

Little Cotton Rabbits Badger in a dress



*This badger is made from Cascade 220 worsted yarn in 8010 Natural (Yarn A),
4002 Jet (Yarn B) and 9491 Greystone Heather (Yarn C)*

Her dress, knickers and shoes are made from Drops Safran in 20 Rust and 18 white

Please note that I have used lighter colours for the step-by-step photos in order to make the images clearer.

The colours used are: 8010 Natural (Yarn A), 9491 Greystone Heather (Yarn B), and 8011 Aspen Heather (Yarn C)

*More knitting patterns are available at
<https://littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk>*

Materials:

- Worsted or light Aran yarn (approx 15m/17yds) in Cream: **Yarn A**
- Worsted or light Aran yarn (approx 35m/38yds) in Black/very dark grey: **Yarn B**
- Worsted or light Aran yarn (approx 15m/17yds) in mid/light grey: **Yarn C**
- 4ply/fingering weight yarn for the dress, knickers and shoes in up to 2 colours, **Yarn D**, **Yarn E**
- Scraps of black and brown 4ply/DK yarn for the eyes and facial features
- Toy stuffing

Notions:

- Knitting needles: A pair each of 3mm (US 2.5), 2.75mm (US 2) and 2.5mm (US 1.5)
- Tapestry needle

Finished size:

approx 23cm (9 inches) from the tip of the toes to the top of the head

Gauge:



Gauge for badger: 6 stitches x 9 rows to 1 inch

Gauge for clothes: 7 stitches x 10 rows to 1 inch

Thanks for buying a copy of this pattern. It is suitable for intermediate knitting skills and assumes an understanding of basic stitches and standard knitting terms. Apart from a couple of complicated shaping rows the knitting part of the pattern is quite simple and straightforward. All of the pieces are knitted flat and seamed (though if you decide to convert it to knit in the round please bear in mind that you will lose the ability to use the seams to add structure and shape to your finished badger and it will not look the same).

I feel that it is mostly the finishing techniques (sewing up, seams etc.) that give any knitted project a polished look. I've described in detail how I try to get the neatest look to the animals that I make, how I sew up, tighten seams etc. to get a particular shape. You will need to use mattress stitch if you want to follow the instructions properly as it has the benefit of giving a flexible seam that can be gathered in. There are a few fiddly finishing bits that are worth taking extra time over and it's also worth re-doing bits if you're not happy (it sometimes takes me 2 or 3 tries to get a face exactly how I want it).

Anyway, I hope that you find the pattern enjoyable (if a bit fiddly in parts) and are pleased with the badger that you make.

Abbreviations:

These increase methods are described in detail in the excellent knitting help website:

<https://www.knittinghelp.com/videos/increases>

M1L : MAKE 1 LEFT. A nice tight method of making an extra stitch. With the left hand needle pick up the connecting strand between the two needles and knit into the back of the loop to create an extra stitch. If you find this too tight for your liking you can substitute M1A (make one away) which will give a looser increase.

KLL : KNIT LEFT LOOP. Increase 1 stitch by knitting into the stitch that is 2 below the one you have just knitted... insert tip of left needle into the stitch from behind and bring the loop onto the left needle. Insert the tip of the right needle into the back loop and knit, so making an extra stitch. This is the most invisible increasing method I've found so far but if you prefer you can substitute M1L above.

M1A : MAKE 1 AWAY. Make a loop with the working yarn so the tail is pointing backwards/away from you

These decrease methods are described in detail in the excellent knitting help website:

<https://www.knittinghelp.com/videos/decreases>

SSK (SLIP, SLIP, KNIT) : Slip a stitch (as if to knit it) to the right-hand needle, slip a second stitch in the same way, slip both stitches together back to the left-hand needle and knit together through the back loops.

K2TOG : Knit 2 stitches together

P2TOG : Purl 2 stitches together

P2TOG TBL: Purl 2 stitches together through the back loops

K1B: Knit 1 through the back loop

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Yarn suggestions:

I've always enjoyed experimenting when I knit my animals so I use many different yarns. Here are some suggestions:



CaMaRose Sneflug in 7811 snehvid (A),
7313 Koksgra (B) and 7311 Gra (C)

De Rerum Natura Gilliatt in Sel (A),
Fusain (B) and Brouillard (C)

Lana Grossa Slow Wool Canapa in
1 white (A), 7 Anthrazit (B) and 6 grey (C)

Yarn suggestions for clothes:

