

Little Cotton Rabbits

Mole in a dress



*This mole is made from Blue Sky Woolstock yarn in 1300 'Cast Iron' (Yarn A),
1301 'storm Cloud' (Yarn B) and 1319 'Quartz Crystal' (Yarn C)
Her dress, tights and shoes are made from Drops Safran yarn in
68 coffee, 59 red clay and 56 powder pink*

*More knitting patterns are available at
<https://littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk>*

Materials:

- Worsted or light Aran yarn (approx 40m/44yds) in black or very dark grey: Yarn A
- Worsted or light Aran yarn (approx 1m/1yd) in grey: Yarn B (optional)
- Worsted or light Aran yarn (approx 20m/22yds) in pink: Yarn C
- 4ply/fingering weight yarn for the dress, knickers and shoes in up to 2 colours, Yarn D, Yarn E, Yarn F
- Less than 1m (1yds) of black 4ply/DK yarn for the eyes, less than 1m of red yarn for the nose and scraps of brown /grey for facial features
- Toy stuffing

Notions:

- Knitting needles: A pair each of 3mm (US 2.5), 2.75mm (US 2) and 2.5mm (US 1.5)
- Tapestry needle

Finished size:

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

Gauge:



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

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

Thanks for buying a copy of this pattern. It is suitable for intermediate knitting skills and assumes an understanding of basic stitches and standard knitting terms. Apart from a couple of slightly 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 mole and it may not look the same).

I feel that it is mostly the finishing techniques (sewing up, seams etc.) that give any knitted project a polished look. I've described in detail how I try to get the neatest look to the animals that I make, how I sew up, tighten seams 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 (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 mole that you make.

Abbreviations:

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

<https://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.

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.

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.

M1A : MAKE 1 AWAY. Make a loop with the working yarn so the tail is pointing backwards/away from you

YO: YARN OVER: *Bring the yarn to the front of the work before working the next stitch, then work the next stitch, so making a loop over the needle which is worked into on the next row.*

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

<https://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

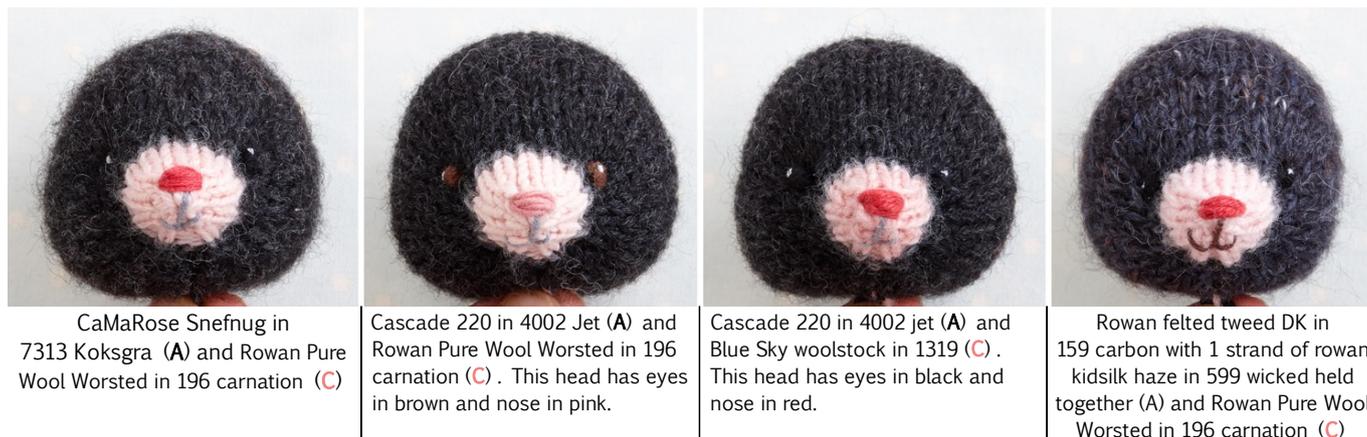
P2TOG : Purl 2 stitches together

P2TOG TBL: Purl 2 stitches together through the back loops

© Copyright, All rights reserved. No part of these patterns may be reproduced in any form.
These patterns are supplied for your personal and non-commercial use only.

