

Little Cotton Rabbits girl lamb in a honeycomb & flowers dress



This lamb is made from Cascade 220 Worsted yarn in 9600 Antique Heather (Yarn A) and 8010 Natural (Yarn B). Her dress, tights and shoes are made from BC Garn Alba Cotton 4ply yarn in 31 (Yarn C) and 32 (Yarn D)

*Other knitting patterns are available at
www.littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk*

Materials:

- Worsted or light Aran yarn (approx 21m/23yds):
Yarn A
- Worsted or light Aran yarn (approx 23m/26yds):
Yarn B
- 4ply weight yarn in 2 contrasting colours for the clothing: Yarn C, Yarn D
- Scraps of black and grey yarn, DK or 4ply for the eyes and facial features
- Toy stuffing
- A tiny button

Notions:

- Knitting needles:
A pair each of 3mm, 2.75mm and 2.5mm
- Tapestry needle

Finished size:

approx 22cm (9 inches) from the tip of the toes to the top of the ears



Gauge:

Gauge for lamb: 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, Fair Isle 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 (though if you decide to convert it to knit it in the round please bear in mind that you will lose the ability to use the seams to add structure and shape to your finished animal and it will not look the same).

I feel that it is mostly the finishing techniques (sewing up, seams etc.) that give any knitted project a polished look. I've described in detail how I try to get the neatest look to the animals that I make, how I sew up, tighten seams and use stuffing to get a particular shape. You will need to use mattress stitch if you want to follow the instructions properly as it give a perfect finish and 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).

There are lots of options for different looks included with this pattern. You can choose to make a lamb without horns or you can add pointed horns or large curled horns if you prefer (see below). If you dislike working with 2 colours on the same row using the intarsia method then you could work your lamb in a single colour. On the next page there are lots of suggestions for colours and yarns to work your lamb in.



This lamb is made with no horns



This lamb is made with the small pointed horns on page 8



This lamb is made with the large curled horns on page 7

Alternative yarn suggestions for clothes:

I like cotton yarns for the dresses as it has a pleasing drape and gives a crispness to the pattern and the hem of the dress will not curl in the way that wool will. I've recommended BC Garn Alba yarn for the clothes here because it knits up so nicely and has a good range of colours but if it's not available where you are you could substitute any of the following yarns: MillaMia naturally soft cotton, Drops Safran, Patons 4ply Cotton, Sirdar cotton 4ply, Cascade Ultra Pima fine or DMC Natura Just Cotton which comes in a huge range of colours. Or of course you can choose your own 4ply/sport weight yarn.

Alternative yarn suggestions for sheep:



If you don't want to use 2 coloured yarns on the same row you can knit your lamb in a single colour. The change in texture between the woolly part and the face will still be apparent. This lamb is made entirely from Quince and Co Owl yarn in 'Snowy'

This lamb is knitted from a single strand of Cascade 220 worsted yarn in 8010 'natural' but to give extra definition to the 'woolly' part I have added an extra strand of thin mohair yarn; Lana Grossa Silkhair Melange in 720 'Biegemeliert' and held it alongside the Cascade yarn to work only the **Yarn A** parts of the pattern (the Yarn B parts of the pattern are worked with the strand of Cascade 220 worsted alone). This gives a lovely fuzzy, marled texture to the 'woolly' parts of the sheep without the hassle of working in intarsia with 2 different yarns across the same row.

Below are some suggestions for yarns to use if you are working the pattern in 2 colours:

Three sheep made in varying colours of Quince and Co. Owl yarn:



This sheep is knitted from 'Togian' for the woolly part and 'Barred' for the face



This little Scottish blackface sheep is knitted from 'Buru' for the woolly part and 'Barred' for the face.



This little herdwick sheep is knitted from 'Elf' for the woolly part and 'Snowy' for the face



This sheep is knitted from Yarn Stories Fine Merino and Baby Alpaca Aran in 'Dove' for the woolly part and 'cream' for the face



This sheep is knitted from Rowan Pure Wool Worsted in 101 'Ivory' with big horns made from Madeline Tosh Vintage in 'silver fox'



This little Hebridean sheep is worked in 1420 'murky' Istex Léttlopi for the woolly part and Cascade 220 worsted in 9465 'Vashon Island heather' for the face, with pointed horns in BC Garn Allino on 2.75mm needles



This sheep is knitted from Drops Nepal in 517 for the woolly part and 506 for the face

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

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.

