

*Little Cotton Rabbits
girl elephant in a frondy frock*



*This Elephant is made from Freedom Sincere organic cotton yarn in 607 (Yarn A)
Her dress, knickers and shoes are made from Rowan Siena 4ply yarn in
670 sloe (Yarn B), 658 floret (Yarn C)*

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

Materials:

- DK cotton yarn (approx 67m): Yarn A
- 4ply weight yarn in 2 contrasting colours for the clothing: Yarn B, Yarn C
- Scraps of black yarn, DK or 4ply for the eyes
- 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 and 2.5mm
2 x 3mm double pointed needles
- Tapestry needle

Gauge:



Gauge for elephant: 6 stitches x 9 rows to 1 inch
Gauge for dress: 7 stitches x 10 rows to 1 inch

Thanks for buying a copy of this pattern. It is suitable for intermediate knitting skills and assumes an understanding of basic stitches, standard knitting terms, Fair Isle colour-work and reading colour-work charts. Apart from a couple of complicated shaping rows the knitting part of the pattern is quite simple and straightforward. All of the pieces are knitted flat and seamed (though if you decide to convert it to knit it in the round please bear in mind that you will lose the ability to use the seams to add structure and shape to your finished animal and it may not look the same).

I feel that it is mostly the finishing techniques (sewing up, seams etc.) that give any knitted project a polished look. I've described in detail how I try to get the neatest look to the animals that I make, how I sew up, tighten seams and use stuffing to get a particular shape. You will need to use mattress stitch if you want to follow the instructions properly as it has the benefit of giving a flexible seam that can be gathered in. There are a few fiddly finishing bits that are worth taking extra time over and it's also worth re-doing bits if you're not happy with the look (it sometimes takes me 2 or 3 tries to get a face exactly how I want it).

Anyway, I hope that you find the pattern enjoyable (if a bit fiddly in parts) and are pleased with the elephant that you make from it.

Abbreviations:

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

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

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.

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 above.

M1 : MAKE 1 STITCH. I usually use M1A (make 1 away) using the thumb method (see link on the left)

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

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

SSK (SLIP, SLIP, KNIT) : Slip a stitch (as if to knit it) to the right-hand needle, slip a second stitch in the same way, slip both stitches together back to the left-hand needle and knit together through the back loops.

K2TOG : Knit 2 stitches together

P2TOG : Purl 2 stitches together

P2TOG TBL: Purl 2 stitches together through the back loops

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

Yarn suggestions:

I like to knit my elephants in a cotton yarn because I think it matches their skin better than a woolly yarn. Any DK weight cotton or cotton mix yarn will do but here are some of my favourites:



Patons 100% cotton DK in 2171 'silver'



Rowan Wool Cotton in 903 'misty'



Anchor Style Creativa in 0398 'light grey'

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.

Tip: Before you start, get to know your yarn. Does it break easily? If so you will need to consider using a different yarn to sew up with as some seams need to be gathered in tightly and so need a strong yarn to cope.

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 toy 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.

Thanks for buying this pattern, I hope you enjoy using it. 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](#).

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>row 1: Purl
row 2: K2, (M1L, K1) 8 times, K1 (19 stitches)
row 3: Purl
row 4: K2, (M1L, K2) 8 times, K1 (27 stitches)
row 5: Purl
row 6: K2, (M1L, K3) 8 times, K1 (35 stitches)
rows 7-13: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 7 rows in stocking stitch (alternate Purl and Knit rows)
row 14: K12, P1, K9, P1, K12
rows 15-23: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 9 rows in stocking stitch
row 24: K2, (K2tog) 6 times, K7, (K2tog) 6 times, K2 (23 stitches)
row 25: Purl</p> | <p>row 26: Knit
row 27: Purl
row 28: K1, SSK, (K2tog) twice, K9, (K2tog) 3 times, K1 (17 stitches)
row 29: Purl
row 30: K1, SSK, K11, K2tog, K1 (15 stitches)
row 31: Purl
row 32: K1, SSK, K9, K2tog, K1 (13 stitches)
row 33-59: Beginning and ending with a Purl row work 27 rows in stocking stitch
row 60: K2, K2tog, K5, SSK, K2 (11 stitches)
row 61: Purl
row 62: K2, K2tog, K3, SSK, K2 (9 stitches)
row 63: Purl
Cut the work from the ball.</p> |
|--|--|

To sew up the head, thread the tapestry needle with your **cast-on** tail and using mattress stitch sew around 1 ½ inches of the underside seam closed, working forwards from the back of the head.

