

## *Little Cotton Rabbits girl monkey in a spotted dress*



*This monkey is made from Malabrigo Rios yarn in 624 Coco (Yarn A) and  
King Cole Cottonsoft DK yarn in 742 oyster (Yarn B)  
Her dress, knickers and shoes are made from Rowan wool cotton 4ply yarn in  
493 rich (Yarn C) and 480 antique (Yarn D)*

*More knitting patterns are available at  
[www.littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk](http://www.littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk)*

## Materials:

- Worsted/light Aran/DK yarn (approx 67m/73 yds):  
Yarn A
- Worsted/light Aran/DK yarn (approx 6.5m/7yds):  
Yarn B
- 4ply weight yarn in 2 contrasting colours for the clothing: Yarn C, Yarn D
- Scraps of black and brown yarn, DK or 4ply for the eyes and facial features
- Toy stuffing
- A tiny button

## Finished size:

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

## Notions:

- Knitting needles: A pair each of 3mm, 2.75mm, 2.5mm
- Tapestry needle

## Gauge:



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

Gauge for dress: 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, standard knitting terms, Fair Isle colour-work and reading colour-work charts. Apart from a couple of 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 animal 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 and use stuffing 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 with the look (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 monkey that you make.

## Abbreviations:

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

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

**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 M1A below.

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

**M1T, MAKE 1 TOWARDS:** Make a loop with the working yarn so the tail is pointing forwards/towards you. For neatness this made stitch needs to be purled into the back loop on the following row.

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

<http://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

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

## Yarn suggestions:

I've always enjoyed experimenting when I knit my animals so I've used many different yarns over the years. I made my first monkey in 2006 and you can see some of the different ones I've made since on [flickr](#). Here are some of my current favourite yarns that I use with this pattern:



Louisa Harding Akiko in 003 'twig'

Spud and Chloe Sweater in 7503 'rootbeer'

Debbie Bliss Bluefaced Leicester DK in 04 'chestnut' and Angel in 024 'chocolate'

Cascade 220 Heathers in 2431 'chocolate'

*Tip:* Before you start get to know your yarn. If it breaks easily you will need to consider using a different yarn to sew up with as some seams (especially the tail) need to be gathered in tightly and so need a strong yarn.

*Alternative Yarn suggestions for muzzle and ears (Yarn B):*

Rowan Wool Cotton DK in 999 String, Cascade Ultra Pima in Buff 3719, Rowan Cotton Glace in Oyster, Sirdar cotton DK in 503 Seersucker, Phildar Phil Thalassa in 157 Beige.

*Alternative Yarn suggestions for clothes:*

Most of the clothes I make for my animals are in Rowan 4ply cotton which unfortunately is now discontinued. If you can track some down I'd recommend it (it often crops up on Ebay or Ravelry) but failing that Rowan Wool Cotton 4ply or Patons 4ply cotton both knit up nicely and have a good range of colours. Other suggestions for clothing yarn include Phildar Phil Coton 3, Drops Safran and DMC Natura Just Cotton.

## 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 monkey 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.

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: www.littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk](#)

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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## The pattern instructions:

### Head:

Before you start cut a separate 1.5m (1.6 yds) length of **Yarn A** to join in on **row 5** for the intarsia section.

*A note about intarsia technique:* It is important that you intertwine the strands of contrasting colours as you switch between them, here is a helpful video: <http://www.knittinghelp.com/video/play/intarsia-color-knitting>

Starting at the front of the head and finishing at the back, use **Yarn A** and 3mm needles to cast on 11 stitches, leaving a tail of 6 inches for seaming with later

- row 1: (wrong side) Purl
- row 2: K2, (M1A, K1) 8 times, K1 (19 stitches)
- row 3: Purl
- row 4: K2, (M1A, K1) 16 times, K1 (35 stitches)
- row 5: P11, join in **Yarn B** and P13, join in the extra length of **Yarn A** and P11
- row 6: K7, P4, K13 in **Yarn B**, P4, K7 (these two sets of 4 purled stitches will act as markers for sewing the muzzle on to the head later)
- row 7: P12, P11 in **Yarn B**, P12
- row 8: K13, K9 in **Yarn B**, K13
- row 9: P14, P7 in **Yarn B**, P14
- row 10: K15, K5 in **Yarn B**, K15

Cut **Yarn B** from the work and continue using **Yarn A** from the main ball for the rest of the head

rows 11–15: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 5 rows of stocking stitch (alternate Knit and Purl rows)

row 16: K10, P1, K13, P1, K10 (the two Purl stitches mark the joining points for the ears)

rows 17–23: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 7 rows of stocking stitch

row 24: K2, (K2tog) 16 times, K1 (19 stitches)

row 25: Purl

row 26: K1, (K2tog) 8 times, K2 (11 stitches)

row 27: Purl

Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 5 inches and use the tapestry needle to thread this tail through the remaining 11 stitches (*fig. 1*).