I like cotton yarns for the dresses as it has a pleasing drape and the hem of the dress will not curl in the same way as it will when knitted in woollen yarn. Cotton yarns are also crisp and show off colour-work patterns nicely, they also block well. DMC Natura Just Cotton, Drops Safran, BCGarn Alba, Krea Deluxe organic cotton and Scheepjes Catona or Cotton 8 are all 4ply cottons that in my experience knit up nicely and have a good range of colours. I have some more detailed yarn suggestions over on my blog:

https://littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk/my_weblog/2020/06/choosing-yarns-for-the-little-cotton-rabbit-animal-patterns-part-2.html

Tip: Before you start, get to know your yarn. Does it break easily? If so you will need to consider using a different yarn to sew up with as seaming can cause weaker yarns to snap.

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Some notes on stuffing:

Stuffing soft toys and decorations can be tricky. Knitted fabric has a lot of stretch and unlike a firm woven fabric it will expand to the shape of the stuffing inside.

No matter how good your shaping is on a knitted piece, the way in which you stuff will be more crucial in determining the finished shape.

On limbs it is best not to over stuff and therefore avoid a fat sausage shape. On bodies it is fine to stuff firmly but be aware that over stuffing may mean that your badger does not sit down well.

I find that putting in small amounts of stuffing and building up a shape works best for me rather than pushing in a large wad all at once.

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Extra tips:

I hope you enjoy using this pattern. I have written up some extra tips about knitting and finishing, so please pop by for a visit and check out the knitting tips section on [Little Cotton Rabbits blog](#).

If you get stuck with any aspect of the pattern, please come and visit the Little cotton Rabbit group on Ravelry:
<https://www.ravelry.com/groups/little-cotton-rabbits>

Or the Little Cotton Rabbits Facebook group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/littlecottonrabbits>

Lots of knitters who've already used the patterns hang out there and one of us will do our best to help you. You'll also find lots of other projects made from these patterns, please come and share yours.

The pattern instructions:

Head:

Before starting please cut: two separate lengths of Yarn A; one of 3m (3.3 yds) and one of 5m (5.5 yds) and two separate 2m (2.2 yds) lengths of **Yarn B**. These are all joined in on **row 7** when you begin working in intarsia. *A note about intarsia technique:* It is important that you intertwine the strands of contrasting colours as you switch between them, here is a helpful video: <https://www.knittinghelp.com/video/play/intarsia-color-knitting>

Starting at the back of the head and finishing at the nose, use Yarn A and 3mm needles to cable cast on 11 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for seaming with later.

row 1: (wrong side) Purl
row 2: K2, (KLL, K1) 8 times, K1 (19 stitches)
row 3: Purl
row 4: K2, (KLL, K2) 8 times, K1 (27 stitches)
row 5: Purl
row 6: K2, (KLL, K3) 8 times, K1 (35 stitches)
row 7: P11, then join in first length of **Yarn B** and P2, join in the 3m length of Yarn A and P9, join in second length of **Yarn B** and P2, join in the 5m length of Yarn A and P11
row 8: K10, K4, K7, K4, K10
row 9: P10, P4, P7, P4, P10
rows 10–13: Repeat rows 8 & 9 twice more
row 14: K10, K2, P1, K1, K7, K1, P1, K2, K10 (the Purl stitches mark where to join the outer edges of both ears)
row 15: P10, P4, P7, P4, P10

rows 16–23: Repeat rows 8 & 9 four more times
row 24: K2, (K2tog) 4 times, K2, K2tog, SSK, K3, K2tog, SSK, K2, (K2tog) 4 times, K2 (23 stitches)
row 25: P6, P3, P5, P3, P6
row 26: K6, K1, K2tog, K5, SSK, K1, K6 (21 stitches)
row 27: P6, P2, P5, P2, P6
row 28: K6, K2tog, K5, SSK, K6 (19 stitches)
row 29: P6, P1, P5, P1, P6

From this point onwards continue in Yarn A only

row 30: K1, SSK, K13, K2tog, K1 (17 stitches)
row 31: Purl
row 32: K1, (K2tog) twice, SSK, K3, (K2tog) twice, SSK, K1 (11 stitches)
row 33: Purl
row 34: Cast off Knit-wise

Cut the work from the ball leaving a cast off tail of around 8 inches to seam with (*fig. 1*). Before seaming turn the head to the wrong side and weave in all of the black tail ends on the inside of the work and once they are secure trim them so that they do not intrude into the white areas. This needs doing in order to prevent the black tails showing through the work once the head is stuffed – trust me, it looks ugly. If your stuffing is white (as most stuffing is) then you'll not need to hide the cream coloured tail ends, but do ensure that they're secure (either woven in a little or tied off) and that your work cannot come unravelled (*fig. 2*).

