



Oliver Henry 'Man of Wool' Doll

By Debra Hinton

Yarn Small amounts of jumper weight yarn (4ply), I used various Shetland wool, left over from previous projects, less than 1 ball of each colour is used. Small amounts of scrap yarn for embellishing the doll, facial features and cap.

For example, 1 ball of dark/medium blue (overalls), small amount of skin coloured yarn (face, neck, hands and arms), small amount of dark grey (shoes), small amount of light grey yarn for beard, scrap of gold yarn for wedding ring and boiler suit details, small amounts of yarn for peep of sweater and woolly hat.

Colours shown in photo: 21 (blue), 53 (peach), 54 (grey), 203 (light grey) and 9097 (red).

Needles and notions Set of double pointed needles 3.5mm double pointed needles (though length and size are not critical), row counter, several stitch holders or a large safety pins or circular needle, tapestry needle, stuffing of choice.

Finished measurements doll is between 20 and 27cm tall depending on your tension.

Difficulty – suitable for a confident novice knitter, good project to master knitting in the round using double pointed needles

Abbreviations Increase knitwise is done by knitting into the front and then into the back of the stitch.

Three-Needle Bind-Off method – if you are not familiar with this method I recommend checking one of the Internet tutorials e.g.

<https://www.dummies.com/crafts/knitting/designs-patterns/how-to-join-knitted-pieces-with-the-three-needle-bind-off/>

Alternatively you can use your favourite cast off and sew up method.

Note: as this is not a fitted garment any sweater weight 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 best to ensure that the doll keeps its shape and that the stuffing doesn’t leak out.

The doll is knitted in the round from the foot upwards two legs are knitted and then are joined and the body, arms and head is knitted. Different colours dresses the doll and form the face. The cap is knitted separately and then can be sewn in place if being given to a small child. The beard is embroidered on after the doll is stuffed. There are no items which could be removed and therefore pose a choking hazard to small children.

‘Man of Wool’ Doll

Legs (make 2)

Shoes

Using double pointed needles and black/dark grey yarn cast on 4 sts

Row 1 Increase knitwise in every stitch (8 sts)

Join into round and proceed knitting the hollow leg

Round 2 knit

Round 3 Increase knitwise into every 4th stitch (10 sts)

Rounds 4-10 knit

Arrange 5 stitches on one double pointed needle and 5 stitches on another.

Hold front 5 sts and work the back stitches in stocking stitch (backwards and forwards, purl and knit) for 4 rows (this forms the heel of the shoe) ending on a knit row.

Pick up 3 stitches (forms the side of the shoe) and knit across the front 5 stitches.

Pick up 3 stitches (forms the side of the shoe) and knit across the back 5 stitches.
(16 sts in total).

Sock & Trousered leg

Break off black yarn, leaving a length of about 10 cm for sewing up, join in red yarn and knit one round for a glimpse of sock. Break off yarn, leaving 10cm tail which will be used to define bottom of leg. Join in dark blue yarn to work the overalls leg.

Knit 24 rounds.

Break off the dark blue yarn, leaving a length of about 10 cm for sewing up. Slip the first leg onto a stitch holder whilst the second leg is worked. Make sure that the feet are positioned correctly so that when the body is formed the feet are both pointing in the same direction. Do not break off yarn on the second leg.

Body

At this point we join the two legs and create the doll's bottom and front

slip each set of the leg stitches (16 sts each) from their stitch holder onto a double pointed needle, arranging the two back leg stitches on one needle and the two front leg stitches on another needle, make sure that the feet are facing the same direction. Commencing from the last completed leg (the one with the yarn still attached) knit across the front leg and then cast on 3 stitches to form the crotch, then knit across the second front leg stitches and then the second back leg and then cast on 3 stitches to form the crotch and then knit across the first back leg completing the lower abdomen. (38 sts)

Divide the stitches onto two double pointed needles with 19 stitches of the front of the body on one and 19 stitches of the back of the doll on the other. Use a third double pointed needle as you work in the round.

Next two rounds. (K 1 st increase knitwise k 15 sts increase knitwise K1) x 2.
(46 sts)

Knit 5 rounds.

Before knitting any further we will stuff the lower half of the doll. To avoid any dropped stitches I like to slip the active stitches onto a small circular needle or stitch holders so that they are secure. Turn the knitting inside out and make sure that all the joined threads are on the inside and that there are no gaps in the knitting, checking the tip of the shoes and crotch area in particular. Sew up any potential holes and make sure that the joins are secure. There is no need to trim the tails as they will mingle in with the stuffing. Turn the legs right side out and **lightly** stuff the shoes, legs and lower abdomen. When inserting the stuffing ensure that the legs are stuffed evenly.

Define the bottom of the leg: Using the tails from the sock yarn, run that around the base of each leg to define the top of the foot. Tie off and slip the left over yarn inside the leg.

Slip the stitches back onto the double pointed needles, 23 front sts and 23 back sts, as before.

Knit 6 rounds.

Shaping:

(K1, s1 k1 pssso, k17 sts, k2 tog, k1) x 2 (42 sts)

Knit 2 rounds

(K1, s1 k1 pssso, k17 sts, k2 tog, k1) x 2 (38 sts)

Knit 10 rounds

Next we will shape the shoulders and at the same time insert a small peep of sweater as the top button of the overall which is a little undone. You can be as fancy as you want to be with this peep of sweater – it can be stripes, fair isle or plain.

