

Little Cotton Rabbits

Deer pattern supplement



These deer are knitted in Cascade 220 worsted yarn, shades Praline 9695 (Yarn A) and Beige 8021 (Yarn B) and are made by following the instructions within either of the fox patterns combined with the modifications detailed in this pattern.

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

Materials:

- Worsted or light Aran yarn (see fox pattern for quantity) in a mid brown colour: **Yarn A**
- Worsted or light Aran yarn (see fox pattern for quantity) in a beige colour: **Yarn B**
- 4ply/fingering weight yarn (approx. 4m/4yds) in a dark brown colour for the antlers
- Scraps of 4ply black yarn 4ply for the eyes, nose and facial features
- Toy stuffing
- A tiny button

Notions:

- Knitting needles: A pair each of straight 3mm (US 2.5) and 2.75mm (US 2) and two 2.75mm (US 2) DPNs (double pointed needles)
- Tapestry needle

Finished size:

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

Gauge:



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

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

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This free deer pattern is a supplement pattern and within it you will find instructions for knitting a pair of antlers and detailed notes on how to adapt either of my two fox patterns (Fox in a flowered frock or Fox in a star spangled sweater). Please note that in order to make a complete toy you will need to have purchased one of these fox patterns and follow the full instructions within that.

All of my patterns are suitable for intermediate knitting skills and assume an understanding of basic stitches and standard knitting terms.

I hope that you find the pattern enjoyable, and are pleased with the deer that you make.

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Abbreviations:

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

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

K2TOG : Knit 2 stitches together

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.

Please note that when the pattern mentions cast on, I use a cable cast on.

Yarn suggestions:

Here are some of my favourite yarns to knit the deer in:



Malabrigo Rios in 208 Camel with Cascade 220 worsted in 8021 Beige



Cascade 220 worsted heathers in 2440 Vinci and 9600 Antiqued



Cascade 220 worsted in 9695 Praline and 8021 Beige

The pattern instructions:

The deer is made using exactly the same instructions as written in either of my fox patterns, there are however some differences in the yarn used and in construction:

- For Yarn A use a mid brown colour (instead of a rust) and for Yarn B a beige colour (instead of cream). Here I have used Cascade 220 worsted yarn in Praline 9695 (Yarn A) and Beige 8021 (Yarn B)
- The ears are joined to the sides of the head, rather than the top as in the fox, see notes on Ears below,
- Once the ears are joined, there are optional antlers to make, see antler instructions on Page 4.
- Once the head is finished (with eyes, nose and mouth added as detailed in the fox pattern) there are speckles embroidered onto the top of the head using duplicate stitch, see Page 5.

Head:

Knit, finish and stuff the head exactly as detailed on Page 3 of the fox pattern, but for Yarn A use a mid brown yarn (instead of a rust colour) and a beige yarn (instead of cream) for Yarn B.

Ears: (make two the same):

Make the ears exactly as detailed on either Page 5 or Page 16 of the fox pattern, but for Yarn A use a mid brown yarn (instead of a rust colour) and for Yarn B a beige yarn (instead of cream). Don't use black yarn to tip the outer ear, instead work it entirely in Yarn A (*fig. 1 back & front*).

Once the ears are finished and sewn together (using the instructions on Page 6 or Page 16 of the fox pattern) use the cast on tail to sew together the front edges at the base of each ear (*fig. 1 folded*).

Join the ears to the sides of the head, aligning them 4 rows back from the inner edge of the first row of lighter colour on the cheek, (*fig. 2*). Use the two Yarn A tails from the ear to join both the top side and bottom side of the ear (*fig. 3*). Once the ear is fully attached, tie both yarn tails together at the back of the ear and sew them through the head and out of the open seam underneath. Join the second ear in the same way (*fig. 4*) then tie all 4 ends from the ears together and trim excess, poke the trimmed ends inside the head cavity.

