

Hug Doll

Following the dreadful events in Christchurch I, like many, was looking for a way to show that I cared. And so, I decided to design a small knitted hug doll.

A hug can indicate support, comfort, and consolation, particularly when words are insufficient.

As the New Zealand Prime Minister so eloquently put it “We cannot know your grief, but we can walk with you at every stage. We can. And we will surround you with *aroha* [love], *manaakitanga* [kindness, support] and all that makes us, us.”



Hug Doll by Debra Hinton

Yarn Jo Sharp Classic DK Wool 100% Wool (50g/1.75oz, 98m/107yds, equivalent to an Aust. 8 ply) less than 1 ball of each colour is used. Small amounts of scrap yarn for the doll's facial features.

For example, 1 ball for coat (green), 1 ball for shoes and legs (black), 1 ball of veil (magenta), 1 ball of skin colour (hands and face), or use small amounts of leftover 8 ply from earlier projects.

Needles and notions Straight 4.0 mm (US 6), 3.75 double pointed needles to knit the arms, and create the doll's nose (though length and size are not critical), row counter, tapestry needle, stitch holder (or a large safety pin), long glass-headed pins for holding front and back sections in place whilst sewing up, stuffing of choice.

Tension 22.5 sts and 30 rows to 10cm/4ins in st st using 4.0 mm needles.

Finished measurements Hug doll is 22cm tall.

Difficulty – suitable for a confident novice knitter

Abbreviations

Increase knitwise is done by knitting into the front and then into the back of the stitch [kfb]. Increase purlwise is done by purling into the front and then into the back of the stitch [pfb].

Stocking Stitch is formed by knitting one row knit stitch, one row purl stitch. The smooth side (knit side) is the front of work.

s1 k1 pss0 = "slip one, knit one, pass slip stitch over", resulting in a decrease of 1.

s1 p1 pss0 = "slip one, purl one, pass slip stitch over", resulting in a decrease of 1.

Note: when you add in the new colours tie them in and put the tails on the inside, then as you change colour ensure that you lay the next coloured yarn under the previous one before you make the next stitch so that it is 'captured' in the knitting to ensure that there are no holes in the knitting.

Note: as this is not a fitted garment any 8 ply yarn can be used as the gauge is not critical and is an ideal 'stash buster' project to use up odd and incomplete balls of yarn leftover from other projects, as I have done.

A firm fabric is required to ensure that the doll keeps its shape and that the stuffing doesn't leak out.

The doll is knitted in four sections (a front and a back) and is knitted from the foot upwards - two legs are knitted and then are joined and the body and head is knitted. Two arms (with hands) are knitted in the round and are stuffed separately and then attached to the completed body. This enables the arms to be moved.

Hug Doll

Front

Legs (make 2)

Shoes

Using 4.00 mm straight needles and shoe/leg yarn cast on 3 sts

Row 1 Increase knitwise [kfb] in every stitch (6 sts)

Row 2 Increase purlwise [pfb] in every 2nd stitch (9 sts)

Rows 3 – 7 Work 5 rows stocking stitch

Row 8 (p2tog p 1) x 3 times (6 sts)

Stockinged legs

Row 9 – 14 Continue with the shoe/leg yarn, work 6 rows of stocking stitch. Finishing with a purl row.

Break the yarn leaving a tail of about 10cm which we will use for sewing up.

Front of body

At this point we join the two legs and create the bottom of the doll's coat / dress.

Slip both legs, front sides facing, on to the left hand needle.

