

Little Cotton Rabbits

Koala in a dress



*This koala is made from Cascade 220 worsted yarn
in 8401 Silver Grey (Yarn A) and 010 Natural (Yarn B)
Her dress, knickers and shoes are made from Krea Deluxe Organic Cotton yarn in 06 and 02*

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

Materials:

- Worsted or light Aran yarn (approx 65m/71yds) in grey: **Yarn A**
- Worsted or light Aran yarn (approx 20m/22yds) in Cream: **Yarn B**
- 4ply/fingering weight yarn for the dress, knickers and shoes in up to 2 colours, **Yarn C**, **Yarn D**
- Less than 2m (2yds) of black 4ply/DK yarn for the eyes and facial features
- 1m (1yd) of pink 4ply/DK yarn for the mouth
- 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 koala: 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 koala 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 koala that you make.

Abbreviations:

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

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

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

M1R : MAKE 1 RIGHT. A nice tight method of making an extra stitch. With the left hand needle pick up the connecting strand between the two needles from behind and knit into the front loop to create an extra stitch. If you find this too tight for your liking you can substitute M1T (make one towards) which will give a looser increase.

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

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

KFB: Knit into the front and back of the next stitch, so increasing by 1 stitch

PFB: Purl into the front and back of the next stitch, so increasing by 1 stitch

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

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

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

K2TOG : Knit 2 stitches together

P2TOG : Purl 2 stitches together

P2TOG TBL: Purl 2 stitches together through the back loops

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Yarn suggestions:

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

Please note: The yarn used for the step-by-step pictures on Pages 4-12 is Cascade 200 Worsted in 8401 Silver grey (Yarn A) and 010 Natural (Yarn B).



CaMaRose Snefnug in
7310 Askegra (A)
and 7811 snehvid (B)



Drops Soft Tweed in 06 (A) and 01 (B)
held together with Austermann kid silk
in 18 (A) and 01 (B)



Rowan Pure Wool Worsted in
112 (A) and 101 (B), with inner ear in
Rowan Soft Boucle in 600 (B)

Other suggestions for yarn to use to knit the Koala in can 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 koala 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. I have written up some extra tips about knitting and finishing, so please pop by for a visit and check out the knitting tips section on [Little Cotton Rabbits blog](#).

If you get stuck with any aspect of the pattern, please come and visit the Little cotton Rabbit group on Ravelry:

<https://www.ravelry.com/groups/little-cotton-rabbits>

Or the Little Cotton Rabbits Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/littlecottonrabbits>

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

The pattern instructions:

Head:

Before starting please cut two extra lengths of **Yarn A**; one 1m (1yd) and one 1.5m (2yds), and one extra 1m (1yd) length of **Yarn B**. **Please note** that there are 3 Purlled marker stitches for positioning each ear (a total of 6 Purl stitches), worked on **rows 14 & 16** and a single Purlled marker stitch for positioning the top of the nose on **row 29**.

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

- row 1:** (wrong side) Purl
- row 2:** K2, (KLL, K1) 8 times, K1 (19 stitches)
- row 3:** Purl
- row 4:** K2, (KLL, K2) 8 times, K1 (27 stitches)
- row 5:** Purl
- row 6:** K2, (KLL, K3) 8 times, K1 (35 stitches)

rows 7-13: Beginning and ending with Purl rows, work 7 rows in stocking stitch

row 14: K7, P1, K4, P1, K9, P1, K4, P1, K7

row 15: Purl

row 16: K10, P1, K13, P1, K10

rows 17-23: Beginning and ending with Purl rows, work 7 rows in stocking stitch

row 24: K12, join in **Yarn B** and K3, join the 1m of **Yarn A** and K5, join in the extra 1m length of **Yarn B** and K3, join the 1.5m of **Yarn A** and K12

row 25: P11, P4, P5, P4, P11

row 26: K1, (K2tog) 5 times, (K2tog) twice, K5, (K2tog) twice, (K2tog) 5 times, K1 (21 stitches)

row 27: P6, P2, P5, P2, P6

Cut the extra yarns from the work, leaving tails for weaving in later and continue in **Yarn A** from the main ball only

row 28: Knit

row 29: P10, K1, P10

row 30: K2, (K2tog) 4 times, K1, (K2tog) 4 times, K2 (13 stitches)

row 31: Purl

Cut the work from the ball leaving a cast off tail of around 8 inches and sew this through the 13 stitches remaining on the needle (*fig. 1*). Before seaming turn the head to the wrong side and weave in all of the tail ends on the inside of the work do ensure that they're secure and that your work cannot come unravelled and then trim the excess (*fig. 2*).



