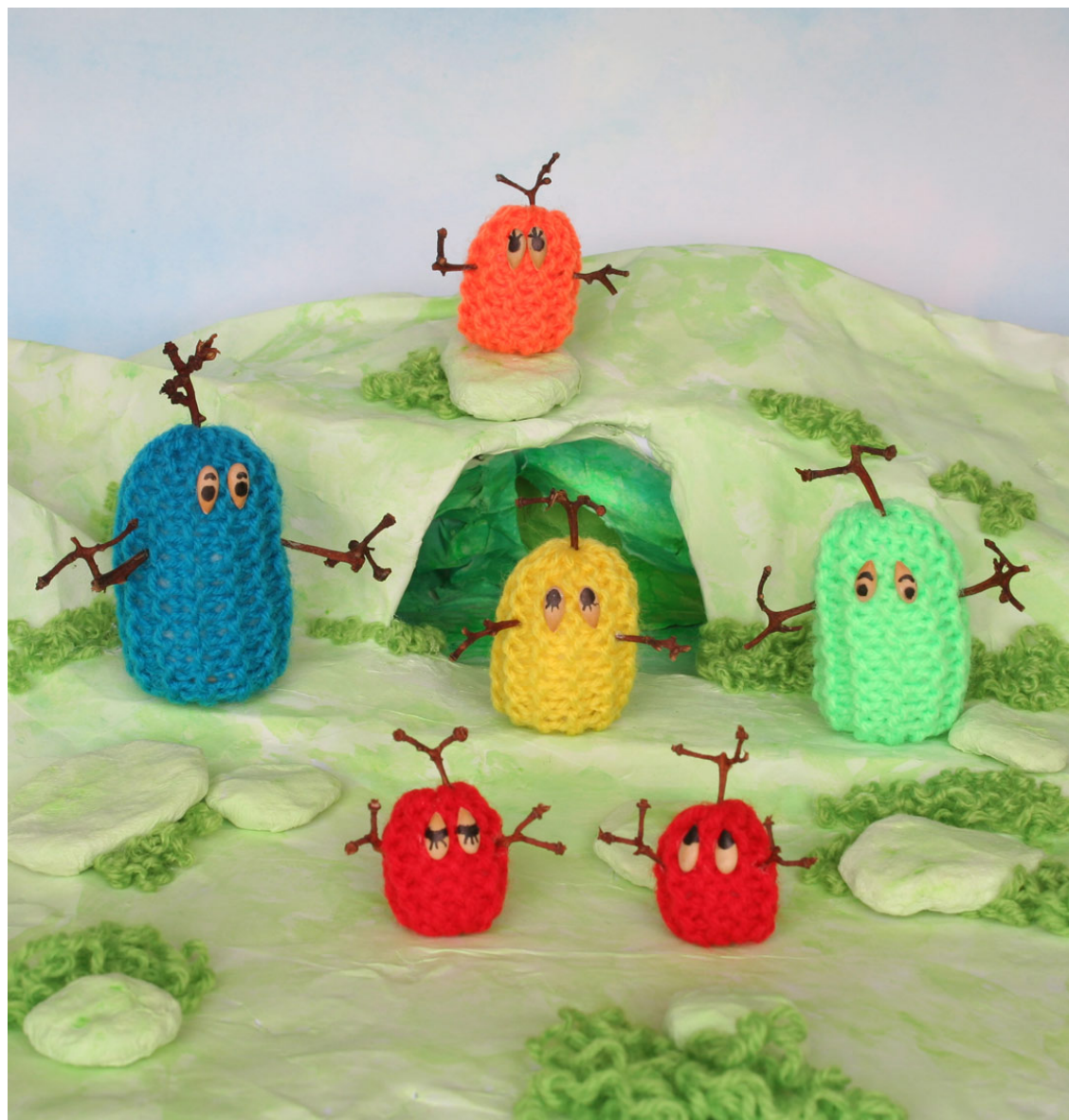


Jean Greenhowe's Nittybods



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JEAN GREENHOWE'S NITTYBODS

Say hello to the Nittybod family from Nittyland – Daddy, Mummy, Tweenager, Toddler and Baby Twins. You can have lots of fun knitting these little creatures using up all those tiny scraps of left-over yarn. Glue on melon seed eyes, add grape stalk arms and pointy head bits and they turn into comical characters. It's amazing how so many different expressions are possible using throw-away materials!

Easy-peasy to knit – just garter stitch strips, the Nittybods can be made as mini mascots to amuse your family and friends.

Daddy measures 6cm [2½in] high, Baby Twins just 2.5cm [1in] and the other sizes are in-between.

MATERIALS

Knitting yarn: Small oddments of double knitting [USA Astra or Bonus DK: Australia 8 ply].

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

Marker pen: A fine black permanent marker pen for the eye details.

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

Melon seeds and grape stalks: Refer to the instructions.

Blu-Tack [USA Elmer's Tack]: A small amount is required for The Twins and as an aid to marking eye details on the melon seeds and gluing the eyes in place.

Cardboard: For the bases, about the thickness of note pad backing pieces, or breakfast cereal boxes.

Stuffing: Only small amounts required.

Compasses: For drawing circles.

NOTES

Abbreviations: sts = stitches; g-st = garter stitch, every row knit.

