

Little Cotton Rabbits Cow in a dress



*This Highland cow is made from Berroco Lanax yarn in 95109 'golden' (Yarn A),
and Cascade 220 in 1049 'peach dust' (Yarn B) for the nose.
Her dress, tights and shoes are made from Krea Deluxe Organic cotton in 23, 26 and 27*

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

Materials:

- Worsted or light Aran yarn (approx 50m/55yds) in brown, cream, black or grey: **Yarn A**
- Worsted or light Aran yarn (approx 10m/11yd) in pink or grey for the nose and ear inners: **Yarn B**
- Worsted or light Aran yarn (approx 10m/11yd) in brown or black for optional patches: **Yarn G**
- 4ply fingering weight yarn for the optional horns in cream, beige or grey (approx 10m/11yd) **Yarn C**
- 4ply/fingering weight yarn for the dress, tights and shoes in up to 3 colours, **Yarn D, Yarn E, Yarn F**
- Less than 1m (1yds) of black, brown /grey 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 cow: 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 slightly 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 it 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 cow and it may 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 cow that you make.

Abbreviations:

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 if you prefer.

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

YO: YARN OVER: Bring the yarn to the front of the work before working the next stitch, then work the next stitch, so making a loop over the needle which is worked into on the next row.

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

SL1, K2TOG, PSSO: Slip 1 Knit-wise, Knit 2 stitches together, then pass the slipped stitch over, so decreasing by 2 stitches.

And please note that when the pattern mentions cast on, I use a cable cast on (unless otherwise stated).

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Yarn suggestions:



Yarn A Cascade 220 in 2453 pumpkin spice,
Yarn B Cascade 220 in 1033 nectarine.
Here the ears are in a single colour



Yarn A Cascade 220 in 2453 pumpkin spice,
Yarn B Cascade 220 in rose cloud 1065.
Here the fringe is cut short



Yarn A Cascade 220 in 2453 pumpkin spice, **Yarn B** Cascade 220 in rose cloud 1065. Here the fringe is left longer.

There are lots more suggestions for yarn to use on Page 4.

More suggestions for yarns to use to knit the cow and all of my other animals in can also be found on my blog here:
https://littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk/my_weblog/2018/02/choosing-yarns-for-little-cotton-rabbit-patterns-part-1.html

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.

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 cow 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.

Extra tips:

I hope you enjoy using this pattern. There are some extra tips about knitting and finishing on my blog, including seaming with mattress stitch, working in Fair Isle/stranded technique and Swiss darning/duplicate stitch, so please pop by for a visit and check out the tutorial section.

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.

Here are some examples of a few different cow breeds that you can make with this pattern. By choosing different colours, horns and quantity of hair, you can easily adapt this pattern to your own needs.



Yarn A Berroco Lanas in sandalwood 95116, **Yarn B** Cascade 220 in rose cloud 1065



Yarn A Berroco Lanas in sandalwood 95116, **Yarn B** Cascade 220 in peach dust 1049 with ears in single colour



Yarn A Cascade 220 in 2431 chocolate heather, **Yarn B** Cascade 220 in rose cloud 1065



Yarn A Cascade 220 in carob brown 1010, **Yarn B** Cascade 220 in rose cloud 1065



Yarn A Rowan Alpaca Classic 118 and Rowan Kidsilk haze 732 held together as 1 strand, **Yarn B** Cascade 220 in peach dust 1049, with large horns



Yarn A West Yorkshire Spinners, the Croft in 551 'Melby', **Yarn B** Cascade 220 in rose cloud 1065 with large horns curving downwards



Yarn A Camarose Lamauld in 6989 'Braendtkarry', **Yarn B** Cascade 220 in peach dust 1049 with large horns



Yarn A Camarose Snefnug in 'gylden' 7384, **Yarn B** Cascade 220 in peach dust 1049 with large horns



Yarn A Cascade 220 in Natural 8010, **Yarn B** Cascade 220 in greystone heather 9491 with large horns



Yarn A Valley Yarns superwash biscuit 419, **Yarn B** Cascade 220 in greystone heather 9491 with small horns



Yarn A Valley Yarns superwash biscuit 419, **Yarn B** Cascade 220 in greystone heather 9491 with small horns



Yarn A Cascade 220 in 'doeskin heather' 8012, **Yarn B** Cascade 220 in greystone heather 9491 with small horns



Yarn A Cascade 220 in Natural 8010, **Yarn G** in sand 9499, **Yarn B** in rose cloud 1065



Yarn A Cascade 220 in Natural 8010, **Yarn G** in carob brown 1010, **Yarn B** in rose cloud 1065



Yarn A Cascade 220 in Natural 8010, **Yarn G** in 4002 jet, **Yarn B** in rose cloud 1065



Yarn A Cascade 220 in Natural 8010, **Yarn G** in 4002 jet, **Yarn B** in rose cloud 1065

The pattern instructions:

Please note: There are alternative head designs at the back of the pattern (on Pages 22 & 23).

Plain Head:

Starting at the back of the head and finishing at the underside of the nose, use **Yarn A** and 3mm needles to cable cast on 11 stitches, leaving a long tail for seaming with later. **Please note:** Row 14 has two Purl marker stitches to help you position the ears 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)
rows 7–13: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 7 rows in stocking stitch (alternate Purl and Knit rows)
row 14: K11, P1, K11, P1, K11
rows 15–21: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 7 rows in stocking stitch
row 22: K1, SSK, K8, SSK, K9, K2tog, K8, K2tog, K1 (31 stitches)
row 23: Purl
row 24: K1, SSK, K7, SSK, K7, K2tog, K7, K2tog, K1 (27 stitches)
row 25: Purl
row 26: K1, SSK, K5, K2tog, K7, SSK, K5, K2tog, K1 (23 stitches)
row 27: Purl
row 28: K1, SSK, K3, K2tog, K7, SSK, K3, K2tog, K1 (19 stitches)
row 29: **Please note:** the Knit stitches at either end of this row are markers for joining the underside of the chin: K1, P17, K1
row 30: K5, K2tog, K5, SSK, K5 (17 stitches)
Cut **Yarn A** from the work leaving a short tail for weaving in later.