fig. 1



fig. 2



fig. 3



fig. 4

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

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

Once the tail ends are secured, it's time to stuff (see tips on stuffing on Page 3). I start with a tight ball of stuffing which I poke into the back of the head, packing it in firmly (*fig. 5*) then stuff the nose end, pinching and manipulating the stuffing until it takes on the rounded oval shape that I want (*fig. 6*). 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 (*fig. 7*).

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 ears and facial features inside, and set the head aside while you make the ears.



fig. 5



fig. 6



fig. 7

Ears (make two the same):

Before starting please cut an extra 2m (2yds) length of **Yarn A**. Starting at the base of the ear where it joins the head and finishing at the top curve, use **Yarn A** and 3mm needles to cable cast on 24 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for sewing the ear together and attaching to the head later.

row 1: (wrong side) P8, join in **Yarn B** and P8, join in the extra length of **Yarn A** and P8

row 2: K8, K8, K8

row 3: P8, P8, P8

row 4: K8, K8, K8

row 5: P8, P8, P8

row 6: K8, K8, K8

row 7: P8, P8, P8

row 8: K3, K2tog, K3, SSK, K4, K2tog, K3, SSK, K3 (20 stitches)

row 9: P2, P2togtbl, P3, (P2tog) twice, P2togtbl, P3, P2tog, P2 (15 stitches)

Cut **Yarn B** and the **Yarn A** attached to the main ball and continue with the extra length of **Yarn A** only.

row 10: Knit

Cut the work from the ball leaving an 8 inch tail and sew this end through the last 15 stitches on the needle (*fig. 8*). Pull to tighten the stitches. Next fold the ear in half lengthways and use the cast off tail to join the back seam with mattress stitch (*fig. 9*). At the bottom of the seam knot both of the tail ends together. Next turn the ear inside-out and weave in or tie off all tail ends from the colour changes on the inside of the work, trimming the ends short. Flip the ear back to the right-side and use each tail end to seam the bottom of the ear closed from the centre point to the edges (*fig. 10*). Repeat with the other side. You will finish up with an end at each corner of the semi-circular finished ear. Make a second ear the same (*fig. 11*).

In the pictures below the ear in *fig. 11* is made with 2 shades of cascade 200 worsted yarn, the ear in *fig. 12* is made with cascade 220 for the grey part but for the white part I've used a very fluffy yarn (Rowan Soft Boucle) and then brushed it to tease out the fibres to make a very fluffy Koala ear. Next it's time to attach the ears to the head.



fig. 8



fig. 9



fig. 10



fig. 11



fig. 12

Making sure that the white part of the ear is facing forward, thread the tapestry needle with the topmost tail from one ear, and position the ear by sewing through both legs of the stitch just in-front of the first purled marker stitch (*no. 1 in fig. 13*). Work backwards along the head, joining the ear by sewing alternately through one full stitch from the back of the ear (*fig. 14*), and one full stitch on the head (*fig. 15*). Join the ear diagonally from point 1 to point 2 (*see fig. 13*) and then a further 3 stitches in a straight line backwards along the head (*fig. 16*).

Next re-thread the needle with the lower tail from the ear and beginning at point 3 in *fig. 13* use it to join the other side of the ear in the same way (*fig. 17*). Work upwards along the side of the head until meeting the other tail end.



fig. 13

fig. 14

fig. 15

fig. 16

When you reach the back of the ear where the first end is hanging, 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. 18). Repeat with the second ear (figs. 19 & 20). 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 it's time to make the nose and chin.



fig. 17

fig. 18

fig. 19

fig. 20

Nose and Chin:

The nose and chin are worked together as one lozenge shaped piece with a colour change in the middle.

