

SOURCES AND FURTHER INFORMATION

- *The Knitting Experience: The Knit Stitch*, by Sally Melville. Published by XRX Books, 2002, USA.
- *Fashion, A History from the 18th to the 20th Century*, the Collection of the Kyoto Costume Institute. Published by Taschen, 2006, Germany.
- *Gene Marshall: Girl Star*, by Mel Odom. Published by Hyperion, 2000, USA.
- *Knitwit: 30 Easy and Hip Projects*, by Amy R. Singer. Published by HarperCollins, 2004, USA.
- *Stitch and Bitch and Son of Stitch and Bitch*, both by Debbie Stoller. Published by Workman, 2004, 2007, USA.
- *Sweaters for Men*, by Alice Starmore. Published by Pavilion, 1990, UK.
- *Knitting from the British Islands*, by Alice Starmore. Published by Bell & Hyman, 1983, UK.
- *The 30s Family Knitting Book*, by Jane Waller. Published by Duckworth, 1981, UK.
- www.knitty.com Knitting website edited by Amy R Singer.
- For a very useful conversion chart showing knitting needle sizes go to www.fibergypsy.com/common/needles.shtml This table is invaluable when working from vintage or European patterns as it lists the most common equivalents for US, Old US and old UK needle sizes.

SHOPPING GUIDE

Doll Suppliers:

Cherished Friends www.cherishedfriends.com

Two Daydreamers www.twodaydreamers.com

Vogue Collectibles Inc www.41vogue.com

E TOYS AND COLLECTIBLES by *ecamarab* on eBay

Accessories:

Shoes, *Jennifer Sue* www.jenniferdolls.com

Repro vintage jewelry from *vintage*jewels* on eBay

Buttons, closures and fittings www.tinyzipper.com

TRICOT TREATS

knits go glam



A Forties-inspired chunky coat and beret for Valia and other 11-12 inch dolls

LET'S GET KNITTING

These instructions were designed for a right-handed knitter. As a southpaw myself, I know how unfair life can be in this respect! Many lefties will have little trouble with the pattern, especially if, as I was, you were taught to knit by a righty. But help is at hand in Sally Melville's book *The Knitting Experience: The Knit Stitch*, or visit two really useful online resources:

<http://knitty.com/ISSUEwinter03/FEATmirror.html>
<http://learn-to-knit.com/learntoknit/index.htm>

Before you start, be sure to check your tension to make sure you're getting the right number of stitches for the width and the correct number of rows for the length. It sounds as boring as a very boring thing indeed, but if you miss out this step you could easily end up with a maxi dress for the fuller figure when a knee-length petite was required. Or a knicker-revealing shocker when you'd really wanted a demure cover-up. If your sample is too big, try switching to a size smaller needles and if too small... well you get the idea.

INSTRUCTIONS

Materials

$\frac{2}{3}$ oz. Fingering yarn.

5 grams Angora for collar and hat

1 set No. 2 "Boye" dp needles

4 markers (loops of yarn of contrasting color) & 1 snap.

Decorative vintage buttons

Gauge: 8 sts and 12 rows of seed stitch produces a 1" x 1" square.

COAT

The entire coat is worked in seed st except for ribbing on sleeves. The angora collar is knit separately and sewn in place. Beginning at collar with fingering yarn cast on 29 sts & work for 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " in seed st.

Begin Raglan Shaping:

Row 1: Work 7 sts, * inc, place marker, sl 1 (as to p), inc, * repeat from * to * once, work 3 sts, repeat from * to * twice, work to end of row.

Row 2: Work seed st across, slipping markers.

Row 3: * work to within 1 st of marker, inc, sl marker, sl 1, inc, repeat from * 3 times, work to end of row.

Repeat rows 2 & 3 till there are 18 sts in front of 1st marker, ending with

Row 2. First needle: Work 19 sts of left front, removing marker.

Sleeves:

With extra dp needles work next 22 sts of left sleeve as follows:

Work 19 rows decreasing 1 st each side every 6th row 3 times. 20th row: * P 2, p 2 tog, repeat from * across. Work in ribbing of k 1, p 1 for 4 rows &

bind off in ribbing. With first needle work across 27 sts of back, removing marker. With extra dp needles work across next 22 sts of right sleeve as for left sleeve. With first needle work across remaining 19 sts of right front, 65 sts on needle. Work in seed st for 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " & bind off in seed st. Sew underarm seams. Pin flat (without stretching ribbing) and stretch raglan seams, pinning at both ends of seams. Steam lightly and let dry.

Angora Collar:

Cast on 29 sts & work in stockinette st for 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", ending with p row. Next row: K 10, bind off 9 (11 sts on needle), k 9. Work 1st 10 sts only, decreasing 1 st at inside edge every other row till 4 sts remain. P 2 tog twice, turn & k 2 tog. Attach yarn at inside edge of other 10 sts & work to correspond. Sew angora collar to collar of coat. Sew snap in place.

PILL BOX HAT

May be knit with Fingering yarn and No. 2 needles.

Cast on 36 sts. * Sl 1, k 1, repeat from * across. P back. Repeat these 2 rows 5 more times. P next 2 rows. Next row: * K 2, k 2 tog, repeat from * across, p back. Next row: * K 1, k 2 tog, repeat from * across, p back. K 2 tog across & break yarn, leaving 6" end. Thread needle & draw through sts & sew seam to edge of hat. See page Hat may be decorated with feathers from hobby shops or from a friendly fisherman's fly-tying box.

If you're making this outfit in cashmere yarn, a gentle wash in Woolite will greatly improve the softness and texture before presenting the ensemble to your favorite doll.

ABBREVIATIONS

dec – decrease

dp – double point

inc – increase or increase in next st

k – knit

p – purl

beg – begin or beginning

psso – pass slip st over k st

sl – slip (from 1 needle to the other)

rib – work in ribbing

st(s) – stitch(es)

tog – together

yo – yarn over

Seed St: *K 1, p 1, repeat from * across. On next row k the p sts and p the k sts (opposite of ribbing).

* Asterisk – instructions following the asterisk are to be repeated as many times as indicated.

Read to the end of each sentence before starting the row.

TIP

Gently wrap doll's hands in a tiny scrap of foil before dressing in knitwear to avoid catching delicate thumbs and fingers in the yarn.