Horatio the Nautilus
by Cate Carter-Evans

A unique pattern inspired by a fascinating creature, Horatio the Nautilus is the perfect project for the adventurous knitter. His striped shell, elegant tentacles, and protective hood offer a fun knitting challenge that yields a very special creation.

Horatio is worked in three parts – shell, tentacles, and hood. The shell is worked in garter stitch with wrap-and-turn short rows, the layers of tentacles are worked as i-cord from a flat base, and the hood is worked in stockinette stitch with twin-wrap (shadow wrap) short rows.

Nautiluses are members of the cephalopod family. Horatio's knitted cephalopod family includes Opus, Opal and Opie the Octopuses, Inkling the Squid, and Tako the Bobtail Squid also by Cate Carter-Evans.

Please note that Horatio the Nautilus is intended for decorative purposes only. This item is not a toy, and the design does not meet any safety standards for toys. The kit and pattern are sold on an "as is" basis, therefore the risk of the quality and performance of the design lies with the buyer.

About this Pattern
Skill Level: Advanced.

Skills Needed: Intermediate knitting skills, plus increases (m1, kfb) decreases (ssk, k2tog, p2tog, p2togtbl), wrap and turn short rows, twin-wrap short rows / shadow wrap short rows, i-cord.

Finished Size: Main body 16 in. / 40 cm long (including tentacles), 9 in. / 23 cm tall, 5 in. / 13 cm wide.

Yarn: Infinite Twist Helix, 276 g / 825 y total. As shown, project uses 400 y in Badlands, 225 y in Shreveport, and 200 y in Red Devil.
Yarn is held double throughout the project, in four color combinations.
Shell, Main Color (MC): Helix, held double in Badlands, 125 g / 400 y total,
Shell, Stripes (CC): Helix, held double in Shreveport, 40 g / 135 y total.
Tentacles (CC2): Helix, held double, one strand Red Devil, one strand Shreveport, 30 g/ 90 y each, 60 g / 180 y total.
Hood (CC3): Helix held double, Red Devil, 35 g / 110 y total.

Needles:
U.S. size 5 / 3.75 mm double pointed needles,
U.S. size 4 / 3.25 mm double pointed needles,
U.S. size 5 / 3.75 mm 32 in. / 80 cm circular needle.

Gauge:
Shell: 15 sts /32 rows over 4 in. / 10 cm in garter stitch
Hood: 18 sts / 32 rows over 4 in. / 10 cm in stockinette stitch
Tentacles: 24 rows over 4 in. / 10 cm in i-cord.

Your gauge should be slightly tighter than normal for a knitted garment, but not so tight that it's difficult to knit. Slightly denser-than-normal gauge and holding yarn double help create a dense fabric that prevents the stuffing from showing through on your finished creature.

Notions:
14 oz / 400 grams wool stuffing or 7 oz / 200 grams polyfill
Two (2) 24 mm cat pupil plastic safety eyes
Locking stitch markers in two colors
Yarn needle
Sewing pins

Abbreviations

B&t: Break & turn. Wrap and turn (w&t), break CC (current working yarn), tie CC ends together close to your work with an overhand knot. MC yarn will be in position to continue working.
CC: Contrast color
Dpn(s): Double-pointed needle(s)
Eor: End of round/ row
K: Knit
Kfb: Knit into the front of the stitch, and then the back of the stitch. —*increases 1 st*
M1R: Make one right-leaning stitch by picking up a ladder between two stitches, twisting it so the right leg is on top, and knitting into it— *increases 1 st*
M1L: Make one left-leaning stitch by picking up a ladder between two stitches, twisting it so the left leg is on top, and knitting into it — *increases 1 st*
MC: Main color
P: Purl
P2tog: Purl 2 sts together — *1 st decreased*
P2togtbl: Purl 2 sts together through the back loop
Sm: Slip marker

Ssk: Slip 1 st knit-wise, slip 1 more st, knit the slipped sts through the front from the right-hand needle — *1 st decreased*

St St: Stockinette (stocking) stitch – in the round, knit all rounds; working flat, knit RS rows, purl WS rows

Twk: Twin wrap knit. With yarn in back and right side facing, insert the tip of the right needle into the purl bump of the stitch directly below the one you're working (on left needle). Slip to the left needle without twisting it. Creates two sts from 1 st.

