

PATTERN 1 - PREGNANT HAND PUPPET (Single sided)

Kindly donated by Pam in East Yorkshire



Pattern is based on standard female puppet in a skirt pattern.

Skirt: Cast on 22 stitches and work 4 rows in garter stitch. Work in stocking stitch until work measures 2½ inches from commencement, ending with a purl row.

Increase for bump: K10, make 1 (pick up yarn between stitch 10 and 11) K2, make 1, K10.

Next row: purl

Next row: K9, make 1, K6, make 1, K9

Next row: purl

Bodice: If knitting the whole dress in one colour, change to k1 p1 rib and work 8 rows. If changing colour for the bodice knit one row of the new colour then change to k1p1 rib and work 7 rows.

Arms: Cast on 10 stitches at beginning of next 2 rows remembering to knit 4 stitches at each end in garter stitch for hands.

Decrease for bump: Pattern 18, K3 tog, rib 3, K3 tog. pattern to end.

Work 7 rows in rib and continuing with 4 sts in garter stitch at each end for the hands.

Next row: (RS) cast off 15 sts. Knit to end

Next row: cast off 15sts. Knit to end (12sts)

Change to face colour and complete as for normal female puppet.

Make the back using the normal puppet pattern – i.e. without the bump, and if knitting in the hair, beginning that above the 4 rows of increasing for the face.

Patch for the back of the bump:

Cast on 6 sts. Working in stocking stitch, increase 1 st at each end of next 4 rows.

Stocking stitch 10 rows

Decrease 1 st at each end of next 4 rows.

Cast off.

Stitch this patch to the inside of the front of the puppet to cover the area where the bump will be, leaving the top open for stuffing. When stuffed, close up to top.

Complete puppet by putting on features as usual, then sew the two halves together.

NB. Please ensure that the stuffing you use is approved for toys and had a BS or CE label on the packaging. No other stuffings must be used, thank you.

PATTERN 2 – ANOTHER METHOD OF ADAPTING THE BASIC PUPPET PATTERN TO MAKE A PREGNANT PUPPET, (2 SIDED IF YOU WISH)

Kindly donated by Val Holmes

(Pictured with the happy and sad sides!)



You will need one extra knitting needle for this pattern. Val tends to use one of a set of 4mm double pointed needles. You'll also need to refer to the pattern for the puppet in trousers, which is on the website.

Using the pattern for the puppet in trousers, work up to the top of the trouser legs and two rows of the trouser body.

Insert a life line by threading about 10" of contrasting yarn onto a tapestry needle and threading it through every stitch (22sts) on your knitting needle to mark where you are going to pick up sts later for the tummy pocket lining. This is easiest at the base of the stitch. It doesn't matter whether you do this on the RS or WS of the work, which ever you find easier. Pull your work down a little if you find it hard to get the tapestry needle through the stitches.

St st 2 more rows

Next row: K3, (Kfb, k1) to last 3sts, k to end (30sts)

St st 2 rows

Next row (WS) k

Before starting to knit with your jumper colour, wind off enough yarn to knit 7 rows of 22sts and put it aside for the tummy pocket lining. If you are making a two sided happy/sad puppet remember you will have two linings to make, so wind off enough for both.

Change colour for jumper/upper body, leaving a long enough end of your new yarn to sew side and underarm seam. Cut off trouser colour leaving end for sewing up side of stuffing pocket.

Continue in st st for 6 rows.

Next row: k3, (k2togtbl, k1) 4x, (k2tog, k 1) 4x, k 3 (22sts)

Leave these sts on the needle, or on a stitch holder if you prefer.

Go back to the contrasting thread and, on the wrong side, and working from right to left, pick up the 22sts with your third needle. Your stitches may appear to be difficult to see, but if you stretch the work over the pad of your left index finger as you go, the individual stitches will show up clearly across your contrasting life line. Be careful to pick up the very first and last stitch. When you are sure you have 22sts, you can remove the life line.

Now turn your puppet body so that the legs are pointing away from you. Join in the trouser coloured yarn and knit across the picked up stitches. If the picked up sts seem to be angled the wrong way you can knit into the backs of them. However, this section of the puppet is the lining for the tummy pocket and will not be seen, so doesn't have a wrong side and right side. Continue in st st for 5 rows.

Change to jumper colour and st st for 7 more rows, ending with the WS facing.

Now hold the two needles with both sets of 22sts parallel to each other. The back needle is the front of the puppet. Using the yarn from the back needle put the tip of your 3rd needle purlwise through the first st on the back needle, then through the first st on the front needle and work both sts tog purlwise. Repeat to the end. Cut off the yarn from the lining section leaving enough to sew up the side of the pocket.

St st 2 more rows.

You are now at the point on the basic pattern where you cast on the arm stitches. Complete as for the basic pattern.

When making up, stuff the 'bump' quite firmly but not enough to show through the stitches, keeping the stuffing to the centre of the pocket. When you are happy with the shape, sew the pocket sides together. Make the puppet up as usual.