

Dollytime

Lucy Lavender & her rabbit



This little cutie is Lucy Lavender and she lives with her pet rabbit. She measures 30cm (12in) and her little friend is just 9cm (4in) to the tips of his ears. They 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. When choosing yarn for Lucy I selected the two shades that matched the pretty lavender growing in my garden. A blue-mauve for the shoes and hair and a pale pink-mauve for the dress. A soft lime green is used for the legs plus stripe on dress and bows in hair. A dark pink-mauve makes the stripes on the legs. Once you've selected your yarns I'm sure you'll enjoy creating the two little friends.

Happy dollytime 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>

© 2010 Wendy Phillips copyrighted design. Please do not reproduce or distribute.

Materials

Pair of 3.25mm needles (US 3)

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

Flesh (a very pale apricot is best)

Mauve (lavender blue-mauve - shoes and hair)

Pink (pale lavender pink-mauve - dress)

Dark pink (dark lavender pink-mauve - stripes on legs)

Mint (pale mint green - legs and stripe on dress)

White (knickers and apron)

Black (eyes)

Beige (rabbit)

Orange (carrot)

Dark red or rust embroidery floss. Split and use just two strands for the mouth

Black embroidery floss (rabbits's face)

2 small beads (shoe buttons)

Toy filler

Abbreviations

K - knit

P - purl

St(s) - stitch(es)

St-st - stocking stitch

K2tog - knit two stitches to 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.

Let's get started

Body

Cast on 28 stitches in flesh

1 - 31. st-st starting with purl row

32. k2tog across row (14st)

33. 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 two edges of the body to the bottom. Stuff the body leaving a 1.5cm (half inch) unstuffed space at the bottom for the insertion of the legs. The body should be slightly flattened from front to back.



Shoes and legs

Cast on 10 stitches in mauve

1. purl
2. kfb across row (20st)
3. purl
4. *k1, kfb* (5 times), *kfb, k1* (5times). (30st)
5. purl
6. k6, *kfb, k2*(twice), *kfb, k1, kfb*(twice), *k2, kfb*(twice), k6 (38st)
- 7 – 11. st-st starting with a purl row
12. k6, *k2tog* (across row to last 6 stitches), k6 (25st)

Break off mauve and join mint

13. purl
14. k2 *k2tog*(5 times) k1, *k2tog*(5 times), k2 (15st)
- 15 – 19. st-st starting with purl row

Join dark pink ready for striping. Don't break off mint as you will be able to run colours up side of work.

20 – 21. st-st dark pink (2 rows)

22 – 25. st-st mint (4 rows)

26 – 27. st-st dark pink (2 rows)

Continue this 4 rows mint, 2 rows dk pink combination to row 49.

Cast off.

Making up

Fold in half down the centre of the leg and shoe. Stitch together the two sides of the cast-on edge at the bottom of the shoe and then up the back of the shoe to the start of the leg. With right side facing, mattress stitch just 4cm (1.5in) of the back leg seam. Before going any further stuff the shoe making sure you push the filler right down into the toe. The shoe should be well filled and firm before continuing to close the back seam (matching all stripes). Fill the leg with stuffing up to the pink stripe at the top of the leg. The area above the pink stripe should remain un-stuffed. Over-sew the top of the leg. Make a second leg



Strap for shoe (picture above right)

Using two strands of mauve yarn work a chain stitch strap across the top of the foot. Use a tiny bead to represent a button or alternatively work 3 stitches in a contrasting shade in the position where the button would be.

Attaching the legs

Ensuring the seam is at the back of the body, stretch the cast on edge so the legs can be inserted and will fit snugly side by side. Pin in place. 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). Leaving the unfilled spaces in the legs and body will allow the legs to bend and the doll to sit nicely.



Frilly knickers - start with the first leg

Cast on 60 stitches in white

1 – 2. knit

3. k2tog across row (30st)

4. k2tog across row (15st)

5. knit

Place these stitches on a spare needle or stitch holder.

Second leg – cast on 60 stitches and work as first leg to row 5.

6. knit this row and then knit the saved stitches from the first leg so that you have all 30 stitches on the same needle.

7 – 8. knit. Place a marker in contrasting yarn at the start of row 8

9 – 25 st-st starting with a purl row

Cast off.

Making up

Seam the edges together from the top down to the marker you inserted at the start of row 8. With the seam at the back, fit the frilly knickers onto the body (this is most easily done by passing it over the top of the doll's body and pulling the knickers down to the right position). There should be one frill at the top of each leg. Stitch the edges of each frill together at the inside leg (avoid stitching through the doll's legs whilst doing this). Close any gaps at the bottom of the knickers between the legs.

