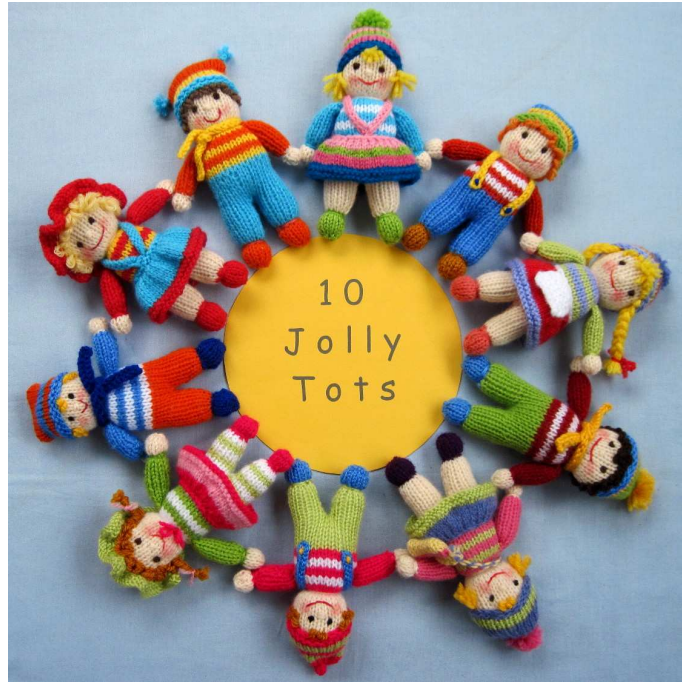


Dollytime

Jolly Tots



Meet the Jolly Tots! Ten little cuties all measuring approximately 15 cm (6 in). Knitted in DK yarn (USA – light worsted/Australia - 8 ply) they are the perfect way to utilize your shortest lengths of yarn. Jolly Tots are all made from the same basic pattern but the variations in colour and clothing gives them all a different appearance. Finished size will depend on the thickness of the yarns used. For example, I often find pure wool is thicker than synthetic yarn and will therefore produce slightly larger items. This doesn't affect the quality so you will be able to combine all weights of DK yarns.

Youngsters will love Jolly Tots and they could make a colourful teaching aid when introducing children to colour, number, and word recognition.

I hope you have great fun creating your own little Jolly Tots

Wendy

<http://dollytime.etsy.com>

Regular visits to my blog will give you a peek at the Dollytime patterns I'm currently working on. You will also find a number of free knitting patterns that I've designed.

<http://flutterbypatch.blogspot.com>

© 2010 Wendy Phillips. This is a copyrighted design. All rights reserved. No part of this pattern (illustrations or text) may be copied, reproduced or transmitted. Items knitted from this pattern can be used for charity fund raising purposes but not for commercial gain.

Materials

Jolly Tots are made using 2.75mm needles (US 2)

Use DK yarn in a number of bright shades. (USA - light-worsted/Australia - 8 ply).

Just to tempt you I have shown a selection of mouth watering colours in the picture below but of course you won't require as much as this. Each Jolly Tot requires only small quantities of any one colour so I suggest gathering together all your odds and ends of yarn before you start and then dipping into the selection as you knit.



I use Hayfield Bonus DK for my skin tone (code - 'flesh' 963). If you live in the UK it should be easy enough to acquire but I'm afraid I don't know if it's readily available in other countries.



A doll's eyes are made from black or dark brown DK yarn.

A doll's mouth is stitched with red (or dark pink) embroidery floss

You'll need toy filler. Making Jolly Tots can be addictive so have plenty available!

Abbreviations

K - knit

P - purl

St - stitch

St-st - stocking stitch

K2tog - knit two stitches together to make one

P2tog - purl two stitches together to make one

* * - repeat the pattern within asterisks

Let's get started

Useful Tip - It's a good idea to leave yarn tails of at least 10cm (4in) when you change colours as they can often be used for stitching seams. If not used for stitching then all tails should be woven in or tied and cut off before the seams are stitched.

