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)
Her dress, tights and shoes are made from Patons 4ply Cotton yarn
in 01173 pale blue (Yarn C), 01697 denim (Yarn D) and 01729 delta (Yarn E)

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

Materials:
- DK, worsted or light Aran yarn (approx 34m) in white Yarn A
- 4ply weight yarn (approx 8m) in a pink colour for the ears and tail Yarn B
- 4ply weight yarn in 3 contrasting colours for the clothing: Yarn C, Yarn D, Yarn E
- Scraps of grey, pink and black 4ply yarn for the eyes and facial features
- Toy stuffing
- A tiny button

Notions:
- Knitting needles: A pair each of 3mm and 2.75mm and a pair of 2.5mm DPNS
- Tapestry needle

Finished size:
approx 22cm (9 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 dress: 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, standard knitting terms, stranded colour-work 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 (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 exactly 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).

I hope that you find the pattern enjoyable (if a bit fiddly) 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.

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

M1T : MAKE 1 TOWARDS. Make a loop with the working yarn so the tail is pointing forwards/towards you. For neatness this made stitch needs to be purled into the back loop on the following row.

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

 Julie Williams, Little Cotton Rabbits

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:

1 strand of Debbie Bliss Angel combined with 1 strand of Debbie Bliss Rialto DK both in white 001

* 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 above middle but for the purposes of clarity in the pattern pictures I've used a yarn with less 'halo'

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 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 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 zoomed into on screen so that you can see some of the more fiddly bits in better detail.

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

Head:

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:

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 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.

     Julie Williams, Little Cotton Rabbits

B o d y:

Starting at the neck and finishing at the bottom. Note that the stockings are worked in single row stripes and this part is therefore worked flat on double pointed needles (DPNS). Do not cut Yarn D or Yarn E until after casting off, instead work 2 consecutive rows of Purl on the wrong side (1 in each colour) followed by 2 of Knit on the right side, as detailed below. If you prefer you can knit the lower part of the body and the legs in a single colour on single pointed needles, in which case work **rows 17-32** of the body in stocking stitch, starting with a Purl row and ending with a Knit row. Alternatively you could work in the round, in which case decrease 2 stitches (one at each end of **row 17**) to allow for the lack of a seam and Knit every row, following the colour changes.

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
rows 10-13: Repeat rows 8 & 9 twice more
row 14: Change to 2.5mm DPNS and K3, (KLL, K5) 6 times, K1 *(40 stitches)*
Cut Yarn A from the work, leaving a tail for seaming.
row 15: Change to Yarn E and Purl
row 16: (right side) Purl
row 17: (wrong side) Change to Yarn D and Purl. Don't turn the work if working the stripes
row 18: (wrong side) Change to Yarn E and Purl
row 19: (right side) Change to Yarn D and Knit. Don't turn the work
row 20: (right side) Change to Yarn E and Knit
rows 21-32: Repeat rows 17-20 three more times
row 33:   Change to Yarn D and cast off in Purl

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

L e g s: *(make 2 the same)*

Begin with the shoes which are made as a separate piece. Starting at the underside of the shoe, use Yarn C 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.

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 (*at this point 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, Purl and cast off the remaining stitches.

Now you will need to pick up stitches from the cast off edge of the shoe to form the top of the foot.
Tip: I recommend using a sharp tipped or smaller sized needle for the first row

row 1: With Yarn E and 2.5mm DPNS 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. Don't turn the work, as the stripes are worked in single rows of each colour.

** Note if you prefer to work the stockings in a single colour then work **rows 2-10** in stocking stitch (alternate Purl and Knit rows) starting and ending with a Purl row.*

row 2:* (right side) Change to Yarn D and Knit
row 3: (wrong side) Change to Yarn E and Purl
Don't turn the work
row 4: (wrong side) Change to Yarn D and Purl

row 5: (right side) Change to Yarn E and Knit
Don't turn the work
row 6: (right side) Change to Yarn D and Knit
rows 7-10: Repeat rows 3-6

Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 5 inches for tying off later.

| fig. 27 | fig. 28 | fig. 29 | fig 30 |

Now you will need to pick up more stitches to form the shaft of the leg (*fig. 28 and fig. 29*)

row 1: (right side) Leaving a tail of 7 inches for seaming with later, use Yarn E 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 (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 (*fig. 29*) (*16 stitches*) Don't turn the work if you are working the stripes.

** Note if you prefer to work the stockings in a single colour then work **rows 2-18** in stocking stitch (alternate Purl and Knit rows) starting and ending with a Purl row.*

Row 2: (right side) Change to Yarn D and Knit
row 3: (wrong side) Change to Yarn E and Purl
Don't turn the work
row 4: (wrong side) Change to Yarn D and Purl
row 5: (right side) Change to Yarn E and Knit
Don't turn the work

rows 6-17: Repeat rows 2-5 three more times
row 18: (right side) Change to Yarn D and cast off Knit-wise

Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 5 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 C 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. 30*). 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. 31)*. You are aiming to have 4 rows of knitting showing on the top of the foot once the seams are closed.

