

Little Cotton Rabbits

girl cat in a plaid dress



*This cat is made from Malabrigo Rios yarn in 96 Sunset (Yarn A) and in 63 Natural (Yarn B)
Her dress, tights and shoes are made from DMC Natura cotton 4ply yarn in
27 Starlight (Yarn C), 26 Blue Jeans (Yarn D) and 02 Ivory (Yarn E)*

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

Materials:

- Worsted/light Aran/DK yarn (approx 40m/44yds):
Yarn A
- Worsted/light Aran/DK yarn (approx 10m/11yds):
Yarn B
- 4ply weight yarn in 3 contrasting colours for the clothing: Yarn C, Yarn D, Yarn E
- Scraps of black and pink yarn, DK or 4ply for the eyes and nose
- 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 cat: 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 (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 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

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 Philidar 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 7-13: 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)
- Cut **Yarn A** from the work as it is no longer needed
- row 15: Join in **Yarn C** and Purl
 - row 16: Purl
 - row 17: Purl
 - rows 18-32: Beginning and ending with a Knit row, work 15 rows in stocking stitch
 - row 33: Cast off in Purl



Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 6 inches and use this thread to close the seam up the back of the body using mattress stitch. Stop an inch from 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 D** 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 5-14: Beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit row, work 10 rows in stocking stitch

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

P13 casting off as you go (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.

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: (right side) With **Yarn C** 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. 39) 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

rows 2-10: Beginning and ending with Purl rows, work 9 rows in stocking stitch.

Cut the yarn from the ball and keep these 6 stitches held on the left hand needle.



fig. 39



fig. 40



fig. 41

Now you will need to pick up more stitches to form the shaft of the leg (*figs. 40 and fig. 41*).

row 1: (right side) Leaving a tail of 7 inches for seaming with later, use **Yarn C** 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*)

rows 2 –16: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 15 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. 42*). 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. 43*). 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. 44*). At this point you need to gently tighten the yarn slightly, gathering in the section that you have just sewn up.



fig. 42



fig. 43



fig. 44



fig. 45



fig. 46

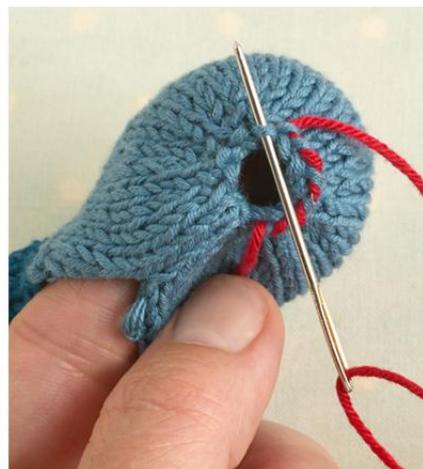


fig. 47

Continue to sew up the second vent in the same way, skipping the first 2 'bars' in order to get a curve to mirror the one on the right side of the shoe and working up towards the leg (fig. 45). When you have fully closed the vent thread the yarn to the inside and gently tighten until both sides of the foot are even.

Attach the strap to the opposite side of the shoe using the **Yarn D** end from sewing up the foot. Sew through a few times to secure (fig. 46) and then tie off all of the ends inside the shoe and sew along a seam before trimming excess. Use mattress stitch to start closing the back seam of the shoe with the cast on tail from the bottom of the shoe. Leave a small gap at the top of the shoe to make stuffing the foot easier.

Re-thread the tapestry needle with a spare length of **Yarn D** and use it to gather up the loops in the bottom of the foot (fig. 47) I've used red thread here just to illustrate. Tie both ends tightly inside the shoe to fully close the bottom shoe seam. 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. Thread the tapestry needle with the long end of **Yarn D** from the bottom of the leg section and use this to close the seam up the back of the leg using mattress stitch (fig. 48). Leave a gap at the top to make stuffing the leg easier.

Stuff the leg lightly and 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. For the second leg you need to follow all of the finishing steps above but attach the strap to the opposite side of the foot.

To make a 'button' on the strap at the outside of each shoe use contrasting coloured yarn (around 5 inches) to make a French Knot (fig. 49). 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. 50).



fig. 48



fig. 49



fig. 50



fig. 51

fig. 52

fig. 53

fig. 54

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. 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. 51). 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. 52).

Once both legs are attached and secure turn the body inside out. Find the longest end from the tops of legs, thread it along the seam and to the outside of the work at the start of the gap between the legs. Turn the work right side out and tightly over-sew the short seam between the legs (fig. 53) before threading the end back inside and tying off to secure.

Now the body is ready to stuff (fig. 54). 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 for the arms.