Jolly Tot Girls



Body and head - work in st-st

Cast on 12 stitches in shoe colour

1 – 5. st-st starting with a purl row

6 – 15. flesh

Place these 12 stitches on a stitch holder. Knit another leg to row 15 as above. This leg should remain on your knitting needle.

Break off the flesh yarn and join the colour chosen for knickers.

16. knit

Put the 12 stitches on the stitch holder back onto the spare needle and knit these so that you have a total of 24 stitches on your right hand needle. Continue on these 24 stitches.

17 – 23. knickers

24 – 33. sweater (knit these 10 rows in one colour or do as I have done and knit 5 stripes, each stripe is two rows)

34 – 48. flesh (head)

49. P2tog across row (12st)

Cut the yarn leaving a 15cm (6in) tail and using a tapestry needle take the 12st from the knitting needle onto the tail. Don't draw up but leave open for stuffing and drawing up later.

Making up

Your knitted piece will look like this.



Fold the piece so that the edges come together ready for seaming. Position the seam at the centre back so that the leg seams are on the inside.

Begin at the shoe and gather the cast-on edge (to do this I whip stitch every alternate loop around the edge and then draw up). Once the bottom of the shoe is drawn up, stitch the shoe seam followed by the leg seam. When you've stitched each leg, join the knickers at the centre back and stitch. Stitch the striped top and finally the head.

With the right side facing out the doll will now look like this.



Fold the head down over the striped top to make stuffing easier (see below). Begin by pushing small amounts of filler into each shoe and then work your way up each leg. The legs need to be firmly stuffed. Continue stuffing and fill the body and head (firmly) to the top. Gather the top of the head by pulling on the yarn that passes through the 12 stitches. Ensure the head and body are very firmly stuffed before closing the top. Add extra filler if required and, when satisfied with the shape, close the top of the head.



Creating a neck – Thread your needle with flesh yarn and starting at the back seam (where head joins striped top), pick up alternate loops all the way round (see below). Pull tightly to create a neck and then pass the yarn once more around the doll before fastening off.



If your head is long and narrow like the one below



firmly push the head from the top to make it more ball shaped (see below)



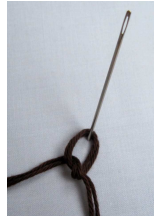
Now the little doll is ready for a ‘jolly’ expression. Mark the position of the eyes and mouth with pins.



Eyes - (black or brown yarn)

You can create eyes with French knots but I like to use the following method which is quick and will produce two identical eyes that can be easily removed if they are not positioned correctly. Very useful!

Cut two lengths of yarn for each eye measuring 15cm (6in). Holding together two lengths of yarn, tie a knot in the centre (illustration below). Pull firmly.



Tie another knot exactly over the first and pull firmly. You have made one eye (below)



Thread a pair of yarn ends onto a needle and pass through the position of a pin marking an eye. Bring out at the back of the head (where it will be concealed by the hat). Don't fasten off. Thread the second pair of yarn ends onto the needle and pass through a stitch which is next to the first one. Bring out at the back of the head. Pull the two pairs of yarn ends until the eye is in the correct position but don't fasten off.



Repeat this process for the second eye. Now you can ensure 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 tie each pair of yarn ends together (firmly) so that the eyes cannot be moved.

Mouth – red or pink embroidery floss

Embroider an open 'V' shape for the mouth or a wider saucer shape for a larger smile!

Nose – flesh yarn

Create a little nose with 3 tiny stitches positioned centrally just below the eyes.



