

Cole's Cow-Girl Puppet



Yarns:

About 50 yds of at least 4 different yarns that knit at 4 sts/inch:

- 1 (preferably a ribbon) for the bandana
- 1 for the jeans
- 1 for the shirt
- 1 for the belt.

about 50 yds of a yarn that knits densely at 3 sts/inch for the boots

about 50 yards of mohair or locks for her braids

about 50 yds of a yarn that crochets at about 3 sc/inch for the hat –.

An ounce of wool batt or roving for stuffing

1 silk mawatta or cap, drafted to knit at 6 sts/inch for her head

- See notes for an explanation or for a live tutorial on drafting a silk mawatta or hankie, see our website at www.northeastfiberarts.com

Needles:

For the jeans, belt and shirt:

Size 8-9 double point or size to give you 4/inch on the yarns you're using

For head:

Size 4- double point or the size to give 6 sts/inch on mawatta

Crochet hook K (or size to get 3sc/inch) for the hat

Notes: since this is a puppet, gauge is obviously not critical

Body:

Starting with legs: (make 2)

Using "jeans" yarn, cast on 12 sts. Place marker and join in the round. Work garter stitch (k1 row, p1row) for 2 rows. Then, working stockinette stitch, increase 1 stitch at beginning of every other round until you have 18 sts. Knit even until leg measures 5" (if you are not already there yet by the top of your last increase).

On next row, knit across 10 sts, bind off 8 stitches. Place the 10 stitches on a holder.

Repeat above a second time for the second leg.

Join legs as follows:

Cast on 17 sts., knit 1 stitch (from 10 sts on hold for leg #1), PM (place marker), knit remaining 9 sts of first leg, cast on 1 stitch, knit across 9 sts from 10 sts on holder from leg #2, PM, k1 remaining stitch of 10 from second leg. Join in round & continue working stockinette stitch for 2" even.

Belt:

Change to “belt” yarn and work 4 rows in garter stitch (since you’re knitting in the round that means you must knit 1 round and then purl 1 round, twice) so you have 2 ridges.

Shirt:

Change to “shirt” yarn and work 1 inch in stockinette stitch (or you could do reverse stockinette stitch or seed stitch if you prefer for a more decorative shirt).

Divide for arms as follows:

Back

Starting at first marker, knit across to second marker and cast on 12 sts (1st arm). Turn and work back (since you are no longer working in the round, if you are working the shirt in stockinette stitch, this means you should purl back) to other marker. At the end of this first row, cast on another 12 sts (2nd arm). Now work back and forth on these 43 sts (arm, back, arm) for 1 inch (leave the remaining 19 sts on a holder for the front). If you are working the shirt in stockinette stitch, you’ll be alternating knit and purl rows. Loosely bind off 15 sts at the beginning of the next 2 rows. Leave remaining 13 sts on holder for neck.

Front

Knit across the 19 sts from the holder, cast on 12 sts. At the end of the row. Turn and work back, casting on another 12 sts at the end of this row, just as you did above. Work back and forth on these 43 sts for 1”. Loosely bind off 15 sts at the beginning of the next 2 rows. You should have 13 sts remaining on the needle (plus 13 sts on a holder).

Neck

Place marker and then join neck in the round by knitting 13 sts from holder so you now have 26 sts on your needles (13 sts each from the front and back). Distribute these 26 sts evenly as possible on double pointed needles.

Next row: *k1, k2tog* around, ending k2 so you now have 20 sts total.

Following row: knit 1 row even (without increases or decreases) and leave sts on needles while you join the shoulders.

Join at shoulders as follows:

Seam the 15 sts cast off for each arm front and back. Seaming from the outside and using a contrasting yarn makes a decorative stitch for the cow-girl’s shirt if you like. Or you can practice your mattress stitch to hide the seam if you prefer!

Head:

Using your drafted mawatta (hankie) and changing to the smaller needles, begin knitting on the 20 neck sts.

Increase every fourth stitch around, once. (to 25 sts)

Increase every third stitch around, once (to 32 sts)

Increase every fourth stitch around, twice (40 sts after first round; then after last increase you’ll have 50 sts)

Work even for 1-1.5”-the longer you knit the more oblong/oval the face.

K3, k2tog around (40 sts)

Knit 1 round even

k3, k2tog around (32 sts)

Knit 1 round even

k2, k2tog around (24 sts)

Knit 1 round even

K2, k2tog* around (12 sts)

k2tog around (6 sts)

Cut mawatta leaving a 5-6" tail and pull tightly thru remaining stitches. Weave in end. Stuff the head from the body with 1 oz of wool, or as desired, and stitch the neck closed loosely to keep the stuffing in but allow your finger to poke into the puppet's head for support.

Bandana:

Using ribbon yarn and working in garter stitch (knit every row), cast on 3 sts. Increase at the beginning and end of every other row, placing the increase 1 stitch in from the first and last sts, until your bandana measures 12" along the top length. You can either use the M1 increase or if you prefer a lacy edge, you can do a YO increase. Bind off loosely.