Extra help:

I hope you enjoy working from this pattern and are pleased with the lamb you make from it.

There some extra tips about knitting and finishing on my blog, including seaming with mattress stitch, working in Fair Isle/stranded technique and Swiss darning/duplicate stitch, so please pop by for a visit and check out the tutorial section: www.littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk

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.

Happy knitting!

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The pattern instructions:

Please note that unless stated otherwise my standard recommended cast on is a cable cast on. However, for the head and body of this pattern (which are worked in reverse stocking stitch) I recommend using a long tail cast on. Both cast on methods are illustrated well here: <http://www.knittinghelp.com/videos/cast-on>

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.

Head:

The pattern below is written for working in 2 colours but if you prefer you can choose to use a single colour for your sheep and ignore the colour change instructions. An example of a sheep knitted only in cream yarn is on page 3 along with other alternative yarn suggestions.

If working in two colours you'll now need to cut two lengths of **Yarn A** one of 60cms and one of 1m, and two 70cm lengths of **Yarn B** ready to begin working the intarsia section from rows 22-24. When working this section be sure to leave all yarn tails on the wrong side of the work ready to be woven in later (see *fig. 1*).

Starting at the back of the head and finishing at the nose. Beginning with a long tail of 33cms/13 inches (which will leave a tail of 7 inches for seaming with later), use **Yarn A** and 3mm needles to long tail cast on 11 stitches.

row 1: (right side) Purl

row 2: K2, (KLL, K1) 7 times, KLL, K2 (19 stitches)

row 3: Purl

row 4: K2, (KLL, K2) 7 times, KLL, K3 (27 stitches)

row 5: Purl

row 6: K2, (KLL, K3) 7 times, KLL, K4 (35 stitches)

rows 7-11: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 5 rows in stocking stitch (alternate Purl and Knit rows)

row 12: K9, P1, K15, P1, K9 (the Purl stitches here mark the placement for joining the ears)

rows 13-21: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 9 rows in stocking stitch (alternate Purl and Knit rows)

row 22: K10, join in a length of **Yarn B** and P4, join in the short length of **Yarn A** and K7, join in the second length of **Yarn B** and P4, join in the long length of **Yarn A** and K10

row 23: P9, K6, P5, K6, P9

row 24: K8, P8, K3, P8, K8 Cut **Yarn A** from the work as it is no longer needed and continue in **Yarn B** only.

row 25: K1, (K2tog) 7 times, K5, (K2tog) 7 times, K1 (21 stitches)

rows 26-30: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 5 rows in stocking stitch

row 31: K1, (K2tog) 3 times, SSK, K3, (K2tog) 3 times, SSK, K1 (13 stitches)

row 32: Purl

Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 8 inches and use the tapestry needle to thread this tail through the remaining 13 stitches (*fig. 2*). Pull up tightly and over-sew once to keep the seam from opening out again. Continue using this thread to close around an inch 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 at the back of the head using mattress stitch and leaving a gap through which to stuff the head (*fig. 3*).



fig. 1



fig. 2



fig. 3



fig. 4

Finally with the right side of work facing you pick up the loops from the cast on edge. (*fig. 4*, I've used red thread to illustrate). Pull this tightly to gather in the seam and tie the ends together tightly inside the head to prevent it loosening again. Now is the time to tidy up the ends from the intarsia section. Make sure that you close any gaps by tying off ends and weaving them in securely (if you have used very contrasting colours then weave in the ends on the back of their corresponding colours to prevent show through on the right side of the work). Once you're happy it's time to stuff.



fig. 5

fig. 6

fig. 7

fig. 8

I start with a tight ball of stuffing which I poke into the back of the head, packing it in firmly (*fig. 5*) then stuff the nose end lightly, pinching and manipulating the stuffing until it takes on the shape that I want (*fig. 6*). I keep adding 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 (*figs. 7 & 8*). When you are happy with the head shape leave the seam at the bottom of the head open for now and set the head aside while you make the ears.

