

Marvel Comics' **the Thing** Knitting Pattern

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I've had a number of requests for a pattern for the Thing. This is as close an approximation as I can get of how I made him.

As with all my patterns, this pattern is free to use for charity and gifts of love. Please do not sell it, or items made from it, for profit.

THIS PATTERN HAS NOT YET BEEN TESTED - PLEASE CONTACT ME WITH COMMENTS IF YOU TRY IT OUT.

The Thing is 8 1/4" tall and is knitted in seed stitch (moss st) and stockinette stitch, with Lion Brand Microspun sport weight yarn in orange ('Mango') and blue ('').



Worked in the round on two size US4 circular needles (You could certainly use dpns if you are more comfortable with them, but the notes are written with 2 circs in mind). There are no seams and the legs and body are worked in one piece. The arms, head and brow ridge are worked separately and sewn on.

Optional: Black sportweight yarn, or black embroidery floss (using size US1 needles) for waistband. See waistband note in "shorts", below.

Optional but recommended: Chenille stems/pipe cleaners.

Stuffing material (I used fiberfill).

2 tiny white pom poms and 2 blue 4mm blue czech fire polished beads (or other appropriate beads) for the eyes

Beading needle and thread to sew eyes on

All sewing, except the eyes (and waistband if you make it separately) is done with the orange yarn.

Stitches used:

Other than knitting and purling, I use two types of increase stitches, the kfb and the kinc (video help http://www.knittinghelp.com/apps/flash/video_player/play/90/1 for increasing in the right side of the stitch where she calls it a M1R or M1B, and <http://www.saveknitting.com/AnimatedKnittingStitches/Kinc/tabid/76/Default.aspx> for the left side of the stitch), and I used k2tog for decreases.

Starting with orange yarn and one circular needle and knitting back and forth for the front of the foot:

LEGS

Begin with the feet (made much like a sock or bootie, I added the toes after the legs were completed)

Foot:

Starting with the first foot and working in seed st: cast on 6 st on needle 1 (I used the cable cast on),

Row 1: k1 p1 across the row

Row 2: p1 k1 across the row

Row 3: k1 p1 across the row

with second circular needle, p/u 6 st from the cast on row (total 12 st divided on two needles) begin knitting in the round.

Rnd 1: k1 p1 around

Rnd 2: purl the knit stitches and knit the purl stitches (seed st)

repeat round 2 till the foot is the desired length (approx. 9 or 10 rnds)

Heel:

on 1 needle only, after knitting across, turn and working on the back side (inside of the tube), continue in seed st to end of current needle, turn this needle and continue working on the right side (still on needle 1 only). Repeat this once. This makes a simple heel flap, similar to making a sock heel.

Begin working in rounds again:

p/u 2 st at each side of the work (staying in seed st pattern), to prevent holes from forming. (total 16 st)

Continue working in rounds of seed stitch for approx 2 rnds or till the desired height of the heel is reached.

Ankle:

Work two st and decrease two st in pattern

(k2tog p2tog, if the first st is a purl, or p2tog k2tog, if the first st is a knit). Work last two st of that needle in pattern.

Repeat on second needle. (total 12 st)

Continue working in rounds of seed stitch for approx 2 rnds or till the desired height of the ankle is reached.

Calf:

Continue working in rounds of seed stitch till the desired height of the calf is reached.

Thigh:

(I did not increase to make the thighs at this point, but was not happy with their size when he was completed, and made rectangles of seed st which I wrapped around the thighs and sewed on. So I would recommend increasing 2 st, in pattern, on each needle at this point to increase the thigh size unless you wish to add the sewed on rectangles - or have skinny thighs.)

Work to center of row and increase two st in pattern (k in f & b of next 2 st). Repeat on second needle. (total 16 st)

Continue working in rounds of seed stitch till the desired height of the thigh is reached.

Place the stitches on 2 stitch holders, spare needles, or waste yarn, break the orange yarn (leaving a long tail) and make a second leg the same as the first.

Toes:

Since he is meant to be lumpy, and not smooth, I crocheted his toes, and I don't have a pattern for exactly how I made them. I had not, at that point, developed the method that I came up with for knitting fingers (or toes) in one piece, which I used for his fingers.

As I recall, this is how I approached crocheting his toes:

1. crochet a chain, long enough to go across the toe area of the foot
2. sc across the chain, turn. (this is the base row which will be sewn to the front of the foot)

Starting with the big toe:

3. chain enough stitches for twice the desired length of the toe,
 4. single crochet back down this chain,
 5. turn, single crochet up the length of the toe again,
 6. & 7. Repeat rows 4 and 5
 8. slip st the end to the base (doubling it over).
- Repeat rows 3-5 and 8 (eliminating rows 6 & 7) for the other three toes,
Sew any gaps.
Sew the base strip across the toe area of the foot, making sure to orient the big toes on the correct side of each foot.

