

Woolly viol and bow

Materials: About 25 gm of brown double knitting yarn, small amounts of black DK yarn (for fingerboard and tailpiece, etc) and fine cream yarn (for frets and bow hair)

Small amount of polyester toy filling or similar, for stuffing

1 plastic drinking straw

Set of 3 3.5 mm double-pointed needles (preferably short sock-knitting needles)

Abbreviations: K = knit; sts = stitches; inc = increase by knitting into the front and back of the stitch

Tension: not important. These instructions should produce a viol 13 – 14 cm in length. Using thicker yarn and appropriately larger needles will produce a bigger viol.

The viol – this is worked in the round on three needles.

Tips: pull the first stitch on each needle firmly to ensure the sides of the piece do not gape. Cast on 12 stitches.

Hold needle with cast on sts in left hand, and other two needles in right hand. Transfer cast on sts alternately to each of these needles (6 sts on each needle) – as for starting a toe-up sock.

Work in rounds of K as follows:

Round 1: K all round

Round 2: *(inc in next st) twice, K2, (inc in next st) twice, repeat from * (10 sts on each needle)

Round 3: (inc in next st, K to last st on needle, inc in next st) twice (12 sts on each needle)

Round 4: as round 3 (14 sts on each needle)

Round 5: K all round

Round 6: as round 3 (16 sts on each needle)

Rounds 7 – 9: K all round

Round 10: (k2 tog, k to last 2 sts, k2 tog) twice (14 sts on each needle)

Round 11: K all round

Round 12: As round 10 (12 sts on each needle)

Round 13: K all round

Round 14: As round 10 (10 sts on each needle)

Round 15: K all round

Round 16: As round 10 (8 sts on each needle)

Round 17: K all round

Rounds 18 - 19: As round 3 (12 sts on each needle)

Round 20: K all round

Round 21: As round 3 (14 sts on each needle)

Round 22: K all round

Round 23: As round 10 (12 sts on each needle)

Round 24: K all round

Rounds 25 – 28: As round 10 (4 sts on each needle)

At this point, stuff the piece lightly with toy filling – you may need to push it down with a pencil or chopstick. Round out the shape but do not fill too full otherwise stuffing may show at the edges.

Once the stuffing is finished, continue to work rounds with 4 sts on each needle until the neck is about 1.5 cm longer than the finished length required.

Cut a piece from the drinking straw about the same length as the neck; insert this into the neck and push down slightly into the stuffing – this will keep the neck straight and rigid. Add a little toy filling around the straw to hold it in place.

Holding the two needles side by side, cast off using a 3-needle cast off (lots of instructions for this on the web, for example at <https://www.purlsoho.com/create/3-needle-bind-off-video/>) Leave a 'tail' of about 6 cm.

Roll down the top 1 cm or so of the neck to form the scroll, and catch in place using the tail of the cast-off.

Fingerboard: Using 2 needles and black yarn, cast on 4 sts and work back and forth in rows of stocking stitch until the piece is long enough to reach a little beyond the neck. Cast off and sew in place using yarn ends.

Tailpiece: Using 2 needles and black yarn, cast on 3 sts and work back and forth in rows of stocking stitch until the piece is long enough to reach from the bottom of the viol to within a short distance of the fingerboard. Fasten off by cutting yarn, pulling tail through the 3 sts and tying off securely. Sew in place with the fastened-off edge at the bottom of the viol.

Embroider C-holes using backstitch in black yarn.

Embroider 3 French knots on each side of the scroll to represent pegs.

Tie four or five small lengths of thin cream yarn around the neck to form frets.

Hide all loose ends by threading them into the stuffing.

The bow

Cut a piece of the drinking straw of a suitable length, and fold down a tiny piece at each end.

Tie a length of brown yarn around the straw and wrap closely around to completely cover it, winding over the loose ends of the knot. Use a darning needle to thread the end of the yarn into the windings.

Cut 2-3 lengths of fine cream yarn just over twice the length of the bow. Use a thin needle to thread these through the straw, pull tight and tie firmly. Push the knot around until it is inside the straw.

If you have a problem or think you have found an error in the pattern, please contact Clare at clare@griffel.org