Pull up tightly and over-sew once to keep the seam from opening out again. Continue using this thread to close around an inch of the back head seam using mattress stitch. Now thread the tapestry needle with your cast-on tail and use it to begin closing the seam at the front of the head using mattress stitch and leaving a gap through which to stuff the head (*fig. 2*).

Finally with the right side of work facing you pick up the loops from the cast on edge. (I've used red thread to illustrate, *fig. 3*). Pull this tightly to gather in the seam and tie the ends together tightly inside the head to prevent it loosening again. Now it's time to stuff the main part of the head.



fig. 1



fig. 2



fig. 3



fig. 4

I start with a tight ball of stuffing which I poke into the back of the head, packing it in firmly then stuff the front end of the head in the same way, pinching and manipulating the stuffing until it takes on the rounded shape that I want. I pack in a lot of stuffing but I tend to add little bits at a time, moulding as I go and the finished head is quite firm and solid and looks like a little brown ball (*fig. 4*). Now it's time to make the muzzle.

## Muzzle:

I like to use a cotton based yarn for the muzzle and ears because it seems more skin-like and I prefer a beige colour rather than pink. Starting at one side of the muzzle and finishing at the other, use **Yarn B** and 2.75mm needles to cast on 7 stitches, leaving a tail of 7 inches for sewing the muzzle on with later.

**row 1:** (wrong side) Purl  
**row 2:** K2, M1A, K3, M1T, K2 (9 stitches)  
**row 3:** P2, Purl into back of next stitch, P6  
**row 4:** K2, M1A, K5, M1T, K2 (11 stitches)  
**row 5:** P2, Purl into back of next stitch, P8  
**row 6:** K2, M1A, K7, M1T, K2 (13 stitches)  
**row 7:** P2, Purl into back of next stitch, P10  
**row 8:** Knit

**rows 9-13:** Starting and ending with Purl rows, work 5 rows in stocking stitch  
**row 14:** K1, SSK, K7, K2tog, K1 (11 stitches)  
**row 15:** Purl  
**row 16:** K1, SSK, K5, K2tog, K1 (9 stitches)  
**row 17:** Purl  
**row 18:** K1, SSK, K3, K2tog, K1 (7 stitches)  
**row 19:** Purl

Cut the work from the ball leaving an 8 inch tail for attaching the muzzle to the head and thread this end through the 7 remaining stitches on the needle (*fig. 5*). Pull up tightly and over-sew once to keep the seam from opening out again. Thread the needle with the cast on tail and use this to sew through the loops from the cast on edge, pull tightly to gather in the seam then over-sew once to secure. You now have the finished lozenge-shaped muzzle (*fig. 6*) ready to be attached to the head.



*fig. 5*



*fig. 6*



*fig. 7*

To attach the muzzle begin with the front of the head facing you. Thread a needle with one of the ends from the muzzle and use this to sew through the top purl bump of the far right-hand side marker stitch (*fig. 7*). Join the muzzle by sewing alternately through a 'bar' between the first 2 stitches on the side of the muzzle and a marker stitch on the head. Continue joining the muzzle across the **Yarn B** section, sewing behind a full stitch on the head (*fig. 8*) and through a 'bar' from the muzzle (*fig. 9*). Finish attaching the upper muzzle edge using the top purl bumps from the left-hand marker stitches and then give the yarn a tug to slightly tighten the top edge of the muzzle. Keep using this thread to attach the bottom edge of the muzzle, following the curve of the head and sewing alternately through half a stitch from the head (*fig. 10*) and a 'bar' between the first 2 stitches on the side of the muzzle. Stop around 1cm/½ inch from the seam running underneath the head.



