

Knit a Battlefield

Cavalry soldier

This cavalry soldier stands 20cm tall. His parts are small enough to be knitted with scraps and in spare moments. Knitted with a red coat, he can form part of the New Model Army. With a coat of another colour, he can fight for the King. So choose a side and gather these materials!



Dk yarn in these colours

- ◆ Light brown (buff coat, boots, gauntlets)
- ◆ Dark brown (trousers)
- ◆ White (linen cuffs- tiny amount)
- ◆ Skin colour of your choice.
- ◆ Red (New Model Army jacket) or another colour of your choice
- ◆ Grey or metallic (armour and helmet)

Needle size 2.75-3mm

Toy stuffing or scraps of quilt wadding Pipe cleaners

Needle for sewing seams

I used King Cole Merino Blend DK with Sirdar Soiree for the armour but any DK yarn you have is fine! I knitted the sample with 3mm needles..

Abbreviations:

K = Knit

P = Purl

Kfb = Knit in the front and back of the same stitch to increase one. Find a tutorial [here](#)

M1= Make 1- (referred to as M1L sometimes) increase one stitch by picking up the bar between the stitch you have just knit and the next one with the left needle from front to back. Knit this bar through the back loop. Find a tutorial [here](#)

K2Tog = Knit two stitches together

SS = stocking stitch (Knit one row purl one row)

SSK = slip 2 stitches knit wise one at a time. Pass the two slipped stitches back to the left needle, knit both together through the back of the loop

Head

Using preferred skin colour , cast on 13 sts.

Row 1. P

Row 2. K1, M1, (K2, M1) five times, K2

Row 3 -5 SS (starting with a purl row)

The next three rows create a nose in the middle of your soldier's face

Row 6. K9, Kfb, turn

Row 7. P2, turn

Row 8. K to end of row.

Row 9. P9, P2tog, P9 (19 sts)

Row 10. K5,(SSK) twice, K1, (K2tog) twice, K5 (15 sts)

Change wool to armour grey and work 3 rows in SSs, starting with a P row

Row 14. K1, K2 tog, K2, K2tog,K1, K2tog, K2, K2tog, K1 (11 sts)

Thread yarn through remaining stitches and fasten off.

Make up and stuff.



Helmet's 'lobster tail' neck guard

Using armour grey, cast on 10 stitches

Row 1. K into back of stitches for neat edge

Starting with a P row work 5 rows in SS

Row 7. K 2 tog , K to the last 2 stitches, K2tog

Row 8. P2 tog, P to the last 2 stitches, P2tog

Repeat rows 7 & 8 (4 sts)

Row 11. Cast off.

Stretching slightly, stitch cast on edge to edge of grey on head to make helmet.

Sleeves (make 2)

Using 'New Model Army' red or your choice of alternative colour, cast on 8 stitches

Row 1. K

Row 2. P

Row 3. K1, M1, K6, M1, K1 (10 stitches)

Starting with a P row work 9 rows in SS

Change to linen cuff white (or to gauntlet brown if you prefer to have a longer gauntlet instead of a cuff)

Rows 13 – 16. K

Change to 'gauntlet' brown for gloves

Row 17. P

Starting with a K row work 4 rows in SS

Row 21. (K 2 tog) to end of the row (5 stitches)

Thread yarn through remaining stitches and fasten off.

Sew up side. Insert a piece of pipe cleaner cut to length and bent over at each end to prevent piercing through, then stuff and stitch onto body at the shoulders

Helmet Visor

Cast on 4 stitches

Row 1 Kfb K2, Kfb (6 stitches)

Row 2 Kfb K4 Kfb (8 stitches)

Row 3 K

Row 4 Kfb, K2 tog, K2, Ktog, Kfb

Row 5 repeat row 4

Cast off. You should have a crescent shape. Stretch slightly and stitch the concave part of the curve to the front of the head along the edge of the grey section.

Body

Using 'buff coat brown', 'New Model Army red' or a Cavalier colour of your choice, cast on 8 stitches

Row 1. P

Row 2. K2, M1, K4, M1, K2 (10 sts)

Row 3. P

Row 4. K2, M 1, K1, M1, K4, M1, K1, M1, K2 (14 sts)

Row 5. P

Row 6. K3, M1, K1, M1, K6, M1, K1, M1, K3 (18 sts)

Starting with a P row work 19 rows in SS

Row 26. (K2 tog) repeat to the end of the row (9 stitches),

Row 27. P.

Thread yarn through remaining stitches and fasten off.

Make up and stuff.

Sew head onto cast on edge of body and wind wool around neck to secure.



Legs (make 2)

*Using trouser brown (or any other colour of your choice)
cast on 8 stitches*

Row 1. K

Row 2. P

Row 3. K1, M1, K6, M1, K1 (10 sts)

Starting with a P row work 11 rows in SS

Change to boots brown

Rows 15 – 34. K

Row 35. (K2tog) 5 times

Thread yarn through remaining stitches and fasten off.

Sew up one side. Insert a length of pipe cleaner cut to size and bent over at each end to prevent piercing through. Bend foot up then stuff leg. (Tip: I found wrapping the pipe cleaner with stuffing or quilt wadding first and then inserting it worked well)

You may like to embroider a face on your soldier and add hair or a beard. Have fun and adapt the pattern as you wish!



Breastplate and buff coat (make 2)

Using buff coat brown, cast on 18 stitches

Row 1. K into back of stitches to make a neat edge

Starting with a P row, work 5 rows in SS

Row 7. K2tog, knit to the last two stitches, K2tog (16 sts)

Row 8. P2tog, P to the last two stitches, P2tog (14 sts)

Starting with a K row work 4 rows in SS

Change to armour grey

Row 13 – 30 Starting with a K row work work in SS

Row 31. Cast off.

Stitch together at the grey shoulder edge, leaving space to insert head. (a couple of stitches on each side will be enough) Put over the soldier's head and stitch together the sides at the brown section only. (I left the 'armour' unstitched.)



To ask questions or share photos of your work with us contact

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