To close the trunk seam cut an 8 inch length of very strong yarn (it doesn't matter if the colour doesn't match exactly as sewing with mattress stitch will hide it - I've used red thread to illustrate). Tie a slip knot in one end and thread the other end through the remaining 9 stitches, then through the slip knot and pull up tightly (*fig. 1*). Tie the ends together inside the trunk to stop the tip opening out and continue using this thread to close the trunk seam using mattress stitch (*fig. 2*). As you close the seam begin to stuff the trunk **very lightly** as if you stuff too firmly it will not curl well (*fig. 3*). Continue seaming until you reach the shaping under the chin.



fig. 1



fig. 2



fig. 3

Finally with the right side of work facing you pick up the loops from the cast on edge. (I've used red thread to illustrate, see *fig. 4*). 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. I start with a tight ball of stuffing which I poke into the back of the head, packing it in firmly (*fig. 5*) then stuff the trunk end of the head lightly, pinching and manipulating the stuffing until it takes on the shape that I want. I then stuff the cheeks quite firmly to make them bulge out at the bottom of the head (*fig. 6 - here only the left side cheek is fully stuffed*).



fig. 4



fig. 5



fig. 6

I pack in a lot of stuffing but I tend to add little bits at a time moulding as I go to get the shape that I want and the finished head is quite firm and solid (please note that the trunk is **lightly** stuffed). When you are happy with the overall head shape it's time to curl the trunk.



fig. 7



fig. 8



fig. 9

To make the trunk curl pull slowly and firmly on the thread from the trunk seam (*fig. 7*) If you find the trunk is not curling well try removing a little stuffing from it – a light filling is the key. Pull until the trunk has a pleasing shape (*fig. 8*). You will find that the trunk looks better on one side than the other, whether it curls left or right is your choice (*fig. 9*).

Leave the seam at the bottom of the head open for now and set the head aside while you make the ears.

Ears: (make two the same)

Starting at the top of the ears and finishing at the base. Use Yarn A and 3mm needles to cast on 13 stitches leaving a tail of 8 inches for seaming with.

row 1: (K1, P1) 6 times, K1

row 2: (K1, P1) 6 times, K1

rows 3-18: Repeat rows 1 & 2 eight more times

row 19: K1, P1, K1, P1, K1, P3 tog, K1, P1, K1, P1, K1
(11 stitches)

row 20: (K1, P1) 5 times, K1

row 21: K1, P1, K1, P1, Slip 1, K2tog pass slipped stitch over, P1, K1, P1, K1 (9 stitches)

row 22: (K1, P1) 4 times, K1

row 23: K1, P1, K1, P3 tog, K1, P1, K1 (7 stitches)

row 24: (K1, P1) 3 times, K1

row 25: K1, P1, Slip 1, K2tog pass slipped stitch over, P1, K1 (5 stitches)

row 26: (K1, P1) 2 times, K1

row 27: K1, P3 tog, K1 (3 stitches)

row 28: K1, P1, K1

row 29: Purl

row 30: Slip 1, K2tog, pass slipped stitch over (1 stitch)

Cut the work from the ball leaving a 6 inch tail for attaching the ear to the head and thread this end through the last stitch on the needle. Make a second ear the same (*fig. 10*). Now attach the ears.



fig. 10



fig. 11



fig. 12

Thread the tapestry needle with the ear cast-on end (the end at the widest part of the ear) and position the ear by putting the first attaching stitch through your purled marker stitch on the head on row 14 (fig. 11). The point of the ear should be facing away from you and the flat cast on edge facing you. Attach the ear by alternately sewing through the loops from **the side edge** of the ear and the bars between stitches on the head. Make sure you keep in the same channel between stitches. Continue joining the ear to the head in this way for around 2cms (fig. 12) then bend the ear at a right-angle and continue joining it around the back of the head in a slightly curved shape (fig. 13). Stop around 1cm (½ inch) from the bottom point of the ear.



