

Little Cotton Rabbits boy cat in a plaid sweater



*This cat is made from Malabrigo Rios yarn in 96 Sunset (Yarn A) and in 63 Natural (Yarn B)
His sweater is made from DMC Natura cotton 4ply yarn in 26 Blue Jeans (Yarn D) and 02 Ivory (Yarn E)
and his shorts are in BC Garn Allino yarn in CLOS*

*More knitting patterns are available at
www.littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk*

Materials:

- Worsted/light Aran/DK yarn (approx 75m/82yds):
Yarn A
- Worsted/light Aran/DK yarn (approx 10m/11yds):
Yarn B
- 4ply weight yarns for the sweater: Yarn C, Yarn D
- 4ply/5ply weight yarn in grey for shorts: Yarn E
- Scraps of pink and black 4ply/DK yarn for the eyes and nose
- Toy stuffing
- A tiny button

Notions:

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

Finished size:

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

Gauge:



Gauge for cat: 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, 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 cat 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 M1L, Make 1 Left.

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.

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.

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

CDD: CENTRED DOUBLE DECREASE: Slip 2 stitches together as if to knit them, K1, pass the 2 slipped stitches over (**note:** it is important that they are slipped together and NOT one at a time).

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

Yarn suggestions:

The simplest way to make a tabby-like cat is to use a hand-painted or variegated yarn. Here are some suggestions of yarns to use with this pattern. The first two pictured below use a little white nose patch from the tabby cat pattern on page 20, the second two use two strands of different yarns knitted together for effect:



Plymouth yarns Gina in shade 13



Plymouth Yarn Encore Worsted Colorspun in 7142



A strand of Adriafile Knitcol DK in 57 and a strand of Rowan kidsilk haze in 590



A strand of Rowan Kid Classic in 828 and a strand of Debbie Bliss Angel prints in 01

At the end of this pattern (pages 17–20) there are 4 other options for the cat head. These use intarsia and/or Fair Isle technique so are more complicated to work, which is why I've made them optional.

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 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 cat 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](http://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:

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

- row 1: (wrong side) Purl
- row 2: K2, (M1L, K1) 8 times, K1 (19 stitches)
- row 3: Purl
- row 4: K2, (M1L, K1) 16 times, K1 (35 stitches)
Cut Yarn B from the work as it is no longer needed and join in **Yarn A**
- row 5: K35 (the stitches on this row will mark where to attach the muzzle later)

rows 6–17: Beginning with a Knit row and ending with Purl row, work 12 rows of stocking stitch (alternate Knit & Purl rows)

row 18: K14, P1, K5, P1, K14 (the two Purl stitches are optional but mark the suggested joining points for the ears)

rows 19–25: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 7 rows of stocking stitch

row 26: K2, (K2tog) 16 times, K1 (19 stitches)

row 27: Purl

row 28: K1, (K2tog) 8 times, K2 (11 stitches)

row 29: 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 blue 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 orange ball (*fig. 4*). Now it's time to make the muzzle.

Muzzle:

Starting at one side of the muzzle and finishing at the other, use Yarn B and 3mm needles to cast on 5 stitches, leaving a 6 inch tail for weaving in later.

- row 1: (wrong side) Purl
- row 2: K2, M1A, K1, M1T, K2 (7 stitches)
- row 3: P2, Purl into back of next stitch, P4
- row 4: K2, M1A, K3, M1T, K2 (9 stitches)
- row 5: P2, Purl into back of next stitch, P6

rows 6–13: Starting with a Knit and ending with a Purl row, work 8 rows in stocking stitch

row 14: K1, SSK, K3, K2tog, K1 (7 stitches)

row 15: Purl

row 16: K1, SSK, K1, K2tog, K1 (5 stitches)

row 17: Purl

Cut the work from the ball leaving a 6 inch tail and thread this end through the 5 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).



fig. 5

fig. 6

fig. 7

fig. 8

To attach the muzzle begin with the front of the head facing you (fig. 7). Thread a needle with a new 12 inch length of Yarn B and find the centre stitch by counting between the ear markers and following this down to the line of Yarn B purl bumps. Slide the needle behind this centre stitch, just above the purl bump at the bottom of row 5 (fig. 8). Pull the yarn through so that half the length is on either side of this stitch and use the half with the needle to attach the left hand side of the muzzle, bend the muzzle in half horizontally to find the central stitch (fig. 9). Join the muzzle by sewing alternately behind a full stitch on the head (fig. 10) and through a 'bar' from between the 1st and 2nd edge stitches on the muzzle (fig. 11). Keep using this thread to attach the left hand side of the muzzle and give the yarn a tug as you go to tighten the edge of the muzzle. Sew through only 1 stitch at the gathered corner (fig. 12) and continue joining the lower side of the muzzle, stopping around 1cm/½ inch from the seam running underneath the head.



fig. 9

fig. 10

fig. 11

fig. 12

Re-thread the needle with the second half of the thread and use this to join the right-hand side of the muzzle in exactly the same way. Leave a gap through which to stuff (fig. 13). We want to stuff the muzzle so it has 2 distinct 'cheeks'. Do this by rolling up 2 small balls of stuffing that are the same size (fig. 14) and push one into each side of the muzzle, leaving an un-stuffed gap in between. The stuffed part of the muzzle should stand out from the head and be fairly firm without stretching the stitches.



fig. 13

fig. 14

fig. 15

fig. 16

Once you are happy with the shape 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 under-side seam (*fig. 15*). Trim the excess and poke the rest inside the head cavity. Now the head is ready for us to shape and finish the face (*fig. 16*).

