

Pattern – Ghost Bee

The bees were knitted for Teignmouth Recycled Art in the Landscape (TRAIL) 2016, and needed to be of recycled material. So we repurposed the plastic bags that charities keep putting through our letterboxes (and never collecting if we leave them out unfilled).

To make the 'yarn' for both knitting and crochet, cut the bags horizontally into strips approx ½ inch or 1.5cm in width, so they can be opened out into hoops. Knit with the double thickness (take care to catch both loops in each stitch), and when you need more length, loop another strip onto the end. Here's more detail <http://www.instructables.com/id/Recycle-Plastic-Shopping-Bags-into-Yarn/?ALLSTEPS>

For sewing, also use double thickness strips, but leave it to the last minute before looping another strip on, as the join can be awkward to get through the 'material'.

The bee body parts are stuffed with more charity plastic bag, the leftovers from making the 'yarn' and others cut into strips that fit through the small gaps.

If you are new to knitting, some of the codes below may be a mystery. But the internet is full of marvels such as tutorials and knitting videos.

kfb knit into the front and back of the stitch
.. repeat stitches in between
k2tog knit two together
skpo slip stitch, knit next stitch, pass slip stitch over the knitted stitch

Body

Yarn Charity plastic bag
Needles Size 4, or 6mm
Tension Loose

Head

Cast on 8 sts

r1 knit
r2 purl
r3 kfb into each st (16 sts)
r4 purl
r5 *k1, kfb* across row (24 sts)
r6 purl
r7 k2tog, *k1, skpo* to last 4 sts, k2, skpo (16 sts)
r8 purl
r9 k2tog, *skpo* (8 sts)
r10 *p2tog*

Now see 'Sew up and stuff'

Thorax

Cast on 6 sts

r1 knit
r2 purl
r3 kfb into each st (12 sts)
r4 purl
r5 *k1, kfb* across row (18 sts)
r6 cast on 1 st, purl across row, cast on 1 st at end (20 sts)
r7-r10 continue in stocking stitch for 4 rows starting with a knit row
r11 k2tog, *k1, skpo* (13 sts)
r12 purl
r13 k2tog, *skpo* to last 3 sts, k1, skpo (7 sts)
r14 p1, *p2tog*

Now see 'Sew up and stuff'

Abdomen

Cast on 11 sts

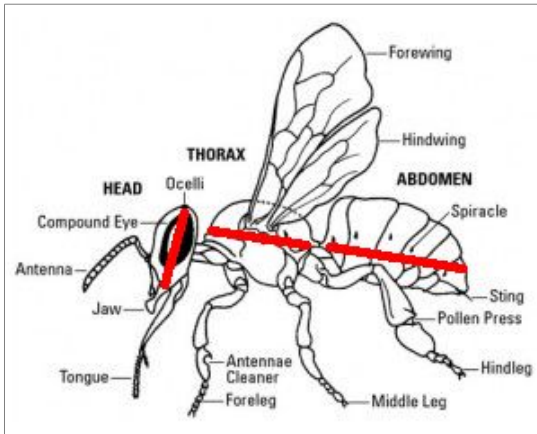
r1 knit
r2 purl
r3 kfb into each st (22 sts)
r4 purl
r5 *k1, kfb* across row (33 sts)
r6 cast on 1 st, purl across row, cast on 1 st at end (35 sts)
r7-r12 continue in stocking stitch for 6 rows starting with a knit row
r13 k2tog, k2, *skpo, k4* until last 7 stitches, skpo, k3, skpo (28 sts)
r14 purl
r15 k2tog, k1, *skpo, k3* until last 5 stitches, skpo, k1, skpo (21 sts)
r16 purl
r17 k2tog, k1, *skpo, k2* until last 2 stitches, skpo (15 sts)
r18 purl
r19 k2tog, k1, *skpo, k1* until last 3 stitches, k1, skpo (10 sts)
r20 purl
r21 k2tog, *skpo* (5 sts)
r22 purl
r23 k2tog, k1, k2tog (3 sts)

Now see 'Sew up and stuff'

Sew up and stuff

Thread remaining 'yarn' onto needle, thread through remaining stitches and pull closed.
Sew edges together, stuff body part, thread through casting on stitches and pull closed.
Knot tails together, thread onto needle and pass through body part, and cut so ends stay inside.

Sew the head, thorax and abdomen together, so the bee looks a little like these images!
Note the axis of the head is tilted forward.



If possible crochet 3 right-handed and 3 left-handed to make 3 pairs.

Sew two pairs to the thorax underside, one pair at the front curving forward, and one pair at the back curving backward. Sew one pair to the front of the abdomen underside, curving backward.