Twp: Twin wrap purl. With yarn in front, slip 1 st purl-wise to right needle, insert left needle into the purl bump of the stitch directly below the one you're working (on right needle) and purl it. Slip the twin stitch you just created and its host-stitch to the left needle.

W&t: Wrap and turn short row. On the RS, bring yarn to front of work between needles, slip the next stitch onto the right-hand needle, bring yarn around this stitch to back of work, slip stitch back to left-hand needle, turn work to begin working back in the other direction.

On the WS, bring yarn to back of work between needles, slip the next stitch to the right-hand needle, bring yarn around this stitch to front of work, slip stitch back to left-hand needle, turn work to begin working back in the other direction.

Pattern Note
Nautiluses can have to up to 90 tentacles. Horatio has a minimum of 14 with an option to knit 24. Working one or two tentacles each time you pick up your project is strongly recommended. Leaving them all until the end does not make for particularly enjoyable knitting, and may result in an unfinished object.

Shell
The shell starts out worked in the round in stockinette for the first 11 rows. This part of the shell will be covered by the hood when you assemble your nautilus. The rest of the shell is worked flat in garter stitch with wrap and turn (w&t) short rows.

Using size 5 / 3.75 mm dpns and MC, cast on 5 sts and join to work in the round, making sure work is not twisted. Place a marker to indicate the beginning of the round

Round 1: Kfb 5 times. 10 sts.
Round 2: K.
Round 3: Kfb 10 times. 20 sts.
Rounds 4 - 6: K.
Round 7: [Kfb, k1] 10 times. 30 sts.
Rounds 8 – 10: K.
Round 11: [Kfb, k2] 10 times. Turn so you have the WS facing, and prepare to work flat – i.e. stop working in the round at this point. 40 sts.

Row 1. K.
Rows 2 - 3: K until 3 sts remain, wrap and turn (w&t).
Row 4: K until 6 sts remain, w&t.
Row 5: K until 6 sts remain, w&t, and leave MC dangling at back of work (the inside of your shell).
Row 6: Join CC, and k with CC until 6 sts rem, w&t.
Row 7: Continuing with CC, k until 6 sts rem (end of CC sts from previous row), b&t.
Row 8: Pick up MC, knit until 5 sts rem, w&t.
Row 9: K until 5 sts rem, w&t.
Rows 10 - 11: K until 8 sts rem, w&t.
Row 12: K until 11 sts rem, w&t.
Row 13: K until 11 sts rem, w&t, and leave MC dangling at back of work.
Row 14: With CC, k until 11 sts rem. w&t.
Row 15: Continuing with CC, k until 11 sts rem, b&t.

Row 16: With MC, k until 10 sts rem, w&t.

Row 17: K5, kfb, k8, kfb, k5, w&t (10 sts rem). 42 sts.

Rows 18 - 19: K.

Row 20: K until 3 sts rem, w&t.

Row 21: K until 3 sts rem, w&t, and leave MC dangling at back of work.

Row 22: Join CC, k until 3 sts rem, w&t.

Row 23: Continuing with CC, k until 3 sts rem, b&t.

Rows 24 - 25: With MC, k until 2 sts rem, w&t.

Rows 26 – 27: k until 6 sts rem, w&t.

Row 28: K until 9 rem sts rem, w&t.

Row 29: K until 9 rem sts rem, w&t, and leave MC dangling at back of work.

Row 30: Join CC, k until 9 sts rem, w&t.

Row 31. Continuing with CC, k until 9 sts rem, b&t.

Row 32: With MC, k until 8 sts rem, w&t.

Row 33: K3, kfb, k18, kfb, k3, w&t (8 sts rem). 44 sts.

Row 34 - 35: K until 3 sts rem, w&t.

Row 36: K until 6 rem, w&t.

Row 37: K until 6 rem, w&t, and leave MC dangling at back of work.

Row 38: Join CC, k until 6 sts rem, w&t.

Row 39: Continuing with CC, k until 6 sts rem, b&t.

Row 40: With MC, knit until 5 sts rem, w&t.

Row 41: K until 5 sts rem, w&t.

