

Dollytime

Lulu and her tiny doll



Let me introduce you to a sweet dolly. Her name is Lulu and she measures 30 cm (12 in). Her tiny doll is just 12 cm (4.5 in), a real cutie.

All knitting is done with DK yarn. As this is a much used yarn weight I'm hoping many knitters will have a good supply of it in various shades which they can mix and match for this project. The flesh coloured yarn should be pale peach or cream as both make prettier skin tones than 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 Lulu could be made for a very young child I haven't used any buttons or other trims that could be dangerous. The only hard parts are the soles inside the shoes which can be omitted if you prefer.

Happy dolly knitting

Wendy

<http://dollytime.etsy.com>

<http://dollytime.blogspot.com>

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Materials

Pair of 3.25mm needles (US 3)
Flesh coloured DK yarn (lulu and tiny doll)
Pink DK (dress, shoes and tiny doll dress)
White DK (dress, socks and tiny doll dress)
Blue DK (dress and stripes in socks)
Pale milky coffee DK (hair)
Small piece of black felt (eyes)
Dark pink or red embroidery floss (mouth)
Black embroidery floss (tiny doll's eyes)
Yarn sewing needle
Toy filler
Small piece of flexible plastic for shoe sole

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.

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 30 stitches in flesh
Starting with a purl row st-st rows 1 to 32. Put a marker at the end of row 32 as this is where you will gather to form doll's neck.
33 - 63. st-st
64. k2tog across row (15 sts)
65. purl
66. k1, k2tog across row (8 sts)
Cut yarn leaving long tail and using a tapestry needle take the 8 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).

Drawing up neck – Thread a long length of yarn onto your needle and make it double for extra strength. Working from the marker you inserted at row 32 pick up every alternate stitch across the row. Before drawing up the neck fill the head with stuffing

making sure it is even on both sides and there are no lumps and bumps. Don't force too much stuffing into head or you risk stretching the knitted fabric too much. N.B. The head should not be completely 'ball' shaped but flattened slightly from front to back. Carry on stuffing firmly to approx 5 cm (2 in) below the gathers. Now draw up the gathers to create a neck.



Before fastening off the gathering thread you can adjust the stuffing in the face area 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 (see below).



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. Leave the bottom open ready for insertion of legs.

Shoe, sock and leg (knitted as one piece)

Cast on 10 stitches in pink for shoes

1. purl
2. kfb along row (20sts)
3. purl
4. *k1, kfb* 5 times, *kfb, k1* 5 times (30sts)
5. purl
6. k12, kfb, k4, kfb, k12 (32sts)
- 7- 8. purl (this purl rows marks the sole position of the shoe)
- 9-10. knit
11. purl
12. k9, *k2tog, k2* 4 times, k7 (28sts)
13. purl
14. k8, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k8 (24sts)
15. purl

Break of pink yarn and join white yarn for socks

16. knit

17. purl

18. k6, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k6 (20sts)

19. purl

20. k7, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k7 (18sts)

21. purl

22. knit

23. purl

Break off white yarn and join blue for stripe

24-25. knit

Break off blue yarn and join flesh for leg

26-45 starting with a knit row continue in st-st

Cast off

Sewing up

Placing soles inside the shoes makes them flat on the bottom and Lulu will be able to stand if leaned against a wall or other object. The sole can be omitted but it does have the advantage of making the Mary Jane shoe shape look quite authentic. To make it you need a piece of clean, flexible plastic. I found the lid of an empty ice cream tub was perfect for the job being very easy to cut with scissors. You could use thick card but this will eventually crease and cannot be washed. Using the template on page 13, mark and cut two soles from the plastic. Make two holes in each sole as shown on the template. These should be large enough for your needle to pass through.

Stitch the seam of the shoe (from the sock) down the back and across the base and up to, but not including, the cast on edge. Leave the cast on edge open so that you can see the plastic sole when it is inserted. Insert the plastic sole into the shoe and position inside the garter stitch rows that define the sole's edge. To prevent the plastic sole sliding around you need to pass a stitch up through one of the holes and down through the other to secure it to the bottom of the shoe. I used the tail of wool left from casting on to make this stitch. When satisfied with the position of the plastic sole close the cast on edge.

Before stitching the rest of the leg stuff the shoe and obtain a pleasing shape. When happy with shape stitch the back of the sock and leg using mattress stitch.

To stuff the sock area you might need to fold the top of the leg down for easy access. Push small amounts of stuffing into the sock and work up the leg toward the top. Don't fill too full or you risk stretching the knitted fabric too much. Stop filling when you are 2cm from the top of the leg. This empty space will allow the leg to move more freely once it is fixed to the body. With the seam at the back over-sew top of leg.

Shoe straps

Cast on 27 stitches in pink

Cast off

Your knitted strap will be 'curly' so stretch slightly to make it straight.

