

Jean Greenhowe's Jolly Octopuses



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JEAN GREENHOWE'S JOLLY OCTOPUSES

Knit these versatile characters as comical ornaments perched on their plump pebbles, or colourful mascots for the family car. The boy version is also suitable for sports fans, simply knit the scarf and hat in the required team colours.

Both stand up on their tootsies, then sit down flat, making amusing toys for the children. Worked mostly in garter stitch on 4mm [No 8, USA 6] needles, they knit up quickly from oddments of double knitting yarn. Each one measures 14cm [5½in] from the toes to tops of the cap bobbles.

Measurements: The Octopuses measure 14cm [5½in] from tops of the cap bobbles to the toes. The pebble is 12cm [4¾in] in length.

MATERIALS

Knitting yarn: Oddments of double knitting [USA Bonus DK or Astra: Australia 8 ply] in colours stated in the instructions, or colours of your choice.

Stuffing: Only small amounts are required.

Knitting needles: A pair of 4mm [No 8, USA 6].

Plastic glue-on wiggle eyes: [Also known as joggle eyes or moveable eyes in the USA]. Two for each Octopus, 10mm in diameter.

Glue: A quick drying adhesive, such as all purpose UHU.

Compasses: For drawing circles.

Cardboard: About the thickness of note pad backing pieces. Only small pieces are required.

NOTES

Abbreviations: cm = centimetre[s]; mm = millimetre[s]; in = inch[es]; K = knit; P = purl; g-st = garter stitch [every row knit]; st-st = stocking stitch [K on the right side and P on the wrong side]; tog = together; inc = increase [by working twice into the same st].

Special abbreviations

B & T tightly – means break off yarn leaving a long end, thread it through the sts left on the knitting needle, pull to gather tightly, then fasten off.

yrn = yarn round needle as follows. Take strand of yarn under and over tip of right-hand needle, then continue as given in the instructions.

USA glossary

UK	USA
K wise	K ways
Cast off	bind off
Stocking stitch	stockinette stitch
Tension	gauge

Instructions in round brackets: These are to be repeated the number of times stated after the closing bracket.

Tension: Using 4mm [No 8, USA 6] knitting needles, the tension for double knitting yarn is 22 sts = 10cm [4in] in width over st-st.

Casting on: The thumb method is recommended.

Casting off: Cast off K wise unless otherwise stated.

** Stars are used to mark a place in the instructions which will be referred to later on. Meanwhile follow the instructions in the usual way.

Making up: Join seams with right sides of work together and back-stitch one knitted stitch within the edges, unless oversewing is stipulated.

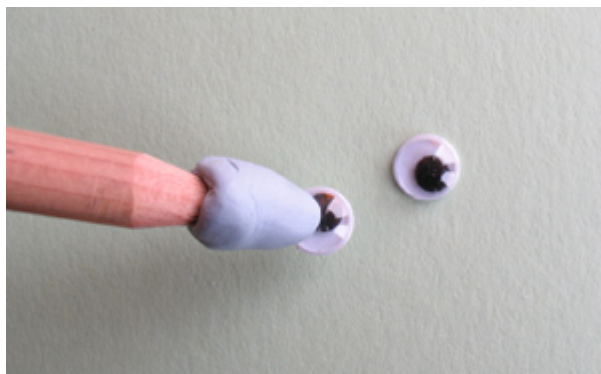
Working the mouth stitches

Thread a blunt-ended needle with the yarn required and knot end of yarn. Take needle through the item, passing it between the knitted sts and bring it out at the position required. Pull the yarn through to draw the knotted end right inside the stuffing. Tug the yarn to make sure the knot is caught in the stuffing. Now work the required stitches. Pass the needle back through the item to come out at a position between the knitted sts. Pass the needle back again between the same knitted sts, to come out at a different position. Repeat until the yarn is securely fastened off. Pull end of yarn and snip off close to the knitted sts.

Making a twisted cord

Cut a strand of yarn four times as long as the measurement required. Knot one end round a door knob or hook and knot a loop in the other end to fit round the index finger of your right hand. Now keeping the yarn taut, twist your finger round and round in a clockwise direction, steadying the yarn by holding your left hand cupped around it close to your right hand. Keep twisting until when relaxed, the strand of yarn begins to curl tightly back on itself. Fold cord at centre, bringing ends together. Allow the yarn to twist tightly, smoothing along the length to even out the twists. Knot both ends.