Arms: (make 2 the same)

You can work the whole arm in **Yarn A** (in which case ignore the colour change) or follow the instructions below, joining in **Yarn B** on row 22 to give a white paw tip. Starting at the top of the 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 3-21: Beginning and ending with Purl rows, work 19 rows in stocking stitch

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

- row 22: Knit
- row 23: Purl
- 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 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.

row 1: (wrong side) Purl

rows 2-25: Beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl row work 24 rows in stocking stitch

row 26: K2, join in Yarn B and K1, K3, K1, K3

row 27: P2, P3, P1, P3, P1, cut **Yarn A** from the work as it is no longer needed

row 28: Knit

row 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. 55*). Over-sew once to keep the seam from opening out. Continue using this thread to close the seam using mattress stitch (*fig. 56*). Once you've seamed around 2 inches pull the yarn tightly in order to curl the tip of the tail (*fig. 57*).



fig. 55



fig. 56



fig. 57



fig. 58

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. 58*) tie both ends together and use the longer end to sew the tail on to the cat's bottom (*fig. 59*). Tie off ends and thread through the body before trimming. Now attach the head.

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. 60*) 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.



fig. 59



fig. 60



fig. 61

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 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. 61*). 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 dress are on the next two pages.



Additional head designs:

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

Below are the pictures for the tabby cat instructions on page 20.



Malabrigo Merino Worsted in Rhodesian 123 and Golden Ochre 604

Cascade 220 in Antique Heather 960 and Tan

Madeleine Tosh Vintage in Farmhouse white and Whiskers

Cascade 220 in Straw 4010 and Gold

A plaid dress:

You will need 4ply/fingering weight yarn in 2 contrasting colours: **Yarn D** & **Yarn E**. Starting at the bottom of the skirt use 2.75mm needles and **Yarn D** to cast on 72 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)

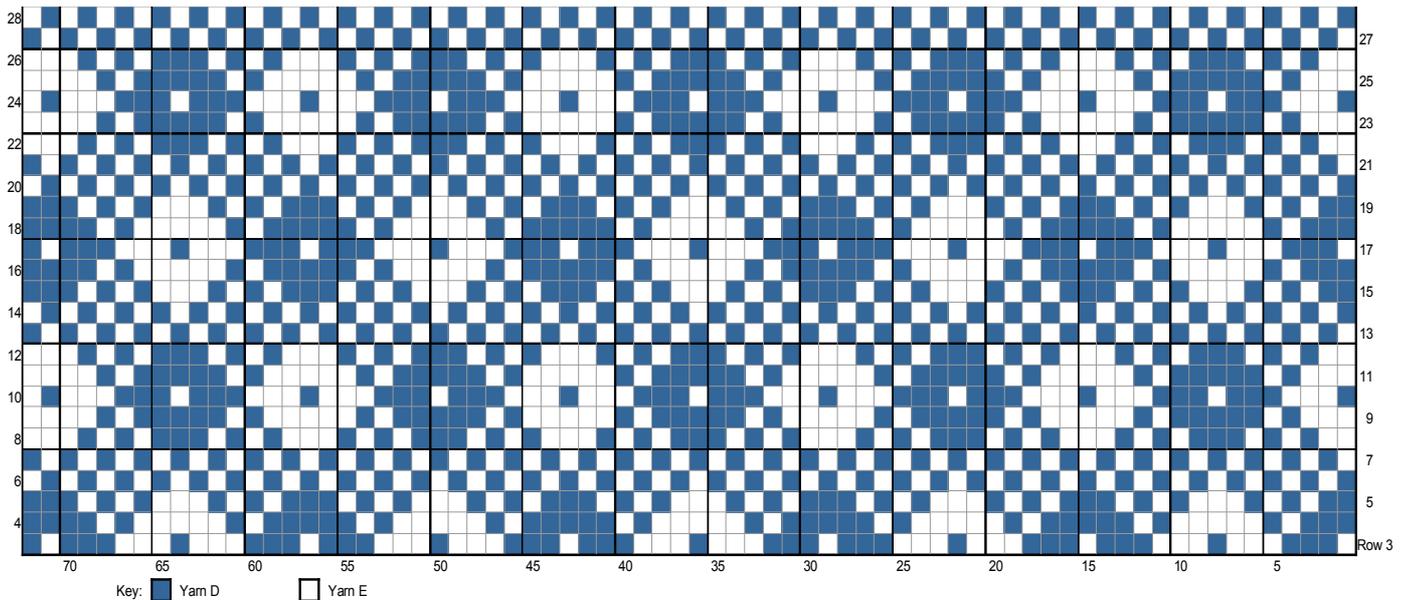
row 1: (right side) **Knit**

row 2: **Knit**

row 3: Join in **Yarn E** and 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 5-28: Continue working alternate **Knit** and **Purl** rows following the pattern chart below:



