

Susan Mallery presents...

# NIKKI

A tiny but intrepid six-pound toy poodle

## a knitting pattern

**M**y name is Nikki Mallery. My mom is Susan Mallery. You know, the writer. She writes books about love and mushy stuff. Out of all the dogs in the world, she loves me best. She likes to dress me up in pretty little outfits and put adorable bows in my poofy hair. Then she posts pictures on her website, [www.SusanMallery.com](http://www.SusanMallery.com). In fact, she gave me a whole page of my own on her website. You can see all my video adventures there. I'm very adventuresome! Oh, and I'm the official mascot of Fool's Gold, California. As you can see, I live a very full life.

## materials

### For puppet:

Small amount of polyfill

1 skein worsted weight yarn in tan

Small amount of turquoise fingering yarn

Small amount of copper colored worsted weight and black worsted weight yarn

Size 6 double pointed needles for body\*

Size 2 straight or circular needles for eyes

### For dress:

1 skein each of fingering yarn in mint green, purple and orange for dress

Size 3 straight or circular and dp needles

### For hair and tiara:

1 skein of boucle about worsted weight

Pipe cleaner

Felt for a star

Small jewel

*\*This pattern will fit the average adult hand. For a smaller or larger puppet, use smaller or larger needles. It is also a right-handed puppet. To make it left handed, fold the thumb from the left side to the center before attaching the parts.*

## abbreviations

st = stitch

dp = double-pointed

inc = increase

k - knit

p = purl

ktog = knit together

ssk = slip, slip, knit (slip two stitches to right hand needle, put right needle through the back loops, knit together)

pu = pick up

Nikki was designed and created by artist

Jean Townsend

[www.JeanTownsend.com](http://www.JeanTownsend.com)



# puppet body

Using worsted weight and size 6 dp needles, cast on 44 stitches and divide onto three needles, mark beginning of row.

Work 6 rows in stockinette st, purl one row for the turn of the hem, then continue in stockinette st for 1 1/2 inches from hem line. On next row, dec 2 st evenly spaced. Continue in stockinette st for 2 inches from the hem turn. (42 sts)

## Thumb Gore:

First inc round for thumb gore: inc 1 st in next st (first thumb st), k1, inc 1 in next st (last thumb st). Knit to end of round. (44 sts).

K 2 rounds even.

Second inc round: inc 1 st in first st, k3, inc 1 in next st, k to end of round. (46 sts)

K 2 rounds even.

Continue to increase 1 st in first and last thumb st every third round (4 times) having 2 sts more between incs. after each round (54 sts)

K 2 rounds even. Slip to a strand of yarn or a small holder the 15 thumb sts. At the end of the last round cast on 3 sts. There will be 42 sts.

Work even until desired length, allowing 1 inch for finishing, decreasing 2 stitches evenly spaced in the last round.

First dec round: k tog every 3rd and 4th st, 10 times.

K 3 rounds even.

Second dec round: k tog every 2nd and 3rd st, 10 times.

K 3 rounds even.

Third dec round: k 2 tog in succession 10 times.

Break off, leaving an end. Draw end tightly through all sts. Fasten off.

Thumb: slip to 2 needles the 15 sts of thumb, with a third needle pick up and knit the 3 cast on sts. There are now 18 sts on the needles. Knit around until thumb measures 2 inches above cast on sts.

First dec round: \*k1, k2 tog, repeat from \* 5 times.

K 2 rounds even.

K 2 tog in succession 6 times.

Finish as for top of mittens.

Finishing: use the tail of the yarn joined at the thumb to pull together any open spaces at the thumb join, reinforcing it. Weave in ends.

Arms and legs: cast on 18 sts on size 6 dp needles, work until desired length, finish off as for thumb. Arms should measure 2 3/4 in and legs should measure 6 in. Fill with small amount of poly fill, just enough to fill out the form. Baste top together.

Slip stitch hem in place.

Tail: with a double strand of worsted and 2 size 6 p needles, cast on 3 sts. \* K 3, do not turn work. Slide sts to right end of needles. Pull yarn to tighten. Repeat from \* until cord is 3 inches long, leaving a long tail of yarn end.

With black yarn, make toenails on the paws.

# dress

With green yarn and circular or straight needles, cast on 144 sts., work in moss stitch for 8 rows. In next row, K 2tog across. Purl one row. 72 sts.

Change to purple, work in stockinette st for 5 rows. Work 2 rows in orange.

Armholes: K 16, slip these sts to holder, bind off 2, K 36, slip to holder, bind off 2, K 1, SSK, K to end. Purl next row. Repeat these two rows till 8 sts remain, place on holder. (This is left front.)

Right front: Attach yarn at front edge, K to last 3 sts, K2tog, K 1. Purl next row. Repeat these 2 rows until 8 sts remain. Place on holder.

Back: Put back 36 sts on needle, with right side facing, join yarn at right edge. K 1, inc 1, K to within 2 sts of edge, inc 1, K 1. Purl next row. Continue until there are 52 sts. Break yarn.

Knit 8 sts of right front from holder, cast on 2 sts, K 52 sts of back, cast on 2 sts, K 8 sts of left front. (72 sts) Work 2 rows. In next row, decrease 8 sts evenly spaced along back between armholes. Work 2 rows, bind off.

Sleeves: With size 3 dp needles, pu a total of 30 sts around the arm opening (13 sts on each side of arm, plus 2 sts at top and bottom of opening). Work 9 rows of stockinette st in purple. Change to green, work in stockinette st. for 3 rows, bind off in P st.

Bow: With orange, work an I cord on 2 size 3 dp needles for 19 inches, bind off.

