



feel better friends doll



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FINISHED SIZE & GAUGE

Approximately 13 inches tall. Exact gauge is not necessary for this project. Be sure stitches are tight so fiberfill stuffing doesn't come out.

MATERIALS

- Worsted weight yarn for body - choose a color close to the child's natural skin color
 - I use - Loops & Threads Impeccable: Aran - light/fair skin tones
 - Heather - medium/light skin tones
 - Soft Taupe - medium/dark skin tones
 - Chocolate - dark skin tones
- Worsted weight yarn for mouth - I use Lion Brand Vanna's Choice Pink
- Worsted weight yarn for scalp of wig - Use a yarn color that matches the hair
- Yarn for hair/wig - Use a weight of yarn that closely matches the weight of the child's hair. Use worsted or even smaller weight yarn for fine hair and bulky yarn for thick hair. Have fun with this, choosing different weights of yarn give very different looks.
- US G/6-4.00mm crochet hook
- 1 pair (set of 2) 12mm safety eyes - choose color to match child's eyes
- Heavyweight interfacing used for the white of the eyes (two 19mm circles)
- Fiberfill stuffing
- Stitch marker
- Tapestry needle for weaving ends
- Straight pins for positioning (optional)
- Scissors
- Felt in the same color as the yarn for the wig. (approximately 4" x 4")
- Felt glue
- Sewing needle and thread that matches the wig
- 1/4" elastic cut to approximately 8 inches or to fit snugly behind doll's ears and around head

NOTES AND ABBREVIATIONS

- Item is worked in continuous rounds; DO NOT join or turn unless otherwise instructed.
- Magic ring - there are some great YouTube tutorials out there if you need help with this, otherwise you can use the chain 2 method in place of the magic ring
- ST(s): stitch(es)
- YO: yarn over
- BEG: beginning
- R1: round 1 - R# indicates specific round number
- REP: repeat - repeat instructions starting at *
- FO: fasten off - cut yarn tail, pull up the loop on the hook and pass your yarn tail through. Pull tight to close. Weave in ends.

STITCHES USED

- SC: single crochet - Insert hook into stitch, YO & pull up a loop, YO, pull through both loops on hook.
- INVDEC: Invisible decrease - A method of decreasing. Insert hook into the front loop only of the next two stitches and pull a loop up through both. YO and pull through last two loops left on hook.
- SL ST: slip stitch - Insert hook, pull up loop through first loop on hook
- CH: chain stitch





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INTRODUCTION

Feel Better Friends are handmade dolls stuffed with love and well wishes. The idea started as a gift for a little girl battling cancer. Due to chemo she had lost her hair and often times wore a wig. I thought it would be great if she could have a doll she could relate to. One that looked just like her, bald and beautiful and with her own wig! FBF dolls are for children battling cancer and other illnesses who would like a doll for comfort and love.

This pattern is free for anyone who would like to help spread the love with a Feel Better Friends doll. Here you will learn how to make the basic doll with or without hair, along with how to make a wig. Doll clothes are not included in this pattern but I hope to share some clothing tutorials soon at www.shanonigans.com Until then there are **TIPS** listed throughout the pattern with instructions on how to make the doll's clothes as you go.

Please note, If you are making your doll for a very young child please take into safety precautions. Only use smooth yarn, not fuzzy yarn. Be sure eyes are secure or simply create the eyes with a few yarn stitches. Be sure any loops made (such as the mouth and hair) are secure. You can even sew these on with a needle and thread for added security. Do not use any extra details (such as beads, pearls, sequins etc.) that could be a choking hazard.

Finally, I would like to invite you to my volunteer Feel Better Friends Doll Makers group on facebook where you can share your doll photos and find out how to donate your FBF doll to a child in need: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/feelbetterfriends/>

Have fun and be creative!

PATTERN INSTRUCTIONS

HEAD - working in continuous rounds starting at the top of the head and finishing at the neck where it will connect to the body
Start with magic ring technique (or chain two method)

TIP: when making a doll that has permanent hair, start with yarn that is the same color as the hair but the same weight as the yarn used for body to create a scalp. Work in rounds 1-8 switching to the skin color yarn for R9-R23.

R1: Work 8 sc in magic ring and pull tight.

R2: 2 sc in each st around. Use stitch marker to indicate beg of R2 and each R moving forward. (16)

R3: *2 sc in next st, 1 sc in next st. REP (24)

R4: *2 sc in next st, 1 sc in next 2 sts. REP (32)

R5: *2 sc in next st, 1 sc in next 3 sts. REP (40)

R6: *2 sc in next st, 1 sc in next 4 sts. REP (48)

R7 - R19: sc in each st around (48 sc per round)

R20: *INVDEC, sc in next 4 sts. REP (40)

R21: *INVDEC, sc in next 3 sts. REP (32)

R22: *INVDEC, sc in next 2 sts. REP (24)

R23: *INVDEC, sc in next 1 st. REP (16)

- FO leaving long tail to attach to body. Stuff firmly and add eyes. Use your precut circle interfacing as the white of the eye by cutting a small circle or slit in the center of the interfacing, and inserting the post of the safety eye before attaching to head. I attach the eyes between rounds 10 and 11 with about 7-8 sts in between. Make a nose by sewing several stitches in the middle of the face. Use the pink yarn (or color of your choice) to add a mouth. I use a double stranded piece of yarn on a tapestry needle and sew from one side of the face to the other covering about 4-5 sts to make a smile. Finally, use blush, crayons, or paint to make rosy cheeks if desired.

TIP: Add any other details that will help make your doll look like his or her owner such as freckles, dimples and other beauty marks. These can be made with a few extra embroidered stitches. Items such as glasses can be purchased online or in craft stores.

