

Crazy-Poking Stick

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This is an idea I came up with while reading the Ravelry Rubberneckers group. It's something that I think people need, so that when crazy drama happens on Ravelry or anywhere else on the internet, you can get your Crazy-Poking Stick out and poke your screen instead of replying and making a bigger drama out of the Crazy. Use your Crazy-Poking Stick, get your poking out of the way, and don't be fooled into ACTUALLY posting a reply and poking the crazy.

Supplies:

Yarn: DK/Worsted weight yarn, doubled. Shown in Crazy Monkey Gorilla Toes, in the color-way "Failed Kettle Dye Experiment"

Needles: Size 8 DPNs.

Gauge: Not important. You just don't want to be able to see a huge amount of stuffing through the stitches.

Other supplies: Darning needle, stuffing, waste yarn. 16-gauge wire and rounded pliers to create an armature for stiffness in the ‘poking finger’ (optional). People have used cotton swabs instead of the armature wire, if you’re not sure about your wire-acquiring or wire-bending skills.



Techniques:

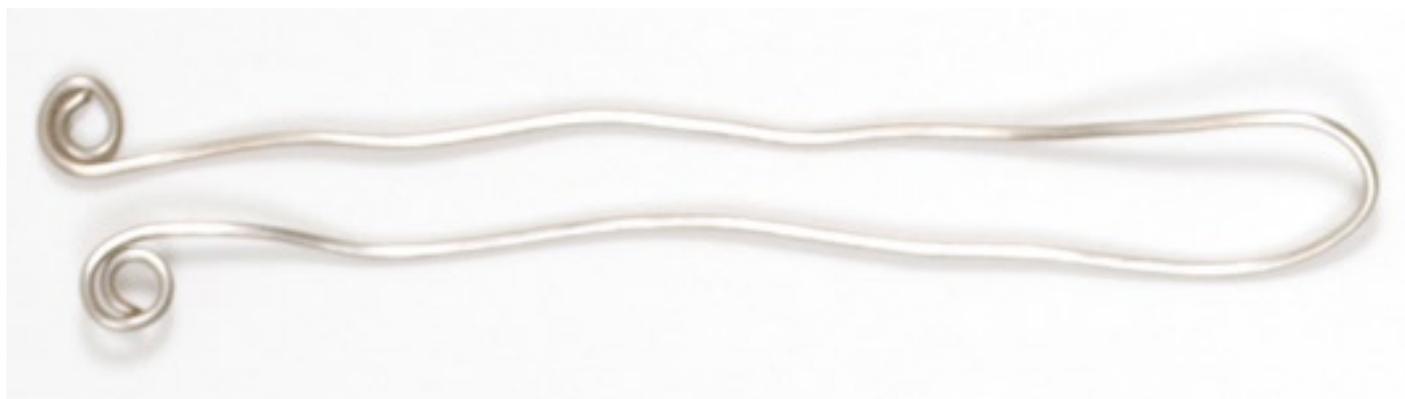
KFB: Knit one front & back. Knit into the front leg of the stitch, do not drop off left needle. Knit into the back leg of the stitch, drop off needle.

K2TOG: Knit two together. Place your needle through the first two stitches on the needle, knit, and drop both stitches off the needle.

3-needle bind-off: Place your needle through one stitch on the front needle and one stitch on the back needle. Wrap the yarn around the needle, pull through both stitches, and drop both stitches off the needle. Repeat for the 2nd two stitches, then pull the first stitch over the second stitch. Continue until you’re out of stitches. Cut the yarn, leaving about a 10” tail, and run the tail through the last stitch.

Make the armature: (optional)

Cut a 12” piece of 16 gauge wire. Fold in half, then use rounded pliers to curl the ends. Curling the ends will help keep the wire from poking itself through the knitted fabric. Your armature will look like this:



Begin your Stick:

Cast on 4 stitches onto a single DPN using the long-tail cast-on. Slide these stitches to the other end of the needle, and knit the stitches onto 2 more DPNs as follows: KFB (needle 1), K2 (needle 2), KFB (needle 3). You will be working in the round.

Knit one round plain.

KFB, K1 3 times. (9 sts)

Knit one round plain.

KFB, K2 3 times. (12 sts)

Knit one round plain.

KFB, K3 3 times. (15 sts)

Knit one round plain.

KFB, K4 3 times. (18 sts)

Knit 4 rounds plain. At this point, you may want to weave in the end, if you haven't done so already, as this piece should be stuffed as you go, and the act of stuffing should begin now.

For the next 9 rounds, follow the chart for the stitches on the first needle, where the chart's "P" is for PURL, and the blank boxes are knit stitches. Knit the remaining needles plain. This is the Knot of Shame, the Poking Stick's reminder that poking the crazy means that you're dragged into the crazy, and can ease your slide down the slippery slope to BECOME the crazy.

		P	P			9
	P	P	P	P		8
P	P		P	P	P	7
P	P			P	P	6
P	P					5
P	P					4
P	P	P				3
	P	P	P	P		2
			P	P		1

Knit 10 rounds plain.

After knitting the plain rounds, you're going to start the thumb gusset:

K11, KFB, KFB, K5. (20 sts)

Knit one round plain.

K12, KFB, KFB, K6. (22 sts)

Knit one round plain.

K12 KFB, K2, KFB, K6. (24 sts)

Knit one round plain.

K12 KFB, K4, KFB, K6. (26 sts)

Knit one round plain.

On the next round, K12, slip the next 8 sts onto a holder, and K6. You will be back down to 18 working stitches. Knit 6 rounds plain.

Fingers

Knit 9, slip the next 6 stitches onto a holder, and knit 3. You will have 12 stitches in these remaining rounds. Knit 8 rounds plain, then set up the stitches onto two DPN's. Do a three-needle bind-off of the remaining 12 stitches. Fasten off and fold over onto whichever side you want to be your palm. These fingers are to remind you that when you poke the crazy, you have three fingers poking yourself in the palm.

For a right-handed poking stick, sew down to the 'palm' side with the thumb pointing to the right. For a left-handed poking stick, sew these down to the 'palm' side with the thumb pointing to the left.

Pointer finger

Pick up the 6 stitches you last left on a holder, and pick up two stitches between the pointer finger and the rest of the fingers. Knit these 8 stitches as I-cord, sliding them back to the right after knitting them. Knit 11 rounds of i-cord. On the next row, K2TOG 4 times, then, making sure your finger is stuffed tightly and your armature wire is placed correctly, cut the yarn, leaving a long tail. Run the yarn through the remaining stitches twice, and pull tight. Weave the yarn down through the finger.

Thumb

Pick up all 8 stitches that you left on the holder for the thumb gusset, and pick up 2 stitches between the thumb and the body of the hand. Knit 8 rounds plain, then, making sure that your pointing stick is firmly stuffed, including the thumb, K2TOG 5 times. Cut your tail fairly long, and run it through the remaining 5 stitches twice. Pull snug, and weave the end in securely.

Use your crazy-poking stick on your cat, your dog, your spouse, but definitely on your monitor (gently) when you want to post inflammatory craziness on the internets.