

Bunny Odile

by Cinthia Vallet ♥ FROM CINTHIA DESIGNS



Meet Bunny Odile.

Knitted in one piece, totally seamlessly, from the tip of her nose to the tip of her toes, her personality will emerge out of your hands.

The knitting will start tiny, with Odile's little nose. Then you will shape her head using three sections of short rows. Along the way, you will have paused to attach her eyes, embroider her nose and her mouth, and give her long ears. That's the moment when Odile truly begins to come to life. From that point, you will knit down to her little feet ! And the trickiest bits of the making will be behind you ! You will then knit her shoulders, and while you leave her body stitches on hold, you will knit her arms. Then, going back to her body stitches, you will knit down to her belly and shape her bottom. Once again, you will take a little break to make her a cute pompom tail, which is knitted from picked-up stitches previously marked. Then, only the legs and feet to go ! All along, instructions are given to tackle the required finishing as you go, leaving only a small opening to close at the very end of the making.

You'll also meet Odile's little guest, her friend Nisse, made following the same pattern : another color of yarn, bigger eyes, same but a bit different, with his own personality. It's all the magic of toy making and i hope you'll fall down the rabbit hole with me !

As a tribute to the yarn set i used from Ovis et cetera (see yarn information), the pattern in its present limited edition version also provides instructions to knit a wardrobe to dress your bunnies : a dress and its sweater variation, a fancy textured jumper, pyjamas and socks. It is my way to celebrate the happiness of getting such a beautiful mini-skeins bundle, and one of the possible answers to « what could i knit with it ? ». Well, you can knit too little bunnies, and clothes to play dress-up, for your own pleasure or to treat your loved ones (whatever their age !)

(Find patterns for the wardrobe from page 15)

Yarn

Ovis Et Cetera Igneae

60 % non-superwash wool / 20 % Ramie (plant fibre) / 20 % silk

Set of 6 mini-skeins (6 x 25 g = 150 g / 637,5 m / 697 yds)

1 mini-skein used for Odile (Color Seed)

1 mini-skein used for Nisse (Color Kraft)

Other mini-skeins used for garments

Needles and gauge

Odile and Nisse are knitted with 2mm (US 0) needles.

Two sets of DPNs (15 cm / 6 inches) or two circular needles for magic loop. The extra needle(s) will be used at a later stage in the pattern and could be replaced by waste yarn, but using needles makes for a smoother process.

10 sts and 14 rounds = 2.5 cm x 2.5 cm / 1 inch x 1 inch, in stocking stitch, worked in the round.

It's not essential to get this particular gauge, but it's really important to get a tighter-than-usual gauge. I recommend you knit a little swatch in the round to see what fabric you get : you are looking for a nice tight gauge, without making the process of knitting uncomfortable. It's important to find the right balance for you to enjoy knitting this cuddly toy while creating a firm fabric full of character.

Size

One size.

With the yarn and needle size suggested, Odile and Nisse measure about 23 cm (9 inches) from the top of the head to the tip of the toes. If you use a thicker yarn, you will get bigger bunnies. In that case, don't forget to adapt the size of the eyes if you use safety eyes.

Notions

Lockable stitch markers, such as bulb pins

Contrasting waste yarn in similar weight to the working yarn

Tapestry needle

Stuffing (It can be polyester, wool or cotton. It depends on personal preferences, and also on how much you would like the toy to be special, precious or made with natural materials only.)

Safety eyes (As shown here, Odile has 6 mm diameter blue eyes and Nisse 7,5 mm diameter brown eyes) - 1 m / 1 yd of black or brown yarn in same weight as the one used for the bunny for optional knitted eyes

Black or brown mercerised embroidery cotton

IN THE MAKING

I would love to see your progress and complete bunnies !
use #bunnyodile and #fromcinthiadesigns to share

Enjoy the process

As for all my patterns, the process is thought for the maker's happiness of having a character truly emerging during the knitting, a very lively little soul appearing at a early stage of the making, then growing organically stitch by stitch. No seaming, no assembling, all the finishing done as you go, even ears and tail. When you're done with the last knit stitch, you're done with your little woolly friend.

If you're new to toy knitting, don't think it is especially difficult

The pattern is within reach for advanced beginners / intermediate knitters. The only true prerequisite is knowing how to knit small circumferences in the round. On this basis, I worked at providing detailed instructions as well as extra tips and pictures, to offer a smooth process. If you've already knit a sock or a mitten, something small and tubular, then you can do it !



About soaking and stuffing

Instructions are written in order to complete the knitting, then to fully soak your bunny before stuffing it once it's dry, through the remaining opening at the crotch. Guidance about stuffing is given at the end of Bunny Odile pattern. This is the way i usually do because i like using wool to knit toys, and even if blocking is not as important as for a garments, it evens the stitches and reveals the beauty of the yarn. Yet, i often insert a bit of stuffing into the head during the knitting to « meet » the character, and it's true that sometimes it's tempting to stuff along the process. If you prefer this option of stuffing as you knit, you can only soak the ears, and wrap the entirely knit and stuffed bunny into a wet towel, being careful to put the ears in a position you like. Then, let it absorb humidity for a while, and put it to dry. It's important to enjoy the process, so i encourage you to go for your preferred method.

Get in touch !

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For any question or support write me at fromcinthia@gmail.com

PATTERN NOTES

Working in the Round

DPNs or magic loop : the pattern is written to be worked either with DPNs or magic loop.

Naming of the needles : throughout the pattern, when a specific designation for the needles is needed, they will be named as needle 1, needle 2 ... assuming that needle 1 holds the stitches you knit first when you start from the beginning of the round.

Distribution of the stitches : if nothing specific is stated, the distribution of the stitches across the needles is done according to your preferences. When it's needed, instructions are given for a specific distribution.

Markers

As you will mostly work in the round with DPNs or magic loop, the beginning of the round will generally correspond to a beginning of a needle, which means you can often knit without a marker for the beginning of the round. However, it can be useful to keep a visual reminder of where this is, so you could use a lockable stitch marker such as a bulb pin to mark the first stitch of the round.

The marker at the beginning of the round will be called MA throughout the pattern.

Also, the instructions sometimes require you to place another marker ; it will be called MB throughout the pattern. If it falls at the end of a needle (for DPN knitters) or on the cable between the two needles (for magic loop knitters), you can rearrange your stitches to have MB elsewhere or you can simply remember that the end of the needle or the middle of the cable will work as MB. In that case, you can ignore the SMB (slip marker B) instruction.

Short Rows

At a few stages in the pattern, you will work flat, rather than in the round, to shape the top of the head, the back of the head, the bottom of the bunny, and the heels. You will then use short rows, creating a gap at each turn. Each one of these gaps will be resolved on the following row, using an appropriate decrease, k2tog or ssp. For some sequences of short rows (First and second section of the Head Shaping), an added yarnover will be needed and consumed in these decreases. For others, only existing stitches will be involved. In each case, precise instructions as well as a few tips will be given to guide you throughout these steps. There is nothing to fear, these sections only require a bit of extra concentration, as well as a bit of slowness.

Grafting

All the openings are closed using grafting : at the tip of the paws, the toes, and at the crotch. Usually, grafting stitch starts with a set-up stage but it's not absolutely necessary and skipping it will have a neater result on both sides of the little openings you will close.

When the stitches are equally set up on two needles, starting from the right, with the end of yarn threaded onto a tapestry needle, work as follows :

On the front needle

Step 1 : insert the tapestry needle in the first stitch knitwise, pull the yarn through and slip the stitch off

Step 2 : insert the tapestry needle in the next stitch purlwise, pull the yarn through and keep the stitch in place

On the back needle

Step 3 : insert the tapestry needle in the first stitch purlwise, pull the yarn through and slip the stitch off

Step 4 : insert the tapestry needle in the next stitch knitwise, pull the yarn through and keep the stitch in place

Repeat steps 1-4 until 1 stitch remains on each needle.

Last step : on the front needle, insert the tapestry needle in the last stitch knitwise, pull the yarn through and slip the stitch off; on the back needle, insert the tapestry needle in the last stitch purlwise, pull the yarn through, and slip the stitch off.

Eyes

Safety eyes are attached after the head is knitted. Instructions are given round 19 of the « Nose and face » section to mark two stitches to help you to place them afterward.

If you don't want to use safety eyes, round 19A will provide instructions to make knitted eyes with a contrasting yarn in the same weight as the one you're using for Odile. Black or brown yarn will work well with most of the main yarns.

Ears

They are created after the head is finished. Instructions are given in the « Shaping the head » section, between the second and the third section of short rows, to mark the stitches you will later pick up to knit the ears. Keep aside about 12 meters of your main yarn to knit each ear.