Antennae

Crochet 1 strip.

Sew to the front of the head, curving forward, and on each side crease the front half to point down.

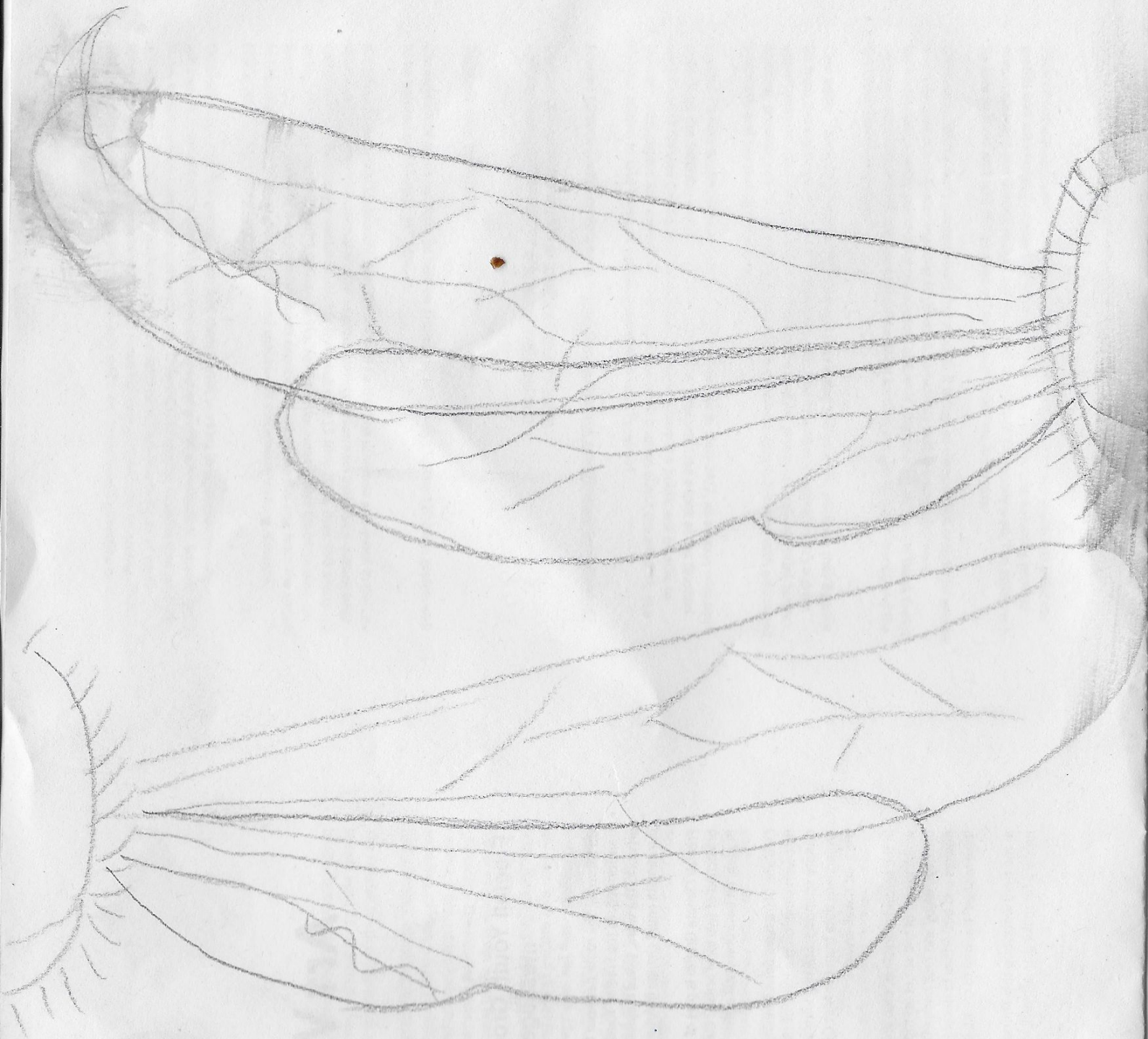
Wings

Expand this document so the length of your bee matches the second image. Or if you print this document as an A4 booklet, the pencil drawings on page 4 should be about the right size.

Cut the top, bottom and handle off a 2 pint milk carton, and cut into 4 pieces down the corners. Trace the shape of each wing from the screen to the inside side of the plastic, and cut out. Include an extra length of plastic where the wing meets the body to help with attaching them to the body, and note that the smaller wings overlap the larger wings on the image. Use a black pen (or white pen or correction fluid if preferred) to trace the lines on the wings.

Sew each set to the top of the thorax, the larger set further forward.

Who ya gonna call? @Ghostbeesters!!



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