- row 31:** Join in **Yarn B** leaving a short tail for weaving in and Purl
row 32: Cast off 4 stitches, K12 (13 stitches)
row 33: Cut **Yarn B** from the work, leaving a short tail for weaving in. Slip the next two stitches purl-wise from the left needle to the right. Pass the first slipped stitch over the second to cast off a stitch, slip another stitch and pass over in the same way, repeat twice more (4 stitches cast off). This will create a short cast off edge to mirror the one already worked at the beginning of the previous row.

Slip the remaining stitch back to the left needle, re-join **Yarn B**, leaving a short tail for weaving in, and P9

- row 34:** Knit
row 35: Purl
row 36: K1, SSK, K3, K2tog, K1 (7 stitches)
row 37: Purl
row 38: Knit

Cut **Yarn B** from the work, leaving a short tail for weaving in later.

- row 39:** Re-join **Yarn A** leaving a short tail for weaving in later, and Purl
row 40: K1, SSK, K1, K2tog, K1 (5 stitches)
row 41: Purl

Cut the yarn from the work, leaving a long tail for seaming with, and sew this through the 5 remaining stitches on the needle (*fig. 1*).

Next we are going to sew the two seams that join the underside of the nose and chin. Bend the narrow centre section over so that you get an idea of how the edges of the **Yarn B** nose section line up, (*figs. 2 & 3*).



fig. 1



fig. 2



fig. 3



fig. 4



fig. 5

fig. 6

fig. 7

fig. 8

The two seams we are now going to sew form a 'V' shape which runs from the cast off point at the underside of the chin, up to the base of each nostril (see *fig. 11* for how this looks when finished). In *fig. 4* I've marked both sides of the first seam to show that there are 4 bars to mattress stitch through on each side of that seam. The nostril is left open at the top of the seam and the nostril gap is then filled with a barrel knot that we will make later and which forms the 'shadow' within the nostril.

To close the first seam, thread the needle with a long extra length of **Yarn B** and sew this through the edge marker stitch on row 29. Then knot it securely to this stitch, ensuring that both tail ends are equal length as you'll use each to close the two separate seams (*fig. 5* here I'm using blue thread to illustrate). Beginning with the bar at the base of the marker stitch (*fig. 5*) use one tail end to sew the seam, working from underneath the chin up to the base of the first nostril (*figs. 6 & 7*). You will need to use mattress stitch to close this seam and initially keep your stitches very loose (*fig. 7*).

Once you reach the short cast off row, sew through the very edge stitch of the short cast off section (*fig. 7*) and then this seam is completed and you can pull on the sewing thread in order to tighten the stitches. Sew the tail end back through to the inside of the work ready for weaving in later. The nostril should now be a small open hole at the end of the nose (*fig. 8*).

Next re-thread the tapestry needle with the other tail end of **Yarn B** that you knotted to the marker stitch and use this to close the seam on the other side of the chin and nose (*fig. 8*). Finish the seam so that both nostrils are symmetrical and sew back through to the inside of the work, ready for weaving in later.



fig. 9

fig. 10

fig. 11

fig. 12

Next begin to close the seam that runs underneath the head. Re-thread the tapestry needle with the cast off tail end of **Yarn A** from under the chin and sew through the marker stitch on one side of the seam, then through the stitches from the end of the nose flap (*fig. 9*) and then through the marker stitch on the other side of the seam. Continue joining this seam, working backwards along the underside of the head to the start of the decreases. Next turn the work inside-out and tie off/weave in all excess tail ends so that they are secure (*fig. 10*). Then turn the work right-side out again.

Next thread the tapestry needle with your cast-on tail from the back of the head and use it to begin closing the seam underneath the head using mattress stitch. Leave an open gap in the seam through which to stuff the head (*fig. 11*).

Finally 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 blue thread to illustrate, *fig. 12*). Begin to gather in this circular seam and tie the ends together tightly inside the head to prevent it loosening again. Once the tail ends are secured, it's time to stuff (see tips on stuffing on Page 3).



fig. 13

fig. 14

fig. 15

fig. 16

fig. 17

It's worth taking time to note the shape of the knitted head before stuffing as it already shows you what shape it wants to be. Try to mirror that shape when you stuff and don't put in so much stuffing that the stitches become stretched and the shape overstuffed.

Usually with my animals I start stuffing the head at the back, but with the cow I have found it easier to get the shape I want if I start with the nose first. The nose needs a small firm ball of stuffing poked right in to the end, you want a good firm foundation to hold in place the nostril shadow knot that you'll add later. It's worth taking time to manipulate the stuffing until it takes on the flattened, squarish shape that you want (fig. 13).

Once the end of the nose is stuffed add more stuffing behind it, working backwards to the back of the head. You want a gently sloping forehead and a rounded back of the head (fig. 14) Then stuff the cheeks so that the jaw area is clearly defined (fig. 15). Take time to look at your stuffed head from all angles (figs. 16 & 17) and add more where you feel it is needed. I try to get a blunt chisel shape to the head with a squarish nose and I often add more stuffing to the nose at this point. I pack in a lot of stuffing but I tend to add little bits at a time moulding as I go to get the shape that I want and the finished head is quite firm and solid. Once you are happy with the head shape leave the seam at the bottom of the head open, so making it easier to hide the tails ends from the facial features inside.

E a r s (make two the same):

You can choose to either work the ears in two colours with a different coloured section inside the ear as detailed below, or in a single colour (fig. 22), in which case ignore the colour change instructions below.

Highland cow ears are shorter and more rounded (fig. 23), work them in a single colour using the pattern as detailed below but finish on row 10. Then cut the work from the ball and sew the tail end through the remaining 11 stitches, and continue by following the finishing instructions.

If you are working in 2 colours you will first need to cut an extra 1.1m/1.2 yds length of **Yarn A** to join in on row 1 and use the intarsia technique when working with the separate colour sections. *A note about intarsia technique:* It is important that you intertwine the strands of contrasting colours as you switch between them, there are lots of good videos demonstrating this technique on the internet.