Rows 42 - 43: K until 8 sts rem, w&t.

Row 44: K until 11 sts rem, w&t.

Row 45: K until 11 sts rem, w&t, and leave MC dangling at back of work.

Row 46: Join CC, k until 11 sts rem. w&t.

Row 47: Continuing with CC, k until 11 sts rem, b&t.

Row 48: With MC, k until 10 sts rem, w&t.

Row 49: kfb, k7, kfb, k6, kfb, k7, kfb, w&t (10 sts rem). 48 sts.

Rows 50 - 51: k until 14 sts rem, w&t.

Row 52: K until 6 sts remain, w&t.

Row 53: K until 6 rem, w&t, and leave MC dangling at back of work.

Row 54: Join CC, k until 6 sts rem, w&t.

Row 55: Continuing with CC, k until 6 sts rem, b&t.

Row 56: With MC, knit until 5 sts rem, w&t.

Row 57: K until 5 sts rem, w&t.

Rows 58 - 59: K until 8 sts rem, w&t.

Row 60: K until 11 sts rem, w&t.

Row 61: K until 11 sts rem, w&t, and leave MC dangling at back of work.

Row 62: With CC, k until 11 sts rem. w&t.

Row 63: Continuing with CC, k until 11 sts rem, b&t.
Rows 64 - 65: With MC, k until 10 sts rem, w&t.
Row 66: [kfb, k8] 3 times, kfb, k10 to eor. 52 sts.
Row 67: K.
Row 68: K until 3 sts rem, w&t.
Row 69: K until 3 sts rem, w&t, and leave MC dangling at back of work.
Row 70: Join CC, k until 3 sts rem, w&t.
Row 71: Continuing with CC, k until 3 sts rem, b&t.
Rows 72 - 73: With MC, k until 2 sts rem, w&t.
Rows 74 – 75: k until 6 sts rem, w&t.
Row 76: K until 9 rem sts rem, w&t.
Row 77: K until 9 rem sts rem, w&t, and leave MC dangling at back of work.
Row 78: Join CC, k until 9 sts rem, w&t.
Row 79. Continuing with CC, k until 9 sts rem, b&t.
Row 80 - 81: With MC, k until 8 sts rem, w&t.
Row 82: K2, kfb, k9, kfb, k10, kfb, k9, kfb, w&t. 56 sts.
Rows 83: K until 10 sts rem, w&t.
Rows 84: K until 13 sts rem, w&t.
Row 85: K until 13 sts rem, w&t, and leave yarn dangling at back of work.
Row 86: Join CC, k until 13 sts rem, w&t.
Row 87: Continuing with CC, k until 13 sts rem, b&t.
Rows 88 - 89: With MC, k to eor, turn.
Rows 90 - 91: Continuing with MC, k until 3 sts rem, w&t.
Row 92: K until 6 rem, w&t.
Row 93: K until 6 rem, w&t, and leave yarn dangling at back of work.
Row 94: Join CC, k until 6 sts rem, w&t.
Row 95: Continuing with CC, k until 6 sts remain, b&t.
Rows 96 - 97: With MC, k until 5 sts rem, w&t.
Rows 98 - 99: K until 8 sts rem, w&t.
Rows 100 - 101: K until 11 sts rem, w&t.
Row 102: K until 14 rem, w&t.
Row 103: K until 14 rem, w&t, and leave yarn dangling at back of work.
Row 104: Join CC, k until 14 sts rem, w&t.
Row 105: Continuing with CC, k until 14 sts rem, b&t.
Row 106: Join MC, k until 12 sts rem, w&t.
Row 107: K until 12 sts rem, w&t.
Row 108: K until 17 sts rem, w&t.
Row 109: [kfb, k6] 3 times, kfb, w&t. 60 sts.
Row 110: K until 20 rem sts rem, w&t.
Row 111: K until 20 rem sts rem, w&t, and leave yarn dangling at back of work.
Row 112: Join CC, k until 20 sts rem, w&t.
Row 113: Continuing with CC, k until 20 rem, b&t.
Row 114 - 115: With MC, k to eor.
Row 116 - 117: K until 18 sts rem, w&t.
Row 118: K until 15 rem, w&t.
Row 119: K until 15 rem, w&t, and leave yarn dangling at back of work.
Row 120: Join CC, K until 15 rem, w&t.
Row 121: Continuing with CC, K until 15 sts rem, b&t.

