This mouse is made from Debbie Bliss Mia yarn in 001 White (Yarn A)
with ears from Phildar Phil Coton 3 in Poudre 107 (Yarn B)
His sweater is made from Scheepjeswol Cotton 8 in 622 and
his shorts are in BC Garn Allino yarn in pale grey.

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

Materials:

- DK, worsted or light Aran yarn (approx 76m): Yarn A
- 4ply weight yarn (approx 8m) in a pink colour for the ears and tail Yarn B
- 4ply weight yarn for the sweater: Yarn C
- 4ply weight yarn in dark colour for shorts: Yarn D
- Scraps of grey, pink and black 4ply/DK yarn 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 24cm (10 inches) from the tip of the toes to the top of the ears

Gauge:

Gauge for mouse: 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 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 mouse 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 (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 mouse that you make.

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. I made my first mouse in 2008 and you can see some of the different ones I've made since on flickr.
Here are some of my current favourite yarns that I use with this pattern:

| King Cole Cottonsoft DK in 710 white | * Adriafil Carezza in 02 white | Istex Lett-Lopi in 054 Ash Heather |

My favourite yarn for mice making is a fluffy one like the angora in the middle above but for the purposes of clarity in the pattern pictures I've used a yarn with less 'halo'

Alternative yarn suggestions for ears (Yarn B):
Susan Crawford Coquette cotton in Carnation, Rowan Siena in 682 Shrimp, Scheepjeswol Cotton 8 in 715 Skin

Yarn suggestions for clothes:
Most of the clothes I make for my animals are in Rowan 4ply cotton which unfortunately is now discontinued. If you can track some down I'd recommend it (it often crops up on Ebay or Ravelry) but failing that Rowan Wool Cotton 4ply or Patons 4ply cotton both knit up nicely and have a good range of colours. Other suggestions for clothing yarn include Phildar Phil Coton 3, Drops Safran, Scheepjeswol Cotton 8 and DMC Natura Just Cotton.

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

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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 mouse 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.

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Thanks for buying this pattern, I hope you enjoy using it. I have written up some extra tips about knitting and finishing, so please pop by for a visit and check out the knitting tips section on Little Cotton Rabbits blog.
If you get stuck with any aspect of the pattern, please come and visit the Little cotton Rabbit group on Ravelry:

www.ravelry.com/groups/little-cotton-rabbits

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

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

H e a d:

Starting at the back of the head and finishing at the nose, use Yarn A and 3mm needles to cast on 10 stitches, leaving a tail of 6 inches for seaming with later

row 1: (wrong side) Purl
row 2: K2, (KLL, K1) 8 times *(18 stitches)*
row 3: Purl
row 4: K2, (KLL, K2) 8 times *(26 stitches)*
row 5: Purl
row 6: K2, (KLL, K3) 8 times *(34 stitches)*
rows 7-13: Beginning and ending with a Purl row
        work in stocking stitch (alternate Purl and
        Knit rows)
row 14: K11, P1, K10, P1, K11 *(these 2 purl stitches
        act as markers for attaching the ear later)*
rows 15-23: Beginning and ending with a Purl row
        work in stocking stitch

row 24: K2, (K2tog) 6 times, K6, (K2tog) 5 times,
        SSK, K2 *(22 stitches)*
row 25: Purl
row 26: Knit
row 27: Purl
row 28: K1, (K2tog) 3 times, SSK, K4, K2tog,
        (SSK) 3 times, K1 *(14 stitches)*
row 29: Purl
row 30: K2, K2tog, K6, SSK, K2 *(12 stitches)*
row 31: Purl
row 32: K1, K2tog, SSK, K2, K2tog, SSK, K1
        (8 stitches)
row 33: Purl

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 8 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 around $1^{1/2}$ inches of the front head seam using mattress stitch.

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 an open 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 at the back of the head (I've used red thread to illustrate, *fig. 3)*. Begin 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 *(fig. 5)* until it takes on the pointed shape that I want *(fig. 6)*. 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.

fig. 4   fig. 5   fig. 6   fig. 7

E a r s (make two the same):

Use Yarn B and 2.75 mm needles to cast on 3 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for sewing the ear together and attaching to the head later. The increases for the ears give a mirrored increase, fanning out from the centre.