E a r s: (make two the same)

Starting at the base of the ears and finishing at the top Use Yarn B and 3mm needles to cable cast on 11 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for seaming with later

row 1: (right side) (K1, P1) 5 times, K1

rows 2-6: As row 1

row 7: K1, P3tog, K1, P1, K1, P3tog, K1 (7 stitches)

row 8: (K1, P1) 3 times, K1

row 9: K1, P1, K3tog, P1, K1 (5 stitches)

row 10: (K1, P1) twice, K1

row 11: K1, P3tog, K1 (3 stitches)

row 12: K1, P1, K1

Cut the work from the ball leaving an 8 inch tail and thread this end through the last 3 stitches on the needle (*fig. 9*), pull up to tighten the stitches, leaving a slightly rounded end to the ear. Weave in this tail along the centre of the ear all the way to the cast-on edge (*fig. 10*). Fold the ear in half lengthways with wrong sides together and join the cast-on edge by over-sewing (whip stitching) using the cast-on tail (*fig. 11*). Tie the two ends together securely at the back edge of the finished ear. Make a second ear the same (*fig. 12*).



fig. 9

fig. 10

fig. 11

fig. 12

Now attach the ears. Thread the tapestry needle with the longest tail from an ear and sew through the purl loop just behind the marker stitch on row 12 of the head (*figs. 13 & 14*). Now sew alternately through a loop from the cast on edge of the ear and a purl stitch on the head, making sure that the ear is joined in a straight line along the side of the head. When you reach the front edge of the ear (*fig. 15*) turn the head upside-down and join the lower edge of the ear by working backwards to where you began (*fig. 16*).



fig. 13



fig. 14



fig. 15

Once the underside of the ear is fully joined tie the two ends from the ear together securely at the back and then sew them through the head and out of the open seam at the bottom (fig. 17). Repeat with the second ear making sure they are in alignment (fig. 18). When you are happy with positioning tie the 4 tail ends from the ears together securely on the underside of the head, trim excess and poke them inside the head cavity.



fig. 16



fig. 17



fig. 18

To embroider the face:

Thread a tapestry needle with a 10 inch length of black, brown or grey 4ply or DK Yarn and push it up through the open bottom seam of the head and out on one side of the nose, sew 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).

Take the working yarn through the loop you've just made (fig. 19) so that the nose is pulled down in a 'V' shape. Now take the yarn down the outside of the centre seam, sew into the head at the base of the mouth and out at one mouth corner. Take the yarn across the front to the other mouth corner and sew back through the head, coming out again at the base of the mouth (fig. 20). Take the working yarn through the loop you've just made so that the mouth is also pulled into a 'V' shape. Sew back through the head at the base of the mouth and out of the open seam at the bottom of the head (fig. 21). Adjust the tightness of the stitches forming the facial features and knot the 2 ends of embroidery thread together securely before trimming and then poke the ends inside the head.



fig. 19



fig. 20



fig. 21

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 change in yarn and gently tighten the seams to give the nose extra shaping before tying both ends together. Don't trim the ends as you'll use them to attach the head to the body later. To make the eyes cut an 8 inch length of black embroidery floss or 4ply yarn. Starting underneath the head thread this black yarn through the head to the position for the first eye leaving a tail of around 4 inches behind (I use the decreases either side of the K5 on row 25 as my markers for placement of eyes and I find it easier to see these clearly if I turn the head upside down). Create an anchored French Knot for each eye:

Anchored French Knot:

I use this method 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: Thread a tapestry needle with 8 inches of yarn. Beginning from underside of the head, sew up through the head to the point that you want the knot. Then sew back through the same point and out again one stitch away from the original point, leaving a little loop (*fig. 22*).



fig. 22

fig. 23

fig. 24

fig. 25

Slide the tip of the needle through this loop. Wrap the thread around the needle tip between three and six times depending on thickness of yarn – here I've wrapped six times with 4ply yarn (*fig. 23*). 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 tail end under the head to tighten the anchor loop slightly. Sew back through the work (*fig. 24*) to the start point underneath the head. Gently pull each end in turn to tighten the knot to create a little eye socket shaping to the head (*fig. 25*). 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 aside.