(K1, s1 k1 pssso, k6 sts, join in sweater yarn e.g. pale blue and k1, go back to overall colour, k6 , k2 tog, k1) x 2 (34 sts)

(K1, s1 k1 pssso, k4 sts, k3 in sweater yarn, k4, k2 tog, k1) x 2 (30 sts)

(K1, s1 k1 pssso, k2 sts, k5 in sweater yarn, k2, k2 tog, k1) x 2 (26 sts)

We will use the Three-Needle Bind-Off method to bind off and join the shoulders (or use your preferred cast off and sew up method) and set up for the neck. With the front of the doll facing you, set the left shoulder stitches onto two separate double pointed needles (2 sts front shoulder, 2 stitches back shoulder) taking a stitch from each needle and working across the 4 stitches, cast off (thus binding the left shoulders together). Knit across the front (sweater peep) stitches and then set up and use three needle bind-off for the 4 right should stitches, break off overall yarn. This leaves 9 stitches at the front and 9 at back for the doll's neck.

(18sts)

Before knitting the head we will stuff the torso. Making sure that your live stitches are secure on stitch holders, turn the torso knitting inside out and make sure that all the joined threads are on the inside and that there are no gaps in the knitting, checking the tip of the shoulders in particular. Sew up any potential holes and make sure that the joins are secure. There is no need to trim the tails as they will mingle in with the stuffing. Do not overstuff.

Head

Join in the flesh coloured yarn and with the front 9 sts on one double pointed needle and the back 9 sts on another double pointed needle, and using a third double pointed needle knit 3 rounds for the doll's neck.

Increase knitwise at the start and end of each set of sts (22 sts)

Knit 3 rounds

Increase knitwise at the start and end of each set of sts (26 sts)

Knit 5 rounds

s1 k1 pssso at the start of each set of sts and k2tog at the end of each set of sts

(22 sts)

Knit 1 round

s1 k1 pssso at the start of each set of sts and k2tog at the end of each set of sts

(18 sts)

Slip these 18 sts onto a short circular needle whilst we stuff the head (do NOT break yarn).

Stuff the doll's head and neck. Do not over stuff.

Slip the sts back onto two double point needles (9 on the front needle, 9 on the back needle), as before, use the three needle bind-off, or use your preferred cast off and sew up. Weave in any loose threads.

Collar of overalls

Using the dark blue yarn, pick up 28 sts around top of overall, using double pointed needles. Working in k1 p1 rib (but not in the round as we want to form the collar at the front), work 3 rows. Cast off in rib, perhaps using a larger sized needle to minimise the collar curling. Alternatively, an easier option is to cast on 30 sts and work 3 rows in single rib, cast off in rib and then sew the collar in place.

Embellish the overalls

You can add a gather to the back waist and hints of pockets and studs and labels if you wish. I knitted a little tab casting on 5 sts, knitting two rows and casting off. I sewed it in place forming a slight back waist gather.

Arms (make 2)

Cast on 4 sts in dark blue yarn

Increase in every st (8 sts)

R2 Join and knit in round

R3 increase in every 2nd st (12 sts)

Knit 14 rounds

Break off dark blue yarn and join in pink yarn for hand

Knit 3 rounds

Stuff arm before working thumb and fingers. Do not over stuff.

Work thumb: knit 4 st, turn and purl 4 sts, turn and cast off. Break yarn, leaving a tail for sewing up.

Work hand/fingers: rejoin yarn, knit 4 rounds. Cast off.

Stuff / sew up hand.

Join arms to body

Using a double thread of dark blue yarn (securely knotted), push needle through the top of the torso and through the top of one arm, pass the needle and yarn through this arm, torso and second arm. Do this at least 3 times to secure arms to body, tie off snugly and weave the ends inside the doll. The arms should be able to move but should not be too loose, or too tight! Ensure that the thumbs/hands are correctly aligned.

Nose

Decide where you want the nose to start and end and using two of the double pointed needles and the flesh coloured yarn pick up 3 sts (from the bottom of the nose upwards), make sure that you leave a tail of about 6 cm at the start. Knit 2 rows. Cast off the first 1 sts (the bridge of the nose) and then knit the remaining 2 sts (to the tip of the nose), then cast off these 2 sts. Break off yarn leaving a tail of about 6 cm. Using these tails to shape the nose and to form nostrils, secure the ends and then slip the ends into the inside of the doll.

Eyes

At approximately the top of the bridge of the nose add in the dolls eyes by darning in small amounts of coloured yarn (refer to photograph).

Eyebrows and sideburns

Using darning needle and hair coloured yarn darn on eyebrows (refer to photograph).

Ears

On each side of the doll's hear, about half way up and using two of the double pointed needles and the flesh coloured yarn pick up 5 sts (from the bottom upwards), make sure that you leave a tail of about 6 cm at the start. Knit 2 rows. Cast off the first 2 sts (the top of the ear) and then knit the remaining 2 sts (to the lobe of the ear), then cast off these 4 sts. Break off yarn leaving a tail of about 6 cm. Using these tails to shape the ears, secure the ends and then slip the ends into the inside of the doll.

Beard

Using darning needle and hair coloured yarn darn on a beard (refer to photograph).
Note: if the doll is for a very small child do not make the beard too bushy as they will inevitably eat it, which would not be a good thing for either the doll or the baby.

Hair

Hair, using the hair coloured yarn and darning needle style your doll's hair by darning on the hairstyle.

or

Cap

Mr Henry habitually wears a knitted cap so I made a cap and this can be sewed in place (to prevent it being eaten by a baby or being lost). You can, of course choose to have both hair and a removable cap, in which case you should make both.

You can get as fancy as you wish with the cap, but you will be limited in design by the small number of stitches!

To knit the cap, cast on 5 sts using the smaller of the double pointed needles.
Increase in each st then join in the round (10 sts)

Knit round

Increase in every st (20 sts)

Knit round

Increase in every st (40 sts)

Knit 2 rounds

Decrease every 3rd st (30 sts)

Knit 4 rounds k1 p1 rib and cast off.