Using **Yarn A** and 3mm needles cable cast on 19, leaving a long tail for seaming with later

row 1: (right side) **K6**, join in **Yarn B** and **K7**,
K6 in the extra length of **Yarn A**

row 2: **P6, P7, P6**

row 3: **K6, K7, K6**

rows 4 & 5: repeat rows 2 & 3

row 6: **P6, P7, P6**

row 7: **K4, K2tog, SSK, K3, K2tog, SSK, K4** (15 stitches)

row 8: **P5, P5, P5**

row 9: **K3, K2tog, SSK, K1, K2tog, SSK, K3** (11 stitches)

row 10: **P4, P3, P4**, cut **Yarn B** from the work leaving a short tail for weaving in

row 11: **K2, K2tog, SL1, K2tog, PSSO, SSK, K2** (7 sts)

row 12: **Purl**

Cut the work from the ball leaving a long tail and sew this through the remaining 7 stitches on the needle (fig. 18) and pull up to tighten the stitches.



fig. 18



fig. 19



fig. 20, back



fig. 21, front



fig. 22



fig. 23

Ears (continued) ...

Cut the **Yarn B** tails and the extra length of **Yarn A** and knot them together tightly before trimming to 1cm long (the ends will be hidden inside the finished ear). Then fold the ear in half lengthways so that the seam edges meet at the centre of the back of the ear and use mattress stitch to seam the back of the ear with the cast off tail (*fig. 19*). At the bottom of this seam tie both tail ends together (*fig. 20*).

Next use one tail end to close half of the bottom seam and use the second tail to close the other half of the seam so that you end up with a tail end at each bottom corner of the ear (*fig. 21*). Make a second ear the same.



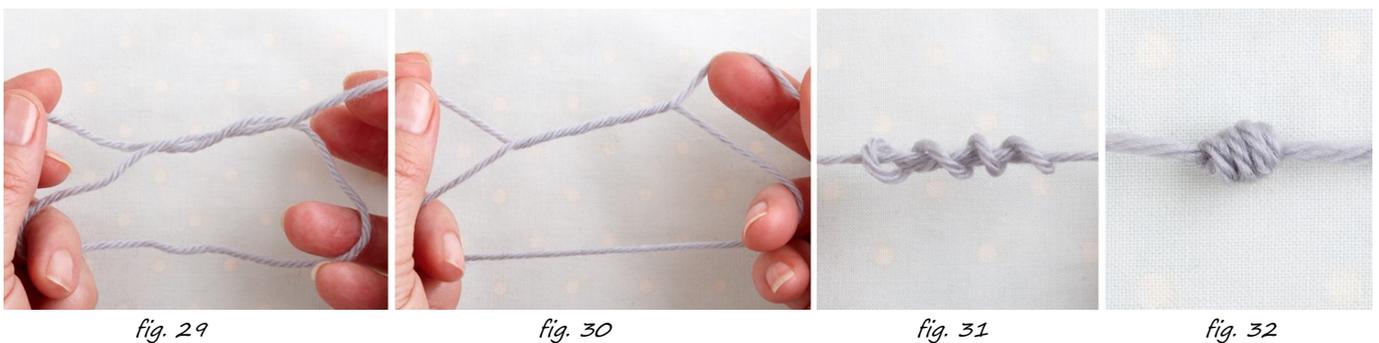
To attach the ears: With the front of the ear facing you, thread the needle with the tail end from the inner corner and sew through the purled ear marker stitch on the head (*fig. 24*). Join half of the bottom edge of the ear by sewing alternately through a full stitch from the back of the cast-on edge (*fig. 25*) and then through a stitch on the head. Work backwards along the head until half of the ear edge is joined and then leave that tail end hanging for now.

Join the other side of the ear in the same way, starting just below the purled marker stitch (*fig. 26*) and working backwards along the head parallel to the side already joined. When you reach the point where the first end is hanging at the back of the ear tie the two ends together securely. Sew both ends through the head and out of the open seam at the bottom and that's the first ear done (*fig. 27*).

Repeat with the second ear, making sure they are in alignment (*fig. 28*). 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. Next for the facial features.

Nostrils:

To add the shadows that define the nostrils you will need to tie a barrel knot in a 12 inch length of contrast coloured yarn (DK or worsted weight). Not too contrasty though - I recommend a mid grey or brown rather than black, which unless your cow head is very dark can look a little odd.



To tie a barrel or 'multiple overhand knot': There are videos on youtube showing how to tie a 'double overhand knot', follow these but instead of just repeating the action twice, repeat it 5 or 6 times depending on the thickness of your yarn, here I've made a total of 5 twists with worsted weight yarn). *Fig. 29* shows a single 'overhand knot'. *Fig. 30* shows the knot once you have passed the tail end through the open loop a further 4 times (to make a multiple overhand knot) and are ready to tighten it.

You will need to tighten the knot slowly in order for it not to become a tangled mess. So pull on both ends gently and evenly in order to bring the knot together in the centre of the yarn (*fig. 31*) and snug the strands together gently to form a barrel knot (*fig. 32*). Don't pull the knot too tightly as it will be too small. Once you are happy with your knot make another the same.



fig. 33

fig. 34

fig. 35

fig. 36

Next thread the tapestry needle with a tail end from one knot and, starting at the top of one open nostril (*fig. 33*) sew through the stuffing and out of the open seam at the bottom of the head. Re-thread the tapestry needle with the other tail end and sew through one stitch forming the edge of the nostril (in order to anchor the knot) (*fig. 34*) and out of the open seam at the bottom of the head again.

Snug the nostril shadow knot into the nostril cavity and once you are happy with their placement tie all tail ends together underneath the head and poke the excess inside the head cavity (*fig. 35*). Repeat with the second nostril knot (*fig. 36*).

Horns:

These are optional, but if you would like to add horns to your cow it's best to make and attach them before adding any hair tufts, as these can get in the way when sewing the horns on.

The horns are worked as elongated triangles and seamed afterwards. Tightening the thread that you've used for seaming will encourage a little curled shape to the horn, though in order for this to work you must seam using mattress stitch as it creates a 'movable' seam.