Before you start on the body you might like to make some horns for your sheep but they are optional.

Optional Horns: (make two the same)

There are 2 options below for horns if you'd like to add some: a curled set typical of a Merino ram and a more pointed set. You can make either option in whatever size you prefer by working them in worsted on 3mm needles (to give large horns), DK on 2.75mm needles or 4ply/fingering weight yarn on 2.5mm needles (to give small horns). You can see some examples on pages 2 & 3.

Large curled horns:

To work the horns you will need approx. 12m (13 yds) of yarn (here I've used worsted weight). Starting at the base of the horns and finishing at the tip use 3mm needles to cable cast on 14 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for seaming with later.

row 1: (wrong side) Knit

rows 2–11: Knit 10 rows in garter stitch (all Knit rows)

row 12: K3, (K2tog, K2) twice, K2tog, K1 (11 stitches)

rows 13–17: Knit 5 rows in garter stitch

row 18: K2, (K2tog, K1) 3 times (8 stitches)

rows 19–23: Knit 5 rows in garter stitch

row 24: K1, (K2tog) 3 times, K1 (5 stitches)

rows 25–29: Knit 5 rows in garter stitch

** (these instructions apply to both the large horns and the smaller pointed horns at the bottom of this page):
Cut the work from the ball leaving an 8 inch tail and thread this end through the last 5 stitches on the needle (fig. 26), pull up to tighten the stitches and then join the side seam using mattress stitch (fig. 27). It's essential to use mattress stitch if you want your horn to curl, there is a tutorial on working mattress stitch on my blog.

Once the seam is fully joined you can pull on the thread you've sewn with to tighten the seam and cause the horn to curl (fig. 28). The more you pull, the greater the curl will be (fig. 29). When you're happy, tie the two tail ends together securely to keep the curl. Now stuff the fatter end of the horn cavity (fig. 30) and make a second one the same.



To join the horns to the head, thread the tapestry needle with the longest tail from one horn and place the first stitch just above the ear (fig. 31). You're aiming to join the horn so that the base of it is sewn in a circle to the top of the head above the ear. Work all around the base of the horn by sewing alternately through a purl stitch on the head (fig. 32) and a loop from the cast on edge of the horn (fig. 33). When the horn is fully joined tie the two tail ends together securely and sew these ends through the head and out of the open seam at the bottom. Repeat with the second horn making sure they are in alignment. When you are happy with positioning tie all 4 tail ends from the horns together securely on the underside of the head and trim excess, the short ends will be hidden once you've attached the body. See pages 2 & 3 for more pictures of finished heads with horns.



Smaller pointed horns:

To work these horns you will need approx. 5.5m (6 yds) of yarn (here I've used worsted weight). Starting at the base of the horns and finishing at the tip use 3mm needles to cable cast on 8 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for seaming with later

row 1: (wrong side) Knit

rows 2-13: Knit 12 rows in garter stitch (all Knit rows)

row 14: K1, (K2tog) 3 times, K1 (5 stitches)

rows 15-17: Knit 3 rows in garter stitch

Continue by following the same instructions for seaming and attaching to the head as for the larger horns (see ** at the top of this page)



Body:

Starting at the neck and finishing at the bottom.

Beginning with a long tail of 38cms/15 inches (which will leave a tail of 8 inches for seaming with later), use **Yarn A** and 3mm needles to long tail cast on 16 stitches.

