

# Dollytime

## Tilly goes to school



Let me introduce you to sweet Tilly who is feeling very grown up now that she goes to school. Tilly measures 36 cm (14 in) and is knitted in 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 the project. The flesh coloured yarn is pale peach and makes a prettier skin tone than true pink.

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. Tilly is the big sister of Lulu who you might already know and knitting patterns for both little girls can be found in my Etsy shop - <http://dollytime.etsy.com>

Happy dolly knitting

Wendy

<http://dollytime.blogspot.com>

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## **Materials**

Pair of 3.25mm needles (US 3)  
Flesh coloured DK yarn (doll)  
Red DK yarn  
Lemon yellow DK yarn  
Sky blue DK yarn  
Mid blue DK yarn  
White DK yarn  
Pale milky coffee DK (hair)  
Small piece of black felt (eyes)  
Dark pink or red embroidery floss (mouth)  
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  
Sl 1 - slip one stitch  
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 34 stitches in flesh  
Starting with a purl row stocking stitch rows 1 to 42. Put a marker at the end of row 42 as this is where you will gather to form doll's neck.  
43 – 69. st-st  
70. k2tog across row (17 st)  
71. purl  
72. k1, k2tog across row (9 st)  
Cut yarn leaving a long tail and using a tapestry needle take the 9 stitches from the knitting needle onto the tail. Gather tightly to close gap and use remaining tail to stitch back seam to the bottom of the body (cast on edge).

Drawing up neck – Thread a long length of yarn onto your needle and make double for extra strength. Working from the marker you inserted at row 42 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 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 red for shoes

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

Break of red yarn and join white yarn for socks  
 16. knit  
 17. purl  
 18. k6, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k6 (20)  
 19. purl  
 20. k7, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k7 (18st)  
 21. purl  
 22. knit  
 23. purl  
 24 - 25. knit  
 26. purl  
 Cut white yarn and join blue yarn for stripe  
 27 - 28. purl  
 Cut blue yarn and join flesh yarn for leg  
 29 - 61 starting with a purl row continue in st-st  
 Cast off

## Sewing up

Placing soles inside the shoes makes them flat on the bottom and Tilly 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 14, 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, 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 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 (knit 2)**

Cast on 27 stitches in red

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 make a slightly longer strap.

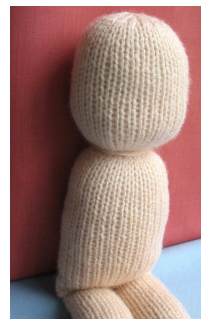
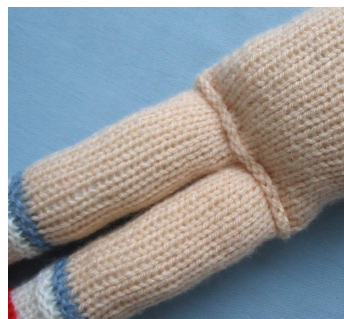


Once happy with the way the strap looks back-stitch it to the foot all the way round (stitching between the cast-on and cast-off rows). My little button is represented by placing four small stitches in a contrasting shade (one over the other) in what would be the button position on the strap.

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

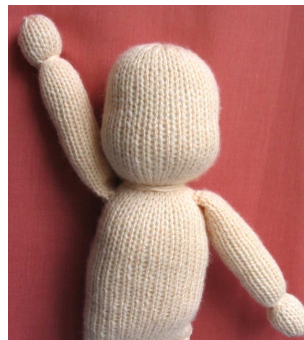
Starting with a purl row stocking stitch rows 1 to 39.

Row 40. 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 and arm using small pieces of filler. When you have filled almost half the arm you are ready to mark the wrist which should be 10 rows from the tip of hand. Thread a needle with flesh coloured yarn and secure at the 10<sup>th</sup> 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 Tilly 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.

## Knickers

Cast on 48 stitches in white

1 - 4. \*k1, p1\* across row

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

Divide for legs

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

26 - 27. \*k1, p1\* across row

28. Cast off loosely in rib

Place 24 stitches on holder back onto needle. Knit one row then repeat rows 26 - 28

## Making up

Stitch centre back seam down as far as ribbing for leg openings. 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 doll's waist will keep them firmly in position.



