



## Materials, Tension, Techniques and Abbreviations

### Materials

Please make your dolls as individual as you would like – we just specify that the uniforms for the Royal Navy and Royal Marine dolls remain the same. The dolls are knitted in standard DK (double knitting) yarns. There are a wide variety of suitable yarns and, of course, you do not have to stick to the precise colours given in the patterns. We do, however, advise you to work with yarns that have at least some wool content. 100% acrylic or cotton yarns do not have sufficient natural stretch and the results can be disappointing. Remember, you do not have to use yarn from the same range throughout your project – it is quite possible to mix and match a bit, so long as all the yarns you use are DK.

Some of the most suitable yarn ranges available at **Laughing Hens** [www.laughinghens.com](http://www.laughinghens.com) are:

- Debbie Bliss Rialto DK
- Debbie Bliss Baby Cashmerino
- Sublime Cashmere Merino Silk DK
- Sublime Baby Cashmere Merino Silk DK
- Rowan Pure Wool DK

The lengths and weights of yarn needed for the pattern are given as a guide only as the amount will vary according to the brand of yarn you use and how tightly or loosely you knit. All length and weight measurements have been rounded up. Please make sure you have plenty of yarn to finish your project.

For the cheeks, please remember to use an ordinary red colouring pencil – not a wax crayon, felt pen or pastel crayon!

A water-soluble pen looks like an ordinary felt pen but the ink disappears when sprayed or dabbled with water. You will find it very useful for marking the position of the features on your dolls before you embroider them.

Polyester toy filling is available in most craft and haberdashery shops. Please make sure the one you use conforms to national safety regulations.

### Techniques

You will need to know the following basic knitting techniques:

- Casting on and casting off
- The knit and purl stitch
- Stocking stitch (alternative rows of knit and purl stitches)
- Increasing stitches by knitting into the front and back of the stitch (inc1)
- Increasing stitches by picking up and knitting into the back of running thread between stitches (m1)
- Decreasing stitches by knitting 2 stitches together (k2tog)
- Decreasing stitches by purling 2 stitches together (p2tog)

- Decreasing stitches by slipping one stitch then another onto your right-hand and then knitting them together (ssk)
- Weaving in yarn tails
- Seaming pieces of knitting using mattress stitch
- Oversewing two pieces of knitting together

You will also need to know the following simple embroidery techniques:

- French knot
- Straight stitch

For the tie round the sailor's neck, it is useful to know how to crochet a simple chain – although you could also make the tie by finger knitting or by making a thin plait.

### **Tension**

12 sts and 16 rows to a 4-cm square over stocking stitch using 3 mm knitting needles. With the dolls, tension is not as crucial as when knitting a garment. However if your knitting is too loose, your dolls may end up looking rather shapeless and the stuffing may show through.

### **Abbreviations**

The following abbreviations are used in these knitting patterns

<b>DK</b>	double knitting (this is the thickness of all the yarn used to make the dolls)
*	this marks the start of a section of the knitting pattern to be repeated later when instructed
( )	repeat the directions within parentheses the number of times indicated
[ ]	number in brackets refers to how many stitches you should have on your needle
<b>K</b>	knit
<b>P</b>	purl
<b>st(s)</b>	stitch(es)
<b>st st</b>	stocking stitch
<b>beg</b>	beginning
<b>k2tog</b>	knit the next 2 stitches together
<b>k3tog</b>	knit the next 3 stitches together
<b>p2tog</b>	purl the next 2 stitches together
<b>kwise</b>	by knitting the stitch
<b>inc1</b>	increase one stitch (by knitting into the same stitch twice)
<b>m1</b>	make one stitch (by picking up the horizontal loop lying before the next stitch and knitting into the back of it)
<b>ssk</b>	slip, slip, knit (slip 2 stitches one at a time then knit the 2 slipped stitches together)
<b>RS</b>	right side
<b>WS</b>	wrong side
<b>rem</b>	remaining
<b>rep</b>	repeat
<b>g</b>	gram

**m**            metre(s)

***Please note:***

*We suggest that these dolls are not suitable as toys for children under 3 years of age.*

*If you require further or more detailed knitting instructions please see Fiona Goble's other knitting books published by Ivy Press, or on many knitting websites.*

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