Long horns:

Using 2.75mm (US 2) needles and **Yarn C** cast on 8 stitches, leaving a long tail for attaching to the head with later.

row 1: (wrong side) Purl

rows 2-9: Beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl work 8 rows of stocking stitch

row 10: K1, SSK, K5 (*7 stitches*)

rows 11-13: Beginning and ending with purl rows, work 3 rows of stocking stitch

row 14: K4, K2tog, K1 (*6 stitches*)

rows 15-17: Beginning and ending with purl rows, work 3 rows of stocking stitch

Next there is an optional colour change, though if preferred you can knit the horn in a single colour, in which case continue in **Yarn C** for the remaining rows.

If you're working the contrast colour tip cut **Yarn C** from the work leaving a short tail for tying off, and join in your contrast yarn, also leaving a short tail end.

row 18: K1, SSK, K3 (*5 stitches*)

rows 19-21: Beginning and ending with purl rows, work 3 rows of stocking stitch

Finishing instructions for both sizes of horns:

Cut the work from the yarn, leaving a long tail for seaming with and sew this through the remaining 5 stitches on the needle (*fig. 37*). Pull up tightly and then continue to use this thread to seam the horn, working from the tip to the base. If you've used a contrast yarn for the tip then tie both short tail ends together when you reach them and keep them inside the horn, so enclosing them as you sew the seam closed (*fig. 38*). When you reach the end of the seam (*fig. 39*) adjust the shape of the horn by pulling on the thread you've seamed with to get it to curl slightly (*fig. 40*). Once you're happy with the shape of the horn tie both cast on and cast off tail ends together to secure and set the horn aside while you make another exactly the same. *Fig. 41* shows a variety of both long and short horns made in different coloured cotton 4ply yarns, some with contrast tips and some in a single colour.

Short horns:

Using 2.75mm (US 2) needles and **Yarn C** cast on 8 stitches, leaving a long tail for attaching to the head with later.

row 1: (wrong side) Purl

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

row 6: K1, SSK, K5 (*7 stitches*)

row 7: Purl

row 8: K4, K2tog, K1 (*6 stitches*)

row 9: Purl

row 10: K1, SSK, K3 (*5 stitches*)

row 11: Purl

For finishing instructions please see above.



fig. 37

fig. 38

fig. 39

fig. 40

fig. 41

To attach the horns: Decide whether you'd like your horns to be curving upwards or downwards. There are many different cattle breeds, and so many different types of horns. Some cows even have horns that grow in different directions, so there are lots of options and it's worth pinning them in place and experimenting with different looks before you make up your mind.

When you're ready to attach the first horn thread the needle with the longer tail end from the horn base and sew through a stitch on the head (fig. 42). Here I am attaching the horns so that they curve upwards, but I also want them to come out of the sides of the head, so I am sewing through just the cast off edge of the horn on the top side but on the underside of the horn I'm attaching more of it to the head. Work all around the base of the horn until it is fully attached and take time to look at it from all angles. If necessary unpick a few stitches and adjust the positioning. Once you are happy with the placement tie off the two tail ends to secure and sew them through the head. That's the first horn done (fig. 43). Join the second horn in the same way (fig. 44) and then tie all tail ends together on the underside of the head and poke the excess inside the head cavity.



fig. 42



fig. 43



fig. 44

Eyes:

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 the head seams together now. 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. Make the eyes using the anchored French knot method detailed below, or any preferred other method of knotting.

Anchored French Knot:

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, and described on Page 11.



fig. 45



fig. 46



fig. 47



fig. 48



fig. 49

To make an anchored French Knot: Cut a long length of black 4ply yarn and starting underneath the head sew this yarn through the head to the position for the first eye, leaving a short tail behind. Here I've positioned the eyes just below the change in direction of the decreases on row 26. Then sew back through the same point and out again one stitch away from the original point, leaving a little loop (*fig. 45*).

Slide the tip of the needle through this loop and wrap the thread around the needle tip (*fig. 46*) between four and eight times depending on thickness of yarn – here I've wrapped seven times with 4ply weight 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 both tail ends to tighten the knot, then sew back down through the work (*fig. 47*) and out again underneath the head next to the start point.

Gently pull both tail ends to tighten and create a little eye socket shaping to the head (*fig. 48 & 49*). Once you are happy with the shaping tie off both ends securely. Repeat for the second eye.

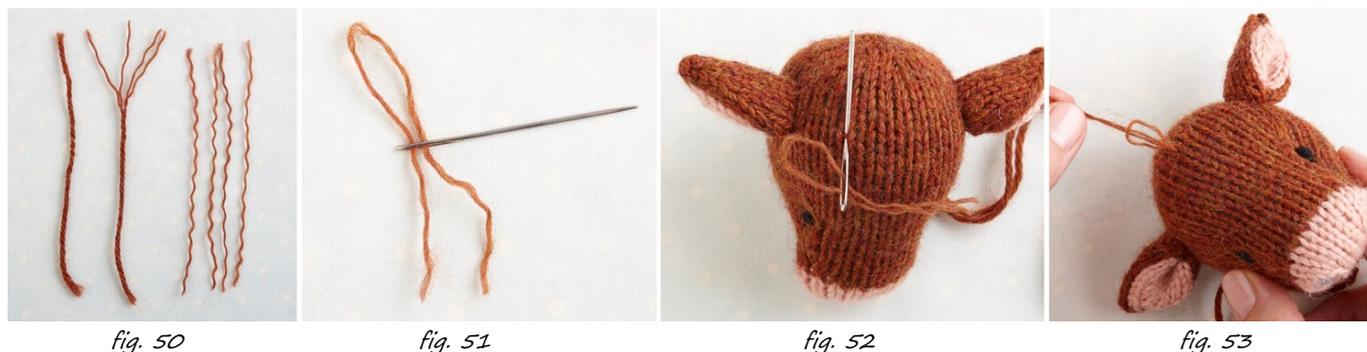
Next we'll finish the head by adding the tuft to the top of the head (this is optional).