Rows 122 – 123: With MC, K until 14 sts rem, w&t.
Rows 124 – 125: K until 11 sts rem, w&t.
Rows 126 – 127: K until 8 sts rem, w&t.
Row 128: Join CC, k until 8 sts rem, w&t.
Row 129: Continuing with CC, k until 8 sts rem, b&t.
Rows 130 - 131: With MC, K until 5 sts rem, w&t.
Rows 132 - 133: K until 2 sts rem, w&t.
Row 134: K until 4 sts rem, w&t.
Row 135: k 10, kfb, k10, kfb, k8, kfb, k10, kfb k10, w&t. 64.
Row 136 - 137: k until 12 sts rem, w&t.
Row 138: Join CC, K until 12 sts rem, w&t.
Row 139: Continuing with CC, K until 12 rem, b&t.
Rows 140 - 141: With MC, K until 10 sts rem, w&t.
Rows 142 – 143: K until 13 sts rem, w&t.
Rows 144 – 145: K until 16 sts rem, w&t.
Row 146: Join CC, K until 16 sts rem, w&t.
Row 147: Continuing with CC, K until 16 sts rem, b&t.
Rows 148 – 149: With MC, K until 6 sts rem, w&t.
Rows 150 – 151: K until 13 sts rem, w&t.
Rows 152 – 153: K until 9 sts rem, w&t.
Rows 154: Join CC, K until 9 sts rem, w&t.
Row 155: Continuing with CC, K until 9 sts rem, b&t.
Rows 156 – 157: With MC, K to EOR.
Rows 158 – 159: K until 3 sts rem, w&t.
Rows 160 - 161: K until 6 sts rem, w&t.
Row 162: Join CC, K until 6 rem, w&t.
Row163: Continuing with CC, K until 6 rem, b&t.
Rows164 – 165: With MC, k until 4 sts rem, w&t.
Rows 166: K until 8 sts rem, w&t.
Row 167: kfb, k8, kfb, k8, kfb, k10, kfb, k8, kfb, k8, kfb, w&t. 70 sts
Rows 168 – 169: K until 12 sts rem, w&t.
Row 170: Join CC, K until 12 sts rem, w&t
Row 171: Continuing with CC, K until 12 sts rem, b&t.
Rows 172 – 173: With MC, K until 9 sts rem, w&t.
Rows 174 – 175: K until 13 sts rem, w&t.
Rows 176 – 177: K until 15 sts rem, w&t
Row 178: Join CC, K until 15 sts rem, w&t
Row 179: Continuing with CC, K until 15 sts rem, b&t.
Rows 180 – 181: With MC, K until 3 sts rem, w&t.
Rows 182 – 183: K until 6 sts rem, w&t.
Rows 184 – 185: K until 9 sts rem, w&t.
Row 186: Join CC, K until 9 sts rem, w&t
Row 187: Continuing with CC, K until 9 sts rem, b&t.
Rows 188 - 189: With MC, K until 8 sts rem, w&t.
Rows 190 - 191: K until 5 sts rem, w&t.
Rows 192 – 193: K to EOR.
Bind off all sts. You are now done with the shell of your nautilus.

Pattern Note Regarding Tentacles

Horatio can be made with either 14 tentacles (left in image) 24 (right).

To make the 14-tentacle version, work only the middle tentacle group and the top tentacle group and omit the bottom tentacle group.

Bottom Tentacle Group

The base of the tentacle group is worked flat, with each tentacle worked from the base as i-cord. Row numbers are sequential and indicate where you're working parts of the base. Where rounds are noted, you're working on individual tentacles. There are ten tentacles in this group.

Using CC2 (one strand Red Devil, one strand Shreveport) and size 4 / 3.25 mm needles, cast on 24 sts.

Tentacle Base

Worked in garter stitch.

Rows 1 - 2: K 24 sts.

1st Tentacle

Round 1: Knit the 4 right-most live stitches from the tentacle base.

Round 2: Work as i-cord, i.e. without turning work, bring yarn around the back of the work, and k4, starting from 1st stitch.