fig. 13



fig. 14



fig. 15

Now thread the tapestry needle with the cast off end (at the bottom point of the ear) and weave it up the ear edge to where the ear joins the head (fig. 14). Tie the two ends together securely and thread both ends through the head and out of the open seam at the bottom. Repeat with the second ear making sure they are in alignment (figs. 15 & 16). Tie the 4 ends from the ears together securely, trim and poke inside the head cavity. Close the seam at the bottom of the head, give the seam for the trunk a final tug and tie both ends together securely to prevent the seams loosening. Do not trim these ends as you'll use them to attach the head later. Press the centre of the ears forward to open them out and make them stand away from the head (figs. 15 & 16).

To embroider the eyes:

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 use the decreases either side of the central 7 stitches on row 24 as my markers for eye placement and I find it easier to see these clearly if I turn the head upside down). 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 from the back to the front and then push it back through the same point and out again one stitch away from the original point, leaving a little loop (fig. 17). Push the tip of the needle through this loop. Wrap the thread around the needle tip three or four times depending on thickness of yarn (fig. 18).



fig. 16



fig. 17



fig. 18

Hold the wrapped thread in place between your finger and thumb and pull the needle through. Push the needle back down through the work and back to the start point underneath the head (fig. 19). If you gently pull both ends you can now create a little eye socket shaping to the head (fig. 20). 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 (fig. 21) and set the finished head to one side while you make the body.



fig. 19



fig. 20



fig. 21

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, (M1L, K2) 6 times, K1 (22 stitches)
- row 3: Purl
- row 4: K3, (M1L, K3) 6 times, K1 (28 stitches)
- row 5: Purl
- row 6: K3, (M1L, K4) 6 times, K1 (34 stitches)
- rows 7-13: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 7 rows in stocking stitch (alternate Purl and Knit rows)
- row 14: Change to 2.5mm needles and K3, (KLL, K5) 6 times, K1 (40 stitches)
- row 15: Change to Yarn B, Purl
- row 16: Purl
- row 17: Purl
- rows 18-32: Beginning and ending with a Knit row, work 15 rows in stocking stitch (alternate Knit and Purl rows)
- row 33: Cast off in Purl



Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 6 inches and use this thread to close the seam up the back of the body using mattress stitch. Leave a gap at the top to make stuffing the body easier. Now for the legs.

Legs: (make 2 the same)

Begin with the shoes which are made as a separate piece. Starting at the underside of the shoe. Use **Yarn B** 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: With **Yarn A** and 2.5mm needles pick up and Knit the 6 central stitches from the cast-off edge of the shoe (that is the central 4 stitches and the 2 decrease stitches either side of them - fig. 22)

From the front of the work push the tip of the needle through the loop on the back of the cast off edge, wrap the yarn around once Knit-wise and draw through, placing each picked up stitch on the right hand needle in turn.

row 2: (wrong side) Purl

row 3: Knit

rows 4–10: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 7 rows in stocking stitch (alternate Purl and Knit rows).

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



fig. 22



fig. 23

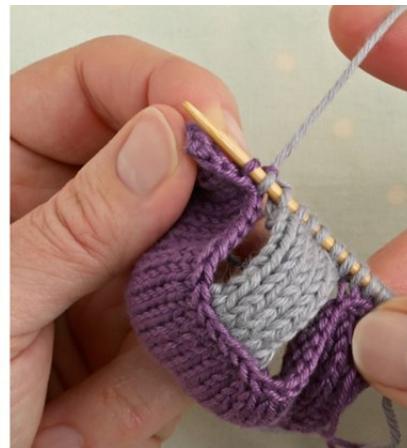


fig. 24

Now you will need to pick up more stitches to form the shaft of the leg (fig. 23 and fig. 24)

