

Knitted Cuddlies

Design by Louisa Harding

Excerpted from Natural Knits for Babies and Moms (Interweave, 2004)

This really is the easiest pattern ever written for a knitted toy animal, but once you assemble the simple knitted rectangles and add distinguishing features, it will become a favorite member of the family. In our house, we have Mr. Pickles the Teddy, Sparks the Cat, and Florence the Rabbit, each with a huge personality of its own.






Stephen Jessup

★ FINISHED SIZE:

Rabbit: 11" (28 cm); **Cat:** 8¾" (22 cm); **Teddy Bear:** 11" (28 cm).

YARN:

Cat (*As shown here*): Green Mountain Spinners Cotton Comfort (20% organic cotton, 80% fine wool; 180 yd [165 m]/2 oz): #6-S silver (MC) and #6-SM storm (dark grey, CC), 1 skein each;  Light DK weight: about 80 yd (73 m) MC and 55 yd (50 m) CC.

Rabbit (*As shown here*): Blue Sky Alpacas Organic Cotton (100% organic cotton; 150 yd [137 m]/100 g): #82 nut (brown, MC), 1 ball; #81 sand (light tan, CC), 1 ball; dark brown wool yarn, 1–2 yd (1–2 m) for embroidery on face.  Worsted weight: about 75 yd (69 m) MC, 40 yd (37 m) CC, and 1–2 yd (1–2 m) of a second contrasting color for embroidery on face. **Teddy Bear** (*As shown here*): Vreese's Fox Fibre Chenille (100% cotton; 1000 yd [914 m]/1 lb): brown (MC), less than 1 cone; white cotton yarn (CC), about 10 yd (9 m) for scarf and face embroidery.  Worsted weight: about 95 yd (87 m) MC and 10 yd (9 m) CC.

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NEEDLES:

Cat: U.S. size 5 (3.75 mm): straight.

Rabbit and Teddy Bear: U.S. size 7 (4.5 mm): straight. Adjust needle size if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

NOTIONS:

Tapestry needle; about 3½ oz (100 g) environmentally friendly stuffing; small crochet hook for attaching fringe to teddy bear's scarf (optional).

GAUGE:

Cat: 21 sts and 29 rows = 4" (10 cm) in St st. **Rabbit and**

Teddy Bear: 17 sts and 23 rows = 4" (10 cm) in St st.

SKILL LEVEL:

Intermediate. 

STITCH GUIDE:

Striped stockinette stitch:

Rows 1 and 3: (RS) Knit in MC.

Rows 2 and 4: Purl in MC.

Row 5: Knit in CC.

Row 6: Purl in CC.

Rep Rows 1-6 for pattern.

CAT

Body: With MC, CO 30 sts. Work 50 rows in striped St st (see Stitch Guide). Break yarn, leaving a 20" (51-cm) tail. Thread tail through rem sts, pull tight to gather sts, and fasten off on inside. With yarn threaded on a tapestry needle, sew side edges together, leaving CO edge open.

Arms: With MC, CO 16 sts. Work 18 rows in striped St st. Break yarn, leaving a 12" (30.5-cm) tail. Thread tail through rem sts, pull tight to gather sts, and fasten off on inside. With yarn threaded on a tapestry needle, sew side edges together, leaving CO edge open. **Legs:** With MC, CO 18 sts. Work 28 rows in striped St st. Break yarn, leaving a 14" (35.5-cm) tail. Thread tail through rem sts, pull tight to gather sts, and fasten off on inside. With yarn threaded on a tapestry needle, sew side edges together, leaving CO edge open. **Tail:** With CC, CO 14 sts. Working in St st, *work 4 rows CC, then 2 rows MC; rep from * 3 more

times, then work 4 more rows CC. Break yarn, leaving a 14" (35.5-cm) tail. Thread tail through rem sts, pull tight to gather sts, and fasten off on inside. With yarn threaded on a tapestry needle, sew side edges together, leaving CO edge open.

RABBIT

Body, Arms, and Legs: Work as for cat body, arms, and legs, working in MC throughout. **Ears:** With CC, CO 6 sts. Work 36 rows in garter st.

Row 37: (dec row) K1, k2tog tbl, k2tog, k1—4 sts rem.

Row 38: Knit.

Row 39: (dec row) K2tog tbl, k2tog—2 sts rem.

Row 40: Knit.

Row 41: (dec row) K2tog—1 st rem.

Fasten off last st.

TEDDY BEAR

Body, Arms, and Legs: Work as for cat body, arms, and legs, working in MC throughout. **Scarf:** With CC, CO 4 sts. Work 100 rows in garter st. BO all sts.

