

JOTA

Craft

Phonetic Friend

Another simple little critter is called a "Phonetic Friend". Operators use phonetics (special words) to represent the letters of the alphabet (Oscar, Juliet, Charlie, Romeo, Victor etc.). This aids communication – many letters sounds alike on the air – C, D, E, G, etc.

Supplies:

- 1 x 10 inch pipe cleaner (Chenille stick)
- 1 pompom – about 1 ½ inches for head
- 2 tiny pompoms for headphones
- 1 Q-tip or cotton bud for microphone
- 2 google eyes or beads for eyes
- Felt for facial features
- Craft Glue or glue gun

Phonetic Friend is made using a long pipe cleaner (you may call them chenille sticks) twisted around the end of a pencil.

You may need a little glue to keep the centre coils fixed to the end of the pencil.

At the top, part is then opened out to make a loose spiral. Add head – see below:

The lower part is straightened out to become a hand, which holds a microphone (half a cotton bud or Q-tip).

Head: A pom-pom (approx. 4 cm 1 1/2 inch diameter) is glued towards the top of the spiral with the last coil wrapped across the head to look like headphones. A bit of jiggling and twisting is required to get the right angle! Very small pom poms are glued either side of the head to make the "headphones" look more realistic.

Your Phonetic Friend then only needs googly eyes and maybe some felt facial features to be complete.

He/she bounces around on the end of the pencil as you write, and looks quite cute! Use him/her when you fill out those QSL cards!