Tail

It is knitted on from the body, after the bottom is shaped and before moving down to the legs. Instructions are given in the «Body » section to mark the stitches you will later pick up to knit the tail. Keep aside about 6 meters of your main yarn to knit the tail.

[]	repeat to end of row or as indicated
CDD	center double decrease : slip the next two stitches from left needle to right needle as if to knit them together, knit the next stitch on left needle, pass the two slipped stitches together over the stitch you just knit (2 sts decreased)
dec	decreased
inc	increased
k	knit
k2tog	knit two stitches together
kfb	knit into the front and the back of the same stitch
kfbfb	knit into the front and the back, then the front and the back again of the same stitch
MA	marker A, used to indicate beginning of the round
MB	marker B, place to demarcate sections
p	purl
PM	place marker
PMA / PMB	place marker A / place marker B
SM	slip marker
ssk	slip, slip, knit : slip two stitches knitwise, one by one ; insert the tip of left needle from left to right into the front of these two stitches and knit them together (1 st decreased)
ssp	slip, slip, purl : slip two stitches knitwise, return them to the left needle and purl them together through the back loop (1 st decreased)
wyib	with yarn in back
wyif	with yarn in front
YO	yarnover

ABBREVIATIONS

PATTERN BEGINS

HEAD

Nose and face

Cast on 4 sts using a long-tail method.

Distribute the stitches across needles according to your knitting method and join to work in the round. Place MA in the first stitch to indicate beginning of the round.

After round 11, the total stitch count will be given, as well as the detail for the top of the head and the throat. Please note that the detailed stitch counts should also correspond to stitch distribution for Magic loop knitters.

Round 1 : knit all sts

Round 2 : kfb 4 times (8 sts)

Round 3 : knit all sts

Round 4 : k1, kfb twice, k1, kfb 4 times (14 sts)

Round 5 : knit all sts

Round 6 : k1, kfb 4 times, k1, k to end (18 sts)

Round 7 : knit all sts

Round 8 : k2, kfb 6 times, k3, kfb, k4, kfb, k1 (26 sts)

Rounds 9 : knit all sts

Round 10 : k4, kfb 8 times, k5, kfb, k6, kfb, k1 (36 sts)

Round 11 : k24, PMB* (to separate the top of the head stitches from the throat stitches), k to end

* About MB placement see NOTES / Markers

Round 12 : k1, kfb, k to 2 sts before MB, kfb, k1, SMB, k to end (38 sts - 26 sts / 12 sts)

Round 13 : knit all sts

Round 14-15 : repeat rounds 12-13 one time (40 sts - 28 sts / 12 sts)

Round 16 : k1, kfb, k to 2 sts before MB, kfb, k1, SMB, k1, kfb, k to 2 sts before end, kfb, k1 (44 sts - 30 sts / 14 sts)

Round 17 : knit all sts

Round 18 : repeat round 16 one time (48 sts - 32 sts / 16 sts)

See NOTES / Eyes before choosing to work either round 19 (to mark eyes placement) or round 19A (to make knitted eyes)

Round 19 : k8, using a tapestry needle, thread a small piece of waste yarn through the st you just knit and tie it loosely, k17, thread another small piece of waste yarn through the st you just knit and tie it loosely, k to end

Round 19 A : k7, using a strand of your eye-colour yarn kfbfb in next st, sl fi rst 3 sts just created one by one over the 4th one, using main yarn again k16, using eye-colour yarn kfbfb in next st, sl fi rst 3 sts just created one by one over the 4th one, k to end with main yarn.

The ends of the eye-colour yarn can be now knotted and/or woven in on the WS of the head.

Shaping the Head - three sections of short rows

During sections of short rows, you will first be working flat, across the top-of-the-head stitches only. If you haven't already, take a moment to read about the Short rows, in the Pattern Notes section.

To get ready for each section, you set up your stitches according to your knitting method (MB can be removed) :

DPN knitters : you have the 32 top-of-the-head stitches on needle 1 and the 16 throat stitches held on two other needles. Place MA in the first stitch of needle 1 ; it will be ready for when you will work again in the round later.

Magic-loop knitters : you have the 32 top-of-the-head stitches on needle 1 and the 16 throat stitches held on the cable. Place MA in the first stitch of needle 1 ; it will be ready for when you will work again in the round later.

Note :

For sections 1 and 2, the stitch count for the top of the head will remain the same throughout the short rows. You will always have 32 stitches for the top of the head on your working needles. The yarnovers added in the process are consumed in the decreases and do not count as stitches.

Section 1

Row 1 (RS) : k26, turn

Row 2 (WS) : YO, p20, turn

Row 3 : YO, k20, k2tog, k1, turn

Row 4 : YO, p22, ssp, p1, turn

Row 5 : YO, k24, k2tog, k1, turn

Row 6 : YO, p26, ssp, p1, turn

Working in the round again

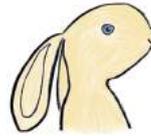
(The beginning of the round remains the same, indicated by MA)

Round 1 : starting where your working yarn is, YO, k28, k2tog, k to end

Round 2 : k1, ssk (the next stitch with the YO attached to the following one), k to end

Check your stitch count : you still have 48 sts (32 for the top of the head / 16 for the throat).

Round 3 : knit all sts



Extra help

How to create the yarnover at the beginning of each row ?

On a knit row (RS) : bring the yarn to the front between needles and start knitting – as the yarn is in the front for your first knit stitch, it creates a loop on the left needle – this YO is paired with your first knit stitch, and this pair looks like a double stitch.

On a purl row (WS) : bring the yarn to the back between needles and start purling – as the yarn is in back for your first purl stitch, it creates a loop on the left needle – this YO is paired with your first purl stitch, and this pair looks like a double stitch.

About the k2tog and the ssp

Each one of these decreases uses the YO attached to the stitch you just worked and the next stitch on left needle. It means that each decrease separates the double stitch created at the previous row.

If you like to double-check things and appreciate visual landmarks

Placing a marker at the beginning of each row, just before making your YO, can be helpful if you need to count your stitches while following the instructions (it indicates clearly where you started the row), and also as a double check before making your decrease (the decrease uses the YO before the marker and the stitch after the marker – you will need to remove the marker before making the decrease).

Section 2

For this section, you will first be working flat again, across the top-of-the-head stitches only. Set up your stitches as you did before for Section 1.

Row 1 (RS) : k24, turn

Row 2 (WS) : YO, p16, turn

Row 3 : YO, k16, k2tog, k1, turn

Row 4 : YO, p18, ssp, p1, turn

Row 5 : YO, k20, k2tog, k1, turn

Row 6 : YO, p22, ssp, p1, turn

Row 7 : YO, k24, k2tog, k1, turn

Row 8 : YO, p26, ssp, p1, turn

Working in the round again and marking stitches for ear placement -

Cut 2 pieces of waste yarn, each approx. 25 cm (10 inches) long, to mark ear placement (see NOTES / Ears) and work as follows :
(The beginning of the round remains the same, indicated by MA)

Round 1 : starting where your working yarn is, YO, k11, using a tapestry needle, thread a piece of waste yarn through the 2 sts you just knit, k8, thread the second piece of waste yarn through the 2 sts you just knit, k9, k2tog, k2, ssk, k to 3 sts before end, k2tog, k1 (46 sts - 32 sts for the top of the head / 14 sts for the throat)

Round 2 : k1, ssk (the next stitch with the YO attached to the following one), k11, pick up the nearest end of the waste yarn used in the round below, and using the tapestry needle, thread it through the 2 sts you just knit and tie it loosely, k8, pick up the nearest end of the other waste yarn, thread it through the 2 sts you just knit and tie it loosely, k to end

Check your stitch count : you have 46 sts (32 for the top of the head / 14 for the throat).

Round 3 : knit all sts



Section 3

For this section, you will first be working flat again, across the top-of-the-head stitches only. Stitches will be decreased throughout the short rows, and stitch counts will be regularly given to keep track of the decreases.

Set up your stitches as you did before for sections 1 and 2.