Shoe for doll's right foot - Position and pin the strap to the shoe starting where a button would be on the side of the right ankle. Wrap the strap around the back (where shoe meets sock) and bring it around the front lifting it across the top of the foot to give the look of a Mary Jane shoe. Now take the strap back towards the button position and pin in place. The strap should be just long enough to wrap all the way round. If it isn't you can stretch it a little more or alternatively make a slightly longer strap.



Once happy with the way the strap looks back stitch it to the foot all the way round (stitching between the cast-on and cast-off rows). My little button is represented by placing four small stitches in a contrasting shade (one over the other) in what would be the button position on the strap.

Left shoe - as right shoe but with the button on the left ankle.

Attaching legs to body

Before inserting the legs make sure the body is well stuffed and you are pleased with the shape. Like the head it will be slightly flattened from front to back. Leave a space of 2 cm 'unstuffed' 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. They should be inserted 1 cm into the body. 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 unfilled spaces in the legs and body allow the legs to bend and the doll to sit nicely.

Arms

Cast on 14 stitches in flesh

Starting with a knit row stocking stitch rows 1 to 32.

33. k2tog across row (7sts)

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 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 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 seam.

Continue stuffing the arm to within 2 cm from the top. When you are pleased with the shape over-sew the top keeping the seam in the centre. Pin arms at the doll's shoulders and when satisfied with the position stitch the top of each arm to the body. By leaving a space at the top 'unstuffed' the dolls arms will move freely (see picture).



One little Lulu doll, ready to be dressed.

When making clothes for dolls there is inevitably quite a bit of 'trying on' to do so I always advise adding eyes, mouth and hair when clothes are complete.

Dress (back)

Skirt

Cast on 44sts in white

1-5. st-st starting with a knit row

Picot hem

6. k1 *yrn, k2tog* to last stitch, k1 (44sts)

7-12. st-st starting with a knit row

Break off white and join blue

13-14. st-st blue

15-18. st-st pink

19-28. st-st blue

29. k2, k2tog across row to last 2 stitches, k2 (24sts)

30. knit

31. purl

32. purl

Bodice

Break off blue and join pink for dress bodice back

33-49. st-st starting with a knit row

50. p6, k12, p6

51. knit

52. p6, k12, p6

53. cast off

Dress (Front)**Skirt**

Cast on 44sts in white

1-5. st-st starting with a knit row

Picot hem

6. k1 *ym, k2tog* to last stitch, k1 (44sts)

7-12. st-st starting with a knit row

Break off white and join blue

13-14. st-st blue

15-18. st-st pink

19-28. st-st blue

29. k2, k2tog across row to last 2 stitches, k2 (24sts)

30. knit

31. purl

32. purl

Bodice

Break off blue and join pink for dress bodice back

33-39. st-st starting with a knit row

40. p9, k6, p9

41. knit

42. p9, k6, p9

43. k12. Turn and leave remaining 12 stitches on a stitch holder.

Commence left side of bodice

44. k3, p9

45. knit

46. k3, p9

47. knit

48. k3, p9

49. knit

50. k6, p6

51. knit

52. k6, p6

53. cast off

Put 12 stitches on holder back onto needle with right side facing
Commence right side of bodice

43. knit
44. p9, k3
45. knit
46. p9, k3
47. knit
48. p9, k3
49. knit
50. p6, k6
51. knit
52. p6, k6
53. cast off

Join the bodice shoulder seams leaving the garter stitch area open for neck.



Sleeves

With right side facing pick up and knit 28 stitches on armhole edge (14 down front and 14 down back)

2. purl
3. knit
4. purl
5. k2tog, knit across row to last 2 stitches, k2tog (26sts)
6. purl
7. k2tog, knit across row to last 2 stitches, k2tog (24sts)
8. knit
9. Cast off

Give the work a light press with a cool iron. Stitch the dress side seams and over-sew the picot hem in place. Ties to close the neck can be made from narrow ribbon or use yarn to make a twisted cord for each side. Close neck by tying a bow. If you are not sure how to make a twisted cord you'll find instructions in the sidebar of my blog dollytime.blogspot.com

Knickers

Cast on 48 stitches in white

1-4. *k1, p1* across row

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

Divide for legs

19. k24, turn and leave remaining 24sts on stitch holder

20-21. *k1, p1* across row

22. Cast off loosely in rib

Place 24 stitches on holder back onto needle. Knit one row then repeat rows 20-22



Making up

Stitch centre back seam. With wrong side facing and the seam at centre back of knickers stitch each short leg seam. If doll is for very young children then over-sewing knickers around the waist will keep them firmly in position.

Eyes and mouth

I like to take great 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.



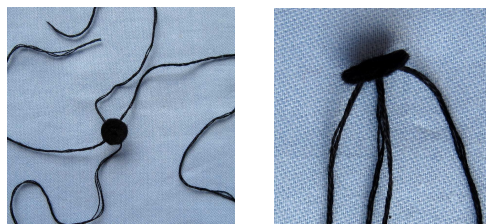
The main thing to remember is to not place the eyes too high up on the head. It is a common mistake and can make dolly look old and sometimes a bit frightening. As a general rule dolly eyes are positioned centrally on the face. It's a good idea to place lengths of coloured thread across the centre of the face (horizontally and vertically) and then mark the position of eyes and mouth with coloured pins (see above).