Next use the cast off tail thread to close around an inch of the seam under the chin using mattress stitch. Then thread the tapestry needle with your cast-on tail and use it to begin closing the seam from the back of the head using mattress stitch and leaving an open gap in the seam through which to stuff the head (*fig. 3*).

Then with the right side of work facing you, use a short length of Yarn A and sew through the loops from the cast on edge at the back of the head (I've used red thread to illustrate, *fig. 4*). Begin to gather in the seam and tie the ends together tightly inside the head to prevent it loosening again.



fig. 1



fig. 2



fig. 3



fig. 4



Finally close the small open seam at the nose as detailed below and using an extra 10 inch length of Yarn A (though if you find your yarn snaps easily please substitute a stronger yarn). Here I've used red yarn to illustrate:

Fold the nose so that the seam under the head is centred underneath. Leaving a few inches as a tail end sew alternately through the ∇ of a whole stitch on the upper side of the seam (fig. 5) and then a ∇ of a whole stitch on the lower side on the seam (fig. 6). Continue closing the seam in this way, working alternate sides in turn until the whole of the seam is closed and the working thread zig-zags across the open seam (fig. 7). Pull firmly on both the tail ends to tighten so the seam is neat and fully closed (fig. 8). Thread the tail ends to the inside of the work and tie off/weave in before trimming the excess.

Once the tail ends are secured, it's time to stuff (see tips on stuffing on page 3). I start with a tight ball of stuffing which I poke into the back of the head, packing it in firmly (fig. 9) then stuff the nose end lightly, pinching and manipulating the stuffing until it takes on the pointy shape that I want (fig. 10).



Continue stuffing the head until you're happy with the shape. I pack in quite a lot of stuffing adding little bits at a time, moulding as I go to get an oval shape and the finished head is quite firm and solid (fig. 11). When you are happy with the shape leave the seam at the bottom of the head open for now (making it easier to hide the tails ends from the ears and facial features inside the head) and set aside while you make the ears. NOTE: please see tips on page 8 for filling in any gaps between the intarsia sections.

E a r s (make two the same):

Use **Yarn B** and 3mm needles to cable cast on 3 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for sewing the ear together and attaching to the head later. The ears are worked in garter stitch (Knit every row). Note, knitting into the back of the first stitch on rows 7 & 9 will give a neater finish to the colour change.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>row 1: (wrong side) Knit row 2: (K1, M1A) twice, K1 (5 stitches) row 3: Knit row 4: K2, M1A, K1, M1A, K2 (7 stitches) row 5: Knit row 6: Join in Yarn A and Knit row 7: K1B, K6, cut Yarn A from the work row 8: Change to Yarn B and Knit</p> | <p>row 9: K1B, K6 rows 10-12: Knit each row row 13: K1, SSK, K1, K2tog, K1 (5 stitches) row 14: Knit row 15: SSK, K1, K2tog (3 stitches) row 16: Knit row 17: Knit</p> |
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Ears (continued):

Cut the work from the ball leaving an 8 inch tail and thread this end through the last 3 stitches on the needle and pull up to tighten the stitches (*fig. 12*). Fold the ear in half and tie the cast on and cast off ends together at the centre bottom point of the ear. At this point you need to check that you have the neat side of the white rim on the outside of the work. If you are not sure then flip it inside-out and check that side too. Once you are happy with the folded ear thread the needle with one of the ends and sew one side of the bottom edge closed from the centre point to the edge (*fig. 13*). Repeat with the other side. You will finish up with an end at each corner of the semi-circular finished ear. Make a second ear the same (*fig. 14*). Next it's time to attach the ears to the head.



fig. 12

fig. 13

fig. 14

fig. 15

Making sure that the white highlight on the ear is facing forward, thread the tapestry needle with the left hand tail from one ear, and position the ear by sewing through the purled marker stitch within the left black stripe of the head (*fig. 15*). Work backwards along the head, joining the ear by sewing alternately through the left side edge of the ear and the bars between the stitches on the head, stopping when you reach the central point at the back of the ear. Next re-thread the needle with the right-hand tail from the ear and use it to join the right side of the ear in the same way, making sure both front edges of the ear are aligned and using the channel between the first row of cream colour stitches on the head (*fig. 16*), you want the two joining points of the ear close together to get the badger ear shape.



fig. 16

fig. 17

fig. 18

fig. 19

When you reach the back of the ear where the first end is hanging, tie the two ends together securely (*figs. 17 & 18*). Thread both ends inside the head and out of the open seam at the bottom and that's the first ear done. Repeat with the second ear (*fig. 19*). When you are happy with positioning tie all the ends from the ears together securely underneath the head, trim and poke inside the head cavity. Now for the facial features.