*fig. 8*



*fig. 9*



*fig. 10*



fig. 11

fig. 12

fig. 13

fig. 14

Re-thread the needle with the second tail-end from the left side of the muzzle and sew this directly through the stuffed head and out at the far right-hand side of the muzzle. Use this thread to join the bottom right-hand side of the muzzle, leaving a gap through which to stuff (*fig. 11*). Now the muzzle is ready to be stuffed (*fig. 12*).

Stuff the muzzle so that it stands out from the head (*figs. 13 & 14*) and is fairly firm without stretching the stitches. Then finish closing the seam underneath the muzzle. Tie the two ends together securely and thread both ends through the head and out of the open seam at the bottom. Trim the excess and poke the rest inside the head cavity. Now make the ears.

### *E a r s: (make two the same)*

Starting at the edge that will be joined to the head and finishing with the outside edge. Use **Yarn B** and 3mm needles to cast on 6 stitches leaving a tail of 8 inches for sewing on with later. Note: Leaving the outermost 2 stitches un-worked on some of the rows gives the finished ear its curved shape.

- row 1:** K5, leave the remaining stitch un-worked on the needle and turn the work ready to begin the next row
- row 2:** Ignore the un-worked stitch, slip 1 stitch, P3, turn leaving remaining stitch un-worked again
- row 3:** Ignore the un-worked stitch, slip 1 stitch, K4
- row 4:** Cast off in Purl

Cut the work from the ball leaving a 6 inch tail for attaching the ear to the head. Make a second ear the same (*fig. 15*).

Now attach the ears. With the smooth side of the ear facing you, thread the tapestry needle with the end from the top corner of the ear. Position the ear by putting the first attaching stitch through your purled marker stitch from row 16 on the head (*fig. 16*). Join the ear (in a straight line down the side of the head) by sewing alternately through a full stitch from the ear cast-on edge (*fig. 17*) and then through half a stitch on the head (*fig. 18*). You will have fully joined the ear when you arrive at the tail-end from the bottom corner of the ear.



fig. 15

fig. 16

fig. 17

fig. 18

In order to bed the ear into place tighten the thread you have used to attach the ear, then tie the two ends together and thread them both through the head and out of the open seam at the bottom (*fig. 19*). Press your finger into the ear so that the inner part is pushed backwards giving a curved shape to the finished ear (*fig. 20*).

Repeat with the second ear, making sure they are in alignment (*fig. 21*). Tie the 4 ends from the ears together securely, trim and poke inside the head cavity.



fig. 19



fig. 20



fig. 21

### *To embroider the face:*

For the mouth, thread the needle with a length of brown yarn and sew up through the bottom seam of the head to the top left corner of the mouth. Now you need to decide whether you want a small smile (*fig. 22*) or a large one (*fig. 23*). Here I've made the top points of the smile 10 stitches apart, the depth of the smile is 2 rows and the bottom of the smile spans 4 stitches. Once you've decided, make a note of where the bottom curve lies on the muzzle (or if you prefer mark it with pins) then sew the thread back through the head at the top right-hand corner of the mouth and out at the bottom left corner (*fig. 24*) making a loose loop of yarn across the muzzle.



fig. 22



fig. 23



fig. 24

Catch up this loose loop by making a small loop around it with the working yarn and then sew back through the muzzle and out at the bottom right-hand corner of the mouth (*fig. 25*). Create a little loop around the loose loop there too (*fig. 26*) then thread the needle back through the open underside seam. These two small loops at the bottom corners of the mouth anchor the larger loose loop into a curved smile shape, simply adjust the tightness of the loops to create a smile (*fig. 27*). Tie the 2 mouth thread ends together underneath the head.



fig. 25



fig. 26



fig. 27

## *Anchored French Knot:*

I use this for both the eyes, the nose and the shoe 'buttons'. 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 like this:



*fig. 28 (nose)*

*fig. 29 (nose)*

*fig. 30 (nose)*

*fig. 31 (nose)*

For the nose thread a tapestry needle with an 8 inch length of **Yarn B** and push it up through the open bottom seam of the head and out at the centre of the top of the muzzle where you want the nose to be.

\*Push the needle back through the same point and out again one stitch away from the original point, leaving a little loop (*fig. 28*). Push the tip of the needle through this loop and wrap the thread around the needle tip five or six times depending on thickness of yarn (*fig. 29*). Hold the wrapped thread in place between your finger and thumb and pull the needle all the way through to make a knot. Push the needle back down through the work and back to the start point underneath the head (*fig. 30*).

