

Kokeshi Doll

By Aine Marriott and Sydney Alexis



Materials:

Double knitting yarn
2.75mm needles
Polyester stuffing
Darning needle

Gauge:

6 sts and 9 rows to 1 inch over stocking stitch. Exact gauge is not too important, just make sure the knitting is nice and tight so the stuffing doesn't show through.

Body

Cast on 20 sts using pink.

Row 1: Purl across.

Row 2: Inc in each st across: 40 sts.

Rows 3-17: Beginning with a purl row, work in St st for 15 rows.

Row 18: (K8, K2tog) across: 36 sts.

Rows 19-23: Beginning with a purl row, work in St st for 5 rows.

Row 24: (K7, K2tog) across: 32 sts.

Rows 25-29: Beginning with a purl row, work in St st for 5 rows.

Row 30: (K6, K2tog) across: 28 sts.

Rows 31-35: Beginning with a purl row, work in St st for 5 rows.

Row 36: (K5, K2tog) across: 24 sts.

Rows 37 and 38: Beginning with a purl row, work in St st for 2 rows. Break off main body color and join on head color for head.

Row 39: Purl across.

Row 40: (K2, kfb) across: 36 sts.

Rows 41-57: Beginning with a purl row, work in St st for 17 rows. Mark the center of Row 50 with a colored thread.

Head Shaping

Row 1: (K2, K2tog) across: 27 sts.

Row 2: Purl across.

Row 3: (K1, K2tog) across: 18 sts.

Row 4: Purl across.

Row 5: K2tog across: 9 sts.

Break off a long length of yarn, thread yarn through remaining sts, pulling tightly to close.

Seam the back edge of the body from the top down. Turn right side out and stuff firmly. Use a length of Bright Green to gather the cast on sts, pull up tightly and fasten off. Use a length of Flesh Tone yarn to sew running sts around the base of the head. Pull these sts up a little to shape the neck further.

Face

The eyes are worked in black yarn on the marked row. Mark the point for each eye 1 clear knitted st either side of the center marked stitch. Bring the yarn out at this point. Work a straight stitch upwards over 2 knitted rows. Repeat twice. Fasten off yarn. The nose is worked just below the centre marked stitch. Use the head color to work 5-6 stitches, one on top of the other, over the stitch below the marked stitch.

For the mouth, use red yarn to make a small 'v' shape 2-3 rows under the nose.

Use a red coloring pencil to lightly rub over the cheeks to give a slight flush to the face.

Hair

Cast on 40 sts.

Rows 1-17: Knit across.

Row 18: (K2, K2tog) across: 30 sts.

Row 19: Knit across.

Row 20: (K1, K2tog) across: 20 sts.

Row 21: Knit across.

Row 22: K2tog across: 10 sts.

Break off a long length of yarn, thread yarn through remaining sts, pulling tightly to gather.

Place the hair on the head, leaving about 5-6 rows between the hair and the eyes at the top of the face. Sew in position.

Hair Bun

Cast on 28 sts.

Rows 1-6: Knit across.

Rows 7 and 8: K2tog across: 7 sts.

Break off a long length of yarn, thread yarn through remaining sts, pulling tightly to gather. Seam row edges. Stuff bun and sew to back of head.

Basic arms (make 2)

Using main body color, cast on 12 sts.

Rows 1-10: Beginning with a knit row, work in St st for 10 rows.

Break off main body color and join on hand color.

Rows 11-16: Work in St st for 6 rows.

Row 17: K2tog across: 6 sts.

Break off a long length of yarn, thread yarn through remaining sts, pulling tightly to gather.

Seam row ends of arms. Stuff hands, but leave rest of arms very loose.

Kimono Sleeves (make 2)

Cast on 40 sts.

Rows 1-15: St-st, beginning purl.

Row 16: cast off 14 sts, knit 12, cast off remaining 14 sts.

Break yarn and rejoin to the centre section with wrong side facing.

Row 17-26: St-st, beginning purl.

Cast off, leaving a long tail to sew up.

With wrong sides facing out, fold the piece in half. Seam from the cast off edge all the way around to the cast on edge, leaving a 1.5 inch opening near the fold completely open. Turn right side out. Lightly stuff the sleeve portion of the arm from the cast off edge, along the small tube created by the decrease.

Place the arm into the opening left after seaming the sleeve. Sew the arm into place carefully using the yarn you used to create the sleeve. The portion of the sleeve not seamed will naturally curl backwards creating a finished look.

Sew arms to body. Then catch the hands together in front with a few small stitches.

Obi (first piece)

Cast on 40 sts.

Rows 1-7: st-st, beginning k

Cast off, leaving a long end to oversew ends and sew around the body.

Obi (second piece)

Cast on 7 sts.

Rows 1-25: st-st, beginning k

Cast off.

Oversew the cast on and cast off edges. Tack into place on the back of the doll over the oversewn ends of the first piece.



Decorate hair as desired. Tie a length of yarn around the obi and make a little knot at the front.

Embroider the crossover of the kimono over the chest.