Applying the wiggle eyes: Wiggle eyes are fiddly to handle, but they can be applied easily as follows. You will need a bit of reusable putty adhesive such as Blu Tack [USA: Elmers Tack]. Mould the putty adhesive around the pointed end of a pencil. Pick up the front side of the eye with the adhesive-covered pencil point. Now apply a little glue on the flat side of the eye directly from the tube. Alternatively, put a blob of glue on a piece of paper and dip the flat side of the eye in the glue. Press the eye in position on the knitted piece. Release the eye from the pencil point with your finger-tip. Press the eye firmly in place.



TOY SAFETY

The items in this pattern are not suitable as playthings for babies and very young children. It should also be noted that the packaging on glue-on plastic wiggle eyes is labelled '**Warning**, not suitable for children under 3 years of age.'

The materials used for the designs which appear in this pattern are: knitting yarn, toy stuffing, cardboard and plastic glue-on wiggle eyes. Do not add any other materials such as wire, pipe cleaners, buttons or beads.

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OCTOPUS

BASIC BODY/HEAD PIECE

Use light green for boy or light pink for the girl.

Cast on 18 sts loosely.

Note that first row is right side of the piece.

G-st 49 rows, slipping first st K wise on every row.

Cast off loosely K wise.

To make up

With wrong side of the piece outside, oversew the cast on and cast off edges together. This seam will be at centre back of the Octopus.

Gather all round one set of row ends for the base as follows. Slide the sewing needle through the edge of the protruding sts, then pull up gathers tightly and fasten off. Leave wrong side outside.

For the base stiffener, cut two 4cm [1½in] diameter circles of cardboard and glue them together. Put a blob of glue at centre of the circle, then press it centrally on the knitted piece at centre of gathered base. Leave glue to dry. Now carefully turn the knitted piece right side out, pushing the cardboard circle inside.

Stuff to measure 20cm [8in] around at centre. Gather the remaining set of row ends as given for the base. Pull up the gathers, leaving a small hole at centre. Continue stuffing to round off the top end. Pull up gathers tightly and fasten off.



Mouth

Note: Refer to 'Working the mouth stitches' in the Notes pages.

Use a length of black yarn. Pull out one strand and use the remaining strands to work the mouth stitches.

Place a pin at centre front, about 2.5cm [1in] above base of the body/head piece. Now work two small stitches, forming a V-shape with base of the V at position of the pin.

Eyes

Glue on the wiggle eyes side by side centrally above the mouth, with lower ends 1.5cm [5⁄8in] above base of the mouth.

LEGS [make eight]

Use light green for boy and light pink for the girl. Cast on 10 sts and note that first row is right side.

1st row: K.

2nd row: Slip first st K wise, K to end.

Repeat these two rows 3 more times, then first row once.

Cast off loosely.

To make up

Note that the slipped st row ends are the foot ends of legs.

With right side outside, oversew the cast on and cast off edges together. Gather round the slipped sts, pull up tightly and fasten off. Stuff leg lightly, using tweezers [or points of scissors] to insert the stuffing.

With the oversewn seam at centre of the remaining row ends, oversew across the row ends sts. This will flatten the top end of the leg and make it wider than the stuffed section.

To sew on the legs

Note that the oversewn seams will be underneath the legs when sewing them in place.

Sew top end of one leg to centre back of the main piece, just above the cardboard circle.

Repeat at centre front, then with two more legs evenly spaced between the first two. Now sew the remaining four legs to the spaces between the first four legs.

BOY'S SCARF

Main piece

Begin at top edge and using red [or the required main colour] cast on 36 sts.

Note that first row is right side of the piece. Join on yellow [or the required contrast colour] and g-st 2 rows. Break off contrast and continue in main colour.

K 1 row, then cast off loosely K wise.

Oversew the row ends together, then turn right side out. Place scarf on the Octopus with cast off edge resting on tops of the legs. This is a temporary measure, so do not sew the scarf in place at this stage.