Written instructions for the dress pattern:

row 3: (K1, K3, K3, K1, K3, K3) 5 times, K1, K1

row 4: P4, (P1, P1, P5, P1, P1, P5) 4 times, P1, P1, P5, P1, P1, P3

row 5: K2, (K1, K1, K1, K1, K3, K1, K1, K1, K1, K3) 5 times

row 6: (P1, P1) 36 times

row 7: (K1, K1) 36 times

row 8: (P3, P1, P1, P1, P1, P3, P1, P1, P1, P1) 5 times, P2

row 9: K3, (K1, K1, K5, K1, K1, K5) 4 times, K1, K1, K5, K1, K1, K4

row 10: P1, (P1, P3, P3, P1, P3, P3) 5 times, P1

row 11: K3, (K1, K1, K5, K1, K1, K5) 4 times, K1, K1, K5, K1, K1, K4

row 12: (P3, P1, P1, P1, P1, P3, P1, P1, P1, P1) 5 times, P2

row 13: (K1, K1) 36 times

row 14: (P1, P1) 36 times

row 15: K2, (K1, K1, K1, K1, K3, K1, K1, K1, K1, K3) 5 times

row 16: P4, (P1, P1, P5, P1, P1, P5) 4 times, P1, P1, P5, P1, P1, P3

row 17: As row 3

row 18: As row 4

row 19: As row 5

row 20: As row 6

row 21: As row 7

row 22: As row 8

row 23: As row 9

row 24: As row 10

row 25: As row 11

row 26: As row 12

row 27: As row 13

row 28: As row 14

Cut **Yarn E** from the work and continue in **Yarn D** only for the rest of the dress

row 29: (K2tog) 36 times (36 stitches)

row 30: Purl

To create the armholes, the next section is worked in three separate parts, all in **Yarn D** (see figs. 62 & 63):



fig. 62



fig. 63

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 D** 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 D** 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.

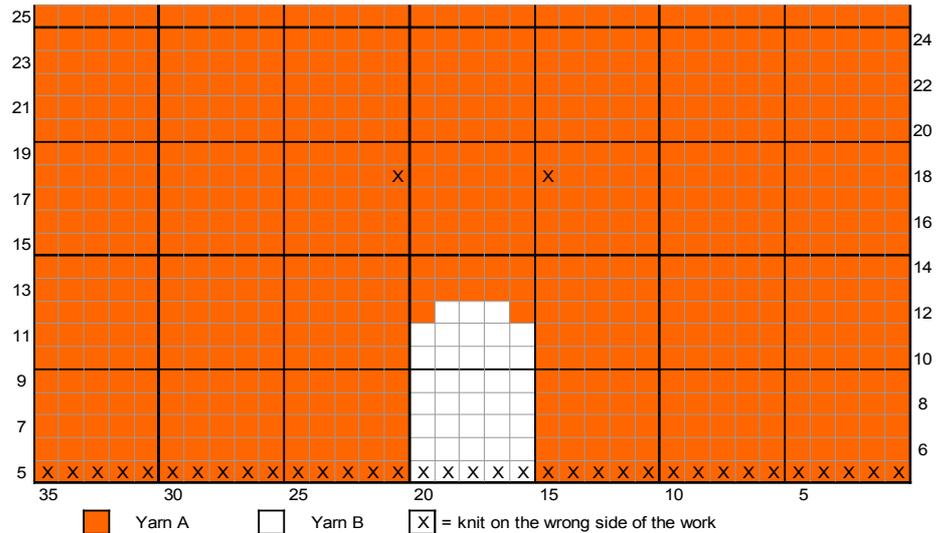
Finish the seam at the waist (row 27) and tie the ends together before weaving them in along the inside seam and trimming excess. Weave in the yarn ends from the tops of the armholes down along the armhole edges and tie to the ends at the bottoms of the armholes (don't pull too tightly or you'll make 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 cat.