To embroider the face:

To make the mouth, thread a tapestry needle with an 8 inch length of black 4ply or DK Yarn and push it up through the open bottom seam of the head and out of the centre of your gathered cast off. Then take it down the outside of the centre seam, thread into the head at the base of the mouth and out at one mouth corner (*fig. 20*). Take it across the front to the other mouth corner and back through the head, coming out again at the base of the mouth (*fig. 21*).

Take the working yarn through the loop you've just made so that the mouth is also pulled down into a 'V' shape then thread the end back through the head at the base of the mouth (*fig. 22*) and out of the open seam at the bottom of the head (*fig. 23*). Adjust the tightness of the stitches forming the mouth and knot the 2 ends of thread together securely before trimming and poke the ends inside the head.



fig. 20

fig. 21

fig. 22

fig. 23

To make the nose, thread a tapestry needle with an 18 inch length of black yarn (or embroidery floss) and push it up through the open bottom seam of the head and out on one side of the top corner of the nose. Take the thread across to the other top corner of the nose to make a straight line marking the top edge of the nose. Then sew a slightly shorter horizontal parallel line where you want the bottom of the nose to be (fig. 24) Ideally these lines should straddle the nose seam in order to fully hide it once the nose is embroidered.

Work in vertical lines from the top line marker to the lower one, filling in the entire nose area with black threads (fig. 25). The threads at either side of the nose will slope inwards slightly and you are aiming for a tapered rectangular shape. Once you've filled in the entire nose (fig. 26), sew back through to underneath head, tie off both nose thread ends and trim them, poking the tail ends inside the head cavity.



fig. 24

fig. 25

fig. 26

I prefer to add the eyes after closing the seam on the underside of the head, as this helps to anchor them and aids with shaping, so finish joining those seams together now. I aim to get the seams to meet just behind the shaping under the chin and gently tighten the seams to give the head extra shaping before tying both ends together. Don't trim the tail ends as you'll use them to attach the head to the body later.

Anchored French Knot:



fig. 27

fig. 28

fig. 29

fig. 30

Anchored French Knot (continued):

French Knots are a nice way of making a small decorative bobble and can be used as an eye or nose on a stuffed toy. The only problem can be that a knitted fabric tends to have large holes and so it is easy for the knot to slip to the wrong side of the work. To compensate I anchor my French Knots as detailed below.

To make the eyes cut an 8 inch length of 4ply yarn. I've used black yarn on the grey badger and a dark brown yarn on the black badger (see front cover and page 3). Starting underneath the head thread this yarn through the head to the position for the first eye leaving a tail of around 2 inches behind. Create an anchored French Knot for each eye:

Thread a tapestry needle with the 8 inches of yarn. Sew up through the work to the point that you want the knot. Then push it back through the same point and out again one stitch away from the original point, leaving a little loop (*fig. 27*). Slide the tip of the needle through this loop and wrap the thread around the needle tip (*fig. 28*) between three and six times depending on thickness of yarn – here I wrapped 6 times with 4 ply yarn. Hold the wrapped thread in place around the needle between your finger and thumb and pull the needle all the way through to make a loose knot. Pull on the end under the head to tighten the knot, then push the needle back down through the work (*fig. 29*) and out again underneath the head next to the start point.

Gently pull both ends to tighten and create a little eye socket shaping to the head (*fig. 30*). Adjust the tightness until you are happy and then tie off both ends securely before threading the ends through the head and trimming.

Repeat for the second eye and then the head is finished.

As I mentioned earlier, it might be that you've found you are not entirely happy with the intarsia sections of the head and if you feel there are gaps, now is the time to fix that.

Fixing the gaps:

There are lots of tips on the internet about minimising the gaps between intarsia sections (search for 'neat intarsia' to find some) but sometimes despite your best efforts of tugging the yarn after a colour change, you are left with gaps at the intersection between blocks of intarsia colour-work. If this bothers you here is a simple solution:

Note: When experimenting I found that using the lighter coloured yarn (Yarn A) rather than the darker one gave me a neater result, but you can use either colour as you like.

