tiny Fallow Deer

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FINISHED SIZE Approx. 7cm/ 2.5in tall from tips of ears to sole of feet

YARN Less than quarter 50g ball of the following yarn, the shade I suggest is written in italic but you can substitute with a similar weight yarn if you wish, yarnsub.com is a good site for help with that, I've also listed a few alternatives under *Pattern Notes, page 2*:

Yarn **A** under quarter 50g ball 2-ply/ lace-weight or 3-ply or 4-ply/ fingering-weight/ 4-ply in brown
 - My suggestion: *Isagar Alpaca 1 shade E8S which is a Lace-weight yarn*
Yarn **B** tiny amount 4-ply/ fingering-weight/ 4-ply in off-white (*this is for the Throat, it's a different weight to the body because I wanted a more fluffy throat and chin*)
 - My suggestion: *Drops Alpaca shade Off-white 0100*
 - You'll also need some dark brown 2-ply/ lace weight or 3-ply or 4-ply/ fingering-weight for the nose, mouth and hooves detailing

KNITTING NEEDLES Pair size 1.75mm (*or 2mm/US size 0*) straight, single-point knitting needles *OR* two double pointed knitting needles, especially for the i-cord limbs (*Ref. Pattern Notes, page 2*)

TENSION 12.5 rows and 14 stitches over 2.5cm with 1.75mm needles and yarn A

EXTRAS Pair 6mm black or brown Toy Safety Eyes with plastic washer-type backs; 2 x small safety pins for holding stitches when not in use; lockable-style stitch markers in various colours (*Ref. Page 2*); yarn sewing needle; pack fine Armature Wire in 22 or 24 Gauge - *you'll need 1.5 lengths*

SUPPLIERS

Isagar Yarn I buy from here - LoopKnitting.com
Toy Safety Eyes I buy from here - LoopKnitting.com
Armature Wire I buy from here - HeidiFeathers Etsy Shop

COLOURED MARKER GUIDE:

This guide is here to pull out and use together with the pattern should you to wish to use similar coloured guides to mine for ease of following, especially at the making-up stage:

PINK FORELEG BACK SEAM

BABY PINK FORELEG FRONT SEAM

LIGHT TURQUOISE HEAD SIDE

ORANGE BELLY TO INNER HIND LEG

RED BELLY TO BACK FORELEG SEAM

TURQUOISE BELLY TO FRONT FORELEG SEAM

BLUE CHIN

PATTERN NOTES & TIPS:

. I generally cast on with Cable Cast On unless it's casting on in the middle of a row then I use Backward Loop Cast-On method

. **YARN:** I've knitted the main body of mine with lace-weight/ 2-ply yarn because I wanted it to be as small as possible and I've chosen Isagar yarn but here are yarn types that are very similar in texture and weight:

Hobbii Soft Alpaca Lace

Drops Lace

Debbie Bliss Rialto Lace

. **GAUGE:** I've knitted mine on 1.5mm knitting needles which gives a fairly tight knit, you may find it too tight and uncomfortable so feel free to knit with 2.5mm needles instead - the patterns will still turn out good

. **WIRE:** I found the best wires to create an armature with are paper-wrapped (easier to handle) ones - the best gauge for this project being 22 or 24 both of which are very fine and really malleable so easy to bend and which I used for the legs and body

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

W+Tk bring working yarn to the front of the work, slip next stitch purl-wise onto the RH needle, take working yarn to the back, slip the slipped stitch back onto the LH needle, turn the knitting = W+Tk (wrap and turn knit)

W+Tp take working yarn to the back of the work, slip next stitch knit-wise onto the RH needle, bring working yarn to the front, slip the slipped stitch back onto the LH needle, turn the knitting = W+Tp (wrap and turn purl)

GENERAL ABBREVIATIONS

k = knit

p = purl

inc = increase

dec = decrease

k2tog/ k3tog = knit two together/ knit three together

p2tog/ p3tog = purl two together/ purl three together

RH/LH = right hand/ left hand   RS/WS = right side/ wrong side

st/ sts =stitch/ stitches

skpo = slip one stitch, knit next stitch, pass slipped stitch over knit stitch to decrease by one stitch

kfb = knit into front then into back of stitch to increase by one stitch

pfb = purl into front then knit into back of stitch to increase by one stitch

m1= with RH needle point pick up the horizontal bar in between stitches, put onto LH needle, knit the new stitch