Topknot tuft:

Please note: The tuft on top of the head is entirely optional but is a nice finishing touch. If you do add a tuft it is easier to start at the front of the forehead and work backwards.

To begin, cut a few lengths of **Yarn A**, approximately 10cms/4 inches long. If you are working with a plied yarn separate the plies as shown in *fig. 50*. I know this is fiddly and time-consuming, but if you have the time and are so inclined the finished effect makes it worth doing.

Double over one of these lengths and thread the tapestry needle with the looped end (*fig. 51*) sew through one of the bars between stitches on the head (*fig. 52*) so that the looped part of the thread is pulled through the bar, then leaving the yarn in place pull the needle from the end loop. Thread the two cut tail ends through the looped end (*fig. 53*) and pull in order to secure the knot – it should sit neatly and snug to the head. Keep adding strands in the same way, working between the ears in an oval shape. You can make the tuft as sparse or voluminous as you like.



The tuft is quite long at this point because you've needed a certain length of yarn in order to thread the strands through the stitches, so next you can give it a trim (*fig. 54*). It's best to take off a little at a time and even things up all over as you go. Keep trimming until you're happy with the shape, it can be as short or as long as you'd like and you can trim so that it is shorter and more spiky at the back. Here the Redpoll cow has a short tuft (*fig. 55*) whereas the Highland cow has very long and shaggy hair (the 'dossan') with some shorter tufts on top (*fig. 56*)

If the tufts stick up more than you'd like then dampen them slightly which will help them to lie a little flatter.

Now the head is finished and ready to attach to the body, which we will make next.



Body:



Plain coloured body:

Starting at the neck and finishing at the bottom, use **Yarn A** and 3mm needles to cast on 16 stitches, leaving a long tail 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)
- row 15: Join in **Yarn D** and Purl, cut **Yarn A** from the work leaving a long tail for seaming with later
- 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 long tail and use this to begin closing the seam up the back of the body using mattress stitch. Leave a gap at the top to make stuffing the body easier.

If you have made the body with patches then turn the work inside-out and weave in all tail ends so that they are secure and don't show through once the body is stuffed.

Body with patches:

Here I have used a cream yarn as **Yarn A** and a black yarn as **Yarn G**. Before starting please cut an extra 1.2m (1.3 yds) m length of **Yarn A** in order to work the intarsia patch from **rows 8-14**.

A note about intarsia technique: It is important that you intertwine the strands of contrasting colours as you switch between them, there are lots of good videos demonstrating this technique on the internet.

Starting at the neck and finishing at the bottom, use **Yarn A** and 3mm needles to cable cast on 16 stitches, leaving a long tail 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)
- row 7: Purl
- row 8: K19, join in **Yarn G** and K5, join in extra length of **Yarn A** and K10
- row 9: P9, P7, P18
- row 10: K18, K8, K8
- row 11: P8, P9, P17
- row 12: K17, K10, K7
- row 13: P7, P11, P16
- row 14: Change to 2.5mm needles and K3, (KLL, K5) twice, KLL, K3, K2, KLL, K5, KLL, K4, K1, KLL, K6 (40 stitches)

rows 15-33: Follow instructions exactly as written on the left for the plain body, and the finishing instructions too.

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 E** and 2.5mm needles to cable cast on 14 stitches, leaving a long tail 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 (now 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. Cut the work from the ball leaving a short tail for weaving in later.

Next you need to pick up stitches from behind 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 D** 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 from 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. 57)

rows 2-10: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 9 rows in stocking stitch. Cut the work from the ball and keep the 6 stitches held on the left hand needle. Next you will need to pick up more stitches to form the leg shaft.



fig. 57



fig. 58



fig. 59

row 1: (right side) Leaving a long tail for seaming with later, use **Yarn D** and 2.5mm needles 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. 58). Ignore the first 8 cast-off stitches on the left side and pick up and Knit the last 5 stitches (fig. 59)

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)

rows 2 –18: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 17 rows in stocking stitch

row 19: Cast off in Knit and cut the work from the ball leaving a long tail 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. Next we'll make the shoe strap:

Shoe strap (make 2 the same):

Use **Yarn E** and 2.5mm needles to cable cast on 12 stitches, leaving a long tail for sewing up later and then Knit back across them casting off as you go. Cut work from the ball leaving another short tail for sewing with.



fig. 60



fig. 61



fig. 62



fig. 63

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. 60). Sew through a couple of times to ensure it's secure and leave the end on the inside of the work. Sew 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:

Working down towards the toe of the shoe, sew alternately through 1 'bar' between the two outermost stitches of the top of the foot section (fig. 61), and 1 loop from behind the cast off edge of the shoe (fig. 62). 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.

Sew the yarn to the inside of the work and catch up the 4 central **Yarn E** loops from the back of the toe of the shoe (fig. 63). 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. 64). When you have fully closed the vent sew the yarn to the inside and gently tighten until both sides of the foot are even.

Attach the strap to the opposite side of the shoe (fig. 65) using the **Yarn E** 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.

Re-thread the tapestry needle with a length of **Yarn E** and use it to gather up the loops in the bottom of the foot (fig. 66) I've used red thread here just to illustrate. Tie both ends tightly inside the shoe to fully close the bottom shoe seam.



fig. 64



fig. 65



fig. 66

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 D** from the bottom of the leg section and use this to close the seam up the back of the leg using mattress stitch (*fig. 67*). Leave a gap at the top to make stuffing the leg easier.

Stuff the leg lightly and if you want your cow 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.

Finish the second leg following all of the finishing steps above but attaching the strap to the opposite side of the foot.

To make a 'button' on the strap at the outside of each shoe use around 8 inches of contrasting coloured yarn to make a French Knot (*fig. 68*). Follow the same instructions for the anchored French knot eyes on Page 11.

Now both legs are ready to attach to the body (*fig. 69*).



fig. 67



fig. 68



fig. 69

To attach the left-hand leg, 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. 70*). 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 (*fig. 71*) leaving a gap between both legs. 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. 72*), before sewing the ends back inside and tying them off to secure.

