

## *Little Cotton Rabbits girl fox in a flowery frock*



*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). Her dress, knickers, socks and shoes are made from Rowan Wool Cotton 4ply yarn in 480 antique (Yarn C), 484 petal (Yarn D) and 491 leaf (Yarn E),*

*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 animal 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 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 fox that you make from it.

## Materials:

- DK, worsted or light aran yarn (approx 60m) in a rusty brown colour: **Yarn A**
- DK, worsted or light aran yarn (approx 15m) in a cream colour: **Yarn B**
- 4ply weight yarn in 3 contrasting colours for the clothing: **Yarn C**, **Yarn D**, **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, 2.75mm and 2.5mm
- Tapestry needle

## Finished size:

approx 22cm (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 dress: 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:



Malabrigo Worsted in 194 Cinnabar and 63 Natural



Dream in Colour Classy in Chinatown Apple and Tokyo Cream



\* 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.

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## 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.

Please note that 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.

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# The pattern instructions:

.....  
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, <b>rejoin yarn A and K15</b> , 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 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 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, (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)
  - row 7: Purl
  - row 8: Knit
  - row 9: Purl
- repeat rows 8 & 9 twice more giving a total of 13 rows worked
- row 14: change to 2.5mm needles and K3, (KLL, K5) 6 times, K1 (40 stitches)
  - row 15: change to **Yarn D**, Purl
  - row 16: Purl
  - row 17: Purl
  - row 18–32: beginning and ending with a knit row work 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 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: (make 2 the same)

Begin with the shoes which are made as a separate piece. Starting at the underside of the shoe. Use **Yarn E** 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, work in alternate purl and knit rows.

*Tip: the next 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.*

**row 15:** 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, 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 will need to pick up stitches from the cast off edge of the shoe to form the top of the foot.



fig. 27

fig. 28

fig. 29

fig. 30

*Tip: I recommend using a sharp tipped or smaller sized needle for the first row:*

**row 1:** With **Yarn D** 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. 27) 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 continue in stocking stitch (alternate purl and knit rows). Cut the work from the ball leaving a short tail for tying off later.

Now you will need to pick up more stitches to form the cuff of the sock

**row 1:** (right side) Leaving a tail of 7 inches for seaming with later, use **Yarn D** to pick up and knit the first 5 stitches from the far right side of the shoe cast-off edge (fig 28). 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 (fig 29). Note, 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:** Purl

**row 3:** Knit

**row 4:** Knit

**row 5:** Cast off in purl and cut the work from the ball leaving a sort tail for tying off later.

Now you will need to pick up more stitches to form the shaft of the leg.

**row 1:** (right side) With right side of work facing bend the top of the sock towards you to expose the wrong side and use **Yarn A** to pick up and knit 16 stitches from the back of row 3 of the sock top leaving a short tail for tying off later (this will show as the topmost row of purl nubs, *fig. 30*) (16 stitches)

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

**row 3-16:** Beginning with a knit row and ending with a purl continue in stocking stitch (alternate knit and purl rows)

**row 17:** Cast off in Knit.

Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 6 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 E** 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 short 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. 31*). 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. 32*). You are aiming to have 4 rows of knitting showing on the top of the foot once the seams are closed.



*fig. 31*



*fig. 32*



*fig. 33*



*fig. 34*

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 its curved shaped toe. Thread the yarn to the inside of the work and catch up the **Yarn E** loops from the back of the toe of the shoe (*fig. 33*).

At this point you need to gently tighten the yarn slightly, gathering in the section that you have just sewn up. 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. 34*). 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 couple of times to secure (*fig. 35*). Tie off all of the ends inside the shoe and sew along a seam before trimming off the 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 E** and use it to gather up the loops in the bottom of the foot (*fig. 36*) I've used red thread here just to illustrate. Tie both ends tightly inside the shoe to fully close the bottom shoe seam.



fig. 35



fig. 36



fig. 37

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 shoe back seam entirely and tie ends together before poking inside shoe. Thread the tapestry needle with the long end from the bottom of the sock section and use this to close the seam up the back of the sock using mattress stitch. At the top of the sock tie both ends together. Re-thread the needle with the long edge from the bottom of the leg section and use this to close the leg seam using mattress stitch (fig. 37). Leave a gap at the top to make stuffing the leg easier and thread both ends from the top of the sock inside the leg cavity. 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.