BACK & HEAD

Begin at the Rear End, with yarn **A** cast on 11 sts

Rows 1, 3 & 5. Purl

Row 2. (inc) Kfb, k3, kfb, k1, kfb, k3, kfb - 15sts

Row 4. (inc) Kfb, k4, kfb, k3, kfb, k4, kfb - 19sts

Row 6. (inc) [Kfb, k5] three times, kfb - 23sts

Row 7. Purl

Add Right Hind Leg as follows:

Row 8. (inc) Cast on 20 sts for Right Hind Leg, knit all 43 sts to end of row

Add Left Hind Leg as follows:

Row 9. (inc) Cast on 20 sts for Left Hind Leg, purl all 63 sts to end of row

Rows 10-12. Beginning with a knit row work three rows stocking stitch

Work short rows to create Rump Part of the Back as follows:

Short Row 1. P45, W+Tp (*Wrap and Turn Purl, Ref. Page 3*)

Short Row 2. K27, W+Tk (*Wrap and Turn Knit, Ref. Page 3*)

Short Row 3. P26, W+Tp

Short Row 4. K25, W+Tk

Short Row 5. P24, W+Tp

Short Row 6. K23, W+Tk

Short Row 7. P22, W+Tp

Short Row 8. K21, W+Tk

Short Row 9. P20, W+Tp

Short Row 10. K19, W+Tk

Short Row 11. P41 to end of row

Right Lower Hind Leg

Row 13. K12, Turn (flip work over so that purl-side faces)

Row 14. P12

Row 15. K12, Turn

Row 16. P12

Row 17. (dec) Cast off 12 Right Lower Hind Leg sts, knit 50 sts to end of row - 51sts

Left Lower Hind Leg

Row 13. P12, Turn (flip work over so that knit-side faces)

Row 14. K12

Row 15. P12, Turn

Row 16. (dec) Cast off 12 Left Lower Hind Leg sts, knit 38 sts to end of row - 39sts

Continue with Rear Rump as follows:

Rejoin yarn **A** to the 39 sts on the knitting needle, continue as follows:

Rows 18 & 20. Purl

Row 19. dec) K2tog, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog - 37sts

Row 21. dec) K2tog, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog - 35sts

Row 22. Purl

Row 23. dec) Cast off 11 sts for Right Rump Seam, knit to end of row - 24sts

Row 24. dec) Cast off 11 sts purl-wise for Left Rump Seam, purl to end of row - 13sts

Row 25. inc) Cast on 9 sts for Right Rump Seam, knit to end of row - 22sts

Row 26. inc) Cast on 9 sts purl-wise for Left Rump Seam, purl to end of row - 31sts

Row 27. inc) Kfb, knit to last st, kfb - 33sts

Rows 28-36. Beginning with a purl row work nine rows stocking stitch

Row 37. dec) Cast off 6 sts for Right Foreleg Back Seam, knit to end of row - 27sts

Row 38. dec) Cast off 6 sts purl-wise for Left Foreleg Back Seam, purl to end of row - 21sts

Add Right Foreleg as follows:

Row 39. (inc) Cast on 6 sts for Right Foreleg Seam, **PM** (*place marker*) on last cast-on stitch (*6th stitch*) for **Right Foreleg Back Seam**, THEN cast on a further 15 sts for Right Foreleg, knit all 42sts

Add Left Foreleg as follows:

Row 40. (inc) Cast on 6 sts for Left Foreleg Seam, **PM** on last cast-on stitch for **Left Foreleg Back Seam**, THEN cast on a further 15 sts for Left Foreleg purl all 63sts

Rows 41-42. Beginning with a knit row work two rows stocking stitch

Row 43. inc) K28, kfb, k5, kfb, k28 to end of row - 65sts

Row 44. Purl

Row 45. inc) K29, kfb, k5, kfb, k29 to end of row - 67sts

Row 46. Purl

Row 47. (dec) Cast off 19 Right Foreleg Front sts, **PM** on last cast-off stitch (*19th stitch*) for **Right Foreleg Front Seam**, THEN cast on a further 7 sts for Right Foreleg Front Seam, knit to end of row - 41sts