Row 1 (RS) : k18, k2tog, k1, turn (31 sts)

Row 2 (WS) : p6, ssp, p1, turn (30 sts)

Row 3 : k7, k2tog, k1, turn (29 sts)

Row 4 : p8, ssp, p1, turn (28 sts)

Row 5 : k9, k2tog, k1, turn (27 sts)

Row 6 : p10, ssp, p1, turn (26 sts)

Row 7 : k11, k2tog, k1, turn (25 sts)

Row 8 : p12, ssp, p1, turn (24 sts)

Row 9 : k13, k2tog, k1, turn (23 sts)

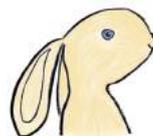
Row 10 : p14, ssp, p1, turn (22 sts)

Working in the round again

(The beginning of the round remains the same, indicated by MA)

Round 1 : starting where your working yarn is, k15, k2tog, k3, ssk 3 times, k2tog 3 times, k1 (29 sts - 21 for the back of the head / 8 for the throat)

Round 2 : k2, ssk, k to end (28 sts - 20 for the back of the head / 8 for the throat).



Extra help

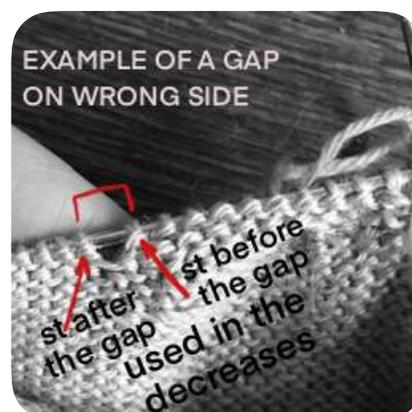
The gaps

The gaps are larger-than-usual spaces between two stitches. They are created by each turn. In this section they are more visible than they are in the first section of short rows, as you're not making a YO at the beginning of the row.

As the instructions give you precise number of stitches to work, it's not necessary to rely on spotting the gaps, but it can be useful : for example, if you need to count your stitches, the gap clearly indicates where the row started. Also, it can confirm that you are at the right place when making your decrease.

Taking a moment to spot the gaps will guarantee you always know where you are.

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About the k2tog and the ssp

Each one of these decreases uses the stitch before and the stitch after the gap created by the turn at the previous row. It means that when you're about to make the decrease, you are just one stitch before this gap

NOSE, MOUTH, EYES and EARS

Embroider the nose and the mouth

A cute little nose

Thread the tip of the nose end onto a tapestry needle, bring it to the inside, turn the head inside out, and weave in the end.

Turn the head right side out again and embroider the nose with the embroidery thread. The very first row you knit at the beginning of the head already created a little « natural » nose that you can wrap and cover with the embroidery thread, starting underneath it, in the middle, and making stitches as a sort of fan all over the little nose. Be generous with the number of stitches you make to cover this little nose : it will withstand the test of time even better.

Bring the ends of the thread to the inside and turning the head inside out, knot them together.

A little smiling mouth

With the black embroidery thread, starting underneath the nose, in the middle, and using back stitch, embroider a little vertical line then, starting at the base of the central one, two little slanted lines. You can also choose to make these two additional little lines gently curved. Here's your chance to experiment with different expressions and personalities. If you're not satisfied with your first attempt, you won't have many stitches to undo. Use small stitches, consider the result and if needed, depending on the thickness of your thread, embroider a second time over your first stitches.

Bring the ends of the thread to the inside and turning the head inside out, knot them together.



Attach the eyes



Insert the safety eyes using the stitches you previously marked as points of reference, placing each eye on the outside of the marked stitches. Use the specific instructions for your safety eyes to attach them.

When i use safety eyes on knitted fabric, i like to insert a little piece of felt over the eye's shank once the eye is inserted, between the wrong side of the fabric and the washer (which is the piece you put and push over the eye's shank to secure it). It avoids the washer being directly against the knitted fabric, which otherwise could damage it with time. Push the shank really well through the washer, don't be afraid to press hard. When the eyes are a bit « sunk » into the knitted fabric, it gives even more liveliness to the character.



You can see here the pieces of felt added as well as the way length of the shanks can be reduced by using a lighter to melt them (this is a very empirical tip, so if you want to use it, be very very careful !)

Knit the ears

You will need your other set of DPNs or second circular needle.

Set-up : for each ear, you are going to lift up one of the sets of 4 stitches marked by the pieces of waste yarn to put them onto needles, but instead of picking them up in the usual direction, with the needle parallel to the rounds, turn the head of the bunny in order to lift the stitches up with the needle perpendicular to the rounds (pictures **A** and **B**).

Once your stitches are on the needles, arrange them to work in the round according to your knitting method, knowing that for each ear, the first half of the stitches of the round should be towards the outside of the head (bottom stitches on picture **C**). This first half of the stitches corresponds to the inside of the ear. If needed, place a marker to indicate the beginning of the round.



Note : Once you have knitted a short length of the ear, i recommend you place a removable marker or a little safety pin on the side corresponding to the inside of the ear (first half of the stitches of the round). As the base of the ear is very narrow, it tends to turn on itself and it's easy to lose track of where you are if you haven't marked this

Join the yarn you kept aside before starting your bunny. If you haven't kept yarn, you can pull the other end out of the center of your ball, leaving a tail of about 25 cm (10 inches), then work as follows :

Round 1 : knit all sts

Round 2 : kfb in every stitch (8 sts)

Round 3 : knit all sts

Round 4 : [k1, kfb twice, k1] twice (12 sts)

Round 5 : knit all sts

Round 6 : [k2, kfb twice, k2] twice (16 sts)

Rounds 7-8 : knit all sts

Round 9 : [k3, kfb twice, k3] twice (20 sts)

Rounds 10-11 : knit all sts

Round 12 : [k4, kfb twice, k4] twice (24 sts)

Rounds 13-38 : knit all sts (a total of 26 rounds straight)

From now on, the total stitch count will be given as well as the detail for the inside and the outside of the ear.

Round 1 : k3, sl next 6 sts on a DPN and hold behind your work (picture **D**), knit next stitch on left needle (picture **E**), slip second stitch on right needle over the stitch you just knit as if to cast off, k3, ssk, knit the next 6 sts together with the stitches on hold, similarly to a 3-needle bind-off (picture **F**), k2tog, k1 (15 sts - 5 sts / 10 sts)

Round 2 : k1, CDD, k1, k to end (13 sts - 3 sts / 10 sts)

Round 3 : k3, ssk twice, k2, k2tog twice (9 sts - 3 sts / 6 sts)

Round 4 : CDD, k to end (7 sts - 1 st / 6 sts)



Leaving about a 25 cm (10 inch) tail, cut your yarn, and using a tapestry needle thread it through the remaining stitches and pull it tight. Bring this end to the inside of the head, passing all the way down the inside of the ear. Weave this end in, without pulling the tip of the ear down.

Finishing the base of the ear

Pinch the base of the ear to fold it, and using a tapestry needle and the end of the yarn joined to knit the ear, join the two sides, alternating a stitch on each side, to create a pleat about a centimeter (0,4 inches) long.



Bring the end to the inside and weave it in.
Repeat from the beginning for second ear.
When setting up, remember to have the first half of the stitches (the inside of the ear) towards the outside of the head.



NECK AND SHOULDERS

Return to the 28 sts you have on the needles.

You will continue working in the round. Beginning of the round remains the same, indicated by MA.

Round 1 : k1, ssk twice, k10, k2tog twice, k to end (24 sts - 16 sts / 8 sts)

Rounds 2-7 : knit all sts

Round 8 : k16, kfb in every stitch to end (32 sts - 16 sts / 16 sts)

Round 9-10 : knit all sts

From now, only total stitch count will be given, as the number of stitches will increase evenly all around your work.

Round 11 : [k1, kfb] to end (48 sts)

Rounds 12-14 : knit all sts

Round 15 : [k5, kfb] to end (56 sts)

Rounds 16-17 : knit all sts

Round 18 : [k6, kfb] to end (64 sts)

Rounds 19-27 : knit all sts (a total of 9 rounds straight)

LEFT ARM

It's time to use the other set of DPNs or your second circular needle again to hold stitches while you work the left and then the right arm. You could use waste yarn for this but it would make the process less smooth.

Start at the current beginning of the round (with the bunny upside down and the back of her/his head facing you), removing MA if you still had it.

Set-up round : knit the first 8 sts of the round, slip the next 48 sts onto other needle(s), use the backwards-loop method to cast on 2 sts, PMA, cast on another 2 sts, and working in the round, knit the 8 last sts of the round, then knit again until you're back to the new MA (20 sts)

This is the new beginning of your round. Arrange your stitches so that it falls at the beginning of a needle, according to your knitting method. Replace the marker in the new first stitch of the round as a reminder.