Hat:

Using crochet hook K and yarn for hat, chain 76.

Join in round and work 1 round single crochet. On next row crochet 2 sts together randomly at 2 different points in the round to make the Stetson edge ripple.

Work sc for 2 rounds even.

Decrease every 6th stitch (60 sts)

Decrease every other stitch (30 sts)

Work even 4 rows.

Now working back and forth on first 15 sts (just let the other half hang loose for now), work 2 rows single crochet, then 1 row reverse single crochet (crab stitch), then 2 more rows single crochet. Cut end and leave a 12 " tail.

Go back to the other half of the hat sts that have been hanging loose and repeat as you did for the first 15 sts.

Using 12" tail, slip stitch the two sides of the hat together and use the tail to tack the back of the Stetson down to the head. You'll see as you do this that where you did the reverse single crochet, the hat bends in the opposite direction forming the peaks in the Stetson and where you slip stitch the two sides together, you get the crevasse.

Hair:

Cut 45 lengths of mohair each about 24".

Group lengths into 3 bundles of 15 strands each and lay them out on a flat surface side by side.

Leaving middle 1/3 of each bundle unbraided, loosely braid the end thirds and tie off with a decorative scrap of yarn to make 2 pigtails.

Lay the hair piece over the top of her head so that the middle unbraided 1/3 of hair is on center of head and stitch in place (don't worry about the stitches, because the hat will cover them up).

Boots:

With boot yarn cast on 14 sts. Place marker and join in the round. Work in stockinette stitch for 2”.

Work back and forth on half your sts (7sts) for ¾”.

Heel Turn

Working on the 7 sts just knit,

k4,ssk,k1 turn

p3, p2tog,p1 turn

k3, ssk turn

p2,p2tog turn (3sts)

Gusset

With right side of your work facing you

PU 4 sts along edge of heel flap.

Knit 7 instep sts

PU4 sts along second side of flap

K3 heel sts. (18sts)

Divide the 18sts over 3 needles as follows

Needle 1- 1 heel sts and 4 gusset sts (5sts)

Needle 2 – 7 instep sts

Needle 3- 4 gusset sts and 2 heel sts

Working in the round dec as follows

Round 1: K to last 3 sts of needle 1 and k2tog, k1, then knit across all sts on needle 2, and then on needle 3, K1,ssk, and k to the end of the needle.

Round 2: knit

Repeat these 2 rounds until 14 sts remain. Continue in the round for ¾”.

Shape Toe

Beginning with sts on needle 1, k to last 3 sts, then k2tog,k1.

Work across sts on needle 2 as follows: k1,ssk,k to last 3 sts,k2tog,k1

Finally, work sts on needle 3: k1,ssk, knt to end of round.

Repeat this dec round 2 more times until 6 sts remain. K2 tog all around, break yarn and draw through remaining sts.

Chaps:

Cast on 66 sts and work garter stitch for 2 rows.

Now, working stockinette stitch, bind off 18 sts at the beginning of the next 2 rows.

Work 4 rows stockinette stitch.

Divide for legs as follows:

Work 14 sts, put center 2 sts on a holder, and work across remaining 14 sts.

Now, put 1st set of 14 sts on a holder and work other 14 sts for first leg chap (or attach a second ball of yarn and work both simultaneously if you prefer).

Working flat (back and forth, not in the round) work stockinette stitch until chaps are down to just above the ankles.

Bind off loosely.

Go back to 2 sts on holder and using a crochet hook, chain stitch 12-15 loops off each live stitch for a tie. For each leg. Then, using crochet hook, and starting chain on outside

leg across from where the tie is coming from the crotch, chain another 12-15 loops for a second tie for behind the thigh on each leg.

Mawatta Notes:

Draft, or pull, the square silk mawatta (sometimes called a hankie) out to a thickness that will knit at about 6 sts/inch (on approx. US 4 needle).

To draft (separate the fibers) the mawatta:

Usually mawattas are sold by weight and each ounce of mawatta is about 35-40 cocoons. You want to work with 2-3 at a time, not the whole mawatta (hankie) as 35-40 cocoons will be too hard to handle at one time.

. Holding opposite corners of the 2-3 together that you pulled off from the mawatta, tug firmly to get the fibers to separate.

Remember to keep your hands far apart – if you are tugging hard and not able to pull the fibers apart, then your hands are too close together. You want to pull the fibers apart enough to “thin” or “draft” them into a long and even sliver of silk, but not enough to pull them apart entirely.

Wrap each drafted out mawatta around a paper towel or toilet paper roll to hold until you're ready to knit.

Repeat this until you have enough lengths of drafted silk mawattas to knit the entire head – maybe about 50 yards worth

For a video tutorial on this process, you can check out our website at www.northeastfiberarts.com

M1: poke tip of left hand needle, going from front to back, under the horizontal thread from the row below that you can see between the last stitch knit and next stitch to be knit. This horizontal thread now looks like a loop on the tip of the left hand needle. Knit this loop as if it was a stitch, thru the back loop.