Tiny Topsy the tooth fairy

As I’d like to encourage more people to knit I’ve designed Tiny Topsy for knitters who are new to the craft. She measures 12cm (5 in) and is a topsy turvy or upside down doll. I’ve made instructions easy to follow and added lots of pictures.

If you enjoy making Tiny Topsy then you might like to try knitting another small toy from the ‘free patterns’ selection in my blog [http://flutterbypatch.blogspot.com](http://flutterbypatch.blogspot.com). You’ll also find patterns for larger dolls and toys in my Etsy shop. The easiest and quickest dolls to make are the ones pictured below.

Materials required for Tiny Topsy

- **Knitting needles** - 3.25mm (UK size 10 - pre metric) (USA size 3)
- **Tapestry needle** – large eye
- **Pins** (to mark face position)
- **DK yarn** in the following colours (USA - light-worsted/Australia - 8 ply).
  - Flesh (cream or a very pale apricot is best)
  - Pink, aqua, or colours of your choice (clothes)
  - White (apron)
  - Yellow or colour of your choice (hair)
- **Embroidery floss** - Black and red or dark pink (face)
- **Toy filler**
- **Optional extras** (button, beads, ribbon, gold braid, tinsel, twist ties)
Tiny Topsy

Body and head – This piece is worked in stocking stitch (also known as stockinette stitch). Alternate a knit row with a purl row.

The numbers down the left represent the row numbers.

Cast on 16 stitches in flesh colour
1. knit
2. purl
3 – 12. Continue working in stocking stitch starting with a knit row
Cut the flesh yarn leaving a 15cm (6 inch) tail for sewing up later.
Join the pink yarn to the side of the knitting. (see below).

Cut the pink yarn leaving a 15cm (6 inch) tail for sewing up later.
Join the flesh yarn to the side of the knitting.
24 – 34. work in stocking stitch starting with a purl row.
Your work should now look like this (see below).

35. This is the final row. You should have 16 stitches on your needle. Now you are going to knit 2 stitches together right across the row. Instead of pushing your needle through one stitch push it through two and then knit as if it was one stitch (see below).

Knit the third and fourth stitches together as one. Continue knitting two stitches together to the end of the row. You should now have eight stitches on your needle.

Note to new knitters – many patterns ask you to knit two stitches together. The abbreviated instruction for this is – k2tog
Now you are going to remove the stitches from your knitting needle onto a sewing needle.

Cut the flesh yarn leaving a 20cm (8inch) tail. Use a tapestry needle to take the 8 stitches from the knitting needle onto the tail (see below). Draw up tightly and secure. The drawn up stitches will form the top of the head so make sure you don’t leave a small hole.

![Image of stitching process]

With the wrong (rough) side facing out fold the work in half ready for stitching the seam. The sides of the work will curl so hold them together whilst you back stitch the two edges together. Stitch close to the edge (see below).

![Image of stitched work]

When you have stitched the flesh seam and reached the pink, fasten off. Now thread the pink tail from the side of the work onto your needle. Back stitch the pink seam. When you reach the flesh colour fasten off the pink and thread the flesh tail onto your needle. Stitch the final length of seam to the bottom.

Turn the doll right side out (see below left). The seam will be at the back

![Image of stuffed doll]

Stuff the doll with toy filler and leave the bottom end open. Compare the picture above right with the one on the left and you will see how fat the doll has become once stuffed. The head at each end needs to be wide and round not long and thin.
Before finally closing the opening you need to make a neck for the head at the closed end. Thread your needle with 15cm (8 inches) of flesh yarn and starting at the back seam pick up alternate loops all the way round the neck line (the flesh row above the pink body – see below).

![Image of knitting neck](image)

When you’ve picked up loops all the way round, pull firmly to draw up the neck and then wrap the yarn twice round. Make several small stitches at the back seam to secure.

One head is now complete.

![Image of completed heads](image)

Before making the second head you need to close the opening. Use the yarn tail that was left when you first cast on (if not long enough use a fresh length of yarn). Start at the back and pick up each loop around the cast on edge (see below). Put the needle in at the back and out at the front each time. This is known as a whip stitch (see below).

![Image of whip stitch](image)

Before gathering the stitches to close the end, add a tiny amount of stuffing to ensure that this head will be the same size as the other one. Now gather the end and secure.
Gather the second neck in the same way as you did with the first (see below)

![Image of neck gathering]

The pink body has 11 rows and the doll needs a waist. To gather the waist, pick up alternate loops around the middle row using the method you used for the neck. Pull to gather and wrap the pink yarn tightly round then secure (see below).

![Image of waist gathering]

**Skirt** – For this piece knit every row (this is known as garter stitch).

*Note for new knitters – Garter stitch is thicker than stocking stitch and very useful when you want to make something that won’t easily curl. This doll needs a stiff skirt so garter stitch is the best stitch to use.*

Cast on 46 stitches in pink (or the colour of your choice). You can add stripes where you wish but will need to stitch in all the loose ends so don’t add too many.

Knit 29 rows (striping where necessary) and then measure your doll against the skirt before taking it off the needles. The skirt will be wrapped around the waist and should be approximately 2.5cm (1 inch) longer than the doll. The picture below shows you how to measure the skirt against the doll. If your skirt isn’t long enough knit a few more rows.