Rounds 1-5 : knit all sts

Decreasing on the inside of the arm

Round 6 : k1, ssk, k to 3 sts before end, k2tog, k1 (18 sts)

Rounds 7-11 : knit all sts

Round 12 : repeat round 6 one time (16 sts)

Rounds 13-17 : knit all sts

Round 18 : repeat round 6 one time (14 sts)

Rounds 19-28 : knit all sts (a total of 10 rounds straight)

Decreasing on both sides of the arm

Round 29 : [k1, ssk, k1, k2tog, k1] twice (10 sts)

Round 30 : knit all sts

Leaving about a 25 cm (10 inch) tail, cut your yarn, distribute your stitches into 2 sets of 5, and close with kitchener stitch (see NOTES / Grafting). Remove MA.

Bring the end of the yarn to the inside, turn the arm inside out and weave in the end.

RIGHT ARM

With the back of the bunny facing you, and her / his head turned down, start at the right end of your remaining 48 sts.

Prepare your stitches : slip the 16 first sts on to another needle or a holder (if you already used a long circular needle as a holder for the left arm set-up, pull one of its ends for this purpose), put the next 16 sts back onto your working needle, leave the last 16 sts on the other needle or the holder.

Set-up round : starting at the right end of the sts on your working needle, join yarn (leaving an end long enough to close any hole later), and knit the 16 sts, use the backwards-loop method to cast on 2 sts, PMA, cast on another 2 sts (20 sts). Arrange your needle(s) to join for working in the round and knit until you're back to MA.

This is the new beginning of your round. Arrange your stitches so that it falls at the beginning of a needle, according to your knitting method. Replace the marker in the new first stitch of the round as a visual reminder.

Then work as for left arm.

BODY

The body is knitted with the stitches you have on hold (16 sts for the back, 16 sts for the front). To complete the underarm on each side of the body, you will pick up and knit stitches from the stitches cast on at the set-up of each arm (note that the number of stitches picked up is deliberately higher than the number of stitches cast on, to better avoid little holes at the arms-body junction).

MB will be used to separate the back stitches and the front stitches, and stitch counts will be given for each side.

Put all 32 stitches you have on hold back on to your working needles. With the back of the bunny facing you and her/his head turned down, starting at the middle of the right underarm, work as follows :

Set-up round : joining yarn (leaving an end long enough to close any remaining hole later) pick up and knit 3 sts, k16 across the back, pick up and knit 3 sts, PMB*, pick up and knit 3 sts, k16 across the front, pick up and knit 3 sts (44 sts - 22 for the back / 22 for the front)
* About MB placement, see NOTES / Markers

This is the new beginning of the round. Place MA in the first stitch as a visual reminder.

Rounds 1-6 : knit all sts

Increasing for the back and the front

Round 1 : [k1, kfb, k18, kfb, k1] twice (48 sts - 24 sts for the back / 24 sts for the front)

Rounds 2-7 : knit all sts

Increasing for the back only

Round 1 : k1, kfb, k to 2 sts before MB, kfb, k1, SMB, k to end (2 sts inc)

Round 2 : knit all sts

Repeat rounds 1-2 another 8 times (66 sts - 42 for the back / 24 for the front)

Then work as follows to mark the tail placement :

Round 1 : k1, kfb, k21, thread a piece of waste yarn through the 4 sts you just knit, k17, kfb, k1, SMB, k to end (68 sts - 44 for the back, 24 for the front)

Round 2 : k24, pick up one of the end of the waste yarn used in the round below, and using the tapestry needle, thread it through the 4 sts you just knit and tie it loosely, k to end

Shaping the bottom

You will be working flat, on the bottom stitches : the ones between the beginning of the round and MB (44 sts).

Set your stitches according to your knitting method (MB can be removed) :

DPN knitters : you have the 44 bottom stitches on needle 1 and the 24 belly stitches held on two other needles. Place MA in the first stitch of needle 1 ; it will be ready for when you will work again in the round later.

Magic-loop knitters : you have the 44 bottom stitches on needle 1 and the 24 belly stitches held on the cable. Place MA in the first stitch of needle 1 ; it will be ready for when you will work again in the round later.

With the bunny upside down and her / his back facing you, work as follows :
 (Note that the marker placed on row 1 is only needed for two rows as a temporary landmark).

Row 1 (RS) : k22, place marker, k2, k2tog, k1, turn (1 st dec)

Row 2 (WS) : p to 2 sts after the marker (removing the marker as you pass it), ssp, p1, turn (1 st dec)

Row 3 : k to 1 st before gap, k2tog (the stitch before and the stitch after the gap), k1, turn (1 st dec)

Row 4 : p to 1 st before gap, ssp (the stitch before and the stitch after the gap), p1, turn (1 st dec)

Repeat rows 3 and 4 another 4 times (32 sts on working needle, 24 sts held)



a gap on right side

In this section, instructions tell you to work to 1 st before gap, take a little moment to spot it before working up to it and making the appropriate decrease



a gap on wrong side

Working in the round again

(The beginning of the round remains the same, indicated by MA, with the bunny upside down and her / his back facing you, at the right).

Round 1 : starting where your working yarn is, k to 1 st before gap, k2tog (the stitch before and the stitch after the gap), k to end (55 sts - 31 for the back / 24 for the front)

Round 2 : k6, ssk, k to end (54 sts - 30 for the back / 24 for the front)

Before starting the next part, take a moment to weave in the ends of the yarn you joined when starting the right arm and the body. Use them to close any little holes you might have where you picked up stitches.

Any other ends should be woven in at this point, so give your bunny a once-over.

TAIL

You will need your other set of DPNs or second circular needle. Leaving the body stitches securely on your needles, go back to the 8 stitches previously marked for the tail, lift them up and put them on to needles. Arrange them to work in the round according to your knitting method. Join the yarn you kept aside before starting your rabbit. If you haven't kept yarn, you can pull an end out of the center of your ball.

Round 1 : knit all sts

Round 2 : [k1, kfb] to end (12 sts)

Round 3 : knit all sts

Round 4 : kfb in every stitch (24 sts)

Rounds 5-7 : knit all sts

Round 8 : k2tog all around (12 sts)

Round 9 : knit all sts

Round 10 : k2tog all around (6 sts)

Before closing it up, insert stuffing in the tail to give it its pompom shape. Then, using a tapestry needle, thread the end of your yarn through the remaining stitches and pull. Bring the end of the yarn inside the body, passing right through the tail and do the same for the other end of yarn (joined when starting the tail), knot them together and weave both ends in.



LEFT LEG

You are going to work the legs in the round as you did for the arms, using your second circular needle or other set of DPNs to hold stitches while you work the left and then the right leg.

Start at the current beginning of the round (with the bunny upside down and her/his back facing you, at the right).

Set-up round : knit the first 12 sts of the round, slip the next 33 sts onto other needle(s) or a holder, arrange your position to knit in the round and knit the last 9 sts (21 sts)

Place MA in the first stitch of the round to indicate the beginning.

Rounds 1-3 : knit all sts

Round 4 : k to 3 sts before end, k2tog, k1 (20 sts)

Rounds 5-8 : knit all sts

Round 9 : k1, ssk, k6, k2tog, k to 3 sts before end, k2tog, k1 (17 sts)

Round 10-13 : knit all sts

Round 14 : k1, ssk, k4, k2tog, k to 3 sts before end, k2tog, k1 (14 sts)

Rounds 15-22 : knit all sts (a total of 8 rounds straight)

Round 23 : k1, ssk, k2, k2tog, k to end (12 sts)

Rounds 24-26 : knit all sts

Round 27 : k6, PMB* (to separate the back-of-the-leg stitches from the front-of-the-leg stitches), k6 (12 sts - 6 for the back of the leg / 6 for the front of the leg)

* About MB placement see NOTES / Markers

Increasing for the back of the leg only

Round 1 : k1, kfb, k to 2 sts before MB, kfb, k1, SMB, k to end (2 sts inc)

Round 2 : knit all sts

Repeat rounds 1-2 another 3 times (20 sts - 14 for the back of the leg / 6 for the front of the leg)

Shaping the heel

You will be working flat, on the heel stitches only, the ones between the beginning of the round and MB (14 sts)

Set your stitches according to your knitting method (MB can be removed):

DPNs knitters : you have the 14 heel stitches on needle 1 and the 6 stitches for the front of the foot held on two other needles. Place MA in the first stitch of needle 1 ; it will be ready for when you will work again in the round later.

Magic-loop knitters : you have the 14 heel stitches on needle 1 and the 6 stitches for the front of the foot held on the cable. Place MA in the first stitch of needle 1 ; it will be ready for when you will work again in the round later.