To embroider the face:

Thread the needle with an 8 inch length of **pink yarn** and sew up through the bottom seam of the head and out at the centre top of the muzzle. You want this to be in the vertical centre of the muzzle and 1 ½ stitches down from the top edge of the muzzle – in other words the middle of the 2nd stitch down (*fig. 17*).



fig. 17



fig. 18



fig. 19



fig. 20

Thread the needle back through the head at the centre bottom of the muzzle and out of the same centre top point again (*fig. 18*). Finally sew back into the head at the same centre point of the muzzle bottom and out of the open under-side seam (*fig. 19*). You now have a double thread running down the centre of the muzzle and if you pull on both thread ends you'll gather the muzzle into shape (*fig. 20*). When you are happy with the shape, tie both pink ends together securely underneath the head and poke inside the head cavity. Now for the nose.

Nose:

Starting at the top flat edge of the nose and finishing at the bottom point. Using the **pink yarn** and 2.75mm needles, cast on 5 stitches.

row 1: (wrong side) Purl

row 2: SSK, K1, K2tog (3 stitches)

row 3: Purl

row 4: K1, K2tog, pass first stitch over (1 stitch)

Cut the work from the ball leaving a 6 inch tail and draw this through the last stitch in order to cast off. Now your nose is ready to attach (*fig. 21*), I find this easier to do with the head upside-down. Thread the needle with the nose cast on tail and with the right side of nose facing, sew alternately through 1 'bar' below the top-most stitch on the muzzle (*fig. 22*) and 1 purl bump from the flat cast on edge of the nose (*fig. 23*).



fig. 21



fig. 22



fig. 23

Join the whole length of the nose top edge in this way (*fig. 24*) and then thread the end through the head and out of the under-side head seam.



fig. 24

fig. 25

fig. 26

Now re-thread the needle with the cast off tail and thread this through the top point of the pink line running down the centre of the muzzle (fig. 25) and out of the open under-side seam. Give this end a tug to bed the nose into the face. Because the nose is slightly longer than the gap we've sewn it into it should bend slightly outwards and protrude from the face (fig. 26). Once you are happy with the look of the nose tie both pink thread ends together securely and poke inside the head cavity. Now it's time to make the ears.

E a r s: (make two the same)

Starting at the edge that will be joined to the head and finishing at the top point, these ears are seamed down the back. (To make a single coloured ear simply ignore the colour changes and work all stitches in your chosen colour).

Before you start cut a 1m (1.1 yds) length of Yarn A and the same of Yarn B as the ear is worked using intarsia method. Use 3mm needles to cast on 5 stitches in Yarn A, 5 stitches in Yarn B and 5 stitches in the extra length of Yarn A (15 stitches total). Note: If you are not happy about casting on in different colours then just cast on 15 stitches in Yarn A and join in the other colours on row 1.

row 1: (wrong side) P5, P5, P5	row 4: K2, K2tog, CDD, K2tog, K2 (7 stitches)
row 2: K3, K2tog, SSK, K1, K2tog, SSK, K3 (11 stitches)	row 5: Purl
row 3: P4, P3, P4	

Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 7 inches and use the tapestry needle to thread this tail through the remaining 7 stitches (fig. 27). Cut the Yarn B tail and the extra length of Yarn A and knot them together tightly before trimming to 1cm long (the ends will be hidden inside the finished ear). Then use mattress stitch to seam the back of the ear with the cast off tail (fig. 28). Continue to use this yarn tail to close half of the bottom seam and use the cast on tail to close the other half of the seam (fig. 29) so that you end up with a tail end at each bottom corner of the ear. You can leave all the other ends hanging and thread them through the head once the ear is attached. Make a second ear the same and then attach them one at a time.



fig. 27

fig. 28

fig. 29

fig. 30

With the right side of the ear facing you, thread the needle with the end from the inner corner. Put the first stitch through your purled ear marker stitch on the head (fig. 30). Join the back of the ear by sewing alternately through a full stitch from the ear cast-on edge and then through half a stitch on the head (fig. 31). Join the front of the ear in the same way (fig. 32). Tie off all ends and thread through head before trimming (fig. 33).



fig. 31

fig. 32

fig. 33

fig. 34

Repeat with the second ear, making sure they are in alignment (*fig. 34*). Tie the ends from both ears together securely under the head, trim and poke inside the head cavity.

I prefer to add the eyes after closing the seam on the underside of the head as it allows you to add some extra shaping to the face, so finish joining those seams together now. I aim to get the seams to meet around 1cm behind the muzzle. Gently tighten the seams to give the head some 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.

To make 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 for the first eye leaving a tail of around 2 inches behind (I've been positioning the eyes 7 stitches apart and 2 rows above the muzzle). Create an anchored French Knot for each eye:

Anchored French Knot:

I use this for both the eyes 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:

Thread a tapestry needle with 8 inches of yarn. Bring the needle 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. 35*).



fig. 35

fig. 36

fig. 37

fig. 38

Slide the tip of the needle through this loop. Wrap the thread around the needle tip between three and five times depending on thickness of yarn – here I've wrapped 5 times with 4ply yarn (*fig. 36*). Hold the wrapped thread in place between your finger and thumb and pull the needle all the way through making a loose knot.

Pull on the end under the head to tighten the anchor loop slightly. Push the needle back down through the work (*fig. 37*) and back to the start point underneath the head. Gently pull both ends to tighten the knot and create a little eye socket shaping to the head (*fig. 38*).