![Image of skirt measurement]
For the final row, knit two stitches together right across the row (as you did for the head). You should now have 23 stitches on your needle.
Cut the yarn leaving a 20cm (8inch) tail. Use a tapestry needle to take the 23 stitches from the knitting needle onto the tail. Don’t gather the skirt waist just yet.

**Stitch the back seam**
If you are an experienced knitter then you will no doubt have your own preferred method of seaming but I’ve chosen this easy method for new knitters. If you have striped the skirt you can use the tails of yarn to stitch the seam. Hold the two edges together and stitch across them both. Once the seam is complete place the skirt on the doll, gather the top and stitch firmly round the doll’s waist.

![](image1)

The skirt should fold down neatly in both directions to reveal two dolls.
**Apron**

Note for new knitters – If this little apron was knitted in stocking stitch it would curl but by making garter stitch edges and hem it will remain flat.

Cast on 12 stitches in white
1. knit
2. knit
3. knit
4. knit 3 stitches, purl 6 stitches, knit 3 stitches
5. knit
6. knit 3 stitches, purl 6 stitches, knit 3 stitches
7. knit
8. knit 3 stitches, purl 6 stitches, knit 3 stitches
9. knit
10. knit 3 stitches, purl 6 stitches, knit 3 stitches
11. knit
12. knit 3 stitches, purl 6 stitches, knit 3 stitches
13. knit
14. knit 3 stitches, purl 6 stitches, knit 3 stitches
15. knit
16. knit 3 stitches, purl 6 stitches, knit 3 stitches
17. knit

Cut the white yarn leaving a 20cm (8inch) tail. Use a tapestry needle to take the 12 stitches from the knitting needle onto the tail (see below).

Before attaching the apron, stitch in the spare tail at the bottom cast-on edge. Now place the apron on the doll and wrap the top yarn tail around the doll’s waist. Stitch the apron in place.
**Arms** – make four

Cast on 7 stitches in pink
1 – 7. stocking stitch starting with a purl row
Break off pink yarn and join flesh
8 – 10. stocking stitch starting with a knit row

Cut the flesh yarn leaving a 10cm (4 inch) tail. Use a tapestry needle to take the 7 stitches from the knitting needle onto the tail (see below).

![Image](image1)

Gather the end of the hand and roll the arm tightly as shown below (hide the tail ends of yarn inside the arm as you roll).

![Image](image2)

Starting at the hand, over sew the seam to the top of the arm. No stuffing is required.

Over sew the top of the arm and stitch to the doll’s shoulder so that it can move freely (see below).

![Image](image3)

Knit the other arms and stitch to the dolls as shown above.
**Stitching a face** - Hide the knot and finishing stitches at the back of the head

Mark the position of the eyes with pins. The eyes should be in the centre as shown. Use 3 strands of black embroidery floss to stitch the eyes. Each eye will require 6 or 8 small stitches. Use 3 strands of pink or red embroidery floss and stitch a small ‘V’ shape for the mouth. Create a face at both ends (below right)

![Images of dolls with faces stitched](image)

**Finishing touches**

*Note for new knitters – This is the part where you can add your own ideas and make your doll unique. I have used a tiny scrap of lace, a small shirt button and some tiny beads from a broken necklace. Hopefully you will have several similar items to choose from.*

The little doll with the knitted apron has a tiny pearl button stitched to her dress. The second doll is to become the fairy so I have given her a tiny pearl bead necklace. Her apron is made from a small scrap of lace.

![Images of dolls with aprons](image)

*NB. Because she is an upside down doll I haven’t given my fairy an wings as these would get bent when she is turned.*
Hair – use yellow yarn or colour of your choice

You will require a piece of card measuring 15cm x 12cm (6in x 4in)

For the first doll (with knitted apron) use the shorter end of the card and wrap the yellow yarn around 5 times (below left). Slide the yarn off the card but don’t cut the loops (below right). Make two more bundles of yarn in the same way.

The doll’s hair will be attached by back stitching from front to back across the top of the head and so you will need to thread your needle with matching yarn. Place the loops of hair on top of the head and bring your needle out at centre front of the head (see below). Back stitch the loops to the head. Place another bundle on the head and back stitch in place. Do the same for the third bundle. If you don’t have sufficient hair to cover the head make another bundle.

Now hold the hair to the sides of the head by back stitching all round (see below). I like to leave the hair looped but you might want to trim it, the choice is yours
The fairy doll has longer hair so use the longer (15cm) edge of the card for the loops. Stitch hair to the head in the same way as before bringing it down the front and over the shoulders.

Bows and fairy crown

I stitched a tiny scrap of gold braid to the head to make a fairy crown and attached a shiny bead to the front. Some scraps of pink ribbon made bows which I attached to each side of the head. Finally I used a red pencil crayon the create rosy cheeks.

Fluffy duster and wand

I found the best household items for making the stem of the fluffy duster and the wand were twist ties. You can buy shiny metallic ones form craft shops but I only have plain ones that I use for closing polythene food bags. I used a plain one for the fluffy duster, the fluffy part was made from tiny lengths of brown yarn (alternatively you could use string). For the wand I wrapped my twist tie in silver kitchen foil and made the sparkly end from a tiny piece of tinsel that I had in my scrap box.

And here are the finished dolls looking for a little house to make their home.