- row 1: (right side) Purl
- row 2: K3, (KLL, K2) 5 times, KLL, K3 (22 stitches)
- row 3: Purl
- row 4: K3, (KLL, K3) 5 times, KLL, K4 (28 stitches)
- row 5: Purl
- row 6: K3, (KLL, K4) 5 times, KLL, K5 (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) 5 times, KLL, K6 (40 stitches)

Cut **Yarn A** from the work as it is no longer needed

- row 15: Join in **Yarn C** and Knit
- row 16: Knit
- rows 17-32: Beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl row, work 16 rows in stocking stitch
- row 33: Cast off in Knit



Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 6 inches and use this thread to close the seam up the back of the body using mattress stitch, leaving a gap at the top to make stuffing the body easier. Now for the legs.

Legs: (make 2 the same)

Begin with the shoes which are made as a separate piece. Starting at the underside of the shoe use **Yarn D** and 2.5mm needles to cable cast on 14 stitches, leaving a tail of 6 inches for seaming with later

- row 1: (wrong side) Purl
- row 2: K2, (KLL, K1) 3 times, KLL, K4, (KLL, K1) 3 times, KLL, K2 (22 stitches)
- row 3: Purl
- row 4: K3, (KLL, K1) 5 times, KLL, K6, (KLL, K1) 5 times, KLL, K3 (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 (*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. Cast off the remaining stitches in Purl and cut the work from the ball.

Now 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 change back to the 2.5mm:

- row 1: (right side) With **Yarn C** and 2.5mm needles pick up and Knit the 6 central stitches from the cast-off edge of the shoe (*that is the central 4 stitches and the 2 decrease stitches either side of them, (fig. 35)*) like so: From the front of the work push the tip of the needle through a purl 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
- rows 2-10: Beginning and ending with Purl rows, work 9 rows in stocking stitch. Cut the yarn from the ball and keep these 6 stitches held on the left hand needle.



fig. 35

fig. 36

fig. 37

Now you will need to pick up more stitches to form the shaft of the leg (figs. 36 & 37), like so:

row 1: (right side) Leaving a tail of 8 inches for seaming with later, use **Yarn C** to pick up and knit the Purl loops behind the first 5 stitches on the far right side of the shoe cast-off edge (fig. 36). 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. 37). Ignore the first 8 cast off stitches on the left side and pick up and knit the purl loops behind 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. (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.

To finish the legs and body:

Shoe strap: (make 2 the same)

Use **Yarn D** and 2.5mm needles to cable cast on 12 stitches (leaving a tail of 9 inches for sewing up later) and then knit back across them casting off as you go. Cut work from the ball leaving another tail of 6 inches for sewing up. Now attach the strap (fig. 38). Thread a tapestry needle with the shorter end from the strap and sew it to the one side of the shoe at the top of the foot section (fig. 39). 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. Working down towards the toe of the shoe, sew alternately through a purl bump from the back of the shoe cast off edge (fig. 40) and a 'bar' between the two outermost stitches of the top of the foot section. You should run out of loops on the shoe side and still have 2 'bars' on the foot side which is exactly right as this is what helps to give the shoe its curved shaped toe.



fig. 38

fig. 39

fig. 40

fig. 41

Next, thread the yarn to the inside of the work and catch up the **Yarn D** loops from the back of the toe of the shoe (*fig. 41*). 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. 42*). When you have fully closed the vent thread the yarn to the inside and gently tighten until both sides of the foot are even.



fig. 42



fig. 43



fig. 44

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. 43*). 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 D** and use it to gather up the loops in the bottom of the foot (*fig. 44*) I've used red thread here just to illustrate. Tie both ends tightly inside the shoe to fully close the bottom shoe seam.

Now stuff the foot firmly. Take your time to get the shape that you want, adding small amounts of stuffing at a time. Don't be afraid to pull it out and start again if you're not happy with the shape. 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. 45*) leaving a gap at the top to make stuffing the leg easier. Stuff the leg lightly and if you want your lamb 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 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 9 inches) to make a French Knot (*fig. 46*). Follow the instructions for the 'Eyes' on page 7 and wrap the yarn 6 times.



fig. 45



fig. 46



fig. 47

Now both legs are ready to attach to the body (*fig. 47*). 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 of the foot. 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. 48*). 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. 49*).