Cut a long length of Yarn A (though here I've used red yarn for contrast so you can clearly see what's going on) and sewing under and over the pairs of lateral joining stitches, work a simple running stitch up along one side of the black/grey patch, (*fig. 31*). Don't pull the stitches too tightly, instead keep your working thread tension quite loose, as you don't want to distort the shaped head. When you reach the end of the join, turn and do the same in the opposite direction, filling in the gaps between the first set of running stitches. I find that sewing diagonally through the gaps on the way back towards the nose gives the neatest finish (*fig. 32 & 33*). Sew both tail ends through the head and secure underneath where they will be hidden when the head is attached to the body.



fig. 31



fig. 32



fig. 33

Now that's the head finished, so set it to one side while you make the body.

Body:

Starting at the neck and finishing at the bottom, use Yarn C and 3mm needles to cast on 16 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for seaming with later

- row 1: (wrong side) Purl
- row 2: K3, (KLL, K2) 6 times, K1 (22 stitches)
- row 3: Purl
- row 4: K3, (KLL, K3) 6 times, K1 (28 stitches)
- row 5: Purl
- row 6: K3, (KLL, K4) 6 times, K1 (34 stitches)
- rows 7-13: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 7 rows in stocking stitch
- row 14: Change to 2.5mm needles and K3, (KLL, K5) 6 times, K1 (40 stitches)

Cut Yarn C from the work as it is no longer needed

- row 15: Join in Yarn D and Purl
- row 16: Purl
- row 17: Purl
- rows 18-32: Beginning and ending with a Knit row, work 15 rows in stocking stitch
- row 33: Cast off in Purl



Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 8 inches and use this thread to close the seam up the back of the body using mattress stitch. Leave a gap at the top to make stuffing the body easier.

Legs: (make 2 the same)

Begin with the shoes which are made as a separate piece. Starting at the underside of the shoe, use Yarn D and 2.5mm needles to cast on 14 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for seaming with later.

- row 1: (wrong side) Purl
- row 2: K2, (KLL, K1) 4 times, K3, (KLL, K1) 4 times, K1 (22 stitches)
- row 3: Purl
- row 4: K3, (KLL, K1) 6 times, K5, (KLL, K1) 6 times, K2 (34 stitches)
- rows 5-14: Beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit row, work 10 rows in stocking stitch

row 15: This row is a little complicated because it includes both decreasing and casting off as you work across the row. It is easy to lose count and I find it helps if you count the stitches yet to be worked rather than those already knitted:

P13 casting off as you go (at this point you should have 1 stitch on your right needle and 21 stitches still to work on the left needle), P2tog and cast off, P4 casting off as you go (1 stitch on your right needle and 15 stitches still to work), P2tog tbl and cast off. Cast off the remaining stitches in Purl.

Next you need to pick up stitches from the cast off edge of the shoe to form the top of the foot. You could use a sharp tipped or smaller sized needle for the first row, but remember to swap back to the 2.5mm afterwards:

row 1: (right side) With Yarn B and 2.5mm needles pick up and Knit the 6 central stitches from the cast-off edge of the shoe (that is the central 4 stitches and the 2 decrease stitches either side of them) like so:

From the front of the work push the tip of the needle through a purl loop on the back of the cast-off edge, wrap the yarn around once Knit-wise and draw through, placing each picked up stitch on the right hand needle in turn (fig. 34)

rows 2-10: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 9 rows in stocking stitch. Cut the yarn from the ball and keep these 6 stitches held on the left hand needle.

Next you will need to pick up more stitches to form the shaft of the leg. * If preferred you can work rows 14-17 for the top of the leg in Yarn B only, in which case don't join in Yarn C on row 14 and ignore the detailed colour changes.



fig. 34



fig. 35



fig. 36

row 1: (right side) Leaving a tail of 8 inches for seaming with later, use **Yarn B** to pick up and Knit the first 5 stitches from the far right side of the shoe cast-off edge. Ignore the remaining 8 cast off stitches on the right side and continue by knitting across the 6 stitches from the top of the foot (fig. 35). Ignore the first 8 cast-off stitches on the left side and pick up and Knit the last 5 stitches (fig. 35) please note the last stitch will be at the very edge of the work. Be sure to keep a tight tension across the gaps. (16 stitches)

row 2: Change to 3mm needles, **P4, P2tog, P4, P2tog tbl, P4** (14 stitches)

rows 3-13: Beginning and ending with a Knit row, **work 11 rows of stocking stitch**

***row 14:** Join in **Yarn C**, (**P1, P1**) 6 times, **P2**

row 15: (**K1, K1**) 7 times, cut **Yarn B** from the work leaving a short tail for weaving in later

row 16: Continue in **Yarn C** only, Purl

row 17: **Cast off in Knit** and cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 8 inches for sewing the leg to the body with later.

