the same way as the others with a dark brown D.K. Shetland yarn, (see Fig 39). Make the card base (see Fig 36). For his hair, use a black, furry, D.K. yarn, and size 3¾mm. needles. Cast on 17 sts. and work 14 rows in g.st.

Next row: (k2tog.) 8 times, k.1.

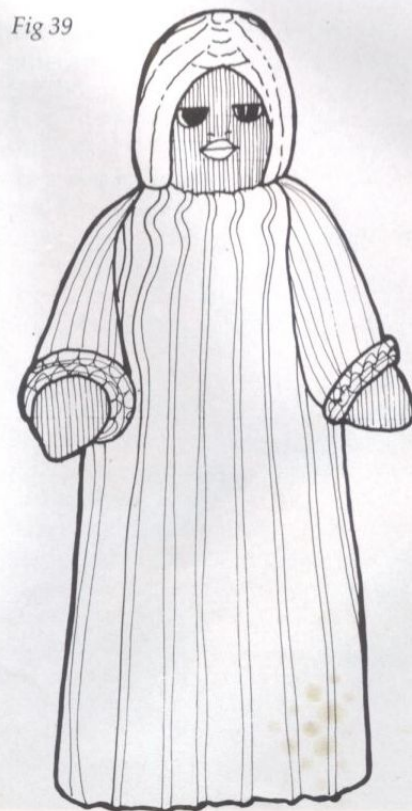


Fig 39

Knit 3 rows, then on the next row, (k2tog.) 4 times, k.1. Cast off.

Run a gathering thread all round the face opening and draw up slightly to fit the face. Pin this piece on to the head and sew in position. Embroider the face with pink and white yarns using a black felt-tipped pen to mark in the dark eyes.

The gown needs a main colour, (turquoise), and narrow garter st. stripes of other colours. Only very small amounts are needed for these. Use D.K. yarns and size 4mm. needles. Using the main colour, cast on 24 sts. and work 2 rows in s.s. Leave this yarn hanging, change to a contrast colour and k. 2 rows. These 4 rows can now be repeated 17 times in all, changing the contrast colour at random. The complete piece should measure $7\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ in (19×11 cm). Cast off.

Darn all ends in. Sew the cast-on and cast-off edges

tog. and gather one end of the tube to fit round the neck. Sew this in place, attaching it to the lower edge of the hair and face.

To make the sleeves and hands, use turquoise yarn and follow the same instructions as for the little girl from ** to **, (see page 60).

Next row: k.

Break off the yarn and join in the dark (face-coloured) yarn. Change to size 3mm. needles and work in s.s. for 2 rows.

Next row: (k2tog.) 8 times.

Next row: p.

Next row: (k2tog.) 4 times.

Draw the rem. 4 sts. on to a thread and sew up the side edges from the W.S. with the correct colours. Leave about 1 in (2 cm) open at the top and stitch this part to the gown as for the little girl's version. Make another one in the same way.





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