



Manga Spirits to Crochet or Knit

baw 3-23-2012

Doll height, a shade over eight inches tall

Materials:

- Worsted weight yarn for the body. The models were made with Vanna's Choice by Lionbrand, in Beige. 49yds/ oz or 1.56 m/gm
- Size E crochet hook for Crochet Spirit
- Size 3 (3.25mm) single point knitting needles for Knit Spirit
- 3/4 inch buttons for jointing the head
- Strong carpet, buttonhole, or craft thread for jointing the head
- fusible interfacing and white cotton broadcloth for painting eyes
- Pigma Micron pen and number 2 pencil for drawing and outlining eyes
- Acrylic paint for painting eyes
- Number 2 shader paintbrush for painting eyes
- Fiberfill
- Pipecleaners for arm mobility, optional
- Fuzzy mohair type yarn for hair



Crochet Manga Spirit

Crochet Gauge: five sts = 1 inch

Crochet Head: Work in rounds, do not join rounds. Use a row marker to keep track of the rows

1: Ch2, 10 sc in second ch from hook. 10 sc

2: Two sc in each sc around. 20 sc

3: Two sc in each sc around. 40 sc

4-19: Sc in each sc around. 40 sc.

20: (Sc next two sc tog) around. 20 sc

At this point, prepare the head button and insert it into the head. Cut a 24 inch length of craft thread and thread it doubled into a needle that will easily pass through the holes in your buttons. Pass the thread through one hole in the button, and back out the opposite hole. Repeat this so that the button is secure on the thread and you have close to equal lengths of thread exiting the two button holes.



Thread these lengths onto a large tapestry needle and insert the button into the head with the threads hanging out of the neck opening. Tie these threads to something, like a toothpick, so that the button

stays securely in the neck while you stuff the head.

Stuff the head firmly, but not so hard that you stretch your stitches and the fiberfill shows. When you get close to the top, stop and work row 21.

21: (Sc next two sc tog) around. 10 sc. Continue stuffing the head until it pleases you, then close the top of the head by working (sc next two sc tog) around to closed. Finish off and bury the yarn end in the head. The head should measure close to nine inches in circumference.

Manga eyes!



The eyes are drawn and then painted on white cotton broadcloth that has been faced with fusible (iron-on) interfacing. Cotton broadcloth gives a smooth surface to draw on, and fusing the interfacing to it adds stability and keeps it from fraying.

Here is a picture tutorial for making Manga Eyes:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/29184580@N04/sets/72157629324189014/>

Make an eye template from a 1/4 inch button and paperboard from your breakfast cereal box. Manga eyes are very large and oval; they are the dominant feature of the face. So, take your button and make two circles slightly overlapping one another. With a pencil, draw an oval shape from these two circles. With very sharp scissors, make a single cut from the edge of the cardboard into the eye shape, then carefully cut around your oval. The cardboard with the oval hole in it is your template; it is easier to draw around the inside of this than to try to draw around the outside of the oval you cut out.

Cut a square of broadcloth eight inches by eight inches, and a square of fusible interfacing slightly small than this. Follow the instructions with the interfacing to fuse it to the broadcloth. This will give

you plenty of fabric to experiment making eyes with. Let the fabric cool off and check to make sure the interfacing is well fused to the fabric.

Use your template and a pencil to draw a pair of eyes. I start with a straight line that is the top of the eye, then place the template so that just a bit of the line shows. Draw the eye from this line around the template. Draw a smaller oval within this oval, then outline all of this with a fine Pigma Micron pen or a fine Sharpie pen in black.

Paint the eye as you desire. The Manga book I used suggested using dark and light shades of the same color for the inner and outer oval, to put more color impact into the eye. Or, you can paint the inner oval black like a pupil, and the outer oval your eye color. It is easier (for me) to start by painting the outer oval, then the inner oval. Use a very small brush, like a number 2 shader, for the painting. Or, you can use a toothpick for even more control. Let these dry completely, then re-outline your eye with black pen and add eyeshine...a white dot of paint (use a toothpick) at the corner of the eye overlapping the two ovals.

