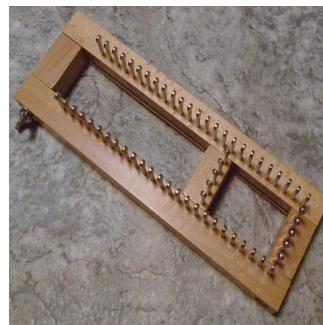


Vincent & Catherine Comfort Dolls

by Angie



Although these dolls are usually knit on regular knitting needles, they're much easier to knit as a tube on a knitting loom. The dolls on the left were knit with bulky yarn on a round plastic loom with 24 pegs, the smallest of a set sold in craft stores (left, blue, below). The dolls on the right were knit with knitting worsted yarn on a rectangular, adjustable loom (right, below).



The entire doll is knit without increasing or decreasing the number of stitches. Knitting and finishing begins at the feet. Finished bulky dolls measure 9"/23cm (Vincent) and 8"/20cm (Catherine), the smaller dolls are 6"/15cm and 5"/13cm, respectively.

For the larger dolls, Vincent is made with extra-bulky and Catherine with regular bulky yarn (knitting worsted may be doubled to get sufficient thickness). Doing this allows the Vincent doll to be larger, without changing the pattern. The small Vincent was knit on 32 pegs, Catherine on 28.

Yarn used must be very strong. Nubbly, chenille, bouclé, cotton, or fingering yarns are unsuitable. Pure wool, polyester or blended yarns work well. Five or six colours of yarn are required, including a flesh tone for the face, and hair colour.

When changing colours, cut off the finished yarn leaving about a 5"/12 cm tail and tie loosely. When the knitting is completed, turn the tube inside out and re-tie all yarn ends tightly and trim off excess.

Polyester fibrefill is recommended for the stuffing. Stuff the doll firm, but not hard.

Supplies Needed:

Small round knitting loom and pick

5 or 6 colours each of extra bulky and bulky yarn (boots, pants, sweater, face, hat/hair). Small amounts of yarn to embroider mouth and eyes.

Polyester fibrefill

Accent buttons, or finings for belt and earrings.

Metal darning or yarn needle

KNITTING INSTRUCTIONS

Doll Tube:

- 1) Slip stitch onto first peg and cast on all pegs as if making an 'o' – slip yarn behind peg, around front, and cross over yarn at back to next peg. Hold down yarn on previous peg as you wind. Keep yarn firm, but not tight. Knit by putting working yarn above loop on peg and lifting the loop over the yarn and the peg. Then loosen the stitch on the peg, or it will be too tight to work easily.
- 2) Beginning with yarn colour for boots, knit 5 rounds.
- 3) Change colour to that for pants. Slip stitch onto beginning peg, knit 14 rounds
- 4) Change colour and knit 12 rounds for sweater.
- 5) Change colour and knit 10 rounds for face
- 6) Change colour and knit 10 rounds for hair or hat
- 7) Cut off working yarn leaving about a 12"/30 cm tail. Cast off by slipping first loop off peg, and pulling the tail through the loop. Do the same with all pegs. Secure tail to the beginning loop with a slip knot, but do not tighten.

Finishing:

- 1) The stitch on the loom that started the various colours will be slightly out of line with the rest. This indicates the centre back of the doll. When you tighten the yarn between the colour sections, do so from the back.
- 2) Turn the tube inside out and properly tie all yarn ends firmly so that they leave no gaps. Trim off excess yarn. Turn right side out.
- 3) Using a yarn needle threaded with the boot-coloured yarn, weave the yarn around the bottom of the tube and pull tight. Knot securely. Stuff the feet with polyester fibrefill. With the same yarn, divide the feet in half vertically and weave it around the tops to the centre point, where the boots meet the pants. Pull each boot tight separately.
- 4) Stuff the pants portion of the doll and thread the yarn needle with that colour. From the dividing line of the two boots, push the yarn through from front to back in a broad running stitch to the sweater line, dividing the pants into two legs. Stitch back to the boots in reverse, to make a solid division. Pull tightly and knot securely. Weave in ends.
- 5) Stuff the sweater portion of the doll. Switching to the sweater colour in the yarn needle, stitch around the waistline and pull the yarn tight. Knot securely, weave in ends.
- 6) Taking the colour used for the face, thread the needle and weave it around where the head meets the sweater to form a neck. Tie securely and weave in ends.
- 7) Now stuff the head/hat. Load the needle with the hair/hat colour and weave the yarn around the top of the doll and pull it tight. Tie securely.

Detailing:

Using a pointed metal yarn or darning needle (a plastic one may break), stitch a few lines of accent in a different colour on the Vincent boots.

Use a contrasting colour to stitch knee pads and run a line behind each knee for ties.

Stitch the arms through back to front, down from the neckline to the bottom of the sweater, then back to the neck to complete the arm.

For Vincent, make a belt by using a brown yarn to run around the body inside the arms. Sew on a button or jewelry clamp in the centre.

Tighten Vincent's face slightly below the cheek area, to give his face shape, by using the darning needle, and pulling a length of strong crochet cotton or thread through to the other side of his face and and back. Knot it carefully and weave in the ends.

Do facial details and stitch hair vertically to head and top of sweater with darning needle. Add earrings and scarf (optional) for Catherine.

Weave in all loose ends using yarn needle. To hide them, run the yarn through to the back of the doll and cut off close to the body.