When satisfied with the position of the features thread a needle with flesh coloured yarn and, leaving a tail at the back, push the needle through the face from back to front. You need to bring the needle out in the exact position of the pin on the right. Make a small stitch by returning the needle out through the back of the head close to where it went in. You should now have two tails of yarn at the back. Tie these together pulling gently to make an eye socket (not too deep). When satisfied with the contour of the face knot the two tails firmly together. Repeat for the other eye.



Cut two circles of felt for the eyes measuring 1 cm wide.

Thread your needle with a 10 cm (8 in) length of black thread and make a single tiny stitch 3mm long in the centre of the felt circle.



Leave two tails of the same length hanging from the back of the circle. Re-thread the needle with a second 10 cm (8 in) length of black thread and make another single stitch 3mm long in the centre of the circle so that it forms a cross with the first stitch. Leave tails at the back as before.



Each of these tails must now be threaded through the centre of the eye socket from front to back. When they are all threaded through pull all four gently and the felt circle will collapse down into the socket making a small rounded eye.

When satisfied with the eye shape, firmly knot together the two pairs of tails at the back of the head so that the felt is secure.



Give Lulu a smile! With dark pink or red embroidery floss stitch a small 'open V' in the position marked for the mouth. A red pencil crayon (fairly blunt rather than very sharp) can be used to give colour to Lulu's cheeks.

Hair

Lulu's hair is the colour of milky coffee. I began by winding the yarn 10 times around my four fingers and stitching the loops at the front to create a curly fringe (bang).

Find a piece of thick card or a book measuring approximately 15 cm (6 in) and wind the yarn 10 times around it. Cut through the yarn to release it from the book. The lengths of yarn released should be long enough to stretch across the head and down each side to the shoulders.



You will need to make several bundles of yarn in this way and then back stitch each bundle in the centre across the top of the head and down the back (see below). Adjust the lengths of yarn as you stitch so there are no bald patches.



When satisfied that you have enough hair stitched to the head you can form it into bunches on each side. Thread a tapestry needle with yarn. Wrap the yarn several times around the bunch of hair and then stitch it firmly to the side of the head. Repeat for the other side and then trim the woolly bunches to the length you require. If adding ribbon bows stitch them to the hair so that they will be more secure.

Lulu's tiny doll

Body and head

Cast on 14 stitches in pink

1-10 st-st pink

11-18 st-st flesh

19. k2tog across row (7sts)

Cut yarn leaving long tail and using a tapestry needle take the 7 stitches from the knitting needle onto the tail. Gather tightly to close top of head and use remaining tail to stitch head seam. Use pink to stitch rest of body to cast on edge. Fill the head and top half of body with stuffing. Using flesh yarn gather the first row of flesh stitches above the pink body and gather to form a neck. Wrap the yarn round the neck and fasten off. Lightly stuff the rest of body (very little filler needed). Over-sew the bottom of body.

Arms (make two alike)

Cast on 4 stitches in pink

1. knit

2-8 st-st flesh

Take stitches off onto tail and gather as described for head above.

Fold arms to make long tube (right side out) and over-sew seam. Stitch in loose ends but leave pink one for attaching arm to body.

Legs (make two alike)

Cast on 4 stitches in flesh

1-12. st-st

Take stitches off onto tail and gather as described for head.

Fold legs to make long tube (right side out) and over-sew seam. Stitch in loose ends but leave one for attaching leg to body.

Skirt

Cast on 30 stitches in pink

1. knit

2-3. st-st white

4-5. st-st pink

6-7. st-st white

8-9. st-st pink

10-11. st-st white

12-13. st-st pink

14. purl white

15. k2tog across row (15sts)

Cast off

Stitch legs to lower body. Stitch skirt back seam leaving 2cm open. Fit skirt onto doll
Stitch cast off edge to body. Close remainder of back seam. Stitch arms to body.



Face

Use black embroidery floss to give doll two tiny eyes (use single stitches or French dots). Use dark pink thread to stitch a tiny 'v' shaped mouth.

Hair

Thread a needle with a long length of 'hair coloured yarn' and use it double. Work across the doll's head making small stitches. Don't pull the yarn right through but leave a small loop sticking out which will resemble curls. Keep stitching randomly all over the head and especially around the face until you have built up enough stitches for the desired effect. You will have to use several lengths of yarn to do this.....and now you have a tiny doll for Lulu to love.



Templates for shoe sole

Sole for shoe is shown actual size. It should measure 56mm (2.25ins) at its widest point. Cut two from flexible plastic (use lid from ice cream tub or similar). Make two small holes in each sole as shown on template.

