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Pattern info

You will need...

Hayfield Bonus DK

White (961) 1 x 100g/280m ball
Walnut (927) 1 x 100g/280m ball
Powder Blue (960) 1 x 100g/280m ball
Black (965) 1 x 100g/280m ball
Signal Red (977) 1 x 100g/280m ball
Primrose (957) 1 x 100g/280m ball
Iced Pink (958) 1 x 100g/280m ball
Sunflower (978) 1 x 100g/280m ball

A pair of 3mm knitting needles

50g of washable toy stuffing

8 plastic 'bendy' drinking straws

A scrap of thick white card

Clear adhesive

Air-dissolving embroidery marker pen

Dress maker's chalk pencil

Black permanent laundry marker pen

Long tweezers

Hairspray (optional)

For where to buy, turn to page 96

Muffin the Mule

* Start knitting here...

NOTE: Begin all pieces worked in stocking stitch with a K row, and use 3mm needles throughout.

BODY (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 14 sts using 3mm needles and White yarn for back edge and st st 2 rows.

Next row (Inc 1, K4, inc 1, K1) twice. (18 sts)

P1 row.

Next row (Inc 1) twice, K5, (inc 1) four times, K5, (inc 1) twice. (26 sts)

P1 row.

Next row (Inc 1, K1) twice, K5, (inc 1, K1) four times, K5, (inc 1, K1) twice. (34 sts)

P1 row.

Next row (K1, inc 1, K1) twice, K6, (inc 1, K2) four times, K4, (K1, inc 1, K1) twice. (42 sts)

St st 3 rows.

Next row K18, (inc 1, K3) twice, K16. (44 sts)

St st 7 rows.

SHAPE BACK

Next row K18, k2tog, K4, SKPO, K18. (42 sts)

P1 row.

Next row K17, k2tog, K4, SKPO, K17. (40 sts)

P1 row.

Next row K16, k2tog, K4, SKPO, K16. (38 sts)
St st 7 rows.

Next row K15, inc 1, K5, inc 1, K16. (40 sts)
P1 row.

Next row K16, inc 1, K5, inc 1, K17. (42 sts)
P1 row.

Next row K17, inc 1, K5, inc 1, K18. (44 sts)
St st 5 rows.

SHAPE FRONT

Next row K19, (k2tog, K3) twice, K15. (42 sts)
St st 3 rows.

Next row (K1, k2tog, K1) twice, K6, (k2tog, K2) times, K4, (K1, k2tog, K1) twice. (34 sts)

P1 row.

Next row (K1, k2tog) twice, K6, (k2tog, K1) four times, K4, (K1, k2tog) twice. (26 sts)

P1 row.

Next row (K2tog) twice, K5, (k2tog) four times, (k2tog) twice. (18 sts)

P1 row.

Next row (K2tog, K5, k2tog) twice. (14 sts)

P1 row.

Cast off for front edge.

HEAD (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 11 sts using 3mm needles and White yarn for back edge and st st 2 rows.

Next row Inc into every st to end. (22 sts)
P1 row.

Make the harness for Muffin's head in three separate pieces.





“Once you’ve made each piece, write on a piece of paper what it is and pin it to the knitting.”

Alan Dart, designer

Next row (Inc 1, K1) to end. (33 sts)

St st 3 rows.

Next row (K1, inc 1, K1) to end. (44 sts)

St st 15 rows.

SHAPE FRONT

Next row K2, (K2, k2tog, K2) to end. (37 sts)

St st 5 rows.

Next row K2, (K1, k2tog, K2) to end. (30 sts)

St st 11 rows.

Next row (K1, k2tog) to end. (20 sts)

St st 3 rows.

Next row (K2tog) to end. (10 sts)

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

HEAD STRIPE

(MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 8 sts using 3mm needles and Black yarn st st 24 rows.

Next row SKPO, K2, k2tog. (6 sts)

St st 5 rows.

Next row SKPO, K2, k2tog. (4 sts)

St st 5 rows.

Next row SKPO, k2tog. (2 sts)

P 1 row.

Cast off for front edge.

EARS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 4 sts using 3mm needle and White yarn for back edge and st st 2 rows.

Next row Inc 1 st at beg and end of row. (6 sts)

P 1 row.

Inc 1 st at beg and end of next 4 rows. (14 sts)

St st 4 rows, inserting marker threads at beg and end of first row.

