

Making a basic bear

Materials

- 1 ball of DK (8-ply/light worsted) yarn in shade given in pattern
- 25–30g of soft-textured, high-quality toy stuffing
- Black embroidery thread or floss for features

Tools

- 3.25mm (UK 10, US 3) knitting needles
- Sewing needle
- Stitch holder
- Tapestry needle



Instructions

Work entirely in g st, unless otherwise stated.

Head

Cast on 30 sts.

Rows 1–4: knit.

Row 5: k2, skpo, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1 (28 sts).

Rows 6 and 7: knit.

Cont to dec in this way on every third row until 8 sts rem.

Next row: k2, skpo, k2tog, k2 (6 sts).

Next row: k2, skpo, k2 (5 sts).

Next row: k1, sl1, k2tog, pssso, k1 (3 sts).

Next row: k3tog (1 st).

Fasten off.

Body and legs (make 2)

Cast on 12 sts.

Rows 1 and 2: knit.

Row 3: inc 1 st at each end of row (14 sts).

Row 4: knit.

Rows 5–8: rep rows 3 and 4 twice more (18 sts).

Rows 9–33: knit.

Divide for legs.

Row 34: k8, cast off 2 sts, k to end (2 sets of 8 sts).

Cont on second set of 8 sts for first leg.

Rows 35–52: knit.

Row 53: k2tog, k to last 2 sts, k2tog (6 sts).

Cast off.

Rejoin yarn to rem sts for second leg and complete to match first leg.

Arms (make 2)

Cast on 6 sts.

Row 1: knit.

Row 2: kfb in each st to end (12 sts).

Rows 3–6: knit.

Row 7: inc 1 st at each end of row (14 sts).

Rows 8–20: knit.

Row 21: k2tog, k to last 2 sts, k2tog (12 sts).

Row 22: knit.

Rows 23 and 24: rep rows 21 and 22 (10 sts).

Row 25: k2, (k2tog) three times, k2 (7 sts).

Row 26: knit.

Cast off (this is the top of the arm).

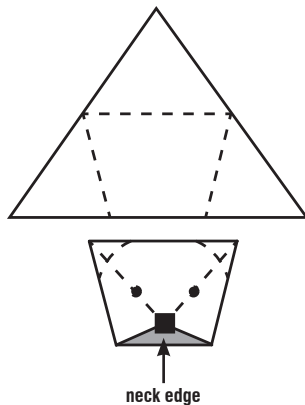
Making up

Make up the head by folding the three corners of the triangle into the centre; the fold lines are shown in the top diagram below. Sew the two side seams either side of the nose, and across the corner lines to form the ears, as shown in the lower diagram. Sew a little way along the neck seam, just down from the nose. Stuff the head firmly to give it a good shape.

Using a sewing needle, embroider the nose and mouth with black thread and work French knots for the eyes.

Stitch the back and front body pieces together using a flat seam especially for garter stitch on the right side of the work. Leave the neck edge open for stuffing.

Stuff firmly and then close the neck opening. Seam the arms and stuff, then attach the head and arms to the body.



Abbreviations

alt	alternate
beg	beginning
cm	centimetre(s)
cont	continue
dec	decrease
DPN	double-pointed needles
fol	follow(s)(ing)
g st	garter stitch (knit every row)
inc	increase
k	knit
kfb	knit into the front and back of the stitch
p	purl

patt	pattern
psso	pass slipped stitch over
RS	right side
rem	remains/remaining
rep	repeat
skpo	sl1, k1, pass slipped stitch over
sl st	slip stitch
st	stitch
st st	stocking (US stockinette) stitch; knit one row, purl one row
tog	together
WS	wrong side

Tension and measurements

The tension for the bear is based on DK (8-ply/light worsted) weight yarn using 3.25mm (UK 10, US 3) needles and is 26 sts and 48 rows to 10cm (4in) square over garter stitch.

After sewing up and stuffing your bear, aim to have a finished height of approximately 20–22cm (8–8¾in) and a body circumference of approximately 18–19cm (7–7½in).

HOW TO ASSEMBLE THE HEAD (FROM *20 TO KNIT: DRESSED-UP BEARS*)

After countless requests on how to make the basic bear's head, here are some step-by-step instructions, with photos, to help you. Try not to over stuff the body of the bear and keep it in proportion to the head to achieve a uniform effect. Stuff the top of the arms very lightly, so that they will sit nicely when they are attached to the body.



1 Lay the head triangle on a flat surface, as shown.



2 Bring the top point to the centre of the base.



3 Bring the points on each side to the centre point, and sew each side seam of the head using a flat seam, and leaving a tiny section unsewn at the top on either side of the head to form the ears.



4 Turn the head over and sew a small way down from the nose towards the neck. Leave a small opening to enable you to stuff the head.



5 This is how your head should look before you begin to add the stuffing.



6 Stuff the head and shape it as you do. It needs to be quite firm, but not overstuffed.



7 Sew across the base of each ear to accentuate them and close the tiny gaps.



8 Thread a needle with black yarn and embroider the eyes. Pull the yarn inwards slightly to indent the eyes, working from side to side. Don't break the yarn, but bring it out where you want to position the nose.



9 Embroider the nose by oversewing with black yarn a few times, then take the yarn from the centre, under the nose, and make a vertical stitch to form the mouth. Fasten off securely.