Adjust the tightness until you are happy and then tie off both ends securely before threading the ends through the head and trimming. Repeat for the second eye and set the finished head aside 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 7-28: Beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit row work 22 rows in stocking stitch
- row 29: Cast off in Purl

Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 5 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.



Legs: (make 2 the same)

Beginning at the underside of the foot, use **Yarn A** and 3mm needles to cast on 14 stitches, leaving a tail of 7 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)
- row 5-11: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 7 rows in stocking stitch
- row 12: K14, SSK, K2, K2tog, K14 (32 stitches)
- row 13: Purl
- row 14: *Tip: This row is a little complicated because it includes both decreasing and casting off in the centre of 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.*

K7, Knit the next 7 stitches, casting them off as you go (18 stitches still to work), SSK and cast off, K2tog and cast off (14 stitches still to work), Knit the next 8 stitches casting them off as you go, K6 (7 stitches on either side of the cast off section giving a total of 14)

- row 15: Purl across all stitches being careful to keep your tension tight across the gap (14 stitches)
- rows 16-29: Beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl row, work 14 rows of stocking stitch
- row 30: Cast off in Knit and cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 5 inches.



fig. 39



fig. 40



fig. 41



fig. 42

Join the top of the foot seam by tying a 5 inch length of **Yarn A** to the back of the stitch in the middle of the open seam - I've used blue thread here just to illustrate (*fig. 39*). Begin to close this seam by over-sewing across the gap through the outer loops of the cast off edge (*fig. 40*). When you reach the top of the seam secure it and close up any small gaps by taking the needle behind one stitch on the right (*fig. 41*), then behind the stitch directly at the top of the seam (*fig. 42*), then behind one stitch on the right (*fig. 43*) and finally through to the inside of the work (*fig. 44*) where you can weave it along the seam and trim the end.

Start to close the back seam of the foot by threading a tapestry needle with the cast on tail and using mattress stitch. Seam around 1 inch and leave the rest of the leg open for now to make stuffing the foot easier. Now close the seam at the underside of the foot by re-threading the tapestry needle with a spare length of **Yarn A** and using it to gather up the loops in the bottom of the foot – I've used blue thread here to illustrate (*fig. 45*) Tie both ends tightly inside the foot to fully close the bottom seam.



fig. 43

fig. 44

fig. 45

fig. 46

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're happy with the shape of the foot close the leg back seam but leave a small gap at the top to make stuffing the leg easier. Stuff the leg shaft lightly. If you want your cat 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. Repeat for the second leg. Now both legs are ready to attach to the body (*fig. 46*).

Although they are both the same I often find that one looks like a right and one a left so take time to look at them and decide which one goes on which side. 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. Position the leg by lining it up with the edge of the body and over-sew the leg in place through the loops on the cast off body edge and cast off leg edge (*fig. 47*). 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 (*fig. 48*) leaving a gap between both legs.

Once both legs are attached and secure turn the body inside out. Tie a 5 inch length of **Yarn A** to the inside of the body at the start of the gap between the legs. Turn the work right side out and use this thread to tightly over-sew the short seam between the legs (*fig. 49*) before threading it back inside and tying off to secure. Now the body is ready to stuff (*fig. 50*) but first we'll make the arms and tail.



fig. 47

fig. 48

fig. 49

fig. 50

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 a Purl row work 21 rows of stocking stitch

Cut **Yarn A** from the work as it is no longer needed and join in Yarn B

- row 24: Knit
- row 25: Purl
- row 26: K1, SSK, K2, K2tog, SSK, K2, K2tog, K1 (10 stitches)
- row 27: Purl

Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of 7 inches.



Thread this through the remaining 10 stitches and pull up tightly. Over-sew 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 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 and then set both 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 slightly curl the tip of 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. Using 3mm needles and **Yarn A** cast on 10 stitches, leaving a tail of 6 inches for attaching the tail with later.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">row 1: (wrong side) Purlrows 2-25: Beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl row work 24 rows in stocking stitchrow 26: K2, join in Yarn B and K1, K3, K1, K3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">row 27: P2, P3, P1, P3, P1, cut Yarn A from the work as it is no longer neededrow 28: Knitrow 29: Purl |
|--|---|

Cut the work from the ball leaving an 8 inch tail, thread this end through the 10 stitches on the needle (note, if you chosen yarn is not strong then use a length of strong yarn instead) and pull up tightly (*fig. 51*). Over-sew once to keep the seam from opening out. Continue using this thread to close the seam using mattress stitch (*fig. 52*). Once you've seamed around 2 inches pull the yarn tightly in order to curl the tip of the tail (*fig. 53*).



fig. 51



fig. 52



fig. 53



fig. 54

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. 54*) tie both ends together. Now it's time to assemble your cat.

First stuff the body cavity. 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 the body is stuffed attach the tail using the longer end from the top of the tail to sew it on to the cat's bottom (*fig. 55*). Tie off ends and thread through the body before trimming.

To attach the head thread the tapestry needle with one of the two threads from underneath the head and use it to sew the body and head together. I sew through a loop at the open neck edge of the body then through a whole stitch of the head, (*fig. 56*) 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.



fig. 55



fig. 56



fig. 57

To attach an arm, thread the tapestry needle with the longer end from the top of the arm and use this 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 thread through the body before trimming. Repeat for the second arm.

Now your cat is ready for some clothes and instructions for the shorts and sweater are on the next four pages.



Optional Short Trousers:

These shorts are knitted in one piece and seamed afterwards. You cast on at the waist and cast off at the bottom edge of each leg.