If you would like your deer to have antlers, then now is the time to make and attach them.



fig. 1

fig. 2

fig. 3



fig. 4

fig. 5

fig. 6

*Antlers: (make a mirrored pair *):*

Starting at the thick base of the antler and finishing at the top points. Use dark brown 4 ply weight yarn and 2.75mm needles to cable cast on 8 stitches, leaving an 8 inch tail for attaching it to the head with later.

row 1: (wrong side) Purl

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

row 6: Change to a 2.75mm DPN (double pointed needle), K2tog, K2 (*3 stitches*)

leave the remaining 4 stitches un-worked (transfer them to a stitch holder if you prefer). Continue on the 3 stitches only and with 2 DPNs work an i-cord like so:

row 7: Now the 3 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 and without turning the needle, transfer it to your left hand. Bring the working yarn across the back of the work and Knit the 3 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

rows 8-12: Continue working an i-cord by repeating **row 7** five more times.

Cut the work from the ball leaving a 4 inch tail, sew this through the 3 stitches on the needle (*fig. 5*) and slide them off the needle, pull tightly to close the gap at the top of the antler point. Sew the cast off end down through the centre of the antler point and leave it hanging for now. Continue on the remaining 4 stitches:

row 6b: Leaving an 8 inch tail for seaming with later, re-join the yarn and use 2 x DPNs: K2, SSK (*3 stitches*)

rows 7b-9b: Continue working an i-cord by repeating **row 7** above three times.

Cut the work from the ball leaving a 4 inch tail, sew this through the 3 stitches on the needle and slide them off the needle, pull tightly to close the gap at the top of the antler point. Sew the cast off end down through the centre of the antler point and, without deforming the antler points by pulling too hard, tie it to the short cast off tail from the first point to secure both ends and cut short so that they will be hidden inside the finished antler.

Thread the tapestry needle with the long cast on tail from the second antler point and use it to seam the edges of the thick lower stem of the antler using mattress stitch. When you reach the cast on edge tie both tail ends together to secure them. That is the first antler finished.

* Make a second antler in the same way, but reverse the height of the two antler points (make the first i-cord point 4 rows tall and the second one 7 rows tall), so that the finished pair of antlers mirror each other (*fig. 6*). I think the antlers look best with the taller points innermost and the shorter points on the outside, but please decide for yourself what looks best with the pair of antlers you have made – ideally the seam should run up the back of each antler.

Next you are aiming to join the antlers so that the base of each is sewn to the top of the head in a small circle. Thread the tapestry needle with the longest tail from one antler and sew through a stitch on the top of the head, aligning it with the inner edge of colour change on the nose (*fig. 7 & 8*). Work all around the base of the antler, sewing alternately through a stitch on the head (*fig. 7*) and a loop of the cast on edge of the antler.



fig. 7



fig. 8



fig. 9

When the antler is fully attached tie the two tail ends together securely and sew them through the head and out of the open seam underneath. Repeat with the second antler making sure they are in alignment (*fig. 9*). When you are happy with positioning tie all 4 tail ends from the antlers together securely underneath the head and trim the excess, poke the trimmed ends inside the head cavity.

Camouflage speckles:

Once your deer head has ears and antlers you can add the embroidered camouflage speckles on the top of the head, like so:

Cut a 14 inch length of cream yarn and use duplicate stitch/Swiss darning to stitch random single stitches across the top of the head. I find that they look best if sewn as 'V' shapes when the head is facing you (rather than upside-down 'V's) and 7 or 8 stitches is probably about right but you could add more if you prefer. There's a tutorial for duplicate stitch here:

https://littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk/my_weblog/2014/07/duplicate-stitch.html

Once you're happy with the speckles sew both of the cream yarn tail ends through the head and out of the open seam underneath. Tie together to secure, before trimming them and poking ends inside the head cavity.



fig. 10



fig. 11



fig. 12

Facial features:

Finish the head by adding the nose, mouth and eyes, as detailed on Pages 7-8 of the fox pattern (*fig. 12*)

Body parts, finishing off and clothing:

Continue making and finishing the body, legs and arms of the animal and the clothing by following the instructions from pages 8-15 in either of my fox patterns.

The deer pictured on the front cover of this pattern are wearing the clothing included in the fox patterns. Their clothes are knitted in the following yarns: Dress, socks and sweater in BC Garn Alba, shades 16 cream, 30 mushroom and 32 rose; shoes in Drops Safran 22 light brown; shorts in BC Garn Allino in CL01 brown.

I hope you've enjoyed working from this pattern and are pleased with the deer that you make from it.

There 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: https://littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk/my_weblog/

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

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.

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