

*Little Cotton Rabbits  
boy fox in a star spangled sweater*



*This fox is made from Misti Alpacas Best of Nature hand dyed worsted yarn in  
bwo4 Colorado (Yarn A) and Rowan baby alpaca DK in 205 Jacob (Yarn B).  
His sweater is made from Rowan Wool Cotton 4ply yarn in 482 celanden and 487 aqua and  
his shorts are in BC Garn Allino yarn in indigo.*

*More knitting patterns are available at  
[www.littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk](http://www.littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk)*

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 and intarsia colourwork 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 fox and it will 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 etc. 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 fox that you make from it.

## Materials:

- DK, worsted or light aran yarn (approx 77m) in a rusty brown colour: **Yarn A**
- DK, worsted or light aran yarn (approx 15m) in a cream colour: **Yarn B**
- 4ply/fingering weight yarn in 2 contrasting colours for the sweater: **Yarn C, Yarn D**
- 4 ply/5ply/sport weight yarn in dark colour for the shorts: **Yarn E**
- Scraps of black yarn, worsted or DK for the ear tips and 4ply for the eyes and facial features
- Toy stuffing
- A tiny button

## Notions:

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

## Finished size:

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

## Gauge:



Gauge for fox: 6 stitches x 9 rows to 1 inch

Gauge for clothes: 7 stitches x 10 rows to 1 inch

## 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

## Yarn suggestions:

I've always enjoyed experimenting when I knit my animals so I've used many different yarns over the years. Here are some of my current favourite yarns that I use with this pattern:



1 strand of Rowan Felted Tweed DK in 154 ginger and 1 strand of Rowan Kidsilk Haze in 596 marmalade with adriafile carezza angora merino in cream for the accents



Cascade 220 heathers in 2453 Pumpkin spice and 9600 Antiqued



\* Rowan Creative Focus worsted in 2190 copper and 0100 natural

\* *When I first started making foxes I used to always pop the eyes in the middle of the coloured nose section, but more recently I've been putting them to either side of the nose (as with the first two images). Obviously you can choose whichever placement you prefer.*

*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 with this.

Most of the clothes I've made for the animals have been 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 Rowan Siena 4ply both knit up nicely and have a good range of colours. Patons 4ply cotton also comes in a wide range of colours but is thinner, so you will need to check your gauge if the clothes are to fit.

## 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.

I plan to write up some extra tips about knitting and finishing, so please pop by for a visit and check out my knitting tips section on [Little Cotton Rabbits blog](#).

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## The pattern instructions:

All of the images on the following pages can be expanded so that you can see some of the more fiddly bits in better detail. Please note that when the pattern mentions cast on, I use a cable cast on.

### Head:

Before starting cut a length of 3m (just over 3yds) of Yarn B and keep to one side ready to work one of the cream intarsia patches on the head.

*A note about intarsia technique:* It is important that you intertwine the strands of contrasting colours as you switch between them, here is a helpful video: <http://www.knittinghelp.com/video/play/intarsia-color-knitting>

