

Leprechaun

This is a bottle cover/decoration for St. Patrick's Day fun. It will take any kind of green yarn and you will need to do a little sewing to attach arms, legs and hat. Your machine does not need to be able to do ribbing.

Remove all except 12 needles in the front of your machine. Use a set up rag or bonnet to get work going on scrap yarn working back and forth on those 12 needles. You will need to use the heel tension spring when working back and forth. Stop with the yarn carrier on the left side of the machine. We are starting with arms and legs.

Arms & Legs: Remove tension spring for first row; put tension spring back on and knit back to left side. Using a pick or crochet hook, pull up the bar from between each stitch and pull it up over the closest needle immediately to the right of the bar. (In essence, you are re-hanging a hem and creating a selvedge edge.) If this is too advanced for you, just knit these two rows and later go back and run the tail of your yarn through the first round. I just find it easier to take care of it right on the machine--much faster. Continue for another 20 rows. (You might want to do more than that if using a larger bottle.) At each end of the row, take the end stitch and move it over to the next needle so you are decreasing by two stitches on each row. Either pull the end needles up out of work or remove them from the machine. (I find it easier to remove them.) When you have 2 needles left, run the tail of the yarn through those two and remove from machine. Leave a tail of 8" to sew the arms to the body. They will curl inward naturally, so you will not need to sew them. The pointed end is the "hand" and one will be sewn to the hat and one to the body. Replace needles and make another one the same length.

Repeat this process twice more, making the pieces 24 rows instead of 20. Leave a long tail for sewing the leg closed. To form the feet, sew the edges together from the pointed end and pull tightly to make the toes curl. Make a knot, then continue sewing up the leg. You will be sewing on the front side of the leg. Pull inward tightly a second time if you want to form a heel of sorts before you go up the front of the leg. Sew the leg in regular tension so it doesn't pucker.

Drawstring for neck: put 3 needles in the front of the machine. Do NOT use scrap yarn. Thread the carrier with it placed to the left of the needles and take the tail of yarn to start your I-cord. Circle the right needle clockwise, the left needle counter clockwise, and the center needle clockwise. Pulling down on the end of the yarn, knit to the right or forward. Continue going forward for 80 rows. Cut yarn and run the tail through the 3 stitches. Bury the end. (Leave the other tail on until you get the cord threaded through the neckline of the shirt, then bury that end and terminate the yarn.)



Hat:

Use 30 needles and begin with scrap yarn as before, working back and forth. Stop on the left side of the machine and attach your good yarn. (Leave a 3-4" tail to work in after you are finished.) With tension spring on, knit 60 rows; re-hang the hem; knit 20 rows. Move every other stitch over to the next needle and remove the blank needle. Knit one row. Cut yarn leaving a 12" tail. Run tail through the last row of stitches and pull tight. Continue sewing down the seam of the hat and brim. Bury the end of the yarn and terminate. Sew one of the "hands" to the brim; bury and terminate yarn.

Body:

Replace all needles in cylinder and set up in scrap yarn. You may work with or without tension spring since you will only go forward now. Knit 12 rows. Move every other stitch over to next needle to form picot edge. Knit 12 rounds. Re-hang hem. Knit 35 rounds (more if using a large bottle). Move one stitch over to next needle, leave two needles as is, then move the next one over. Continue once around cylinder. (These are the drawstring holes for the neckline.) Knit 10 rounds. If you can crochet, leave a real long tail. If not, leave at least 12". Knit off on scrap yarn for about 10 rows, then cut yarn and knit it off the machine. You can either run the tail through the end stitches or crochet an edge. This is not going to show, as the neckline will roll, so don't worry about being fancy.

Finishing:

Take the I-cord and thread the tail through a blunt needle. Run it through the holes you created. Bury and terminate the end of the yarn. Draw it up snug enough to form a neck hole. Position the arm which has the hat attached to it and sew into place. Position the other arm in a similar position on the opposite side and sew into place. Sew the hand of that arm to the body at about the waistline. Sew the legs at the line where you re-hung the hem. Bury the ends.

Now he can keep his little hat over the top of your bottle between nips or let it hang at his side. The two of you enjoy your St. Patrick's Day celebration in whatever way suits your fancy. Since the bottle is covered, no one will know what's inside!