

Little Cotton Rabbits Skirts, shorts and trousers



*A clothing pattern for the 9 inch sized Little Cotton Rabbit animals,
containing 6 designs for skirts, and 4 designs for panties, shorts and trousers,
plus details for adding a decorative trim to other patterns in the Little Cotton Rabbits range.
All of the above are knitted in various shades of Krea Deluxe Organic Cotton and Drops Safran yarn.*

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

Thanks for buying a copy of this pattern. It is suitable for intermediate knitting skills and assumes an understanding of basic stitches and standard knitting terms.

This pattern is for a collection of skirts, shorts, trousers and panties. All are worked flat and seamed and you can seam to accommodate the animal tail so that it pokes through the finished garment. Also included in the pattern are instructions to add the small decorative trim to the skirt of a dress or the hem of a camisole style top.

Abbreviations:

Increases:

M1A : MAKE 1 AWAY. Make a loop with the working yarn so the tail is pointing backwards/away from you, (if you prefer substitute M1L)

M1T : Make 1 towards. Make a loop with the working yarn so the tail is pointing forwards/towards you. Note: In order to get a neat finish you will need to purl into the back loop of this stitch on the following row.

CDD: CENTRED DOUBLE DECREASE: Slip 2 stitches together as if to knit them (**note**: it is important that they are slipped **together** and NOT one at a time), K1, pass the 2 slipped stitches over

CQD: CENTRED QUADRUPLE DECREASE: Slip 3 stitches together as if to knit them (**note**: it is important that they are slipped **together** and NOT one at a time), K2tog, pass the 3 slipped stitches over (this can be done one at a time for ease)

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

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

SL1, K2TOG, PSSO: Slip 1 Knit-wise, Knit 2 stitches together, then pass the slipped stitch over, so decreasing by 2 stitches.

SL1PWYF: Slip 1 stitch Purl-wise with the yarn held at the front of the work (worked on a wrong side row).

P1TBL: Purl 1 stitch through the back loop

And please note that when the pattern mentions cast on, I use a cable cast on (unless otherwise stated).

Yarn suggestions:

I prefer to knit the clothing in 4ply cotton/cotton mix yarns as it has a pleasing drape and the hem of the skirts will not curl in the same way as they will if knitted in woollen yarns. Cotton yarns are also crisp and show off stitch patterns nicely, and they block well. Drops Safran, BCGarn Alba, Krea Deluxe organic cotton and Scheepjes Catona or Cotton 8 are all 4ply cottons that in my experience knit up nicely and have a good range of colours. I have some more detailed yarn suggestions over on my blog:

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

Tip: Before you start, get to know your yarn. Does it break easily? If so you will need to consider using a different yarn to sew up with as seaming can cause weaker yarns to snap.

Extra tips:

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

If you get stuck with any aspect of the pattern, please come and visit the Little cotton Rabbit group on Ravelry:
<https://www.ravelry.com/groups/little-cotton-rabbits>

Or the Little Cotton Rabbits Facebook group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/littlecottonrabbits>

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

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Materials:

- Up to 50m (55 yds) of 4ply/fingering weight cotton yarn
- a small button (8mm-12mm in diameter)

Notions:

- 2.75mm (US 2) needles
- Tapestry needle

Finished size:

Skirts: approx 8 cm (3 inches) from the waistband to the hem

Long trousers: approx 11 cm (4 ¼ inches) from the waistband to the hem

The waistband is designed to be a snug fit, in order to help the skirts/trousers to stay up. When stretched it is approx. 16.5cms (6 ½ inches) long including the overlap, and will fit a tummy diameter of 16-18 cms (6-7 inches)



Gauge:

Gauge: 7 stitches x 10 rows to 1 inch

How to use this pattern:

This pattern comes with instructions for making a range of skirts, trousers and shorts. They're all worked from the bottom up and are knitted flat and seamed. Work each of them as detailed and then work waistband as detailed on Page 9 (it is the same for all of the designs). Sew the back seam so that it comes to just below the tail of your animal and leave the top of that seam open as the waistband is fastened with a button and buttonhole.

A plain and simple skirt:

This is a blank canvas to which you can add an embroidered design or work a duplicate stitch design. This would also be good worked in a variegated or hand-dyed yarn.