Now the body is ready to stuff (*fig. 73*). 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.



fig. 70



fig. 71



fig. 72



fig. 73

Tail:

The tail is worked as a length of i-cord, starting at the top which attaches to the body, and ending at the tufted end (also known as a switch). An i-cord is a tube knitted in the round with two double-pointed needles. It has to be worked on double pointed needles because you need to slide the work from one end of the needle to the other, taking the yarn tightly across the back.

Use two double pointed 3mm needles and **Yarn A** to cable cast on 4 stitches, leaving a long tail end for attaching the tail with later.

row 1: Knit the 4 stitches normally, from the left needle to the right. Now all 4 stitches are on the right hand needle and the working yarn is coming from the left most stitch. Slide the stitches from one end of the needle to the other

row 2: Without turning the needle, transfer it to your left hand. Bring the working yarn across the back of the work and Knit the 4 stitches again, you will need to keep a tight tension. The only difference from a normal knitted row is that the yarn is coming from the last stitch and across the back of the work instead of from the first stitch.

Continue to Knit across the same 4 stitches in the same way until the tail is around 6cms/2 ½ inches long, which will be around 16 rows. Cut the work from the ball leaving a long tail and sew this through the 4 stitches on the needle (*fig. 74*), pull up tightly to gather in the end seam. Then sew through the centre of the tail to the cast on edge and tie both cast on and cast off tail ends together to secure them.

To make the tuft at the end of the tail, cut four 10cm/4 inch lengths of **Yarn A**. Separate the plys as shown in *fig. 50* on Page 11. I know this is fiddly and time-consuming, but if you do have the time and are so inclined the finished effect makes it worth doing. Sew all of these except one through the work at the end of the tail (*fig. 75*).

Use the remaining length to tie around the top of these lengths, just below the tip of the knitted tail (*fig. 76*), and trim them to desired length (*fig. 77*). Finally to shape the tuft, dampen your fingers and roll the very tip of the tuft between your fingers, so binding the separate plys together into a point at the tip (*fig. 78*).

You can make the tail tuft in the same colour as the tail or in a contrasting colour, see *fig. 79* for some examples.

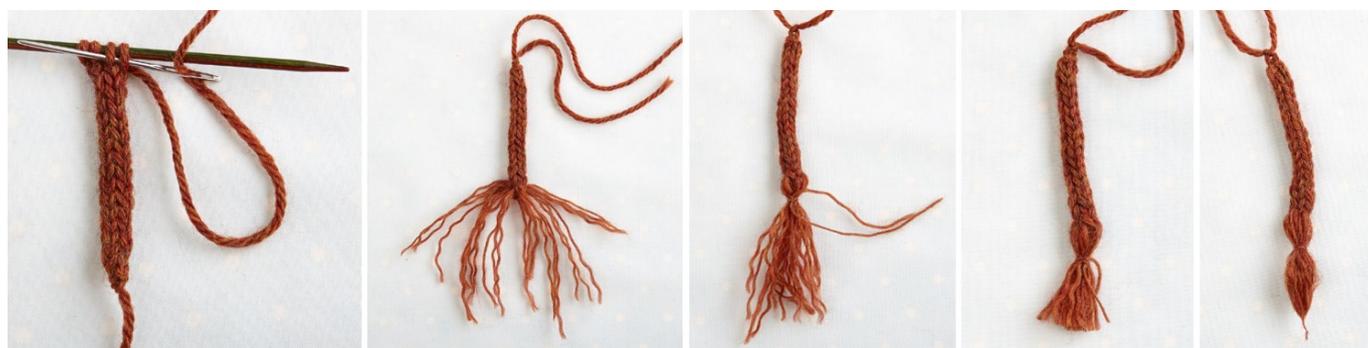


fig. 74

fig. 75

fig. 76

fig. 77

fig. 78

Next attach the tail: Use the longer end to sew the tail on to the cows bottom (*fig. 80*). Tie off the ends to secure and sew them through the body before trimming (*fig. 81*).



fig. 79

fig. 80

fig. 81

Arms (make 2 the same):

Starting at the top of arm and finishing at the paw, use **Yarn A** and 3mm needles to cable cast on 10 stitches, leaving a long tail for seaming with later.

row 1: (wrong side) Purl

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

rows 3-23: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 21 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 long tail, sew this through the remaining 10 stitches and pull up tightly (*fig. 82*). 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. 83*).



fig. 82



fig. 83



fig. 84



fig. 85

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. 84*). 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 sew 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 tail ends from underneath the head and use it to sew the body and head together. Sew through a whole stitch of the body (*fig. 85*), then through a whole stitch of the head 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. Sew the ends through the body before trimming.

Now your cow is ready for some clothes and instructions for two different dresses are on Pages 18-21



Argyle pattern dress:



fig. 86



fig. 87

This dress design is work in two colours using a Fair Isle/stranded knitting technique. If you prefer not to use this technique there is a dress worked in a single colour lace pattern on Page 20.

For this design you will need 4ply/5ply weight yarn in 2 contrasting colours. Here I have used Krea Deluxe organic cotton in shades 22 for **Yarn E** and 02 for Yarn F. If you prefer **rows 5-26** can be worked from the pattern chart on the next page (Page 19).

Starting at the bottom of the skirt use 2.75mm needles and the **Yarn E** to cable cast on 74 stitches, leaving a long tail for seaming with later.

row 1: (right side) **Knit**

row 2: **Knit**

row 3: **Knit**

row 4: **Purl**

row 5: Join in Yarn F, (K1, **K3**) 18 times, K1, **K1**

row 6: **P4**, (P1, **P1**, P1, **P5**, P3, **P5**) 4 times, P1, **P1**, P1, **P3**

row 7: **K2**, K1, **K3**, K1, **K3**, (K5, **K3**, K1, **K3**, K1, **K3**) 4 times

row 8: P1, (P1, P1, **P5**, P1, **P1**, P3, **P1**, P3) 4 times, **P1**, P1, **P5**, P1, **P1**

row 9: K1, (**K3**, K1, **K3**, K1, **K1**, K5, **K1**, K1) 4 times, **K3**, K1, **K3**, K1, **K1**

row 10: P3, (**P5**, P3, **P1**, P3, **P1**, P3) 4 times, **P5**, P2

row 11: K3, (**K3**, K5, **K1**, K1, **K1**, K5) 4 times, **K3**, K4

row 12: P1, (P1, P3) 18 times, **P1**

row 13: Repeat row 11

row 14: Repeat row 10

row 15: Repeat row 9

row 16: Repeat row 8

row 17: Repeat row 7

row 18: Repeat row 6

row 19: Repeat row 5

row 20: Repeat row 6

row 21: Repeat row 7

row 22: Repeat row 8

row 23: Repeat row 9

row 24: Repeat row 10

row 25: Repeat row 11

row 26: Repeat row 12

row 27: In Yarn F only, K1, (K2tog) 36 times, K1
(38 stitches)

row 28: Purl

Cut Yarn F from the work leaving a short tail for weaving in later, continue in **Yarn E** only.