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 (fig. 38)



fig. 38



fig. 39



fig. 40

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

Now both legs are ready to attach to the body (fig. 40).

Thread the tapestry needle with the longer end from the top of the first finished leg and use this to sew the leg to the body making sure that you have the correct leg in position – the French Knot should be on the outside. **Note:** In order to have the finished bottom half of the body looking like knickers/panties it is important that you sew through the **purl loops** on the back of the body cast-off row (figs. 41 & 42) rather than the cast off edge itself, as this leaves the cast off edge as a nice neat knicker line around the top of the leg. Sew alternately through these purl loops and the cast off edge of the leg top (fig 42).

Work all the way around the top of the leg back to the start then tie both ends together inside the body to secure. Attach the second leg in the same way (fig. 43) leaving a gap between both legs.



fig. 41

fig. 42

fig. 43

fig. 44

Once both legs are attached and secure use a spare length of **Yarn D** to tightly over-sew the short seam between the legs (fig. 44) 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.

Thread the tapestry needle with the **Yarn A** thread from underneath the head and use it 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. 46) working around in a semi circle until I reach the ends from the top of the body seam running up the back. I tie the end I've been sewing with to the shortest body seam end and poke both inside the body. Then I continue sewing up with the longer end from the body seam, knotting it to the remaining end under the chin once the head is fully joined. Thread ends through the body before trimming.



fig. 45



fig. 46



fig. 47

### *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                   | repeat rows 3 & 4 nine times more                            |
| row 2: K2, (M1L, K2) 4 times (14 stitches) | row 23: Purl   |
| row 3: Purl                                | row 24: K1, SSK, K2, K2tog, SSK, K2, K2tog, K1 (10 stitches) |
| row 4: Knit                                | row 25: Purl   |

Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of 7 inches. Thread this through the remaining 10 stitches and pull up tightly (fig 48). 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 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. 47*). 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.



*fig. 48*



*fig. 49*



*fig. 50*

## 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 (*fig 49*). Leave a gap of around an inch and stuff the tail lightly and then finish closing the seam (*fig. 50*). 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.



## Sleeveless flowery frock:

You will need 4ply weight yarn in 3 contrasting colours: Yarn C, Yarn D, Yarn E. Starting at the bottom of the skirt use 2.75mm needles and Yarn C 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)

