

## Suggestions for knitting doll clothes

Hello, all you wonderful knitters! (We'll address crocheting in another article!) I hope you don't think we've forgotten about you because we usually address sewing issues! We love getting all the cute outfits you make!

Here a few ideas for making those outfits even greater:

Choose your yarn and needles carefully. The outfits are great for using up your stash, but make sure that the scale of your knitting fits the size of the doll. Sport weight or fingering yarn is good for knitting. A 3-4 needle size seems to work the best...you're aiming for 7-8 stitches to the inch. Here is an official chart of the thickness of yarns. The only ones that really work for our doll clothes are sport and fingering weight, here marked 1 and 2. Many yarn companies call yarn different names ("baby" yarn, for example), but they really all fall into the chart below. So check the label for needle size and stitches per inch.

Yarn Weight	Wraps Per Inch	Gauge
0 - Lace weight yarn	>35	>8.5 sts/inch
1 - Fingering weight yarn	19-22	7-8 sts/inch
2 - Sport weight yarn	15-18	5.75-6.5 sts/inch
3 - DK weight yarn	12-14	5.5-6 sts/inch
4 - Worsted weight yarn	9-11	4-5 sts/inch
5 - Bulky weight yarn	7-8	3-3.75 sts/inch
6 - Super-bulky weight yarn	<6	1.5-3 sts/inch

The yarn should be a solid color, as we sometimes have difficulty matching outfits to multi colored yarn, pretty as it is. Preferred colors are white, winter white, any pastel, primary and secondary colors (red, orange, yellow, green, turquoise, royal blue, royal purple). navy blue, teal and dark green are okay, as are neon colors. Avoid "greyed" colors, plus black, brown, maroon, tan and rust. Embellishments like edgings or flowers could be a coordinated color, but a solid color body is the most versatile for assembling outfits. Also, plain white tops are highly desired by the outfit assemblers as they go with almost everything!

Please use the new patterns on the website. We have refined them considerably. For example, we eliminated the large collar on the sweater...it just seems out of scale for the doll. We've changed all of the hats to reflect the larger head of the H4H dolls. If you have any questions about any of the knitting patterns, please contact us. We like corrections and improvements!

Although we love singleton cardigan sweaters, tops that accompany knit or crocheted skirts or pants should always fully close – several buttons on the front, or a back closure. Buttons should be no larger than 3/8", preferably smaller. No plastic snaps, please. When you knit something, think about adding other things to make up an outfit....scarves, shawls, purses, shoes, coordinating tops, underwear, and even sandals. As usual, work your ends in well, sew buttons on securely...sometimes I use dental floss and cover it with a stitch or two of the yarn!

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