Starting at the bottom of the chin and finishing at the top of the nose, use Yarn B and 2.75mm needles to cable cast on 3 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for seaming with later.

row 1: (wrong side): (PF&B) twice, P1 (5 stitches)

row 2: Knit

row 3: SL1P, P4

row 4: SL1P, K4

Cut Yarn B from the work, leaving a long tail for seaming with later

row 5: Change to 4ply/DK black cotton yarn, leaving a long tail for seaming with, and Purl

row 6: K1, (KF&B) 3 times, K1 (8 stitches)

rows 7-11: Beginning and ending with Purl rows, work 5 rows

row 12: K1, SSK, K2, K2tog, K1 (6 stitches)

Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 8 inches and use the tapestry needle to sew this tail through the remaining 6 stitches (fig. 21). Pull up tightly and over-sew once to keep the seam from opening out again.



fig. 21

fig. 22

fig. 23

fig. 24

To position the top of the nose sew through the 'legs' of the Purl marker stitch between the eye patches (fig. 22) and then back through the loops of the last row of stitches at the top of the nose (fig. 23). At this point you might find it easier to keep the sewing thread loose, it can be tightened later once you're happy with the positioning (it's easier to un-do the seam if the stitches are loose). Continue to attach the right-hand side of the nose by sewing alternately through one whole stitch on the head (fig. 24) and two 'bars' between the first and second stitch on the side of the nose (fig. 25). You want to sew these stitches so that the nose is joined to the head in a slightly curved triangle shape (see black guide lines in fig. 19).



fig. 25

fig. 26

fig. 27

fig. 28

When the right-hand side of the nose is fully joined to the head sew the tail end through the head and out of the cast-off centre (fig. 26). Next thread the needle with the tail end of black yarn at the bottom left-hand side of the nose and use this to sew the left-hand side to the head in the same way, finishing at the top point of the nose. Once the left-hand side is fully joined to the head (fig. 27) sew the tail end through the head and out of the cast-off centre and knot both tail ends together to secure. Trim these tail ends and poke excess into the nose cavity where it can act as stuffing for the bottom wider part of the nose.

Next thread the needle with the white yarn tail from the top left-hand side of the chin and use this to sew the chin to the head. Sew alternately through one full stitch on the head (fig. 28) and a single 'leg' from each stitch on the very edge of the chin (fig. 29). Join the chin in a 'U' shape, as illustrated by the red lines in fig. 19. Work all the way around the chin until it is fully joined (fig. 30) and then sew both tail ends from the chin through the head and out of the open seam underneath. Tie both tails of white yarn together to secure and poke inside the head cavity.

M o u t h:

To make the mouth, thread a tapestry needle with an 8 inch length of pink 4ply or DK Yarn and sew it up through the open bottom seam of the head and out at the top left-hand side of the white chin. Then take it across the front of the join between the chin and nose, and sew into the head at the right-hand side of the chin, coming out again at the left side (fig. 31) so making a single loop across the muzzle for the mouth. Sew back down through the head, from the right-hand side of the mouth and out of the open seam underneath the head, so making a second loop across the muzzle to resemble two lips (fig. 32). Adjust the tightness of the two stitches forming the mouth and knot the 2 ends of thread together securely before trimming and poke the tail ends inside the head.



fig. 29

fig. 30

fig. 31

fig. 32

E y e s:

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 on Page 8, or any preferred method of knotting.



fig. 33

fig. 34

fig. 35

fig. 36

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.

To make the eyes cut an 8 inch length of 4ply yarn. Starting underneath the head sew this yarn through the head to the position for the first eye leaving a tail of around 2 inches behind. Create an anchored French Knot for each eye:

Thread a tapestry needle with the 8 inches of yarn. Sew up through the work to the point that you want the knot. Then push it back through the same point and out again one stitch away from the original point, leaving a little loop (*fig. 33*). Slide the tip of the needle through this loop and wrap the thread around the needle tip (*fig. 34*) between four and eight times depending on thickness of yarn – here I've wrapped 7 times with DK 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. 35*) 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. 36*). Adjust the tightness until you are happy and then tie off both ends securely before sewing the ends through the head and trimming excess. Repeat for the second eye. Now that's the head finished, so set it to one side while you make the body.

Body:

Before starting cut an extra 4m (4.5 yds) of **Yarn A** ready to work the intarsia section from **rows 1-12**.