Arms – knit 2 alike

Cast on 9 stitches in sleeve colour

1 – 11. st-st starting with a purl row

12 – 15. st-st flesh

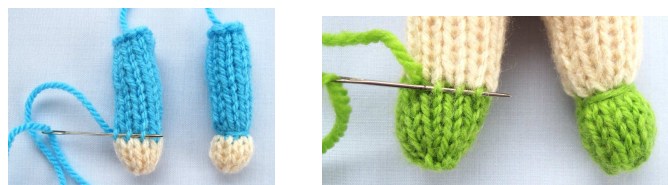
Cut the yarn leaving a 15cm (6in) tail and using a tapestry needle take the 9st from the knitting needle onto the tail. The arm is narrow you will probably want to stitch the seam with the right side facing as turning it can be difficult. Draw up the hand and stitch the hand seam. Next stitch the arm seam to the top. Now you are ready to stuff the arm. Start by pushing tiny pieces of filler down into the hand (push the filler down with the end of a pencil). Work your way up the arm but don't fill it too full. I like to leave a small area at the top unfilled. Over sew the top edge and leave the yarn tail attached ready for stitching to the shoulder.

Making wrists and ankles

I like to gather a row of stitches around the wrists and ankles but it is not essential.

Using the sleeve colour, pick up alternate stitches around the wrist (see below left).

Pull to gather and then wrap the yarn once round the wrist and fasten off. Stitch arms to doll's shoulders.



Using the shoe colour pick up alternate stitches around the top of a shoe (see above right). Pull to gather and then wrap the yarn once round the ankle and fasten off.

Skirt (starting at the hem)

Cast on 52 stitches in chosen colour

1 – 3. knit all rows

4 – 10. st-st starting with a purl row (create stripes with different colours if required)

11. k2tog across row (26st)

Cast off

Stitch the back seam starting at the bottom. Leave 1cm open at the top. Fit the skirt onto the doll so that the waistband sits on the first 2 rows of knitting above the knickers. Close the remainder of the back seam. With the seam at the back, stitch the skirt to the doll around the waistband.



Decorative strap for the skirt (optional)

Cast on 28 stitches

Cast off

Stretch the knitted strap to straighten it. Stitch one end to the centre front of the skirt.

Take the strap around the neck and stitch the other end next to first one (see below)



Hat with pom-pom

Cast on 27 stitches in the colour chosen for the hat band. I have randomly striped my hat but you might choose to make yours in one colour only. For that reason I haven't indicated any change of colour, the choice is yours.

1 – 3. knit all rows

4. purl

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

17. k2tog across row to last stitch, k1 (14st)

Cut the yarn leaving a 15cm (6in) tail and using a tapestry needle take the 14st from the knitting needle onto the tail. Draw up and stitch the seam to the bottom cast on edge. Make a pom-pom and stitch to the top if required.

Fit the hat onto the doll's head and pull down to cover most of the back. Don't stitch to the head yet.



As the hat covers a large area of the head you won't need to add hair in the usual way.

Hair – using the yarn colour of your choice, make tiny loops of hair and push them under the hat to find the best position for them. Pin them in place and remove the hat.

Stitch the loops to the head as shown below.



Put the hat back on the head and make sure it covers the stitches that secure the hair to the head. Back stitch the hat in place around the bottom

Trim the hair to the required length. Finally use a red pencil crayon to add round rosy cheeks.



We have one little Jolly Tot, finished and ready to play. Now she needs some friends.

Here is a friend for her to play with. She has long yellow plaits (braids) which are easy to make; simply make two long plaits and stitch the end of each plait to the head and then cover the ends with the hat. This little doll is wearing an apron (see pattern below).



Apron (shown above)

Cast on 8 stitches in white

1 – 8. knit every row

Cast off

Stitch the cast off edge to the front of the skirt at waist level. You can embroider a white ‘chain stitch’ band above the skirt to represent the apron tie if required.

Hat with a brim - Knit in one colour or stripe with colours of your choice



Cast on 100 stitches in colour chosen for brim

1 – 3. knit all rows

4. k2tog across row (50st)

5. k2tog across row (25st)

6. purl

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

17. k2tog across row to last stitch, k1 (13st)

Cut the yarn leaving a 15cm (6in) tail and using a tapestry needle take the 13st from the knitting needle onto the tail. Draw up and stitch the seam to the bottom.



