Ladybird

FINISHED SIZE Approx. 7.5cm/ 3in long

YARN A Small amount 4-ply/ fingering weight yarn in ORANGE

YARN B Small amount 4-ply/ fingering weight yarn in BLACK

YARN C Small amount 4-ply/ fingering weight yarn in WHITE

YARN D Small amount fuzzy yarn for the legs (*optional, or use yarn B*)

I used; **A** - *Drops Alpaca 2925 Rust-Mix;* **B** - *Drops Alpaca 0506 Dark-Grey Mix;*
C - *Drops Alpaca 1101 White;* **D** - *Drops Brushed Alpaca Silk 6 Black*

KNITTING NEEDLES Pair size 2mm/ US 2 straight knitting needles

TENSION 12.5 rows and 11 stitches over 2.5cm with 2mm needles and 4-ply yarn

EXTRAS Pair 4mm black toy safety eyes with washers, *or* 4mm glue in eyes or
4mm half-round sew-on button eyes; toy filling (*for small items you'll only need a
tiny bit of regular toy filling or just use scrap yarn*); 6 x locking type stitch markers
(*see colour guide on Page 2*); scrap yarn or small safety pin for holding stitches when
not in use; Scissors and yarn-sewing needle

PLUS: If you want to add wire into the limbs and body, you'll need two x 26cm/
10in long x 22 gauge ones

And an optional pebble - about 4cm/ 1.5in x 3.25cm/ 1.25in (*see Page 9*)

This is the website for the eyes I bought washer-backed ones *Cello-Express*

This is the website for the wires *HeidifeathersOnEtsy*

COLOURED MARKER GUIDE:

This guide is here to pull out and use together with the pattern should to wish to use similar coloured guides to mine for ease of following, especially at the making-up stage:

YELLOW WING

PINK MARKS CENTRE OF WING CAST-OFF EDGE

BLUE NECK

PATTERN NOTES & TIPS:

. I cast on with Cable Cast On Method but you can use your regular cast-on method if desired

. I sew all my seams with a single strand of mohair

. **WIRE:** I found the best wires to create an armature with are paper-wrapped (easier to handle) ones - the best gauge for this project being 22 (0.6mm)

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

W+Tk bring working yarn to the front of the work, slip next stitch purl-wise onto the RH needle, take working yarn to the back, slip the slipped stitch back onto the LH needle, turn the knitting = W+Tk (wrap and turn knit)

W+Tp take working yarn to the back of the work, slip next stitch knit-wise onto the RH needle, bring working yarn to the front, slip the slipped stitch back onto the LH needle, turn the knitting = W+Tp (wrap and turn purl)

GENERAL ABBREVIATIONS:

K = knit

P = purl

inc = increase

dec = decrease

K2tog/ K3tog = knit two together/ knit three together

P2tog/ P3tog = purl two together/ purl three together

RH/LH = right hand/ left hand **RS/WS** = right side/ wrong side

st/ sts =stitch/ stitches

Skpo = slip one stitch, knit next stitch, pass slipped stitch over knit stitch to decrease by one stitch

Kfb = Knit into front then into back of stitch to increase by one stitch

Pfb = Purl into front then knit into back of stitch to increase by one stitch

p-wise = purl-wise

WINGS

Starting at the head end of the wings with yarn **A** (red) cast on 10 sts

Add Dot #1

You'll now start to work yarn **B** (black) with yarn **A** to create the dots, so, cut a length of yarn B (about 1m/ 40in long), hold yarn B at the back of the work, stranding it across the back of the work until needed as follows:

Row 1. inc) In yarn **A** k1, kfb, k2; yarn **B** k2; yarn **B** k2; **A** k2, kfb, k1 - 12sts

Row 2. inc) In yarn **A** pfb, p3; yarn **B** p4; **A** p3, pfb - 14sts

Row 3. inc) In yarn **A** k1, kfb, k3; yarn **B** k4; **A** k3, kfb, k1 - 16sts

Row 4. inc) In yarn **A** pfb, p6; yarn **B** p2; **A** p6, pfb - 18sts

Continue with yarn **A** only as follows:

Row 5. inc) K1, kfb, knit to last 2 sts, kfb, k1 - 20sts

Row 6. inc) Pfb, purl to last st, pfb - 22sts

Rows 7-8. inc) Repeat last 2 rows once - 26sts

PM (place marker) at each end of last row (*purl row*) for left and right **Wing Markers**

Work short rows to shape Wings

Short Row 1 K25, W+Tk

Short Row 2 P24, W+Tp

Add Dots #2 & #3

Short Row 3 In yarn **A** k7; yarn **B** k2; **A** k6; **B** k2; **A** k6, W+Tk

Short Row 4 In yarn **A** p5; yarn **B** p4; **A** p4; **B** p4; **A** p5, W+Tp

Short Row 5 In yarn **A** k5; yarn **B** k4; **A** k4; **B** k4; **A** k4, W+Tk

Short Row 6 In yarn **A** p5; yarn **B** p2; **A** p6; **B** p2; **A** p5, W+Tp

Short Row 7 In yarn **A** K19, W+Tk

Short Row 8 In yarn **A** P18, W+Tp

Short Row 9 In yarn **A** K17, W+Tk

Short Row 10 In yarn **A** P16, W+Tp

Short Row 11 In yarn **A** K15, W+Tk

Short Row 12 P14, W+Tp

Short Row 13 In yarn **A** k3; yarn **B** k2; **A** k4; **B** k2; **A** k4; **B** k2; **A** k2, W+Tk

