

M'sters KXS



Table of Contents

Introduction, Techniques, Credits	2
Schematic and Gallery	3
Stitches and Abbreviations	6
Written Instructions	6
Charted Instructions	7
Assembly and Finishing	9
Stitches and Definitions	11



Materials

- Medium to dk weight yarn:
 - ✓ MC: 7.25 yds / 7 m
 - ✓ CC: 2.6 yds + 12" piece / 2.5 m + 30 cm piece
- 3.25 mm needles
- Embroidery needle
- Embroidery floss for mouth: 5" / 13 cm
- Optional: toothpick or pine needle for Michael Myers variation
- Very small amount of stuffing material

Measurements & Gauge

Finished doll measures approximately 2.25" / 5.6 cm tall with the same measurement for wingspan.

Use the size of needles which will obtain a dense fabric without straining the hands.

Introduction

In the year 2011 or so, I impulsively decided to make miniature stuffed crochet candy corns to hand out on Halloween. The neighborhood trick-or-treaters seemed to like them, and I especially liked them, so I made it a tradition! Several years later, here we are at miniature knit Frankenstein's Monsters, or, M'sters KXS!

A crochet version is also available, is a little less tedious, and each M'ster is a little quicker to make, so if you crochet and would prefer that, I encourage you to check it out.

Various colors may be used to emulate various characters, for example, a Michael Myers can be created using an off-white CC, blue MC, and by sticking a small piece of dry pine needle or blunt toothpick in the neck (to represent the knitting needle with which he is stabbed!). I would hope it goes without saying that if you are giving a Michael Myers doll to young children, you might want to omit the "knitting needle" in the neck.

Credits

Title page graphic and chart-making software created by Adam T. Ryder:
inventati.org/1337gallery

Chart-making software available for free at:
<https://chetapp.weebly.com>

Shcematic and chart colorations created in the free and open source image editing program GIMP: gimp.org

Techniques Used

This tiny monster is knit in one piece from the top down. The piece is then, essentially, folded in half lengthwise and seamed. The samples use mattress stitch with a one-stitch selvage from each edge of the fabric.

To overcome the challenge of creating a pair of arms without having to break the yarn and pickup stitches (or seam on an arm later), after the neck rows are completed, new stitches are cast on at the beginning, middle, and end of the next row. These stitches are bound off again after they have been worked, and these complete the arm stitches.

For the CC stitches cast on mid-row, the samples used a twisted loop for the first stitch (see Gallery, p. 3) and continue with a normal backward loop cast-on.

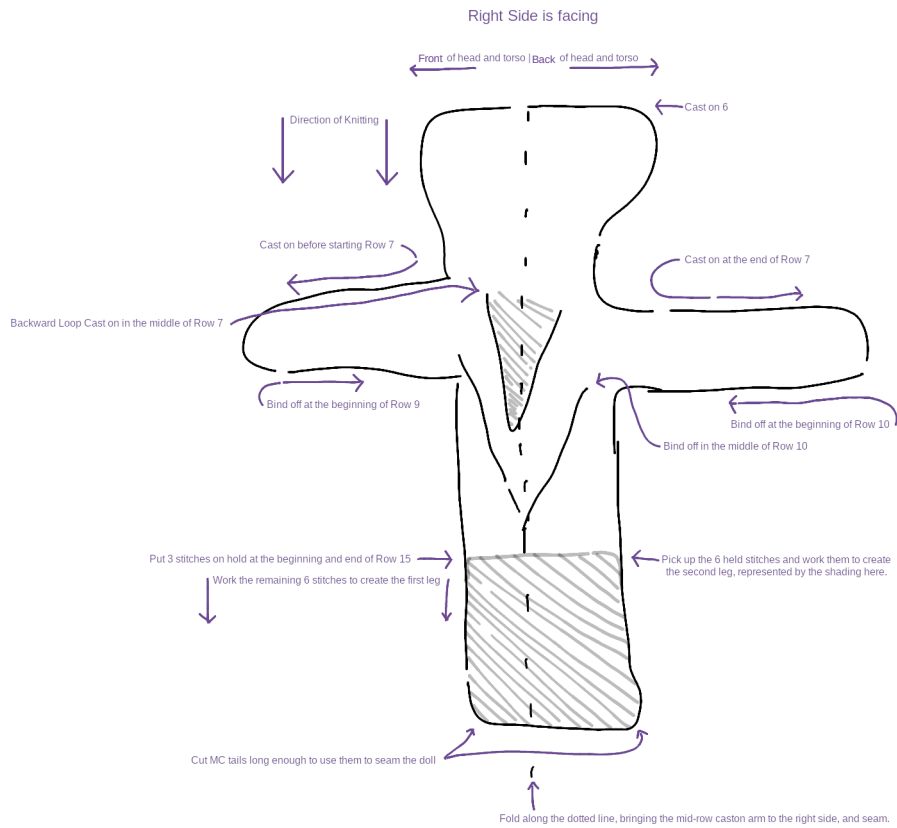
After some plain stockinette rows for the body, some stitches are placed on hold to separate them for the second leg. The remaining stitches are knit for the first leg, and when it is complete, the held stitches are placed back on the needles and worked to complete the second leg.

