

**Arty Act: Doll Making
With Pat Pillai**



Create a miniature doll as a gift and experience how the meditative effect of knitting and binding free your mind to make room for artistic expression. As you work, imagine you are sending your best wishes to the intended recipient, whether that is you, a friend, the environment, or your favourite sports team. Doll making has a history across many cultures, with handmade dolls used not only as toys, but also in seasonal rituals and as a pathway to healing.

The following instructions are a guide only. Have fun and play. Fingers feet and faces are all optional. There are no real rules other than to ensure beads and buttons are securely attached and sharp edges are covered. Do not use buttons and beads if making for a small child



Suggested materials and Equipment

Yarn: DK (8 ply) ¼ of a ball, main colour, small amounts of different textures and colours

Recycled stretch fabric cut into strips 1cm wide

Pipe Cleaners and/ or 90 cm thin wire.

Toy stuffing or fabric scraps

Sewing thread

Beads and/or buttons* *do not use if making for a small child

Double sided sticky tape, white craft glue

Darning needle, sewing needle and scissors

Knitting needles size 10, preferably double ended

Knitting Nancy or DIY French Knitter

Terms and abbreviations:

Stocking stitch: Knit one row, purl one row

French Knitting and i-cord – basic instructions readily available on the internet



Mini Doll Knitting Instructions

Arms legs and body: Using main colour and knitting Nancy, knit a 12cm tube, tie off leaving 20cm tail at each end. Make 3 tubes. Alternatively, cast on 4 stitches and knit stocking stitch or i-cord.

Head: Cast on 12 stitches in main colour. 1st row: Knit to end, 2nd row: Pearl to end, repeat until work is square. Break yarn leaving a 35 cm tail. Using a darning needle, thread stitches on to tail and continue around remaining edges of square. Place your thumb in the centre of the square and gather up the to a cup shape (head). Stuff the head with a small amount of toy fill or fabric scraps.

To make up: Using 3 knitted tubes create a body with arms, legs and neck by stitching or twisting into shape with a pipecleaner. Insert neck into centre of head, stitch base of head firmly to the neck. Cover the body by winding yarn from the neck down, adding a little padding where appropriate and leaving arms and legs free. Secure firmly with a few stitches. Cut lengths of yarn in contrast colours and stitch to top of head for hair. Stitch a few threads for fingers.



Me as Marge Simpson

Decorate as desired. Give your creation a name. Have fun!

No Knit Mini Doll

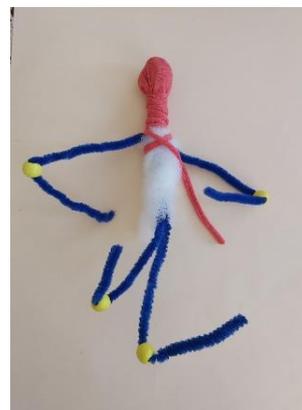
Materials: 3 pipe cleaners, 10cm square of stretch fabric or large bead for head, yarn or stretch fabric cut into 1cm strips, small amount of toy fill, beads* buttons* and yarn in contrasting colours.



Fabric head: bend end top third of two pipe cleaners around a ball of stuffing, twist together to form neck.



Cover with fabric and bind at neck to secure. Attach a pipe cleaner below neck to form arms.



Bend arms and legs toward body turning sharp ends in. Beads may be threaded as shown.



Twist bent sections to secure arms and legs. Wrap body with stuffing. Bind until completely covered, starting at the neck.

Bead head*: thread 2 pipe cleaners through a large bead. Bend and twist 6cm of each pipe cleaner around itself, then twist together for neck, leaving approximately 18 cm free for body and legs. Paint on eyes. * do not use if making for a small child



Gardening Grannie



Gym Junkie

To dress doll, change yarn or overwrap with different colours.

Finishing: Sew or glue on hair. Stitch on yarn fingers. Use craft glue to make hair and fingers stand up. Use double sided tape to secure desired hairstyle. Secure all ends with sewing needle and thread. Name your doll. Have fun!