Row 1: (wrong side) Purl
row 2: K1, M1T, K1, M1A, K1 *(5 stitches)*
row 3: P3, P into back loop of next stitch, P1
row 4: (K1, M1T) twice, K1, (M1A, K1) twice
         (9 stitches)
row 5: P5, (P into back loop of next stitch, P1) twice
row 6: (K1, M1T) 4 times, K1, (M1A, K1) 4 times
         (17 stitches)
row 7: P9, (P into back loop of next stitch, P1)
         four times
row 8: Knit
row 9: Purl
row 10: Knit

row 11: Knit (even though this is a wrong side row
         as this will give the ridge along the top of
         the ear and help it to bend nicely in two)
row 12: Knit
row 13: Purl
rows 14-15: repeat rows 12 & 13
row 16: (SSK) 4 times, K1, (K2tog) 4 times
         (9 stitches)
row 17: Purl
row 18: (SSK) twice, K1, (K2tog) twice *(5 stitches)*
row 19: Purl
row 20: SSK, K1, K2tog *(3 stitches)*
row 21: Purl

Cut the work from the ball leaving a 6 inch tail and thread this end through the last 3 stitches on the needle *(Fig. 8A)*, pull up to tighten the stitches. Fold the ear in half along the purl ridge and tie the cast on and cast off ends together at the centre bottom of the ear. Using one of these two ends for each side in turn, sew each side of the bottom edge closed from the centre to the edge *(Fig. 8B)* so that there is an end at each corner of the semi-circular finished ear. Tie these two ends together to achieve the final circular ear shape *(Fig. 9)*.

Make a second ear the same.

fig. 8A   fig. 8B   fig. 9

Now it's time to attach the ears to the head.

Thread the tapestry needle with one of the ends from an ear and position the ear by putting the first attaching stitch through your purled marker stitch on row 14 of the head *(fig. 10)*. Sew backwards along the head, joining the top side of the base of the ear by sewing alternately through the edge of the ear and the bars between the stitches on the head. Make sure you keep in the same channel between stitches on the head *(fig. 11)*. Once the ear is half attached re-thread the needle with the other tail from the front of the ear and use it to join the underside of the ear *(fig. 12)*

fig. 10   fig. 11   fig. 12

When you reach the point where the first end is hanging at the back of the ear *(figs. 13, 14 & 15)* and tie the two ends together securely. Thread both ends inside the head and out of the open seam at the bottom.

fig. 13   fig. 14   fig. 15

Repeat with the second ear. When you are happy with positioning tie the 2 ends from the ears together securely, trim and poke inside the head cavity.

To embroider the face:

fig. 16   fig. 17   fig. 18

Thread a tapestry needle with a 7 inch length of grey 4ply or DK Yarn and push it up through the open bottom seam of the head and out at the centre of your gathered cast off. Then take it down the outside of the centre seam, thread into the head at the base of the mouth and out at one mouth corner *(fig. 16)*. 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.17)* 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. 18)*. Adjust the tightness of the stitches forming the mouth and knot the 2 ends of thread together securely before trimming and poke the ends inside the head.

fig. 19   fig. 20   fig. 21   fig. 22

Thread a tapestry needle with a 10 inch length of Yarn B 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.19*. Take the working yarn through the loop you've just made so that the nose is pulled down in a 'V' shape. Now take the yarn back through the head to the first top corner of the nose. Begin over-sewing the pink thread horizontally across the nose between the lines of the V already made *(fig. 20)*. When you reach the point of the 'V' *(fig. 21)* thread the yarn end back inside the head and tie off both ends.

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 shaping under the chin 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. Create an anchored French Knot for each eye:

A n c h o r e d   F r e n c h   K n o t:

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 a tapestry needle with 8 inches of yarn. Bring the needle up through the work to the point that you want the knot. Then push it back through the same point and out again one stitch away from the original point, leaving a little loop. Slide the tip of the needle through this loop *(fig. 23)*. Wrap the thread around the needle tip between three and five times depending on thickness of yarn – here I've wrapped 5 times with 4 ply yarn *(fig. 24)*. Hold the wrapped thread in place between your finger and thumb and pull the needle all the way through making a loose knot. Pull on the end under the head to tighten the anchor loop slightly *(fig. 25)*. Push the needle back down through the work *(fig. 26)* and back to the start point underneath the head. Gently pull both ends to tighten the knot and create a little eye socket shaping to the head. 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.