Yarn suggestions:

I've always enjoyed experimenting when I knit my animals so I use many different yarns. Here are some suggestions:



Other suggestions for yarn to use to knit the mole in can be found on my blog here:

https://littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk/my_weblog/2018/02/choosing-yarns-for-little-cotton-rabbit-patterns-part-1.html

Yarn suggestions for clothes:

I like cotton yarns for the dresses as it has a pleasing drape and the hem of the dress will not curl in the same way as it will when knitted in woollen yarn. Cotton yarns are also crisp and show off colour-work patterns nicely, they also block well. DMC Natura Just Cotton, Drops Safran, BCGarn Alba, Krea Deluxe organic cotton and Scheepjes Catona or Cotton 8 are all 4ply cottons that in my experience knit up nicely and have a good range of colours. I have some more detailed yarn suggestions over on my blog:

https://littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk/my_weblog/2020/06/choosing-yarns-for-the-little-cotton-rabbit-animal-patterns-part-2.html

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 seaming can cause weaker yarns to snap.

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 mole 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.

Extra tips:

I hope you enjoy using this pattern. I have written up some extra tips about knitting and finishing, so please pop by for a visit and check out the knitting tips section on [Little Cotton Rabbits blog](#).

If you get stuck with any aspect of the pattern, please come and visit the Little cotton Rabbit group on Ravelry:

<https://www.ravelry.com/groups/little-cotton-rabbits>

Or the Little Cotton Rabbits Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/littlecottonrabbits>

Lots of knitters who've already used the patterns hang out there and one of us will do our best to help you. You'll also find lots of other projects made from these patterns, please come and share yours.

The pattern instructions:

Head:

Please note: Using **Yarn B** for **row 28** is optional, it does give a nice transition between the black of the head and the pink of the snout but if you don't have any suitable grey yarn or you don't want extra ends to deal with then simply work **row 28** in Yarn A instead:

Starting at the back of the head and finishing at the nose. Use Yarn A and 3mm needles to cable cast on 11 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for seaming with later.

- row 1: (wrong side) Purl
- row 2: K2, (KLL, K1) 8 times, K1 (19 stitches)
- row 3: Purl
- row 4: K2, (KLL, K2) 8 times, K1 (27 stitches)
- row 5: Purl
- row 6: K2, (KLL, K3) 8 times, K1 (35 stitches)
- rows 7-25: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 19 rows in stocking stitch (alternate Purl and Knit rows)
- row 26: K1, (K2tog) 7 times, K5, (K2tog) 7 times, K1 (21 stitches)
- row 27: Purl

- row 28: Change to **Yarn B** and cut Yarn A from the work leaving a long tail for seaming with, K1, (K2tog) 3 times, SSK, K3, (K2tog) 3 times, SSK, K1 (13 stitches),
- row 29: Change to **Yarn C** and 2.75mm (US 2) needles and Purl, cut **Yarn B** from the work leaving a short tail for weaving in later
- row 30: Knit
- row 31: Purl
- row 32: Knit
- row 33: Purl
- row 34: (K1, K2tog) twice, (K1, SSK) twice, K1 (9 stitches)
- row 35: Purl

Cut the work from the ball leaving a cast off tail of around 8 inches and sew this through the 9 stitches remaining on the needle (*fig. 1*). Pull up tightly to gather in and over-sew (whip stitch) once to keep the seam from opening out again. Continue to use this thread to close the seam underneath the snout using mattress stitch, then swap to the tail end of Yarn A and use this to sew a short section of the seam underneath the head.



fig. 1



fig. 2



fig. 3

Next 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 an open gap in the seam through which to stuff the head (*fig. 2*).

Then with the right side of work facing you, use a short length of Yarn A and sew through the loops from the cast on edge at the back of the head (I've used red thread to illustrate, *fig. 3*). Begin to gather in this circular seam and tie the ends together tightly inside the head to prevent it loosening again. Once the tail ends are secured, it's time to stuff (see tips on stuffing on Page 3).