Once both legs are attached and secure turn the body inside out. Find the longest end from the tops of legs, thread it along the seam and to the outside of the work at the start of the gap between the legs. Turn the work right side out and tightly over-sew the short seam between the legs (*fig. 50*) before threading the end back inside and tying off to secure. Now the body is ready to be stuffed (*fig. 51*). 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.



Fig. 48



fig. 49



fig. 50



fig. 51

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 later. Now for the tail.

Tail:

Using 3mm needles and Yarn B cast on 9 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for attaching the tail with later.

row 1: (wrong side) Purl

rows 2-7: Beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl row work 6 rows in stocking stitch

row 8: K2, K2tog, K1, SSK, K2 (7 stitches)

row 9: Purl

Cut the work from the ball leaving an 8 inch tail, thread this end through the 7 stitches on the needle and pull up tightly (*fig. 49*). Over-sew once to keep the seam from opening out. Continue using this thread to close the seam using mattress stitch and when you reach the top of the seam tie both ends together to secure (*fig. 50*). Use the longer end to sew the tail on to the lambs bottom (*fig. 51*). Tie off ends and thread through the body before trimming.



fig. 52



fig. 53



fig. 54

Arms: (make 2 the same)

Starting at the top of arm and finishing at the paw. Use Yarn B and 3mm needles to cable cast on 10 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for seaming with later

row 1: (wrong side) Purl

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

rows 3-23: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 21 rows in stocking stitch

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 around 8 inches. Thread this through the remaining 10 stitches (*fig. 55*) and pull up tightly. Over-sew once to keep the seam from opening out. 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 and put arms to one side. Now it's best to join 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. 56*) 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 top of the body seam, knotting it to the remaining end under the chin once the head is fully joined. Thread the ends through the body before trimming.



fig. 55



fig. 56



fig. 57

Re-thread the tapestry needle with the longer end from an arm 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. 57*). 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 sew through the body before trimming. Repeat with the second arm and now your lamb is ready for some clothes and instructions for two dress options are on the next three pages.



Honeycomb & flowers dress:

This dress design is work in two colours using a Fair Isle/stranded knitting technique. If you prefer not to use this technique there is a simpler dress worked in a single colour textured Knit and Purl pattern on page 17.

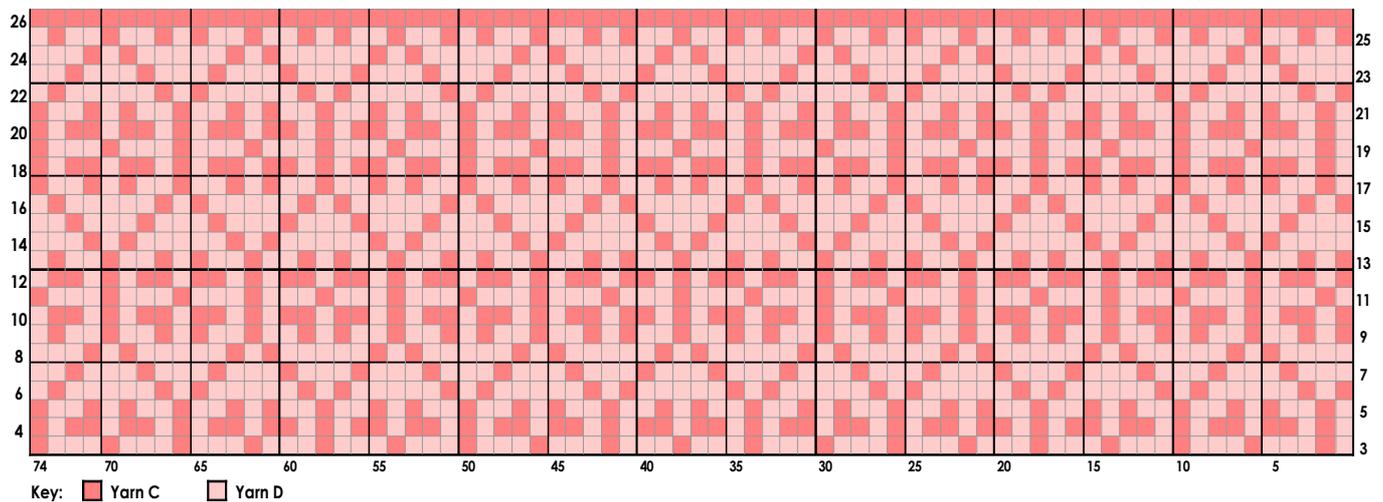
For this design you will need 4ply weight yarn in 2 contrasting colours: **Yarn C**, **Yarn D**.