With the back of the bunny facing you and her / his head turned down, work as follows :

Row 1 (RS): k8, k2tog, turn (13 sts)

Row 2 (WS): p3, ssp, turn (12 sts)

Row 3 : k3, k2tog, turn (11 sts)

Row 4 : p3, ssp, turn (10 sts)

Rounds 5-6 : repeat rounds 3-4 one time (8 sts)

Working in the round again

Beginning of the round remains the same, indicated by MA (with the back of the bunny facing you, her / his head turned down, at the right).

Round 1 : starting where your working yarn is, k3, k2tog, k to end (13 sts - 7 for the sole / 6 for the top of the foot)

Round 2 : k1, ssk, k to end (12 sts - 6 for the sole / 6 for the top of the foot)

Rounds 3-6 : knit all sts

Round 7 : [ssk, k2, k2tog] twice (8 sts - 4 for the sole / 4 for the top of the foot)

Leaving about a 25 cm (10 inch) tail, cut your yarn and close with kitchener stitch (see NOTES / Grafting).

Bring the end of the yarn to the inside, turn the leg inside out and weave in the end.

RIGHT LEG

For this section, if you prefer, you can use a piece of waste yarn to hold the stitches as there are only 12. It won't take long to put them back on needles when closing the opening.

With the back of your bunny facing you and her / his head turned down, start at the right.

Set-up round : slip the 6 first sts onto waste yarn, join yarn (leaving an end long enough to seam the opening between the legs when finishing your bunny - about 50 cm (20 inches)), k21, slip the last 6 unworked sts onto waste yarn (21 sts)

Place MA in the first stitch of the round to indicate the beginning.

Rounds 1-3 : knit all sts

Round 4 : k13, ssk, k to end (20 sts)

Rounds 5-8 : knit all sts

Round 9 : k1, ssk, k6, k2tog, k2, ssk, k to end (17 sts)

Rounds 10-13 : knit all sts

Round 14 : k1, ssk, k4, k2tog, k2, ssk, k to end (14 sts)

Then work as for LEFT LEG, starting at round 15.

**You're done with the knitting, at least for your bunny !
Move on the Soaking and Stuffing section, and then
maybe some extra knitting to play dress up !**



SOAKING

If you're using wool, give your bunny a bath in tepid water. Of course, blocking is not as important as for a garment, but it will allow your yarn to reveal all its beauty and the stitches to bloom. At this point, you should only have a single yarn tail hanging, at the crotch, between the legs.

STUFFING

Once your bunny is dry, it's time to give her/ him her /his final shape. Via the last remaining opening at the crotch, you're going to insert small quantities of stuffing in stages.

First, all the way up to the head, which should be firmly stuffed to create most of the shaping.

Then, into the arms, adding small quantities of stuffing down to the paws, then progressing up to the shoulders.

Then, stuff the area between the shoulders. Be quite generous and firm at the base of the neck to support the head, but look for suppleness and mobility at the junction with the arms.

Move down to the body, and stuff each leg before finishing filling the belly and the bottom. Take your time to stuff the feet progressively, not too much, to get the most of the heel shaping.

As for the legs, check the suppleness at the junction between the body and the legs. Not over-filling at the top of the legs will allow your bunny to swing them and occasionally to sit, which can be convenient.

Progress slowly by adding only small quantities of stuffing at a time, to see if you like the result and check how your bunny will be able to « move ». Stuffing is partly personal and at this point, your bunny will be able to show you how she wants to look!

FINISHING

Get ready to close the last opening with grafting (see NOTES / Grafting). With the front of the bunny facing you and her / his head turned down, you will work from the right, using the tail of the yarn you joined at the beginning of the right leg.

Put the last stitches onto a circular needle or two DPNs, 6 on each needle.

Close with grafting (see NOTES / Grafting).

Use the end of the yarn to close any gaps you might have either side of the crotch.

Weave in the last end.

Congratulations !

**You gave birth to a nice little bunny,
or maybe two !**



Now might be the moment to consider garments !

A wardrobe for Bunny Odile

by Cinthia Vallet ♥ FROM CINTHIA DESIGNS

and for Nisse too



Having this little set of beautiful mini-skeins in hands inspired me a colorful wardrobe. Happily gathered in a harmonious bundle, the colors deserved to be used together too!

Hence little garments using at least two colors, sometimes more, matched or mismatched, wild or wise.

In the following pages, you will find a pattern to knit Odile a little dress or its sweater version (Page 16), another one to knit Nisse a fancy textured pullover (Page 19), and also one to make them cosy pyjamas (Page 21), without forgetting the tiny little socks (Page 24).

Play with colors or go for plain knitting, use your beloved mini-skeins set or your forgotten leftovers, it's time to craft cute clothes for your bunnies.

For all the little clothes, i highly recommend a soaking once done, it evens the stitches, smooth the knit fabric and allow the wool to bloom beautifully.



Yarn

Ovis Et Cetera Igneae

60 % non-superwash wool / 20 % Ramie (plant fibre) / 20 % silk

Set of 6 mini-skeins (6 x 25 g = 150 g / 637,5 m / 697 yds)

Needles and gauge

2,75 mm (US 2) needles

2 mm (US 0) needles for collars and hems

As for the bunnies, two sets of DPNs (15 cm / 6 inches), or two circular needles for magic loop, will be useful at some stages for a smoother process.

9 sts and 11 rounds = 2.5 cm x 2.5 cm / 1 inch x 1 inch, in stocking stitch, worked in the round with larger needles

If you used a different weight yarn and larger needles to knit the bunny, just remember that you will need to use a similar weight for the clothes and adapt the needle size similarly, being aware that the smaller needle for collars and hems need to be 0,75 mm smaller.

Notions

Lockable stitch markers, such as bulb pins

Tapestry needle

7 little buttons for the sleep suits (about 6 mm diameter, something like small shirt buttons)

Stitch holders, safety pins or waste yarn

A little dress for Odile ♥

and its sweater variation too



The dress uses 15 g of yarn - 14 g of a main color (shown here in Color Sage), 1 g of a contrasting color for the stripes (shown here in Color Oil). The yoke features bobbles, 18 in total, in various colors, that you can make in the assortment of your choice. For each bobble, you will need a length of yarn of about 50 cm (20 inches). In the sample shown there are 4 bobbles in Color Sea, 4 bobbles in Color Coral, 3 bobbles in Color Oil, 4 bobbles in Color Craft, 3 bobbles in Color Seed, evenly alternated. If you substitute yarn, you can pick any color you like from leftovers in a similar weight of the yarn you're using for the dress.

The sweater version uses 10 g of yarn - shown here in a plain version using only one color (Color Coral).

PATTERN NOTES

Odile's dress is worked in the round, seamlessly, from the top down to the bottom. You will knit the yoke and while the body stitches stay on hold, you will knit the sleeves. Going back to the body stitches, you will knit down to the bottom hem. The dress shown here features multicolored knitted-in bobbles and stripes on the yoke, as well as fancy edgings using slipped stitches.

Along the instructions for the yoke, you will get all the informations needed to make the bobbles easily and to tackle the finishing right away. So don't be afraid of this multicolored version and have fun with it if you like mixing colors. Yet, if you're more into plain knitting, you can also use your main color for the bobbles, and decide if you want to keep the stripes or not. The sweater version shown here features this simple plain approach of the pattern, as well as a variation for the hems.

Otherwise stated, the instructions allow you to knit either version and indications will be given in time for the various options.



PATTERN BEGINS

COLLAR AND YOKE

With smaller needle(s), cast on 36 sts using a long tail cast on. Distribute the stitches across needles according to your knitting method and join to work in the round. Place MA in the first stitch to indicate beginning of the round.

Round 1 : purl all sts

Round 2 : knit all sts

Change to larger needles

Round 1 : knit all sts

Round 2 : [k2, kfb] to end (48 sts)

Rounds 3-4 : knit all sts

Round 5 : [k5, kfb] to end (56 sts)

Round 6 : knit all sts

Round 7 : [k6, kfb] to end (64 sts)

Round 8 : knit all sts

Round 9 : [k7, kfb] to end (72 sts)

Round 10 : knit all sts

Round 11 : [k3, Bobble]

Round 12 : [k3, L1, k2tog] to end

Rounds 13-15 : knit all sts

Round 16 : knit all sts with contrasting color

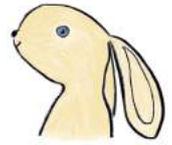
Round 17 : knit all sts with main color

Rounds 18-21 : repeat Rounds 16-17 twice

Cut contrasting color leaving an end long enough to be woven in later.



Extra help (and options to consider)



How to make a bobble

When the pattern says Bobble,

- knit in the front, then in the back, then in the front again of next st on left needle to make 3 sts out of it
- turn work and purl these 3 sts
- turn work again and decrease the 3 sts down to 1 st again : slip 2 sts together knitwise, k1, pass the 2 slipped sts over the knit st.