Row 15 Using coat yarn cast on 4sts onto the start of the first leg, then knit across these and the first leg. Turn the work and cast on 2sts onto the back of the first leg before turning the work and continuing to knit across the second leg. Turn the work and cast on 4sts (22 sts)

Row 16 - 24 Work in stocking stitch

Row 25 s1 k 1 pssso knit to last 2 sts, k2tog (20 sts)

Row 26 - 34 Work in stocking stitch

Row 35 s1 k1 pssso knit to last 2 sts, k2tog (18 sts)

Row 36 – 46 Work in stocking stitch

At this point we start to form the veil, which sits just under the chin at the front, (you will need a small length of coat yarn about 20cm long)

Row 47 Knit 1 stitch in coat yarn, add in the veil yarn and knit 16 sts, join in the short length of coat yarn and knit the remaining 1 stitch. (18 sts)

Row 48 Continuing with the coat / veil yarn as above, purl 1 stitch in coat (break off the yarn, leave a short tail), purl 16 sts in veil yarn and purl the remaining stitch in coat yarn, break off the coat yarn and leave a short tail. (18 sts)

Form shoulders and front of head (you will need a small ball of flesh coloured yarn and a second small ball of veil yarn)

Row 49 using the veil yarn, knit 2 tog, knit 4 and then join in the flesh yarn and knit 6 sts, join in second ball of veil yarn and knit 4 sts, then knit 2tog (16 sts)

Row 50 purl 5 sts in veil, purl 6 sts in flesh, and purl 5 sts in veil (16 sts)

Row 51 knit 4 sts in veil, knit 8 sts in flesh, and knit 4 sts in veil (16 sts)

Row 52 purl 4 sts in veil, purl 8 sts in flesh, and purl 4 sts in veil (16 sts)

Row 53 knit 4 sts in veil, knit 8 sts in flesh, and knit 4 sts in veil (16 sts)

Row 54 purl 4 sts in veil, purl 8 sts in flesh, and purl 4 sts in veil (16 sts)

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Row 56 purl 4 sts in veil, purl 8 sts in flesh, and purl 4 sts in veil (16 sts)

Row 57 knit 5 sts in veil, knit 6 sts in flesh, and knit 5 sts in veil (16 sts)

Row 58 purl 5 sts in veil, purl 6 sts in flesh, and purl 5 sts in veil (16 sts)

Top of head

Change to using just veil and break off the skin coloured yarn leaving a short tail

Row 59 s1 k1 pssso knit to last 2 sts, k2tog (14 sts)

Row 60 s1 p1 pssso purl to last 2 sts, p2tog (12 sts)

Row 61 – 62 work in stocking stitch

Row 63 cast off, break yarn leave a 10 cm tail for sewing up.

Back

Legs (make 2)

Shoes

Using 4.00 mm straight needles and shoe/leg yarn cast on 3 sts

Row 1 Increase knitwise [kfb] in every stitch (6 sts)

Row 2 Increase purlwise [pfb] in every 2nd stitch (9 sts)

Rows 3 – 7 Work 5 rows stocking stitch

Row 8 (p2tog, p1) x 3 times (6 sts)

Stockinged legs

Row 9 – 14 Continue with the shoe/leg yarn, work 6 rows of stocking stitch. Finishing with a purl row.

Break the yarn leaving a tail of about 10cm which we will use for sewing up.

Back of body

At this point we join the two legs and create the bottom of the doll's coat.

Slip both legs, front sides facing, on to the left hand needle.

Row 15 Using coat yarn cast on 4sts onto the start of the first leg, then knit across these and the first leg. Turn the work and cast on 2sts onto the back of the first leg before turning the work and continuing to knit across the second leg. Turn the work and cast on 4sts (22 sts)

Row 16 - 24 Work in stocking stitch

Row 25 s1 k1 pssso knit to last 2 sts, k2tog (20 sts)

Row 26 - 34 Work in stocking stitch

Row 35 s1 k1 pssso knit to last 2 sts, k2tog (18 sts)

Row 36 purl

At this point we start to form the veil, which hangs down the back, (you will need a second small ball of coat yarn)

Row 37 Continuing with the coat yarn knit 5 sts, add in the veil yarn knit 8 sts, join in the second ball of coat yarn and knit the remaining 5 sts.

Row 38 Continuing with the coat / veil yarn as above, purl 5 sts in coat, 8 sts in veil yarn and knit the remaining 5 sts in coat.

The veil spreads out and the coat is covered up as we move up the doll...

Row 39 Knit 4 sts in coat, knit 10 sts in veil, knit the remaining 4 sts in coat.