Scarf end pieces [make two alike]

Note: When breaking off and joining on yarns, leave about 12cm [4³/₄in] tail-ends of yarn for making the tassels later on.

Using the main colour cast on 8 sts.

Break off yarn, join on contrast colour and g-st 2 rows.

Break off yarn and join on main colour. K 1 row, then cast off loosely K wise. You should now have 6 tail-ends of yarn, four in the main colour and two in contrast colour. Gather the tail-ends together and tie them in a single knot, pushing the knot up against the row ends. Tighten and even up the knot by pulling each tail-end. Trim the yarn strands to 1cm [¹/₂in] in length and tease out to get finer strands. Wet the tassels to straighten the strands, then trim off the fluffy ends.

To assemble the end pieces and scarf

With both pieces right side up, place one on top of the other, matching all the edges and the tassels. Oversew the row ends together.

With right side outside, slot the under piece through the scarf piece at position of the scarf seam. Pull the under piece down so that the oversewn row ends seam is hidden behind the scarf. The tail-ends piece will be sewn to the scarf as positioned.

Remove all the scarf pieces and sew the ends piece in place. Now re-position the scarf on the Octopus as before, placing the ends to one side of the face as illustrated.

Sew the cast on edge of the scarf in place, leaving the ends section free.

BOY'S CAP

Note: When working the stripes, carry yarns loosely up side of the work. Begin at lower edge and using the main colour cast on 40 sts.
G-st 2 rows, then join on contrast colour.

Beginning with a K row, st-st 8 rows, working in 2 row alternate stripes of the contrast and main colour. Continue in st-st, keeping sequence of stripes correct

*** Shape top of cap**

1st row: (K2, K2tog) to end – 30 sts.

2nd and every following alternate row: P.

3rd row: (K1, K2tog) to end – 20 sts.

5th row: (K2tog) to end – 10 sts.

Break off main colour and continue in contrast for the bobble.

Beginning with a P row, st-st 5 rows.

B & T tightly **.

To make up

Join the row ends as far as the bobble section. Oversew row ends of the bobble together.

* Turn right side out. Stuff the bobble firmly. Now use a length of contrast yarn to gather round first knitted row of the bobble. Knot ends of yarn tightly then wind yarn once around gathers and knot again. Sew yarn ends into bobble **.

Place cap on the Octopus with seam at centre back. Cast on edge of cap should be 1.5cm [$\frac{3}{8}$ in] above top of scarf at back and just above the eyes at front. Sew cast on edge in place.

GIRL'S CAP

Begin at inner edge of the hem section and using white [or the required contrast colour] cast on 40 sts.

Beginning with a P row, st-st 2 rows.

Work picot edge as follows

Next row: K1, (ym, K2tog) to last st, K1.

Beginning with a K row, st-st 3 rows.

Next row: K. This completes the hem section.

Break off yarn and join on yellow [or the required main colour].

Beginning with a K row, st-st 8 rows.

Shape top of cap

Work as given for Boy's cap from * to **.

To make up

Join the row ends as far as the bobble section. Oversew row ends of the bobble together and leave wrong side out.

Turn up the hem at the picot edge. Catch the cast on edge to the last row of contrast colour.

Now refer to 'To make up' for the Boy's cap and work from * to **.

Place cap on the Octopus with seam at centre back. The lower picot points should be about 1cm [$\frac{3}{8}$ in] above the legs at back and just above the eyes at front. Sew cap in place through the first row of the main colour.

GIRL'S COLLAR

Begin at neck edge and using main colour cast on 28 sts.

1st row: Slip first st K wise, K to end.

2nd row: Slip first st K wise, (yarn, K1) to end.

Next [cast off] row: Slip first st K wise, then cast off P wise, noting that cast off row is right side.



To make up

Gather up each set of row ends tightly and fasten off. These are front edges of the collar. Place it around the Octopus and catch ends of cast off edge together at centre front. Sew cast on edge in place, just above the legs.

Make a 24cm [$9\frac{1}{2}$ in] twisted cord [refer to the Notes pages]. Tie it in a small bow at centre. Knot the ends of cord to even lengths as illustrated. Trim off the ends below the knot. Sew bow to collar at centre front.

GIRL'S PLAITS

Use a slightly darker shade of pink yarn than the Octopus.