It's worth taking time to note the shape of the knitted head before stuffing as it already shows you what shape it wants to be (*fig. 4*). Try to mirror that shape when you stuff and don't put in so much stuffing that the stitches become stretched and the shape overstuffed.



fig. 4

fig. 5

fig. 6

I start with a tight ball of stuffing which I poke into the back of the head, packing it in to create a firm and rounded shape to the back of the head (fig. 5) I pack in a lot of stuffing but I tend to add little bits at a time moulding as I go to get the shape that I want and the finished head is quite firm and solid. Then I stuff the nose end, pinching and manipulating the stuffing until it takes on the tapered and pointed shape that I want (fig. 6).

Once you are happy with the head shape leave the seam at the bottom of the head open, so making it easier to hide the tails ends from the facial features inside.

To embroider the face:



fig. 7

fig. 8

fig. 9

fig. 10

To make the mouth thread a tapestry needle with a long length of brown or grey 4ply or DK Yarn and sew it up through the open bottom seam of the head and out a row above the centre of your gathered cast off, then sew back through the snout at the base of the mouth and out at one mouth corner (fig. 7).

Then take the thread across the front of the snout to the other mouth corner and sew back through the head, coming out at the base of the mouth (fig. 8). Take the working yarn through the loop you've just made so that the mouth is pulled down into a 'V' shape. Sew back through the head at the base of the mouth (fig. 9), and out of the open seam at the bottom of the head (fig. 10). Adjust the tightness of the stitches forming the mouth and knot the 2 ends of thread together securely and then poke the ends inside the head. Next add the nose.



fig. 11

fig. 12

fig. 13

Nose:

To make the nose, thread a tapestry needle with a long length of red or pink yarn and sew up through the open bottom seam of the head and out on one side of the nose, just above and to one side of the line between mouth and nose. Then take the thread across the front of the snout and sew back through the end of the snout from the other side of the nose to the first side again (*fig. 11*). Work the nose by sewing across the front of the muzzle a further three or four times, sewing into exactly the same place each time. You are aiming to create a small oval shape by letting each strand lie next to the previous one rather than over the top of it. Once you are happy with the size and shape of the nose, sew back down through the head to the open seam underneath and tie off both nose thread ends to secure them, poke the excess inside the head. That's both the nose and mouth finished (*figs. 12 & 13*).

Eyes:

I prefer to add the eyes after closing the seam on the underside of the head, as this helps to anchor them and aids with shaping, so finish joining the head seams together now. Gently tighten the seams to give the head extra shaping before tying both ends together. Don't trim the tail ends as you'll use them to attach the head to the body later. Make the eyes using the anchored French knot method detailed below, or any preferred method of knotting.



fig. 14

fig. 15

fig. 16

fig. 17

Anchored French Knot:

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 as detailed below.

Cut an 8 inch length of black 4ply yarn and starting underneath the head sew this yarn through the head to the position for the first eye, leaving a tail of around 2 inches behind. Then push it back through the same point and out again one stitch away from the original point, leaving a little loop (*fig. 14*). Slide the tip of the needle through this loop and wrap the thread around the needle tip (*fig. 15*) between four and eight times depending on thickness of yarn – here I've wrapped eight times with 4ply weight yarn. Hold the wrapped thread in place around the needle between your finger and thumb and pull the needle all the way through to make a loose knot. Pull on both tail ends to tighten the knot, then sew back down through the work (*fig. 16*) and out again underneath the head next to the start point.

Gently pull both tail ends to tighten and create a little eye socket shaping to the head (*fig. 17*). Once you are happy with the shaping tie off both ends securely. Repeat for the second eye. Because moles have such dark fur the eyes are not very visible (*fig. 18*) so you can make them stand out a little more by adding a little shiny highlight to each one with white sewing thread. To do this simply sew 3 or 4 very small parallel stitches in the top corner of the eye (*fig. 19*), sewing the tail ends through the head and tying off underneath to secure them before trimming. Repeat for the second eye (*figs. 20 & 21*). Now that's the head finished, so set it to one side while you make the body.



fig. 18

fig. 19

fig. 20

fig. 21

Body:

Starting at the neck and finishing at the bottom, use Yarn A and 3mm needles to cast on 16 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for seaming with later.

