

# Yarn People— A Craft from Cuba

Materials: yarn  
5" square cardboard  
scissors  
glue  
felt scraps

It is not unusual for Cuban children to play with homemade toys that they or their parents make. One toy that is sometimes homemade is a yarn “person.”

To make a Cuban yarn person:

1. Choose a color of yarn. Wrap it around a square piece of cardboard about 60 times, then cut.
2. Cut seven lengths of yarn about the width of the cardboard.
3. Use one length of yarn to tie together all the yarn at one end of the cardboard.
4. Carefully slide the yarn off the cardboard.
5. Use another length of yarn to tie a “head”— about one inch from the tied end of the yarn.
6. Carefully cut all the yarn loops at the untied end. (Your person should look like a tassel).
7. On each side of the head, tie about 15 strands together with two other lengths of yarn, about one inch from the head. Trim off the extra yarn to make hands.
8. About an inch below the head, tie the remaining body yarn together.
9. (If you’re making a girl, skip this step.) Divide the remaining yarn into two “legs.” Near the bottom of each leg, use the last two lengths of yarn to tie the “feet.”
10. Cut facial features from felt and glue them onto the face.