TORSO

Shorts:

Knit in stockinette.

Attach blue yarn and knit across needle 1 (the second leg that you just completed). Using the knitted cast on, cast on 2 st, if you increased for the thighs, or 4 if you didn't (to use the knitted cast on here, you will have to turn the work and knit the stitches on from the back, then turn again to continue knitting). Knit the held stitches of the first leg off of the first holder (making sure that you have oriented the feet in the same direction as the second leg).

Place the stitches remaining on needle 2 (the second half of the second leg) onto a holder and with needle 2, continue knitting the remaining stitches of the first leg with blue. P/u 2 st (or 4 if you did not make the thigh increases) from the previously cast on stitches on needle 1, and knit the remaining st of the first leg off of the holder. (This sounds much more complicated than it is to actually do.) (total 32 st ??)

Now you have both legs attached to the beginning of the torso (shorts). Continue knitting in stockinette, in the round, till you have reached the desired height of the shorts. (prox ?? rows)

(If you are inserting chenille stems, see *Notes 1 & 2)

Waistband Note:

At this point, if you're sensible, you can attach some black yarn and knit (plain knit, not seed st) 2 or 3 rows for the waistband, or if you're a mad knitter, like me, you can knit one with embroidery floss and size 1 needles and sew it on later. (I chose the latter because I hadn't noticed the waistband in the reference photos till Matt pointed them out to me. AFTER I had his body and head finished!)

Upper Torso:

Attach orange yarn and return to knitting in seed st, in the round. Knit in pattern for 4 ? rows, then increase 2 st the middle of each needle (staying in pattern - seed st to 1 st before the center of the needle, kfb 2x, seed st to end of needle, repeat with 2nd needle) (total 40 st). Continue knitting around in pattern till nearly the desired height of the torso is reached. (approx. 20 rows)

Extra rows for hunching at back:

Turn needle 2 and knit in seed st across the inside of the work. Turn again and knit seed st across outside.

Repeat from *

Continue knitting around opening, picking up 2 st at each side.

(If you are inserting chenille stems, see *Notes 3)



Decrease rapidly for the shoulders. (?? rnds)

Decreasing:

Rnd 1: On needle 1 - *(K2tog P2tog if the next st is a purl st or p2tog k2tog if the next st is a knit st) 2x, k in pattern 4 st, (K2tog P2tog if the next st is a knit st or p2tog k2tog if the next st is a purl st) 2x. Repeat from * for needle 2. (total 20 st) ??

Rnd 2: K in pattern around

Rnd 3 & 4: repeat rnds 1 & 2.

Rnd 5: On needle 1 - *k in pattern for 7 st, *(K2tog P2tog if the next st is a purl st, or p2tog k2tog if the next st is a knit st) 1x, k in pattern 7 st, (K2tog P2tog if the next st is a knit st or p2tog k2tog if the next st is a purl st) 1x. Repeat from * for needle 2. (total 12 st)

Break yarn, leaving a long tail for weaving shoulder st closed & finishing

Head:

(Please see note 4 if you are inserting chenille stems, and thread end of yarn through stem loop)

Place neck/shoulder stitches on holder(if you have enough circs or dpns, leave the stitches on the needles and continue with a new pair or set).

Cast 6 st onto needle 1.

Pass 3 stitches onto second needle.

Knitting in the round:

Rnd 1: kfb of ea st (total 12 st)

Rnd 2: kfb k1 around (total 18 st)

Rnd 3: p1 k1 around

Rnd 4: k1p1 around

Rnd 5: p1k1 around

Decrease 2 st in center of each needle in pattern every other row till you reach 12 st.

Stuff head and decrease 3 st on each needle, which brings you to 6 st.

Cut yarn leaving a long tail for weaving.

Using kirchener st, weave head closed and weave shoulders closed.

Brow ridge:

I don't know exactly how many stitches across this is, or how many rows. I made it to fit his face area.

Cast on about 3 times the stitches needed for the height of the face area you wish to cover (vertically). (prox 6 st)

Knit in stockinette st to go a little more than halfway around the head, including arching above where the eyes will be and dipping down over the nose. (test for size when you think you are nearly done by scrunching it over the eye area) Cast off. Fold into thirds (horizontally), making a loose tube. Sew into place, shaping into the appropriate curves, making sure to leave room for the eyes.

