

TREAT YOUR FEET

Keep those tootsies warm and snug with
Louise Walker's friendly fox slippers

HOW TO MAKE... FOX SLIPPERS

MATERIALS

- King Cole Orchard DK, 55% merino superwash wool, 45% anti-pilling acrylic, 100g/290m per ball, two balls in Orange Pippin (5864) (main orange colour (M)), one ball in SnowSweet (5860) (contrast white colour)
- Small quantity in Black (black detail colour)
- Scrap yarn markers in four colours – A, B, D, E
- Pair of 2.5mm needles
- Pair of 3.5mm needles
- Tapestry needle

TENSION

24 sts and 31 rows to 10x10cm (4x4in) measured over stocking stitch on 3.5mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS (UK)

K knit
P purl
kfb knit into the front and the back of the stitch
skp slip a stitch, knit a stitch, pass stitch over
k2tog knit two stitches together
M main colour
C contrast colour
P (number) M purl number of sts in M
K (number) M knit number of sts in M
P (number) C purl number of sts in C
K (number) C knit number of sts in C

FINISHED SIZE

To fit an adult woman size 39 (UK 6, US 9)

Designed by Louise Walker



We've all owned a pair (or two) of novelty slippers before – now we've got a more grown up version thanks to favourite designer Louise Walker (AKA Sincerely Louise). These friendly foxes are surprisingly easy to knit – it's just a few stitches with a bit of decreasing and increasing.

To make bigger slippers try using a worsted yarn and the suggested needle size, and for smaller feet use a sport or fingering weight. Customise by adding rubber slipper pads to the sole or lining with faux fur for a super-comfy fit, or you could try varying the fox's expression and adding embellishments such as safety eyes for a unique make.

INSTRUCTIONS

The main slipper is made in one piece and the ears, tail and nose made separately. Finally all pieces are sewn together.

SLIPPER (MAKE TWO)

Using the long tail cast on method and 2.5mm needles cast on 72 sts in M, this will form the first row of knitting. Work all stitches in M until otherwise stated. The first 8 rows of the pattern are worked in a 2 x 2 rib, with the cast on row counting as 'Row 1'.

Row 2 *K2, P2; repeat from * to end

Rows 3 to 8 Repeat Row 2

Change to 3.5mm needles.

To form the shape of the slipper, three sts are increased either side of the central part; there are 27 sts either side of the increase sections and 6 sts in the centre. You'll see how they are formed after the first couple of rows.

Row 9 K27, (kfb, K1) three times, K6, (K1, kfb) three times, K27 [78 sts]

Row 10 and all even rows unless otherwise stated P.



Row 11 K27, (kfb, K2) three times, K6, (K2, kfb) three times, K27. [84 sts]
Row 13 k27, (kfb, K3) three times, K6, (K3, kfb) three times, K27. [90 sts]
Row 15 K27, (kfb, K4) three times, K6, (K4, kfb) three times, K27. [96 sts]
Row 17 K27, (kfb, K5) three times, K6, (K5, kfb) three times, K27. [102 sts]
Row 18 Purl, adding scrap yarn markers (colour A) on the 43st and 54nd stitches and scrap yarn markers (colour B) on the 59th and 70th stitches. These are a small amount of yarn tied to the instructed stitches and will be used as a guide later when placing the features.
Row 19 K27, (kfb, K6) three times, K6, (K6, kfb) three times, K27. [108 sts]
Row 21 K27, (kfb, K7) three times, K6, (K7, kfb) three times, K27. [114 sts]
Row 23 K27, (kfb, K8) twice, kfb, K22 adding scrap yarn markers (colour D) on the 5th and 8th stitches and scrap yarn markers (colour E) on the 15th and 18th stitches, (kfb, K8) twice, kfb, K27. [120 sts]

CHANGING COLOUR

When changing colour either use the intarsia method or carry the yarn along the back of the piece. We carried the orange across the white colour changes, attaching a second thread of white yarn on the other section when needed. Be sure to keep the yarn loose

or it'll pull the piece. The contrast colour is added where the pattern changes, using M for the main colour and C for the contrast.

The white cheeks are knitted in garter st (knit on each row), however when adding the white on the wrong side, purl it, then change to knit for the already formed white sts, as the pattern instructs. This ensures no 'wrong side' garter bumps are added on the right side of the piece.

Row 25 K27M, kfb in M, K9M, kfb in M, K4M, K5C, kfb in M, K24M, kfb in M, K5C, K4M, kfb in M, K9M, kfb in M, K27M. [126 sts]
Row 26 P44M, K5C, P4C, P20M, P4C, K5C, P44M.
Row 27 K44M, K11C, K16M, K11C, K44M.
Row 28 P44M, K11C, P2C, P12M, P2C, K11C, P44M.
Row 29 K44M, K14C, K10M, K14C, K44M.
Row 30 P45M, K13C, P1C, P8M, P1C, K13C, P45M.
Row 31 K46M, K13C, K8M, K13C, K8M.
Row 32 P47M, K12C, P8M, K12C, P47M.
Row 33 K48M, K11C, K8M, K11C, K48M.
Row 34 P49M, K10C, P8M, K10C, P49M.
Row 35 K50M, K9C, K8M, K9C, K50M.
Row 36 P51M, K8C, P8M, K8C, P51M.
Row 37 K52M, K8C, K6M, K8C, K52M.
Row 38 P53M, K7C, P6M, K7C, P53M.
Row 39 K54M, K7C, K4M, K7C, K54M.
Row 40 P55M, K6C, P4M, K6C, P55M.
Row 41 Cast off in M, weave in loose ends.