Starting at the bottom of the skirt use 2.75mm (US 2) needles and your chosen yarn to cable cast on 63 stitches, leaving a long tail for seaming with later.

row 1: (right side) Knit

row 2: Knit

rows 3-24: Beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl row, work 22 rows in stocking stitch

With the right side of the work facing continue the instructions for the waistband on Page 9.



Knitted from Anchor baby cotton marl yarn in 504 'spotty blue'



Knitted from Scheepjes Skies Light yarn in 113 Altostratus



Knitted from Krea Deluxe organic cotton with the toadstool design in duplicate stitch from my free chart here:

<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/toadstool-dress-supplement>



Scalloped hem skirt



Scallop edging skirt

Scalloped hem skirt (old shale pattern):

This skirt has a pretty scalloped edge to the hemline.

Starting at the bottom of the skirt use 2.75mm (US 2) needles and your chosen yarn to cable cast on 63 stitches, leaving a long tail for seaming with later.

row 1: (right side) Knit

row 2: Knit

row 3: K2, (YO, K1) twice, * (K2tog) 4 times, (YO, K1) 4 times *, repeat from * to * 4 times, (K2tog) 4 times, (YO, K1) twice, K1

row 4: Knit

row 5: Repeat row 3

row 6: Knit

rows 7-24: Beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl row, work 18 rows in stocking stitch

With the right side of the work facing continue with the instructions for the waistband on Page 9.

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Scallop edging skirt:

With its small scallops, this edging looks a little like a crochet edge but is created by a combination of slipped stitches, extreme decreases and Yarn overs.

Please see the abbreviations on Page 2 for the details of the CQD (centred quadruple decrease). This is worked in exactly the same way as a CDD (centred double decrease) however instead of decreasing 2 stitches (with the CDD), the CQD decreases 4 stitches at the same time. It's a slightly fiddly stitch to work, so to make it easier please choose your pointiest needles or even drop down a needle size just for row 3.

Please also note: Try to keep the floats across the back of the slipped stitches on rows 2 & 4 fairly tight so that they don't droop down below the finished hemline.

Starting at the bottom of the skirt use 2.75mm (US 2) needles and your chosen yarn to cable cast on 93 stitches, leaving a long tail for seaming with later.

row 1: (right side) Knit

row 2: P1, (SL1PWYF, P5) 15 times, P2

row 3: K2, (YO, CQD, YO, K1) 15 times, K1 (63 stitches)

row 4: P1, (SL1PWYF, P3) 15 times, P2

row 5: Purl

rows 6-24: Beginning and ending with Purl rows, work 19 rows in stocking stitch

With the right side of the work facing continue with the instructions for the waistband on Page 9.



Broken rib textured skirt



Diamond panels skirt

Broken rib textured skirt:

Knit this simple textured design and before sewing the back seam decide which side to face outwards, as both the back and the front of the work have interesting textures and will give two completely different looks.

Starting at the bottom of the skirt use 2.75mm (US 2) needles and your chosen yarn to cable cast on 63 stitches, leaving a long tail for seaming with later.

- row 1:** (right side) Knit
- row 2:** Knit
- row 3:** (K3, P1) 15 times, K3
- row 4:** Purl
- rows 5-24:** Repeat rows 3 & 4 ten times

With the right side of the work facing continue with the instructions for the waistband on Page 9.

Diamond panels skirt:

This skirt has a geometric diamond design of knit and purl stitches.

Starting at the bottom of the skirt use 2.75mm (US 2) needles and your chosen yarn to cable cast on 65 stitches, leaving a long tail for seaming with later.

- row 1:** (right side) Knit
- row 2:** Knit
- row 3:** K2, P1, (K3, P1, K1, P1, K1, P1) 7 times, K3, P1, K2
- row 4:** P1, K1, (P2, K1, P2, K1, P1, K1) 7 times, P2, K1, P2, K1, P1
- row 5:** K8, (P1, K7) 6 times, P1, K8
- row 6:** P4, (K1, P7) 7 times, K1, P4
- row 7:** Knit
- row 8:** as row 6
- row 9:** as row 5
- row 10:** as row 4
- rows 11-18:** repeat rows 3-10
- rows 19-23:** repeat rows 3-7
- row 24:** P1, P2tog, P1, (K1, P7) 7 times, K1, P1, P2togtbl, P1 (63 stitches)

With the right side of the work facing continue with the instructions for the waistband on Page 9.



