

HAND PUPPET FOR POLICEMAN

By Libby for Knit-for-Nowt



You will need: -

DK Yarn. Dark blue, white, black, grey/silver, and brown or tan if making the ethnic puppet

3mm (size 11) and 4mm (size 8) needles

Small quantity of BS or CE labelled toy stuffing – please ensure that for safety your puppet’s head is not stuffed with any other material, thank you.

Buttons for eyes, or sew-on puppet eyes

Embroidery thread in red or brown for mouth

Abbreviations: SSK: Slip, slip, knit: Slip the first stitch as if to knit, slip the second stitch as if to knit, then slide the left-hand needle into the front part of both stitches and knit them together.

M1: Make 1: Pick up and knit (or purl) the strand of yarn between the 2 stitches. Stitching into the back of this loop helps avoid a hole.

Basic puppet. The instructions that follow are the same as for the Boy Hand Puppet pattern, but using dark blue for the trousers and white for the shirt. But instead of changing colour as you knit up the head in order to make a hat, (as in the Boy pattern), the head is knitted all in the same colour (the policeman's hat is added afterwards.)

Shoes: Cast on 24 stitches in black. Row 1 and 2: Knit. Row 3 & 4: K1, SSK, knit to three stitches before the end, K2tog, K1 (20 stitches).

Trousers: Change colour to dark blue for trousers; Row 1: Knit Row 2: P9, K2, P9. Row 3: K9, P2, K9. Note: The K2 / P2 in the middle 'divides' the two trouser legs. Continue alternating rows 2 and 3 until the trousers measure about 5 cm from the top of the shoes. Then continue in normal stocking stitch for 4 rows (i.e. row 1 = knit, row 2 = purl, row 3 = knit, row 4 = purl).

Shirt: Change colour for white shirt. Continue in stocking stitch for about 4.5 cm. 1st arm row: Cast on 10 stitches, then knit across this row (30 stitches). 2nd arm row: Cast on 10 stitches, K4, purl across the rest of the row until 4 stitches before the end, K4 (40 stitches). Work another 8 rows alternating rows 1 and 2. On purl rows, knitting the first and last 4 stitches suggests hands. Row 11: Cast off 14 stitches, K26 (26 stitches). Row 12: Cast off 14 stitches in purl, P12 (12 stitches).

Head

Change to face colour

Row 1: Knit

Row 2: Purl

Row 3: K1, M1, K10, M1, K1. (14 stitches)

Row 4: P1, M1, P12, M1, P1. (16 stitches)

Row 5: K1, M1, K14, M1, K1 (18 stitches)

Row 6: P1, M1, P16, M1, P1 (20 stitches)

Continue in stocking stitch (1 row knit, 1 row purl) until head measures about 4.5 cms.

Decrease for top of head:

Row 1: K1, SSK, knit to last 3 stitches, K2 tog, K1

Row 2: Purl

Repeat these 2 rows until 8 stitches remain. Cast off.

Now repeat all of the above (Shoes, Shirt, Head) to make your back piece

Head Linings – (Make 2.)

Cast on 12 stitches and then follow instructions for head, as above.

With right side facing, sew buttons for eyes, or sew-on toy eyes, about half way down the head of one main piece. Embroider a mouth as in the picture:



You now sew the heads and head linings together into 2 pairs, stuffing each one separately and then sew up the bottom edges so the stuffing is completely enclosed in each one, as follows:

With **right sides together**, pin linings to head pieces, and backstitch together close to the edge, leaving neck edge open.

Turn heads right side out and stuff lightly – **please ensure that you only use stuffing that has a BS or CE label on the packaging, thank you.**

Turn over and slip stitch neck edge closed on both pieces. Make sure there are no gaps for stuffing to escape!

You now have 2 separate little padded pieces. Sew the 2 padded pieces together at the edges, this time leaving the bottom open so you can then get your fingers in the head, and there will be a stuffed pocket either side of your fingers. The rest of the puppet is sewn together (unstuffed) as normal.

Stuffing the head in this way prevents any stuffing being able to get out, therefore making it safer with children in mind.



SHIRT COLLAR

Using 4mm needles and white yarn, cast on 24sts.

Starting with a P row, st.st. 3 rows. Cast off P-wise. Slipstich to neck, leaving gap at centre front for tie.

TIE

Using 3mm needles and black yarn, cast on 7sts. P 1 row.

Row 1: Knit, decreasing one st at each end of row. (5sts)

Row 2: Purl

Row 3: Knit, decreasing one st at each end of row. (3sts)

Row 4: Purl

Row 5: Knit, increasing one st at each end of row. (5sts)

Row 6: Purl

Repeat rows 5 and 6 once. (7sts)

St.st 6 rows. Cast off.

To create knot of tie, curl round top of tie and slip st. row ends together. Tie a small length of yarn around base of knot. Pull tight and fasten off at the back of the knot.

JACKET

Use 4mm needles and DK yarn in dark blue.

Back

Cast on 22sts.

Knit 2 rows.

Starting with a Purl row, st.st. until work measures 4cm, ending with a P row.

Arms

Cast on 6 sts at beginning of next 2 rows.

St.st. 12 rows. Cast off.

Right Front

Cast on 12 sts,

Knit 2 rows.

Starting with a purl row, st.st. until work measures 4cm, ending with a P row.

Knit the 2 centre edge sts at the beginning of every P row.

Cast on 6sts. St. st. 12 rows. Cast off.

Left Front As for right front but reverse arm shapings.

Block out and press. Oversew seams, then catch in place on puppet at shoulder seams. Fold over the top corner of each centre edge to create a collar. Press and slip st in place.

Pockets

Using 3mm needles, cast on 6sts. Knit 2 rows.

Starting with a purl row, st st 4 rows. Cast off Pwise. Sew in place.

Oversew front openings and add grey/silver buttons, or embroider to look like buttons.

HELMET

Using 3mm needles and dark blue DK, cast on 50sts. St st 16 rows.

Shape top:

Row 1: (K3tog, K2) to end (40sts)

Row 2: Purl

Row 3: (K2, K2tog) to end (30sts)

Row 4: Purl

Row 5: (K1, K2 tog) to end (20sts)

Row 6: Purl

Row 7: (K2 tog) to end (10sts)

Leaving a long tail, break yarn and thread through remaining sts. Pull up tight and fasten off. Oversew seam.

Brim.

Cast on 60sts with double yarn. Garter st 2 rows. Break off one strand .

With remaining strand of yarn, (K4, K2tog) to end (50sts). Cast off. Sew to helmet.

Chin strap.

Using black yarn, cast on 2 sts and garter st to a length that fits your puppet. Cast off and attach.

Badge. Embroider or knit a star shape in silver or grey.

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