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. Thread the yarn to the inside of the work and catch up the Yarn C loops from the back of the toe of the shoe *(fig. 32)*.

| fig. 31 | fig. 32 | fig. 33 | fig. 34 |

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. 33)*. 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. 34)*. 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 C and use it to gather up the loops in the bottom of the foot, I've used red thread here just to illustrate *(fig. 35)*. Tie both ends tightly inside the shoe to fully close the bottom shoe seam.
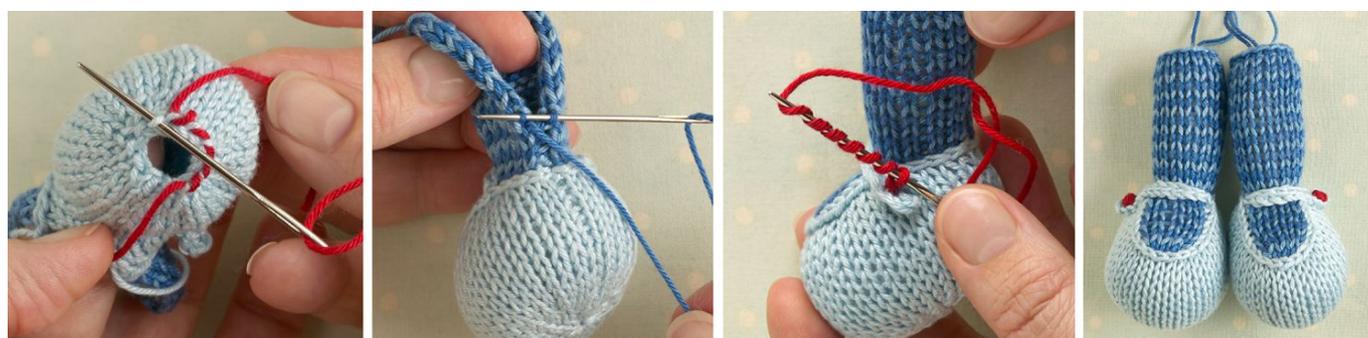

| fig. 35 | fig. 36 | fig. 37 | fig. 38 |

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 leg section and use this to close the seam up the back of the leg using mattress stitch *(fig. 36)*. 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 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.

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 5 inches) to make a French Knot *(fig. 37)*. Follow the instructions for the 'Eyes' but wrap the yarn 6 times.

Now both legs are ready to attach to the body *(fig. 38)*.

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 making sure that you have the correct leg in position – the French Knot should be on the outside.

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. 39)*.

Work all the way around the top of the leg back to the start then tie both ends together inside the body to secure. Attach the second leg in the same way leaving a gap between both legs *(fig. 40)*.

fig. 39	fig. 40	fig. 41

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. 41)* before threading the end back inside and tying off both ends to secure.

Now the body is ready for stuffing *(fig. 42)*

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 attach the head.

Thread the tapestry needle with the longest 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. 43)* 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. 42	fig. 43	fig. 44

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

Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of 7 inches. Thread this through the remaining 10 stitches and pull up tightly *(fig 44)*. 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. 45)*. 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. 45

fig. 46

fig. 47

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. 46)* 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. 47)*. 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 clothes and on the following pages you will find a pattern for a flowered dress.

Sleeveless pinwheel flower frock:

Materials:
- 4ply weight yarn in 2 contrasting colours for the clothing: Yarn C, Yarn D
- A tiny button

