

Notes

Appealing, amusing, soft and cuddly, these lovable toys can be enjoyed by everyone.

All the designs are easy to knit from oddments of yarn, using simple stitches and shapings, without complicated gussets or awkward pieces.

Happy knitting!

Jean

General materials required

Double knitting yarn [USA, knitting worsted weight: **Australia**, 8 ply] in colours stated in the instructions, or colours of your choice. Only small oddments are required for all the designs.

Good quality washable stuffing, only small amounts required.

A pair of tweezers [useful for turning small knitted pieces right side out and also for inserting small amounts of stuffing].

A pair of compasses for drawing circles.

Cardboard, such as cuttings off washing powder packets and breakfast cereal packets. This type of cardboard is the correct thickness to use when required.

Knitting needles required

A pair of 3mm [No 11, USA 2]

A pair of 4mm [No 8, USA 5]

Abbreviations

cm = centimetre[s]; dec = decrease [by working 2 sts tog]; g-st = garter stitch [every row K]; inc = increase [by working twice into same st]; in = inch[es]; K = knit; mm = millimetre[s]; P = purl; st[s] = stitch[es]; st-st = stocking stitch [K on the right side and P on the wrong side]; tog = together.

Special abbreviations

B & T tightly — means break off yarn leaving a long end, thread it through sts left on knitting needle, pull to gather tightly, then fasten off.

B & T loosely — means same as above, but thread yarn through sts loosely and leave until later on.

m1 = make 1 stitch, by picking up the horizontal strand of yarn lying between the stitch you have just knitted and the next st on left hand needle. Place the strand on left hand needle and knit into the back of it.

yrn = yarn round needle as follows. Take strand of yarn under and over tip of right hand needle, then continue as given in instructions.

USA glossary

Cast off — bind off

Tension — gauge

Instructions in round brackets

These are to be repeated the number of times stated after the closing bracket.

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Stars are used to mark a place in the instructions which will be referred to later on. Meanwhile, follow the instructions in the usual way.

Tension

Using 3mm [No 11, USA 2] knitting needles and a single strand of double knitting yarn: 26 sts = 10cm [4in] in width over st-st, before stuffing.

Using 4mm [No 8, USA 5] knitting needles and two strands of double knitting yarn together: 20 sts = 10cm [4in] in width over st-st before stuffing.

Casting on

The thumb method is recommended.

Casting off

Always cast off K wise unless otherwise stated.

Working in st-st

Always begin with a K row unless otherwise stated.

Increasing and decreasing

When working increases, always *knit* into front and back of the st, even on a P row.

When working decreases, K2tog on the K rows and P2tog on the P rows.

Working in stripes

When knitting different coloured stripes, carry yarns loosely up side of work.

Making up

Join all seams having right sides of work together and back-stitch one knitted stitch within the edges, unless oversewing is stipulated. When sewing up the pieces which are knitted in *double* yarn, use a single strand of yarn.

Working embroidered stitches

To work any embroidered stitches on a toy it is sometimes necessary to start and fasten off the yarn ends invisibly. If this is required, proceed as follows.

Thread a blunt-ended needle with yarn required and knot end of yarn. Take needle through the stuffed toy, passing it *between* the knitted sts and bring it out at the position required. Pull the yarn to draw the knotted end right inside the stuffing. Tug the yarn to make sure the knot is caught in the stuffing.

Now work the required embroidered stitches. Pass the needle back through the toy to come out a position *between* the knitted sts. Pass needle back through toy again between the same knitted sts to come out at a different position. Repeat until yarn is securely fastened off, then pull end of yarn and snip off close to the knitted sts.

Making the knot eyes

I have devised an easy method of making the eyes on a toy using a knot tied at the centre of a length of black yarn. Most of the animals have knot eyes, although embroidered chain stitches are used occasionally.

First of all start at centre of the face and mark the eye positions with pins as described for each toy. For each eye cut a 20cm [8in] length of black yarn [or two strands the same length, if this is specified]. The knot will be tied at centre of the length.

Now make a loose single knot as shown in Diagram A. The instructions will specify how many times to wind round the yarn before pulling the knot tight. As an example, the dotted line in Diagram A shows the yarn being wound round twice more — making a total of *three times* wound round.

Now pull the ends of yarn to tighten the knot, thus making a small oval-shaped eye as shown in Diagram B.

Thread one end of yarn into a darning needle. Pass the darning needle through one marked eye position to come out of the toy at the opening at back of head, or other position as stated in the instructions. Pass the other yarn end through the next knitted row directly above or below the first position, as stated in the individual instructions. Pull yarn ends until knot touches the face. Knot ends of yarn securely and trim off excess length. Repeat with the other eye.

Twisted cords

To make a cord from a single length of yarn [single twisted cord], cut a strand of yarn four times as long as the measurement required. Knot one end round a door knob or hook and knot a loop in the other end to fit round the index finger of your right hand. Now keeping the yarn taut, twist your finger round and round in a clockwise direction, steadying the yarn by holding your left hand cupped around it close to your right hand. Keep twisting until when relaxed, the strand of yarn begins to curl tightly back on itself. Fold cord at centre, bringing ends together. Allow yarn to twist tightly, knot ends and trim to length.

Use the same method when a double twisted cord is specified, but use a double length of yarn four times as long as the measurement required.

Toy safety guidelines

A certain amount of common sense should always be used regarding the safety factor in children's toys.

It is important to ensure that the toy you are making is appropriate for the age group of the child for which it is intended. For example, children under 3 years of age should not be given toys which have separate tiny parts, or any small attached pieces which might be pulled off.

The materials used for the toys which appear in this booklet are: knitting yarn, polyester stuffing, a plastic drinking straw and cardboard. Do not add any other materials such as wire, pipe cleaners, buttons or beads.

Use only new, hygienic, washable stuffing which conforms to current safety standards — your craft materials supplier will advise.

When sewing up the toys always use large glass-headed or plastic-headed pins. Ordinary pins should not be used as they can pass into a knitted toy between the knitted sts.

Take care to sew all the added pieces *securely* in place — for example arms, hats etc. If a yarn cord is tied in a bow on a toy, sew through the bow so that it can not be undone if pulled.