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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>row 1:</b> (wrong side) Purl   | <b>row 24:</b> K2, (K2tog) 6 times in yarn B, SSK, K3, K2tog in yarn A, SSK, (K2tog) 5 times, K2 in yarn B (21 stitches) |
| <b>row 2:</b> K2, (KLL, K1) 8 times, K1 (19 stitches)   | <b>row 25:</b> P8 in yarn B, P5 in yarn A, P8 in yarn B  |
| <b>row 3:</b> Purl  | <b>row 26:</b> K6, K2tog in yarn B, K5 in yarn A, SSK, K6 in yarn B (19 stitches)  |
| <b>row 4:</b> K2, (KLL, K2) 8 times, K1 (27 stitches)   | <b>row 27:</b> P7 in yarn B, P5 in yarn A, P7 in yarn B  |
| <b>row 5:</b> Purl  | <b>row 28:</b> K5, K2tog, in yarn B, K5 in yarn A, SSK, K5 in yarn B (17 stitches)                                       |
| <b>row 6:</b> K2, (KLL, K3) 8 times, K1 (35 stitches)   | <b>row 29:</b> P6 in yarn B, P5 in yarn A, P6 in yarn B  |
| <b>rows 7-17:</b> beginning and ending with a purl row work in stocking stitch (alternate purl and knit rows). Cut <b>Yarn A</b> from ball. | <b>row 30:</b> K4, K2tog in yarn B, K5 in yarn A, SSK, K4 in yarn B (15 stitches)  |
| <b>row 18:</b> Join in yarn B and K10, rejoin yarn A and K15, join in the extra length of yarn B and Knit the remaining 10 stitches         | <b>row 31:</b> P5 in yarn B, P5 in yarn A, P5 in yarn B  |
| <b>row 19:</b> P11 in yarn B, P13 in yarn A, P11 in yarn B  | <b>row 32:</b> K1, (K2tog) 2 times in yarn B, SSK, K1, K2tog in yarn A, SSK, K2 tog, K1 in yarn B (9 stitches)           |
| <b>row 20:</b> K12 in yarn B, K11 in yarn A, K12 in yarn B  | <b>row 33:</b> P3 in yarn B, P3 in yarn A, P3 in yarn B  |
| <b>row 21:</b> P13 in yarn B, P9 in yarn A, P13 in yarn B   |  |
| <b>row 22:</b> K14 in yarn B, K7 in yarn A, K14 in yarn B   |  |
| <b>row 23:</b> P14 in yarn B, P7 in yarn A, P14 in yarn B   |  |

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 9 stitches (see fig. 1). Pull up tightly and over-sew once to keep the seam from opening out again. Continue using this thread to close the front head seam using mattress stitch and stop at the end of the white section. Cut the other yarns from the balls and tie off all ends inside the head so they are secure and sew in if you wish before trimming excess.

Now thread the tapestry needle with your cast-on tail and use it to begin closing the seam from the back of the head using mattress stitch and leaving a gap through which to stuff the head (fig. 2)



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, *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 (see tips on stuffing on [page 3](#)).

I start with a tight ball of stuffing which I poke into the back of the head, packing it in firmly (*fig. 4*) then stuff the nose end lightly, pinching and manipulating the stuffing until it takes on the pointed shape that I want (*fig. 5*).



*fig. 4*

*fig. 5*

*fig. 6*

*fig. 7*

Then I stuff the cheeks to make them bulge out a little at the bottom of the head (*fig. 6 – here only the right side cheek is fully stuffed*). I pack in quite 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 (*fig. 7*)

When you are happy with the head shape leave the seam at the bottom of the head open for now and set the head aside while you make the ears.

## *E a r s* (make two the same):

The fox ears are knitted in two separate parts which are then sewn together.

**Outer ear:** Starting at the base of the ear and finishing at the top. Use **Yarn A** and 3mm needles to cast on 9 stitches, leaving a tail of 6 inches for sewing the ear to the head with later.

**row 1:** (wrong side) Purl

**row 2:** Knit

repeat these two rows

**row 5:** change to black yarn and Purl

**row 6:** SSK, K5, K2tog (7 stitches)

**row 7:** Purl

**row 8:** SSK, K3, K2tog (5 stitches)

**row 9:** Purl

**row 10:** SSK, K1, K2tog (3 stitches)

**row 11:** Purl

**row 12:** Slip 1, K2tog, pass slipped stitch over.

Cut the work from the ball and thread this end through the last stitch on the needle (*Fig. 8 A*). Weave in the two tails of black yarn, tie together in the centre and trim ends. Cut **Yarn A** from the ball and thread this end along the side of the ear to the cast-on edge (*fig. 8 B*).

**Inner ear:** Starting at the base of the ear and finishing at the top. Use **Yarn B** and 3mm needles to cast on 7 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for sewing both parts of the ear together with later

**row 1:** (wrong side) Purl

**row 2:** Knit

repeat these two rows

**row 5:** Purl

**row 6:** SSK, K3, K2tog (5 stitches)

**row 7:** Purl

**row 8:** SSK, K1, K2tog (3 stitches)

**row 9:** Purl

**row 10:** Slip 1, K2tog, pass slipped stitch over

Cut the work from the ball leaving a 6 inch tail and thread end through the last stitch on the needle (*fig. 8 C*)