On Round 11 // Use your main color OR contrasting yarns to make the bobbles

If you're using your main color, simply follow the instructions above to make the bobbles with your working yarn.

If you choose the multicolored option, when the pattern says Bobble, drop your main color, join a length of about 50 cm (20 inches) of a contrasting color and use it to make the bobble as described above, then drop it, pick up your main color again and knit as indicated until next bobble. Repeat for each bobble.

On Round 12 // A little thing to do on the round after the bobbles to avoid little holes

When you come to each bobble, lift the horizontal strand of yarn between the stitch you just knit and the next stitch (the one on top of the bobble), from front to back, put it on the left needle (L1 in the instructions) and knit it together with the stitch on the top of the bobble.

What to do with the ends of the multicolored bobbles

When you're done with Rounds 11 and 12, keep knitting a couple of rounds according the instructions, turn your work and double knot the ends of each bobble together and trim them down to about 1,5 cm (0,6 inch), not too much so it won't show out of the yoke, not too short so you'll be able to retighten the knots if needed.

Stripes or not ?

If you like stripes, follow the instructions as written. If you prefer it plain, simply knit with your working yarn from round 13 to round 21 (a total of 9 rounds).

LEFT SLEEVE

It's time to use the other set of DPNs or your second circular needle again to hold stitches while you work the left and then the right sleeve. You could use waste yarn for this but it would make the process less smooth.

Start at the current beginning of the round (with the dress / sweater upside down), removing MA if you still had it.

Set-up round : knit the first 10 sts of the round, slip the next 52 sts onto other needle(s), use the backwards-loop method to cast on 2 sts, PMA, cast on another 2 sts, and working in the round, knit the 10 last sts of the round, then knit again until you're back to the new MA (24 sts)

This is the new beginning of your round. Arrange your stitches so that it falls at the beginning of a needle, according to your knitting method. Replace MA in the new first stitch of the round as a reminder.

For a sleeve with a fancy edging as featured in the dress version :

Rounds 1-4 : knit all sts

Change to smaller needles

Round 1 : [k1, p1] to end

Round 2 : [sl1 wyif, p1] to end

Rounds 3-8 : repeat rounds 1-2 three times more

Round 9 : knit all sts

Bind off as follows : *k2tog, slip the stitch back onto the left needle, repeat from * until you have the last stitch on your right needle. Cut your yarn, thread it through the last stitch, and weave the end in.

For a plain sleeve as featured in the sweater version :

Rounds 1-10 : knit all sts

Change to smaller needles.

Bind off as follows : *k2tog, slip the stitch back onto the left needle, repeat from * until you have the last stitch on your right needle. Cut your yarn, thread it through the last stitch, and weave the end in.

RIGHT SLEEVE

Prepare your stitches : with the collar of the dress / sweater pointing down, and the first completed sleeve on the right, starting at the right end of your remaining 52 sts,

slip the 16 first sts on to another needle or a holder (if you already used a long circular needle as a holder for the left arm set-up, pull one of its ends for this purpose), put the next 20 sts back onto your working needle, leave the last 16 sts on the other needle or the holder.

Set-up round : starting at the right end of the sts now on your working needle, join yarn (leaving an end long enough to close any hole later), and knit the 20 sts, use the backwards-loop method to cast on 2 sts, PMA, cast on another 2 sts (24 sts). Arrange your needle(s) to join for working in the round and knit until you're back to MA.

This is the new beginning of your round. Arrange your stitches so that it falls at the beginning of a needle, according to your knitting method. Replace MA in the new first stitch of the round as a visual reminder.

Then work as for left sleeve.

BODY

The body is knitted with the stitches you have on hold (16 sts for the back, 16 sts for the front). To complete the underarm on each side of the body, you will pick up and knit stitches from the stitches cast on at the set-up of each sleeve (note that the number of stitches picked up is deliberately higher than the number of stitches cast on, to better avoid little holes at the arms-sleeves junction).

Put the 32 remaining held stitches back on to your working needle(s).

With the collar of the dress / sweater pointing down, starting at the middle of the underarm on your right, work as follows :

Set-up round : join yarn (leaving an end long enough to close any hole later), pick up and knit 3 sts, [k1, kfb] 8 times, pick up and knit 6 sts, [k1, kfb] 8 times, pick up and knit 3 sts (60 sts)

This is the new beginning of the round. Place MA in the first stitch as a visual reminder.

For the dress version, with a fancy edging :

Rounds 1-3 : knit all sts

Round 4 : [k2, kfb] to end (80 sts)

Rounds 5-24 : knit all sts

Change to smaller needles

Round 1 : k1, p1

Round 2 : [sl1 wyif, p1] to end

Rounds 3-4 : repeat rounds 1-2 one time

Round 5 : knit all sts

Bind off as follows : *k2tog, slip the stitch back onto the left needle, repeat from * until you have the last stitch on your right needle.

Cut your yarn, thread it through the last stitch, and weave the end in.

For the sweater version with a ribbed hem :

Rounds 1-3 : knit all sts

Round 4 : [k5, kfb] to end (70 sts)

Rounds 5-8 : knit all sts

Change to smaller needles

Next round : [k1, p1] to end

Work another 3 rounds as established.

Bind off in ribbing.

A fancy textured pullover for Nisse ♥



PATTERN NOTES

Nisse's pullover is worked in the round, seamlessly, from the top down to the bottom. You will knit the ribbed collar first, then the yoke and while the body stitches stay on hold, you will knit the sleeves. Going back to the body stitches, you will knit down to the bottom hem. The two colors are used to create a very cozy all-over texture on the body, featuring sorts of pretty little stars, as well as stripes on the shoulders. But don't be afraid, everything is made for a smooth process : increases are located in order not to disturb the textured stitch, and even if the instructions might look intricate, be sure they are detailed for you to knit serenely and enjoy the making.

To cast on at the collar, i recommend using the alternate cable cast-on : it's quite easy to do, it's stretchy and it disappears beautifully to show off the ribbing. various options.

The pullover uses two colors : 10 g of color A (shown here in Color Oil), 5 g of color B (shown here in Color Sea).

PATTERN BEGINS

YOKE

With smaller needle(s) and color A, cast on 42 sts using the alternate cable cast on (or your preferred method for a stretchy cast on). Distribute the stitches across needles according to your knitting method and join to work in the round. Place MA in the first stitch to indicate beginning of the round.

Rounds 1-4 : [k1, p1] to end

Change to larger needles.

Note about stitch counts : from round 2, detailed stitch count will only be given for sleeves as the number of stitches for back and front remains the same for all the YOKE section.

Note that instructions will refer to a few rounds to be repeated (3, 4, 5, 7, 14) distinguished by a different color in order to spot them easily

* see NOTES / Markers about marker placement

Round 1 : Using color A, k1, PM, p20, PM*, k1, PM, p to end (42 sts - 1 st for each sleeve, 20 sts for the front, 20 sts for the back)

Round 2 : Using color B, kfb, SM, [sl1 wyib, k1] to next M, SM, kfb, [sl1 wyib, k1] to end (44 sts - 2 sts for each sleeve)

Round 3 : Using color B, k to next M, SM, [sl1 wyib, p1] to next M, SM, k to next M, SM, [sl1 wyib, p1] to end

Round 4 : Using color A, knit all sts, slipping markers as you go

Round 5 : Using color A, k to next M, SM, p to next M, SM, k to next M, SM, p to end

Round 6 : Using color B, kfb twice, SM, [k1, sl1 wyib] to next M, SM, kfb twice, SM, [k1, sl1 wyib] to end (48 sts - 4 sts for each sleeve)

Round 7 : Using color B, k to next M, SM, [p1, sl1 wyib] to next M, SM, k to next M, SM, [p1, sl1 wyib] to end

Round 8 : Using color A, work as round 4

Round 9 : Using color A, work as round 5

Round 10 : Using color B, k1, kfb twice, k1, SM, [sl1 wyib, k1] to next M, SM, k1, kfb twice, k1, SM, [sl1 wyib, k1] to end (52 sts - 6 sts for each sleeve)

Round 11 : Using color B, work as round 3

Round 12 : Using color A, work as round 4

Round 13 : Using color A, work as round 5

Round 14 : Using color B, k1, kfb, k to 2 sts before next M, kfb, k1, SM, [k1, sl1 wyib] to next M, SM, k1, kfb, k to 2 sts before next M, kfb, k1, SM, [k1, sl1 wyib] to end (56 sts - 8 sts for each sleeve)

Round 15 : Using color B, work as round 7

Round 16 : Using color A, k1, kfb, k to 2 sts before next M, kfb, k1, SM, k to next M, SM, k1, kfb, k to 2 sts before next M, kfb, k1, SM, k to end (60 sts - 10 for each sleeve)

Round 17 : Using color A, work as round 5

Round 18 : Using color B, k1, kfb, k to 2 sts before next M, kfb, k1, SM, [sl1 wyib, k1] to next M, SM, k1, kfb, k to 2 sts before next M, kfb, k1, SM, [sl1 wyib, k1] to end (64 sts - 12 sts for each sleeve)

Round 19 : Using color B, work as round 3

Round 20 : Using color A, k1, kfb, k to 2 sts before next M, kfb, k1, SM, k to next M, SM, k1, kfb, k to 2 sts before next M, kfb, k1, SM, k to end (68 sts - 14 sts for each sleeve)

Round 21 : Using color A, work as round 5

Round 22 : Using color B, work as round 14 (72 sts - 16 for each sleeve)

Round 23 : Using color B, work as round 7

Cut color B.