When all of this is thoroughly dry (I would wait several hours), lightly paint over this with satin varnish. When everything is once again dry, you can cut out your eyes.

Sculpting the head and facial features:

This head is very simply needlesculpted, to give a slight nose bridge and to shape the back of the head.



Temporarily place the eyes on the front of the head, then mark the inner top corners of the eyes with two straight pin. Thread a long, large eye needle with body yarn and run this from the bottom center back of the head out through one of the marked points on the front of the head. Take a tiny stitch and run the thread back to the beginning point, one stitch over. Repeat this for the other side.

Pull the yarn ends gently to indent the front of the head, then tie off the yarn with a double knot and bury the ends in the head. Apply a thin layer of glue (use a toothpick) to the back of the eyes and glue them to the head. Embroider a tiny nose at the level of the bottom of the eyes with two or three straight stitches of body yarn. Keep the mouth very simple. You can cut a small circle of felt, or a small smile, and glue this to the face. Or use six strands of embroidery floss to stitch a simple mouth. Two straight stitches, the bottom stitch slightly shorter than the top, works nicely.

Crochet neck spacer: work in rounds; do not join.

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

2: Two sc in each sc around. Join to first sc and finish off. Weave ends in.

Crochet body: work in rounds, do not join.

1: Ch2, seven sc in the second ch from the hook 7sc

2: Two sc in each sc around. 14sc

3: Two sc in each sc around. 28Sc

4-5: Sc in each sc around. 28 sc.

At this point we will join the head to the neck. Do this by threading the loose neck threads from the head button through the hole in the neck spacer, the hole in the neck of the body, and then two each through a hole in your second button. Pull the threads tight and use a surgeons knot and then a double knot to tie off the neck jointing. If you are not familiar with a surgeons knot, just do a Google search on this term and you'll find very easy instructions on how to tie this. It is strong, and won't slip while you are finishing tying the knot :-)



6-7: Sc in each sc around. 28 sc

8: (Sc in the next five sts, sc next two sc tog) around. 24 sc

9-12: Sc in each sc around. 24 sc

13: (Sc in the next five sc, two sc in the next) around. 28 sc

14-17: Sc in each sc around. 28 sc. Stuff the body firmly but do not stretch the stitches.

18: Flatten the last round of the body and sc the body closed with 14 sc. If necessary, add some more stuffing as you close the body opening.

First leg:

1: Turn and sc in front loop of the next seven sc, turn and sc in the remaining loops of the same sc stitches to make the first round of the leg. 14 sc. Do not join; continue working in rounds.

2-4: Sc in each sc around.

5: (Sc in the next five sc, sc next two sc tog) around. 12 sc

6-15: Sc in each sc around. 12 sc. Stuff leg .

16: (Sc next two sc tog) around, 6sc. Sl st in next st and finish off leaving a long tail. Top off the stuffing. Thread the yarn tail through the last row of stitches and pull tight to close the bottom of the foot. Bury the yarn end in the leg.

Second leg:

Join with a sc in the front loop of the next unworked sc that stitched the body closed and repeat rows 1 through 16 for the second leg.

Arm: work in rounds and do not join rounds. Arm begins at the shoulder. Leave a long tail to sew the arm to the body.

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

2: Two sc in each sc around. 10 sc

3-13: Sc in each sc around. 10 sc.

At this point, if you want a move-able yarn, take one of your pipecleaners and bend it to a length slightly shorter than the current length of your arm. Bend two more times, so that you have three lengths of pipecleaner between bends that are slightly shorter than the current length of the arm. With the remaining pipecleaner, twist it around these three lengths and cut off any remaining. You end up with a short, very sturdy length of pipecleaner that will fit into the arm so you can bend the arm.

Lightly stuff the top of the shoulder, insert your pipecleaner and lightly stuff around it. Continue with arm...

14: (Sc in next sc, sc next two sc tog) three times. Sc next two sc tog. Flatten the arm and stitch it together with three sc.

Hand:

Ch3, sl st in the same st, ch2, 4dc in the next st; dc, ch2, sl st in the last st. Finish off. Repeat for the other arm.