B o d y:

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
Repeat rows 7 & 8 ten times more, giving a total of 28 rows worked
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.

L e g s::

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 the next 7 stitches, casting them off as you go (18 stitches still to work), SSK and cast off, K2tog and cast off (14 stitches still to work), Knit the next 8 stitches casting them off as you go, 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
rows 17-28: Repeat rows 15 & 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.

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. 27   fig. 28   fig. 29

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.

fig. 30   fig. 31   fig. 32   fig. 33

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 shaft lightly. If you want your mouse 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 *(fig. 35)* leaving a gap between both legs.

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 the body is ready to stuff *(fig. 37)*. 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 *(fig. 38)*, working around the underside of the head 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. 37   fig. 38   fig. 39

A r m s: *(make 2 the same)*

Starting at the top of arm and finishing at the paw, use Yarn A and 3mm needles to cast on 10 stitches, leaving a tail of 6 inches for seaming with later

row **1**: (wrong side) Purl
row **2**: K2, (M1L, K2) 4 times *(14 stitches)*
row **3**: Purl
row **4**: Knit
rows **5-22**: Repeat rows 3 & 4 nine more times

row **23**: Purl
row **24**: K1, SSK, K2, K2tog, SSK, K2, K2tog, K1 *(10 stitches)*
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 7 inches. Thread this through the remaining 10 stitches and pull up tightly *(fig. 39)*. 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. 40)*. Work around all of the top arm seam joining it to the body and when you reach the start point knot the ends together and thread through the body before trimming.

fig. 40

fig. 41

fig. 42

T a i l:

The tail is worked as a length of i-cord starting at the top of the tail that attaches to the body. An i-cord is a tube knitted in the round with two double-pointed needles. It has to be worked on double pointed needles because you need to slide the work from one end of the needle to the other, taking the yarn tightly around the back. There is a good i-cord video tutorial here: http://www.knittinghelp.com/videos/knitting-tips (scroll to the bottom of the page)

Use two double pointed 2.5mm needles and Yarn B to cast on 3 stitches, leaving a tail of 6 inches for attaching the tail with later.

row 1: Knit the 3 stitches normally, from the left needle to the right. Now all 3 stitches are on the right hand needle and the working yarn is coming from the left most stitch. Slide the stitches from one end of the needle to the other

row 2: Without turning the needle, transfer it to your left hand. Bring the working yarn across the back of the work and Knit the 3 stitches again, you will need to keep a tight tension. The only difference from a normal knitted row is that the yarn is coming from the last stitch and across the back of the work instead of from the first stitch

Continue to Knit across the same 3 stitches in the same way until the tail is around 12 cms/4 ¾ inches long. Cut the work from the ball leaving an 8 inch end, thread this through the 3 stitches on the needle *(fig. 41)* and pull tight to close the gap at the end of the tail. Thread the cast off end down through the centre of the tail and out of the top seam and tie both cast on and cast off ends together.

Thread the tapestry needle with the longer of the ends 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 *(fig. 42)*. 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 mouse is ready for some clothes, patterns for a sweater and shorts are on the next three pages.

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)*

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

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.

Textured sweater with cables:

Materials:

- 2.75mm (US 2) needles
- Yarn C: blue 4ply weight yarn (here I've used Scheepjeswol Cotton 8 in 622)
- a small button

This 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.

On the wrong side of the work all knit stitches are knitted and all purl stitches are purled (I've still given you full written instructions for these reverse side rows in case you prefer to follow along).

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)

C3R: CABLE 3 RIGHT: slip next 2 stitches onto the cable needle and hold at back of work, knit the next stitch from the left hand needle and then knit the two from the cable needle.