- row 1: (wrong side) Purl
- row 2: K3, (KLL, K2) 6 times, K1 (22 stitches)
- row 3: Purl
- row 4: K3, (KLL, K3) 6 times, K1 (28 stitches)
- row 5: Purl
- row 6: K3, (KLL, K4) 6 times, K1 (34 stitches)
- rows 7-13: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 7 rows in stocking stitch
- row 14: Change to 2.5mm needles and K3, (KLL, K5) 6 times, K1 (40 stitches)
- row 15: Join in **Yarn D** and Purl, cut Yarn A from the work as it is no longer needed
- row 16: Purl
- row 17: Purl
- rows 18-32: Beginning and ending with a Knit row, work 15 rows in stocking stitch
- row 33: Cast off in Purl



Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 8 inches and use this 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.

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 cable cast on 14 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for seaming with later.

- row 1: (wrong side) Purl
- row 2: K2, (KLL, K1) 4 times, K3, (KLL, K1) 4 times, K1 (22 stitches)
- row 3: Purl
- row 4: K3, (KLL, K1) 6 times, K5, (KLL, K1) 6 times, K2 (34 stitches)
- rows 5-14: Beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit row, work 10 rows in stocking stitch
- row 15: This row is a little complicated because it includes both decreasing and casting off as you work across the row. It is easy to lose count and I find it helps if you count the stitches yet to be worked rather than those already knitted:
P13 casting off as you go (now you should have 1 stitch on your right needle and 21 stitches still to work on the left needle), P2tog and cast off, P4 casting off as you go (1 stitch on your right needle and 15 stitches still to work), P2tog tbl and cast off. Cast off the remaining stitches in Purl. Cut the work from the ball.

Next you need to pick up stitches from behind the cast off edge of the shoe to form the top of the foot. You could use a sharp tipped or smaller sized needle for the first row, but remember to swap back to the 2.5mm afterwards:

- row 1: (right side) With **Yarn 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*) like so:
From the front of the work push the tip of the needle through a purl loop from 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 (*fig. 22*)
- rows 2-10: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 9 rows in stocking stitch. Cut the work from the ball and keep these 6 stitches held on the left hand needle.

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



fig. 22

fig. 23

fig. 24

row 1: (right side) Leaving a tail of 8 inches for seaming with later, use **Yarn D** and 2.5mm needles to pick up and Knit the first 5 stitches from the far right side of the shoe cast-off edge. Ignore the remaining 8 cast off stitches on the right side and continue by knitting across the 6 stitches from the top of the foot (fig. 23). Ignore the first 8 cast-off stitches on the left side and pick up and Knit the last 5 stitches (fig. 24)
Please note: the last stitch will be at the very edge of the work. Be sure to keep a tight tension across the gaps. (16 stitches)

rows 2 –18: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 17 rows in stocking stitch

row 19: Cast off in Knit

Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 8 inches for sewing the leg to the body with later.

Make a second leg in exactly the same way. Now the shoe is ready to be finished and seamed. Next make the shoe strap:

Shoe strap (make 2 the same):

Use **Yarn E** and 2.5mm needles to cable cast on 12 stitches (leaving a tail of 8 inches for sewing up later) and then Knit back across them casting off as you go. Cut work from the ball leaving another tail for sewing up.



fig. 25

fig. 26

fig. 27

fig. 28

To finish the legs and body:

Thread a tapestry needle with the shorter end from the strap and attach it to the one side of the shoe at the top of the foot section (fig. 25). Sew through a couple of times to ensure it's secure and leave the end on the inside of the work. Sew 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:

Working down towards the toe of the shoe, sew alternately through 1 'bar' between the two outermost stitches of the top of the foot section (fig. 26), and 1 loop from behind the cast off edge of the shoe (fig. 27). You should run out of loops on the shoe side and still have 2 'bars' on the foot side which is exactly right as this is what helps to give the shoe it's curved shaped toe.

Sew 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. 28). At this point you need to gently tighten the yarn slightly, gathering in the section that you have just sewn up.



fig. 29



fig. 30



fig. 31

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. 29*). When you have fully closed the vent sew the yarn to the inside and gently tighten until both sides of the foot are even.