Cut six 30cm [12in] lengths of yarn, stretching the yarn when measuring. Using white [or the required colour], tie a length of yarn tightly around centre of the yarn strands.

In order to plait easily, fix the contrast strands to edge of a table or similar, with a bit of sticky tape. Now divide the strands into three groups of 4 and plait them.

When the plait measures about 5cm [2in], knot a length of contrast yarn around the plait. Wind one of the contrast strands several times around the plait for the hair band. Sew both contrast yarn ends into the band and trim off excess length. Trim plait yarn ends to even lengths.

Using the yarn strands tied at centre of the plait, sew them up through the hat at one side of the head, to come out at first row of the main colour. Pull yarn ends through so that plait is tucked under the picot hem section. Fasten off yarn strands with small stitches to secure. Sew yarn strands through head and snip off close to the knitted sts.

Repeat with second plait at opposite side of the head.

PEBBLE

Notes: Use two different shades of fawn and work in uneven random stripes. Break and join on yarns as required for the wide stripes. K side of st-st is right side.

Cast on 12 sts and P 1 row.



Work increases as follows

1st row: Inc K wise into every st – 24 sts.

2nd and every following alternate row: P.

3rd row: (K1, inc in next st) to end – 36 sts.

5th row: (K2, inc in next st) to end – 48 sts.

Beginning with a P row, st-st 23 rows.

Work decreases as follows

1st row: (K2, K2tog) to end – 36 sts.

2nd and every following alternate row: P.

3rd row: (K1, K2tog) to end – 24 sts.

5th row: (K2tog) to end – 12 sts.

B & T tightly.

To make up

Starting at the B & T end, join the row ends to within 4cm [1½in] of the cast on sts. Turn right side out.

For the base piece, cut a 5cm by 9cm [2in by 3½in] piece of cardboard. Round off all the corners to make an oval shape. Push the piece inside the pebble lengthways, with the seam underneath and running down centre of the cardboard.

Now push the cardboard further in, so that the short rounded end is covering the B & T sts.

Stuff the pebble firmly, taking care to keep the cardboard in the correct position. Close gap in seam, then gather round the cast on sts. Pull gathers up slightly and continue stuffing. Pull up gathers tightly and fasten off.

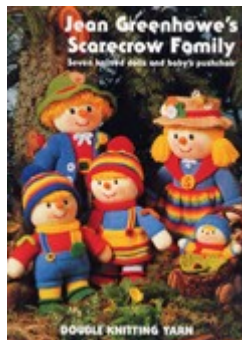
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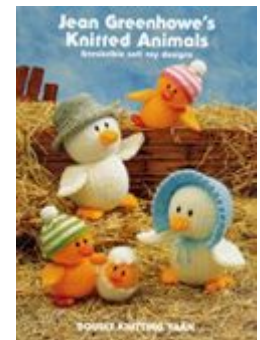
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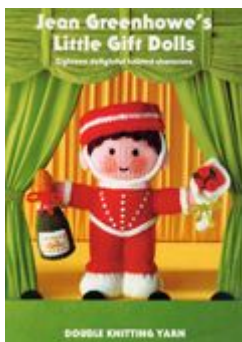
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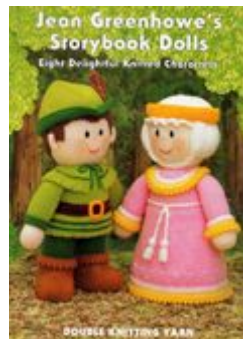
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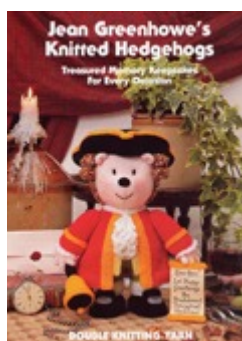
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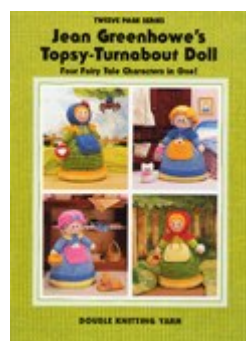
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Knitted Hedgehogs



Little Dumpling Ladies



Topsy-Turnabout Doll



MacScarecrow Clan

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