

HINDU PUPPET FAMILY – kindly donated by Libby in Hull.



I have used 4.5 mm needles and extra rows in the length for the adult puppets, to make them a little larger.

HINDU DAD AND GRANDDAD

Make basic puppet using Boy Puppet Pattern using 4.5 mm needles, but:-

- knit the shirt/jumper about 1 cm longer longer
- knit the top of the front of the head and all of the back of the head in turban colour
- Refer to Islamic Dad Pattern for stuffed head instructions
- Add basic beard and moustache, but curl ends of moustache upwards before sewing securely in place with cotton.

KNITTED TURBAN (I watched a youtube video to see how turbans are worn)

Using 4mm needles, cast on 7 sts and stocking stitch a strip about 45cms long. Knit the first and last stitch on all the purl rows. Steam press to flatten. Starting at the neck edge at the back of the head, wrap the piece around the head to make a turban shape, pinning as you go with bobble headed pins, then sew into place using cotton. Remove all pins!

Alternatively, use a strip of stretchy fabric and make as above.

HINDU MUM AND GRANDMA

Make basic stuffed head puppet using bright coloured yarn and Islamic Mum Pattern, using 4.5mm needles, but knit all the head in flesh colour.

HAIR PIECE

Using black or grey DK yarn and 4.5 mm needles, cast on 63 sts and rib 2 rows, then shape as follows:-

Row1: - (K5, k2 tog) to end (54sts)

Row2 and every alternate row: - Purl

Row3: - (K4, K2 tog) to end (45sts)

Row5: - (K3, K2 tog) to end (36sts)

Row7: - (K2, K2 tog) to end (27sts)

Row 9: - (K1, K2 tog) to end (18sts)

Row 11:- (K2 tog) to end (9sts)

Break yarn, pass through sts and fasten off. Oversew row ends together.

Pin to head with bobble headed pins. (You can manipulate the hair piece to make the shape you want.)

Make a plait. Sew into place just under the edge of the head piece at the back, then sew round hair piece making sure the plait is securely in place. Remove all pins!

CASTE MARK

I used non-toxic fabric paint and a cotton wool bud for this. You could also use a pencil crayon or a small bead. (securely sewn on)

SARI

Cut a rectangle of light-weight material (I used the end of an old headscarf) about 26cms by 10cms. Hem around the edges ensuring all frayed edges are enclosed. (It's easier to hand sew flimsy material)

Arrange sari over one shoulder, gather and catch in place. Spread the sari over the front and back of the doll and pin in place, tucking the excess at the bottom front corner under the hem. Slip stitch into place. Remove all pins.

GIRL

Use basic Boy Puppet Pattern and 4mm needles, but knit all in one colour and without the trouser shaping. Knit all the head in flesh colour.

Make basic hair piece as for Mum Puppet, but using 4mm needles. Make 2 plaits, then attach to either side of the head and sew all in place as for Mum Puppet.

BOY

Use Boy Puppet Pattern and 4mm needles, but knit the trousers a bit shorter and the shirt/ jumper a bit longer.

Make hair piece as for the girl, but arrange the hair piece to create the effect of a side parting, before sewing into place. Add small basic ears.

MOUTHS

As these puppets do not lend themselves to sad face on one side and happy face on the other, I have given them neutral, straight mouths so the handler can decide for themselves what emotion they want them to express.

Libby. January 2018