Continue by working the bodice as detailed on Page 19.



A



B



C



D

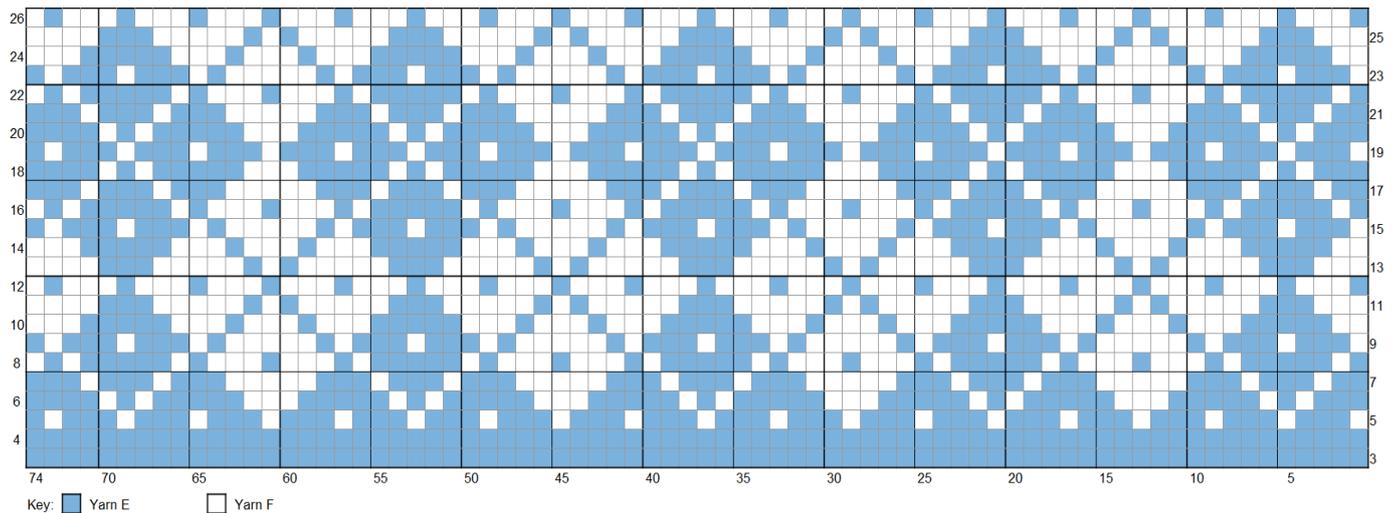
A: uses the pattern as written, but working from row 27 onwards in Yarn E only

B: uses the pattern exactly as written

C: uses the pattern exactly as written, but with darker colours

D: reverses the colours so that the design is picked out in a dark colour on a light background.

Charted instructions for the dress pattern:



Please note that odd numbered rows are worked in Knit and read from right to left, whereas even numbered rows are worked in Purl and read from left to right.

Bodice: In order to create the armholes, the next section is worked in three separate parts (see figs. 86 & 87):

1. 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 the work from the ball leaving a short tail for weaving in later and leave these 9 stitches on right hand needle.

2. Front:

row 29 (b): Rejoin **Yarn E** at the first stitch on the left-hand needle and Knit 17, 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 18 stitches only for the next 8 rows.

row 30 (b): Purl

row 31 (b): K1, SSK, K12, K2tog, K1 (16 stitches)

rows 32-37 (b): Beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit row, work 6 rows in stocking stitch. Cut the work from the ball leaving a short tail for weaving in later and leave these 16 stitches on right hand needle.

3. Second side of the back:

row 29 (c): Rejoin **Yarn E** 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, P14, P2tog, P8 (32 stitches)

row 39: Cast off in Knit

Leaving a long tail 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, leaving a small gap for the tail to poke through. 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 base 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. Now the dress is done, see Page 20 for pictures showing the versions of the dress being worn.



Clover lace dress:



This dress pattern uses a traditional lace pattern. It is two rows longer than the colour-worked dress to compensate for the fact that the lace design draws the finished fabric in slightly.

Special abbreviations:

YF: YARN FORWARD: Bring the yarn to the front between the needles, when you work the next stitch this will create a backwards loop over the top of the needle. On the following row make sure you work into the YF stitch so as to leave an open eyelet rather than twisting the loop closed.

SL1, K2TOG, PSSO: Slip 1 stitch knit-wise, Knit 2 stitches together, then pass the slipped stitch over, so decreasing by 2 stitches.

See Page 2 for all other abbreviations

Starting at the bottom of the skirt use 2.75mm needles and [Yarn E](#) to cable cast on 73 stitches, leaving a long tail for seaming with later.

row 1: (right side) Knit

row 2: Knit

row 3: Knit

row 4: Purl

row 5: K3, (YF, SL1, K2tog, PSSO, YF, K5) 8 times, YF, SL1, K2tog, PSSO, YF, K3

row 6: Purl

row 7: K4, (YF, SSK, K6) 8 times, YF, SSK, K3

row 8: Purl

row 9: Knit

row 10: Purl

row 11: K7, (YF, SL1, K2tog, PSSO, YF, K5) 7 times, YF, SL1, K2tog, PSSO, YF, K7

row 12: Purl

row 13: K8, (YF, SSK, K6) 7 times, YF, SSK, K7

row 14: Purl

row 15: Knit

row 16: Purl

rows 17-28: Repeat rows 5 - 16

row 29: K1, (K2tog) 36 times (37 stitches)

row 30: Purl

Continue by working the bodice on Page 21.