Round 3 – 12: Work as round 2.

Round 13: K1, k2tog, k1. 3 sts.

Round 14 – 26: work as 3-stitch i-cord

Round 27: K1, k2tog. 2 sts.

Round 28 – 33: work as 2-stitch i-cord.

Break yarn. Thread end onto a yarn needle, pass through 2 remaining live stitches, and weave end up into body of tentacle.

2nd Tentacle

Round 1: With wrong side facing (i.e. flip the tentacle base so the first tentacle is on the left), re-join yarn, and purl the right-most 4 sts. Turn.

Work as first tentacle from round 2.

You should now have one completed tentacle on each side of the work, with 16 live stitches in between them (tentacle base). You'll now add rows to the tentacle base before adding more tentacles.

Row 3: Re-join yarn, knit 16 sts.

Row 4 -6: K16.

3rd Tentacle: Work as 1st tentacle.

4th Tentacle: Work as 2nd tentacle.

You should now have two completed tentacles on each side of the work, with 8 live stitches in between them.

Tentacle base increase section:
Row 5: K3, kfb twice, k3. 10 base sts.
Row 6: K4, kfb twice, k4. 12 base sts.
Row 7: K5, kfb twice, k5. 14 base sts.
Row 8: K6, kfb twice, k6. 16 base sts.

Work 5th tentacle (and subsequent odd-numbered tentacles) as 1st tentacle, and 6th (and subsequent even numbered tentacles) as 2nd tentacle.

Work tentacle base increase section Rows 5 – 8 again, and two additional tentacles (7th and 8th). You should now have four completed tentacles on each side of the work, with 8 live stitches in between them.

Re-join yarn and work 4 sts as 1st tentacle (9th tentacle). Work again for remaining 4 sts (10th tentacle).

Gently steam the tentacles and tentacle base using the wool setting on your iron. The tentacle base has a "v" shape from the increases in the base increase section – don't flatten in out when you steam it, or when you sew the tentacles together in the next step.

Using a yarn needle, and starting with the 9th and 10th tentacles, sew each tentacle to its neighboring tentacle using the mattress stitch, and sewing 1.25 inches / 3 cm up from the base. This will help support the tentacles and keep them oriented in a forward direction. You only need to do this step on the bottom tentacle group.

Middle Tentacle group
Worked in the same manner as bottom tentacle group (base worked flat, plus i-cord). There are eight tentacles in this group.

Cast on 24 sts.
Row 1 - 3: K24.
Row 4: P4, k16, p4.
Row 5: K2tog, k9, kfb twice, k9, k2tog. 24 sts.
Row 6: P2tog, p3, k6, kfb twice, k6, p3, p2tog. 24 sts.
Row 7 – 10: Work rows 5 – 6 twice more.

Work 1st and 2nd tentacles per the instructions for the bottom tentacle group.

You should now have one completed tentacle on each side of the work, with 16 live stitches in between them (tentacle base).

Tentacle base increase section:
Row 11: K7, kfb twice, k7. 18 sts.
Row 12: K8, kfb twice, k8. 20 sts.
Row 13: K9, kfb twice, k9, 22 sts.
Row 14: K10, kfb twice, k10. 24 sts.

3rd Tentacle: Work as 1st tentacle.
4th Tentacle: Work as 2nd tentacle.

You should now have two completed tentacles on each side of the work, with 16 live stitches in between them (tentacle base).

Re-join yarn and work 4 sts as 1st tentacle (5th tentacle). 12 stitches remain.
Work 4 sts as 1st tentacle (6th tentacle). 8 stitches remain.
Work 7th and 8th tentacle as 5th tentacle.

Steam block as for bottom tentacle group.

Top Tentacle Group

Worked in the same manner as bottom tentacle group (base worked flat, plus i-cord). There are six tentacles in this group.

