



Elephants

Four little elephants made from the same basic pattern, each one with a different outfit. The height from top to toe is 15cm [6in], excluding the hats.

Materials: 3mm [No 11, USA 2] knitting needles; stuffing.

Basic elephant

Body

Begin at lower edge and using colour required for pants cast on 68 sts, marking centre of cast on edge.

1st row: (K2tog) to end — 34 sts. G-st 3 rows, for the leg portion of body. Beginning with a K row, continue in st-st and work 10 rows.

Break off pants colour and join on colour required for upper body. St-st 6 rows. [If working in stripes, work two rows of each colour alternately].

Shape body

If applicable, continue in stripes.

Next row: K7, (K2tog) twice, K12, (K2tog) twice, K7 — 30 sts. St-st 3 rows.

Next row: (K1, K2tog) to end — 20 sts.

Cast off loosely, for neck edge.

Join row ends, forming centre back seam. Turn right side out. Catch the marked centre of cast on edge to centre back seam. Now continue sewing back and forth through the body at the g-st rows only, to form the legs. Lay body aside.

Feet [make two alike]

Using grey, cast on 6 sts.

1st row: Inc K wise into every st — 12 sts. P 1 row.

Next row: Inc K wise into every st — 24 sts. P 1 row.

Next row: P. This row marks the position where the foot will be sewn to lower edge of body.

Now beginning with a P row, st-st 5 rows.

Next row: (K2tog) to end — 12 sts.

P 1 row.

Next row: (K2tog) to end — 6 sts.

B & T loosely. This end will be the sole of the foot.

Gather up cast on sts tightly and fasten off. Oversew row ends together. Turn right side out. Stuff lightly, then pull up length of yarn tightly and fasten off. Use this length of yarn to sew through both sets of gathered sts at centre of foot, then back again. Pull yarn tightly to flatten foot, then fasten off.

To attach the feet

First put some stuffing inside leg edges of body. Insert feet into cast on leg edges, making sure that soles of feet are outermost. Sew cast on edge of body to the feet, just below the P row on the feet. Now stuff body, then leave cast off neck edge open.

Head

Begin at end of trunk and using grey cast on 5 sts.

1st row: Inc K wise into every st — 10 sts.

Beginning with a P row, st-st 8 rows and inc 1 st at each end of the 8th row — 12 sts.

St-st 9 more rows.

Shape head

Next row: K1, (m1, K1) to end — 23 sts. St-st 3 rows.

Next row: K5, (m1, K1) 13 times, K5 — 36 sts. St-st 19 rows, marking centre of first of these rows with a coloured thread, as a guide to positioning the eyes later on.

Shape back of head

Next row: (K1, K2tog) to end — 24 sts.

St-st 3 rows.

Next row: (K2tog) to end — 12 sts.

B & T loosely.

Gather up cast on sts tightly, then join row ends, forming the underhead seam. Turn right side out. Stuff trunk. Stuff head firmly to a rounded shape measuring 20cm [8in] around at centre, following direction of knitted rows. Do not pull up the length of yarn at back of head.

Mark eye positions on the row with the marked centre, leaving six clear knitted sts between them. Using single lengths of black yarn, make knots for eyes, winding yarn round six times. Pass one yarn end through one marked position to come out at open back of head.

Pass other yarn end through just below first position. Knot yarn ends tightly and trim off ends. Repeat with other eye.

Add a little more stuffing, then pull up length of grey yarn tightly and fasten off.

To attach head to body

Place head on open neck edge of body, with back of head at centre back and underhead seam resting on neck edge of body. Sew neck edge of body to head.

Ears [make two alike]

Begin at top edge and using grey, cast on 10 sts.

P 1 row.

Next row: Inc K wise into every st — 20 sts. Beginning with a P row, st-st 5 rows.

Now continue in st-st and dec 1 st at beginning of next and every following row until 12 sts remain.

Next row: (K2tog) to end — 6 sts.

B & T tightly.

With right side of st-st outside, oversew row ends of each ear together. Oversew across cast on sts. Sew the folded edges of ears to sides of head.

Arms [make two alike]

Begin at top of sleeve and using same colour as used for the upper body, cast on 14 sts loosely.

St-st 8 rows. [If working in stripes, work two rows of each colour alternately].

Break off yarn and join on grey for hand.

St-st 6 rows.

Next row: (K2tog) to end — 7 sts.

B & T tightly.

Join row ends of each arm. Turn right side out and stuff. Sew open top edges of arms to sides of body, placing them 5mm [1/4in] below neck and a little closer to front of body than back.

Boy elephant

Use orange for pants. Work upper body and sleeves in purple and yellow stripes.

Girl elephant

Use white for pants. Work upper body and sleeves in pink. Make a 16cm [6 1/4in] double twisted pink cord. Tie in a bow and sew to head as illustrated.

Skirt

Begin at lower edge and using pink cast on 78 sts.

G-st 4 rows.

Join on white. Beginning with a K row, st-st 10 rows working in two-row stripes of white and pink alternately.

Shape waist

Continue in pink.

Next row: (K2tog) to end — 39 sts. Cast off. Join row ends and turn right side out. Sew cast off edge to body, level with underarms.

Sailor elephant

Use royal blue for pants, upper body and sleeves.

Sailor collar

Bib

Begin at lower edge and using light blue cast on 2 sts.

St-st 7 rows and inc 1 st at beginning of every row — 9 sts.

Cast off.

Sew bib to body at front, placing cast off edge level with neck.

Collar

Using white, begin at lower back edge and cast on 16 sts.

G-st 8 rows.

Continue in g-st and inc 1 st at each end of next and every following row until there are 40 sts.

Cast off.

Place collar round neck and catch ends of cast off edge to lower edge of bib at front.

Make a 14cm [5 1/2in] double twisted red cord. Tie in a bow and sew to points of collar at front.

Sailor hat

Begin at lower edge and using double black yarn cast on 36 sts.

Break off one strand and continue in single yarn.

When working the next row, treat the two strands of yarn on each st as one st.

G-st 3 rows.

Break off black and join on white.

P 1 row.

Next row: (K1, inc in next st) to end — 54 sts. Beginning with a P row, st-st 5 rows.

Shape top

1st row: (K4, K2tog) to end — 45 sts.

2nd and every following alternate row: P.

3rd row: (K3, K2tog) to end — 36 sts.

5th row: (K2, K2tog) to end — 27 sts.

7th row: (K1, K2tog) to end — 18 sts.

9th row: (K2tog) to end — 9 sts.

B & T tightly.

Oversew row ends together and turn right side out. Make a small red pom-pon and sew to centre top of hat. Insert a little stuffing, spreading it out evenly. Sew cast on edge of hat to head as illustrated. Catch top of hat to head underneath the pom-pon.

Bedtime elephant

Use red for pants, upper body and sleeves.

Neck edging strip

Using white cast on 60 sts. Cast off.

Oversew row ends together at centre back of neck.

Sew the strip round neck and down front of body as illustrated. Use red yarn to work small stitches for buttons, down centre front of the edging.

Nightcap

Begin at lower edge and using white cast on 46 sts.

G-st 4 rows.

Break off white and join on red.

Beginning with a K row, continue in st-st and dec 1 st at beginning of every row until 4 sts remain. B & T tightly.

Oversew row ends together and turn right side out. Make a tassel from white yarn and sew to end of cap. Sew lower edge of cap to head, with cap seam at centre back.

