

Dollytime

Little Daisy



Let me introduce you to Little Daisy. She is the sweet sister of Tilly and Lulu and she measures just 15cm (6 in) in her sitting position.

All knitting is done with DK yarn (US – light worsted, Australia – 8 ply). If possible the flesh coloured yarn should be a pale creamy peach as this produces a much better skin tone than a true pink.

The tension of your knitting is not important but the knitted 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 Little Daisy could be made for a very young child I haven't used any buttons or other trims that could be a danger to small children.

Happy dolly knitting

Wendy

<http://dollytime.etsy.com>

<http://dollytime.blogspot.com>

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Materials

Pair of 3.25mm needles (US 3)
Pair of large needles for blanket
Flesh coloured DK
White DK
Small amount of pale pink DK
Small amount of pale yellow DK (hair)
Dark pink DK (blanket and mouth)
Short length of brown or black DK (eyes)
Pale grey embroidery floss (nappy pins)
Yarn sewing needle
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
Yrn - yarn round needle (take yarn under the needle and back over the top)
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.

For an excellent online video showing Kfb methods of increasing go to
<http://www.knittinghelp.com/videos/increases>

Let's get started

Body and head

Cast on 28 stitches in flesh
1 - 28. st-st starting with a knit row. Put a marker at the end of row 28. This is where you will gather to form doll's neck.
29 - 48. st-st
51. k2tog across row (14 sts)
52. purl

Cut yarn leaving a long tail and using a tapestry needle take the 14 stitches from the knitting needle onto the tail. Gather tightly to close gap and use remaining tail to stitch back seam down to the bottom of the body (cast on edge). To draw up the neck thread a long length of yarn onto your needle and working from the marker you inserted at row 28 pick up every alternate stitch across the row. Before drawing up the neck fill the head and part of the body with stuffing making sure it is even on both sides and there are no lumps and bumps. Don't force too much stuffing into the head or you risk over-stretching the knitted fabric.

The head should be 'ball' shaped with a circumference of approximately 19 cm (7.5in). Now draw up the gathers to create a neck.



Before fastening off the gathering thread you can adjust the stuffing in the face area if necessary by pushing your finger up through the neck and into the head. By forcing a little extra stuffing into the lower face you can give the impression of rounded cheeks. When satisfied with the face shape pull the gathering thread and wrap it once more around the neck before fastening off at the back. Continue to stuff the body firmly then over sew the bottom cast-on edge to close



Bootee and leg (knitted as one piece)

Cast on 18 stitches in white for bootees

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 - 15. knit

Change to flesh coloured yarn

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

Cast off

Making up

Fold the bootee in half and over sew the cast-on edge. Stitch the back seam of the bootee and then the leg seam. Stuff the toe and continue stuffing the leg to the top. The leg and foot should be firmly stuffed but not stretched. Gather the top cast-off edge to close (I whip-stitch every alternate stitch and then pull to gather).



Attaching legs to body

Daisy's legs should be stitched to the front of the body with a space of at least 1cm between them to allow for the fitting of the nappy (diaper).



The pictures below illustrate the sitting position. The cast on edge of the body will be touching the floor when the legs are attached.

Daisy will probably fall backwards at this stage but she should sit unaided once she is dressed.



Arms

Cast on 12 stitches in flesh

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

25. k2tog across row (6 sts)

Cut the yarn leaving a long tail and using a tapestry needle take the 6 stitches from the knitting needle onto the tail. Gather tightly to close gap. This gathered end will be the hand. Use the remaining tail to stitch the seam all the way up the arm to the cast on edge.

Begin stuffing the hand using small pieces of filler. When you have filled almost half the arm you are ready to mark the wrist which should be 8 rows from the tip of the hand. Thread a needle with flesh coloured yarn and secure at the 8th row of stitches. Take the yarn around the wrist and pull firmly to make it well defined. Wrap round again and fasten off at the seam. Continue stuffing the arm to within 1cm from the top and then over-sew the cast-on edge keeping the seam in the centre.

Pin the arms at the doll's shoulders and stitch the top of each arm to the body fairly loosely to allow the arms to move up and down.



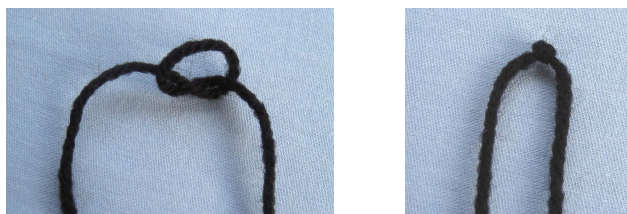
Eyes and mouth

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 place lengths of coloured thread across the centre of the face (horizontally and vertically) and then mark the position of 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 a 15cm (6in) length of brown or black DK yarn for each eye. (I prefer to use brown for babies).



Tie a knot in the centre of the yarn (illustration left) pull firmly. Then tie another knot exactly over the first (pull firmly). Finally tie a third knot in the same way (illustration right). You now have three knots one over the other and these will form the eye.