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

- row 1:** (wrong side) P6, join in Yarn B and P4, Join in extra length of **Yarn A** and P6
- row 2:** (K2, M1R) twice, K2, K1, M1R, K2, M1L, K1, K2, (M1L, K2) twice (22 stitches)
- row 3:** P8, P6, P8
- row 4:** (K3, M1R) twice, K2, K2, M1R, K2, M1L, K2, K2, (M1L, K3) twice (28 stitches)
- row 5:** P10, P8, P10
- row 6:** (K4, M1R) twice, K2, K2, M1R, K4, M1L, K2, K2, (M1L, K4) twice (34 stitches)
- row 7:** P12, P10, P12
- row 8:** K12, K10, K12
- row 9:** P13, P8, P13

row 10: K14, K6, K14

row 11: P15, P4, P15

Cut **Yarn B** from the work and continue in **Yarn A** only

row 12: Knit

row 13: Purl

row 14: Change to 2.5mm needles and K3, (KLL, K5) 6 times, K1 (40 stitches)

Cut **Yarn A** from the work as it is no longer needed

row 15: Join in **Yarn C** and Purl

row 16: Purl

row 17: Purl

rows 18-32: Beginning and ending with a Knit row, work 15 rows in stocking stitch

row 33: Cast off in Purl

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



Legs (make 2 the same):

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

row 1: (wrong side) Purl

row 2: K2, (KLL, K1) 4 times, K3, (KLL, K1) 4 times, K1 (22 stitches)

row 3: Purl

row 4: K3, (KLL, K1) 6 times, K5, (KLL, K1) 6 times, K2 (34 stitches)

rows 5-14: Beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit row, work 10 rows in stocking stitch

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

P13 casting off as you go (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.

Next you need to pick up stitches from the cast off edge of the shoe to form the top of the foot. You could use a sharp tipped or smaller sized needle for the first row, but remember to swap back to the 2.75mm afterwards:

row 1: (right side) With **Yarn A** and 2.75mm needles pick up and Knit the 6 central stitches from the cast-off edge of the shoe (that is the central 4 stitches and the 2 decrease stitches either side of them) like so: From the front of the work push the tip of the needle through a purl loop on the back of the cast-off edge, wrap the yarn around once Knit-wise and draw through, placing each picked up stitch on the right hand needle in turn (fig. 37)

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

Next you will need to pick up more stitches to form the shaft of the leg.



fig. 37



fig. 38



fig. 39



fig. 40

row 1: (right side) Leaving a tail of 8 inches for seaming with later, use **Yarn A** 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. 38). Ignore the first 8 cast-off stitches on the left side and pick up and Knit the last 5 stitches (fig. 39) **Please note:** the last stitch will be at the very edge of the work. Be sure to keep a tight tension across the gaps. (16 stitches)

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

rows 3-16: Beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl row, work 14 rows in stocking stitch

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

Make a second leg in exactly the same way. Now the shoe is ready to be finished and seamed (fig. 40). Next make the shoe strap:

Shoe strap (make 2 the same):

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



fig. 41

fig. 42

fig. 43

fig. 44

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. 41). 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:

Sew alternately through 1 loop from the back of the cast off edge of the shoe (fig. 42) and 1 'bar' between the two outermost stitches of the top of the foot section (fig. 43), working down towards the toe of the shoe. 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 its curved shaped toe.

Sew the yarn to the inside of the work and catch up the **Yarn C** loops from the back of the toe of the shoe (fig. 44). At this point you need to gently tighten the yarn slightly, gathering in the section that you have just sewn up.



fig. 45

fig. 46

fig. 47

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. 45). 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. 46) using the **Yarn C** 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 spare length of **Yarn C** and use it to gather up the loops in the bottom of the foot (fig. 47) I've used red thread here just to illustrate. Tie both ends tightly inside the shoe to fully close the bottom shoe seam.

Next stuff the foot firmly. Take your time to get the shape that you want, adding small amounts of stuffing at a time. Don't be afraid to pull it out and start again if you're not happy with the shape, I often do. Once you are happy, close the back seam of the shoe entirely and tie ends together before poking inside. Thread the tapestry needle with the long end of **Yarn A** from the bottom of the leg section and use this to close the seam up the back of the leg using mattress stitch (fig. 48). Leave a gap at the top to make stuffing the leg easier.



fig. 48



fig. 49



fig. 50

Stuff the leg lightly and if you want your koala to sit nicely then don't stuff the top 1cm of the leg. Finish closing the seam and tie the two ends together at the top, poking all other ends inside the leg. For the second leg you need to follow all of the finishing steps above but attach the strap to the opposite side of the foot. To make a 'button' on the strap at the outside of each shoe use contrasting coloured yarn (around 8 inches) to make a French Knot (fig. 49). Follow the instructions for the anchored French knot on Page 8.