Attach the strap to the opposite side of the shoe (*fig. 30*) using the **Yarn E** end from sewing up the foot. Sew through a few times to secure and then tie off all of the ends inside the shoe and sew along a seam before trimming excess. Use mattress stitch to start closing the back seam of the shoe with the cast-on tail from the bottom of the shoe. Leave a small gap at the top of the shoe to make stuffing the foot easier.

Re-thread the tapestry needle with a spare length of **Yarn E** and use it to gather up the loops in the bottom of the foot (*fig. 31*) I've used blue thread here just to illustrate. Tie both ends tightly inside the shoe to fully close the bottom shoe seam.

Next stuff the foot firmly. Take your time to get the shape that you want, adding small amounts of stuffing at a time. Don't be afraid to pull it out and start again if you're not happy with the shape, I often do. Once you are happy, close the back seam of the shoe entirely and tie ends together before poking inside. Thread the tapestry needle with the long end of **Yarn D** from the bottom of the leg section and use this to close the seam up the back of the leg using mattress stitch (*fig. 32*). Leave a gap at the top to make stuffing the leg easier.



fig. 32



fig. 33



fig. 34

Stuff the leg lightly and if you want your mole to sit nicely then don't stuff the top 1cm of the leg. Finish closing the seam and tie the two ends together at the top, poking all other ends inside the leg. For the second leg you need to follow all of the finishing steps above but attach the strap to the opposite side of the foot. To make a 'button' on the strap at the outside of each shoe use contrasting coloured yarn (around 8 inches) to make a French Knot (*fig. 33*). Follow the same instructions for the anchored French knot eyes on Page 6. Make a second leg the same, and then both legs are ready to attach to the body (*fig. 34*).

To attach the left-hand leg, thread the tapestry needle with the longer end from the top of the first leg and use this to sew it to the body. Make sure that you have the correct leg in position – the French Knot should be on the outside of the foot. Position the leg by lining it up with the edge of the body with the foot facing forward. Sew the leg in place through the Purl loops from the back of the body cast off edge and the front loop of the leg cast off edge (*fig. 35*). Work around the top of the leg back to the start then tie both ends together inside the body to secure.



fig. 35

fig. 36

fig. 37

fig. 38

Attach the second leg in the same way (fig. 36) leaving a gap between both legs. Once both legs are attached and secure use a spare length of **Yarn D** to tightly over-sew (whip stitch) the short seam between the legs (fig. 37), before sewing the ends back inside and tying them off to secure.

Now the body is ready to stuff. 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 (fig. 38). Tie off the ends but don't trim as you'll use them to help attach the head. Now for the arms.

Arms (make 2 the same):

Starting at the top of arm and finishing at the hand, use Yarn A and 3mm needles to cast on 10 stitches, leaving a long tail for seaming with later.

row 1: (wrong side) Purl

row 2: K2, (M1L, K2) 4 times (14 stitches)

rows 3-15: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 13 rows in stocking stitch (alternate Purl and Knit rows)

row 16: Knit 5 casting off as you go (4 stitches cast off), K1, (KLL, K2) twice, Knit the final 4 stitches casting them off as you go (4 stitches cast off), (8 stitches)

Cut Yarn A from the work, leaving a long tail for seaming the arm with later. Change to 2.75mm needles and **Yarn C**, leaving a long tail for seaming the side of the hand with later.

row 17: Purl

row 18: Knit

row 19: Purl

row 20: K2, M1L, K4, M1R, K2 (10 stitches)

row 21: Purl

row 22: K2, M1L, K6, M1R, K2 (12 stitches)

row 23: Purl

row 24: Knit

row 25: Purl

row 26: K1, SSK, (YO, K2tog) 4 times, K1 (11 stitches)

row 27: Purl

row 28: Knit

row 29: Purl

row 30: K1, SSK, K5, K2tog, K1 (9 stitches)

row 31: Purl

row 32: K1, SSK, K3, K2tog, K1 (7 stitches)

row 33: Purl

row 34: Knit

row 35: Cast off in Purl

Cut the work from the ball leaving a long tail for seaming the second side of the hand with later.