EARS, FRONT PANELS (MAKE TWO)

Using the long tail cast on method and 3.5mm needles cast on 12 sts in M, this will form the first row.

Row 2 P.
Row 3 K3M, K6C, K3M.
Row 4 P3M, P6C, P3M.
Repeat the last two rows three more times.
Row 11 K1M, skp in M, K1M, K4C, K1M, k2tog in M, K1M. [10 sts]
Row 12 P3M, P4C, P3M.
Row 13 K1M, skp in M, K1M, K2C, K1M, k2tog in M, K1M. [8 sts]
Row 14 P3M, P2C, P3M.
Row 15 Work all sts in M from here on. K1, skp, K2, k2tog, K1. [6 sts]
Row 16 P.
Row 17 K1, skp, k2tog, K1. [4 sts]
Row 18 P.
Row 19 Cast off and weave in the loose ends.

EARS, BACK PANELS (MAKE TWO)

Using the long tail cast on method and 3.5mm needles cast on 12 sts in M, this will form the first row.

Row 2 P.
Rows 3 to 10 Work in st st (k one row, p one row).
Row 11 K1, skp, k6, k2tog, K1. [10 sts]
Row 12 P.
Row 13 K1, skp, K4, k2tog, K1. [8 sts]
Row 14 P.
Row 15 K1, skp, K2, k2tog, K1. [6 sts]
Row 16 P.
Row 17 K1, skp, k2tog, K1. [4 sts]
Row 18 P.
Row 19 Cast off and weave in ends.

TAIL

Using the long tail cast on method and 3.5mm needles cast on 12 sts in M, this will form the first row.

Row 2 and all even rows P.
Row 3 *Kfb, K2; repeat from * to end. [16 sts]
Row 5 *Kfb, K3; repeat from * to end. [20 sts]
Row 7 *Kfb, K4; repeat from * to end. [24 sts]
Row 9 K.
Row 11 K.
Row 13 K.
Row 15 Work all stitches in C from here on, *K4, k2tog; repeat from * to end. [20 sts]
Row 17 *K3, k2tog; repeat from * to end. [16 sts]
Row 19 *K2, k2tog; repeat from * to end. [12 sts]
Row 21 *K1, k2tog; repeat from * to end. [8 sts]
Row 23 *K2tog; repeat from * to end. [4 sts]

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Row 24 Cast off purlwise and weave in the loose ends.

NOSE

Using the long tail cast on method and 3.5mm needles cast on 12 sts in black, this will form the first row.

Row 2 P.

Row 3 *K2tog; repeat from * to end. [6 sts]

Row 4 P.

Row 5 *K2tog; repeat from * to end. [3 sts]

Row 6 Cast off purlwise and weave in the loose ends.

MAKING UP

01 Lay the slipper flat and place the two sides together, forming an oval. Then sew up the back seam, from the cast-on edge to the cast-off edge. Sew up using a mattress stitch in M.

Take a front ear piece and back ear piece and place wrong sides (WS) together. Pin

and sew up in a mattress stitch in M, leaving the cast-on edges open. Repeat for the second ear. Take the tail and match the two edge seams WS together. Pin and sew up from the cast-on edge to cast-off edge using a mattress stitch in M.

02 Use the scrap yarn markers as a guide for placing the fox's features.

Take the first sewn up ear and place between the set of Colour A scrap markers. Pin and sew into place using M. Then repeat for the second ear, placing it between the Colour B scrap markers and sewing into place. Remove the markers.

Embroider each eye on to the face between the scrap yarn Colour D and E markers. Do this by loosely sewing a straight line in the black yarn from marker to marker, then loop it downwards to form the eye. Add small stitch at the bottom of the loop to secure it in place and weave in the loose ends. Remove the markers.

Place the nose at the centre of the snout, leaving a little space at the end as it will need to be sewn up. Sew into place using black yarn then weave in the loose ends.

03 Lay the fox so the cast-off edge is facing up. Then pin it together. When sewing up this seam just sew from the outer stitch of the cast-off edge to the other outer cast-off edge in M. Pull it tightly after a few stitches, but be careful not to pull it too tightly as the sole needs to stay flat and comfortable. Weave in all the loose ends.

04 Place the tail a third of the way down from the cast-on edge on the back of the seam of the slipper. Sew into place using M and weave in the loose ends.

Slip on your finished foxes and get cosy – you could make matching pairs for your cubs, too.

