Teacup Spirit Crochet Doll, under 5 inches tall

Materials:
- Light sportweight yarn, Paton's Astra or equivalent (1.75oz/161yds)
- Size C crochet hook
- One 8mm acrylic eye for the neck joint
- Two 6mm acrylic eyes for the shoulders joints. These should have a ribbed shank and a plastic collar
- Two 6mm acrylic eyes for eyes
- Pipecleaner, if desired, to insert into arms and legs (you don't really need these, but they do add to the pose-ability
- Fiberfill
- Embroidery floss for mouth
- Embroidery floss, Fingering weight, or laceweight wool or wool/mohair yarn for hair and appropriate steel hooks

Notes before starting your doll:

The key to making a tiny doll that is jointed is in the stitch and assembly sequence, I think. We will

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make the arms first and insert the eye joints into the shoulder, then set aside. Next we will make the head and crochet it up to the last three rounds. Cut the yarn leaving about a 48 inch tail to complete crocheting the head closed. Insert the eyes (that will be the actual eyes!) into the head at this point.

Next we start on the torso and work the first four rounds, then attach the head to the neck with the neck eye joint. The eye will be inserted into the body, the post sticking up out of the neck. Place the head over the post, then attach the collar to the post. The hardest thing about making these little dolls is getting the collar firmly and fully on the eye post.

Crochet three more rounds, then attach the arms to the body by sticking the eye post into the body and attaching the collar over the post inside the body. Again, this is tough, and you must push the collar onto the post as far as it will go to get a nice firm joint.

Finish crocheting the body, stuff it, then crochet the bottom edge closed with eight single crochet.

Go back to the head, stuff it firmly, then crochet it closed.

Return to the body and finish crocheting the legs.

When done, you should have a very tiny, fully jointed, Teacup Spirit :-)

I use a magic ring to start the head and the body. Here are a couple of online tutorials on how to make this:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLuSVyKvoUg

or

http://www.planetjune.com/blog/tutorials/magic-ring-right-handed/

A picture tutorial of some of the basic steps for making this doll is available on my flickr site:

http://www.flickr.com/photos/29184580@N04/sets/72157627077018028/

**Crochet Instructions:**

**Arms:** crochet in rounds, do not join round.

1: Ch2, five sc in the second ch from the hook, 5sc

2: Sc in ea sc around, 5sc

3: Sc in the first three sc, insert one of the 6mm acrylic eyes for shoulder joints into the arm, with the post sticking out between row two and three just before the last sc made, sc in the last two sc, 5sc

4-7 sc in each sc around.

8: sc in the next two sc, insert a length of pipecleaner into the arm, folding both cut edges over so they won't poke through the arm. Flatten the arm and sc together with two sc.

Hand: Ch2, dc in the same st, dc in the next st, ch2, sl st in the same st and fasten off.

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Head: crochet in rounds, do not join
1: Make a magic ring and work 11 sc in the ring. Tighten it up and much as possible.
2: Two sc in each sc around, 22 sc
3-9 Sc in each sc around. At this point, insert the 6mm eyes into the head between rounds five and six, five stitches apart. Measure out a yard and a half of yarn and cut the yarn at this point. These leaves enough yarn to finish off the head after it has been attached to the body. Set the head aside for now.

Body: crochet in rounds, do not join
1: Make a magic ring and work eight sc in the ring. Tighten up the ring as much as possible.
2: Sc in each sc around. 8sc
3: (Sc in the next sc, two sc in the next) around. 12sc
4: (Sc in the next two sc, two sc in the next sc) around. 16sc.

At this point, insert the 8mm acrylic eye used for the neck joint into the body, poking it out of the neck hole. Push the head onto the post as far down as it will go (squash it!) then push the collar onto the post (inside the head) and push IT down as far as it will go. You want this to be very tight, so push! Now the head and body are joined.

5-7: Sc in each sc around. At this point, attach the arms to the body on either side, poking the arm post into the body between rounds four and five. Push the collar onto the post (inside the body) and really push hard to get the collar down as far as it will go on the post. This is the hardest part of making this doll, so push!

8: (Sc in next six sc, sc next two tog) twice, 14sc
9: Sc in each sc around. 14sc
10 (Sc in next six sc, two sc in the next) twice. 16sc
11: Sc in each sc around. At the end of round 11, see where you've stopped in relation to the arms being at the side of the body. If necessary, take a few more stitches so that you end up at the right side of the doll's body (you want the front of the doll facing you when you stitch the bottom of the body closed). Stuff the body firmly, then stitch the bottom closed with eight sc. Do NOT fasten off. We will work the first leg from this point.

But first, we'll return to the head and finish it. Go back and stuff the head firmly.

Round 10 of head: (sc in the next sc, sc next two sc tog ) around and stuff the head some more, 15sc.