Make a second leg in exactly the same way. Now the shoe is ready to be finished and seamed (fig. 37).

Shoe strap (make 2 the same):

Use **Yarn D** and 2.5mm needles to cast on 12 stitches (leaving a tail of 8 inches for sewing up later) and then Knit back across them casting off as you go. Cut work from the ball leaving another tail for sewing up.

To finish the legs and body:

Thread a tapestry needle with the shorter end from the strap and attach it to the one side of the shoe at the top of the foot section (fig. 38). Sew through a couple of times to ensure it's secure and leave the end on the inside of the work. Thread the longer end inside and tie both ends together, and then use this longer thread to begin closing the two vents between the top of the foot and the sides of the shoe, like so:

Sew alternately through 1 loop from the back of the cast off edge of the shoe and 1 'bar' between the two outermost stitches of the top of the foot section, working down towards the toe of the shoe (fig. 39). You should run out of loops on the shoe side and still have 2 'bars' on the foot side which is exactly right as this is what helps to give the shoe it's curved shaped toe.



fig. 37



fig. 38



fig. 39

Thread the yarn to the inside of the work and catch up the **Yarn D** loops from the back of the toe of the shoe (*fig. 40*). At this point you need to gently tighten the yarn slightly, gathering in the section that you have just sewn up. Continue to sew up the second vent in the same way, skipping the first 2 'bars' in order to get a curve to mirror the one on the right side of the shoe and working up towards the leg (*fig. 41*). When you have fully closed the vent thread the yarn to the inside and gently tighten until both sides of the foot are even.



fig. 40



fig. 41



fig. 42

Attach the strap to the opposite side of the shoe (*fig. 42*) using the **Yarn D** end from sewing up the foot. Sew through a few times to secure and then tie off all of the ends inside the shoe and sew along a seam before trimming excess. Use mattress stitch to start closing the back seam of the shoe with the cast-on tail from the bottom of the shoe. Leave a small gap at the top of the shoe to make stuffing the foot easier.



fig. 43



fig. 44



fig. 45



fig. 46

Re-thread the tapestry needle with a spare length of **Yarn D** and use it to gather up the loops in the bottom of the foot (*fig. 43*) I've used white thread here just to illustrate. Tie both ends tightly inside the shoe to fully close the bottom shoe seam. Next stuff the foot firmly. Take your time to get the shape that you want, adding small amounts of stuffing at a time. Don't be afraid to pull it out and start again if you're not happy with the shape, I often do. Once you are happy, close the back seam of the shoe entirely and tie ends together before poking inside. Thread the tapestry needle with the long end of **Yarn B** from the bottom of the leg section and use this to close the seam up the back of the leg using mattress stitch (*fig. 44*). Leave a gap at the top to make stuffing the leg easier.

Stuff the leg lightly and if you want your badger to sit nicely then don't stuff the top 1cm of the leg. Finish closing the seam and tie the two ends together at the top, poking all other ends inside the leg. For the second leg you need to follow all of the finishing steps above but attach the strap to the opposite side of the foot. To make a 'button' on the strap at the outside of each shoe use contrasting coloured yarn (around 8 inches) to make a French Knot (*fig. 45*). Follow the instructions for the anchored French knot on pages 7 & 8. Now both legs are ready to attach to the body (*fig. 46*).

Thread the tapestry needle with the longer end from the top of the first leg and use this to sew it to the body. Make sure that you have the correct leg in position – the French Knot should be on the outside of the foot. Position the leg by lining it up with the edge of the body with the foot facing forward. Sew the leg in place through the Purl loops from the back of the body cast off edge and the front loop of the leg cast off edge (*fig. 47*). Work around the top of the leg back to the start then tie both ends together inside the body to secure. Attach the second leg in the same way leaving a gap between both legs (*fig. 48*).



fig. 47

fig. 48

fig. 49

fig. 50

Once both legs are attached and secure use a spare length of **Yarn D** to tightly over-sew (whip stitch) the short seam between the legs (fig. 49) before threading the ends back inside and tying off to secure.

Now the body is ready to stuff (fig. 50).

I like to put most of the stuffing at the bottom of the body to make a fat tummy, (though don't overstuff and strain the seams) and I put less towards the neck end. When you are happy with the body shape finish closing the seam at the back of the body but leave the neck edge open. Tie off the ends but don't trim as you'll use them to help attach the head. Now for the arms.