Arms:

Starting with the fingers -

cast on 5 st,

row 1: k

row 2: p

row 3: k

row 4: p

bind-off the first and last rows together

(making a small tube).

*cast on 7 st

row 1: k6

row 2: p6

row 3: k6

row 4: p6

bind-off the 6 stitches on the first and last rows together (making a small tube)*

repeat from * to * 2 more times (for 4 fingered characters) casting on only 6 st instead of 7 for the last finger, and working only 5 st instead of 6.

HAND:

knit across base of fingers, picking up 1 st at each end if needed to make up 6 st.

Using a second circular needle, pick up stitches across the other side of the fingers.



Knit around for hand till desired size.
Decrease to 4 st on ea needle for wrist. k around 2x.

ARM:

Increase to 6 st ea needle again for arm
Knit around for forearm.

Elbow:

When desired length of forearm is reached, knit in pattern (seed st) across the back of the stitches on the needle on the back side of the arm (depending on the side you want the palm and thumb oriented).

Turn and knit across, p/u 2 st between the two needles, k across 2nd needle and p/u 2 st between the two needles.

K around till upper arm is the length desired.
Bind off & sew to peep's shoulder

FIST:

To make a fist on the second arm:

(this is an approximation since I don't remember exactly how I made it, but this is how I'd approach it if I wanted to knit another one):

Cast on 6 st on one circular needle.

Follow the instructions for making the foot up to the point where you turn the heel, pausing to stick in a thumb at the appropriate spot - about a finger's length (the Thing's finger, not yours) down, using the same method as making a finger. Or you could make a thumb separately (either knitting one like a finger or crocheting one like the toes) afterwards and sew it on. Then continue with the arm instructions at the point where you decrease for the wrist.

After the hand is knitted and lightly stuffed and you have knitted and stuffed part of the arm, take the top area (where the fingers would be if there were fingers)



and curl it into a fist shape, sewing it into the palm area of the hand. Place the thumb into an appropriate fist-like position and sew it in place, taking a few stitches to pull areas in to suggest fingers. Then continue knitting the arm like the first arm.

Assembling:

Using the photos as a guide (and inserting the ends of the chenille stems, if you are using them, into the shoulders) sew the cast off ends of the arms onto the shoulder areas of each side of the body.

Waistband:

If you did not knit in a black waistband as you went along, you can make one as follows:
With all 6 strands of black embroidery floss, cast 4 st onto size 1 needles. Knit in stockinette st till long enough to go around the waist, and bind off. Sew on where the two colors meet with 2 strands of floss.

Finishing:

Press a tiny white pom pom into the eye area and sew a blue 4mm blue czech fire polished bead onto it and into the eye area. Push the needle through the pom pom and out the back of the head and pull the thread to sink the eye into the head.

Repeat for second eye.

Needle sculpt nose (Insert a large darning needle under the nose area from the side and pull the area out a bit, then put some stitches under this to make the nose stick up a bit. You can also take a few satin stitches across the top of it.)

Embroider mouth with all 6 strands of black floss.

NOTES: on stuffing and adding chenille stems/pipe cleaners for support:

***Note 1.**

I always stuff as I go, so I can see how the peep is shaping up before it's too late to make changes. In the case of the Thing, after knitting the shorts (with the feet and legs stuffed at this point), I decided to insert pipe cleaners/chenille stems into his arms and legs, for pose-ability and a little more stability.

***Note 2.**

To insert the chenille stems into the legs (use the same method for the arms):

Fold a chenille stem in half. Twist the two ends together and, with a pliers (or whatever method works for you), make a loop in the twisted end. Insert the looped ends down through the middle of the stuffing of the leg, to just before the bottom of the foot. (It will be easier to do this if you stick a knitting needle down the center of the stuffed leg to make a channel for the stem).

Make sure that there is stuffing under the looped end so that it doesn't poke through. Do the same for the second leg.

***Note 3.**

When the torso is nearly completed, but before beginning the decreases, loop the ends of another chenille stem through the top loops of the doubled stems in the legs and twist to secure. Twist a loop in the center of this stem (the head will be anchored to this later). Continue finishing the torso as per the instructions, with the loop sticking up in the middle of the stuffing.

***Note 4.**

When attaching the head, insert the loop of chenille stem into the head and run the yarn through this loop from two or three attaching stitches to securely anchor it and give it a little pose-ability.



***Note 5.**

Inserting the chenille stems into the arms:

See Note 2 and form and insert the stems in the same way as for the legs. When you are attaching the arms to the body, insert the ends of the stems into the shoulder area.