## Skirt

The k4, p2 rib gives skirt a pleated appearance

Cast on 96 stitches in red.

1. \*k4, p2\* across row

2. \*k2, p4\* across row

3. \*k4, p2\* across row

Break off red and join lemon

4. \*k2, p4\* across row

5. \*k4, p2\* across row

Break off lemon and join sky blue

6. \*k2, p4\* across row

7. \*k4, p2\* across row

8. \*k2, p4\* across row

9. \*k4, p2\* across row

10. \*k2, p4\* across row

Break off sky blue and join mid blue

11. \*k4, p2\* across row

12. \*k2, p4\* across row

13 – 30. repeat rows 11 and 12 nine more times

31. k2tog across row (48st)

32. knit

33. k1, k2tog, \*k2, k2tog\* 11 times to last stitch, k1 (36st)

34. cast off

## Making up

Starting at the hem, stitch the back seam leaving an opening at the top of 3 cm (1 in) to allow doll's feet to pass through when dressing. The skirt waistband should be positioned just above the waistband of the knickers. The skirt waistband should fit

snuggly round doll and can be fastened with two ties made from twisted cord, ribbon or tape. Alternatively you can stitch on a button and fasten with a loop made from yarn.



## Sweater

The pattern on the sweater looks similar to Fairisle but is a simple slip stitch pattern. On one row you slip every 3<sup>rd</sup> stitch and on the following row you knit all stitches including the stitches you slipped. If you haven't tried it before just follow the instructions, you can't go wrong.

### Back

Cast on 32 stitches in red

1 – 5. garter stitch

Break off red and join lemon

6. knit

7. purl

Break off lemon and join dark blue

8. \*k2, sl 1\* across row, k2

9. purl

10. knit

11. purl

Break off dark blue and join lemon

12. \*k2, sl 1\* across row, k2

13. purl

14. knit

15. purl

Break off lemon and join sky blue

16. \*k2, sl 1\* across row, k2

17. purl

18. knit

19. purl

Break off sky blue and join red

20. \*k2, sl 1\* across row, k2

21 – 37. st-st starting with a purl row

Shoulders and collar

38. cast off 6 st and knit remainder of row (26st)

39. cast off 6 st and purl remainder of row (20st)

40 – 52. \*k1, p1\* repeat across each row

53. cast off loosely in k1, p1 rib

## **Sweater front**

Repeat pattern for sweater back up to and including row 39

Divide for collar

40. \*k1, p1\* across first 10 stitches. Turn and leave remaining 10 stitches on a stitch holder.

41 - 52. \*k1, p1\* repeat across each row

53. cast off loosely in k1, p1 rib

To complete the other side of the collar place the 10 stitches from the holder back on a needle and join red yarn.

40 – 52. \*k1, p1\* repeat across each row

53. cast off loosely in k1, p1 rib

Join both shoulder seams and collar seams on left and right (leave centre open to form collar shape)

## **Left sleeve**

Working with red yarn and right side facing, pick up and knit 30 stitches along left armhole edge (15 stitches at the front and 15 stitches at the back).

2 – 4. knit

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

11. k2tog, knit to last 2 stitches, k2tog (28st)

12. purl

13. knit

14. purl

15. k2tog, knit to last 2 stitches, k2tog (26st)

16. purl

17. knit

18. purl

19. k2tog, knit to last 2 stitches, k2tog (24st)

Break off red and join sky blue

20. purl

21. knit

Break off sky blue and join mid blue

22. purl

23. k2tog, knit to last 2 stitches, k2tog (22st)

Break off mid blue and join lemon

24. purl

25. knit

Break off lemon and join red

26. purl

27 – 30. knit

31. cast off

## **Right sleeve**

Working with red yarn and right side facing, pick up and knit 30 stitches along right armhole edge (15 stitches at the back and 15 stitches at the front). Follow instructions for left sleeve (above)

## Making up

Stitch sweater side seams starting at the bottom and working towards the under-arm. Use the coloured tails of yarn to stitch striped areas when possible. Stitch in any unused tails. Join sleeve seams starting at the cuffs and use tails of yarn to stitch striped areas as before.