Cast on 6 sts.
Row 1: K2, kfb twice, k2. 8 st.
Row 2 and all subsequent even numbered rows: Purl.
Row 3: K3, kfb twice, k3. 10 sts.
Row 5: K4, kfb twice, k4. 12 sts
Row 7: K5, kfb twice, k5. 14 sts
Row 9: K6, kfb twice, k6. 16 sts.
Row 11: Ssk, k5, kfb twice, k5, k2tog. 16 sts.
Row 13: Ssk, k5, kfb twice, k5, k2tog. 16 sts.
Row 15. K7, kfb twice, k7. 18 sts.
Row 17. Ssk, k6, kfb twice, k6, k2tog. 18 sts.
Row 19. K8, kfb twice, k8. 20 sts.
Row 21. Ssk, k7, kfb twice, k7, k2tog. 20 sts.
Row 23. K9, kfb twice, k9. 22 sts.
Row 25. Ssk, k8, kfb twice, k8, k2tog. 22 sts.
Row 26. P.
Row 27. K10, kfb twice, k10. 24 sts.
Row 28. P.
Rows 29: ssk, k9, kfb twice, k9, k2tog. 24 sts.
Row 30: P.
Row 31 – 40: Work as rows 29 and 30.

Work 1st and 2nd tentacles per the instructions for the bottom tentacle group.

You should now have one completed tentacle on each side of the work, with 16 live stitches in between them (tentacle base).

Row 41: Ssk, k5, kfb twice, k5, k2tog. 16 sts.
Row 42: P.
Row 43: Ssk, k5, kfb twice, k5, k2tog.
Row 44: P.

3rd Tentacle: Work as 1st tentacle.
4th Tentacle: Work as 2nd tentacle.

You should now have two completed tentacles on each side of the work, with 8 live stitches in between them (tentacle base).
Row 45: Ssk, k1, kfb twice, k1, k2tog. 8 sts.
Row 46: P.
Row 47: Ssk, k1, kfb twice, k1, k2tog. 8 sts.
Row 48: P.

5th Tentacle: Work 4 sts as 1st tentacle. 4 stitches remain.
6th Tentacle: Work remaining sts as 1st tentacle.

Steam block as for bottom tentacle group.

Hood
Using CC3 (2 strands Red Devil) and size 4 / 3.25 mm DPNs, cast on 35 sts.
Row 1: K.
Row 2: P.
Row 3: K until 11 rem, twk. Place 3 locking stitch markers on your needles as follows: 1st: 10 sts from beginning, 2nd: (different color from 1st and 3rd) between stitch 17 & 18 and 3rd: 10 sts from end. Slip markers are you come to them on all subsequent rows.
Row 4: P until 11 rem, twp, and turn work.
Row 5: K until 10 rem, knitting previous row's twk and wrap as one stitch, twk. Work all subsequent twks and wraps in this manner. Turn work.
Row 6: P until 10 rem, purling previous row's twp and wrap as one stitch, twp. Work all subsequent twps and wraps in this manner. Turn work.
Row 7: K until 9 rem. Twk.
Row 8: P until 9 rem. Twp.
Row 9: K to 2nd marker, m1R, (sm,) k1, m1L, k until 11 rem, tsk. 37 sts.
Row 10: P until 11 rem, twp.
Row 11: K until 10 rem, twk.
Row 12: P until 10 rem, twp.
Row 13: K until 8 rem, twk.
Row 14: P until 8 rem, twp.
Row 15: K to 2nd marker, m1R, sm, k1, m1L, k until 11 rem, twk. 39 sts.
Row 16: p until 11 rem, twp.
Row 17: K to 2nd marker, m1R, sm, k1, m1L, k until 10 rem, twk. 41 sts.
Row 18: P until 10 rem, twp.
Row 19: K to 2nd marker, m1R, sm, k1, m1L, k until 9 rem, twk. 43 sts.
Row 20: P until 9 rem, twp.
Row 21: K to 2nd marker, m1R, sm, k1, m1L, k until 7 rem, twk. 45 sts.
Row 22: P until 7 rem, twp.
Row 23: K to 2nd marker, m1R, sm, k1, m1L, k until 2 rem, k2tog. 46 sts.
Row 24: P2tog, p until 2 rem, p2togtbl, turn. 44 sts.
Row 25: Ssk, move 1st and 3rd markers so they are ten sts from beginning and end respectively, k to 2nd marker, m1R, sm, k1, m1L, k until 11 rem, twk. 45 sts.
Row 26: P until 11 rem, twp.