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

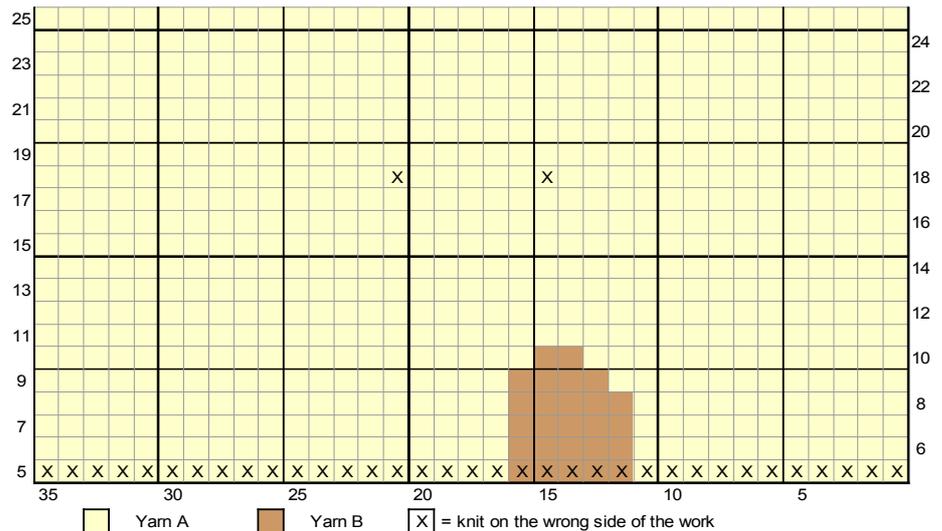


Cascade 220 in Penguin
9555

Cat with an eye patch:



Knitted in Malabrigo Merino Worsted yarn in Rattan 504, Natural 063 (used for the muzzle) 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 (Here I've made the patch in a light colour on a darker face).



Malabrigo Merino Worsted in Rhodesian 123 and Natural 063

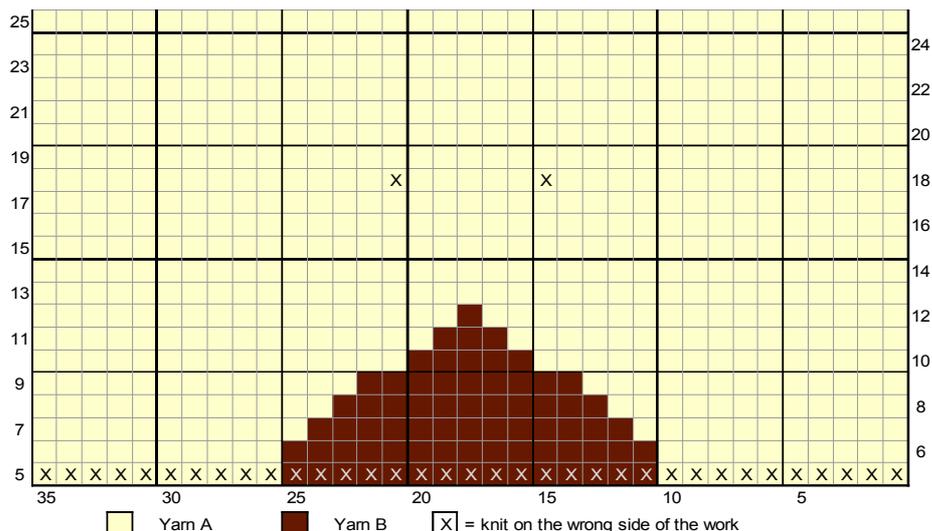


Cascade 220 Heathers in Aspen Heather 8011 and Greystone Heather 9491. (Here I've used cream for the muzzle)

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

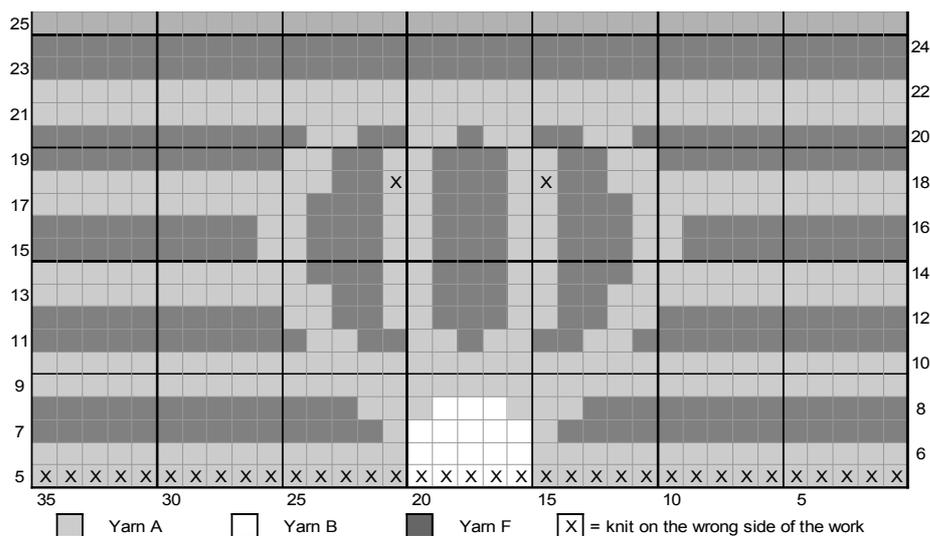


Madeline Tosh Vintage in Farmhouse white and Composition book grey

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 work to where they are next needed.

- 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.