Pin both the outer ear and inner ear with wrong sides together and bottom edges aligned. Thread a needle with the cast on end from the inner ear and use it to begin joining the two pieces together by sewing alternately through the edge stitches of the inner ear and the loops from the inside edge of the outer ear (*fig. 9*). Work all the way around the inner ear including the bottom edge. Then thread the cast off end from the inner ear through to join the end you've sewed up with, tie both ends together to secure and thread them through the inside of the ear to hide, trim excess (*fig. 10*). Make a second ear the same.



fig. 8



fig. 9



fig. 10

Now it's time to attach the ears to the head. I don't always have a set placement for the ears as I think varying the position gives each fox a different look. You can see different ear positions on my [flickr photo stream](#) for ideas (this does take a while to load). In the pictures here I am attaching the ears so that they sit on top of the head (fig. 15). To do this I align the inside edges of the ears with the edge of the coloured nose (as indicated by the dotted line in fig. 11)

To attach the right ear start with the inner ear facing you and thread the tapestry needle with the right-hand thread end. Place your first attaching stitch around 10 rows back from the inside edge of white face shaping.



fig. 11



fig. 12



fig. 13

Sew backwards along the head, joining half of the base of the ear by sewing alternately through the loops from the cast on edge at the back of the ear and the bars between stitches on the head (fig. 11). Make sure you keep in the same channel between stitches on the head. Once the ear is half attached re-thread the needle with the tail from the left side of the ear and join the ear on that side starting a couple of stitches away from the first attach point (fig. 12). I make the ear fold slightly so it is attached to the head in a 'U' shape. Continue to sew the rest of the ear to the head (fig. 13) until you reach the point where the first end is hanging and tie the two ends together securely. Thread both ends inside the head and out of the open seam at the bottom.



fig. 14



fig. 15



fig. 16

Repeat with the second ear but starting with the left-hand thread so reversing the sewing direction (fig. 14) and making sure the ears are in alignment (figs 15 & 16). When you are happy with positioning tie the 4 ends from the ears together securely, trim and poke inside the head cavity.

## To embroider the face:



fig. 17



fig. 18



fig. 19

Thread a tapestry needle with a 10 inch length of black 4ply or DK Yarn and push it up through the open bottom seam of the head and out on one side of the nose, down into the head on the other side of the nose and back out at the base of the nose (the centre of your gathered cast off) *fig.17*. Take the working yarn through the loop you've just made so that the nose is pulled down in a 'V' shape (*fig. 18*). Now take the yarn down the outside of the centre seam, thread it into the head at the base of the mouth and out at one mouth corner. Take it across the front to the other mouth corner and back through the head, coming out again at the base of the mouth (*fig. 19*)

Take the working yarn through the loop you've just made so that the mouth is also pulled into a 'V' shape. Thread the end back through the head at the base of the mouth and out of the open seam at the bottom of the head (*fig. 20*). Adjust the tightness of the stitches forming the facial features and knot the 2 ends of thread together securely before trimming and poke the ends inside the head.

Re-thread the needle with another length of black yarn and thread it up through the head to the top corner of the nose. Begin over-sewing the black thread horizontally across the nose between the lines of the V already made (*fig. 21*). When you reach the point of the 'V' (*fig. 22*) thread the yarn end back inside the head and tie off both ends.



fig. 20



fig. 21



fig. 22

I prefer to add the eyes after closing the seam on the underside of the head, so finish joining those seams together now. I aim to get the seams to meet just behind the white section and gently tighten the seams to give the head 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. Over the years I have tried different eye placements for my foxes, (see [page 3](#) for a couple of options) most recently I've liked the look of the eyes positioned in the decrease rows in cream either side of the nose, but I'll leave it to you to choose the location that you prefer. 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:



fig. 23



fig. 24



fig. 25



fig. 26

Thread an 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. 23). 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. 24). Hold the wrapped thread in place between your finger and thumb and pull the needle through. Pull on the end under the head to tighten the anchor loop slightly. Push the needle back down through the work (fig. 25) and back to the start point underneath the head. If you gently pull both ends you can now create a little eye socket shaping to the head (fig. 26).

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 to one side 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)
- row 7: Purl
- row 8: Knit
- rows 9 – 28: beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit work in stocking stitch (alternate Purl and Knit rows)
- row 29: Cast off in Purl



Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 5 inches and use this thread to close the seam up the back of the body using mattress stitch. Leave a gap at the top to make stuffing the body easier. Now for the legs.

