

## *Little Cotton Rabbits ballerina wrap cardigan and skirt*



### *Materials:*

- oddments of 4ply/fingering weight yarn
- net fabric for the skirt
- a length of ribbon or elastic for tying the skirt

### *Notions:*

- 2.75 mm (US 2) needles
- Tapestry needle

*Gauge:* 7 stitches x 10 rows to 1 inch

This is a free pattern to make a ballerina cardigan and simple net tutu to fit any of the Little Cotton Rabbit animals. The elephant above has regular shoes, as in all of the girl patterns. The bunny above has the same basic shoe but instead of the strap I made two long crochet chains, but you could use ribbons instead.

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# Ballerina wrap cardigan:

## Abbreviations:

These decrease methods are described in detail on 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

**Please note:** it's important to use a cable cast on, so that the ends for sewing up are in the right place

## Right front

Starting at the bottom edge, make the tie strap first (*this is optional – you may prefer to crochet a chain or attach a ribbon for the tie strap, in which case just cast on 27 stitches and work from row 1\* below*):

To make the strap use 4ply yarn and 2.75mm needles to cast on 50 stitches, leaving a tail for weaving in later

**row 1:** Cast off 49 stitches Knit-wise until there is a single stitch remaining.

Use this single stitch from the end of the tie strap as the start point to cast on 27 stitches, making sure you keep the working yarn tight for the first few stitches. These 27 stitches form the bottom of the right side front.

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

**row 2:** Knit

**row 3:** Knit

**row 4:** Purl

**row 5:** K24, K2tog, K1 (26 stitches)

**row 6:** P1, P2tog, P23 (25 stitches)

**row 7:** K22, K2tog, K1 (24 stitches)

**row 8:** P1, P2tog, P21 (23 stitches)

**row 9:** K20, K2tog, K1 (22 stitches)

**row 10:** P1, P2tog, P19 (21 stitches)

**row 11:** K18, K2tog, K1 (20 stitches)

**row 12:** P1, P2tog, P17 (19 stitches)

**row 13:** K16, K2tog, K1 (18 stitches)

**row 14:** P1, P2tog, P15 (17 stitches)

**row 15:** K14, K2tog, K1 (16 stitches)

**row 16:** P1, P2tog, P13 (15 stitches)

**row 17:** K12, K2tog, K1 (14 stitches)

**row 18:** P1, P2tog, P11 (13 stitches)

**row 19:** K10, K2tog, K1 (12 stitches)

**row 20:** P1, P2tog, P9 (11 stitches)

**row 21:** K8, K2tog, K1 (10 stitches)

**row 22:** P1, P2tog, P7 (9 stitches)

**row 23:** K6, K2tog, K1 (8 stitches)

**row 24:** P1, P2tog, P5 (7 stitches)

**row 25:** K7

Cut the work from the ball (leaving a tail for weaving in later) and leave the remaining 7 stitches on the needle or a stitch holder (*fig. 1*). Put aside while you work the left side of the front.



fig. 1



fig. 2

## Left front

Using 4ply yarn and 2.75mm needles, cast on 77 stitches, leaving a tail of 6 inches for seaming with later. (*this is optional* – you may prefer to crochet a chain or attach a ribbon for the tie strap, in which case just cast on 27 stitches and knit the first row, then continue from **row 2\*** below):

- |                                                                                                        |                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>row 1:</b> (right side) Cast off the first 50 stitches Knit-wise then Knit to row end (27 stitches) |                                                 |
| <b>row 2*:</b> Knit                                                                                    |                                                 |
| <b>row 3:</b> Knit                                                                                     |                                                 |
| <b>row 4:</b> Purl                                                                                     |                                                 |
| <b>row 5:</b> K1, SSK, K24 (26 stitches)                                                               | <b>row 15:</b> K1, SSK, K14 (16 stitches)       |
| <b>row 6:</b> P23, P2tog tbl, P1 (25 stitches)                                                         | <b>row 16:</b> P13, P2tog tbl, P1 (15 stitches) |
| <b>row 7:</b> K1, SSK, K22 (24 stitches)                                                               | <b>row 17:</b> K1, SSK, K12 (14 stitches)       |
| <b>row 8:</b> P21, P2tog tbl, P1 (23 stitches)                                                         | <b>row 18:</b> P11, P2tog tbl, P1 (13 stitches) |
| <b>row 9:</b> K1, SSK, K20 (22 stitches)                                                               | <b>row 19:</b> K1, SSK, K10 (12 stitches)       |
| <b>row 10:</b> P19, P2tog tbl, P1 (21 stitches)                                                        | <b>row 20:</b> P9, P2tog tbl, P1 (11 stitches)  |
| <b>row 11:</b> K1, SSK, K18 (20 stitches)                                                              | <b>row 21:</b> K1, SSK, K8 (10 stitches)        |
| <b>row 12:</b> P17, P2tog tbl, P1 (19 stitches)                                                        | <b>row 22:</b> P7, P2tog tbl, P1 (9 stitches)   |
| <b>row 13:</b> K1, SSK, K16 (18 stitches)                                                              | <b>row 23:</b> K1, SSK, K6 (8 stitches)         |
| <b>row 14:</b> P15, P2tog tbl, P1 (17 stitches)                                                        | <b>row 24:</b> P5, P2tog tbl, P1 (7 stitches)   |
|                                                                                                        | <b>row 25:</b> K7                               |