Short Row 14 In yarn **A** p1; yarn **B** p4; **A** p2; **B** p4; **A** p1, W+Tp

Short Row 15 In yarn **A** k1; yarn **B** k4; **A** k2; **B** k4; **A** W+Tk

Short Row 16 In yarn **A** p1; yarn **B** p2; **A** p4; **B** p2; **A** p1, W+Tp

Short Row 17 In yarn **A** K9, W+Tk

Short Row 18 In yarn **A** P8, W+Tp

Short Row 19 In yarn **A** dec) K2, skpo, k2tog, k11 to end of row - 24sts

Continue with yarn **A** only as follows:

Row 9. Purl

Row 10. dec) K10, skpo, k2tog, k10 to end of row - 22sts

Row 11. Purl

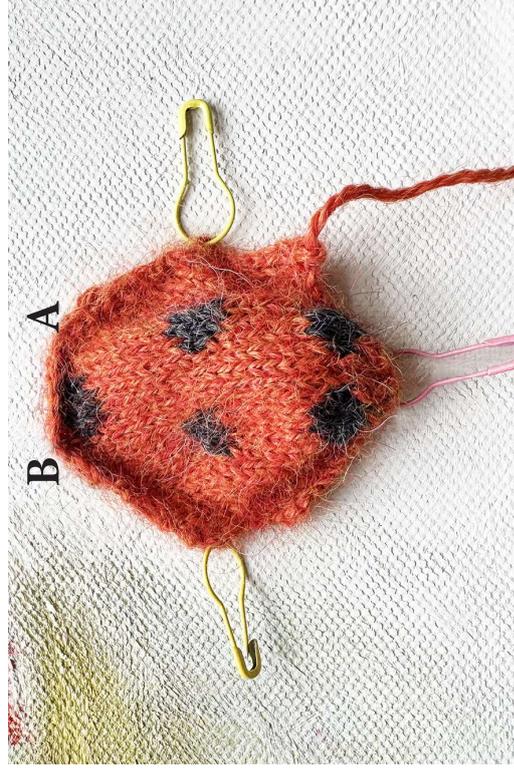**Row 12.** dec) K9, skpo, k2tog, k9 to end of row - 20sts

Row 13. Purl

Cast off all 20 Wings sts, find centre of this edge and **PM**

Head

Ref. Fig. 1, pick up and knit from A to B & Fig. 2

RS, ladybird's Back facing you, with yarn **B** pick up and knit 7 sts, evenly into knitted stitches along the Neck Cast-On Edge

FIG. 1

FIG. 2, *showing stitches picked up and knitted across the cast-on edge*

Row 1. Purl all 7 Head sts

Row 2. inc) K1, kfb, k3, kfb, k1 to end - 9sts

Row 3. inc) Pfb, purl to last st, pfb - 11sts

Join yarn **C** (white) with yarn **B** to create the markings as the sides of the Head, cut a length of yarn C (about 50cm/ 20in long), hold yarn C at the back of the work, stranding it across the back of the work until needed as follows:

Row 4. In yarn **C** k3; yarn **B** k5; **C** k3 to end of row

Row 5. In yarn **C** p3; yarn **B** p5; **C** p3 to end of row

Row 6. dec) In yarn **C** k3; yarn **B** skpo, k1, k2tog; **C** k3 to end of row - 9sts

Cut yarn C, continue with yarn **B** only as follows:

Row 7. Purl across all 9 sts

Row 8. dec) K3, k3tog, k3 to end of row - 7sts

Work short rows to shape Front of Head

Short Row 1 P6, W+Tp

Short Row 2 K5, W+Tk

Short Row 3 P4, W+Tp

Short Row 4 K3, W+Tk

Short Row 5 P2, W+Tp

Short Row 6 K1, W+Tk

Short Row 7 P4 to end of row

Row 9. Knit across all 7 sts

Row 10. dec) P2, p3tog, p2 - 5sts

Row 11. inc) Kfb twice, k1, kfb twice - 9sts

Row 12. inc) P3, pfb, p1, pfb, p3 to end - 11sts

Row 13. inc) Kfb, knit to last st, kfb - 13sts

PM at each end of last row for left and right **Neck Markers**

Row 14. inc) Cast on 4 sts for Right Abdomen Front, purl across all 17 sts

Row 15. inc) Cast on 4 sts for Left Abdomen Front, knit across all 21 sts

Rows 16-18. Starting on a purl row work three rows stocking stitch

Row 19. dec) K2tog, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog - 19sts

Row 20. Purl

Rows 21-32. dec) Repeat last 2 rows six times - 7sts

Row 33. dec) K2tog, k3tog, k2tog - 3sts

Row 34. dec) P3tog, fasten off for Tail Point

Join Tail Tip to Centre of Wing Cast-Off Edge

Ref. Fig. 3

1. Tuck all your yarn endings inside the body.

2. With WS together match Centre-Point Marker from Wings Cast-Off Edge (A) with

Tail Point (B) , work a stitch or two to hold in place.