FINISHING

Weave in loose ends. Using an environmentally friendly stuffing, stuff the body. Hold the body so that the seam lies at the back. Sew the CO end together into a flat seam from right to left, with the back seam at center back.

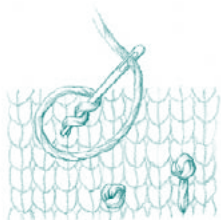
Cut a 20" (51-cm) length of yarn. Shape the head by wrapping the length of yarn several times around the stuffed body about one-third down from the CO edge. Tighten the yarn and secure. Stuff the arms and legs and sew the CO end together as for body. Sew the CO ends of legs on each side of the body about 1" (2.5 cm) up from base. Sew the CO ends of arms on each side of the body about 1" (2.5 cm) down from neck. **Cat:** Stuff the tail and sew the CO end together as for body. Sew the CO end of tail on the back of the body about 1½" (3.8 cm) up from base on seam. **Cat and Teddy Bear:** With MC threaded on a tapestry needle, sew diagonally across the top of the head to define the ears, then complete face embroidery using CC as shown in illustration. **Teddy Bear:** Cut 8 pieces of CC, each 3" (7.5 cm) long, for fringe. Attach 4 pieces of fringe to each end of scarf by folding fringe in half, pulling fold through end of scarf to form a loop, then pulling ends of fringe through this loop and tightening.

(A crochet hook can be helpful for this.) Secure scarf tightly around teddy bear's neck. **Rabbit:** Sew ears to top of head. With CC, make a 2" (5-cm) pom-pom (see box) for tail and sew to body about 1½" (3.8 cm) up from base on seam at back. With small amount of contrasting yarn threaded on a tapestry needle, embroider face as shown in illustration. ❄️

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French Knots

With yarn threaded on a tapestry needle, bring the needle from the back to the front of the work and wind the yarn several times around the needle according to the size of knot required. Take the needle back near where it came out and draw the yarn through, forming a small knot on the right side of work.



Lazy Daisy Stitch

With yarn threaded on a tapestry needle, bring the needle out from back to front at the center of a knitted stitch. *Form a short loop and insert needle back where it came out. Bring the needle from back to front inside the formed loop and pass it to the back outside the loop, securing the loop to the knitted fabric (Figure 1). Beginning each stitch at the same point on the knitted background, repeat from * several times to form a flower (Figure 2), or work singly to create a leaf. Lazy daisy stitch looks effective as self-colored embroidery or in contrast colors, using up remnants of yarn.

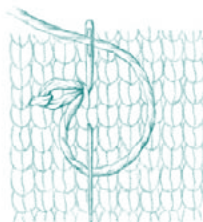


Figure 1

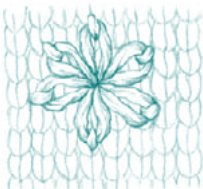


Figure 2

Pom-poms

Used for the rabbit's "cotton" tail. Cut two circles of cardboard, each slightly bigger than the size of the desired pom-pom. Cut a smaller hole in the center of each circle, about half the size of the original diameter—the larger this hole is, the fuller the pom-pom (Figure 1). Holding the two circles together, wind several strands of yarn through the ring until it is completely covered. (As the hole at the center fills up, you may find it easier to use a darning needle to pass the yarn through.) Cut between the two circles using a pair of sharp scissors, making sure all the yarn has been cut (Figure 2).



Figure 1

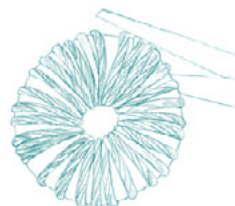


Figure 2

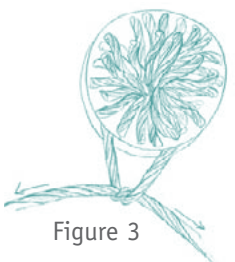
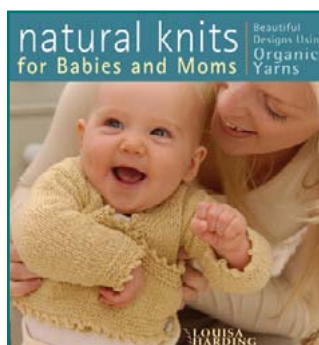


Figure 3

Separate the two circles slightly, wrap a strand of yarn between them, and knot firmly (Figure 3). Pull the two circles apart and fluff the pom-pom to cover the tie. Trim the pom-pom if necessary, but don't get carried away.



Check out *Natural Knits for Babies and Moms* (Interweave Press, 2006) for more great patterns using environmentally friendly materials.