Do not cut the work from the ball as the back is worked immediately, beginning with the 7 live stitches:

- row 26:** Purl the 7 stitches from the left front, cast on 11 stitches (I use the [backwards loop cast on method](#)), (see fig. 2 above) then Purl the 7 stitches from the right front (25 stitches)
- rows 27 –47:** Beginning and ending with a Knit row, work 21 rows of stocking stitch (alternate Knit and Purl rows) across the 25 stitches.
- row 48:** Knit
- row 49:** Knit
- row 50:** Cast off Purl-wise

Cut the work from the ball, leaving a tail of 6 inches for seaming with later. Now you've finished knitting the main body of the cardigan (fig. 3).



fig. 3



fig. 4

## Sleeves: (Make 2 the same)

Using 4ply yarn and 2.75mm needles, cast on 23 stitches, leaving a tail of 6 inches for seaming with later.

- row 1:** Knit
- row 2:** Knit
- rows 3-16:** Beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl, work 14 rows of stocking stitch (alternate Knit and Purl rows)
- row 17:** Cast off Knit-wise

Cut the work from the ball, leaving a tail of 6 inches for seaming with. Thread a tapestry needle with the cast on tail and use this to join the sleeve side seam using mattress stitch. Tie both ends together at the top of the sleeve. Make a second sleeve (*fig. 4*)

## *Making up:*

I've written the seaming instructions for the left front crossing over the right but if you prefer you can leave the gap for the tie on the right side seam, and have the right front crossing over the left.

Thread a tapestry needle with the cast on tail from the left front and use this to join the left side seam using mattress stitch. \*Leave a small gap in the seam just above the hem ridge for the right hand tie to pass through and only join the seam to halfway up the body, leaving the top half open ready to attach the sleeve. Repeat on the right side using the cast off tail from the back (you don't need to leave a gap on this side for the tie).

Joining the sleeves:

Thread a tapestry needle with the longer tail from the sleeve top and use this to join the sleeve to the body by sewing alternately through one 'bar' on the edge of the body and one of the sleeve cast off stitches. Work all the way around the sleeve top. In order to inset the sleeve evenly, you may need to adjust the placement by occasionally skipping a stitch on the body side. Once you arrive back at the start point tie both ends together, thread inside and weave in before trimming off excess. Repeat with the other sleeve.

Use the cast on tail from the right front to fully attach the tie. Weave in all loose ends and trim excess. Now the ballerina wrap is ready to wear. Dress your animal and poke the right-hand tie through the small hole in the left side seam (see above \*) from the inside to the outside. Cross the left front over the right. The ties should meet at the back where they can be knotted or tied in a bow.

## *Tutu skirt:*

You could cut a rectangle of netting for the skirt and simply gather the top edge, but I find this too bulky, so instead I make a paper template by drawing a 20cm (8 inch) circle. In the centre of this circle draw a smaller circle of 6cm (2 ½ inches) diameter. Cut out the template (*fig. 5*) and make a single cut through the edge.



*fig. 5*



*fig. 6*

Pin the template to the net fabric, either a double or quadruple layer depending on how thick the netting is and cut the fabric out around the edges of the template, so that you have an 'O' shape with a cut in one side.

Sew along the top seam (*marked in red on fig. 5*) leaving a 3mm (1/8<sup>th</sup> inch) selvedge and then turn the skirt in-side-out so that the selvedge edge of this seam is on the inside. Sew a second line of stitches around 1cm (half an inch) from the top edge (*marked in blue on fig. 5*) in order to make a channel for the ribbon or elastic to pass through. Thread the ribbon/elastic through the channel (*fig. 6*), pop the skirt on your animal with the opening at the back and tie the ribbon/elastic at the back to secure it.

You can see what projects that others have made from this pattern over on [Ravelry](#).