Use a 4ply weight yarn (here I've used BC Garn Allino but Rowan Siena 4ply works well too) and 2.75mm needles to cast on 36 stitches, leaving a tail of 5 inches for seaming with later

row 1: (wrong side) Purl
row 2: K8, M1L, K20, M1R, K8 (38 stitches)
row 3: Purl
row 4: K8, M1L, K22, M1R, K8 (40 stitches)
row 5: Purl
row 6: K8, M1L, K24, M1R, K8 (42 stitches)
row 7: Purl
row 8: K8, M1L, K26, M1R, K8 (44 stitches)
row 9: Purl
row 10: K8, M1L, K28, M1R, K8 (46 stitches)
row 11: Purl
row 12: K8, M1L, K30, M1R, K8 (48 stitches)
row 13: Purl
row 14: K8, M1L, K32, M1R, K8 (50 stitches)
row 15: Purl
row 16: K8, M1L, K34, M1R, K8 (52 stitches)
row 17: Purl
row 18: K8, M1L, K18, turn and work only on these stitches to form one leg of the shorts.
(27 stitches)
row 19: Purl
row 20: K8, M1L, K19, turn (28 stitches)

Special abbreviations:

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.

For an excellent video of the increases see here:
<http://www.knittinghelp.com/videos/increases>

row 21: Purl
row 22: K8, M1L, K20, turn (29 stitches)
row 23: Purl
row 24: K8, M1L, K21, turn (30 stitches)
row 25: Purl
row 26: Cast off loosely and cut the work from the ball, leaving a 6 inch tail for seaming later

That is one trouser leg, now rejoin the yarn at the stitches still waiting to be worked and begin on the other leg:

row 18 b: K18, M1R, K8 (27 stitches)
row 19 b: Purl
row 20 b: K19, M1R, K8 (28 stitches)
row 21 b: Purl
row 22 b: K20, M1R, K8 (29 stitches)
row 23 b: Purl
row 24 b: K21, M1R, K8 (30 stitches)
row 25 b: Purl
row 26 b: Cast off loosely and cut the work from the ball, leaving a 6 inch tail for seaming later

Before I sew up the back seam I like to block the shorts to make them neat. I usually do this by carefully steam blocking but if you prefer wet blocking that is fine too. After blocking thread the tapestry needle with the cast on end and use mattress stitch to close the top 1cm of the seam.

Re-thread the tapestry needle with the cast off end of one leg and use it to join the inside leg seam up to the crotch of the shorts. Do the same for the second leg. Tie both ends together inside the shorts and use the longer end to continue seaming up the back of the shorts, leaving a gap for the tail to stick through. Weave in all the ends inside the shorts before trimming excess and your shorts are ready.



Stranded plaid sweater:

Materials:

- Yarn C: blue 4ply weight
- Yarn D: cream 4ply weight

Notions:

- 2.75mm (US 2) needles
- a small button

This sweater is worked in separate pieces up to the armhole but from the armhole upwards to the neck it is worked across all the pieces at once. It's worked using a Fair Isle/stranded colour work technique. See this blog post for tips:

http://littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk/my_weblog/2013/05/knitting-tips-fairisle-colourwork.html

Please note: it is very important that you work all of the pieces in the following order:

sleeve, front, sleeve, back

This will ensure that they are all in the correct place when you get to row 13 and purl back across all of the stitches. When casting on the following pieces, keep the needle holding the piece/s already worked in your left hand and the empty needle in your right.



1. First sleeve:

Starting at the cuff and working up to the armhole, use Yarn C and 2.75mm needles to cast on 25 stitches leaving a tail of 5 inches for seaming with later

- row 1: (wrong side) Knit
row 2: Knit
row 3: Knit
row 4: Join in Yarn D, (K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K5) twice, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1
row 5: P1, P1, P1, P1, (P7, P1, P1, P1) twice, P1
row 6: (K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K5) twice, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1
row 7: P1, P1, P1, P1, (P7, P1, P1, P1) twice, P1
row 8: (K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K5) twice, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1
row 9: P6, P1, P1, P1, P7, P1, P1, P1, P6
row 10: (K5, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1) twice, K5
row 11: P6, P1, P1, P1, P7, P1, P1, P1, P6
row 12: (K5, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1) twice, K5

Cut the work from the balls, leaving 3 inch tails for sewing in later and leave work on needle.

2. Front:

Starting at the bottom edge and working up to the armhole, use Yarn C and 2.75mm needles to cast on 27 stitches, leaving a tail of 5 inches for seaming with later

- row 1: (wrong side) Knit
row 2: Knit
row 3: Knit
row 4: Join in Yarn D, K1, (K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K5) twice, K1, K1, K1, K1, K2
row 5: P1, P1, P1, P1, P1, (P7, P1, P1, P1) twice, P1, P1
row 6: K1, (K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K5) twice, K1, K1, K1, K1, K2
row 7: P1, P1, P1, P1, P1, (P7, P1, P1, P1) twice, P1, P1
row 8: K1, (K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K5) twice, K1, K1, K1, K1, K2
row 9: (P7, P1, P1, P1) twice, P7
row 10: K1, (K5, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1) twice, K6
row 11: (P7, P1, P1, P1) twice, P7
row 12: K1, K2tog, K3, K1, K1, K1, K1, K5, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K3, SSK, K1 (25 stitches)

Cut the work from the balls, leaving 3 inch tails for sewing in later and leave work on needle.