fig. 39



fig. 40



fig. 41



fig. 42

Now the arm is ready for finishing (*fig. 39*). To finish the hand we first need to close up the eyelet gaps between the fingers. To do this cut a long length of **Yarn C** and sew through the front and back of the hand three rows either side of the first eyelet (*fig. 40*). Then over-sew/whipstitch across the top of this eyelet (*fig. 41*) and as you do so the hand will naturally fold in half so that the eyelet row creates fingers on the top edge. Sew across this gap twice more, and then sew through the hand to the next eyelet gap between the fingers (*fig. 42*) and repeat the over-sewing process. Continue until all 4 gaps between the 5 fingers are closed (*fig. 43*) and then sew both tail ends inside the work and tie together to secure before trimming excess.



Close the seams running down each side of the hand, working from the wrist to the tip of the finger, like so: Thread the needle with the tail end from the start of the hand section and use this to sew the seam at the side of the hand using mattress stitch (*fig. 44*). When the seam is fully closed sew the tail end back through the hand to the wrist ready to sew the back of the hand in place a little later. Repeat with the second side of the hand using the cast off tail from the last row of the hand (*fig. 45*).

Next thread the needle with the cast off tail of Yarn A from the arm and use this to begin closing the seam running up the underside of the arm using mattress stitch (*fig. 46*). Close around an inch of the seam for now and then leave the tail end hanging while you re-thread the needle with one of the **Yarn C** tail ends at the wrist.

Use this to sew the hand to the arm, sewing through one \swarrow stitch on the arm side (*fig. 47*) and one \searrow stitch on the hand side (*fig. 48*). Fully close the seam and then tie both **Yarn C** tail ends together to secure and sew the ends to the inside of the work so they are hidden (*fig. 49*).



Next stuff the hand and lower part of the arm. Once you're happy with the shape finish closing the seam that runs the length of the arm and lightly stuff the top part of the arm (*fig. 50*). Tie both Yarn A tail ends together at the top of the seam to secure them. Next fold the seam at the top of the arm so that the edges are together (with the seam of the arm at the back) and use the longest tail end to whip stitch/over-sew the open seam at the top of the arm closed (*fig. 51*). Make a second arm in exactly the same way.

Now to attach the arms. Making sure that the hand is facing the right way (with the palm facing backwards, *fig. 52*) thread the needle with the tail end from the front edge of one arm and use to join the arm to the body by sewing alternately through a stitch of the body and then through a loop of the top seam of the arm, (*fig. 53*). Work across the top arm seam fully joining it to the body and when you reach the end knot both tail ends together and sew them through the body before trimming. Repeat with the second arm.



Next it's time to attach the head. Thread the tapestry needle with one of the two tail ends from underneath the head and use it to sew the body and head together. Sew through a whole stitch of the body (*fig. 54*), then through a whole stitch of the head working around the underside of the head in a semi circle until you reach the ends from the top of the body seam running up the back.

Tie the end you've been sewing with to the shortest body seam end and poke both inside the body. Then 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. Sew the ends through the body before trimming.

Tail:

The tail is worked as an elongated triangle and seamed afterwards. Using 3mm needles and Yarn A cast on 9 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for attaching the tail with later.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>row 1: (wrong side) Purl
 row 2: Knit
 row 3: Purl
 row 4: K5, K2tog, K2 (8 stitches)
 row 5: Purl</p> | <p>row 6: Knit
 row 7: Purl
 row 8: K2, SSK, K4 (7 stitches)
 rows 9-11: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 3 rows of stocking stitch</p> |
|--|---|

Cut the work from the ball leaving a long tail, sew this end through the 7 stitches on the needle and pull up tightly (*fig. 55*). Over-sew once to keep the seam from opening out. Continue using this thread to close the seam using mattress stitch and once you reach the end of the seam tie both ends together to secure (*fig. 56*). Please note that because this tail is thin it doesn't really need to be stuffed before being attached. Use the longer end to sew the tail on to the mole's bottom (*fig. 57*). Tie off the ends to secure and sew them through the body before trimming the excess.