If you gently pull both ends you can now create a little dimple for the knot to sit in (*fig. 31*). Adjust the tightness until you are happy and then tie off both ends securely before threading the ends through the head and trimming and poking inside the head cavity.

I prefer to add the eyes after closing the seam on the underside of the head, so finish joining those seams together now. I aim to get the seams to meet just behind the muzzle and gently tighten the seams to give the head extra shaping before tying both ends together. Don't trim the ends as you'll use them to attach the head to the body later.



*fig. 28 (eyes)*

*fig. 29 (eyes)*

*fig. 30 (eyes)*

*fig. 31 (eyes)*

For the eyes cut an 8 inch length of black embroidery floss or 4ply yarn. Starting underneath the head thread this black yarn through the head to the position that you want for the first eye leaving a tail of around 2 inches behind. I make this start point for the eye 1 stitch above the muzzle and 4 stitches in from the edge of the **Yarn B** face section.

Create an anchored French Knot (in the same way that the nose was made above)\*. Depending on the yarn thickness wrap the yarn 3 or 4 times.

Repeat for the second eye and set the finished head to one side while you make the body.

## Body:

Starting at the neck and finishing at the bottom. Use **Yarn A** and 3mm needles to cast on 16 stitches, leaving a tail of 6 inches for seaming with later

- row 1: (wrong side) Purl
- row 2: K3, (KLL, K2) 6 times, K1 (22 stitches)
- row 3: Purl
- row 4: K3, (KLL, K3) 6 times, K1 (28 stitches)
- row 5: Purl
- row 6: K3, (KLL, K4) 6 times, K1 (34 stitches)
- rows 7-13: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 7 rows in stocking stitch
- row 14: Change to 2.5mm needles and K3, (KLL, K5) 6 times, K1 (40 stitches)
- row 15: Change to **Yarn C** and Purl
- row 16: Purl
- row 17: Purl
- row 18: Join in **Yarn D**, (K3, K1) 9 times, K4
- row 19: Purl
- row 20: Knit
- row 21: P2, (P1, P3) 9 times, P1, P1
- row 22: Knit
- row 23: Purl
- rows 24-29: Repeat rows 18-23
- row 30: (K3, K1) 9 times, K4
- row 31: Purl
- row 32: Knit
- row 33: Cast off in Purl



Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 6 inches and use this thread 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. Now for the legs.

## 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 cast on 14 stitches, leaving a tail of 5 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 5-11: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 7 rows in stocking stitch
- row 12: Change to **Yarn D** and Knit, cut **Yarn C** from the work as it is no longer needed but leave an 8 inch tail to work the running stitch decoration with later.
- row 13: Purl
- row 14: Knit
- 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 (at this point 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.



fig. 32



fig. 33



fig. 34

Now 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 2.5mm afterwards:

**row 1:** With **Yarn A** and 2.5mm 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, see fig. 32*) 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.

**row 2:** (wrong side) Purl

**row 3:** Knit

**row 4-10:** Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 7 rows in stocking stitch

Cut the yarn from the ball and keep these 6 stitches held on the left hand needle. Now you will need to pick up more stitches to form the shaft of the leg (*figs. 33 and fig. 34*).

**row 1:** (right side) Leaving a tail of 7 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. Ignore the first 8 cast-off stitches on the left side and pick up and Knit the last 5 stitches (the last stitch will be at the very edge of the work). Be sure to keep your tension as tight as possible 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 5 inches for sewing the leg to the body with later. Make a second leg in exactly the same way.

## *To finish the legs and body:*

### *Shoe strap (make 2 the same)*

Use **Yarn D** and 2.5mm needles to cast on 12 stitches (leaving a tail of 7 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. 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. 35*). Sew through a couple of times to ensure it's secure and leave the end on the inside of the work. Thread 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 and 1 'bar' between the two outermost stitches of the top of the foot section, working down towards the toe of the shoe (*fig. 36*). 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 it's curved shaped toe. Thread the yarn to the inside of the work and catch up the **Yarn D** loops from the back of the toe of the shoe (*fig. 37*). At this point you need to gently tighten the yarn slightly, gathering in the section that you have just sewn up.



fig. 35

fig. 36

fig. 37

fig. 38

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. 38). When you have fully closed the vent thread the yarn to the inside and gently tighten until both sides of the foot are even.