Row 48. (dec) Cast off 19 Left Foreleg Front sts purl-wise, **PM** on last cast-off stitch for **Left Foreleg Front Seam**, THEN cast on a further 7 sts purl-wise for Left Foreleg Front Seam, purl to end of row - 15sts

Add Right Foreleg Front Seam Edge as follows:

Row 49. (inc) Cast on 5 sts for Right Foreleg Front Edge, k9, skpo, k3, k2tog, k4 to end of row - 18sts

Add Left Foreleg Front Seam Edge as follows:

Row 50. (inc) Cast on 5 sts for Left Foreleg Front Edge, purl all 23 sts to end of row

Row 51. (dec) K8, skpo, k3, k2tog, k8 to end of row - 21sts

Rows 52 & 54. Purl

Row 53. (dec) K7, skpo, k3, k2tog, k7 to end of row - 19sts

Row 55. (dec) K2tog, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog - 17sts

Row 56. Purl

Rows 57-58. (dec) Repeat last 2 rows once - 15sts

Work short rows to create a slight Bend in the Neck as follows: (It's *as if the deer is looking slighty askance/ to the left - you can omit this part of the pattern if you wish*)

Short Row 1. K5, W+Tk

Short Row 2. P5

Short Row 3. K4, W+Tk

Short Row 4. P4

Row 59. Knit

Row 60. (dec) Cast off 4 sts purl-wise for Left Neck Edge, purl to end of row - 11sts

Row 61. (dec) Cast off 4 sts for Right Neck Edge, knit to end of row - 7sts

Rows 62 & 64. Purl

Row 63. (inc) Kfb, knit to last st, kfb - 9sts

Row 65. (inc) Kfb, knit to last st, kfb - 11sts

Row 66. (inc) Pfb, purl to last st, pfb - 13sts

Row 67. (inc) [Kfb, k3] twice, kfb - 17sts

Row 68. Purl, **PM** on the first and last stitch of the last row for Right and Left **Head Side Markers**

Row 69. (inc) Kfb, knit to last st, kfb - 19sts

Row 70 & 72. Purl

Row 71. Kfb, k4, skpo, k5, k2tog, k4, kfb

Row 73. (dec) K6, skpo, k3, k2tog, k6 to end of row - 17sts

Row 74. (dec) P2tog, purl to last 2 sts, p2tog - 15sts

Row 75. (dec) K5, skpo, k1, k2tog, k5 to end of row - 13sts

Row 76. (dec) P2tog, purl to last 2 sts, p2tog - 11sts

Rows 77-78. Beginning with a knit row work two rows stocking stitch

Row 79. (dec) K2tog, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog - 9sts

Row 80. Purl

Row 81. (dec) K2tog, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog - 7sts

Row 82. Purl

Cast off all 7 Nose sts.

You'll now sew a few seams before working on the Belly, Throat and Inner Limbs - if you're knitting with the lace-weight yarn you might find it easier to iron the piece of knitting first (*checking to see what temperature the yarn you are using can tolerate heat-wise*)

Join Rear End Seam

RS together, fold the deer in half at the Rear End Cast-On Edge. Join the Rear End Cast-On Edge halves together with back stitch from the corners of the cast-on edge to the fold - ***Ref. Fig. 1***, *join the cast-on edge by joining dotted lines A to B.*

NOTE: if it looks a bit pointy at the top of the seam, don't worry as this will become the Tail later on in the pattern.

Join Nose Front Seam

With RS together fold the Nose Cast-Off Edge and mattress stitch the cast-off edge together from the corners of the cast-off edge to the fold. - ***Ref. Fig. 2***, *join the cast-off edge by joining dotted lines A to B*

Join Top of the Hind Leg Seam

With RS together, working on one side at a time, match the Rump Seam Cast-On Edge to the Rump Seam Cast-Off Edge, ease the edges together and work back stitch to join the cast-on/ cast-off edges and create a seam at the tops of the hind legs.
- ***Ref. Fig. 3***, *join dotted lines A to B to create a seam for the Hind Legs*