## Legs:

beginning at the underside of the foot

Use **Yarn A** and 3mm needles to cast on 14 stitches, leaving a tail of 7 inches for seaming with later

**row 1:** (wrong side) Purl

**row 2:** K2, (KLL, K1) 4 times, K3, (KLL, K1) 4 times, K1 (22 stitches)

**row 3:** Purl

**row 4:** K3, (KLL, K1) 6 times, K5, (KLL, K1) 6 times, K2 (34 stitches)

**row 5–11:** beginning and ending with a purl row, work in stocking stitch (alternate purl and knit rows).

**row 12:** K14, SSK, K2, K2tog, K14 (32 stitches)

**row 13:** Purl

**row 14:** *Tip: This row is a little complicated because it includes both decreasing and casting off in the centre of the row. It is easy to lose count and I find it helps if you count the stitches yet to be worked rather than those already knitted.*

K7, Knit and cast off the next 7 (18 stitches still to work), SSK and cast off, K2tog and cast off (14 stitches still to work), Knit and cast off the next 8 stitches, K6

(7 stitches on either side of the cast off section giving a total of 14)

**row 15:** Purl across all stitches being careful to keep your tension tight across the gap (14 stitches)

**row 16:** Knit

repeat rows 15 and 16 six more times

**row 29:** Purl

**row 30:** Cast off in Knit

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



fig. 27



fig. 28



fig. 29

Join the top of the foot seam by tying a 5 inch length of **Yarn A** to the back of the stitch in the middle of the open seam - I've used red thread here just to illustrate (fig.27). Begin to close this seam by over-sewing across the gap through the outer loops of the cast off edge (fig.28). When you reach the top of the seam secure it and close up any small gaps by taking the needle behind one stitch on the right (fig.29), then behind the stitch directly at the top of the seam (fig.30), then behind one stitch on the right (fig.31) and finally through to the inside of the work (fig.32) where you can weave it along the seam and trim the end.



fig. 30



fig. 31



fig. 32



fig. 33

Start to close the back seam of the foot by threading a tapestry needle with the cast on tail and using mattress stitch. Seam around 1 inch and leave the rest of the leg open for now to make stuffing the foot easier. Now close the seam at the underside of the foot by re-threading the tapestry needle with a spare length of **Yarn A** and using it to gather up the loops in the bottom of the foot – I've used red thread here to illustrate (*fig.33*) Tie both ends tightly inside the foot to fully close the bottom 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're happy with the shape of the foot close the leg back seam but leave a small gap at the top to make stuffing the leg easier. Stuff the leg lightly. If you want your fox to sit nicely then don't stuff the top 1cm of the leg. Finish closing the seam and tie the two ends together at the top, poking all other ends inside the leg. Repeat for the second leg. Now both legs are ready to attach to the body. Although they are both the same I often find that one looks like a right and one a left so take time to look at them and decide which one goes on which side.



*fig. 34*



*fig. 35*



*fig. 36*

Thread the tapestry needle with the longer end from the top of the first finished leg and use this to sew it to the body. Position the leg by lining it up with the edge of the body and over-sew the leg in place through the loops on the cast off body edge and cast off leg edge (*fig.34*). 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.35*).

Once both legs are attached and secure turn the body inside out. Tie a 5 inch length of **Yarn A** to the inside of the body at the start of the gap between the legs. Turn the work right side out and use this thread to tightly over-sew the short seam between the legs (*fig.36*) before threading it back inside and tying off 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.

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 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)

Use **Yarn A** and 3mm needles to cast on 10 stitches, leaving a tail of 5 inches for seaming with later

- row 1: (wrong side) Purl
- row 2: K2, (KLL, K2) 4 times (14 stitches)
- row 3: Purl
- row 4: Knit
- rows 5-24: repeat rows 3 and 4 ten times more



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

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

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

Thread the tapestry needle with the longer end and use it 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.

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 with the second arm.