*Optional running stitch decoration:* Re-thread the needle with the long tail of Yarn C from the top of the shoe and use this to add a running stitch decoration around the top of the shoe, working along the whole length of the second row of Yarn D. I sew through half a stitch at a time to make small loops that are less likely to be caught (fig. 39) but you can do a whole stitch if you want a longer stitch decoration.

Attach the strap to the opposite side of the shoe using the Yarn D end from sewing up the foot. Sew through a few times to secure (fig. 40) and then tie off all of the ends inside the shoe and sew along a seam before trimming excess.



fig. 39

fig. 40

fig. 41

Start to close the back seam of the shoe by threading a tapestry needle with the cast on tail from the shoe and using mattress stitch. 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. 41) I've used black thread here just to illustrate. Tie both ends tightly inside the shoe to fully close the bottom shoe seam.

Now 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. Remember to also tie the thread from the running stitch decoration so that it does not pull out and poke all of the ends inside the shoe.

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. 42). Leave a gap at the top to make stuffing the leg easier.

Stuff the leg lightly and if you want your toy 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.



fig. 42



fig. 43



fig. 44

To make a 'button' on the strap at the outside of each shoe use contrasting coloured yarn (around 5 inches) to make a French Knot (*fig. 43*). Follow the instructions for the anchored french knot on page 8 above but wrap the yarn 6 times.

Now both legs are ready to attach to the body (*fig. 44*).

Because this monkey has bare legs I like to sew them on in a way that makes it appear she is wearing knickers/panties. To do this I sew through the Purl loops on the back of the body cast off edge which leaves the cast off edge of the body intact to look like a nice neat knicker line at the top of the legs.

Thread the tapestry needle with the longer end from the top of the first finished leg and use this to sew it to the body making 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 and sewing the leg in place through the Purl loops from inside the cast off body edge and cast-off leg edge (*fig. 45*).

Work all the way 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. 46*).



fig. 45



fig. 46



fig. 47



fig. 48

Once both legs are attached and secure use a spare length of **Yarn C** to tightly over-sew the short seam between the legs (*fig. 47*) before threading the end back inside and tying off both ends to secure. Now the body is ready to stuff (*fig. 48*).

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. Tie off the ends but don't trim as you'll use them to help attach the head.

Now make the arms.

## Arms: (make 2 the same)

Starting at the top of arm and finishing at the paw. Use **Yarn A** and 3mm needles to cast on 10 stitches, leaving a tail of 6 inches for seaming with later

- row 1:** (wrong side) Purl  
**row 2:** K2, (KLL, K2) 4 times (14 stitches)  
**rows 3-23:** Beginning and ending with Purl rows, work 21 rows in stocking stitch  
**row 24:** K1, SSK, K2, K2tog, SSK, K2, K2tog, K1 (10 stitches)  
**row 25:** Purl

Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 7 inches. Thread this through the remaining 10 stitches and pull up tightly. Over-sew once to keep the seam from opening out. Continue using this thread to close the 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 side 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 the same way then set both arms aside while you make the tail.

## Tail:

The tail is worked as a long, thin rectangle and seamed afterwards. It's important to work the tail seam in mattress stitch as this is what allows you to curl the tail. Before starting please check the tensile strength of your yarn – if you can snap it by hand then please use a length of stronger yarn for seaming with.

Using 3mm needles and **Yarn A** cast on 6 stitches, leaving a tail of 6 inches for attaching the tail with later.

- row 1:** Knit                      **row 2:** Purl

Continue to repeat these two rows, working in stocking stitch until the tail is around 10 cms/4 inches long. Cut the work from the ball leaving an 8 inch tail, thread this end through the 6 stitches on the needle (*fig. 49*) and pull up tightly (note, if you chosen yarn is not strong then use a length of strong yarn instead). Over-sew once to keep the seam from opening out. Continue using this thread to close the seam using mattress stitch (*fig 50*). Once you've seamed around 2 inches pull the yarn very tightly in order to curl the tip of the tail (*fig. 51*).