Join Back of the Foreleg Seam

With RS together, working on one side at a time, match the Foreleg Back Seam Marker to the corner of the Foreleg Back Cast-Off Edge, ease the cast-on/ cast-off edges together and work back stitch to join the cast-on/ cast-off edges from the marker/ corner to the split to create a seam at the back of the forelegs.
- ***Ref. Fig. 4***, *join dotted lines A to B to create a seam for the back of the Forelegs*
Remove both Foreleg Back Seam Markers

FIG. 1

FIG. 2

FIG. 3

Join Front of the Foreleg Seam

With RS together, working on one side at a time, match the Foreleg Front Seam Marker to the corner of the Foreleg Front Cast-On Edge, ease the cast-on/ cast-off edges together and work back stitch to join the cast-on/ cast-off edges from the marker/ corner to the split to create a seam at the front of the forelegs.

- *Ref. Fig. 5, join dotted lines A to B to create a seam for the front of the Forelegs*

Remove both Foreleg Front Seam Markers

FIG. 4

FIG. 5

FIG. 6

INNER HIND LEGS & BELLY

The Inner Hind Legs are picked-up and knitted from the corner of the Left Hind Leg Cast-On Edge, along the cast-on edges and row ends either side of the Rear End Seam to the corner of the Right Hind Leg Cast-On Edge as follows:

RS and deer's back facing you, with yarn **A**, begin at the corner of the deer's left corner of the Left Hind Leg Cast-On Edge and pick up and knit 20 sts evenly into the left hind leg cast-on edge and row end stitches along to the rear end seam; pick up and knit one stitch at the seam; then pick up and knit 20 sts evenly across row ends and deer's right hind leg cast-on edge to the corner of the Right Hind Leg Cast-On Edge - 41sts. - *Ref. Fig. 6, pick up and knit from A to B to C*

Row 1. (dec) P16, p2tog, p1, p3tog, p1, p2tog, p16 to end of row - 37sts

Row 2. (dec) K16, skpo, k1, k2tog, k16 to end of row - 35sts

Divide for Right Inner Hind Leg as follows:

Row 3. K16, Turn (*flip work over so purl-side faces*)

You'll now work on just the 16 **Right Inner Hind Leg** sts as follows:

Row 4. Purl

Row 5. K16, Turn

Row 6. Purl

Cast off all 16 Right Inner Hind Leg sts.

Rejoin yarn **A** to the 19 sts on the knitting needle, continue as follows:

Row 3. (inc) Kfb, k1, kfb, k16 to end of row - 21sts

Row 4. P16, Turn (*flip work over so knit-side faces*)

You'll now work on just the 16 **Left Inner Hind Leg** sts as follows:

Row 5. Knit

Row 6. P16, Turn

Cast off all 16 Left Inner Hind Leg sts.

Rejoin yarn **A** to the 5 sts on the knitting needle, continue with **Belly** as follows:

Rows 4-8. Beginning with a purl row work five rows stocking stitch, **PM** on first and last stitch of last purl row for **Belly to Inner Thigh Markers**

Row 9. (inc) Kfb, knit to last st, kfb - 7sts

Rows 10-20. Beginning with a purl row work 11 rows stocking stitch, **PM** on first and last stitch of last purl row for **Belly to Back Foreleg Seam Markers**

Rows 21-26. Beginning with a knit row work six rows stocking stitch, **PM** on first and last stitch of last purl row for **Belly to Front Foreleg Seam Markers**

Cut yarn A, join yarn **B**, continue with the **Throat** as follows:

Row 27. (inc) Kfb, knit to last st, kfb - 9sts

Rows 28-30. Beginning with a purl row work three rows stocking stitch

Row 31. Kfb, k1, skpo, k1, k2tog, k1, kfb

Rows 32 & 34. Purl

Row 33. (dec) K1, skpo, k3, k2tog, k1 - 7sts

Row 35. Kfb, skpo, k1, k2tog, kfb

Row 36. Purl

Row 37. Kfb, skpo, k1, k2tog, kfb

Cast off all 7 Throat sts purl-wise.

Join Belly to Back by Matching Marker

Begin by stuffing all the yarn endings inside the body.

With WS together, working on one side at a time, match the Belly to Foreleg Front Seam Marker (*from deer's Belly*) to the Foreleg Front Seam (*from deer's Back*) and make a stitch to hold in place.