LEFT SLEEVE

It's time to use the other set of DPNs or your second circular needle again to hold stitches while you work the left and then the right sleeve. You could use waste yarn for this but it would make the process less smooth.

Start at the current beginning of the round (with the collar of the pullover pointing down), removing MA if you still had it.

Set-up round : using color A, knit the first 16 sts of the round, slip the next 56 sts onto other needle(s), use the backwards-loop method to cast on 3 sts, PMA, cast on another 3 sts (22 sts). Arrange your stitches to be worked in the round according to your knitting method, in order to have MA falling at the beginning of a needle. Replace MA in the first stitch of the round as a reminder.

Knit 6 rounds.

Round 1 : k1, ssk, k to 3 sts before end, k2tog, k1 (20 sts)

Rounds 2-3 : knit all sts

Repeat rounds 1-3 another 2 times (16 sts)

Cast off as follows

*k2tog, slip the stitch back onto the left needle, repeat from * until you have the last stitch on your right needle.

Cut your yarn, thread it through the stitch, and weave the end in.

RIGHT SLEEVE

Prepare your stitches : with the collar of the pullover pointing down, and the first completed sleeve on the right, starting at the right end of your remaining 56 sts, slip the 20 first sts on to another needle or a holder (if you already used a long circular needle as a holder for the left arm set-up, pull one of its ends for this purpose), put the next 16 sts back onto your working needle, leave the last 20 sts on the other needle or the holder.

Set-up round : starting at the right end of the sts now on your working needle, join color A (leaving an end long enough to close any hole later), and knit the 16 sts, use the backwards-loop method to cast on 3 sts, PMA, cast on another 3 sts (22 sts).

Arrange your stitches to be worked in the round according to your knitting method, in order to have MA falling at the beginning of a needle. Replace MA in the first stitch of the round as a reminder.

Then work as for left sleeve.

BODY

The body is knitted with the stitches you have on hold (20 sts for the back, 20 sts for the front), using both color A and B again. To complete the underarm on each side of the body, you will pick up and knit stitches from the stitches cast on at the set-up of each sleeve (note that the number of stitches picked up is deliberately higher than the number of stitches cast on). Put the 40 remaining held stitches back on to your working needle(s).

With the collar of the pullover pointing down, starting at the middle of the underarm on your right, work as follows :

Set-up round : join color A (leaving an end long enough to close any hole later), pick up and knit 4 sts, k20, pick up and knit 8 sts, k20, pick up and knit 4 sts (56 sts)

This is the new beginning of the round. Place MA in the first stitch as a visual reminder. Rebalance the distribution of stitches if needed.

Round 1 : Using color A, purl all sts

Round 2 : Using color B, [sl1 wyib, k1] to end

Round 3 : Using color B, [sl1 wyib, p1] to end

Round 4 : Using color A, knit all sts

Round 5 : Using color A, purl all sts

Round 6 : Using color B, [k1, sl1 wyib] to end

Round 7 : Using color B, [p1, sl1 wyib] to end

Round 8 : Using color A, knit all sts

Repeat rounds 1-8 another 3 times.

Cut color B.

Next round : [k1, p1] to end

Work another 3 rounds as established.

Bind off in ribbing.

Cut the yarn and weave the end in.

Cosy sleep suits for Odile and Nisse ♥



PATTERN NOTES

Odile's and Nisse's pyjamas are worked in one piece seamlessly, from the top down. First you will knit flat, from the ribbed collar down to the body. At some point, stitches for the sleeves will be put on hold, while you will keep knitting the body flat. Simple yarnover buttonholes will be made as you go. Then you will join to knit in the round by overlapping the two edges. From that point, you will knit one leg, then the other one. Then, you will go back to the held stitches and knit each sleeves in the round. The whole piece is done using garter stitch.

Note that in legs and sleeves sections, instructions are given for short variations.

About color changes : let simply the color you don't use hanging at the back of your work without twisting the two colors. When picking up the following color again, take care of your tension when you knit the first stitch, so that it's not too tight neither too loose.

The pyjamas uses two colors : 10 g of color A (shown here in Color Sea), 8 g of color B (shown here in Color Oil).

PATTERN BEGINS

YOKE AND BODY

With smaller needle(s) and color A, cast on 41 sts using the alternate cable cast on (or your preferred cast-on method for ribbing).

Row 1 (WS) : [p1, k1] to 1 st before end, p1

Row 2 : [k1, p1] to 1 st before end, k1

Row 3 : repeat row 1

Change to larger needles

Row 1 (RS) : Using color A, k1, kfb, k to end (42 sts)

Row 2 : Joining color B, k8, PM, k6, PM, k14, PM, k6, PM, k to end

Section 1 : where we make the raglan increases and the buttonholes

Note that instructions will refer to a few rounds to be repeated (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) distinguished by a different color in order to spot them easily.

Row 1 (RS) : Increase and buttonhole row - Using color B, k1, k2tog, YO, k to 1 st before next M, kfb, SM, [kfb, k to 1 st before next M, kfb, SM] 3 times, kfb, k to end (50 sts, 9 sts for each front, 8 sts for each sleeve, 16 sts for the back)

Row 2-3 : Using color A, knit all sts

Row 4 : Using color B, knit all sts

Row 5 : Increase row only - Using color B, k to 1 st before next M, kfb, SM, [kfb, k to 1 st before next M, kfb, SM] 3 times, kfb, k to end (58 sts, 10 for each front, 10 for each sleeve, 18 for the back)

Row 6-7 : Using color A, knit all sts

Row 8 : Using color B, knit all sts

Row 9 : Increase and buttonhole row - repeat row 1 (66 sts, 11 for each front, 12 for each sleeve, 20 for the back)

Row 10-12 : Repeat rows 2-3-4

Row 13 : Increase row only - repeat row 5 (74 sts, 12 sts for each front, 14 sts for each sleeve, 22 sts for the back)

Row 14-16 : Repeat rows 2-3-4

Row 17 : Buttonhole row only - Using color B, k1, k2tog, YO, k to end

Row 18 : Using color A, knit all sts

Section 2 : where we put on hold sleeves stitches to knit the body, and make more increases and buttonholes, where we also create a little hole for the bunny tail (row 30)

Note that instructions will refer to a few rounds to be repeated (7, 8, 9, 10) distinguished by a different color in order to spot them easily.

Row 1 (RS) : Set-up row - Using color A, k to next M, RM, sl next 14 sts on to waste yarn, RM, use the backwards-loop method to cast on 4 sts, k22, RM, sl next 14 sts on to waste yarn, RM, use the backwards-loop method to cast on another 4 sts, k to end (54 sts)

Row 2-3 : Using color B, knit all sts

Rows 4-5 : Using color A, knit all sts

Rows 6 : Using color B, knit all sts

Row 7 : Buttonhole row only - Using color B, k1, k2tog, YO, k to end

Row 8-9 : Using color A, knit all sts

Rows 10 : Using color B, knit all sts

Row 11 : Increase row only - Using color B, k13, kfb twice, k24, kfb twice, k to end (58 sts)

Row 12-14 : Repeat rows 8-9-10

Row 15 : buttonhole row only - Repeat row 7

Rows 16-17 : Using color A, knit all sts

Rows 18-19 : Using color B, knit all sts

Rows 20-21 : Using color A, knit all sts

Rows 22 : Using color B, knit all sts

Row 23 : buttonhole row only - Repeat row 7

Rows 24-25 : Using color A, knit all sts

Rows 26-27 : Using color B, knit all sts

Rows 28-29 : Using color A, knit all sts

Row 30 : Using color B, k26, bring yarn forward, sl next st on left needle, bring yarn back, *sl next st, pass previous slipped st over it, repeat from * 5 more times to bind off 4 sts, put the last slipped st back on to left needle, turn work, bring yarn to the back, cable cast-on 7 sts, turn work, bring yarn to the back, sl next st, pass the last st cast on over the slipped st, put this last slipped st back on to the left needle], k 26

Row 31 : buttonhole row only - Repeat row 7

Rows 32-33 : Using color A, knit all sts

Rows 34-35 : Using color B, knit all sts

Row 36 : Using color A, knit all sts

Cut color B.

