



Free-Spirit Amigurumi Doll

7-09-2009

Materials:

- Worsted weight acrylic yarn for body
- Worsted weight wool or acylic yarn for hair
- Size 8 perle cotton, white or off white and black or dark brown
- Size E and F crochet hook
- Size 9 steel hook
- Fiberfill
- Five pipe cleaners (two for each leg and one for both arms)
- 1/2"x5/8" wooden spool (to strengthen neck)
- Row marker
- 12mm colored or black safety eyes

Gauge: Work very tightly so the stuffing does not show through your stitches. Gauge should be close to 5sc = 1 inch with E hook

Eye Whites: make two with perle cotton

1. Withe lighter color of perle cotton, ch7, join to form a ring. Work 6 sc, 1hdc, 6 dc, 1 hdc in the ring.

Designed by Beth Webber

7-09-2009, modified 7-17, modified 7-22

join. 14 sts

2. Work (sc in first st, two sc in next) three times; sc in next st, (sc, hdc) in next st, (hdc in next st, two hdc in next st) two times; hdc in next st, (hdc, sc) in the last st. Fasten off.

3. With dark colored perle, (sl st, ch1) in the back loop of each stitch around eyewhite. Fasten off leaving a long tail to stitch the eyewhite to the face after the head is stuffed

Place the eye white around the shank of the animal eye, then place on the face with the white of the eye oriented to give the expression you want the doll to have (glancing sideways, looking up, looking down)

Head: work in rounds, do not join rounds. Use a row marker to keep your place

1: Ch2, six sc in second ch from hook. 6sc

2: 2sc in each sc around. 12sc

3: (Sc in next st, 2sc in next) around. 18 sc

4: (Sc in next two sts, 2sc in next st) around. 24 sc

5: (Sc in next three sts, 2sc in next st) around. 30 sc

6: (Sc in next five sts, 2sc in next st) around. 35 sc

7: (Sc in next six sts, 2sc in next st) around. 40 sc

8-20: Sc in each st around. After round 20 is complete, attach safety eyes with the eyewhite between rounds 15 and 16, eight stitches apart.

Note: If you are familiar with the invisible decrease, I recommend using it for the following decreases. It leaves no holes for stuffing to show through. there are tutorials available online that show this stitch: <http://www.planetjune.com/blog/amigurumi-help/invisible-decrease/>

21: (Sc in next two sts, sc next two sts tog) around. 30 sc

22: (Sc in next st, sc next two sts tog) around. 20 sc. Stuff head firmly, but do not stretch the stitches and let the stuffing show

23: (Sc next two sts tog) around. 10 sc

24: Sc in each sc around. Fasten off leaving a long tail for sewing head to body. Add more stuffing to fill out the chin area.

Body: the body starts with the feet and legs. When the second leg is finished, do not fasten off but flatten both legs with the toes pointed forward and crochet the legs closed and together. Then you will crochet in a single loop of the last row to create the bottom of the body. This way the legs will bend and they won't have to be stitched separately to the body.

Starting with the foot...work in rounds and do not join the rounds. Use a row marker to keep your place.

1: Ch2, six sc in second ch from the hook. 6sc

2: Increase one sc around. 7 sc

3-4: Sc in each sc around. 7sc

5: Sc in next three sc, sl st in the next st, ch1, turn.

6: Skip the sl st, sc in the next three sc, sl st in the next st, ch1, turn.

7: Skip the sl st, sc in next three sc, sc in last two unworked sc of the previous rounds. 5 sc. Heel of foot made.

Continue working in rounds, do not join rounds

8-9: Sc in each sc around. 5sc

10: Increase two sc evenly around around. 7sc. Take two of the pipecleaners and twist together, then fold in half and twist together some more. On the folded end of the pipecleaners, fold up 1/2" to form a foot, then insert this into the leg and down into the foot. You will now be working around the pipecleaners.

11-17: Sc in each sc around. 7sc

18: Increase one sc in this round. 8 sc

19-24: Sc in each sc around. 8sc

25: Increase two sc evenly around. 10 sc

26-28: Sc in each sc around. Stuff the top of the leg lightly and make sure the pipe cleaner is below the top of the leg.

Fasten off yarn for first leg. When second leg is complete, DO NOT fasten off. Flatten the last round of the second leg so that the feet point forward, If necessary, add a stitch or two so the yarn is located at the side of the leg. Sc the leg opening closed, join to the first leg and sc leg opening closed. The legs should be closed with five sc each, for a total of 10 sc.

Torso...work the first round of the torso in a single loop of the sc that closed the leg openings. Use a row marker to keep your place. This will yield 20 sc around the body.

1: Sc in front loop of each sc across the top of the legs, turn the body and sc in the back loops of each sc across to the first sc. Do not join; continue working in rounds. 20 sc

2: Sc in first 14 sc, 2sc in the next two sc (butt made), sc in remaining stitches around. 22 sc.

3: Sc in each sc around. 22 sc

4: Sc in next 13 sc (sc next two sc tog) four times, sc in remaining sc. 18 sc

5: Dec over next two sc, sc in next seven sc, dec over next two sc, sc in next seven sc. 16 sc

6-9: Sc in each sc around. 16 sc

10: Sc in next sc, 2sc in next sc, sc in next seven sc, 2sc in next st, sc in next six sc. 18 sc

11-13: Sc in each sc around. 18 sc

14: Sc in next sc, (sc next two sc tog) twice, sc in next five sc, (sc next two sc tog) twice, sc in next four sc. 14 sc.

15: Sc in each sc around. Stuff body firmly but do not stretch the stitches and allow the stuffing to show.