Ears:

Leaving a yarn tail to shape the ear, for the right ear, join yarn to side of head at the eye line and directly above the shoulder point with a sc. Dc in same stitch; work two dc around the next bar down toward the shoulder point; work dc, sc in the next bar down toward the shoulder point. Fasten off, leaving a tail to shape the ear.

For the left ear, join yarn to the side of the head three rows down from the eyeline and directly above the shoulder point. Repeat the directions for the right ear, working toward the top of the head.

Thread the yarn tails into the head to curve the ears toward the face. Lose the ends in the back of the head.

Now you are ready to wig your doll; go to the last section of this pattern for wiggling instructions!



Knit Manga Spirit

Knit Gauge: six sts = 1 inch

Knit head: the head is worked flat, then seamed up the back and stuffed.

Cast on 12 sts, leaving a long tail to thread through the first row to form the neck.

1: (K in the next st, K2 in next st) across. 18 sts

2: Purl each st

3: K2 in each st across. 36 sts

4: Purl each st

5: K each st

6-28: Repeat rows 4 and 5 for stockinette st, ending with a purl row.

29: K2 tog across. 18 sts

30: Purl each st.

31: (K in the next st, K2 tog in next st) across. 12 sts

32: Purl each st. Cut yarn leaving a long tail. Thread the tail into a large tapestry needle and then thread this through the remaining loops on the needle.

Thread the yarn tail at the beginning of the head through the first row of knitting and pull tight, but leave a small opening for your button jointing of the head. Using back stitching, stitch the back seam of the head with right sides together. Leave the top of the head open for turning and stuffing.

Turn head right side out. At this point, prepare the head button and insert it into the head. Cut a 24 inch length of craft thread and thread it doubled into a needle that will easily pass through the holes in your buttons. Pass the thread through one hole in the button, and back out the opposite hole. Repeat this so that the button is secure on the thread and you have close to equal lengths of thread exiting the two button holes.



Thread these lengths onto a large tapestry needle and insert the button into the head with the threads hanging out of the neck opening. Tie these threads to something, like a toothpick, so that the button stays securely in the neck while you stuff the head. Check the pictures for the crochet head, the technique is similar.

Stuff the head firmly, but not so hard that you stretch your stitches and the fiberfill shows. Pull the yarn you threaded through the last row of stitches tight and tie off. The head should measure close to nine inches in circumference.

Head sculpting and facial features: refer to the Crochet Manga Spirit for the sculpting and facial features.

Neck spacer: cast on 18 sts

- 1: K each st
- 2: K2tog across. 9sts

Cut yarn leaving a long tail. Thread the tail into a large eye tapestry needle and thread this through the stitches on the needle. Pull up the yarn tight, but leave a small opening, then stitch the short ends together.

Body: Cast on 28 sts. Starts at the bottom of the body.

- 1: P each st. 28 sts
- 2: K each st. 28 sts
- 3-7: Repeat rows 1 and 2 for stockinette st. 28 sts
- 8: (K next five sts, K2tog)4 times. 24 sts
- 9: P each st. 24 sts
- 10: K each st. 24 sts
- 11-15: Repeat rows 9 and 10 for stockinette st.
- 16: (K next five sts, K2) 4 times, 28 sts
- 17: P each st
- 18: K each st
- 19-21: Repeat rows 17 and 18 for stockinette st
- 22: K2tog around. 14 sts
- 23: P each st. Cut yarn leaving a long tail and thread this tail through the stitches on the knitting needle.

Fold body with right sides together. Pull up the neck stitches and backstitch the center back seam for two inches. Turn the body right side out and thread the neck spacer onto the neck threads of the head. Thread the neck threads into the body through the neck, then thread these threads onto a second 3/4 inch button. Pull up tightly and tie the threads with a surgeons knot (Google this if you are unfamiliar with it). Your head should be now firmly attached to the body.

With the body right sides together, finish stitching the center back seam. Stuff the body firmly, then overcast stitch the bottom of the body closed.

Legs: cast on 14 sts, leg starts at the top of the leg.