Fold in half. Fold dress in half and match fold marks. Stretch I cord slightly while whip stitching it along the top of dress with purple yarn, stopping 1/4 inch before front edge on each side.

Sewing up: Use mattress stitch to sew up front on dress. Weave in all ends.



## hair

Make a generous hank of yarn about 20 inches long. Tie piece of yarn in a bow around one end. With another piece of yarn tie a firm knot 3 inches from the top, wrapping the yarn several times around the hank. Untie the top bow and clip the ends, this forms the top knot. (See figure 2 and 3 in diagram.)

Separate the section below the knot into two equal pieces (like pony tails). Beginning close to the top knot, use a piece of yarn to firmly wrap a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch section of the pony tail, securing the ends by using a yarn needle and threading the tail back through the wrapped section. Do this the same way you would wrap a lock of hair around the rubber-banded part of a pony tail to hide the rubber band. Repeat on the other side.

Place the hair across the puppet's head, and secure by stitching with a doubled yarn into the knitted fabric. Placement is

**Important!** The bangs should be close enough to the eyes to fall across them. When the hair is in place, trim it so the ears reach to just above the shoulders (generous ears!). Leave the topknot hair longer in back to flop a bit over the back.

Make a small pom pom, about 3 inches wide and attach it to the I cord tail.

## tiara

Affix a pipe cleaner to a star (I used an old felted piece of knitting) by folding the edge of the pipe cleaner over about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch to make a loop, then sew it onto the back of the fabric or paper. Make a bend in the pipe cleaner about two inches from the star and nestle it into the top knot. Wrap the remainder around the base of the top knot and secure ends. Cut off excess pipe cleaner. Glue a jewel into the center of the star (a glue gun is easy and quick). Fluff out the top knot around the pipe cleaner so it does not show. The star should be just peeking out.

## assembly

Pull the eye shapes into shape, pointing both the ends, and pin to head for placement. Then sew on with long tails. Use a double length of black worsted to make pupils in satin stitch or French knots.

Place the bobble on the nose spot and use the tails to sew the outer edge of the bobble to the knitted fabric.

Lay the puppet flat and fold the thumb from the right edge to the center. The thumb gore should begin  $\frac{1}{2}$  in inside the body. Place the arms at a diagonal and slightly overlapping. (See diagram, figure 1). Sew on firmly with a whipstitch. Sew lower legs to inside of hem.

Slip the dress over Nikki arms and tie bow tight enough to hold the dress up along the back (but not too tight).

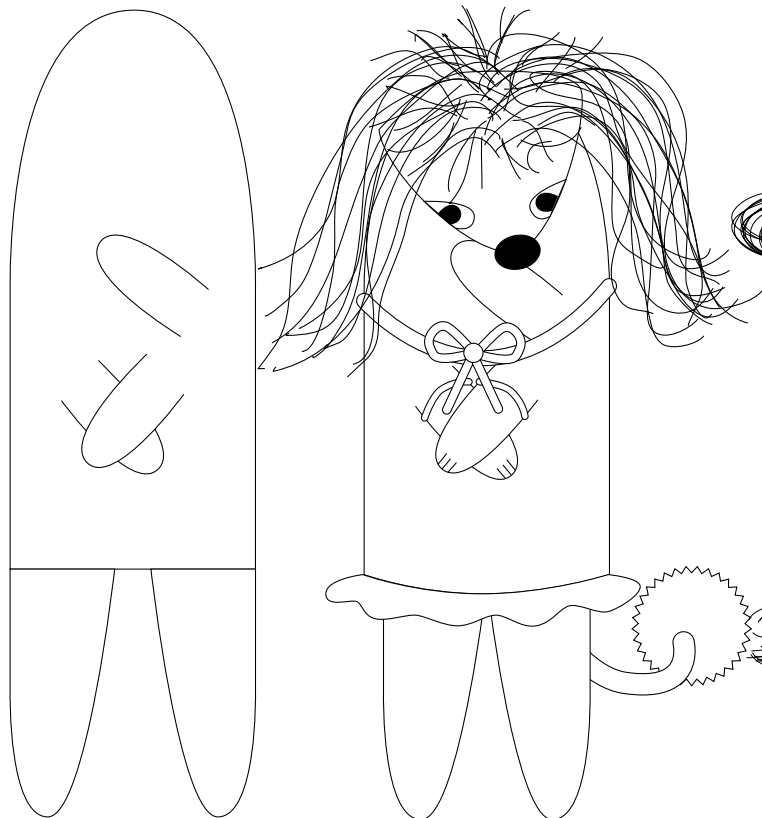


Figure 1

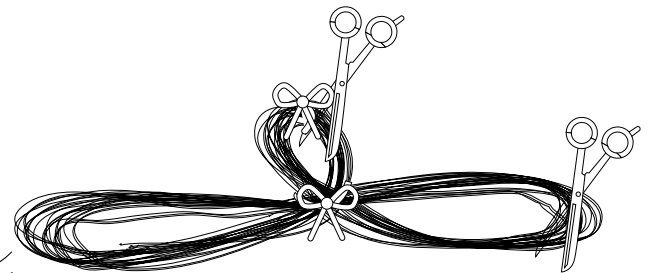


Figure 2

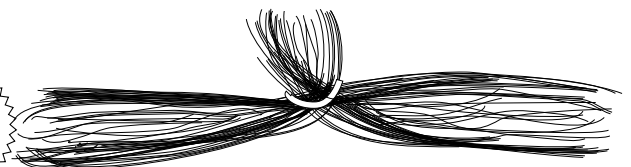


Figure 3