Then match the Belly to Foreleg Back Seam Marker (*from Belly*) to the Foreleg Back Seam (*from Back*) and make a stitch to hold on place.

Then match the Belly to Inner Thigh Marker (*from Belly*) to the Hind Leg Seam (*from Back*) and make a stitch to hold in place. - ***Ref. Fig. 7***

Join Belly to Back

With WS together, working on one side at a time work mattress stitch to join row ends for the Belly/ Back Seam in between the Belly to Inner Thigh Marker and the Belly to Foreleg Back Seam Marker, adding stuffing into the body as you do so. - *Ref. Fig. 7, join as dotted line shows*

FIG. 7

FIG. 8

Join Throat to Neck

With WS together, working on one side at a time match the corner of the Throat Cast-Off Edge (*from Belly, Ref. Fig. 8 'X'*) to the corner of the Neck Cast-Off Edge (*from Back, Ref. Fig. 8 'Y'*) and make a stitch to hold in place, then mattress stitch the Neck to Throat Seam from there to the Belly to Foreleg Front Seam Marker. - ***Ref. Figs. 8 & 9***, *match X to Y and make a stitch to hold in place; work the same for the other side of the neck*

Join Inner Leg to Outer Hind Leg

With WS together, working on one hind leg at a time, fold the Inner Hind Leg until the corner of the cast-off edge (*at the top of the Inner Hind Leg, Ref. Fig. 10 'X'*) matches with the Belly to Inner Thigh Marker *at the top of the Inner Hind Leg, 'Y',* and make a stitch to hold in place.

Remove both Belly to Inner Thigh Markers

Join Belly to Top of Inner Hind Leg

Work mattress stitch to join the row ends from the top of the Inner Hind Leg to the Belly Row Ends. - *Ref. Fig. 10, join dotted lines (showing Right Leg)*

FIG. 9

FIG. 10

CHIN

The Chin is picked-up and knitted from the beginning of the Left Neck Cast-Off Edge, along the cast-off edge; across the Throat cast-Off Edge and along to the corner of the Right Neck Cast-Off Edge as follows:

RS and deer's left side facing you, with yarn **B**, begin at the corner of the deer's left corner of the Neck Cast-Off Edge (*Ref. Fig. 11, A*) and pick up and knit 4 sts to the corner of the Throat Cast-Off Edge (*B*); pick up and knit 3 sts across the cast-off edge (*Ref. Fig. 12, C*); then pick up and knit 4 sts the corner of the deer's right corner of the Neck Cast-Off Edge (*D*) - 11sts. - *Ref. Figs. 11 & 12, pick up and knit from A to B to C*

FIG. 11

FIG. 12

Chin Continued...

Rows 1 & 3. Purl

Row 2. (dec) K2tog, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog - 9sts

Row 4. (dec) K2tog, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog - 7sts

Rows 5-7. Beginning with a purl row work three rows stocking stitch

Row 8. (dec) K2tog, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog - 5sts

Rows 9-11. Beginning with a purl row work three rows stocking stitch, **PM** on first and last stitch of last purl row for **Chin Markers**

Row 12. (dec) K2tog, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog - 3sts

Rows 13-15. Beginning with a purl row work three rows stocking stitch

Work short rows to create the Tiny Chin End as follows:

Short Row 1. K2, W+Tk

Short Row 2. P1, W+Tp

Short Row 4. K2 to end of row

Cut yarn and thread end through all 3 Chin End sts.

Join Chin End to Nose Seam

With WS together, working on one side at a time match the tail end from the Chin End fastened-off edge to the bottom of the Nose Seam (*from the Head*) make a stitch to hold in place.

Match Markers at Chin and Muzzle

With WS together, working on one side at a time match the Chin Marker to the Head Side Marker (*from the Head*) make a stitch to hold in place. - ***Ref. Fig. 13***, *'X' is where the holding stitch is*

Remove Both Chin Markers and both Head Side Markers

FIG. 13

Optional Body Armature

If you want to add an armature into the body then now if the time to do so.

Create a simple armature framework using a 15cm length of wire and bending in the ends as ***Ref. Fig. 13***, (*the masking tape is there to stop sharp edges from poking through*). Wiggle the armature in though one of the gaps at the head, adjusting it to fit into the head and the rump.