C3L: CABLE 3 LEFT: slip next stitch onto the cable needle and hold at front of work, knit the next 2 stitches from the left hand needle and then knit the one from the cable needle.

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

1st sleeve, front, 2nd sleeve, back

This will ensure that they are all in the correct place when you get to row 12 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 right hand and the empty needle in your left.

1. First sleeve:

Starting at the cuff 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

row 1: (right side) K2, (P1, K3) 5 times, P1, K2
row 2: P2, (K1, P3) 5 times, K1, P2
row 3: K2, (P1, K3) 5 times, P1, K2
row 4: P2, (K1, P3) 5 times, K1, P2
row 5: K2, (P1, C3L, P1, K3) twice, P1, C3L, P1, K2
rows 6-13: Repeat rows 2 – 5 twice more

Cut the work from the ball, leaving a 3 inch tail for sewing in later and leave work on needle.

2. Front:

Starting at the bottom edge and working up to the armhole. Use Yarn C and 2.75mm needles to cast on 27 stitches, leaving a tail of 5 inches for seaming with

row 1: (right side) (K3, P1) 6 times, K3
row 2: (P3, K1) 6 times, P3
row 3: (K3, P1) 6 times, K3
row 4: (P3, K1) 6 times, P3
row 5: (K3, P1, C3R, P1) 3 times, K3
row 6-9: Repeat rows 2 – 5
row 10: (P3, K1) 6 times, P3

row 11: (K3, P1) 6 times, K3
row 12: (P3, K1) 6 times, P3
row 13: K1, K2tog, (P1, C3R, P1, K3) twice, P1, C3R, P1, SSK, K1 *(25 stitches)*

Cut the work from the 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 which are worked across all stitches from the four separate sections now on the needle:

row 14: P2, *(K1, P3) 5 times, K1, P1, P2tog, P1* repeat from * to * twice more, (K1, P3) 5 times, K1, P2 *(97 stitches)*

row 15: K1, SSK, (K3, P1) 5 times, CDD, (P1, K3) 5 times, P1, CDD, (P1, K3) 5 times, P1, CDD, (P1, K3) 5 times, K2tog, K1 *(89 stitches)*

row 16: P5, (K1, P3) 4 times, K1, P1, (K1, P3) 5 times, K1, P1, (K1, P3) 5 times, K1, P1, (K1, P3) 4 times, K1, P5

row 17: K1, SSK, K2, (P1, K3, P1, C3L) twice, CDD, (C3R, P1, K3, P1) twice, C3R, CDD, (C3L, P1, K3, P1) twice, C3L, CDD, (C3R, P1, K3, P1) twice, K2, K2tog, K1 *(81 stitches)*

row 18: P4, (K1, P3) 3 times, *K1, P7, (K1, P3) 3 times*, repeat from * to * twice more, K1, P4

row 19: K1, SSK, K1, *(P1, K3) 3 times, P1, K2, CDD, K2, * repeat from * to * twice more, (P1, K3) 3 times, P1, K1, K2tog, K1 *(73 stitches)*

row 20: (P3, K1) 4 times, P5, (K1, P3) 3 times, K1, P5, (K1, P3) 3 times, K1, P5, (K1, P3) 4 times

row 21: K1, SSK, P1, K3, P1, C3L, P1, K3, P1, K1, CDD, K1, P1, K3, P1, C3R, P1, K3, P1, K1, CDD, K1, P1, K3, P1, C3L, P1, K3, P1, K1, CDD, K1, P1, K3, P1, C3R, P1, K3, P1, K2tog, K1 *(65 stitches)*

row 22: P2, (K1, P3) 15 times, K1, P2

row 23: K1, SSK, (K3, P1) 3 times, CDD, (P1, K3) 3 times, P1, CDD, (P1, K3) 3 times, P1, CDD, (P1, K3) 3 times, K2tog, K1 *(57 stitches)*

row 24: P5, (K1, P3) twice, K1, P1, (K1, P3) 3 times, K1, P1, (K1, P3) three times, K1, P1, (K1, P3) twice, K1, P5

row 25: K1, SSK, K2, P1, C3L, P1, K3, CDD, K3, P1, C3R, P1, K3, CDD, K3, P1, C3L, P1, K3, CDD, K3, P1, C3R, P1, K2, K2tog, K1 *(49 stitches)*