EARS (make 2) - working in continuous rounds

Start with magic ring technique (or chain two method)

R1: Work 6 sc in magic ring and pull tight.

R2: sc in each st around. - FO leaving long tail to attach to head. Attach at about eye level on each side of head.

TIP: If desired add earrings by using small beads and sewing them to the ears with invisible thread.





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PATTERN INSTRUCTIONS (continued)

WIG - Use yarn that is the same color as the hair but the same weight as the yarn used for the body and head. Working in continuous rounds starting at the center of the scalp of the wig

Start with magic ring technique (or chain two method)

R1: Work 8 sc in magic ring and pull tight.

R2: 2 sc in each st around. Use stitch marker to indicate beg of R2 and each R moving forward. (16)

R3: *2 sc in next st, 1 sc in next st. REP (24)

R4: *2 sc in next st, 1 sc in next 2 sts. REP (32)

R5: *2 sc in next st, 1 sc in next 3 sts. REP (40)

R6: *2 sc in next st, 1 sc in next 4 sts. REP (48)

R7 - R8: sc in each st around (48 sc per round)

- FO and weave in tail. Add hair by cutting several pieces of yarn about 16 inches in length. Take 1-2 strands of this yarn and fold in half, pull down and back up 1 stitch in the scalp using crochet hook and then pull yarn ends through the center fold of yarn. Pull tight. You will need several strands of cut yarn to create a full head of hair. Now take your elastic band and with a needle and thread sew the ends of the band to the sides of the wig on the wrong side. Make sure you've positioned the wig to fit snugly on the top of the head with the elastic band stretching around the back of the head and behind the ears. Next, cut a round piece of felt to fit just inside the scalp of the wig. This will hold the hair in place and create a smooth scalp inside the wig. Use felt glue to attach felt to scalp. Shape to fit top of the head and leave to dry several hours.



PERMANENT HAIR - For long hair add yarn to the scalp the same as you would for a wig. For short hair use long piece of yarn on a tapestry needle and add stitches to the scalp.

ARMS (make 2) - working in continuous rounds starting at the hand and working up the arm

Start with magic ring technique (or chain two method)

R1: Work 5 sc in magic ring and pull tight.

R2: 2 sc in each st around. Use stitch marker to indicate beg of R2 and each R moving forward. (10)

R3 - 29: sc in each st around (10 sc per round)

- FO leaving long tail to attach to body. Stuff firmly.

TIP: Sometimes you may want to add thumbs to your doll. To do this work arms R1-R5. ch 4 after last st of R5. sc in 3rd ch from hook and last 2 sts. continue on to R6



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PATTERN INSTRUCTIONS (continued)

LEGS AND TORSO

- **Leg ONE** - working in continuous rounds starting at the toe and working up the leg

- Start with magic ring technique (or two chain method)

R1: Work 6 sc in magic ring and pull tight.

R2: 2 sc in each st around. Use stitch marker to indicate beg of R2 and each R moving forward. (12)

R3 - R29: sc in each st around (12 sc per round) - FO and stuff firmly

- **Leg TWO** - Work the same as leg ONE but DO NOT FO. Stuff Leg TWO firmly and continue on to make the torso

- **Torso** - Continue to work in rounds stuffing as needed

R1: ch 3. sc into leg ONE and sc into each st around. sc in back side of beg 3 chs. sc into leg TWO and into each st around (30)

R2 - R13: sc in each st around (30 sc per round)

R14: sc in next 8 sts. INVDEC. sc in next 13 sts. INVDEC. sc in last 5 sts (28)

R15: sc in next 7 sts. INVDEC. sc in next 12 sts. INVDEC. sc in last 5 sts (26)

R16: sc in each st around (26)

R17: sc in next 7 sts. INVDEC. sc in next 12 sts. INVDEC. sc in last 3 sts (24)

R18: sc in next 8 sts. INVDEC. sc in next 10 sts. INVDEC. sc in last 2 sts (22)

R19: sc in each st around (22)

R20: sc in next 8 sts. INVDEC. sc in next 9 sts. INVDEC. sc in last st (20)

R21: sc in next 8 sts. INVDEC. sc in next 8 sts. INVDEC. (18)

R22: sc in next 8 sts. INVDEC. sc in next 6 sts. INVDEC. (16)

R23: sc in each st around (16)

-FO leaving long tail and sew to the base of the head. Finish up by adding arms to each side of the body just below the neck. Sew in any loose ends and enjoy!

TIP: You can make clothes that are removable for your doll or you can create the clothes as you make the doll so that they are a part of the body. Some children may like to have a doll they can dress while others prefer not to have to work at changing clothes. It also can take more time to make removable clothes so it is important to take into all considerations. I prefer to have some clothes "attached" and some removable. Removable clothes for your doll can be found in a separate pattern. Here are some tips to make the clothes as you make your doll:

SHOES: start with yarn color for shoes and follow instructions for R1-6 for each leg. Switch to skin colored yarn on last pull through of last st on R6. Continue with the rest of the instructions.

PANTS: change from the skin color to pant/shorts color when needed. Such as at the end of R8 for long pants, at the end of R13 for capris, and at the end of R22 for shorts. Change back to the skin colored yarn at the end of R10 of the torso to finish the top of the pants.

SHIRT: shirts can be added by changing the yarn color at the end of R10 of the torso and by adding sleeves to the arms. To add sleeves change to the shirt color yarn on the arms at the end of R8 for long sleeves, at the end of R16 for a mid sleeve length, and at the end of R24 for short sleeves.