*fig. 49*



*fig. 50*



*fig. 51*



*fig. 52*

Continue seaming and when you reach the top, adjust the tail length and curl by either pulling on the yarn that you've sewn up with to create more curl or pulling on the tail itself to loosen the curl. When you are happy with the shape (*fig. 52*) tie both ends together and use the longer end to sew the tail on to the monkey's bottom (*fig. 53*). Tie off ends and thread through the body before trimming. Now attach the head.



fig. 53



fig. 54



fig. 55

To attach the head thread the tapestry needle with one of the two threads from underneath the head and use to sew the body and head together. I sew through the loops at the open neck edge of the body then through a whole stitch of the head, (fig. 54) working around in a semi circle until I reach the ends from the top of the body seam running up the back. I tie the end I've been sewing with to the shortest body seam end and poke both inside the body. Then I 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. Thread ends through the body before trimming.

To attach an arm, thread the tapestry needle with the longer end 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. 55). 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 thread through the body before trimming. Repeat for the second arm.

Now your monkey is ready for some clothes and instructions for two dress options are on the next three pages.



## A spotty dress:

You will need 4ply/fingering weight yarn in 2 contrasting colours: **Yarn C**, Yarn D. Starting at the bottom of the skirt use 2.75mm needles and the **Yarn C** to cast on 66 stitches, leaving a tail of 6 inches for seaming with later  
(*Note: Odd numbered rows are the front of the work, even numbered are the back*)

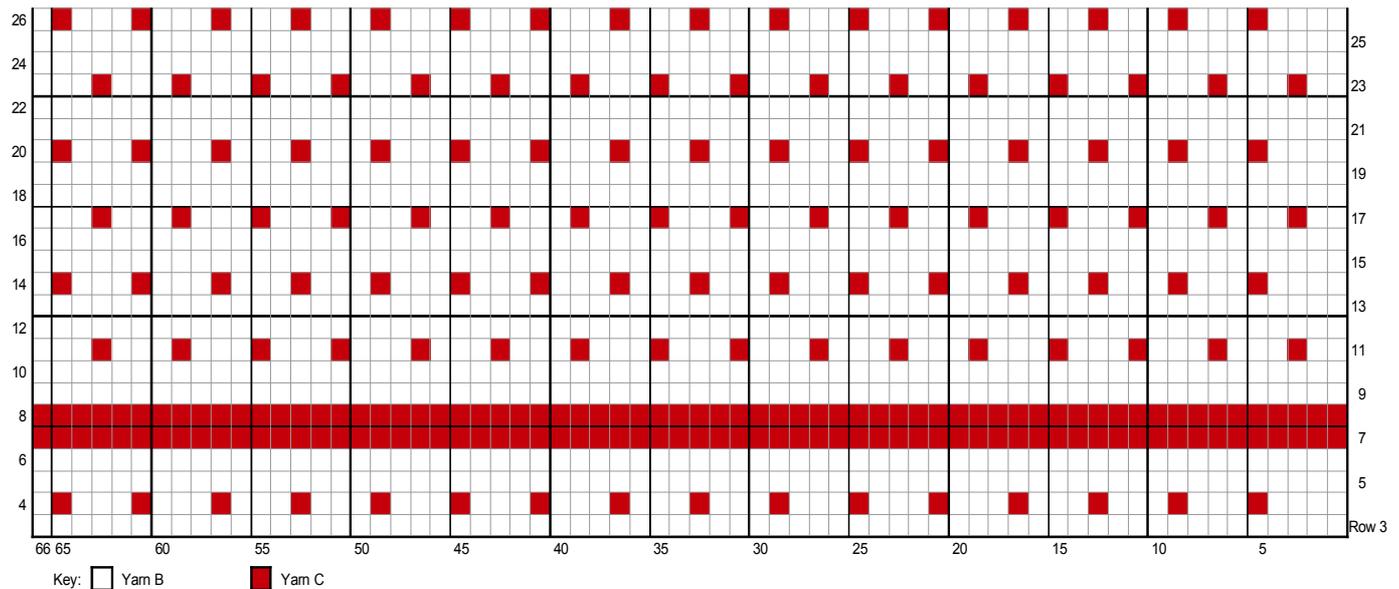
**row 1:** (right side) Knit

**row 2:** Knit

**row 3:** Change to Yarn D but do not cut Yarn C from the work as you'll continue to use it in the design. Begin working the first row from the pattern chart in Knit, reading from right to left *\*(If you prefer written instructions you will find them below)*