row 26: P4, (K1, P3, K1, P7) three times, K1, P3, K1, P4

row 27: K1, SSK, K1, (P1, K3, P1, K2, CDD, K2) 3 times P1, K3, P1, K1, K2tog, K1 *(41 stitches)*

row 28: K2, (P1, K1) 19 times, K1

row 29: P2, (K1, P1) 19 times, P1

row 30: as row 28

row 31: Knit

row 32: K2, (P1, K1) 19 times, K1

row 33: P2, (K1, P1) 19 times, P1

row 34 & 35: Repeat rows 32 & 33

row 36: Cast off loosely, keeping ribbing correct

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 sew up the seams 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. After blocking thread 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 and then use the cast on end from the front to join the side seam and repeat 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 to finish.

If you dislike cabling then here is an alternative sweater that has a simple ribbed texture instead. Use exactly the same instructions for beginning and finishing off as detailed for the cabled sweater on the previous pages.

1. First sleeve:

Starting at the cuff 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

row 1: (right side) K2, (P1, K3) 5 times, P1, K2
row 2:   Purl
rows 3-12:   Repeat rows 1 & 2 five more times
row 13:   K2, (P1, K3) 5 times, P1, K2

Cut the work from the ball, leaving a 3 inch tail for sewing in later and leave work on needle

2. Front:

Starting at the bottom edge and working up to the armhole. Use Yarn C and 2.75mm needles to cast on 27 stitches, leaving a tail of 5 inches for seaming with

row 1: (right side) (K3, P1) 6 times, K3
row 2:   Purl
rows 3-12:   Repeat rows 1 & 2 five more times
row 13:   K1, K2tog, (P1, K3) 5 times, P1, SSK, K1
      (25 stitches)

Cut the work from the 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 which are worked across all stitches from the four separate sections now on the needle:

row 14: P24, P2tog, P23, P2tog, P23, P2tog, P24
      (97 stitches)
row 15: K1, SSK, (K3, P1) 5 times, CDD, (P1, K3) 5 times,
      P1, CDD, (P1, K3) 5 times, P1, CDD, (P1, K3)
      5 times, K2tog, K1 *(89 stitches)*
row 16: Purl
row 17: K1, SSK, K2, (P1, K3) 4 times, CDD, (K3, P1)
      4 times, K3, CDD, (K3, P1) 4 times, K3, CDD,
      (K3, P1) 4 times, K2, K2tog, K1 *(81 stitches)*
row 18: Purl
row 19: K1, SSK, K1, *(P1, K3) 3 times, P1, K2, CDD,
      K2, * repeat from * to * twice more, (P1, K3)
      3 times, P1, K1, K2tog, K1   *(73 stitches)*
row 20: Purl
row 21: K1, SSK, *(P1, K3) 3 times, P1, K1, CDD, K1*,
      repeat from * to * twice more, (P1, K3) 3
      times, P1, K2tog, K1   *(65 stitches)*
row 22: Purl

row 23: K1, SSK, (K3, P1) 3 times, CDD, (P1, K3) 3 times,
      P1, CDD, (P1, K3) 3 times, P1, CDD, (P1, K3)
      3 times, K2tog, K1   *(57 stitches)*
row 24: Purl
row 25: K1, SSK, K2, (P1, K3) twice, CDD, (K3, P1) twice,
      K3, CDD, (K3, P1) twice, K3, CDD, (K3, P1) twice,
      K2, K2tog, K1 *(49 stitches)*
row 26: Purl
row 27: K1, SSK, K1, (P1, K3, P1, K2, CDD, K2) 3 times,
      P1, K3, P1, K1, K2tog, K1 *(41 stitches)*
row 28: K2, (P1, K1) 19 times, K1
row 29: P2, (K1, P1) 19 times, P1
row 30: as row 28
row 31: Knit
row 32: K2, (P1, K1) 19 times, K1
row 33: P2, (K1, P1) 19 times, P1
row 34 & 35: Repeat rows 32 & 33
row 36: Cast off loosely, keeping ribbing correct