3. Second sleeve: Repeat instructions given for the first sleeve

4. Back:

Repeat the instructions for the front **BUT DO NOT** cut the work from the balls. Instead turn the work and follow the instructions below which are worked across all 100 stitches from the four separate sections on the needle:

- row 13:** P1, (P5, P1, P1, P1, P7, P1, P1, P1, P5, P2tog) 3 times, P5, P1, P1, P1, P7, P1, P1, P1, P6 (97 stitches)
- row 14:** K1, SSK, (K1, K1, K5, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K5, K1, K1, K1, CDD, K1) 3 times, K1, K1, K5, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K5, K1, K1, K2tog, K1 (89 stitches)
- row 15:** P3, (P7, P1, P1, P1, P7, P1, P1, P1, P1, P1) 3 times, P7, P1, P1, P1, P7, P3
- row 16:** K1, SSK, K1, (K5, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K5, K1, K1, CDD, K1, K1) 3 times, K5, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K5, K1, K2tog, K1 (81 stitches)
- row 17:** (P2, P7, P1, P1, P1, P7, P1) 4 times, P1
- row 18:** K1, SSK, (K5, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K5, K1, CDD, K1) 3 times, K5, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K5, K2tog, K1 (73 stitches)
- row 19:** P3, (P1, P1, P1, P7, P1, P1, P1, P5) 3 times, P1, P1, P1, P7, P1, P1, P1, P3
- row 20:** K1, SSK, K1, K1, K1, K1, (K5, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, CDD, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1) 3 times, K5, K1, K1, K1, K1, SSK, K1 (65 stitches)
- row 21:** P2, (P1, P1, P1, P7, P1, P1, P1, P3) 3 times, P1, P1, P1, P7, P1, P1, P1, P2
- row 22:** K1, SSK, K1, K1, K1, (K5, K1, K1, K1, K1, CDD, K1, K1, K1, K1) 3 times, K5, K1, K1, K1, K2tog, K1 (57 stitches)
- row 23:** P3, P1, (P7, P1, P1, P1, P1, P1, P1, P1) 3 times, P7, P1, P3
- row 24:** K1, SSK, K2, (K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K3, CDD, K3) 3 times, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K2, K2tog, K1 (49 stitches)
- row 25:** P2, P3, (P1, P1, P1, P9) 3 times, P1, P1, P1, P3, P2
- row 26:** K1, SSK, K1, (K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K2, CDD, K2) 3 times, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K2tog, K1 (41 stitches)
- Cut Yarn D from the work as it is no longer needed.
- row 27:** P8, P2tog, P1, P2tog tbl, P5, P2tog, P1, P2tog tbl, P5, P2tog, P1, P2tog tbl, P8 (35 stitches)
- row 28:** Knit
- row 29:** Purl
- row 30:** Knit
- row 31:** Purl
- row 32:** Knit
- row 33:** Cast off in Purl

Leaving a tail of around 10 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 (see below).



fig. 58



fig. 59

Before I sew up the seams I like to block the sweater to make it neat. I usually do this by carefully steam blocking but if you prefer wet blocking that's fine. After blocking thread the needle with the cast-on tail for one of the sleeves and join the seam up to the armpit using mattress stitch. Repeat with the other sleeve and then use the cast on end from the front to join the side seam and repeat with the cast on end from the back. Close a 1cm section of the open armhole seam, leaving the top part of the seam open so that when the button is undone the sweater can be easily taken on and off. Weave in all the yarn ends along the inside seams and trim excess. Sew a tiny button on the opposite side to the loop (fig. 58) and your sweater is done (fig. 59).

Breton sweater:

If you're not keen on working a sweater with Fair Isle/stranded technique in 2 colours at once then here is a simpler sweater worked in 2 colour Breton stripes; 4 rows of one colour followed by 2 rows of another.

Follow the same beginning and finishing instructions for the sweater on pages 14 and 15.



1. First sleeve:

Starting at the cuff and working up to the armhole
Use **Yarn C** and 2.75mm needles to cast on 23 stitches leaving a tail of 5 inches for seaming with

- row 1: (wrong side) Knit
- row 2: Knit
- row 3: Knit
- rows 4-7: Beginning with a Knit row work 4 rows in stocking stitch
- row 8: Change to Yarn D and Knit
- row 9: Purl
- row 10-12: Change to **Yarn C**, and beginning with a Knit row work 3 rows in stocking stitch

Cut work from balls, leaving 3 inch tails for sewing in later and leave work on needle.

3. Second sleeve: Repeat instructions as first sleeve

4. Back:

Repeat the instructions for the front **BUT DO NOT** cut the work from the ball of Yarn D. Instead turn the work and follow the instructions below across all 96 stitches from the four separate sections now on the needle:

- row 13: P24, P2tog, P21, P2tog, P23, P2tog, P22 (93 stitches)
- row 14: Re-join Yarn D, K1, SSK, K18, CDD, K21, CDD, K19, CDD, K20, K2tog, K1 (85 stitches)
- row 15: Purl
- row 16: Change to **Yarn C**, K1, SSK, K16, CDD, K19, CDD, K17, CDD, K18, K2tog, K1 (77 stitches)
- row 17: Purl
- row 18: K1, SSK, K14, CDD, K17, CDD, K15, CDD, K16, K2tog, K1 (69 stitches)
- row 19: Purl
- row 20: Change to Yarn D, K1, SSK, K12, CDD, K15, CDD, K13, CDD, K14, K2tog, K1 (61 stitches)

2. Front:

Starting at the bottom edge and working up to the armhole. Use **Yarn C** and 2.75mm needles to cast on 25 stitches, leaving a tail of 5 inches for seaming with