Add Eyes and Join Side of Head Seams

Push the eyes into the sides of the head and when you are happy with the placement secure them in place with their backing.

Then, work mattress stitch to join the side of Head Seams either side of the holding stitches, adding tiny amounts of stuffing as you do so. - ***Ref. Figs. 14 & 15***

FIG. 14

FIG. 15

EARS

The Ears are knitted independently as follows then sewn onto the head later:

Make 2 alike

With yarn **A** cast on 12 sts for the Bottom of the Ear, leave a long tail end for joining the base of the ear to the head later

Row 1. Knit

Do not Turn the work

NOTE: From now on have RS/ knit-side facing at all time

Continue to work i-cord as follows:

If you are using dpns (double-pointed needles) then simply work each i-cord row by RS facing at all times, slide the sts to the other end of the needle pull the working yarn behind the back of the work ready to knit and knit all sts.
NOTE: there will be what's called 'a ladder' at the back of the i-cord, this is what you want for these ears

However, if you want to work i-cord on two single-pointed needles, this is how:

NOTE: Have RS/ knit-side facing at all time whilst you work on the i-cord as follows:

i-cord row 1. RS facing, slide the 12 sts off the right-hand needle onto the point of the left hand needle pull the working yarn behind the back of the work ready to knit and knit all 12 sts

i-cord row 2. (inc) Slip the 12 sts off the right hand needle onto the left hand needle, k4, kfb, k2, kfb, k4 - 14sts

i-cord row 3. Slip the 14 sts off the right hand needle onto the left hand needle, knit the 14 sts

i-cord row 4. (dec) Slip the 14 sts off the right hand needle onto the left hand needle, k2, k2tog, k6, k2tog, k2 - 12sts

i-cord row 5. Slip the 12 sts off the right hand needle onto the left hand needle, knit the 12 sts

i-cord row 6. (dec) Slip the 12 sts off the right hand needle onto the left hand needle, k2, k2tog, k4, k2tog, k2 - 10sts

i-cord row 7. Slip the 10 sts off the right hand needle onto the left hand needle, knit the 10 sts

i-cord row 8. (dec) Slip the 10 sts off the right hand needle onto the left hand needle, [k2, k2tog] twice, k2 - 8sts

i-cord row 9. Slip the 8 sts off the right hand needle onto the left hand needle, knit the 8 sts

i-cord row 10. (dec) Slip the 8 sts off the right hand needle onto the left hand needle, k1, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k1 - 6sts

i-cord row 11. (dec) Slip the 6 sts off the right hand needle onto the left hand needle, k2tog, k2, k2tog - 4sts

i-cord row 12. (dec) Slip the 4 sts off the right hand needle onto the left hand needle, [k2tog] twice - 2sts

Cut yarn, thread end through the 2 sts, pull up and secure for Ear Point.
Thread the tail end back in through the ear.

Join the Ears to the Head

Working on one Ear at a time, begin by pinching the base of the Ear and work a stitch to hold the corners of the base cast-on edge together - a bit like creating a petal shape.
Then Lay the ear against the head back and once you are happy with the placement of the ear over-sew or mattress stitch the base of the ear, the cast-on edge, to the head as neatly as possible. - *Ref. Fig. 16*

FIG. 16

FIG. 17

Complete the Head and Facial Features

With threaded-up dark brown yarn work four or five horizontal straight stitches over the end of the Nose Seam.

With threaded-up off-white yarn work three vertical straight stitches inside the Ear.

Finally, with threaded-up off-white yarn (*I separated the 4-ply and used a single ply for this*) and working on one eye at a time, work a petal shape - a kind of Lazy Daisy Stitch, over the toy eye so that the sides of the 'petal' sit at the eye edges (*you can tease the sides of the 'petal' to sit under the toy eye by gently pushing the yarn under with the point of a needle or pin*). - ***Ref. Figs. 17 & 18***

FIG. 18

TAIL

As aforementioned the Tail is integrated into the Back and all you need to do to create what looks like a separate Tail is to work a running stitch from the bottom of the triangle that was created when you sewed up the rear End Seam, and then tuck this new tail to one side and work a stitch or two to hold in place. - *Ref. Fig. 19*, tuck the tail to one side and join the corner of the tail to the body with a few stitches at A

FIG. 19

FIG. 20

Hind Legs Armature *This is also optional but fundamental of you want your deer to stand!*

Before sewing the Hind Legs Front Seam together you make an armature for both hind legs at the same time as follows;

Create a simple armature framework using a 13cm length of wire, wiggle the armature in though one of the hind legs, in through the Rump (*try and push it in towards the top of the rump, into the stuffing, if you can*) and out at the other hind leg. Pull through so that both emerging wires are of equal length then bend in the ends as *Ref. Fig. 20*, (*the masking tape is there to stop sharp edges from poking through*).