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>row 1: (right side) Knit</p> <p>row 2: Knit</p> <p>row 3: K1, (K1, K3) 18 times, K1</p> <p>row 4: P1, P1, (P2, P1, P2, P1, P1, P1) 9 times</p> <p>row 5: K1, K1, (K2, K1, K1, K1, K2, K1) 9 times</p> <p>row 6: P1, P1, (P5, P1, P1, P1) 9 times</p> <p>row 7: (K3, K1) 18 times, K2</p> <p>row 8: P3, (P1, P1, P1, P5) 8 times, P1, P1, P1, P4</p> <p>row 9: (K1, K1, K1, K2, K1, K2) 9 times, K1, K1</p> <p>row 10: P1, (P2, P1, P1, P1, P2, P1) 9 times, P1</p> <p>row 11: K1, (K1, K3) 18 times, K1</p> <p>row 12: As row 10</p> <p>row 13: As row 9</p> | <p>row 14: As row 8</p> <p>row 15: As row 7</p> <p>row 16: As row 6</p> <p>row 17: As row 5</p> <p>row 18: As row 4</p> <p>row 19: As row 3</p> <p>row 20: As row 4</p> <p>row 21: As row 5</p> <p>row 22: As row 6</p> <p>row 23: As row 7</p> <p>row 24: As row 8</p> <p>row 25: As row 9</p> <p>row 26: Purl in Yarn C only</p> |
|--|---|

Charted instructions for the dress pattern:

If you prefer **rows 3-26** can be worked from the pattern chart below. Please note that odd numbered rows are worked in Knit and read from right to left, whereas even numbered rows are worked in Purl and read from left to right.



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

Cut **Yarn D** from the work (leaving a tail of around 6 inches for sewing in later) as you will not need this colour for the rest of the pattern, continue in **Yarn C** only.

row 28: Purl

In order to create the armholes, the next section is worked in three separate parts (*see figs. 58 & 59*):

1. First side of the back:

row 29: K9, Slip the next stitch onto a cable needle and hold at the front of the work, Knit 1 stitch, slip the stitch from the cable needle back onto the left hand needle (it will be knitted later). Turn ready to work on these 10 stitches only for the next 8 rows.

row 30: Purl

row 31: K7, K2tog, K1 (9 stitches)

rows 32-37: Beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit row, work 6 rows in stocking stitch. Cut the work from the ball (leaving a tail of around 6 inches for sewing up later) and leave these 9 stitches on right hand needle.

2. Front:

row 29 (b): Rejoin Yarn C at the first stitch on the left-hand needle and Knit 17, 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 18 stitches only for the next 8 rows.

row 30 (b): Purl

row 31 (b): K1, SSK, K12, K2tog, K1 (16 stitches)

rows 32-37 (b): Beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit row, work 6 rows in stocking stitch. Cut the work from the ball (leaving a tail of around 6 inches for sewing up later) and leave these 16 stitches on right hand needle.

3. Second side of the back:

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

row 30 (c): Purl

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

rows 32-37 (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 38: P8, P2tog, P14, P2tog, P8 (32 stitches)

row 39: Cast off in Knit

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



fig. 58



fig. 59

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, leaving a small gap for the tail to poke through. Finish the seam at the waist (row 27) and tie the ends together before weaving them in along the inside seam and trimming excess.

Weave in the yarn ends from the tops of the armholes down along the armhole edges and tie to the ends at the bottoms of the armholes (don't pull too tightly or you'll make the armhole too small). Weave them in along the back of the waist shaping row and trim excess. Weave in any additional yarn ends from inside the dress along the inside seam and trim excess. Now the dress is done.