Chevron skirt



Small arrows lace skirt

Chevron skirt:

This skirt design uses increases and decreases to create a herringbone/chevron effect which also creates an interesting shape to the hemline.

Please note: In order to get a neat finish you will need to purl into the back loop of the M1T stitch on the following row, I have included that in the instructions below (P1tbl).

Starting at the bottom of the skirt use 2.75mm (US 2) needles and your chosen yarn to cable cast on 63 stitches, leaving a long tail for seaming with later.

row 1: (right side) Knit

row 2: Knit

row 3: K1, K2tog, (K4, M1T, K1, M1A, K4, CDD) 4 times, K4, M1T, K1, M1A, K4, SSK, K1

row 4: P8, (P1tbl, P11) 4 times, P1tbl, P6

rows 5-24: Repeat rows 3 & 4 ten times

With the right side of the work facing continue with the instructions for the waistband on Page 9.

Small arrows lace skirt:

A traditional arrow lace pattern gives a delicate touch to the hemline of this skirt.

Starting at the bottom of the skirt use 2.75mm (US 2) needles and your chosen yarn to cable cast on 63 stitches, leaving a long tail for seaming with later.

row 1: (right side) Knit

row 2: Knit

row 3: (K4, YO, SSK) ten times, K3

row 4: Purl

row 5: K2, (K2tog, YO, K1, YO, SSK, K1) 10 times, K1

row 6: Purl

row 7: K1, K2tog, YO, (K3, YO, SL1, K2tog, PSSO, YO) 9 times, K3, YO, SSK, K1

row 8: Purl

row 9: K2, (YO, SSK, K1, K2tog, YO, K1) 10 times, K1

row 10: Purl

row 11: K2, (YO, SSK, K1, K2tog, YO, K1) 10 times, K1

rows 12-24: Beginning and ending with Purl rows, work 13 rows in stocking stitch.

With the right side of the work facing continue with the instructions for the waistband on Page 9.

Shorts/panties:



Plain Baggy Shorts:

As pictured with the brown shorts on the left above.

* To make longer trousers, work 17 rows of stocking stitch from row 2-18, so a total of 18 rows for each leg.

First trouser leg:

Use 2.75mm needles and Yarn A to cable cast on 32 stitches, leaving a long tail for seaming with later.

row 1: (wrong side) Knit

rows 2-10: Beginning and ending with Knit rows, work 9 rows of stocking stitch *(see note above)

Cut the work from the ball leaving a short tail for weaving in later, and leave the stitches on the needle ready to be worked across on row 11 later. Next work the second trouser leg:

Second trouser leg:

Follow the instructions as for the first leg, keeping the needle holding the leg already worked in your **left** hand and the empty needle in your right as you cast on.

Don't cut the work from the ball after completing row 10, but continue by working across all 64 stitches from both legs now on the needle (fig. 2):

row 11: P31, P2tog, P31 (63 stitches)

rows 12-27: Beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl, work 16 rows of stocking stitch

With the right side of the work facing continue by following the instructions for the waistband on Page 9.

Shorts/panties with scallop trim:

As pictured with the blue pair in the centre above. To make the panties, as pictured with the pink pair above right, work as detailed below but miss out rows 6-9 for a shorter leg, and instead work row 10 immediately after row 5.

Please see the abbreviations on Page 2 for the details of the CQD (centred quadruple decrease). This is worked in exactly the same way as a CDD (centred double decrease) however instead of decreasing 2 stitches (with the CDD), the CQD decreases 4 stitches at the same time. It's a slightly fiddly stitch to work so to make it easier please choose your pointiest needles or drop down a needle size just for row 3.

Please also note: Try to keep the floats across the back of the slipped stitches on rows 2 & 4 fairly tight so that they don't droop down below the finished hemline.

First trouser leg:

Use 2.75mm (US 2) needles and your chosen yarn to cable cast on 46 stitches, leaving a long tail for seaming with later.

row 1: (right side) Knit

row 2: P2, (SL1PWYF, P5) 7 times, P2

row 3: K2, (YO, CQD, YO, K1) 7 times, K2 (32 stitches)

row 4: P2, (SL1PWYF, P3) 7 times, P2

row 5: Purl

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

Cut the work from the ball leaving a short tail for weaving in later, and leave the stitches on the needle ready to be worked across on row 10 later.