## Tail:

Use **Yarn A** and 3mm needles to cast on 10 stitches, leaving a tail of 5 inches for seaming with later

- row 1: (wrong side) Purl
- row 2: K2, (M1L, K2) 4 times (14 stitches)
- row 3: Purl
- row 4: K2, (M1L, K2) 6 times (20 stitches)
- row 5: Purl
- row 6: Knit
- rows 7-14: beginning with a purl row and ending with a knit row work in stocking stitch (alternate purl and knit rows)
- row 15: change to Yarn B and Purl
- row 16: Knit 3, (K2tog, K2) 4 times, K1 (16 stitches)
- row 17: Purl
- row 18: Knit 2, (K2tog, K1) 4 times, K2 (12 stitches)
- row 19: Purl
- row 20: Knit 1, (K2tog) 5 times, K1 (7 stitches)
- row 21: Purl
- row 22: Knit
- row 23: Purl



Cut the work from the ball leaving a 5 inch tail and thread this end through the last 7 stitches on the needle, pull up to tighten the stitches. Over-sew once to keep the seam from opening out again. Continue to close the tail seam using mattress stitch Leave a gap of around an inch and stuff the tail lightly and then finish closing the seam. Thread the tapestry needle with the cast on end and use this to join the tail to the body by sewing alternately through a loop on the open top edge of the tail then through a whole stitch of the body. Work around all of the top tail seam joining it to the body and when you reach the start point knot the ends together and thread through the body before trimming.

Now your fox is ready for some clothes, patterns for a sweater and shorts are on the next three pages.



## *Sweater with a star:*

### *Materials:*

- 2.75mm (US 2) needles
- **Yarn C:** blue 4ply weight
- **Yarn D:** dark blue 4ply weight
- a small button

### *Special abbreviations:*

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)

The sweater is worked in separate pieces up to the armhole but from the armhole upwards to the neck it is worked across all the pieces at once.

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

*sleeve, front, sleeve, back*

This will ensure that they are all in the correct place when you get to **row 13** and purl back across all of the stitches.

When casting on the following pieces, keep the needle holding the piece/s already worked in your left hand and the empty needle in your right.



The star decoration on the front of this sweater is added after knitting using duplicate stitch (Swiss darning). If you prefer you could follow the chart for the front and knit it into the sweater as you go using intarsia. I have not suggested that method here because duplicate stitch is an easier option for all skill levels.

### 1. First sleeve:

starting at the cuff and working up to the armhole  
Use [Yarn C](#) and 2.75mm needles to cast on 23 stitches leaving a tail of 5 inches for seaming with later

row 1: (wrong side) Knit

row 2: Knit

row 3: Knit

row 4: Knit

row 5: Purl

row 6-12: beginning and ending with a knit row work in stocking stitch (alternate knit and purl rows) cut work from ball, leaving a 3 inch tail for sewing in later and leave work on needle.

### 3. Second sleeve:

repeat instructions as first sleeve

### 4. Back:

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

row 13: P24, P2tog, P21, P2tog, P23, P2tog, P22  
(93 stitches)

row 14: K1, SSK, K18, CDD, K21, CDD, K19, CDD, K20, K2tog, K1 (85 stitches)

row 15: Purl

row 16: K1, SSK, K16, CDD, K19, CDD, K17, CDD, K18, K2tog, K1 (77 stitches)

row 17: Purl

row 18: K1, SSK, K14, CDD, K17, CDD, K15, CDD, K16, K2tog, K1 (69 stitches)

row 19: Purl

row 20: K1, SSK, K12, CDD, K15, CDD, K13, CDD, K14, K2tog, K1 (61 stitches)

row 21: Purl

### 2. Front:

starting at the bottom edge and working up to the armhole. Use [Yarn C](#) and 2.75mm needles to cast on 25 stitches, leaving a tail of 5 inches for seaming with later

row 1: (wrong side) Knit

row 2: Knit

row 3: Knit

row 4: Knit

row 5: Purl

row 6-12: beginning and ending with a knit row work in stocking stitch (alternate knit and purl rows) cut work from ball leaving a 3 inch tail for sewing in later and leave work on needle

row 22: K1, SSK, K10, CDD, K13, CDD, K11, CDD, K12, K2tog, K1 (53 stitches)

row 23: Purl

row 24: K1, SSK, K8, CDD, K11, CDD, K9, CDD, K10, K2tog, K1 (45 stitches)

row 25: Purl

row 26: K1, SSK, K6, CDD, K9, CDD, K7, CDD, K8, K2tog, K1 (37 stitches)

row 27: Purl

row 28: Knit

row 29: Purl

row 30: Knit

row 31: cast off in Purl

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.