The frilly knickers should fit closely to the body and won't fall off but can be stitched to the body round the waist if required.



Head

Cast on 16 stitches in flesh

1. purl
2. kfb across row (32st)
- 3 – 29. st-st starting with a purl row
30. k2tog across row (16st)
31. purl

Cut the yarn leaving a 30cm (12in) tail and using a tapestry needle take the 16 stitches from the knitting needle onto the tail but DON'T draw up. Seam the two edges together down to the cast-on edge which will have a circular opening large enough to insert a finger. Stuff the head from the top. It should be filled quite firmly and will be wider than the body and slightly flattened from front to back.

Position the circular opening at the bottom of the head on top of the body and stitch the two together all the way round. 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 round once or twice more to ensure the head won't work loose. Continue to leave the top of the head open.

Arms

Cast on 14 stitches in flesh

- 1 - 30. st-st starting with a knit row
31. k2tog across row (7sts)
32. purl

Cut the yarn leaving a long tail and using a tapestry needle take the 7 stitches from the knitting needle onto the tail. Gather tightly to close the gap. This gathered end will be the hand. Use the remaining tail to stitch the seam all the way up 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 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 2 cm (half inch) from the top. When you are pleased with the shape over-sew the top keeping the seam in the centre. Pin the arms to the doll's shoulders and stitch the top of each arm to the body. By leaving a space at the top 'unstuffed' the dolls arms should move freely.



Face

I like to take special care when stitching a doll's face as it will give her a unique expression and a character that will hopefully appeal to the child who is to love her.

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 doll's 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). Lucy's eyes will be positioned just above the horizontal line.



If you are familiar with my patterns you will know how fond I am of using the 'knotted yarn' method for eyes. They are quick and easy to make and create no danger for very young children.

For this doll you need to cut 3 lengths of black DK yarn, 20cm (8in) yarn for each eye. Take one bundle of three and tie a knot in the centre (illustration below left). Pull firmly. Then tie a second knot exactly over the first (pull firmly). The big knot will form the eye.



Use a needle with a large eye and thread the three lengths of yarn positioned on one side of the knot. Pass the needle through the head in the position you have marked for an eye and out at the back of the head. Don't fasten off. Thread the second three lengths onto the needle and push through the stitch which is next-door to the first one. Bring the yarn ends through to the back of the head as before. Pull the two groups 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 then 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 set of yarn ends together, pulling gently to create a small eye socket. Now the eyes cannot be moved.

Give Lucy a tiny nose by making three small stitches (flesh coloured yarn) between (and just below) the eyes. Finally the mouth. Lucy has a big smile guaranteed to appeal to little girls. This is done with dark red or rust coloured embroidery floss. Split the six strands and use just two of them. Before starting, work out what shape you want the mouth to be and mark with pins. Work a curved line of tiny chain stitches for the mouth.



Before you start the hair make sure you are satisfied with the head shape. You might want to push some extra filler into the top.

Hair

Hair coming from a centre point at the top of the head was a new venture for me but it worked really well and I can definitely recommend that you try it. If you want to style the hair in the more traditional way by stitching it across the centre of the head then please close the top of the head before you begin.

Attaching the hair – it might look a complicated process but it isn't.

You will need a 30cm (12in) piece of stiff card to wind the mauve yarn round in order to make bundles hair. A magazine might also provide the correct size.

You are going to insert bundles of hair into the hole at the top of the head. Keeping the hole small by pulling on the gathering thread will keep the bundles in place.

1. Wind the yarn 10 times around the card and remove it (this will give you 20 strands of hair). Tie a tight knot as close as you can to one end. Push the knot into the opening at the top of the head so that the knot is only just concealed – position it on the left.
2. Make a second bundle of hair in the same way and position it next to the first (you are working towards the back).
3. Make a third bundle and position it at the centre back of the head
4. Make a fourth bundle and place it next to the third. (Now you are working back towards the front on the opposite side of the head).
5. Make a fifth bundle and place it next to the fourth.
6. The sixth bundle will make the fringe (bang) and should only be half the length of the others. It should only have 16 strands instead of 20. Position this at the front.

Now turn the doll upside-down to reveal the gathering thread. Pull this tightly and secure firmly so that the knot will stay inside the head.

The illustrations below show each stage in the process

Picture 1 - Six bundles of hair inserted into the top of the head. Hair is short at the front and much longer at the sides and back.

Picture 2 - The bundles of hair must now be secured. To do this, pull firmly on the gathering thread at the top of the head and this will hold them in place (all the knots must be inside).

Picture 3 - Let the hair fall back into place.