16: (Sc in next st, sc next two sts tog) around; sc last sc in this round and the first sc of this round tog. 9 sc.

17: Sc in each sc around. Fasten off.

Alternet Torso (more defined waistline)

1: Sc in front loop of each sc across the top of the legs, turn the body and sc in the back loops of each sc across to the first sc. Do not join; continue working in rounds. 20 sc

2-3: Sc in each sc around. 20 sc

4: Sc in next 10 sc (sc next two sc tog) four times, sc in remaining sc. 16 sc

5-6: Sc in each sc around. 16 sc

7: Decrease two sc evenly around. 14 sc

8: Sc in each sc around. 14 sc

9: Increase two sc evenly around. 16 sc

10: Sc in each sc around. 16 sc

11: 2Sc in next sc, sc in next seven sc, 2sc in next st, sc in next seven sc. 18 sc

12-14: Sc in each sc around. 18 sc

15: (Sc next two sc tog) twice, sc in next five sc, (sc next two sc tog) twice, sc in next five sc. 14 sc.

16: Sc in each sc around. Stuff body firmly but do not stretch the stitches and allow the stuffing to show.

17: (Sc in next st, sc next two sts tog) around; sc last sc in this round and the first sc of this round tog. 9 sc.

18: Sc in each sc around. Fasten off.

Arms: worked in rounds starting at the shoulder. Do not join rounds; use a row marker to keep your place, and leave a long tail at the beginning for sewing the arms to the body.

1: Ch2, six sc in second ch from the hook. 6 sc

2: Increase one sc this round. 7 sc

3-5: Sc in each sc around. 7sc

6: Decrease one st in this round. 6sc

7-11: Sc in each sc around. 6sc

12: Decrease one st in this round. 5sc

13-14: Sc in each sc around. 5sc. At end of round 14, flatten the arm and sc it closed with two sc.

There is no need to stuff the arm. Cut one pipe cleaner in half; fold this in half and twist together. Insert into the arm. Do not fasten off, the hand will be crocheted next.

Hand:

Ch2, sl st in same sc. Ch2, dc in next st, ch2 and sl st in same st. Fasten off. Hand made.

Assembly:

Stitch the arms to the body. Insert the wooden spool in the top of the neck, then ladder stitch the head to the body securely (I go around twice).

Hair: for hair, I like to use 100% wool yarn, either single ply worsted weight, or hairy (read that as mohair) worsted weight yarn. The best that I really like of the single ply wool yarns are Peruvia and Brown Sheep Lambs Pride. Good places to get really hairy mohair yarn are Magic Cabin Dolls, and A Child's Dream Come True, or do a search for Waldorf dollmaking supplies.

For hair I make a wig cap of the same yarn used for the hair. The wig cap is simply the first several rounds of the head, worked with one size larger hook. In this case, an F hook. Work the head rounds through round 12 and check the fit and coverage on the head. Work the last two or three rounds of the wig cap in a single loop of the sc; this will leave a loop to hook the yarn hair strands to. Fasten off leaving a very long tail to stitch the wig cap to the head.

For bangs, you can either hook short lengths of yarn to the wig cap at the front, or embroider the bangs

to the head with the hair yarn.

For a French braid, embroider the bangs to the head, and hook two rows of yarn strands 24 inches long to the wig cap. On the second row you may want to leave off some strands at the nap of the neck to reduce bulk. Braid the hair, and this may take a couple tries to get the braid balanced. If this is too much trouble, the hair strands can be pulled into a simple ponytail.

For pigtails, crochet a chain the length of the center part for the pigtails, fasten off. Count the number of chains and multiply by two. Cut this number of yarn strands long enough to create a braid and hook each strand into the ch, down one side and up the other. Stitch this center parting with strands to the wig cap, then pull the hair to the sides and tie, Braid the hair.

Another easy way to do braids, especially if you are using a fuzzy mohair type yarn, is to crochet the wig cap and work in the back loops for the last three rounds. The wrong side of the work (side facing away from you) will be the outside of the cap. Hook yarn strands into the free loops for bangs (12 stitches across the front, and two or three rows deep is good), then cut 12 long strands for each braid. Hook on either side of the wig cap, six stitches from the edge of the bangs, and over four stitches, three rows deep. Put the cap on the dolls head (the hooked ends are inside the cap, stitch the cap down and braid the braids. You can brush the cap gently to make it fuzzier.

For long pull-ed back hair, first embroider the bangs to the head. Crochet a tight chain that will run around the back of the head from ear to ear (if she had ears!) Hook yarn strands to this chain and stitch to the back of the head, from ear to ear, slightly higher than the middle of the head. Then, hook yarn strands in the unused loops of the wig cap from ear to ear across the top of the head. You may want two rows of this. Pull the hair back to cover the top of the long back hair and tie.

For curly hair, first embroider the bangs to the head. On the last row of the wig cap, work loop stitches around the cap, leaving several stitches unworked for the front of the cap that will cover the bangs. Finish off and stitch the cap to the head. If unfamiliar with loop stitches, you can chain several stitches and then sl st in the next st. The chain stitches will curl around and make nice curly hair as well.

For ringlets, first embroider the bangs to the head. On the last row of the wig cap, for each ringlet you desire, ch fifteen or so, then work two sc in each ch back to the wig cap; sl st in the next st of the wig cap, ch fifteen, then work two sc in each ch back to the wig cap. Continue in this manner until you have all the ringlets you want.

For the styles where the wig cap shows, if you don't like this look you can embroider over the wig cap with your hair yarn. One tip, the 'wrong' side of your wig cap will be fuzzier, so I usually use this as the outside if the wig cap shows.

With a crocheted wig cap, only your imagination is the limit for the kind of hair styles that can be made!