1: P each st. 14 sts

2: K each st. 14 sts

3-5: Repeat rows 1 and 2 for stockinette st. 14 sts

6: K next 5 sts, K2tog, K next five sts, K2tog. 12 sts

7: P each st. 12 sts

8: K each st. 12 sts

9-20: Repeat rows 7 and 8 for stockinette st. At the end of row 20, cut the yarn leaving a long yarn tail. Thread the tail through the stitches on the knitting needle.

Pull up the bottom of the foot tightly; fold the leg right sides together and backstitch the leg seam. Turn right side out and stuff. With the seam facing the inside of the leg, overcast stitch the leg closed. Overcast stitch the legs to the body with the seams facing inward.

Arm: starts at the shoulder; cast on 10 stitches and leave a long tail for sewing the arm to the body.

1: Purl each st. 10 sts

2: K each st. 10 sts

3-14: Repeat rows 1 and 2 for stockinette st.

15: (P, P2tog) three times, P in the last st. 7 sts

16: K2 in each st across. 14 sts

17: Purl each st. 14 sts

18: K each st. 14 sts

19-21: Repeat rows 17 and 18 for stockinette st. Cut yarn leaving a long tail. Thread the tail through a large eye tapestry needle and thread the yarn through the sts on the needle (instead of casting off).

Fold the arm right side together and pull up the yarn tight to form the bottom of the hand. Back stitch the arm closed and turn right side out. Stuff the hand lightly, and the arm lightly. Repeat for the other arm.

Overcast stitch the top of the arm closed, then stitch the arms to the side of the body with the arm seam toward the back. If you like, you can needlesculpt a tiny thumb on each hand. Using body yarn and a tapestry needle, take a stitch near the wrist, then a stitch close to the top of the hand, Repeat this a couple times and pull tight. Bury the thread ends in the arm.

Ears: cast on eight sts

1: K each st

2: K each st. Cut yarn leaving a long tail. Thread tail end through the sts on the knitting needle. Pull

tight. Overcast stitch the ears to the side of the head between the top of the eye and the mouth.

Hair!

For both crochet or knit dolls, I like to make a crochet wig cap to make the hair. All you need to know is how to do a single crochet. It works up fast (faster than knit for me) and allows you to use a lot less yarn for your hair, since the wig cap, in your hair color, insures you don't have any scalp showing through.

You can use any yarn you like, but I love wool yarns for hair, especially mohair yarn. For worsted yarns, use a size F crochet hook.

Wig cap: work in rounds, do not join rounds. Use a row marker to keep track of your rows.

1: Ch3, eight sc in the second ch from the hook. 8sc

2: Two sc in each sc around. 16sc

3: (Sc in the next st, two sc in the next st) around. 24sc

4: (Sc in the next two sts, two sc in the next st) around. 32sc

Check the fit of your cap as you work it from here, and add stitches if necessary. You want the cap to fit snug.

Continue working evenly in sc until the wig cap fits nicely over the head, should be around 10 or 11 rounds.

To this wig cap you can crochet loop stitches for bangs (before stitching the cap to the head), or crochet them all the way around for a simple, curly style. Google 'crochet loop stitch' to see how this stitch is done.

You can make curly bangs with chain stitches instead of loop stitches, simply chain seven, slip stitch in the front loop of the next st, chain seven, slip stitch in the back loop of the same stitch. You can work these as bangs across the front of the wig cap, or all the way around.

Straight bangs can be made by hooking short strands of yarn into the head across the front and then a row or two in the wig cap across the front. When you sew the wig cap to the head, make sure it covers where the bangs are hooked into the head in the front.

Sew the wig cap to the head before hooking any more strands into it. Its easier to sew the cap on the head this way, and also makes it a bit easier for hooking the strands into the cap. use carpet or buttonhole thread in flesh color and use a back stitch to tack the wig cap to the head.

Crochet a chain for a center part and hook 15" strands into both side of the chain (for 25 ch you'll need 50 strands). Stitch the center part to the wig cap and make pigtails or ponytails.

Hook strands all around the cap and pull back for a ponytail.

These are just a few ideas of how to use the wig cap; I'm sure you will think of many more :-)



Loop stitch bangs on the left, chain stitch bangs in the center, and straight bangs on the right.

Enjoy!