Next work the second trouser leg:

Second trouser leg:

Follow the instructions as for the first leg, keeping the needle holding the leg already worked in your **right** hand and the empty needle in your left as you cable cast on.

Don't cut the work from the ball after completing row 9, but continue by working across all 64 stitches from both legs now on the needle (fig. 2):

row 10: P31, P2tog, P31 (63 stitches)

rows 11-26: Beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl, work 16 rows of stocking stitch

With the right side of the work facing continue by following the instructions for the waistband on Page 9.

Long trousers/joggers:

These long jogger style trousers have functional ribbed turn-ups as pictured with the light grey trousers on the left below, but you can knit them without as pictured with the brown trousers on the right below. The pattern requires approx. 50m (55 yds) for the version with turn-ups, slightly less if you make them without.



With Turn-ups:

First trouser leg:

Use 2.75mm needles and a 4ply/5ply weight yarn (here I've used Krea Deluxe organic cotton) to cable cast on 32 stitches, leaving a long tail for seaming with later.

row 1: (wrong side) P2, (K1, P1) 14 times, K2

row 2: P2, (K1, P1) 14 times, K2

row 3: P2, (K1, P1) 14 times, K2

row 4: Purl

row 5: (right side) K2, (P1, K1) 14 times, P2

row 6: K2, (P1, K1) 14 times, P2

row 7: K2, (P1, K1) 14 times, P2

row 8: Purl

rows 9-23: Beginning and ending with Knit rows, work 15 rows of stocking stitch

Cut the work from the ball leaving a short tail for weaving in later, and leave the stitches on the needle ready to be worked across on row 24 later. Next work the second trouser leg:

Second trouser leg:

Follow the instructions as for the first leg, keeping the needle holding the leg already worked in your **right** hand and the empty needle in your left as you cable cast on.

Don't cut the work from the ball after completing row 23, but continue by working across all 64 stitches from both legs now on the needle (*fig. 2*):

row 24: P31, P2tog, P31 (*63 stitches*)

rows 25-40: Beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl, work 16 rows of stocking stitch

With the right side of the work facing continue by following the instructions for the waistband on Page 9.

Without Turn-ups:

First trouser leg:

Use 2.75mm needles and a 4ply/5ply weight yarn (here I've used Krea Deluxe organic cotton) to cable cast on 32 stitches, leaving a long tail for seaming with later.

row 1: (right side) K2, (P1, K1) 14 times, P2

row 2: K2, (P1, K1) 14 times, P2

row 3: K2, (P1, K1) 14 times, P2

row 4: Purl

rows 5-19: Beginning and ending with Knit rows, work 15 rows of stocking stitch

Cut the work from the ball leaving a short tail for weaving in later, and leave the stitches on the needle ready to be worked across on row 24 later. Next work the second trouser leg:

Second trouser leg:

Follow the instructions as for the first leg, keeping the needle holding the leg already worked in your **right** hand and the empty needle in your left as you cable cast on.

Don't cut the work from the ball after completing row 19, but continue by working across all 64 stitches from both legs now on the needle (*fig. 2*):

row 20: P31, P2tog, P31 (*63 stitches*)

rows 21-36: Beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl, work 16 rows of stocking stitch

With the right side of the work facing continue by following the instructions for the waistband on Page 9.

Waistband (worked the same for all skirts and shorts):

After completing the skirt/trousers of your choice, you should have the right side of the work facing ready to work the waistband as follows:

- row 1:** (right side) Cable cast on 3 stitches, then work back across the whole row as follows:
K4, P1, K1, (P1, CDD) 14 times, (P1, K1) twice (38 stitches)
- row 2:** (P1, K1) 17 times, P1, K3
- row 3:** buttonhole row: K4, (P1, K1) 16 times, YO, K2tog (38 stitches)
- row 4:** (P1, K1) 17 times, P1, K3
- row 5:** Cast off whilst keeping to the pattern: K4, (P1, K1) 17 times

Cut the work from the yarn, leaving a short tail for weaving in later. Follow the finishing instructions detailed below.