## Tilly's face

Now that Tilly has such pretty clothes it is time to give her a happy face. 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.

## Eyes and mouth



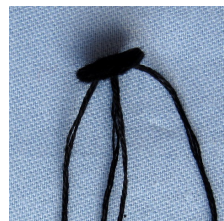
The main thing to remember is to not place the eyes too high up on the head. It is a common mistake and can make dolly look old and sometimes a bit frightening. As a general rule dolly eyes are positioned centrally on the face. It's a good idea to place lengths of coloured thread across the centre of 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. Make the second eye in the same way.

Give Tilly a smile! With dark pink or red embroidery floss stitch a small 'open V' in the position marked for the mouth.

## Hair

Tilly's hair (DK yarn) is the colour of milky coffee.

Find a piece of thick card or a book measuring no less than 20 cm (8 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 (almost to waist level – see picture below). When plaited the hair will become much shorter. If you want Tilly's plaits to be longer then wind the yarn around a larger book.



You will require several bundles of yarn and each must be back-stitched across the centre top of the head and half-way down the back. Adjust the lengths of yarn as you stitch (particularly on the top) so there are no bald patches. Don't add too much hair or it will be difficult to plait.



When satisfied that you have enough hair stitched to the head you are ready to plait it. Begin by forming it into bunches on each side. Tie each bunch of hair loosely (just below eye level) with contrasting yarn. The yarn will hold the hair in place whilst you plait it and will be removed later.

Thread a tapestry needle with hair coloured yarn and have it ready to secure the plait you are about to make. Make the first plait and wrap the yarn tightly (several times) around the bottom of the plait to keep the strands in place and then stitch through it firmly before cutting it off.



Make the second plait in the same way ensure both are tied to make them the same length. Remove the contrasting yarn that held the hair in place as this is where you now need to stitch the plaits securely to the head. Pull the plaits down firmly so that the hair on the crown is as smooth and straight as possible. With hair coloured yarn stitch several times through the top of the plait and through the side of the head. Fairly large stitches through the head and plait will be firmer than small ones. Trim the bottom of each plait to neaten.

Finally I decided Tilly needed a small fringe (bang). This isn't essential but I thought it gave her a cuter appearance. Thread a needle with hair coloured yarn and knot the end. Push the needle into the back of the head (the knot will be hidden by hair) and out at the centre front where hair is stitched. Make a small stitch in the centre front leaving a loop of hair for a fringe (see picture above). A second stitch will hold it in place and prevent it pulling out. Make five or six loops in this way and fasten off.

A red pencil crayon (fairly blunt rather than very sharp) can be used to give colour to Tilly's cheeks.

## Tilly's bag



To make Tilly's little shoulder bag you need to cast on 13 stitches and knit 50 rows in garter stitch. I suggest random stripes that changing colour on the same edge each time so the yarn can be carried up the side of the work and there are fewer tails to sew in. When complete choose which side you like best (I chose to use what would normally be the wrong side). Now stitch the side seams. The long strap is made from a plaited cord. Plait 6 lengths of yarn 65 cm (26 ins) long (2 red, 2 sky blue and 2 mid blue). Tie a knot at one end of the cord and stitch it at the bottom corner of the bag.

Then working your way up the cord, stitch it over the seam line to the top of the bag and fasten off. Now you need to measure the required length of the cord. To do this

pass the cord over the doll's shoulder and down the back (as if the bag was being worn). Pin the cord to the other side of the bag. Carefully remove the bag (with cord still attached) and stitch the cord to the bag. Put a knot at the end before cutting. Don't forget to remove the pin!

If you'd like to make a little book for Tilly's bag it can be made from oddments of paper cut to the right size to make a book. Stitch through the spine to hold the pages in place. You'll probably have some old (short) pencil crayons that will fit inside the bag also.

Now Tilly can be dressed and have pretty blue ribbons tied on her plaits. She can put on her bag and finally she is ready for school.



### **Templates for shoe sole** (follow instructions on page 4)

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.