- row 1: (wrong side) Knit
- row 2: Knit
- row 3: Knit
- rows 4-7: Beginning with a Knit row work 4 rows in stocking stitch
- row 8: Change to Yarn D and Knit
- row 9: Purl
- row 10-12: Change to **Yarn C**, and beginning with a Knit row work 3 rows in stocking stitch

Cut work from balls leaving a 3 inch tails for sewing in later and leave work on needle

- row 21: Purl, cut Yarn D from the work
- row 22: Change to **Yarn C**, K1, SSK, K10, CDD, K13, CDD, K11, CDD, K12, K2tog, K1 (53 stitches)
- row 23: Purl
- row 24: K1, SSK, K8, CDD, K11, CDD, K9, CDD, K10, K2tog, K1 (45 stitches)
- row 25: Purl
- row 26: K1, SSK, K6, CDD, K9, CDD, K7, CDD, K8, K2tog, K1 (37 stitches)
- row 27: Purl
- row 28: Knit
- row 29: Purl
- row 30: Knit
- row 31: Cast off in Purl

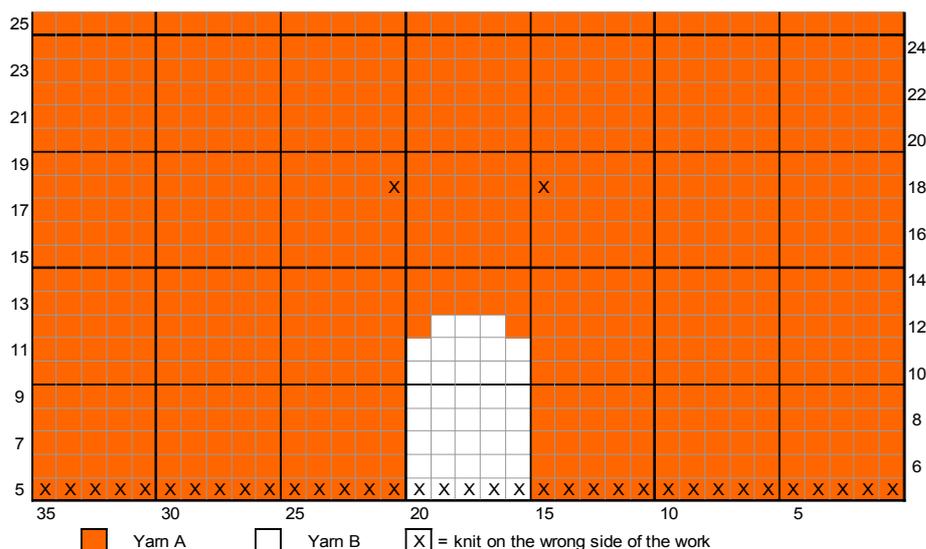
Additional head designs:

On pages 17–20 you will find alternative designs for the head. I've made them optional and you can substitute any of these head designs for the plain head included on page 4 of the main pattern.

Cat with a white blaze:



Knitted in Malabrigo Rios yarn
Sunset 096 and Natural 063



Before starting cut a second 2.5m (2.7 yd) length of **Yarn A** in order to work the intarsia section on rows 5–12.

Starting at the front of the head and finishing at the back, use Yarn B 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, (M1L, K1) 8 times, K1 (19 stitches)
- row 3: Purl
- row 4: K2, (M1L, K1) 16 times, K1 (35 stitches)
Cut Yarn B from the work
- row 5: Join in Yarn A from the main ball and K15, re-join Yarn B and K5, Join in second length of Yarn A and K15 (the stitches on this row will mark where to attach the muzzle later)
- row 6: K15, K5, K15
- row 7: P15, P5, P15
- rows 8-11: Repeat rows 6 & 7 twice more

row 12: K16, K3, K16 Cut Yarn B from the work as it is no longer needed and continue in **Yarn A** from the main ball

rows 13-17: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 5 rows of stocking stitch

row 18: K14, P1, K5, P1, K14
(the two Purl stitches mark the joining points for the inner edge of the ears)

rows 19-25: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 7 rows of stocking stitch

row 26: K2, (K2tog) 16 times, K1 (19 stitches)

row 27: Purl

row 28: K1, (K2tog) 8 times, K2 (11 stitches)

row 29: Purl

Continue by following the pattern instructions from page 4. Make a muzzle in Yarn B and ears in **Yarn A** with Yarn B inner. Below are some ideas for using variegated yarns for effect, all use Malabrigo Worsted in Natural 063 for the muzzle and blaze.



Manos del Uruguay Silk
Blend Space-Dyed in
'Eclipse'