Round 11: (Sc next two sc tog) around until the opening is closed, stuffing as necessary to fill the head.

Use the remaining length of yarn from closing the head to stitch the eyelids and nose on the doll. Use the picture at the beginning of the instructions for the placement of these. I used two straight stiches for the eyelids, slanting across the eyes, and two small straight stiches for the nose.

Legs: crochet in rounds, do not join.
1: Sc in the back loop of the next four sc across the bottom of the body, turn and work in the front loops of the same four stitches. 8sc
2: Sc in each sc around. 8sc.

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3: Sc in the next two sc, sc next two sc tog, sc in next four sc. 7sc
4-6: Sc in each sc around. 7sc
7: Sc in the next two sc, sc next two sc tog, sc in next three sc. 6sc
8-9: Sc in each sc around. 6sc
10: Sc in the back loop of each sc around, sl st in the back loop of the next sc, fasten off leaving a 20 inch tail (to crochet the foot)

If you want, insert a pipecleaner into the leg with both cut edges folded over. Thread a yarn needle and stitch the bottom of the leg shut, stitching in the back loops only. With your crochet hook, pull the yarn through one of the bottom free loops to the front of the leg. Ch1 and work the foot as follows:

Feet: There are two rows of unused loops at the end of the legs where the feet will go. We will work in two unused loops on both rows that will face the feet forward. With the body upside down, join yarn in the first row (closest to the bottom of the leg) of unused loops and sc in two loops, turn the work and sc in two unused loops in the second row. You have two rows of two sc. Flatten these and sc the two rows together with three sc. Foot made!

Tiny Elf Ears: Starting at the right side of the head, join yarn with sc around the post of a head stitch on the third round of the head and two or three stitches away from the eyes, hdc around the post of the next stitch, ch3, sc around the post of the same stitch, fasten off. Bury the tails in the head, slightly shaping the ear.

On the left side, join yarn with a sc around the post of a head stitch on the fourth round of the head and two or three stitches away from the eyes, ch3, hdc around the same post, sc around the next post and fasten off. Bury the tails in the head, slightly shaping the ears.

Wigs!!

My favorite part of making the doll, wigs! When these little guys get hair, that is when their personalities really emerge. These wigs are made with fingering or lace-weight wool or mohair yarn, or you can make a wig from embroidery floss, for a silky look. I also made a wig from worsted weight wool boucle yarn (that yarn with all the little loops in it). By making a wig cap, you can use just about any yarn to make hair.

Embroidery Floss: For embroidery floss hair, you will need three or four skeins of floss and a size 7 steel crochet hook. For the long hair style here I used three skeins of floss. The wig cap takes a little more than one skein.

To make it easier to crochet with, wind your floss around a floss bobbin. Crochet to the end of the floss, and if you need more, just tie it on and make sure the knot is on the inside of the wig cap.

Wig cap; work in rounds, do not join rounds
1: Ch2, eight sc in second ch from hook. 8sc
2: Two sc in each sc around. 16sc
3: (Sc in the next sc, two sc in the next sc) around. 24 sc
4: (Sc in the next two sc, two sc in the next sc) around. 32 sc
4-5 Sc in each sc around. Check the fit of your cap, and if it seems too tight, add four stitches on the next round,
6: (Sc in the next seven sc, two sc in the next) around. 36 sc. This should be all the increasing you need to do for the wig cap, so continue working evenly until the cap covers the head as you like. I worked 13 rounds. For the long style shown here, I worked in the back loop only of the last three round, leaving the front loops available to hook lengths of floss into for bangs and long hair.

When the wig cap is finished, cut 36 2 1/2 inch lengths of floss for the bangs. Hook into three rows at the front of the face, 12 stitches across. For the longer hair, cut sixty 9 inch lengths of floss and hook to the remaining stitches for three rows. Trim as desired.

You can use the wig cap and floss to make pigtails, ponytails, chain loop curls, and many other hairstyles :-)
sweet with this yarn.

Work the final round of this wig cap in the front loop only. We will turn the cap wrong side out, as with fuzzy yarns the fuzzier side is the wrong side (side away from you) of the work. Do not fasten off.

For the first round of curls, (ch10, sl st in the next st) 12 times, ch15, sl st in the next st, (ch20, sl st in the next st) around to the last unworked st, ch15, sl st in the last st. Do not fasten off.

For the second round of curls, work in the unused loop of the previous round and repeat the same steps as for the first round of curls. Finish off. Simple, easy, cute curls!

**Boucle yarn cap:** This yarn is actually a bit bulky to use in this scale, but I thought I’d try and see how it looked. I made a simple cap using worsted weight wool boucle yarn and a size C crochet hook. The stitches were hard to see, but mistakes are invisible with this yarn. I worked the cap as for the embroidered cap, but only needed to make it 32 stitches around. Finish the cap to fit the head, and you are done!