

Dollytime

Jack and Jill



Let me introduce you to my sweet little twins, Jack and Jill. I'm sure they would make the cutest addition to any nursery. The twins are made from the same knitting pattern and it is just their colours, their hair styles and of course Jack's little ears that make them look different.

Jack and Jill measure 23cm (9in) and are knitted in DK yarn (USA - light-worsted/Australia - 8 ply). The tension of your knitting is not important but the fabric should be fairly firm otherwise the knitting will stretch and the filler will show through the stitches. If you know your knitting tends to be loose then use a needle one size smaller than specified.

As well as the basic pattern, I've given you plenty of pictures and tips to help you along the way and so I hope you have great fun creating these little twins.

Happy knitting,

Wendy

You will find more knitting patterns in my Etsy shop - <http://dollytime.etsy.com>
Or visit my blog - <http://flutterbypatch.typepad.co.uk>

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Materials

Pair of 3.25mm needles (US 3)

DK yarn in the following colours (USA - light-worsted/Australia - 8 ply).

Flesh (a pinkish cream or very pale creamy apricot is best)

Pale pink

Pale blue

White

Pale lemon (hair)

Brown (eyes)

Dark pink embroidery floss. Split and use just three strands for the mouth

Toy filler

Abbreviations

K - knit

P - purl

St(s) - stitch(es)

St-st - stocking stitch

K2tog - knit two stitches together to make one

* * - repeat the pattern within asterisks

Kfb - knit in front and back to create a new stitch. For a kfb increase you make a knit stitch but don't slide the old stitch off the left-hand needle. To finish the increase knit into the back of the old stitch on the left-hand needle and slide it onto the right needle. You have made 2 stitches out of one.

Let's get started

First we will make Jill

Body

Cast on 28 stitches in white and work in st-st starting with a knit row.

1 - 10. st-st

Join pink to begin striping. Stripes can be done by carrying the pink and white yarn up the side of the work (no need to break the yarn every time the colour changes).

11 - 12. pink

13 -14. white

15 - 24. continue to knit alternating (2 row) pink and white stripes to the end of row 24.

Break off pink.

25 - 26. white

27. k2tog across row (14st)

28. purl

Cut the yarn leaving a 30cm (12in) tail and using a tapestry needle take the 14st from the knitting needle onto the tail. Draw up and secure. Seam the body to the bottom matching the stripes. Stuff the body leaving a 1cm unfilled space at the bottom for the insertion of the legs. The body should be slightly flattened from front to back.

Head

Cast on 15 stitches in flesh

1. purl
2. kfb across row (30st)
- 3 – 25. st-st starting with a purl row
26. k2tog across row (15st)
27. purl

Cut the yarn leaving a 30cm (12in) tail and using a tapestry needle take the 15 stitches from the knitting needle onto the tail but DON'T draw up. Seam the two edges down to the cast-on edge which will have a small circular opening (leave this open). Stuff the head from the top. It should be filled quite firmly and will be just a bit wider than the body and slightly flattened from front to back. Pull the yarn that passes through the 15 stitches to gather the top. Fasten off.

Attaching the head to the body

Position the head on the body and check that you are satisfied with its shape. You might want to push a tiny amount of stuffing into the cheeks for example to make the face more rounded. When happy with the shape of the head, stitch it to the body. This is best done by catching a stitch from the 3rd row of the head and a stitch from the 2nd or 3rd row down from the top of the body. (This will be firmer than linking cast-off and cast-on edges together). Stitch all round two or three times to ensure the head won't work loose.

Shoe and leg – make 2 pieces the same

Cast on 18 stitches in blue for shoe

1. k7, *kfb* 4 times, k7 (22st)
- 2 - 5. knit
6. k5, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k5 (18st)
7. knit
8. k5, *k2tog* 4 times, k5 (14st)
9. knit

Change to flesh coloured yarn

- 10 - 29. st-st starting with a knit row

Cast off

Making up

Fold the blue shoe in half and over sew the cast-on edge at the bottom. Stitch the back seam of the shoe and then the leg seam leaving a 2 cm open for easier stuffing. Stuff the shoe and part way up the leg (don't stuff too firmly or the leg could become too large). Close the remainder of the seam to the top of the leg but leave the needle and yarn attached. Stuff the remainder of the leg leaving 1cm unfilled (this will fit inside the body). Whip-stitch the top edge to close.

Attaching the legs to the body

Before inserting the legs make sure the body is well stuffed and you are pleased with the shape. It needs to be slightly flattened from front to back. Leave a space of 1 cm unfilled at the bottom to allow for insertion of legs. Stretch the cast on edge slightly so the legs can be inserted and will fit snugly side by side. Insert the legs no more than 1cm into the body (a little less if possible). Make sure they are both the same length and then pin each one in place ready for stitching.