row 1: (right side) Leaving a tail of 7 inches for seaming with later, use **Yarn A** to pick up and Knit the first 5 stitches from the far right side of the shoe cast-off edge. Ignore the remaining 8 cast off stitches on the right side and continue by knitting across the 6 stitches from the top of the foot. Ignore the first 8 cast off stitches on the left side and pick up and Knit the last 5 stitches (the last stitch will be at the very edge of the work). Be sure to keep your tension as tight as possible across the gaps. (16 stitches)

row 2: Change to 3mm needles, P4, P2tog, P4, P2tog tbl, P4 (14 stitches)

rows 3–16: Beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl row, work 14 rows in stocking stitch

row 17: Cast off in Knit

Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 5 inches for sewing the leg to the body with later. Make a second leg in exactly the same way.

To finish the legs and body:

Shoe strap: (make 2 the same)

Use **Yarn B** 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. 25*). 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. 26*). 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 B** loops from the back of the toe of the shoe (*fig. 27*). At this point you need to gently tighten the yarn slightly, gathering in the section that you have just sewn up.



fig. 25



fig. 26



fig. 27

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. 28*). When you have fully closed the vent thread the yarn to the inside and gently tighten until both sides of the foot are even. Use the yarn end still threaded to attach the other end of the strap to the side of the shoe, sew through a few times to secure (*fig. 29*). Tie off all of the ends inside the shoe and sew along a seam before trimming excess.

Start to close the back seam of the shoe by threading a tapestry needle with the cast on tail from the shoe and using mattress stitch. Leave a small gap at the top to make stuffing the foot easier. Re-thread the tapestry needle with a spare length of **Yarn B** and use it to gather up the loops in the bottom of the foot (*fig. 30*) I've used red thread here just to illustrate. Tie both ends tightly inside the shoe to fully close the bottom shoe seam.



fig. 28



fig. 29



fig. 30

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 from the bottom of the leg section and use this to close the seam up the back of the leg using mattress stitch (*fig. 31*). Leave a gap at the top to make stuffing the leg easier.



fig. 31



fig. 32



fig. 33

Stuff the leg lightly. If you want your toy to sit nicely then don't stuff the top 1cm of the leg. Finish closing the seam and tie the two ends together at the top, poking all other ends inside the leg. For the second leg you need to follow all of the finishing steps above but attach the strap to the opposite side of the foot.

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. 32*). Follow the instructions for the 'Eyes' above but wrap the yarn 6 times.

Now both legs are ready to attach to the body (*fig. 33*).

Because this elephant has bare legs I like to sew them on in a way that makes it appear she is wearing knickers/panties. To do this I sew through the Purl loops on the back of the body cast off edge (*fig. 34*) which leaves the cast off edge of the body intact to look like a nice neat knicker line at the top of the legs.

Thread the tapestry needle with the longer end from the top of the first finished leg and use this to sew it to the body making sure that you have the correct leg in position (the French Knot should be on the outside of the foot). Position the leg by lining it up with the edge of the body and sewing the leg in place through the Purl loops from inside the cast off body edge and cast off leg edge (*fig. 34 and fig. 35*). 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. 36*).



fig. 34



fig. 35



fig. 36



fig. 37

Once both legs are attached and secure use a spare length of **Yarn B** to tightly over-sew the short seam between the legs (*fig. 37*) before threading the end back inside and tying off both ends to secure.

Now stuff the body. 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.



fig. 38



fig. 39



fig. 40

Thread the tapestry needle with one of the two threads from underneath the head and use to sew the body and head together. I sew through the loops at the open neck edge of the body then through a whole stitch of the head, (fig. 39) 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.

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, (M1L, K2) 4 times (14 stitches)

rows 3-23: Beginning and ending with Purl rows, work 21 rows in stocking stitch

row 24: K1, SSK, K2, K2tog, SSK, K2, K2tog, K1 (10 stitches)

row 25: Purl



Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 7 inches. Thread this through the remaining 10 stitches and pull up tightly. Over-sew once to keep the seam from opening out. Continue using this thread to close the seam using mattress stitch.

Leave a gap of around an inch and stuff the arm lightly, I prefer not to stuff the very top of the arm so that it's bit floppy. Finish closing the arm side seam and tighten it by pulling the end to get a slight curve to the arm and pulling the gathered paw end under. When you're happy with the arm shape tie both ends together.