Join Hind Leg Seams

Working on one hoof end of the Leg at a time, WS together fold the Hind Leg Row End Edge in half at the Hind Leg Seam and join the two halves with mattress stitch. WS together, with the hind leg folded match the cast-on and cast-off edges together, ease the seam together and mattress stitch the Hind Leg Seam starting from the Hoof Seam up to the top of the leg - if you want to add any stuffing to the legs (*I only used a little yarn endings*) then now is the time to do so.

Finish the Hind Legs by threading up a length of dark brown yarn and working tiny cloven hooves with a few straight stitches. - *Ref. Fig. 21*

FIG. 21
CLOVEN HOOF

INNER FORELEGS

The Inner Forelegs are picked up and knitted into the belly row ends just behind the Outer Forelegs as follows:

Left Inner Foreleg

With the Belly facing you, deer's head to your left, begin at Left Belly to Back Foreleg Seam Marker (*on your right*) and with yarn **A** pick up and knit 7 sts along Belly row ends to Left Belly to Front Foreleg Seam Marker. - *Ref. Fig. 21, pick up and knit From A to B*

Remove Left Belly to Back Foreleg Seam Marker and Left Belly to Back Foreleg Seam Marker

*****Rows 1-17.** Beginning with a knit row work 17 rows stocking stitch Cast off all 7 Hoof End sts.**

Right Inner Foreleg

With the Belly facing you, deer's head to your right, begin at Right Belly to Front Foreleg Seam Marker (*on your right*) and with yarn **A** pick up and knit 7 sts along Belly row ends to Right Belly to Back Foreleg Seam Marker.

Remove Right Belly to Back Foreleg Seam Marker and Right Belly to Back Foreleg Seam Marker

Work as Left Inner Foreleg from * to **.

Forelegs Armature *This is also optional but fundamental of you want your deer to stand!*

Before sewing the Forelegs' Back and Front Seams together you make an armature for both forelegs at the same time as follows;
Create a simple armature framework using a 13cm length of wire, wiggle the armature in between one of the forelegs' front and back pieces, in through the body near the neck (*try and push it in towards the top of the neck, into the stuffing, if you can*) and out at the other foreleg, in between the second forelegs' front and back pieces.

Pull through so that both emerging wires are of equal length then bend in the ends as *Ref. Fig. 22* (*the masking tape is there to stop sharp edges from poking through*).

Join Foreleg Seams

Working on one Foreleg at a time, WS together mattress stitch all around the front, across the hoof edges for the Hoof Edge Seam, and across the back of the leg, at the same time sandwiching in the wire armature. The legs aren't stuffed.

FIG. 22

Hooves

The Foreleg Hooves are picked up and knitted along the Hoof Edge Seam as follows:

Working on one hoof at a time, with dark brown yarn, pick up and knit 3 sts across the Hoof Edge Seam. - *Ref. Fig. 23*

Rows 1-5. Beginning with a purl row work five rows stocking stitch.

Cast off all 3 Hood sts.

Join Hoof Seams

Working on one Hoof at a time, WS together, fold the hoof in half along the row ends then mattress stitch (*or oversew as it's such a miniscule seam*) all around the hoof. The hooves aren't stuffed. - *Ref. Fig. 24*

DOT DETAILS

Finally, with threaded-up off-white yarn (*I separated the 4-ply and used a single ply for this*), work three or four different length straight stitches together per dot and repeat, in a random fashion, over the deer's back. - *Ref. Fig. 25*

FIG. 24

FIG. 23

FIG. 25

Remember to get in touch if you need a little extra advice

And of course, there is more, much more, to learn, create and be

inspired by here **@dotpebbles_knits**

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And please do share what you've created from this pattern:

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x