

Journey of Peace Puppet Making Instructions

Puppets Designed by Jan MacKie, Toronto, Ontario Canada

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General Information:

- The patterns are numbered and these numbers are used in the instructions
- Seams of 6 mm are already allowed for. It is important that you make 6 mm seams, for in such small puppets, deviation, making the seams less or more, can cause errors in the garment. It is easier to do as I do, unpick a wrong seam, and re-sew it exactly 6 mm.
- The pattern pieces serve for all 7 puppets except for Ahmed whose head can be slightly smaller (it is included).
- *** It is very important that the under-skirt (for the puppeteer's hand) is on the BIAS so that it will fit different sized hands. This under-skirt can be made of any lightly woven material cut on the bias or of any stretchy material, of any light colour. (The bias is the diagonal of the material. Fold a square of material in half to form a triangle. Place the bottom of the pattern on the diagonal line.)
- It saves time if you cut out a number of pieces for the same puppet at the same time.
- The pattern pieces are photographed on 5 mm graph paper.
- Wadding is the soft material used to stuff the puppet's head.

Under-body for all puppets:

1. Using A and B pieces: cut out two of each, making sure that you cut out the pattern on the bias. Join the two pieces together. The "neck" is for the puppeteer's first and second fingers. It is surrounded by wadding and enables the puppeteer to manipulate the head. Fingers 3 and 4 go into one sleeve while the thumb goes into the other. When the under-body is in the outer puppet, it is a very good idea to lightly stitch the hands together to keep them firmly in place.
2. The head takes a lot of wadding and should be firmly packed.
3. Later, the under-body and the outer necks are back-stitched together with a flesh-coloured thread.

Jameela: See the photo of the Jameela puppet.

1. The flesh coloured material is for the face and hands. From the flesh-coloured material, cut or tear a long strip 3 cm wide, then cut this length in half.
2. Cut or tear a long strip from the red fabric 9 cm wide and cut this length in half.
3. Cut or tear a long strip from the green fabric 9 cm wide and cut this length in half.
4. See C pattern piece. Join flesh-coloured fabric-red-green-red-flesh-coloured strips. Iron. Be sure to get the green exactly in the middle. Cut 2 of C pattern one for the front bodice and one for the back bodice of the puppet.

5. Cut the head, D pattern using flesh coloured material, two pieces for each head. Join.
6. Before you join the head to the bodice, there is a tricky part. On the wrong side, take the front bodice and fold in half through the green insertion. Iron fold. Then you use this fold line to make a tuck less than 3mm but 12 mm from the fold line. Sew the tuck about 12 mm into the head and down to the bottom of the bodice. Repeat for the tuck on the other side of the midline. These tucks are on the front only to give fullness to the face and to decorate the green insert.
7. Head: Nick outside the head seam (little “v” cuts) being careful not to cut the thread line in the seam. Turn right side out. Stuff with wadding. The head will fit exactly to the neck. Now you have the head, hands and bodice.
8. Using red fabric cut front E and back F of skirt.
9. Using a large machine stitch put the gathering thread at the top of the front and the back of the skirt. Gather to fit the lower edge of the bodice, front and back.
10. Now, you can join the bodice to the skirt. Hem the skirt.
11. You can now put the previously made under-body inside the puppet dress. Push head and hands together; they should be as one.
12. Neck: Put your hand in, like the puppeteer will. Using flesh coloured thread, back stitch the two materials together. This defines the neck and keeps the stuffing in place.
13. Hair: Use black wool to put a few stitches to define the forehead.
14. Face: Use a long glass headed pin to mark the centre line of the face.
15. Eyebrows: Use one strand of dark brown stranded cotton to do tiny tacking or running stitch for the eye brows. If they are uneven the running stitch can be easily taken out. Then put tiny chain stitches using the dark brown cotton over the running stitch.
16. Eyes: To give eyelashes to female puppets, use a button-hole stitch on the top lid. On the bottom lid, use a tiny chain stitch.
17. Pupils: Use the same dark brown or black and use a satin stitch.
18. Lips: Outline with running stitch, then go over with chain stitch using reddish cotton stranded thread.
19. Nose: Using flesh coloured thread, take needle through deeply, taking up lots of material and wadding. Pull very tightly to cause the nose to rise.
20. Remove pin.
21. Veil: Cut a circle of green material with a 40 cm diameter. Cut in half. Hem or shear with pinking shears. Fold 12 mm under on long straight side and place centre in the centre of the forehead. Lightly stitch the veil to the forehead and stitch down to the bottom of the ear position. Jameela only: put three small beads on the centre of the forehead.