Textured honeycomb dress:

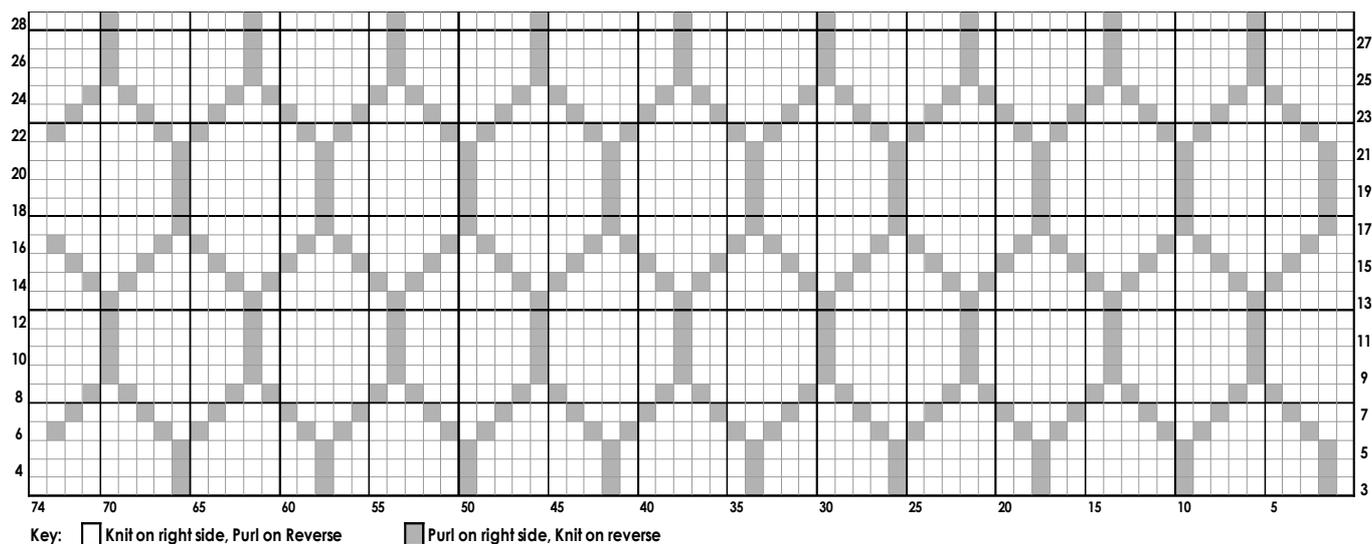
This dress pattern uses Knit and Purl stitches to create a simple textured pattern. It is 2 rows longer than the colour-worked dress to compensate for the fact that the Knit and Purl design draws the finished fabric in.

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

row 1: (right side) Knit	row 10: P4, (K1, P7) 8 times, K1, P5	row 20: As row 4
row 2: Knit	row 11: As row 9	row 21: As row 5
row 3: K1, (P1, K7) 9 times, K1	row 12: As row 10	row 22: As row 6
row 4: P8, (K1, P7) 8 times, K1, P1	row 13: As row 9	row 23: As row 7
row 5: K1, (P1, K7) 9 times, K1	row 14: As row 8	row 24: As row 8
row 6: P1, K1, (P5, K1, P1, K1) 9 times	row 15: As row 7	row 25: As row 9
row 7: (K3, P1) 18 times, K2	row 16: As row 6	row 26: As row 10
row 8: P3, (K1, P1, K1, P5) 8 times, K1, P1, K1, P4	row 17: As row 5	row 27: As row 9
row 9: K5, (P1, K7) 8 times, P1, K4	row 18: As row 4	row 28: As row 10
	row 19: As row 3	

Charted instructions for the dress pattern:

If you prefer **rows 3-28** can be worked from the pattern chart below. Please note that odd numbered rows are read from right to left, whereas even numbered rows are read from left to right.



row 29: K1, (K2tog) 36 times, K1 (38 stitches)

row 30: Purl

Continue by following the instructions for the bodice of the dress at the top of page 16 from **row 29**, (bearing in mind that you have worked an extra 2 rows with this textured design so the row count will be out).