TOY SAFETY

These characters are not suitable for babies or very young children. They are intended as mascots for older children and adults.

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PREPARATION – MELON SEEDS

Honeydew melon seeds were used for the originals. Cut the melon in half and scrape out the seeds onto a plate. Pull out some seeds from the melon residue and wash them in a bowl of water to remove any attached bits of melon. Skim off the seeds using a small sieve, then spread them out on two or three layers of kitchen paper towel and leave to dry. Any remaining bits of melon will stick to the paper towel.

GRAPE STALKS

Enjoy the grapes and save the stalks. Leave them to dry out until they shrink in size and become rigid. They can easily be cut with scissors.

THE KNITTED PIECES

Notes: When casting on and off, leave long tail-ends of yarn for sewing up the pieces. Use the colours illustrated, or colours of your choice. Cast on using the thumb method. Cast off in the knit stitch.

Daddy [blue]: Cast on 14 sts and g-st 23 rows. Cast off.

Mummy [green]: Cast on 12 sts and g-st 21 rows. Cast off.

Tweenager [yellow]: Cast on 10 sts and g-st 19 rows. Cast off.

Toddler [orange]: Cast on 8 sts and g-st 17 rows. Cast off.

Baby Twins [red]: Cast on 6 sts and g-st 15 rows. Cast off.

TO MAKE UP

Oversew the cast on and cast off edges together. Gather round one set of row ends, pull up gathers tightly and fasten off. This end is the base. Turn right side out.

BASE PIECES

For Daddy, cut two 2.5cm [1in] diameter circles of cardboard and glue them together. Push the circle inside the knitted piece so that centre is at centre of the gathered row ends.

For Mummy, use slightly smaller cardboard circles than Daddy.

For Tweenager, use 2cm [$\frac{3}{4}$ in] diameter cardboard circles.

For Toddler, use 1.5cm [$\frac{5}{8}$ in] diameter cardboard circles.

For Baby Twins, use a pea-sized ball of Blu-Tack. Flatten it and insert against the gathered base, pressing it in place.

TO COMPLETE EACH ONE

Stuff the knitted piece, keeping it same size as the base. Gather round the remaining set of row ends, pull up tightly and fasten off.

THE EYES

As can be seen in the photographs, marking the melon seed eyes gives different comical expressions. The seeds can also be glued on with the pointed ends upwards or downwards.

Flatten a bit of Blu-Tack. Press seeds gently onto the Blu-Tack. This holds them in place, so that the details can be drawn on with the marker pen. Mark the eyes, then remove them from the Blu-Tack. Glue them in positions as shown in the illustrations, as described below.

Applying the melon seed eyes: These are fiddly to handle, but they can be easily applied as follows. You will need a bit of Blu-Tack [USA Elmer's Tack]. Mould it around the pointed end of a pencil. Pick up the front side of the eye with the covered pencil point. Now apply a little glue on the reverse side of the eye directly from the tube. Alternatively, put a blob of glue on a piece of paper and dip the reverse 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.

THE ARMS AND HEAD PIECES

Using scissors, cut a suitable section of grape stalk for one arm and 'hand' making sure there is a longish bit for the 'arm' section, which can be pushed inside the body.

Put a dab of glue on the long end of the grape stalk and push it into one side of the body, between the knitted stitches, referring to the illustration for positions. Repeat with the other arm and then for top of the head piece. Leave glue to dry, then tug the grape stalks to make sure they are securely glued in place.

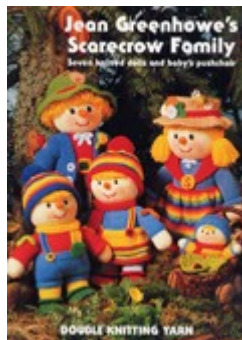
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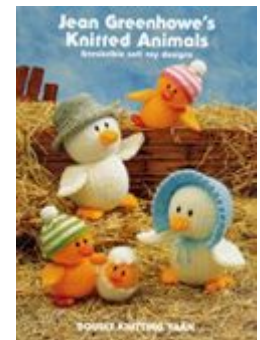
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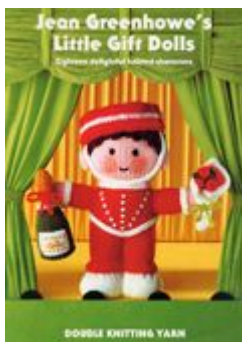
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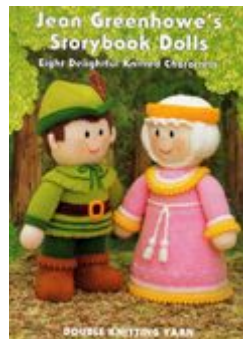
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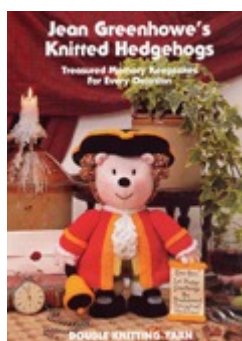
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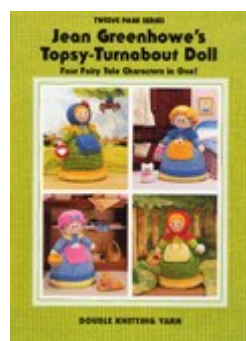
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