Rows 27 - 30: Work as 23 – 26.

Rows 31 - 32: Work as 23 – 24.

Row 33: Ssk, move 1st and 3rd markers so they are ten sts from beginning and end respectively, k to 2nd marker, m1R, sm, k1, m1L, k until 13 rem, twk. 45 sts.

Row 34: P until 13 rem, twp.

Row 35: K to 2nd marker, sm, m1R, k1, m1L, k until 14 rem, twk. 47 sts.

Row 36: P until 14 rem, twp.

Row 37: K to 2nd marker, sm, m1R, k1, m1L, k until 2 rem, k2tog. 48 sts.

Row 38: Cast off 3 sts purlwise, p until 2 sts rem, p2togtbl. 44 sts.

Row 39: Cast off 3 sts knitwise, k to 2nd marker, m1R, sm, k1, m1L, k until 15 rem, twk. 43 sts.

Row 40: P until 15 rem, twp, and turn work.

Row 41: K to 2nd marker, m1R, sm, k1, m1L, k until 2 rem, k2tog. 44 sts.

Row 42: Cast off 9 sts purlwise, p until 2 rem, p2togtbl. 34 sts.

Row 43: Cast off 9 sts knitwise, k to 2nd marker, m1R, sm, m1L, k until 4 rem, twk. 27 sts.

Row 44: P until 4 rem, twp.

Row 45: K to center marker, m1R, sm, k1, m1L, k until 2 rem, k2tog. 28 sts.

Row 46: Cast off 4 purlwise, p until 2 rem, p2togtbl. 23 sts.

Row 47: Cast off 4 knitwise, k to right center marker, m1R, sm, k1, m1L, k until 4 rem, twk. 21 sts.

Row 48: P until 4 rem, twp.

Row 49: K to center marker, m1R, sm, k1, m1L, k until 2 rem, k2tog. 22 sts.

Row 50: Cast off 4 purlwise, p until 2 rem, p2togtbl. 17 sts.

Row 51: Cast off 4 knitwise, k to right center marker, m1R, sm, k1, m1L, k until 2 rem, twk. 15 sts.

Row 52: P until 2 rem, twp.

Row 53: K to center marker, m1R, sm, k1, m1L, k until 2 rem, k2tog . 16 sts.

Row 54: Cast off 8 purlwise, p 6, p2togtbl.

Row 55: Cast off rem 8 sts knitwise.

Break yarn, weave in end, and steam block.

Making up

Your shell section should start out looking something like Figure 1.

Using a yarn needle and a length of yarn, gather the edge stitches closest to the round end of the shell on both sides as shown in Figure 2.

Pass the yarn through these stitches a second time; tighten and secure (Figure 3)

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Fill shell with stuffing, with a flat layer at the shell opening.

Place bottom tentacle group (if you made all three tentacle layers), or middle tentacle group over shell opening with the tentacles overhanging the lip of the shell (Figure 4). Sew into place along edge of shell opening (figure 5).

Repeat for middle tentacle group (again, if you made all three tentacle layers. Skip this if you made only the top two layers).

Position eyes on top tentacle group as shown in Figure 6, and attach washers to backs of eyes to secure.

Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 6

Place top tentacle group over remaining shell opening and bottom and/or middle tentacle layers (Figure 7).

Form a wedge-shaped piece of stuffing (roll between your hands to make a pointed end) on top of the top tentacle layer (Figure 8) to provide support for the hood. The stuffing wedge should be as high as the round end of the shell and taper down to a point between the eyes.

Figure 7

Figure 8

Pin the hood so its side points tuck into the corners of the shell where you tightened up stitches in figure 1. Center the middle of the hood so it covers the stockinette portion of the shell and is snug against the first garter row of the shell (Figure 9). Sew the hood onto the shell from side point across the top of the shell to the opposite side corner.

Next, sew the bottom edge of the hood to shell from the side point until just before the eye. Allow the hood to bulge slightly over the eye (Figure 10) and continue to sew the hood to the top layer of tentacles around to the opposite eye. Allow the hood to bulge slightly over the second eye, and sew to final side point.

Figure 9

Figure 10

Steam block the hood, keeping the plate of your iron well away from the eyes, and enjoy your new aquatic friend!