Make a second leg the same, and then both legs are ready to attach to the body (fig. 50).

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. 51). Work around the top of the leg back to the start then tie both ends together inside the body to secure. Attach the second leg in the same way leaving a gap between both legs (fig. 52).



fig. 51



fig. 52



fig. 53



fig. 54

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

Now the body is ready to stuff (fig. 53). 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 (fig. 54). Tie off the ends but don't trim as you'll use them to help attach the head. Now for the arms.

A r m s (make 2 the same):

Starting at the top of arm and finishing at the paw, use **Yarn A** and 3mm needles to cable cast on 10 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches 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

Arms (continued):

Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of 8 inches. Sew this through the remaining 10 stitches and pull up tightly (*fig. 55*). 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. 56*).



fig. 55



fig. 56



fig. 58



fig. 57

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. 57*). 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 the loops at the open neck edge of the body then through a whole stitch of the head (*fig. 58*), 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 koala is ready for some clothes and instructions for two different dresses are on the next three pages.



Ribbons dress:



This is a dress with a simple stranded pattern worked in a two colours. You will need 4ply weight cotton yarn in two contrasting colours **Yarn C** & Yarn D (here I've used Krea Deluxe Organic cotton in 06 for **Yarn C** and 02 for Yarn D), and also a pair of 2.75mm (US 2) needles and a small button.

Starting at the bottom of the skirt use 2.75mm (US 2) needles and **Yarn C** to cable cast on 72 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for seaming with later.

- row 1:** (right side) Knit
row 2: Knit
row 3: Begin working the first row from the pattern chart, reading from right to left
(If you prefer written instructions you will find them below)
row 4: Work the second row of pattern chart, reading from left to right
rows 5-16: Continue working alternate right and wrong side rows following the pattern chart below.

rows 17-26: Beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl, work 10 rows of stocking stitch in **Yarn C** only

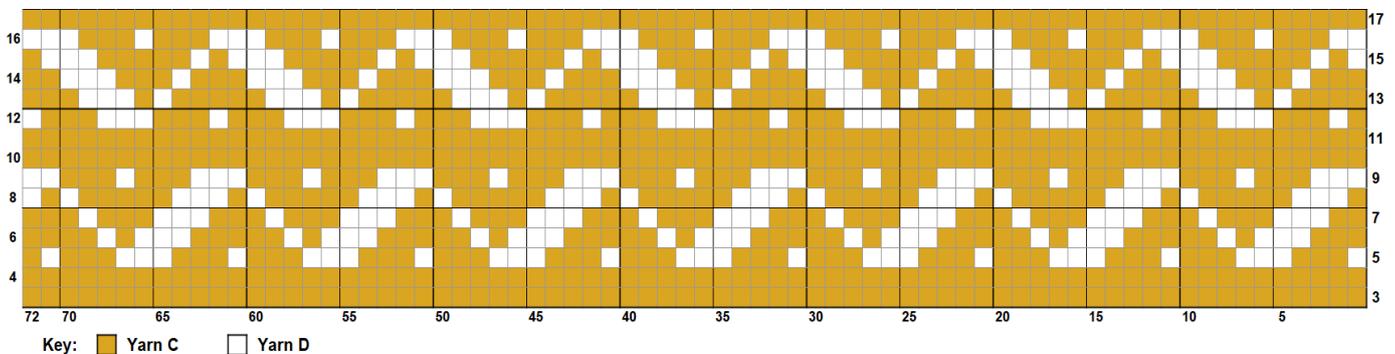
If you would like a contrasting waistband then work **rows 27 & 28** in Yarn D, otherwise continue in **Yarn C** only.

row 27: (K2tog) 36 times (36 stitches)

row 28: Purl

Continue using the bodice instructions on Page 15.