Now your mole is ready for some clothes and instructions for two different dresses are on Pages 14-16

.....



String of pearls dress:



This is a dress with a simple stranded pattern worked in a two colours. You will need 4ply weight cotton yarn in two contrasting colours **Yarn E** & Yarn F (here I've used Drops Safran cotton in 59 for **Yarn E** and 56 for Yarn F), and also a pair of 2.75mm (US 2) needles and a small button.

Starting at the bottom of the skirt use 2.75mm (US 2) needles and **Yarn E** to cable cast on 74 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for seaming with later.

- row 1:** (right side) Knit
- row 2:** Knit
- row 3:** Begin working the first row from the pattern chart, reading from right to left
(If you prefer written instructions you will find them below)
- row 4:** Work the second row of pattern chart, reading from left to right
- rows 5-26:** Continue working alternate right and wrong side rows following the pattern chart below.

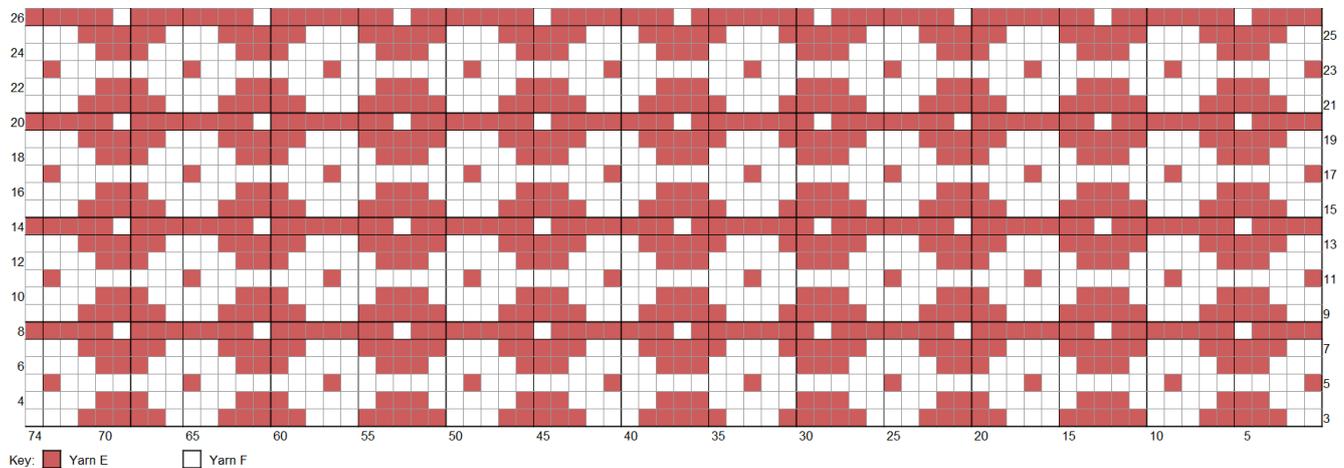
If you would like a contrasting waistband then work **rows 27 & 28** in Yarn F, otherwise continue in **Yarn E** only.

row 27: K1, (K2tog) 36 times, K1 (38 stitches)

row 28: P1, P2tog, P32, P2togtbl, P1 (36 stitches)

Continue using the bodice instructions on Page 16.

In order to create the armholes, this is worked in three separate parts (*see images above*)



Written instructions for the chart:

- row 3:** Join in Yarn F, K2, (K5, K3) 9 times
- row 4:** P4, (P3, P5) 8 times, P3, P3
- row 5:** (K1, K7) 9 times, K1, K1
- row 6:** P4, (P3, P5) 8 times, P3, P3
- row 7:** K2, (K5, K3) 9 times
- row 8:** P5, (P1, P7) 8 times, P1, P4

rows 9-26: Repeat rows 3-8 three more times

If you would like a contrasting waistband then work **rows 27 & 28** in Yarn F, otherwise continue in **Yarn E** only.

row 27: K1, (K2tog) 36 times, K1 (38 stitches)

row 28: P1, P2tog, P32, P2togtbl, P1 (36 stitches)

Continue using the bodice instructions on Page 16. In order to create the armholes, this is worked in three separate parts (*see images above*).