Before I add the star I like to block the sweater to make it neat. I usually do this by carefully steam blocking but if you prefer wet blocking that is fine too. Now it's time to add the star. I use duplicate stitch or Swiss darning to add the motif. It is an easier technique than working the star in intarsia (though you can choose to do that if you prefer). I find it is better to work on the motif before seaming the sweater, while the work is still flat and it is best to start at the bottom of a motif. There is a good tutorial for duplicate stitch here:

<http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/how-to-add-duplicate-stitch-to-knitting.html>

Cut two lengths of [Yarn D](#) of around 52 inches (130cms) and thread the tapestry needle with one of them ready to begin the star motif at the bottom right star point. Use the second length the start the bottom left star point. I use two separate lengths of [Yarn D](#) to work this star design in equal halves in order to avoid the need for stranding across the gap between the bottom-most star points.



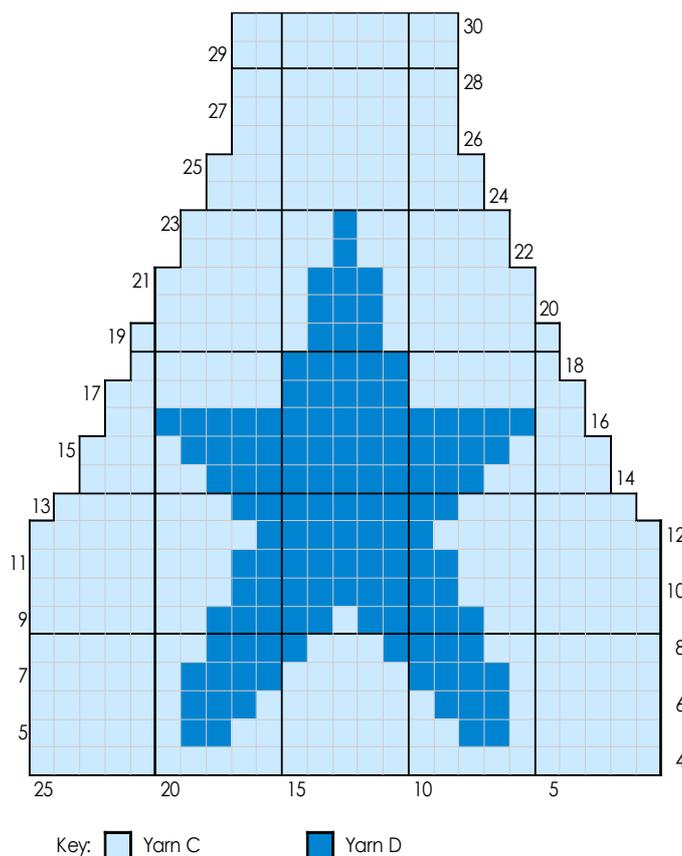
After the star is finished weave in the ends on the back of the design.

Now you can finish the sweater by threading the tapestry needle with the cast-on tail for one of the sleeves and join the seam up to the armpit using mattress stitch. Repeat with the other sleeve.

Then use the cast on end from the front to join the side seam and repeat for the other side seam with the cast on end from the back.

Close a 1cm section of the open armhole seam, leaving the top part of the seam open so that when the button is undone the sweater can be easily taken on and off. Weave in all the yarn ends along the inside seams and trim excess. Sew a tiny button on the opposite side to the loop and your sweater is done.

PS: the eagle eyed amongst you may notice that the on sweater above the left sleeve is shorter than the right. I wasn't paying attention on my row counts and didn't notice until after I seamed the sweater, which just goes to prove that even practice doesn't always make perfect if you're half asleep! Luckily my fox doesn't seem to mind.



## Optional Short Trousers:

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

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

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

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

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

### Special abbreviations:

M1R : MAKE 1 RIGHT. A nice tight method of making an extra stitch. With the left hand needle pick up the connecting strand between the two needles from behind and knit into the front loop to create an extra stitch. If you find this too tight for your liking you can substitute M1T (make one towards) which will give a looser increase.

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

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

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

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