In order to create the armholes, this is worked in three separate parts *(see images above)*



Written instructions for the chart:

- row 3:** Knit in **Yarn C** only
row 4: Purl in **Yarn C** only
row 5: (K1, **K3**, K3, **K3**) 7 times, K1, **K1**
row 6: **P4**, (P1, **P1**, P3, **P5**) 6 times, P1, **P1**, P3, **P3**
row 7: **K2**, (K3, **K3**, K1, **K3**) 7 times
row 8: P1, (**P1**, P1, **P5**, P3) 7 times, **P1**
row 9: (K3, **K3**, K1, **K3**) 7 times, K2
row 10: Purl in **Yarn C** only

row 11: Knit in **Yarn C** only

row 12: (P1, **P3**, P3, **P3**) 7 times, P1, **P1**

row 13: **K4**, (K1, **K1**, K3, **K5**) 6 times, K1, **K1**, K3, **K3**

row 14: **P2**, (P3, **P3**, P1, **P3**) 7 times

row 15: K1, (**K1**, K1, **K5**, K3) 7 times, **K1**

row 16: (P3, **P3**, P1, **P3**) 7 times, P2

Then continue using the instructions for **rows 17-28** above.

Lace panel dress:



This is a textured dress which is worked in a single colour, with a simple little lace detailing worked between panels of stocking stitch. You will need 4ply weight yarn, here I've used Krea Deluxe Organic cotton in shade 06, a pair of 2.75mm (US 2) needles and a small button.

Please note: This skirt is 2 rows longer than the skirt knitted in two colours (on Page 13) simply because the textured pattern here draws the work in slightly. They will both end up at the same length, approx 7.5cm (3 inches) for the skirt, 10.5cm (just over 4 inches) total length of dresses from the neck to the hem.

Don't be alarmed that the stitch count varies between rows 5-7, this is part of the pattern.

Special Abbreviations:

YF: YARN FORWARD. Bring the yarn to the front of the work so creating a loop over the needle when you Knit the next stitch. This creates an eyelet in the work.

SL1P: SLIP 1 STITCH PURLWISE: move a stitch from the left to the right-hand needle without working it

PSSO: PASS SLIPPED STITCH OVER: Pass the slipped stitch over the stitch worked after it

Written instructions for the lace panel dress:

Starting at the bottom of the skirt use 2.75mm (US 2) needles to cable cast on 71 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for seaming with later.

row 1: (right side) Knit

row 2: Knit

row 3: Knit

row 4: Purl

row 5: K4, (YF, K3, YF, K7) 6 times, YF, K3, YF, K4
(85 stitches)

row 6: Purl

row 7: K5, (SL1P, K2tog, PSSO, K9) 6 times, SL1P, K2tog, PSSO, K5 (71 stitches)

row 8: Purl

rows 9- 28: Repeat rows 5-8 five more times

row 29: (K2tog) 17 times, K1, (K2tog) 18 times
(36 stitches)

Continue using the bodice instructions on Page 15.

In order to create the armholes, this is worked in three separate parts (see images above)

Dress Bodice (same for both dresses)

Continuing directly on from the instructions for each skirt.

First side of the back:

row 1: 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 2: Purl

row 3: K7, K2tog, K1 (9 stitches)

rows 4 -9: Beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit row, work 6 rows in stocking stitch.

Cut work from the ball (leaving a tail of around 8 inches for sewing up later) and leave these 9 stitches on right hand needle.

Front:

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

row 2 (b): Purl

row 3 (b): K1, SSK, K10, K2tog, K1 (14 stitches)

rows 4 -9 (b): Beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit row, work 6 rows in stocking stitch. Cut work from the ball (leaving a tail of around 8 inches for sewing up later) and leave these 14 stitches on right hand needle.

Second side of the back:

row 1 (c): Rejoin the yarn 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 2 (c): Purl

row 3 (c): K1, SSK, K7 (9 stitches)

rows 4 -9 (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 10: P8, P2tog, P12, P2tog, P8 (30 stitches)

row 11: Cast off in Knit

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

Before I sew up the back seam I like to block the dress to make it neat. I usually do this by carefully steam blocking but if you prefer wet blocking that is fine too. After blocking thread a tapestry needle with the cast-on tail and join the seam up the middle of the back using mattress stitch. Finish the seam at the waist (**row 27** for the colour-work ribbons dress and **row 29** for the Lace Panel dress) and tie the ends together before weaving them in along the inside seam and trimming excess.

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

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