Textured knots dress:



This dress is worked in a single colour with a pattern of simple little knots and stocking stitch panels. You will need 4ply weight yarn, here I've used Drops Safran in shade 56, a pair of 2.75mm (US 2) needles and a small button.

Please note: This skirt is 2 rows longer than the skirt knitted in two colours (on Page 14) simply because the textured pattern here draws the work in slightly. They will both end up at the same length, approx 7.5cm (3 inches) for the skirt, 10.5cm (just over 4 inches) total length of dresses from the neck to the hem.

Special Abbreviations:

KNOT A: This is the formation of the Knot, worked on Knit rows. Work into **front** loop of the next stitch to create 3 extra stitches, like so:

K1 but do not slip the stitch from the needle, then P1, K1, P1 into the same front loop of the stitch.

KNOT B: This is the completion of the Knot, worked on Purl rows. The 3 extra stitches that were created on the previous row are cast off, like so:

Leave the working yarn hanging at the front of the work, slip the next 3 stitches Purl-wise from the left to the right needle, take the working yarn across these 3 stitches and to the back of the work and Knit the next stitch, leave the working yarn at the back of the work and pass each of the slipped stitches one by one over the stitch just knitted, so casting off the 3 extra stitches and completing the Knot. Finally bring the working yarn to the front again ready to Purl the next stitch.

Written instructions for the textured knots dress:

Starting at the bottom of the skirt use 2.75mm (US 2) needles and **Yarn E** to cable cast on 68 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for seaming with later.

row 1: (right side) Knit

row 2: Knit

row 3: Knit

row 4: Purl

row 5: K3, (Knot A, K5) 10 times, Knot A, K4
(101 stitches)

row 6: P4, (Knot B, P5) 10 times, Knot B, P3
(68 stitches)

row 7: Knit

row 8: P4, (K1, P5) 10 times, K1, P3

row 9: Knit

row 10: P4, (K1, P5) 10 times, K1, P3

rows 11-26: Repeat rows 3-10 twice more

row 27: Knit

row 28: Purl

row 29: K2, (K2tog) 32 times, K2 (36 stitches)

row 30: Purl

Continue using the bodice instructions on Page 16. In order to create the armholes, this is worked in three separate parts, (see images above and below).

The red dress below is also knitted from this pattern, but instead of working rows 8 & 10 as written above they are simply Purred, so the knots are instead on a background of simple stocking stitch. This is knitted in Drops Safran 59



Dress Bodice (same for both dresses)

Continuing directly on from the instructions for each skirt.

First side of the back:

row 1: 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 2: Purl

row 3: K7, K2tog, K1 (9 stitches)

rows 4 -9: Beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit row, work 6 rows in stocking stitch.

Cut work from the ball (leaving a tail of around 8 inches for sewing up later) and leave these 9 stitches on right hand needle.

Front:

row 1 (b): Rejoin the yarn 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 2 (b): Purl

row 3 (b): K1, SSK, K10, K2tog, K1 (14 stitches)

rows 4 -9 (b): Beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit row, work 6 rows in stocking stitch. Cut work from the ball (leaving a tail of around 8 inches for sewing up later) and leave these 14 stitches on right hand needle.

Second side of the back:

row 1 (c): Rejoin the yarn 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 2 (c): Purl

row 3 (c): K1, SSK, K7 (9 stitches)

rows 4 -9 (c): Beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit row, work 6 rows in stocking stitch.

Do NOT cut the yarn from the ball as you are now going to turn and work right across the three separate sections on the needle.

row 10: P8, P2tog, P12, P2tog, P8 (30 stitches)

row 11: Cast off in Knit

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

Before I sew up the back seam I like to block the dress to make it neat. I usually do this by carefully steam blocking but if you prefer wet blocking that is fine too. After blocking thread a tapestry needle with the cast-on tail and join the seam up the middle of the back using mattress stitch. Finish the seam at the waist (**row 27** for the colour-work 'string of pearls' dress and **row 29** for the Textured knots dress) 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 mole and you are done.

.....