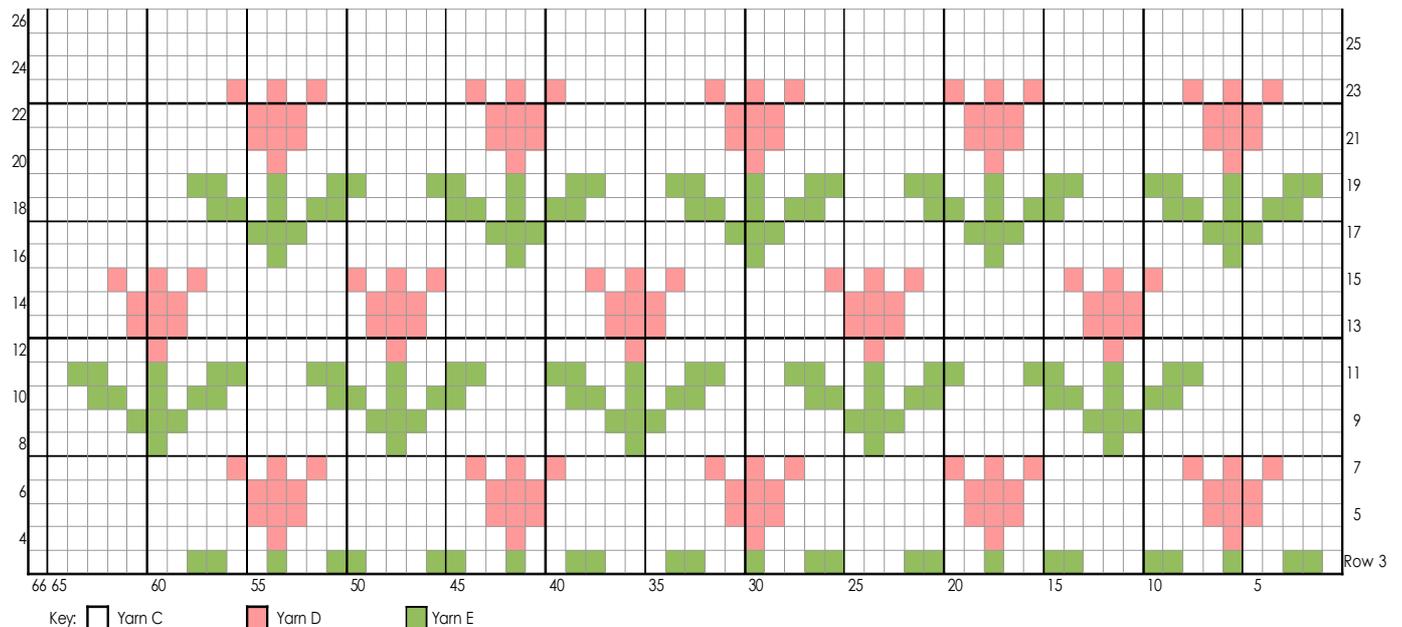
row 1: (right side) Knit

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)

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

continue working alternate knit and purl rows following the pattern chart:



## Written instructions for the dress pattern:

row 3: K1, (K2, K2, K1, K2, K2, K3) five times, K5

row 4: P12, P1, (P11, P1) four times, P5

row 5: K4, K3 (K9, K3) four times, K11

row 6: P11, P3 (P9, P3) four times, K4

row 7: K3, (K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K7) five times, K3

row 8: P6, (P1, P11) five times

row 9: K10, K3 (K9, K3) four times, K5

row 10: P3, (P2, P1, P1, P1, P2, P5) five times, P3

row 11: K7, (K2, K2, K1, K2, K2, K3) four times, K2, K2, K1, K2, K2, K2

row 12: P6, (P1, P11) five times

row 13: K10, K3 (K9, K3) four times, K5

row 14: P5, P3 (P9, P3) four times, P10

row 15: K9, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, (K7, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1) four times, K4

row 16: P12, P1, (P11, P1) four times, P5

row 17: K4, K3 (K9, K3) four times, K11

row 18: P9, P2, P1, P1, P1, P2, (P5, P2, P1, P1, P1, P2) four times, P2

row 19: as row 3

row 20: as row 4

row 21: as row 5

row 22: as row 6

row 23: as row 7

row 24: P in Yarn C only

row 25: K in Yarn C only

row 26: P in Yarn C only

row 27: Change to Yarn D, K3, (K2tog) 30 times, K3 (36 stitches). Cut Yarn C and Yarn E from the work (leaving a tail of around 3 inches for sewing in later) as you will not need these colours for the rest of the pattern.

row 28: Purl

The next section is worked in three separate parts:

**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)

**row 32:** Purl

**row 33:** Knit

repeat rows 32 and 33 twice more (a further 4 rows) then 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.

**row 29 (b):** Rejoin **Yarn D** at the first stitch on the left-hand needle and knit 15. Slip the next stitch onto a cable needle and hold at the back of the work, Knit 1 stitch, slip the stitch from the cable needle back onto the left hand needle (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)

**row 32 (b):** Purl

**row 33 (b):** Knit  
repeat rows 32 and 33 twice more (a further 4 rows) then 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.

**row 29 (c):** Rejoin **Yarn D** at the first stitch on the left-hand needle and knit 10, turn ready to work on these 10 stitches only for the next 8 rows.

**row 30 (c):** Purl

**row 31 (c):** K1, SSK, K7 (9 stitches)

**row 32 (c):** Purl

**row 33 (c):** Knit  
repeat rows 32 and 33 twice more (a further 4 rows)

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.

**row 38 :** P8, P2tog, P12, P2tog, P8 (30 stitches)

**row 39:** Cast off in Knit.

Leaving a tail of around 8 inches cut the work from the ball and use a fine crochet hook (around 2mm) to make a chain of 6 stitches (or long enough to accommodate the size of button that you have). Join it back to the start point with a slip stitch to make a small loop and weave in the end, working downwards to the waist.



Sew a tiny button on the opposite side as a fastening for the dress. Before I sew up the back seam I like to block the dress to make it neat. I usually do this by carefully steam blocking but if you prefer wet blocking that is fine too. After blocking thread a tapestry needle with the cast-on tail and join the seam up the middle of the back using mattress stitch. Leave a gap for the tail to poke through. 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 fox and you are done.

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Thanks for buying this pattern. I hope you've enjoyed using it.

I plan to write 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](#).