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Finishing for all skirts:

Before seaming it is worth blocking the skirt, this helps to even out the work and accentuate the pattern. If you've used cotton yarn as recommended you can just lightly iron the piece or steam/wet block if preferred.

After blocking, seam the back of the skirt from the hem upwards using mattress stitch. Measure the skirt against your animal to determine how far up to join the seam, so that you finish the seam underneath the tail (if the animal has one) or around 2cms down from the waistband. Then weave the cast off tail end from the waistband down through the work to the same point, tie both tail ends to secure and weave in along the seam before trimming excess.

Sew a button on the waistband to correspond with the button hole, it's worth first popping the skirt on to your animal to determine the best position for the button, and then the skirt is finished and ready for your animal to wear.

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Finishing for all shorts/trousers:

Before I sew up the seams I like to block the trousers to make them neat. I usually do this by carefully ironing or steam blocking but if you prefer wet blocking that is fine too. After blocking thread the tapestry needle with the cast on tail end from the bottom of one leg.

If you have made the functional turn ups you will need to turn the leg inside-out and then mattress stitch the seam from the bottom of the turn up to the row 4 garter ridge (*fig. 1*). Then flip the work so it is the right way again and continue seaming the leg using mattress stitch up to the crotch. If you have skipped the turn up then simply mattress stitch the leg seam closed from the right side of the work.

Do the same for the second leg, then tie both seam tail ends together inside the work and use the longer end to continue seaming up the back of the trousers. Finish the seam at the underside of the tail (if your animal has one) or around 2cms from the waistband. Next weave the cast off tail end from the waistband down through the work to the same point, tie both tail ends to secure and weave in all other tail ends inside the trousers before trimming excess.

Sew a button on the waistband to correspond with the button hole (*fig. 2*), it's worth popping the trousers on to your animal to determine the best position for the button, and then the trousers are finished and ready for your animal to wear (*figs. 3 & 4*).



fig. 1



fig. 2



fig. 3



fig. 4

Adding the scallop trim to other clothing:



Please see the abbreviations on Page 2 for the details of the CQD (centred quadruple decrease). This is worked in exactly the same way as a CDD (centred double decrease) however instead of decreasing 2 stitches (with the CDD), the CQD decreases 4 stitches at the same time. It's a slightly fiddly stitch to work, so to make it easier please choose your pointiest needles or even drop down a needle size just for row 3.

Please also note: Try to keep the floats across the back of the slipped stitches on rows 2 & 4 fairly tight so that they don't droop down below the finished hemline.

Scallop edging Camisole:

Pictured above left in light blue. The panties also pictured are knitted as detailed on Page 7 for the shorts, but with shorter legs, simply work rows 1-5 as detailed, miss out rows 6 – 9, and then work row 10 immediately after row 5.

Starting at the bottom of the camisole use 2.75mm (US 2) needles and your chosen yarn to cable cast on 82 stitches, leaving a long tail for seaming with later.

row 1: (right side) Knit
row 2: P2, (SL1PWYF, P5) 13 times, P2
row 3: K2, (YO, CQD, YO, K1) 13 times, K2
(56 stitches)

row 4: P2, (SL1PWYF, P3) 13 times, P2
row 5: Purl

Continue by using row 6 onwards from the free Camisole pattern, which is on Page 5 of the 'Sundress Supplement' pattern which can be found here:

<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/sundress-supplement>

Scallop edging dress:

Pictured above right in dark blue.

Starting at the bottom of the dress use 2.75mm (US 2) needles and your chosen yarn to cable cast on 98 stitches, leaving a long tail for seaming with later.

row 1: (right side) Knit
row 2: P1, (SL1PWYF, P5) 16 times, P1
row 3: K1, (YO, CQD, YO, K1) 16 times, K1
(66 stitches)

row 4: P1, (SL1PWYF, P3) 16 times, P1
row 5: Purl

Continue by using row 6 onwards from any of the dresses in the animal patterns or the 'seasonal dresses' pattern, working simply in a single colour stocking stitch for the same number of rows as indicated in those patterns.

You can also use this with the dresses from the 'textured dresses' pattern which are a little fuller:

Simply cast on 110 stitches, work the pattern above but with 18 repeats instead of 16, which will give you 72 stitches after row 3.

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