Section 3 : where we join to knit in the round

From now, you will work only with yarn A.

In order to join in the round, we need to overlap our two edges, over 4 sts, with the buttonholes edges in front of the other one.

Looking at the right side of your work, slip the last four sts of the round (at the opposite of your working yarn) on a spare DPN - Arrange your stitches and needles to be ready to work in the round according to your knitting method and hold the spare DPN (with the 4 sts on), behind your work so that the 4 first sts of the row (in the front, on your working needle(s)) overlap the 4 last sts of the row (behind, on the spare DPN), with right sides of the fabric together - 54 sts on your working needles and 4 sts on the spare DPN

You're ready to join in the round, place MA in the first st, where your working yarn is hanging, to indicate beginning of the round.

Set-up round 1 : knit the first st on your working needle together with the first st on the spare DPN, repeat for the second, third and fourth stitch of each needle, k to end (54 sts)

Set-up round 2 : purl until 11 sts before end - this is the new temporary beginning of the round, remove MA and replace it here - arrange your needles so that it falls at the beginning of a needle.

RIGHT LEG

It's time to use the other set of DPNs or your second circular needle again to hold stitches while you work the right then the left leg. You could use waste yarn for this but it would make the process less smooth.

Start at the current beginning of the round (with the pyjama upside down and its front facing you). Remove MA.

Set-up round : p13, sl next 27 sts onto other needle(s), use the backwards-loop method to cast on 1 st, PMA, k14, then knit again until you're back to MA (28 sts).

This is the new beginning of your round. PMA in the new first stitch of the round as a reminder.

Next round : purl all sts

For a long leg version :

Round 1 : k1, ssk, k to 3 sts before end, k2tog, k1 (26 sts - 2 sts dec)

Round 2 : purl all sts

Rounds 3-10 : Repeat rounds 1-2 another 4 times (18 sts)

Round 11 : knit all sts

Round 12 : purl all sts

Rounds 13-16 : Repeat rounds 11-12 another 2 times

Change to smaller needles

Next round : [k1, p1] to end

Work another 3 rounds as established.

Bind off your stitches in ribbing.

Weave the end in.

For a short leg variation :

Round 1 : k1, ssk, k to 3 sts before end, k2tog, k1 (26 sts - 2 sts dec)

Round 2 : purl all sts

Rounds 3-6 : Repeat rounds 1-2 twice (22 sts)

Round 7 : knit all sts

Bind off as follows :

*k2tog, slip the stitch back onto the left needle, repeat from * until you have the last stitch on your right needle.

LEFT LEG

Put the 27 sts on hold back on to working needle(s). With the pyjama upside down and its front facing you, starting at the right, join color A*, leaving an end long enough to close any hole later.

* you can also choose to join color B, for a color-block variation (see sample - picture to come)

Set-up round : k27, pick-up and knit 1 st at the crotch from the st cast on for the other leg (28 sts).

This is the new beginning of your round. PMA in the new first stitch of the round as a reminder.

Next round : purl all sts

Then work as right leg from round 1.

Use the end of yarn joined for left leg to close any little hole at the crotch and weave it in.

Use the end of color B cut when joining in the round to close any little remaining hole at the junction, and weave the end in.

RIGHT SLEEVE

Using larger needles, with the pyjama upside down and its back facing you, put one of the set of 14 sts held (the one on your left) back on to working needles. Starting at the middle of the underarm, pick-up and knit 3 sts from the sts cast on for the body, k14, pick-up and knit 3 sts (20 sts). Arrange these sts to work in the round, beginning of the round being at the middle of the underarm, place a marker into the first st as a visual reminder.

Next round : purl all sts

For a long sleeve version :

Round 1 : knit all sts

Round 2 : purl all sts

Rounds 3-8 : Repeat rounds 1-2 another 3 times

Change to smaller needles.

Next round : [k1, p1] to end

Work another 3 rounds as established.

Bind off your stitches in ribbing.

Weave the end in.

For a short sleeve variation :

Round 1 : knit all sts

Round 2 : purl all sts

Rounds 3-4 : Repeat rounds 1-2 once

Round 5 : knit all sts

Bind off as follows :

*k2tog, slip the stitch back onto the left needle, repeat from * until you have the last stitch on your right needle.

Use the end of the yarn you joined at the beginning of the sleeve to close any hole and weave it in.

LEFT SLEEVE

With the pyjama upside down and its front facing you, put the last 14 sts held back on to working needles.

Next round : purl all sts

Then work as for right sleeve from round 1.

Sew the seven little buttons, you might find helpful to use the stripes as landmarks to place them correctly.

Wee socks ♥



PATTERN NOTES

The little socks are worked from the top down, from the ribbing to the toes. They can be made plain but you can also add a bit of fancy color variations, and go for a mismatched approach :

As done for Odile's socks, row 1 of « Shaping the heel section » is a great moment to start with a contrasting color. Keep your main color attached, you will pick it up again at round 2 of « Working in the round again » section. Then you'll be able to alternate the colors until the toes.

As done for Nisse's socks, they can be fully striped, starting after the ribbing, from round 5, with a color change at each round, the heel shaping being made in one color, and the striped pattern resumed at round 2 of « Working in the round again » section.

Note that Nisse loves wearing his socks inside out. If you like this option too, just remember to weave the ends on the right side of your work.

A very small amount of yarn is needed for each sock, especially if you go for scrappy socks, an amount that your scale might not weight, not more than a couple of grammes.

PATTERN BEGINS

Knitting the leg

With 2 mm smaller needles, cast on 18 sts using a long-tail method.

Distribute the stitches across needles according to your knitting method and join to work in the round. Place MA in the first stitch to indicate beginning of the round.

Rounds 1-3 : [k1,p1] to end

Round 4 : purl all sts

Round 5-9 : knit all sts

Round 10 : k10, PMB*, k to end

* see NOTES / Markers about marker placement

Creating a little gusset

Round 1 : k1, kfb, k to 2 sts before MB, kfb, k1, SMB, k to end (2 sts inc)

Round 2 : knit all sts

Repeat rounds 1-2 another 3 times (26 sts / 18 for the back of the leg, 8 for the front of the leg)

Shaping the heel

You will be working flat, on the heel stitches, the ones between the beginning of the round and MB (18 sts)

Set your stitches according to your knitting method (MB can be removed):

Magic-loop knitters : you have the 18 heel stitches on needle 1 and the 8 « front of the foot » stitches held on the cable. Place MA on the first stitch of needle 1, it will be ready for when you will work again in the round later.

DPN knitters : you have the 18 heel stitches on needle 1 and the 8 « front of the foot » stitches held on two other ones. Place MA on the first stitch of needle 1, it will be ready for when you will work again in the round later.

With the gusset facing you and the ribbing turned down, work as follows :

Row 1 (RS) : k10, k2tog (17 sts)

Row 2 (WS) : p3, ssp, turn (16 sts)

Row 3 : k3, k2tog, turn (15 sts)

Row 4 : p3, ssp, turn (14 sts)

Repeat rows 3 and 4 another 3 times (8 sts on working needle, 8 sts held)

Working in the round again

Beginning of the round remains the same, it's indicated by MA.

Round 1 : k3, k2tog, k to end (15 sts / 7 for the sole, 8 for the top of the foot)

Round 2 : k1, ssk, k to end (14 sts / 6 for the sole, 8 for the top of the foot)

Round 3-4 : knit all sts

Round 5 : k6, ssk, k4, k2tog (12 sts / 6 for the sole, 6 for the top of the foot)

Round 6 : knit all sts

Round 7 : [ssk, k2, k2tog] twice (8 sts / 4 for the back, 4 for the front)

Leaving about a 25 cm (10 inch) tail, cut your yarn, distribute your stitches into 2 sets of 4, and close using grafting (see NOTES / Grafting).

Bring the end of the yarn to the inside, turn the sock inside out and weave in the ends.

Repeat to knit the second sock



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Cinthia Vallet ♥ FROM CINTHIA DESIGNS

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