Back stitch the legs firmly in place by pushing your needle through from the front and out at the back and then back to the front again. Continue stitching all the way across. The stitch line should be just above the cast-on edge (see picture below).



Arms

Cast on 12 stitches in white

1 - 2. st-st starting with a knit row

Join blue ready for striping but don't break off white. Striping can be done by carrying the blue and white yarns up the side of the work.

3 - 4. blue

5 - 6. white

7 - 8. blue

9 - 10. white

11 - 12. blue

13 - 14. white

15 - 16. blue - knit both these rows

Break off blue and white and join flesh.

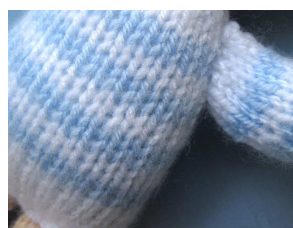
17 - 20. st-st starting with a knit row

21. k2tog across row (6st)

22. purl

Cut the yarn leaving a 15cm (6in) tail and using a tapestry needle take the 6st from the knitting needle onto the tail. Draw up and secure. Matching the stripes, stitch the hand and arm seam to the top. Begin stuffing the hand using small pieces of filler and work your way up the arm leaving 1cm unfilled of the top. Don't use too much stuffing as the arm needs to be soft and easy to bend. Over sew the top of the arm so the seam will be at the bottom when the arm is attached to the body.

Pin both arms to the doll's shoulders with the seam at the bottom. Stitch the arms to the body (see below).



Eyes and mouth

I like to take special care when stitching a doll's face and give her a sweet and appealing expression. The main thing to remember is to not place the eyes too high up on the head. It is a common mistake and can make dolly look old and sometimes a bit frightening. As a general rule dolly eyes are positioned centrally on the face. It's a good idea to mark the position of the eyes and mouth with coloured pins (see below).



Eyes are often done by embroidering French knots but I prefer the following method as it produces two identical eyes and if you don't like the position you can easily pull them out and start again (very useful!)

You need to cut three 20cm (8in) lengths of brown or black DK yarn for each eye. (I prefer to use brown for babies and toddlers).

Take 3 lengths of the yarn that you have cut and holding them together tie a knot in the centre (see picture below left). Pull tight and tie a second knot so that it sits directly over the first. Pull it tight. (below right). This knot will make one eye.



Fixing the eye

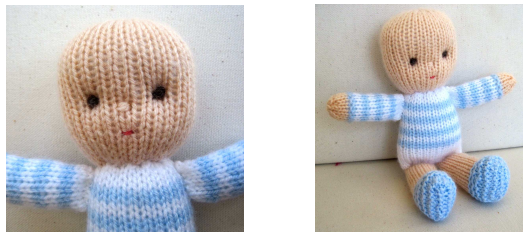
If the eye of your needle is large enough then thread it with all three ends of yarn from one side of the knot (if the needle eye is too small then you will have to follow this process with one length of yarn at a time). Pass the threaded needle through the position of the pin on the face and out at the back of the head (where it will eventually be concealed by the hair) Don't fasten off. Thread the second three ends of yarn onto the needle and push these through the stitch which is next to the first one (see below).



Bring the yarn ends through to the back of the head as before. Pull the two sets of yarn ends until the eye is in the correct position but don't fasten off yet. Repeat this process for the second eye. Now you can make sure that both eyes are well spaced and just where you want them. If not simply take hold of the knots and pull them out of the head and then insert them again in a better position. When you are satisfied that the eyes are positioned correctly gently pull on the pairs of yarn ends to form an eye socket (not too deep). This will give an attractive contour to the face. Tie each group of yarn ends together (firmly) so that the eyes cannot be moved.

Nose. In flesh coloured yarn work three small horizontal stitches, one below the other, to make a nose.

Mouth. Split the strands of dark pink embroidery floss and using three strands make two or three stitches in the position of the mouth. I like to use a red pencil crayon (fairly blunt rather than very sharp) to add colour to the doll's cheeks but find this is best done after I have styled the hair. Alternatively wait until the doll is completely finished in order to avoid rubbing.



Note the head looks quite a bit larger than the body at this stage

Hair

You will need to make 5 bundles of hair and each will be stitched to the centre top of the head.

Using an 18cm (7in) piece of card, wind the lemon yarn completely round 12 times. Remove from the card but don't cut the strands.



Using matching yarn, stitch the hair to the centre top of the head, to one side of the face (see below left). Attach another bundle of yarn next to it in the same way. Work your way round attaching a total of 5 bundles all radiating from the centre top of the head (see below right). Note the hair doesn't cover the forehead and face.



Straighten and smooth the strands of hair all the way round the head. Wrap round a length of yarn and position it just below the eyes (below left). Tie it firmly so that it will hold the hair down whilst you back stitch it in place. Work your way round the head using small back stitches.