Color changes are written into the pattern instructions and are indicated by the boxed symbols on the chart. There are some color changes mid-row, and at the arms, some moderate stranded work is used as a result.

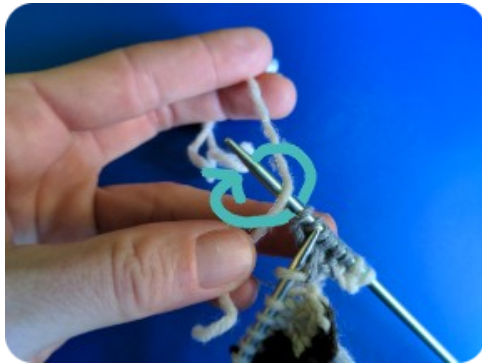
Throughout, you should use the intarsia technique of twisting the new color behind the old color to prevent gaps in the fabric.

Once the piece is all seamed up, having added a small amount of stuffing to the torso and head, facial features are embroidered with french knots for eyes and a back-stitch for the mouth.

Schematic



Gallery

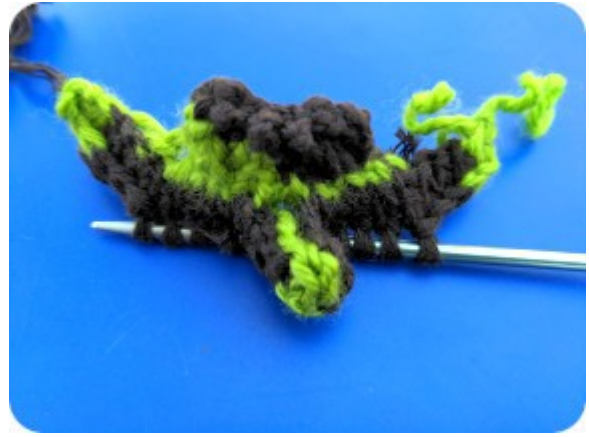


Make a twisted loop to begin casting on a new color: begin with the yarn over the right hand needle such that the tail is in the front, pictured above-left. Circle the needle tip up and away from you over the working yarn then bring it down and toward you underneath both yarn tail and working yarn. The result, pictured above-right, is a simple twisted loop. Hold the twist secure to continue casting on stitches. Incidentally, this is how I begin almost all my knitting and crochet, as opposed to with a slip knot.

Gallery, cont'd...



At the end of Row 7, both arms have been cast on.



At the end of Row 10, both arms have been bound off.



Seaming begins at the foot. After folding the leg in half lengthwise, work a mattress stitch seam across the bottom of the foot. Image shows seaming before pulling tight.

When seaming a bound-off edge, such as the feet and lower edge of arms, insert needle from wrong to right side underneath both loops of the bindoff.

For the cast-on edges of the arms, insert needle in the direction of the seaming from right side to wrong side and back again around the stitch being picked-up.



Gallery, cont'd...



Placement for embroidered french knot features.
Left: Frankenstein's monster has eyes and "neck bolts."
Right: Michael Myers has eyes and a "knitting needle" (pine needle) protruding from the neck.

Embroidered features (excluding mouth) use about 8" / 20 cm of yarn.
The mouth uses about 5" / 12.5 cm of embroidery thread.



Be careful in the woods because these M'sters have learned to climb trees!

Instructions

Note: Measure and cut the CC yarn before beginning.

Head

with MC, CO 6.

Row 1: (RS) k 1, pfb 4 times, k 1, turn. **(10 sts)**

Row 2: p 5, with longer CC p 5, turn.