Clover lace dress (continued):



fig. 88



fig. 89

Bodice: In order to create the armholes, the next section is worked in three separate parts (see figs. 88 & 89):

1. First side of the back:

row 31: 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 32: Purl

row 33: K7, K2tog, K1 (9 stitches)

rows 34-39: Beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit row, work 6 rows in stocking stitch. Cut the work from the ball leaving a short tail for weaving in later and leave these 9 stitches on right hand needle.

2. Front:

row 31 (b): Rejoin **Yarn E** at the first stitch on the left-hand needle and Knit 16, 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 17 stitches only for the next 8 rows.

row 32 (b): Purl

row 33 (b): K1, SSK, K11, K2tog, K1 (15 stitches)

row 34 (b): Purl

row 35 (b): K6, YF, SL1, K2tog, PSSO, YF, K6

row 36 (b): Purl

row 37 (b): K7, YF, SSK, K6

row 38 (b): Purl

row 39 (b): Knit

Cut the work from the ball leaving a short tail for weaving in later and leave these 15 stitches on right hand needle.

3. Second side of the back:

row 31 (c): Rejoin **Yarn E** 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 32 (c): Purl

row 33 (c): K1, SSK, K7 (9 stitches)

rows 34-39 (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 40: P8, P2tog, P13, P2tog, P8 (31 stitches)

row 41: Cast off in Knit

Leaving a long tail 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 (fig. 89).

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, leaving a small gap for the tail to poke through. Finish the seam at the waist (row 29) 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 base 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. Now the dress is done and ready to wear.

Alternative Cow head designs:



White Park cow

Jersey cow

Swiss Brown cow

Cow with a forehead patch

Some of the designs below will need to be worked using the Intarsia knitting technique.

A note about intarsia technique: It is important that you intertwine the strands of contrasting colours as you switch between them, there are lots of good videos demonstrating this technique on the internet.

For all of the below, work the plain cow head exactly as detailed on Page 5 except for the following rows:

For a White Park cow:

Use a cream coloured yarn as Yarn A and work the nose in a grey yarn:

rows 31-38: Change to a dark grey yarn instead of pink for the nose (Yarn B)

rows 39-41: Change back to the cream yarn to work these three rows for the chin

Then use the same dark grey yarn as the nose to make the ears, I've also made the longer size of horns and I've added a small tuft of hair and cut it short.

For a Jersey and Swiss Brown cow:

Use a caramel or brown coloured yarn as **Yarn A** and work these alternative rows:

row 30: Change to cream yarn for this row only.

rows 31-38: Change to a dark grey yarn instead of pink for the nose (Yarn B)

rows 39-41: Change back to the cream yarn to work these three rows for the chin

I've made the smaller size of horns, and I've added a small tuft of hair and cut it short.

For a cow with a forehead patch:

Before starting cut an extra 2m (3 yds) length of **Yarn A** to work the intarsia section on rows 16-19:

row 16: **K15**, join in cream yarn and **K5**, join in the extra length of **Yarn A** and **K15**

row 17: **P15**, **P5**, **P15**

row 18: **K16**, **K3**, **K16**

row 19: **P17**, **P1**, **P17**, continue in **Yarn A** from the main ball only

I've added a small tuft of hair and cut it short.



For a cow with a face patches (Holstein / Fresian):



This design of cow head is worked with 3 colours: in the written pattern below Yarn A is a white or cream yarn, **Yarn G** is a contrast yarn for the patches in beige, brown or black and **Yarn B** is the pink colour for the nose.

Before starting cut two extra 3m (4yds) lengths of Yarn A and one 3m (4yds) length of **Yarn G** in order to work the intarsia section between **rows 7 –26**. *A note about intarsia technique:* It is important that you intertwine the strands of contrasting colours as you switch between them, there are lots of good videos demonstrating this technique on the internet.

Begin by working from rows 1- 6 on Page 5, but using a cream or light coloured yarn as Yarn A. Then work as follows:

row 7: P9, join in **Yarn G** and **P3**,
join in the second length of Yarn A and P11,
join in the extra length of **Yarn G** and **P3**,
join in the third length of Yarn A and P9

row 8: K9, **K3**, K11, **K3**, K9

row 9: P8, **P5**, P9, **P5**, P8

row 10: K8, **K5**, K9, **K5**, K8

row 11: P7, **P7**, P7, **P7**, P7

row 12: K7, **K7**, K7, **K7**, K7

row 13: P7, **P8**, P5, **P8**, P7

row 14: K7, **K4**, **P1**, **K3**, K5, **K3**, **P1**, **K4**, K7

row 15: P7, **P8**, P5, **P8**, P7

row 16: K7, **K8**, K5, **K8**, K7

row 17: P7, **P8**, P5, **P8**, P7

rows 18-21: Repeat rows 16 & 17 twice more

row 22: K1, SSK, K4, **K4**, **SSK**, **K2**, K5, **K2**, **K2tog**, **K4**, K4,
K2tog, K1 (31 stitches)

row 23: P7, **P6**, P5, **P6**, P7

row 24: K1, SSK, K4, **K3**, **SSK**, **K1**, K5, **K1**, **K2tog**, **K3**, K4,
K2tog, K1 (27 stitches)

row 25: P6, **P5**, P5, **P5**, P6

row 26: K1, SSK, K4, **K1**, **K2tog**, K7, **SSK**, **K1**, K4,
K2tog, K1 (23 stitches)

Cut all yarns except for Yarn A from the main ball, leaving short tails for weaving in later, and continue by following **rows 27-41** from the plain cow head pattern on Page 5.

Pair this head design with the body that has coloured patches on Page 12, and make the limbs in the cream colour (Yarn A) as most cattle only have patches on their heads and bodies, with plain coloured legs.

Follow the instructions for all of the other parts and finishing instructions as detailed on pages 13-21.