The hat will only cover the top of the head so hair will be added when the hat is attached to the head. Working round the hat, stitch it to the head just above the brim. Now you can add the hair. I gave my dolls curls and the one on the right also has tiny plaits (braids). Curls suit this style of hat but if you want longer hair then secure the ends under the crown of the hat before stitching it to the head.



Curly hair – you will need several lengths of yarn to complete the hair

Cut a 60cm (24in) length of yarn and use it double (knotting the two ends together). Start at the back and make a series of back stitches around the head close to the base of the hat. The first stitch should be left protruding as a loop (the curl) and the second stitch will be a normal back stitch pulled firmly to the head to prevent the curl (loop) slipping. The third stitch will be a loop and the fourth a back stitch. Continue making curls in this way all the way round the bottom of the hat. Stitches should be worked closely together and curls at the front should be a larger than those at the back. I usually find the yarn has a mind of its own and twists to create the cutest look. If you find any gaps when you've finished just add one or two extra curls to fill the gaps. Tiny plaits (for girls) can be stitched in place after the curls have been created (see doll above right).

Jolly Tots love to carry a bag (pattern below, stripe as required)

Cast on 9 stitches

1 – 18. st-st starting with a knit row

Cast off

Fold in half and stitch the side seams. Make a tiny strap from a twisted cord and attach it to the bag. The doll can carry the bag or wear it over the shoulder if the strap is long enough to pass over her head.



Five little girls, going out to play,



Time to make some little boys to join the fun today

Jolly Tot Boys



The pattern for Jolly Tot boys is the same as for girls with just one difference. I have given the girls legs and knickers which require a change of colour at row 16. The boys trousers are knitted in the same colour from row 6 to row 23

Body and head - work in st-st

Cast on 12 stitches in shoe colour

1 – 5. st-st starting with a purl row

6 – 15. trouser colour

Now place these 12 stitches on a stitch holder. Knit another leg to row 15 as above.

This should remain on your knitting needle. Continue knitting in trouser colour.

16. knit

Now put the 12 stitches on the stitch holder back onto the spare needle and knit these so that you have a total of 24 stitches on your right hand needle. Continue on these 24 stitches.

17 – 23. top of trouser

24 – 33. sweater (knit these 10 rows in one colour or do as I have done and knit 5 stripes, each stripe is two rows)

34 – 48. flesh (head)

49. P2tog across row (12st)

Cut the yarn leaving a 15cm (6in) tail and using a tapestry needle take the 12st from the knitting needle onto the tail. Don't draw up but leave open for stuffing later.

Making up - Follow the instructions for stitching the girl doll above

Braces (suspenders)

Cast on 24 stitches in chosen colour

Cast off

Make a second piece as above. Stretch each piece to straighten it. Stitch one end of a piece to trousers left of centre front. Stitch one end of the second piece to right of centre front. Take both straps over the shoulders and cross them over at the back of the doll. Stitch the ends of each piece to the trousers at the back (see below).



With a contrasting yarn embroider two stitches at the ends of the braces for buttons

Hat with a straight top



Cast on 27 stitches in the colour chosen for hat band. I have randomly striped my hat but you might choose to make yours in one colour only. For that reason I haven't indicated any change of colour, the choice is yours.

1 – 3. knit all rows

4. purl

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

Cast off

Starting at the bottom, stitch the back seam. With the wrong side facing outwards fold the hat so that the seam is at the centre back. Now back stitch across the top cast off edge. Turn to right side. Add a tassel to each corner if required (see above right).

Fit the hat onto the doll's head and pull down to cover most of the back. Boys have curly hair so at this point stitch the hat to the head around the bottom.

Hair – Follow the instructions for curly hair on page 10

Scarf - Jolly Tots who don't have braces might like to wear scarves

Cast on 40 stitches

1. knit

Cast off

Weave yarn tails into the scarf to neaten. Make little tassels for the ends if required.



**Five little boys, going out to play,
All the little tots will have a jolly day.**