**row 4:** Purl the second row of pattern chart, reading from left to right

**rows 5-26:** Continue working alternate Knit and Purl rows following the pattern chart



### Written instructions for the dress pattern:

**row 3:** Knit

**row 4:** P1, (P1, P3) 16 times, P1

**row 5:** Knit

**row 6:** Purl

**row 7:** Knit

**row 8:** Knit (gives a little ridge on the front)

**row 9:** Knit

**row 10:** Purl

**row 11:** K2, (K1, K3) 16 times

**row 12:** Purl

**row 13:** Knit

**row 14:** P1, (P1, P3) 16 times, P1

**row 15-26:** Repeat rows 9-14 twice more

Cut Yarn D from the work (leaving a tail of around 3 inches for sewing in later) as you will not need this colour for the rest of the pattern.

**row 27:** Change to **Yarn C**, K3, (K2tog) 30 times, K3  
(36 stitches)

**row 28:** Purl



fig. 56



fig. 57

In order to create the armholes, the next section is worked in three separate parts (*see figs. 56 & 57*):

1. First side of the back:

**row 29:** 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 30:** Purl

**row 31:** K7, K2tog, K1  
(9 stitches)

**rows 32-37:** Beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit row, work 6 rows of stocking stitch.

Cut work from the ball (leaving a tail of around 3 inches for sewing up later) and leave these 9 stitches on right hand needle.

2. The front:

**row 29 (b):** Rejoin **Yarn C** 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 (to be knitted later). Turn and work on these 16 stitches only for the next 8 rows.

**row 30 (b):** Purl

**row 31 (b):** K1, SSK, K10, K2tog, K1 (14 stitches)

**rows 32-37 (b):** Beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit row, work 6 rows of stocking stitch

Cut work from the ball (leaving a tail of around 3 inches for sewing up later) and leave these 14 stitches on right hand needle.

3. Second side of the back:

**row 29 (c):** Rejoin **Yarn C** 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 30 (c):** Purl

**row 31 (c):** K1, SSK, K7  
(9 stitches)

**rows 32-37 (c):** Beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit row, work 6 rows of 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, following rows 38 & 39 below:

**row 38:** P8, P2tog, P12, P2tog, P8  
(30 stitches)

**row 39:** 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) 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 monkey.

### *Optional bow decoration:*



*fig. 58*



*fig. 59*



*fig. 60*



*fig. 61*

This can be made in the same colour as the dress or in a contrasting colour if you prefer. Using a 2.75mm crochet hook make a chain that is 23cms/9 inches long. Bend this into an 'M' shape (*fig. 58*) and then tie a single knot using the two top loops (*fig. 59*). Adjust the loops until you are happy with the shape (*fig. 60*).

Weave the tail ends along each 'leg' towards the middle (*fig. 61*) and sew through the middle knot a few times to prevent it from opening out again. Use the 2 ends to sew the finished bow in place, knot the ends together inside the dress and trim excess.



*A textured spotty dress:*



Here is a simpler alternative for the dress. It is worked in a single colour and has purl stitch 'dots' for interest. You will need 4ply/fingering weight yarn in **Yarn C**. Starting at the bottom of the skirt use 2.75mm needles to cast on 66 stitches, leaving a tail of 6 inches for seaming with later (*Note: Odd numbered rows are the front of the work, even numbered are the back*)

- row 1: (right side) Knit
- row 2: Knit
- row 3: Knit
- row 4: Purl
- row 5: K1, (P1, K5) 10 times, P1, K4
- row 6: Purl
- row 7: Knit
- row 8: Purl
- row 9: K4, (P1, K5) 10 times, P1, K1
- row 10: Purl
- rows 11-26: Repeat rows 3-10 twice more

- row 27: \*optional change to contrast yarn, K3, (K2tog) 30 times, K3 (36 stitches)
- row 28: Knit (this will give a raised texture to the front)

\*Note: I've worked rows 27 and 28 in contrast yarn for a little extra detail at the waist and I've added a bow made in contrast yarn to the waist. I've also worked row 39 in contrast yarn so that it is in same colour as the little collar that I've added. You can find the free pattern for this collar (in both knit and crochet versions) here:

<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/peter-pan-collar-9>

In order to create the armholes, the next section is worked in three separate parts (*see figs. 44 & 45*). Continue by using instructions on page 16 from **row 29** onwards.

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