Remove Centre-Point Marker

Join Head Side Seams

Ref. Fig. 4, dotted line showing where to join for Left-Side of Head

With WS, working on one side at a time, match Neck Marker with where you joined

the black yarn for the head and mattress stitch from this point to the fold at the Head

Front. Remove Neck Markers

FIG. 3

LEFT
NECK
MARKER

FIG. 4

Insert the Eyes

Ref. Fig. 5

Push the eyes in place and either glue in place, sew in place or fasten the washers

onto the eye backs.

The Head is barely stuffed except for a little of the yarn endings.

Join Abdomen to Wings Seams

Ref. Figs. 6 & 7

1. Insert the small pebble (*if using*).

At this stage you can stuff the body continue joining the remaining seams OR, if you want to add wire legs, see Page 11 before joining the following Abdomen to Wings Seams:

2. With WS together, working on one side at a time, match the Wing Marker (Fig. 7, A) to corner of Abdomen Front Cast-On Edge (Fig. 7, B) and work mattress stitch to join the Wing Row Ends to the Abdomen Front Cast-On Edge.

3. Then join the remaining Wing to Abdomen Seams along each side from the markers to the tail point/ centre of wing cast-off edge at the holding stitches.
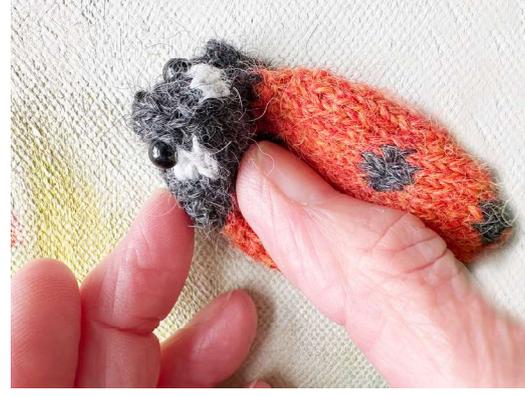

FIG. 5

FIG. 6

Wire Legs

Ref. Figs. 8, 9 & 10

1. Cut each wire in half to give you 4 x 18cm/7in (approx) wires

2. Find the centre of each of three wires (you won't need the fourth) and take care as you bend both cut edges in towards the centre to give you 3 x 9cm/ 3.5in (approx) bent wires

3. Working on one wire at a time, bind yarn D (*or B*) around the entire wire passing the yarn through the loops created at the bent ends to cover the wire before threading the needle and yarn through the wrapped yarn to secure it

4. Insert the first pair of legs (just one wire become two legs) just behind the head seam and under the pebble (*if using*), pulling the legs out either side of the body so that both legs are even in length.

5. Secure the legs in place by joining a little of the seam behind the wire legs (leaving space for the next pair of legs), as you do so catching in a little of the yarn that wraps the legs to fully secure

6. Insert the second pair of legs under the pebble as before and more near the top of the abdomen, in front of the wing makers, pulling the legs out either side of the body so that both legs are even in length.

7. Secure the legs in place by joining the seam in front of and behind the wire legs, as you do so catching in a little of the yarn that wraps the legs to fully secure

8. The third and final pair of legs sits a little behind the second pair, about 1cm/ 1/4in away - once in place secure the legs as before then complete the remainder of the abdomen to wings seam.

FIG. 7, *dashed line shows Head Side seam*

FIG. 8

FACE FINISHING TOUCHES

Ref. Fig. 11

Antennae

With a short length black sewing thread secure the thread either side near the front of the head so that two ends emerge, knot these two ends and trim just behind the knots.

Wings Separation

To give the impression of the wings being separate as they are with a real ladybird, with a short length natural or beige sewing thread secure the thread at the tail end and bring the other end over the wings so that the dots are parallel to each other either side of the 'two' wings pull the thread to create a slight dip in the body secure the second end near the top edge of the wings
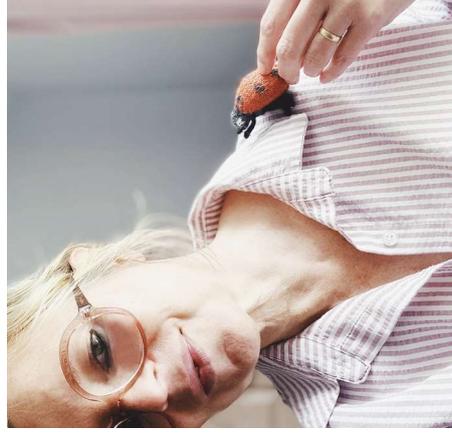

FIG. 11

FIG. 9

FIG. 10

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Remember to get in touch if you need a little extra advice

And of course, there is more, much more, to learn, create and be

inspired by here **@dotpebbles_knits**

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