Thread the tapestry needle with the longer end and use to join the arm to the body by sewing alternately through a loop on the open top edge of the arm then through a whole stitch of the body, (fig. 40). 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.

Tail:

The tail is worked as a short length of i-cord starting at the top of the tail that attaches to the body and ending at the tassel end. An i-cord is a tube knitted in the round with two double-pointed needles. It has to be worked

on double pointed needles because you need to slide the work from one end of the needle to the other, taking the yarn tightly around the back. There is a good i-cord video tutorial here:

<http://www.knittinghelp.com/videos/knitting-tips> (scroll to the bottom of the page)

Use two double pointed 3mm needles and Yarn A to cast on 5 stitches, leaving a tail of 6 inches for attaching the tail with later.

row 1: Knit the 5 stitches normally, from the left needle to the right. Now all 5 stitches are on the right hand needle and the working yarn is coming from the left most stitch. Slide the stitches from one end of the needle to the other

row 2: Without turning the needle, transfer it to your left hand. Bring the working yarn across the back of the work and Knit the 5 stitches again, you will need to keep a tight tension. The only difference from a normal knitted row is that the yarn is coming from the last stitch and across the back of the work instead of from the first stitch (*fig. 41*)

Continue to Knit across the same 5 stitches in the same way until the tail is around 3 cms/1 inch long. Cut the work from the ball leaving a 6 inch tail and thread this end through the 5 stitches on the needle but do not pull tight yet, instead put to one side while you make the tassel at the end of the tail:



fig. 41



fig. 42



fig. 43

Cut a 20 inch (50cm) length of Yarn A and fold it in half and then in half again so that you have four parallel strands. Now tie a single knot in the looped over end, leaving only a tiny portion of the loops sticking out of the top of the knot. Thread the cast off end from the knitted i-cord tail through these loops (*fig. 42*) and then down through the middle of the i-cord. Gently tug this end to both tighten the 5 stitches and pull the tassel snug to the end of the tail. Tie the cast on and cast off ends from the tail together. Trim the ends of the tassel and unwind the yarn ends so that they fan out. Give the tassel a final trim (*fig. 43*) and use the longer of the ends to sew the tail on to the elephant's bottom. Tie off ends and thread through the body before trimming.



Now your elephant is ready for some clothes and instructions for a dress are on the next two pages.

A frondy frock:

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

row 1: (right side) Knit

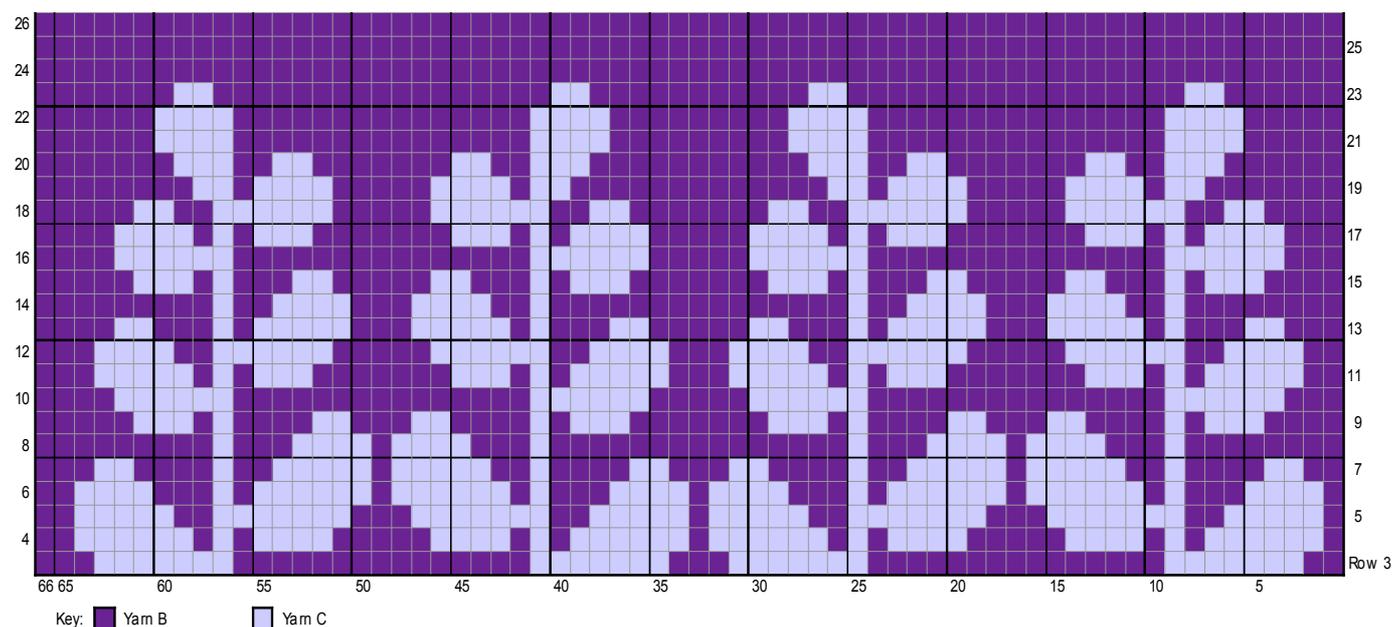
row 2: Knit

row 3: 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)*

Tip: this is an 'intensive' colour-work design – there are lots of colour changes and areas with long floats and if you are not careful to keep your tension loose the work may become quite tight. If you like you can work the colour chart in 3mm needles to help keep the work loose and swap back to 2.75mm on row 24

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

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



Written instructions for the dress pattern:

row 3: K2, (K7, K15, K7, K3) twice

row 4: P2, (P6, P1, P1, P1, P4, P5, P4, P1, P1, P1, P6, P1) twice

row 5: K1, (K5, K2, K7, K3, K7, K2, K5, K1) twice, K1

row 6: P2, (P4, P3, P1, P1, P6, P1, P6, P1, P1, P3, P4, P1) twice

row 7: K2, (K2, K4, K1, K2, K5, K1, K5, K2, K1, K4, K2, K3) twice

row 8: (P9, P1, P3, P4, P1, P4, P3, P1, P6) twice, P2

row 9: (K4, K3, K1, K1, K4, K2, K3, K2, K4, K1, K1, K3, K3) twice, K2

row 10: (P4, P6, P15, P6, P1) twice, P2

row 11: K2, (K5, K1, K1, K1, K3, K7, K3, K1, K1, K1, K5, K3) twice

row 12: (P3, P4, P2, P6, P5, P6, P2, P4) twice, P2

row 13: (K3, K2, K3, K1, K1, K5, K3, K5, K1, K1, K3, K2, K2) twice, K2

row 14: (P9, P1, P2, P4, P3, P4, P2, P1, P6) twice, P2

row 15: (K4, K3, K1, K1, K3, K2, K5, K2, K3, K1, K1,

K3, K3) twice, K2

row 16: (P4, P6, P15, P6, P1) twice P2

row 17: (K3, K4, K1, K1, K1, K3, K7, K3, K1, K1, K1, K4, K2) twice, K2

row 18: (P5, P2, P2, P6, P5, P6, P2, P2, P2) twice, P2

row 19: (K7, K2, K1, K4, K5, K4, K1, K2, K6) twice, K2

row 20: (P7, P3, P2, P2, P7, P2, P2, P3, P4) twice, P2

row 21: (K5, K4, K15, K4, K4) twice, K2

row 22: (P6, P4, P15, P4, P3) twice, P2

row 23: (K6, K2, K17, K2, K5) twice, K2

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

row 24: Purl

row 25: Knit

row 26: Purl

row 27: K3, (K2tog) 30 times, K3 (36 stitches)

row 28: Purl

In order to create the armholes, the next section is worked in three separate parts (see figs. 44 & 45):

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 in 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.

The front:

row 29 (b): Rejoin Yarn B 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 (it will be knitted later). Turn ready to 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.

Second side of the back:

row 29 (c): Rejoin Yarn B 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.



fig. 44



fig. 45

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 elephant and you are done.

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