Each of the other puppet characters has a similar construction but have different colours. These colours are important because they match the illustrations in the stories.

Bibi Jan: Under skirt: white

Bodice top: 5 strips: flesh-crimson (dark red)-blue floral- crimson-flesh

Skirt: Crimson

Hair: You can use grey soft fluffy wool and stitch as for Jameela. Or you can use a small plait or braid for her hair across her forehead.

Veil: Dark purple.

Haleema: Under-skirt: white

Bodice top: flesh-blue floral-purple-blue floral-flesh

Skirt: purple

Veil: pale lavender

Hair: Black

Fatima: Under-skirt: white

Bodice: flesh-pink floral-red-pink floral-flesh

Skirt: Pink Floral

Veil: Pale Pink

Hair: Black

Male Puppets:

Abdullah: (all yellow)

Under skirt: Yellow (on bias)

Shirt: 1. Yellow material. Pattern G.

2. The shirt is joined to the head (both front and back). Then the rest of the puppet is the same as the others.

3. Fold front shirt to get a crease, flatten out. On the wrong side put in a less than 3mm tuck about 12mm from the centre line crease. This starts about 12 mm above the neck join and then down the body for about 10 cm. Tie off the ends to stop unravelling. These tucks give fullness to the face.

4. Join hands (Pattern Z flesh-coloured material) to the armholes, one on each side front and back. Iron.

5. Nick the curved head seam being careful not to cut the thread line. This nicking allows for more room when the head is now turned outside out.

6. Stuff the head with wadding. It takes a lot of wadding to make the head keeps its shape.

7. Join shirt, hands and head.

8. Hem the shirt.

9. Now put the under-body into the shirt, forcing the sleeves into each other. When the two pieces are together, using flesh-coloured thread, back stitch the two together, about 12 mm up from the neck seam line. This makes the neck and also holds in the wadding.

10. Hair: You can embroider the whole head with black cotton **or** embroider a 6 cm circle with black cotton around the crown and then catch down with wool.

11. Cap: Crochet with white wool or cotton. Start with 3-5 chain stitches. In a spiral, double crochet, gradually increasing until the circle is about 5.5 cm. Then crochet a few double stitches to reduce to fit head. Triple crochet can be used in the middle instead of double to save time.

12. Sew cap onto head.

13. Embroider face as for women except with heavier eye brows and no eye lashes. Darker red for mouth. Larger nose.

Ahmed: All white.

1. Under-body: white skirt
2. Shirt: White, can be a lighter weight material. Continue to include the insert and the two tucks on either side of the midline.
3. Hands: are flesh coloured and joined to shirt as in other puppets.
4. Join to head as before. Stuff head with wadding. Ahmed's head can be slightly smaller.
5. Hem the shirt.
6. Bolero Jacket: Using Pattern H cut from Red Felt. Using red thread, do a tiny top stitch to join shoulder seam. When finished, carefully stitch each shoulder onto body of puppet so the jacket won't fall off.
7. Hair: Black wool like Abdullah and other male puppets.
8. Cap: Crochet a cap slightly smaller than Abdullah's cap. Sew onto Ahmed's head.
9. Face: eyebrows should be a bit lighter and nose smaller. A child's face. He is 5 years old.

Merza: (somewhat different from puppet photographed.) Make Merza the same as Abdullah except that the under skirt and the shirt are grey. Merza has lost a leg so we will make just one leg.

1. Using black material cut a piece 17cm by 10 cm. Fold in half. (Now 17 cm by 5 cm) Sew a 6 mm seam along side and bottom. Turn right side out.
2. Stuff lightly with wadding.
3. Sew leg on left side under shirt. Attach firmly to the waist seam of the under-body.
4. Bolero Jacket: Make twice as long as Ahmed's using dark grey felt
5. Hair: as for Abdullah.
6. Crochet cap from heavier grey wool.
7. Embroider grey beard.

I am sure by now you can make any other puppet characters you wish by looking at the illustrations and making your own adjustments. If you have only the four main characters (the children and Bibi Jan), costumes can be made to go over a puppet from scraps of fabric (a turban, a shawl, a jacket etc.). Also, you can find or make little props such as a crutch, a bench, knitting needles and yarn, a pot, a cloth for eating on, a carpet on a rack and so on.

Good luck and have fun!

If you have any trouble, email Mary-Jo Land at homeland@sympatico.ca.