Thread one of the yarn ends onto a needle and pass it through the position of the pin and out at the back of the head (where it won't be seen when the bonnet is worn)

Don't fasten off. Thread the second yarn end onto the needle and push it through the

stitch which is next to the first one. Bring the yarn end through to the back of the head as before. Pull the two 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. When you are satisfied with the results tie each pair of yarn ends together (firmly) so that the eyes cannot be moved.



Finally, using dark pink yarn or embroidery floss make 2 or 3 stitches in the position of the mouth. To finish use a red pencil crayon (fairly blunt rather than very sharp) and add some colour to Daisy's cheeks.

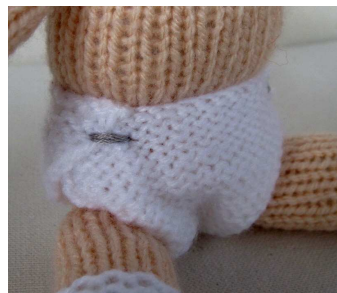
Nappy (diaper)

Cast on 20 stitches in white.

1 - 38. st-st

Cast off loosely

The wrong side of the knitted piece will be used as the right side. With this side facing outwards fold the two long sides into the centre and stitch together as shown below (left) to create a 'nappy shape'.



With the cast-off edge at the front, place the centre of the nappy between the doll's legs and pin in place at the back and then at the front making sure it is centred. Back-stitch across the front securing it to the doll's tummy. Fasten off. Bring the right and left corners from behind so that they overlap the front as pictured above right. Pin in place. Stitch the back to the doll across the top edge. To finish, make three stitches with grey embroidery floss (one over the other) to represent a little pin at each side of the nappy.

Dress

Front

Cast on 36 stitches in white

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

5. (picot row) k1, *yrn, k2tog* across row to last stitch, k1

6 - 11. st-st

12. knit

Break off white and join pink

13 - 15. st-st

Break off pink and join white

16. purl

17. purl

18 - 23. st-st

24. k2tog across row (18st)

25. purl

26 - 37. k1, p1 rib

Cast off loosely in rib

Back – knit same as front

Making up (the dress will be permanently fitted on the doll and not removable).

Stitch the dress side seams from the bottom up to the start of the ribbed bodice. Leave the bodice side seams open for now. Over-sew the picot hem in place.

Fit the dress onto the doll and over-sew the bodice at the shoulder seams making sure there is a snug fit round the neck. Now stitch the ribbed bodice side seams from the waist to the underarms leaving the armholes large enough for the arms to move freely.



Bonnet

Cast on 34 stitches in white

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

5. (picot row) k1, *yrn, k2tog* across row to last stitch, k1

6 - 11. st-st

12. knit

Break off white and join pink

13 - 15 st-st

Break off pink and join white

16. purl

17. purl

18 - 24 st-st

Cast off

Making up

Over-sew the picot hem in place. Join the back seam with mattress stitch. With the wrong side facing outwards fold the bonnet so that the back seams is running down the centre and then back stitch across the top point (see below). Turn the bonnet right side out and the little point will now be concealed inside.



To tie the bonnet you can use narrow pink ribbon or make a twisted cord from pink yarn. The following instructions are for ribbon. Cut two lengths of ribbon 17cm (7in) long. Push the end of one length of ribbon into the picot hem to hide the raw edge. Using sewing thread and tiny stitches secure it in place. Repeat for the second ribbon on the other side of the bonnet.

If Daisy had a full head of hair her bonnet would have to be made very much larger and so I have stitched the bonnet to the head and placed just a few golden curls around her face. To position the curls you must place the bonnet on the head and pin it in place at the front, sides and back. The curls will be stitched at the front only and should protrude from the bonnet. Whilst it is pinned in place push four or five pins into face to show where the curls must be stitched (see below). Remove the bonnet.



Curls are made from pale yellow yarn. Wrap a length of yarn 6 times around your first two fingers and then remove the loops. Stitch these (as a group) in place at the top of the head so that the stitched part will be hidden when the bonnet is worn. Repeat the process stitching loops down each side of the face (you'll probably need 5 or 6 groups of loops). Now replace the bonnet and pin securely round all sides ready for stitching. Start by stitching across the top. I found the best way was to make small back stitches close to the pink stripe (see illustration below left).



When the bonnet is firmly stitched to the head the ribbons can be tied under Daisy's chin (stitch the bow in place if necessary). Push the wavy picot edge back slightly to reveal Daisy's curls.

Now is a good time to add ribbon (or twisted cord) ties to the bootees. Stitch a length of ribbon to the back of the ankle, bring the ends round to the front and tie a bow.



Blanket (a soft little comforter for Daisy to cuddle)

You could easily design your own little blanket for Daisy. I wanted a cosy soft feel so used 6.5mm needles (US 10.5) and worked in garter stitch. Cast on 14 stitches in dark pink. Knit 20 rows. Cast off.



Little Daisy loves her big sisters Tilly and Lulu. Patterns are available for them from <http://dollytime.etsy.com>