A r m s (make 2 the same):

Starting at the top of arm and finishing at the paw, use **Yarn C** and 3mm (US 2.5) needles to cable cast on 10 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for seaming with later. If you prefer you can work the arms in **Yarn B** only. In which case cast on using **Yarn B** and ignore all colour change directions in rows 3 & 4.

row 1: (wrong side) Purl

row 2: K2, (M1L, K2) 4 times (14 stitches)

row 3: Join in **Yarn B**, (P1, P1) 6 times, P2

row 4: (K1, K1) 7 times

Cut **Yarn C** from the work leaving a short tail for weaving in later, and continue in **Yarn B** only

row 5: Purl

rows 6-23: Beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl, work 18 rows in stocking stitch

row 24: K1, SSK, K2, K2tog, SSK, K2, K2tog, K1 (10 stitches)

row 25: Purl

Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of 8 inches. Thread this through the remaining 10 stitches and pull up tightly (fig. 51). Over-sew/whip stitch once to keep the seam from opening out again. Continue using this thread to close the arm seam using mattress stitch. Leave a gap of around an inch and stuff the arm lightly, I prefer not to stuff the very top of the arm so that it's bit floppy.

Finish closing the arm seam and tighten it by pulling the end to get a slight curve to the arm and pulling the gathered paw end under. When you're happy with the arm shape tie both ends together. Make a second arm (fig. 52).



fig. 51

fig. 52

fig. 53

fig. 54

Next attach the arms. Thread the tapestry needle with the longer tail end of one arm and use to join the arm to the body by sewing alternately through a loop on the open top edge of the arm then through a whole stitch of the body, (fig. 53). Work around all of the top arm seam joining it to the body and when you reach the start point knot the ends together and thread through the body before trimming. Repeat with the second arm.

Next it's time to attach the head. Thread the tapestry needle with one of the two threads from underneath the head and use it to sew the body and head together. Sew through the loops at the open neck edge of the body then through a whole stitch of the head (fig. 54), working around the underside of the head in a semi circle until you reach the ends from the top of the body seam running up the back.

Tie the end you've been sewing with to the shortest body seam end and poke both inside the body. Then continue sewing up with the longer end from the body seam, knotting it to the remaining end under the chin once the head is fully joined. Thread ends through the body before trimming.

Tail:

The tail is worked as a little tapering rectangle and seamed afterwards. Using 3mm (US 2.5) needles and Yarn C cable cast on 10 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for attaching the tail with later.

(Please try not to notice that in the first 2 tail pictures I'd made the tail in the wrong grey!)

row 1: (wrong side) Purl

rows 2-5 Beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl row work 4 rows in stocking stitch

row 6: K2, K2tog, K2, SSK, K2 (8 stitches)

row 7: Purl

Cut Yarn C from the work leaving a short tail for tying off

row 8: Join in Yarn A and K1, K2tog, K2, SSK, K1 (6 stitches)

row 9: Purl

row 10: Knit

row 11: Purl

Cut the work from the ball leaving an 8 inch tail, thread this end through the 6 stitches on the needle (fig. 55) and pull up tightly. Over-sew/whip stitch once to keep the seam from opening out. Continue using this thread to seam using mattress stitch and when you reach the top of the seam tie both ends together to secure (fig. 56).

Use the longer end to sew the tail on to the badger's bottom (fig. 57). Tie off ends and thread through the body before trimming any excess.



fig. 55



fig. 56



fig. 57

Now your badger is ready for some clothes and instructions for two different dresses are on the next three pages.

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Sleeveless patterned dress:

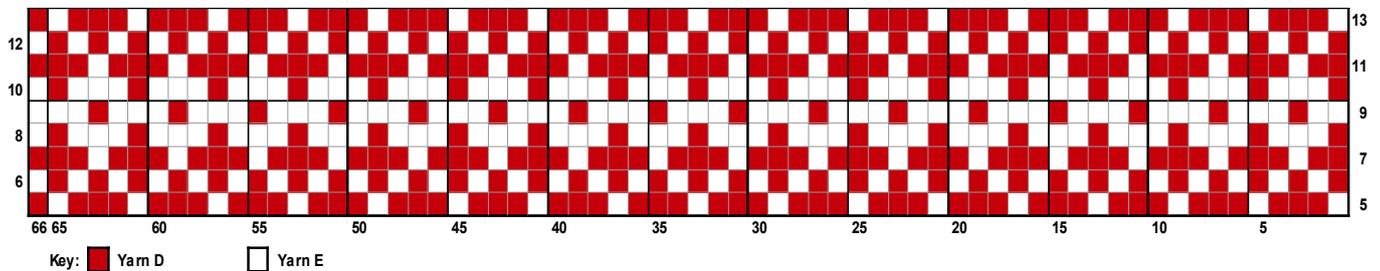
You will need 4ply weight cotton yarn in 2 contrasting colours: **Yarn D**, Yarn E

Starting at the bottom of the skirt use 2.75mm (US 2) needles and **Yarn D** to cast on 66 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for seaming with later.