Row 40 purl 4 sts in coat, 10 sts in veil yarn and knit the remaining 4 sts in coat.

Row 41 Knit 3 sts in coat, knit 12 sts in veil, knit the remaining 3 sts in coat.

Row 42 purl 3 sts in coat, 12 sts in veil yarn and knit the remaining 3 sts in coat.

Row 43 Knit 2 sts in coat, knit 14 sts in veil, knit the remaining 2 sts in coat.

Row 44 purl 2 sts in coat, 14 sts in veil yarn and knit the remaining 2 sts in coat.

Row 45 Knit 1 stitch in coat, knit 16 sts in veil, knit the remaining 1 stitch in coat.

Row 46 purl 1 stitch in coat, 16 sts in veil yarn and knit the remaining 1 stitch in coat.

Row 47 Knit across the whole row in veil, break off the coat yarn as you come to it, leave a 10cm tail for sewing up.

Row 48 Purl (in veil yarn) (18 sts)

Form shoulders and back of head (all in veil yarn).

Row 49 s1 k 1 pssso knit to last 2 sts, k2tog (16 sts)

Row 50 s1 p1 pssso purl to last 2 sts, p2tog (14 sts)

Rows 51 - 56 work 6 rows stocking stitch

Row 57 s1 pssso knit to last 2 sts, k2tog (12 sts)

Row 58 – 62 work in stocking stitch

Row 63 cast off, break yarn leave a 10 cm tail for sewing up.

Note: the back and front of the doll's head are slightly different in shape (as ours are).

Arms (make two)

Row 1 Using coat yarn and double pointed needles, cast on 4 sts

Row 2 increase in each stitch knit-wise [kfb] (8 Sts)

Round 3 Move 4 sts to one double pointed needle and the other four sts to a second double pointed needle, using a third double pointed needle knit in round, being careful not to twist the sts as you make the join.

Round 4 (k1, kfb) x 4 times (12 sts)

Distribute the sts so that they are even across two needles (6 sts on each)

Round 5 – 16 knit

Round 17 (k1, k2tog) x 4 times (8 sts)

Distribute the sts so that they are even across two needles (4sts on each)

Break off coat yarn and join in flesh coloured yarn for hands

[at this point it is a good idea to partially stuff the arms as once the hands are worked it becomes difficult to push the stuffing in evenly – do NOT overstuff]

Round 18 – 22 knit

Round 23 k2, k2tog, k2tog, k2 (6 sts)

Round 24 cast off purlwise (this gives a nicer edge for sewing together), breaking off the yarn, leaving a short tail for sewing up.

Finish stuffing the arms and hands and close up the end taking care not to overstuff.

Finishing the Doll

Using a damp cloth and steam iron carefully press both sides of doll so that the pieces are flat and even – do not remove any of the loose yarn, we will use these to sew up – making sure to neatly tie off, on the inside, any joins between colours.

Before sewing up make the doll's face, starting with the nose. Using one of the double pointed needles pick up and knit 2 sts in the centre of the face, knit 1 row and then cast off leaving a length of yarn approximately 4 cm, slip the loose threads through to the wrong side and tie off tightly to form nose. There is no need to trim the leftover yarn as it will be pushed up in the stuffing. Using the photograph as a guide add the facial features (eyebrows, eyes and lips) using waste yarn and the tapestry needle.

With right sides facing, pin the front and back sections together. Using the yarn tails and tapestry needle sew the front to back leaving the section below the right shoulder and leg open to allow the doll to be turned out to the right side and the stuffing to be inserted.

When inserting the stuffing ensure that the body, head and legs are stuffed evenly, taking care to not over stuff the doll. Sew up the abdomen.

Attach the two arms using thread jointing method

- Thread the needle with a long piece of coat yarn and double it for strength, tie a knot at the end
- Push the needle from one shoulder side of the body to the other and through the upper arm
- Now go back through the body and attach the other arm, again through the upper arm.
- Repeat this about 4 or 5 times to ensure that both arms are securely attached to the body but so that they can still move.
- Slip the needle through to under one of the arms, tie off the yarn and slip the remaining thread into the body of the doll.



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