Row 3: as set

Row 4: as set

Neck

Row 5: k 1, (ssk, k2tog) twice, k 1, turn. **(6 sts)**

Row 6: p 6, turn.

Arms/Chest

Note: For this section, the shorter piece of CC is used for the mid-row CC sts only while both ends of the longer piece are used for CC sts at both ends of the rows.

Row 7 Note: To cast on the CC in the middle of the row, see Gallery, p. 3.

carry MC behind work to work a knitted co 3 sts, with CC knitted co 2 sts **(11 sts)**

Row 7: k 2; with MC k 4; (m 1, k 1) twice; onto right hand needle: blco 3, with shorter CC blco 2, with MC blco 3; (k 1, m 1) twice; k 1; onto right hand needle: blco 3, with free end of longer CC blco 2; turn. **(28 sts)**

Row 8: with CC p 2, with MC p 11, with CC p2, with MC p 11, with CC p 2.

Row 9: with CC bo 1, with MC bo 4, finish row as set, cut end of CC just bound off leaving 2" tail, turn. **(23 sts)**

Row 10: with CC bop 1, with MC bop 4, p 5, bop 2, with CC bop 2, with MC bop 4, p 4, cut CC bound off at beginning of row leaving 2" tail, turn. **(10 sts)**

Row 11 Note: Be sure to work the center stitches of the row quite snugly so as to prevent a gap.

Row 11: k 10, turn.

Row 12: as set

Row 13: as set

Row 14: as set

First Leg

Row 15: k 3 and place these sts on hold, k 1, m 1, k 2, m 1, k 4, turn.

Row 16: p 3 and place them on hold, p 6, turn.

Row 17: as set

Row 18: as set

Row 19: as set

Row 20: with CC p 6, turn.

Row 21: bo 6, cut CC leaving 2" tail, cut MC leaving 12" tail for seaming.

Second Leg

Place all 6 held stitches onto needles with knit sides to the front, being careful not to twist fabric. Begin with knit side facing.

Row 1: sl 3, with MC k 3, turn. **(6 sts)**

Row 2: p 6, turn.

Row 3: as set

Row 4: as set

Row 5: with CC k 6, turn.

Row 6: bop 6, cut CC leaving 2" tail, cut MC leaving 30" tail for seaming and embroidery.

Proceed to Assembly and Finishing (p. 9).