Araucania Aysen in 812



Malabrigo Merino Worsted
in 'Comfy Junkie' 630

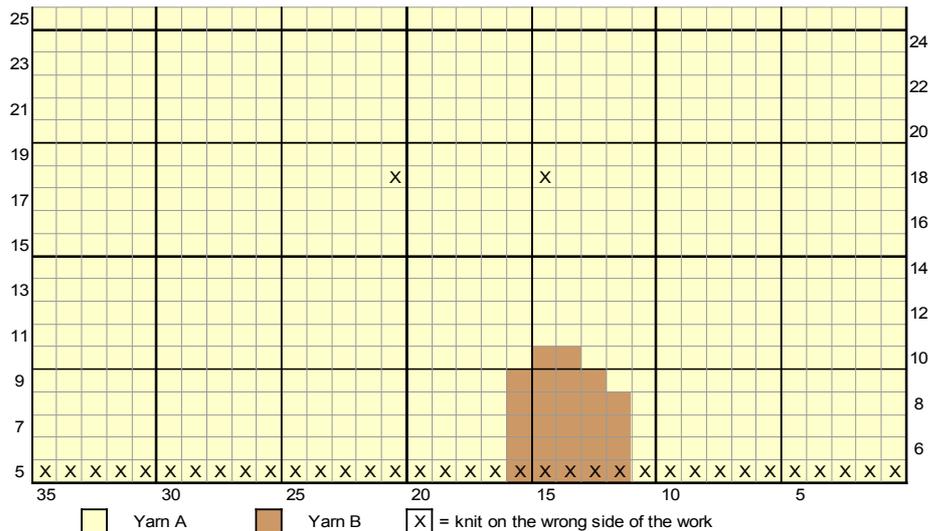


Cascade 220 in Penguin
9555

Cat with an eye patch:



Knitted in Malabrigo Merino Worsted yarn in Rattan 504, Natural 063 and Coco 624



Here Yarn A is a light coloured yarn and Yarn B is the darker accent colour. Before starting cut a 2m (2.5yd) length of Yarn A in order to work the intarsia section on rows 5-10.

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, (M1L, K1) 8 times, K1 (19 stitches)
- row 3: Purl
- row 4: K2, (M1L, K1) 16 times, K1 (35 stitches)
- row 5: K19, Join in Yarn B and K5, Join in the second length of Yarn A and K11 (the stitches on this row will mark where to attach the muzzle later)
- row 6: K11, K5, K19
- row 7: P19, P5, P11
- row 8: K11, K5, K19
- row 9: P19, P4, P12
- row 10: K13, K2, K20 Cut Yarn B from the work as it is no longer needed and continue in Yarn A

- rows 11-17: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 7 rows of stocking stitch
- row 18: K14, P1, K5, P1, K14 (the two Purl stitches mark the joining points for the inner edge of the ears)
- rows 19-25: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 7 rows of stocking stitch
- row 26: K2, (K2tog) 16 times, K1 (19 stitches)
- row 27: Purl
- row 28: K1, (K2tog) 8 times, K2 (11 stitches)
- row 29: Purl

Continue by following the pattern instructions from page 4. Make a muzzle in Yarn A (or in a cream yarn) and ears in Yarn B with Yarn A inner.



Malabrigo Merino Worsted in Polar morn 009 and Natural 063



Malabrigo Merino Worsted in Rhodesian 123 and Natural 063

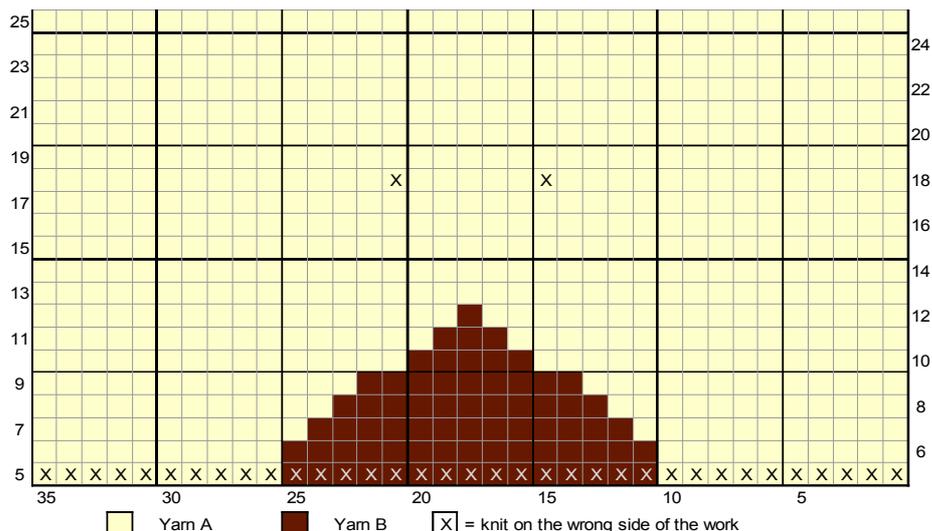


Cascade 220 Heathers in Aspen Heather 8011 and Greystone Heather 9491

Siamese cat:



Knitted in Malabrigo Merino Worsted in coco 624 and natural 063



Here Yarn A is a light coloured yarn and **Yarn B** is the darker accent colour. Before starting cut a 2.5m (2.7 yd) length of Yarn A in order to work the intarsia section on rows 5 –12.

Starting at the front of the head and finishing at the back, use **Yarn B** 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, (M1L, K1) 8 times, K1 (19 stitches)
- row 3: Purl
- row 4: K2, (M1L, K1) 16 times, K1 (35 stitches),
Cut **Yarn B** from the work
- row 5: Join in Yarn A and K10, re-join **Yarn B** and K15, join in second length of Yarn A and K10 (the stitches on this row will mark where to attach the muzzle later)
- row 6: K10, K15, K10
- row 7: P11, P13, P11
- row 8: K12, K11, K12
- row 9: P13, P9, P13
- row 10: K15, K5, K15
- row 11: P16, P3, P16
- row 12: K17, K1, K17 Cut **Yarn B** from the work as it is no longer needed and continue in Yarn A

- rows 13–17: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 5 rows of stocking stitch
- row 18: K14, P1, K5, P1, K14 (the two Purl stitches mark the joining points for the inner edge of the ears)
- rows 19–25: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 7 rows of stocking stitch
- row 26: K2, (K2tog) 16 times, K1 (19 stitches)
- row 27: Purl
- row 28: K1, (K2tog) 8 times, K2 (11 stitches)
- row 29: Purl

Continue by following the pattern instructions from page 4.