- row 1: (right side) Knit
- row 2: Knit
- row 3: Knit
- row 4: Purl
- row 5: Begin working the first row from the pattern chart in Knit, reading from right to left
- row 6: Purl the second row of pattern chart, reading from left to right

Continue working alternate Knit and Purl rows following the pattern chart.

**(If you prefer written instructions you will find them below)*



Written instructions for the dress pattern:

- row 5: K1, (K3, K1) 16 times, K1
- row 6: (P1, P1) 33 times
- row 7: K2, (K1, K3) 16 times
- row 8: P1, (P1, P3) 16 times, P1
- row 9: K2, (K1, K3) 16 times
- row 10: As row 8
- row 11: As row 7
- row 12: As row 6
- row 13: As row 5

Cut Yarn E from the work leaving a short tail for weaving in later and continue in **Yarn D** only

rows 14-26: Beginning and ending with Purl rows, work 13 rows of stocking stitch

row 27: K3, (K2tog) 30 times, K3 (36 stitches)

row 28: Purl

Continue using the bodice instructions on page 15. In order to create the armholes, this is worked in three separate parts (see figs. 58 & 59).



fig. 58



fig. 59

Dress Bodice:

First side of the back:

row 29: K9. Slip the next stitch onto a cable needle and hold at the front of the work, Knit 1 stitch, slip the stitch from the cable needle back onto the left hand needle (it will be knitted later). Turn ready to work on these 10 stitches only for the next 8 rows.

row 30: Purl

row 31: K7, K2tog, K1 (9 stitches)

rows 32-37: Beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit row, work 6 rows in stocking stitch. Cut work from the ball (leaving a tail of around 8 inches for sewing up later) and leave these 9 stitches on right hand needle.

Front:

row 29 (b): Rejoin **Yarn D** at the first stitch on the left-hand needle and Knit 15. Slip the next stitch onto a cable needle and hold at the back of the work, Knit 1 stitch, slip the stitch from the cable needle back onto the left hand needle (it will be knitted later). Turn ready to work on these 16 stitches only for the next 8 rows.

row 30 (b): Purl

row 31 (b): K1, SSK, K10, K2tog, K1 (14 stitches)

rows 32-37 (b): Beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit row, work 6 rows in stocking stitch. Cut work from the ball (leaving a tail of around 8 inches for sewing up later) and leave these 14 stitches on right hand needle.

Second side of the back:

row 29 (c): Rejoin **Yarn D** at the first stitch on the left-hand needle and Knit 10, turn ready to work on these 10 stitches only for the next 8 rows.

row 30 (c): Purl

row 31 (c): K1, SSK, K7
(9 stitches)

rows 32-37 (c): Beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit row, work 6 rows in stocking stitch.

Do NOT cut the yarn from the ball as you are now going to turn and work right across the three separate sections on the needle.

row 38: P8, P2tog, P12, P2tog, P8
(30 stitches)

row 39: Cast off in Knit

Leaving a tail of around 8 inches cut the work from the ball and use a fine crochet hook (around 2mm) to make a chain of 6 stitches (or long enough to accommodate the size of button that you have). Join it back to the start point with a slip stitch to make a small loop and weave in the end, working downwards to the waist. Sew a tiny button on the opposite side as a fastening for the dress.

Before I sew up the back seam I like to block the dress to make it neat. I usually do this by carefully steam blocking but if you prefer wet blocking that is fine too. After blocking thread a tapestry needle with the cast-on tail and join the seam up the middle of the back using mattress stitch. Finish the seam at the waist (**row 27**) and tie the ends together before weaving them in along the inside seam and trimming excess.

Weave in the yarn ends from the tops of the armholes down along the armhole edges and tie to the ends at the bottoms of the armholes (don't pull too tightly or you'll make the armhole too small). Weave them in along the back of the waist shaping row and trim excess. Weave in any additional yarn ends from inside the dress along the inside seam and trim excess.

Pop the dress on your badger and you are done.