Styling the hair

Cut the loops of hair if you haven't already done so but don't trim the ends just yet. Divide the hair at the centre back and gather into a single bunch on each side (see below). Tie each bunch about 1cm away from the head using yarn to match the hair.



You should now be able to lift each bunch and secure it to the head at eye level. You can of course leave them in the lower position but by lifting the bunches you will cover much of the back stitching done earlier. Head from the back is shown below.



Knitted bows

Leaving a 15cm (6in) tail for sewing up later, cast on 20 stitches in pink. Cast off and leave a 15cm (6in) tail for sewing up. Find the centre point and fold both ends into the centre to create a loop at each end. Stitch in place using the yarn ends. It will now resemble a small bow. Stitch the bow at its centre to one side of the head as illustrated below. Make and secure a second bow. Stitch to the other side of the head in the same way. Finally, trim each bunch of hair with sharp scissors.



Dungarees

Cast on 22 stitches in white.

1 – 4. knit

Break off white and join pink.

5 – 16. st-st starting with a knit row

17. k1, kfb, k18, kfb, k1 (24st)

18. purl

19. k1, kfb, k20, kfb, k1 (26st)

20. purl

This completes one leg. Tie a small length of contrasting yarn at the end of the last row to mark the length of the leg seam.

Leave these 26 stitches on a stitch holder and work a second identical leg marking it with a length of yarn at row 20 as before.

Place the stitches of both legs onto one needle with the right side of the work facing you. Now continue knitting across both legs.

21 – 34. st-st starting with a knit row.

35. k2, *k2tog, k1* (8 times), *k1, k2tog* (8 times), k2. (36st)

36 – 38. knit all rows

39. k1, *k2tog, k2* (4 times), k2, *k2, k2tog* (4 times), k1 (28st)

40. Cast off 10 stitches knitwise. You should now have 1 stitch on your right hand needle and 17 on the left.

Knit 7 stitches. Place the remaining 10 stitches onto a stitch holder. These 8 remaining stitches will become the bib.

Knit 7 rows and cast off.

Place the 10 stitches from the holder back onto a needle with the wrong side facing you. Rejoin the yarn and cast off knitwise.



Straps (knit 2 alike)

Leaving a 15cm (6in) tail for sewing up later, cast on 20 stitches in pink. Cast off and leave a 15cm (6in) tail for sewing up.

Making up

Fold the two legs of the dungarees in half so that the seam will be on the inside leg. Stitch both leg seams to the markers you placed at row 20 when knitting the legs. Now stitch the centre back seam.

Fit the dungarees onto your doll. Take each strap and stretch it slightly to straighten and then place in position. The straps should be long enough to reach from the top of the bib to the waist at the back. They should be crossed over at the back. If your straps are a bit too long then the ends can be pushed inside the dungarees at the back before being attached. If however you think your straps aren't quite long enough then I suggest knitting another pair casting on an extra 2 or 3 stitches.

Remove the dungarees from the doll.

Using the yarn ends, stitch the end of each strap to the corners of the bib. Work two or three stitches in blue yarn to resemble buttons (see below).



Fit the dungarees back onto the doll. Take the straps over the doll's shoulders and cross them over at the back. Stitch the end of each strap to the back of the dungarees.



Jack

Choose different coloured yarns for Jack and then knit him in exactly the same way as his sister Jill. His hair will of course be styled differently and he has tiny ears.

Ears

Leaving a 15cm (6in) tail of yarn, cast on 4 stitches in flesh. Cast off and leave a 15cm (6in) tail of yarn.

Position one ear at the side of the head, level with the eyes. Using the two tails of yarn attached to it, stitch the ear (top and bottom) to the head. Make a second ear and attach it to the opposite side of the head.



I tend to avoid making boy dolls as I find their hair less easy to style. The method I'm about to describe was rather experimental but I was so pleased with the result I decided to pass on the idea. Please read the following instructions before starting as you might decide this method is not for you, however, I shall definitely use it again.

Jack's hair - wind lemon yarn 6 times around a piece of card to make a bundle of hair that is just the right length to stretch from the centre top of the head down to the ear (see below left). Stitch the top of the bundle in place and using a second needle stitch the bottom in place just in front of the ear. Let the 2 ends of yarn protrude at the top of the head as these will be used later. A shorter bundle of yarn to go above the ear should be made next and attached to the head in the same way. Now the bundles can increase in length as you work your way around the back of the head. Stitch them to the head (top and bottom) as you go and leave the loose ends sticking out at the top.



When the head is covered with bundles of yarn, work a few long stitches on the forehead with lemon. Trim the loose ends making them different lengths, short on top and longer at the front, to create a typically boyish 'rough and tumble' appearance.



Two little rascals, Jack and Jill, finished and ready to play