Make muzzle in **Yarn B** and ears entirely in **Yarn B** and use **Yarn B** to make the paw tips and tail.



Malabrigo Merino Worsted in Frost grey 606 and natural 063



Malabrigo Merino Worsted in coco 624 and natural 063

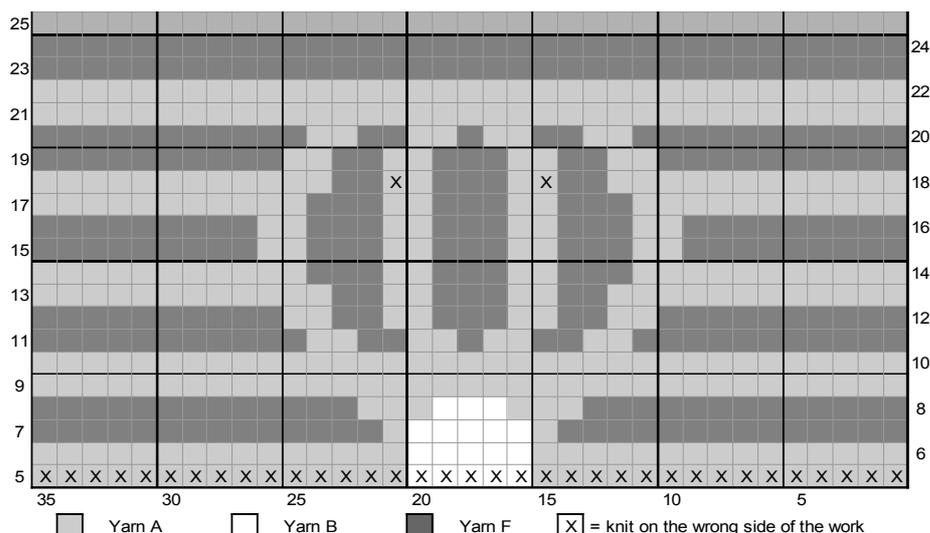


Madeline Tosh Vintage in Farmhouse white and Composition book grey

Tabby cat:



Knitted in Cascade 220 Heathers yarn, Aspen Heather and Greystone Heather



Warning: This is a complicated knit! For a simpler version you can use 2 colour stripes instead to give a tabby-like finish, working rows 5 & 6 in Yarn A, rows 7 & 8 in Yarn F and so on.

The head is worked in intarsia on rows 5-8 but on rows 11-20 should be worked in stranded/Fair Isle technique using both Yarn A and Yarn F on each row. From row 21 onwards it is worked in 2 row stripes of single colour.

Before starting cut a 1m (1.1yds) length of Yarn A and a 1m (1.1yds) length of Yarn F in order to work the intarsia section on rows 5-8.

Starting at the front of the head and finishing at the back, use Yarn B 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, (M1L, K1) 8 times, K1 (19 stitches)
- row 3: Purl
- row 4: K2, (M1L, K1) 16 times, K1 (35 stitches)
cut Yarn B from the work
- row 5: Join in Yarn A from the main ball and K15,
re-join Yarn B and K5, join in the second length of
Yarn A and K15 (the stitches on this row will mark
where to attach the muzzle later)
- row 6: K15, K5, K15
- row 7: Join in Yarn F from the main ball and P14, at the
same time stranding Yarn A behind the work so it
is in position, P1, P5, P1, join in the second length
of Yarn F and P14
- row 8: K13, K3, K3, K3, K13 at the same time stranding
Yarn A behind the work so it is in position for the
start of row 9. Cut Yarn B and the second lengths
of Yarn A and Yarn F from the work so that only
Yarn A and Yarn F from the main balls are still
attached.
- row 9: P35
- row 10: K35
- row 11: Change to Yarn F and P11 at the same time
stranding Yarn A behind the work so it is in
position, P2, P2, P2, P1, P2, P2, P2, P11

Continue using Fair Isle/stranded technique over the following rows in order to carry both yarns across the back of the entire work and using each where indicated.

- row 12: K10, K2, K2, K2, K3, K2, K2, K2, K10
- row 13: P12, P2, P2, P3, P2, P2, P12
- row 14: K11, K3, K2, K3, K2, K3, K11
- row 15: P9, P2, P3, P2, P3, P2, P3, P2, P9
- row 16: K9, K2, K3, K2, K3, K2, K3, K2, K9
- row 17: P11, P3, P2, P3, P2, P3, P11
- row 18: K12, K2, P1, K1, K3, K1, P1, K2, K12 (the two Purl
stitches mark the joining points for the ears)
- row 19: P10, P2, P2, P2, P3, P2, P2, P2, P10
- row 20: K11, K2, K2, K2, K1, K2, K2, K2, K11

From this point onwards the head is worked in single colour stripes, so there is no need to continue stranding the yarns.

- row 21: P35
- row 22: K35
- row 23: P35
- row 24: K35
- row 25: P35
- row 26: K2, (K2tog) 16 times, K1 (19 stitches)
- row 27: Purl
- row 28: K1, (K2tog) 8 times, K2 (11 stitches)
- row 29: Purl

Continue by following the pattern instructions from page 4. Make a muzzle in Yarn B and ears in Yarn F with Yarn B inner. If you'd like, knit the arms, legs and body with alternate 2 row stripes of the colours used in the head.