Notions:
- Knitting needles: A pair of 2.75mm
- Tapestry needle

Gauge:
7 stitches x 10 rows to 1 inch

The bottom of this dress has a lettuce edge ruffle. Starting at the bottom of the skirt use 2.75mm needles and Yarn C to cast on 98 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)
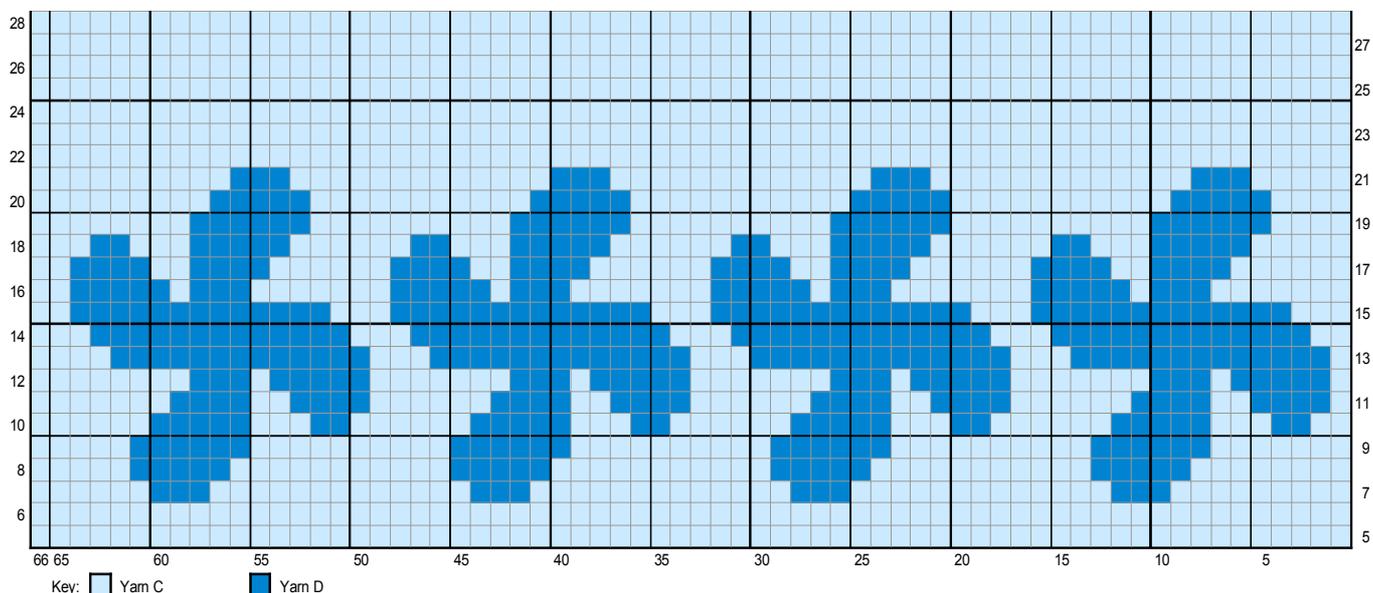
row **1:** (right side) Knit
row **2:** Purl
row **3:** K1, (K2tog, K1, SSK, K1) 16 times, K1   *(66 stitches)*
row **4:** Knit
row **5:** Begin working the first row from the pattern chart in Knit, reading from right to left
        (If you prefer written instructions you will find them on the next page)
row **6:** Purl the second row of pattern chart, reading from left to right

Continue working alternate Knit and Purl rows following the pattern chart:

Key: ☐ Yarn C ■ Yarn D

Written instructions for the dress pattern:

row 5: K in yarn C only
row 6: P in yarn C only
row 7: K9, (K3, K13) three times, K3, K6
row 8: P5, (P5, P11) three times, P5, P8
row 9: K7, (K6, K10) three times, K6, K5
row 10: (P6, P5, P3, P2) four times, P2
row 11: K1, (K4, K2, K4, K6) four times, K1
row 12: P1, (P7, P3, P1, P5) four times, P1
row 13: K1, (K13, K3) four times, K1
row 14: (P3, P13) four times, P2

row 15: (K3, K13) four times, K2
row 16: P2, (P5, P1, P3, P7) four times
row 17: (K6, K4, K2, K4), four times, K2
row 18: P3, (P2, P3, P5, P6) three times, P2, P3, P5, P5
row 19: K4, (K6, K10) three times, K6, K8
row 20: P9, (P5, P11) three times, P5, P4
row 21: K5, (K3, K13) three times, K3, K10
rows 22-28: Beginning and ending with a purl row work in stocking stitch (alternate purl and knit rows) in Yarn C only

Cut Yarn C from the work (leaving a tail of around 3 inches for sewing in later) as you will not need this colour for the rest of the pattern.
row 29: Change to Yarn D, K3, (K2tog) 30 times, K3 *(36 stitches)*
row 30: Purl

The next section is worked in three separate parts:

row 31: 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 32: Purl
row 33: K7, K2tog, K1 *(9 stitches)*
row 34: Purl
row 35: Knit
rows 36-39: Repeat rows 34 and 35 twice more 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 31 (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 32 (b): Purl
row 33 (b): K1, SSK, K10, K2tog, K1 *(14 stitches)*
row 34 (b): Purl
row 35 (b): Knit
rows 36-39 (b): Repeat rows 34 and 35 twice more 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 31 (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 32 (c): Purl
row 33 (c): K1, SSK, K7 *(9 sts)*
row 34 (c): Purl
row 35 (c): Knit
rows 36-39 (c): Repeat rows 34 and 35 twice more. 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.

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row 40 : P8, P2tog, P12, P2tog, P8 *(30 stitches)*
row 41:   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 29) 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.

Now you can decorate your flowers. Either you can choose a simple French knot in the centre of each (*(see front cover)* or you can experiment with felt, embroidery or button embellishments. Once you are finished decorating the flowers, pop the dress on your mouse and you are done.

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Thanks for buying this pattern, I hope you've enjoyed 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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