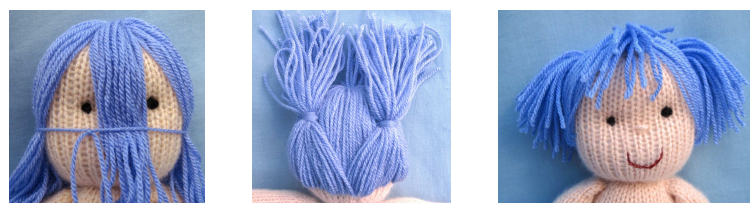
Styling the hair

Picture 4 – Let the hair hang down (as in the first picture above) and wrap a length of matching yarn right round the head in the position shown below left. The fringe should be separated at the front. Tie the yarn firmly.

Back-stitch the hair to the head just below the tie you have placed. There should be no gaps with flesh yarn showing, you'll find the hair doesn't look very thick at this stage. Remove the tie.

Picture 5 – Divide the hair into two equal bundles and lift each bundle up towards the top of the head. Tie each bundle firmly and stitch to the head in the position shown in the centre picture.

Picture 6 – Let the hair fall into position and trim to the required length.



Add little ribbon bows, or make them from a twisted cord of green yarn as I have.

Finally, a red pencil crayon (fairly blunt rather than very sharp) can be used to give colour to Lucy's cheeks.

Dress

Front

Cast on 40 stitches in pink

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

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

6 - 12. st-st

Break off pink and join white

13. knit

14. knit

Break off white and join lime

15. knit

16. purl

17. knit

18. purl

Break off lime and join white

19. knit

20. knit

Break off white and join pink

21 – 34. st-st

35. k2tog across row (20st)

36. purl

37 - 50. k1, p1, rib across row

Cast off loosely in rib

Back – knit same as front

Apron

Cast on 42 stitches in white

1 – 2. knit

3. k2, *k2tog, k2* (to last 2 stitches), k2 (32st)

4. k2 tog across row (16st)

5. k3, purl to last 3 stitches, k3

6. knit

7 – 21. repeat rows 5 and 6

22. k3, *k2tog, k2* (twice), k2tog, k3

23. knit

Cast off

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. Give the hem and dress a light press with a cool iron.

Position the apron centrally on the front of the dress (top band slightly above the waist level). Pin in place. Back stitch the apron to the dress across the waist band.



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.

Rabbit

Cast on 9 stitches in beige

1. purl

2. kfb across row (18st)

3 – 19. st-st starting with a purl row.

Place a marker at the end of row 19 to mark position for rabbit's neck.

20 - 29. st-st

30. k2tog across row (9st)

31. purl

Cut the yarn leaving a 20cm (8in) tail and using a tapestry needle take the 9 stitches from the knitting needle onto the tail. This will be the top of the rabbit's head and should be left open for stuffing.

Making up

Draw up the 9 stitches from cast-on edge at the bottom and stitch the seam to the top of the head. If you want your rabbit to stand unaided then insert a circular piece of stiff card (3 cm diameter) and push it down into the base before stuffing. Stuff the rabbit firmly. Draw up the stitches at the top of the head and close. Securing a length of yarn at the position of the marker on row 19, wrap the yarn twice around the rabbit and pull to form a neck. Fasten off securely.

Ears

Cast on 4 stitches

1 – 5. knit

6. k1, k2tog, k1 (3st)

7 – 11. knit

Cut the yarn leaving a 15cm (6in) tail and using a tapestry needle take the 3 stitches from the knitting needle onto the tail. Draw up and whip stitch down the side of the ear to the cast-on edge (this will stiffen the ear slightly so that it will stand up). Fold the ear in half lengthways and stitch the cast-on edge to the rabbit's head (see picture). Repeat for the second ear.

Arms

Cast on 8 stitches

Cast off.

Stitch the top of each arm at neck level. Loop the arm slightly (so that you can push the tip of your little finger between the arm and the body. Secure the bottom 'paw' end to the body front (see picture).

Tail

Make a small pompom and stitch to the bottom of the body. I position the tail to one side where it will be visible when viewing the rabbit from the front. If positioned at the centre back it will be hidden from view.

Carrot

Cast on 6 stitches in orange

1 – 3. st-st starting with a purl row

4. k2, k2tog, k2 (5st)

5. purl

6. k2, k2tog, k1 (4st)

7. purl

8. k1 k2tog, k1 (3st)

9. purl 3 stitches together

Cut 3 strands of green yarn and fold in half. Tie a knot in one end pulling it as tight as possible (see picture below). Now wrap the top of the carrot around the knot and stitch the seam from top to bottom making sure you have secured the knot in place. Fasten off. Trim the carrot leaves to the required length.



Lucy Lavender loves her little rabbit