Chart Symbol Key















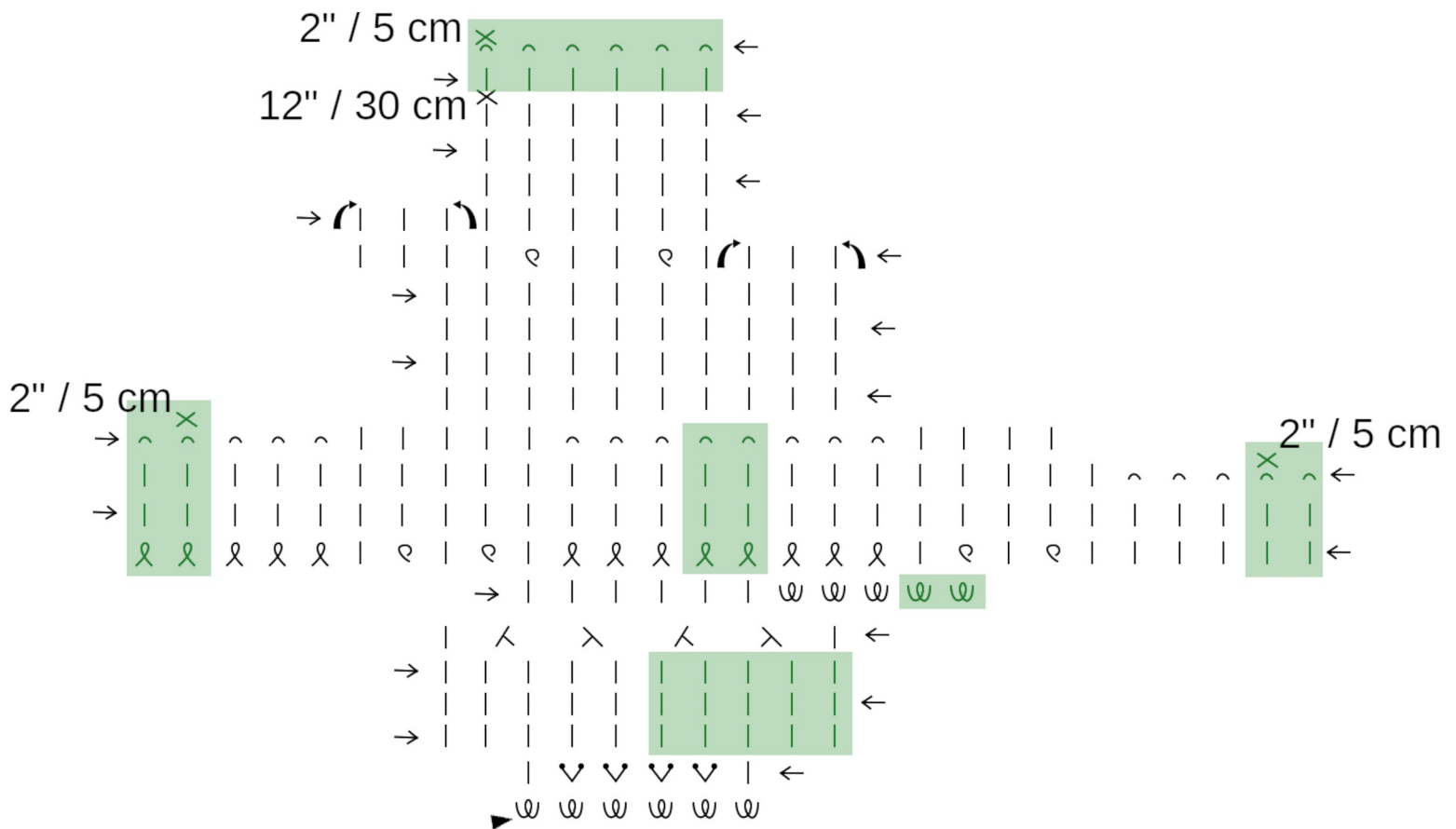
	beginning arrow indicates first stitch of chart		cast on, samples use knitted caston		row direction arrow indicates direction of stitching
	knit from RS, purl from WS		purl front and back from RS, knit front and back from WS		work stitches in colored box using CC
	slip slip knit from RS, slip slip purl from WS		knit 2 together from RS, purl 2 together from WS		make 1 increase
	backward loop caston		standard bind off from RS, bop from WS		cut yarn just used leaving tail according to adjacent indicated length
	after working stiches between these arrows, place them on hold		slip 1 stitch with yarn held in back from RS, with yarn held in front from WS		

Chart Notes

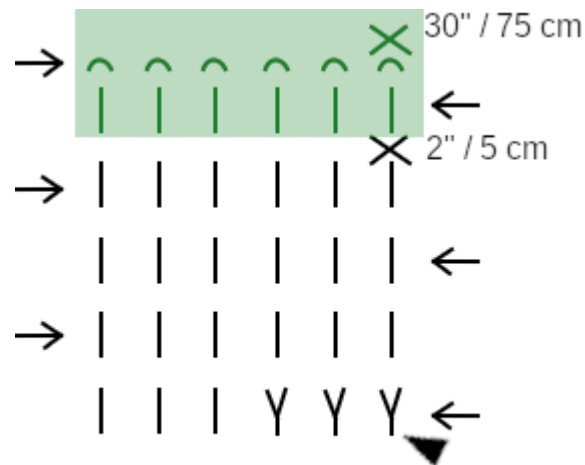
Chart is presented with the right side facing. Work the first chart from beginning to end then place all 6 held stitches onto needles with knit sides to the front, being careful not to twist fabric. Begin with knit side facing and work the second chart from beginning to end then proceed to Assembly and Finishing (p. 9).

Charted Instructions

Work this chart once.



Place held stitches on needles being careful not to twist the stitches, and begin with the knit side facing. Work this chart once.



Assembly and Finishing

Seaming and Stuffing

Note: This and the following “Embroidery and Finishing” sections present a somewhat step-by-step process for finishing the doll. If you are unfamiliar with mattress stitch and french knots, you will need to look up how to do them (or find a different solution). If you are familiar with finishing in general, you may be able to skip reading these sections. Just keep in mind that the 12” / 30 cm tail from the first leg is intended to seam up the first leg and the “mid-row” arm while the 30” / 70 cm tail from the second leg is intended to seam up the second leg, the open side of the torso, the open-ended arm, and the head as well as make the embroidered features.

Use mattress stitch leaving a full 1 stitch selvage from each side throughout.

Position the doll’s left arm so that it is protruding to the RS.

