demi octopus

A B C, 1 2 3
Eric the half a … SEXTOPUS!!

I made a cozy^ and put it up on Ravelry. Much to my surprise, it got tons of love from my fellow knitters. Also to my surprise, I got a lot of pattern requests. Now, I'm not a big fan of writing patterns and I'm especially not a fan of writing up boring things. So I decided I'd write up just the octopus part. Quite literally, part of an octopus.

With only half a head and 3/4s of the legs, he is the very model of a slinky semi sextopus.

^ http://www.ravelry.com/projects/lisseut/octo-cuppa-kobo-cozy

materials

- yarn (held doubled)
- waste yarn (two pieces)
- DPNs (size for a dense firm fabric)
- crochet hook
- eye stuff. options:
    - needle felting: fibre
    - satin stitch: thread or yarn
        - beads or safety eyes

construction

This half a ceph is knit from the mantle to the tip of the tentacles.

Aggressive increases form the rounded top of the mantle and also provide structure for the 3D bulge. Gentle decreases finish the mantle shaping. The eye bumps are formed by increases followed by decreases. Next, the body is knit, putting live stitches on waste yarn along the way. Lastly, the i-cord tentacles, starting with the two rearmost ones and working our way forwards.

Sewing suggestions are provided at the end of the pattern.

photo tutorial

http://pigupigudesign.blogspot.com/p/tutorial.html

about the designer

Coder by day, knitter by night.

Jen is currently busy surrounding herself with yarn in the beautiful San Francisco Bay area. As she knits herself into a cosy little den, she dreams of soft yarn and intense colour and soaring redwood trees. And, surprisingly, the deliciously cold crisp winters she left behind in Toronto.

She can be found on Ravelry as lisseut.

glossary

k – knit one stitch
p – purl one stitch

ssk – slip slip knit
sssk – slip slip slip knit
k2tog – knit 2 together
k3tog – knit 3 together

WYL – waste yarn, left side
WYR – waste yarn, right side

sl1 – slip one stitch as if to knit (RS) or to purl (WS)

m1R – make one right leaning stitch
m1L – make one left learning stitch
m1S – special make one - knit through both strands of the stitch

pu1 – pick up one stitch, do NOT knit
CO – cast on - use any method unless specified
CO1 – cast on one stitch, same caveat as for CO

the pattern

To keep this pattern compact, the instructions are all text with no pictures. Some parts are tricky - to help you through the rough patches, check out the **photo tutorial** (see first page for link).

mantle increases (green)

This is the hardest part to knit. The aggressive increasing, while giving us the bulging mantle will also cause the stitches on the needles to bunch up.

Row 0 : RS – With yarn doubled, CO (long tail) 2 st, keep tail on LEFT side (this is backwards from normal)
Row 1 : RS – m1S, m1S – ie. Knit through each single strand of yarn for both stitches (4 st)
Row 2 : WS - sl1, purl across
Row 3 : sl1 m1R, m1S, m1S, m1L, k1 (8 st)
Row 4 : sl1, purl across
Row 5 : sl1, m1R, k6, m1L, k1 (10 st)
Row 6 : sl1, purl across
Row 7-14 : sl1, stockinette to end (8 rows)

> Tip: Knit more rows for an elongated elegant ceph; fewer rows for a stubbie cutie.

mantle decreases

Row 15 : RS - sl1, ssk, k4, k2tog, k1 (8 st)
Row 16-18 : sl1, stockinette across (3 rows)
Row 19 : RS - sl1, ssk, k2, k2tog, k1 (6 st)
Row 20-22 : sl1, stockinette across (3 rows)
Row 23 : RS - sl1, ssk, k2, k1 (5 st)

> Tip: This asymmetric decrease plus the one at Row 29 help to create a slightly curved octopus. Try different decreases to get other curves!

Row 24 : sl1, purl across

eyes (yellow)

Row 25 : sl1, m1R, m1S, k1, m1S, m1L, k1 (9 st)
Row 26 : sl1, purl across
Row 27 : sssk, k3, k3tog (5 st)
Row 28 : sl1, purl across
Row 29 : sl1, k2tog, k2 (4 st)
Row 30 : sl1, purl across

body (orange)

Row 31 : sl1, knit across
Row 32 : sl1, purl across
Row 33 : RS - put first stitch one piece of waste yarn (WYR), k2, put last stitch on the other piece of waste yarn (WYL)
Row 34 : CO1, p2, CO1
Row 35-36 : repeat Row 33-34

Place leftmost two stitches on WYL (Waste Yarn Left). Ie. Slip two st, put next two stitches on WYL.

The first tentacle will use these two slipped stitches.

tentacles

All six tentacles are knit the same way: Start with a 3-stitch i-cord and taper down to a crochet chain. Picking up stitches for the i-cord is a little trickier. The instructions in `setting up the tentacle` below will produce a symmetrically radiating pattern and are documented in the photo tutorial. However, improvisation is highly encouraged!

As with the body, start by holding your yarn doubled.

setting up the tentacle

After completing each step below, continue with the instructions to the right, `finishing the tentacle`.

Tip: Pick up stitches from the WS purl bumps.

TR1 (Tentacle Right #1)
St 1-2 : Using stitches already on needle, k2
St 3 : pu1 and knit.

TR2
Prep : Put leftmost 1 st from WYR (Waste Yarn Right) on left needle
St 1 : pu1 from between new leftmost stitch on WYR and stitch on left needle. Knit this picked up stitch.
St 2 : Knit 1 st from left needle
St 3 : pu1 from base of TR1 and knit

TR3
St 1 : Put last WYR stitch on left needle and knit
St 2 : pu1 from the selvedge and knit
St 3 : pu1 from the base of the TR2 and knit

TL1 (Tentacle Left #1)
St 1 : pu1 and knit (from base of TR1)
St 2-3 : Put rightmost 2 st from WYL on left needle and knit.

TL2
St 1 : pu1 from base of TL1. Do NOT knit
St 2 : put rightmost st on WYL on left needle and knit
St 3 : pu1 from before the next WYL st and knit

TL3
St 1 : pu1 from the base of TL2 and knit
St 2 : pu1 from the selvedge and knit
St 3 : put last WYL stitch on left needle and knit

finishing the tentacle

Row 1: knit 3 rounds of 3-stitch i-cord
Row 4: knit 4 rounds of i-cord, tight tension
Row 8: ssk k1 (2 st)

Row 9: knit 5 rounds of i-cord
Row 14: knit 6 rounds of i-cord, tight tension
Row 20: ssk (1 st)

Switch to crochet hook
Row 21: crochet (or finger knit) 7 chains

Cut one yarn, leaving longish tail
Row 28: crochet 7 chains, somewhat loosely
Row 35: crochet 7 chains, super tight tension

Cut yarn, leaving a long tail, and draw through.

Tip: Leave long tails. When picking up and casting off, leave at least 6 inches for the tail. These extra bits can be used later to sew your octopus onto the base material.

sewing

To attach the ceph, first pin it on to your base fabric. Separate the cast on tail into two strands and start sewing down both sides of the mantle, lightly stuffing as you go. Continue around the eyes, stuff this bit, then down to where the tentacles start. Using more cast on tails, sew around the base of each tentacle (about 1/2 inch). You can choose to sew down the entire length of the tentacles or tack them down at key spots. The former will give let you shape the tentacle exactly as you want. The latter will give you stretchiness.

Sew or felt on the eyes, and you're done!