Be sure that the CC tails are tucked to the inside of the doll.

In general, I like to pull the seaming yarn after every 2 pairs of stitches or rows seamed. This firms up the seam without too much tension which poses the risk of breaking the yarn.

Use the MC tail of the First Leg to seam the foot (see Gallery, p. 4) and up the inside of the leg. There are 5 MC rows to be seamed, but the samples generally only seamed 4 row-ends together.

Pass the yarn up the interior of the body to begin seaming the bottom edge of the left arm (see Gallery, p. 4). There are 3 MC sts and 1 CC st from each edge to be seamed. After the CC sts have been seamed, pass the yarn up through the interior of the hand to seam the top edge of the left arm toward the neck.

At the neck, pass the yarn to the interior of the body and begin seaming the second leg in the same manner.

After the inside of the second leg has been seamed, pass the yarn through the interior of the body to bring it to the doll’s right-hand side. There are 4 body rows to be seamed.

Seam the bottom edge of the right arm the same as the left. Use mattress stitch with a one-stitch selvage from each edge to seam the hand. There are two rows to be seamed at the hand.

Repeat the seaming process for the top edge of the left arm now on the right arm.

At the neck, there are 2 rows to be seamed.

The yarn tails will likely make up the majority of the stuffing, but add a small amount now as desired. Know that it is easier to remove than it is to add more after the piece is finished.

There may be some gaps where the stuffing shows through on the face, but the embroidery features should cover this sufficiently.

Seam together two rows on the side of the head. Next, perform the same mattress stitch technique as was performed on the foot now at the top of the head. There are 3 pairs of stitches to be seamed, but the samples generally only seamed together 2 pairs.

Now pass the yarn down through the center of the top of the head and out on the face where you want your first eye to be embroidered.

Pull the yarn enough that it makes the top of the head flat. Some pinching and rolling of the piece may be necessary to obtain the desired shaping.

Embroidery and Finishing

Make an embroidered french knot for each eye and, if making a Frankenstein’s Monster, for each neck bolt.

After finishing each knot, pass the yarn through the head to the location where you will begin making the next knot.

Assembly and Finishing cont'd...

When the french knots are completed, pass the yarn through the body to a location on the torso where you can perform 3 duplicate stitches. Then pass the yarn through the body to a completely different place on the doll and while holding the yarn tail taught, cut the yarn close to the surface and squeeze the doll so that the tail gets sucked into the stuffing.

To make the mouth, thread the embroidery needle with the embroidery thread and insert it from the back of the head and exit at one corner of the mouth.

Perform a back-stitch twice in the same spot so that there are two strands of thread for the mouth. After the second stitch, pass the needle through the head and exit through the same location where you entered.

Gently tie the two tails in a square knot so that the knot is very close to the fabric. Be careful not to pull too tightly lest you disturb the mouth embroidery.

Thread the needle again with both tails and pass the needle through the body, exiting at a completely different point on the body. Make sure that the square knot passes to the interior of the head.

Hold the tails taught and cut them close to the fabric. Squeeze the doll so that the tails get sucked into the stuffing.

Stitches and Definitions

as set	knits get knit and purls get purled as they appear; CC into CC, MC into MC
blco	backward loop caston: wrap the yarn around the needle such that the bottoms of the wrapped loops are twisted, creating new stitches
bo	bind off: to begin, knit 2 stitches; pass first stitch knit over the second; knit next stitch and pass previous stitch over until desired number of stitches have been bound off
bop	bind off purlwise: to begin, purl 2 stitches; pass the first purled stitch over the second; purl next stitch and pass previous stitch over until desired number of stitches have been bound off
CC	contrast color
co	caston
k	knit, knitwise
k2tog	knit 2 together: insert needle as if to knit 2nd and 1st stitches on LH needle; knit them together
M1(L/R)	make 1 (left/right) – left: insert LH needle from front to back underneath the strand between 2 stitches immediately below and knit into the back leg of this loop; right: insert LH needle from back to front underneath the strand between 2 stitches immediately below and knit as normal into the front leg of this loop
MC	main color
p	purl, purlwise
pfb	purl front and back: purl into the front leg and into the back leg of the next stitch
RS	right side: the face of a piece that is seen when finished
sl	slip: move stitch from left needle to right without working it, generally performed as if to purl
ssk	slip slip knit: slip 2 stitches one at a time knitwise, knit them together through their back loops, one stitch decreased
st(s)	stitch(es)