SHAPE SIDES

Next row K1, k2tog, K8, SKPO, K1. (12 sts)

St st 3 rows.

Next row K4, SKPO, k2tog, K4. (10 sts)

St st 3 rows.

Next row K1, k2tog, K4, SKPO, K1. (8 sts)

St st 5 rows.

Next row K1, (sl 1, k2tog, PSSO) twice, K1. (4 sts)

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

NECK (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 4 sts using 3mm needles and White yarn for back edge and st st 2 rows

Next row Inc into every st to end. (8 sts)

P 1 row.

Next row (Inc 1, K1) to end. (12 sts)

P 1 row.

Cast on 7 sts at beg of next 2 rows.

(26 sts)

St st 6 rows, inserting marker threads at beg and end of first row.

SHAPE FRONT

Next row K1, k2tog, SKPO, K1.

(24 sts)

St st 5 rows.

Next row K1, k2tog, SKPO, K1. (22 sts)

St st 3 rows.

Cast off for top edge.

MANE (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 12 sts using 3mm needles and Walnut yarn and st st 3 rows.

Fold row K1, (m, k2tog, K2) twice, m, k2tog, K1. (12 sts)

St st 2 rows, beg with a K row.

Cast off.

HARNESS FRONT STRAP

(MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 32 sts using 3mm needles and Signal Red yarn and K 1 row.

Cast off K wise.

HARNESS BACK STRAP

(MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 52 sts using 3mm needles and Signal Red yarn and K 1 row.

Cast off K wise.

HARNESS JOINING STRAP

(MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 48 sts using 3mm needles and Signal Red yarn and K 1 row.

Cast off K wise.

KNIT TIP

Your tension is essential when making toys. If it is too loose the stuffing will show. You may need to go down a needle size.

How to...

SKPO

Use this method of decrease to shape Muffin's body.



1

Insert the point of the right-hand needle into the next stitch as if you were knit it, but instead of winding the yarn around the needle, just slip the stitch off on to right-hand needle.



2

Knit the next stitch as normal.



3

Now insert the left-hand needle in the slipped stitch on the right-hand needle and lift it over the knitted stitch.



4

Continue knitting until the end of the row, and your slipped stitch should look like this.



Pattern info

16 stitches

Tension square
[4x4in]

36 rows

Tension

Yarn used knits as DK to this tension:
16 sts and 36 rows to measure 4x4in
(10x10cm) in st st on 3mm needles.

Measurements

Head to tail: 12½in (32cm)
Feet to top of head: 10½in (27cm)

Abbreviations

beg beginning	PSSO pass slipped stitch over
dec decrease (by working 2 stitches together)	rep repeat
inc increase (by working into front and back of stitch)	sl slip
K knit	st st stocking stitch (one row knit, one row purl)
M make one stitch by wrapping yarn round needle	st(s) stitch(es)
P purl	SKPO slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over
	tog together

KNIT TIP

Tailor's chalk and air dissolving embroidery pens are ideal for marking areas of Swiss darning.

Follow the photographs to see where to Swiss darn Muffin's spots.

FRONT LEGS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

*Cast on 12 sts using 3mm needles and Black yarn for base edge of hoof and st st 2 rows.

Next row Inc into every st to end. (24 sts)

P 1 row.

K 3 rows for fold.

St st 5 rows, beg with a P row.

Change to White and st st 2 rows.

SHAPE LEG

Next row K6, (k2tog, K2) four times, K2. (20 sts)
St st 3 rows.

Next row K5, (k2tog, K1) four times, K3. (16 sts)**
St st 7 rows.

WORK KNEE STRIPE

Change to Black and st st 8 rows.
Change to White and st st 4 rows.

SHAPE THIGH

Next row (K1, inc 1, K2) to end (20 sts).

St st 3 rows.

Next row (K2, inc 1, K2) to end (24 sts).

St st 7 rows.

SHAPE TOP OF LEG

Next row K1, (SKPO, K7, k2tog) twice, K1. (20 sts)
St st 3 rows.

Next row K1, (SKPO, K5, k2tog) twice, K1. (16 sts)
P 1 row.

Next row K1, (SKPO, K3, k2tog) twice, K1. (12 sts)
P 1 row.

Cast off for top edge.

BACK LEGS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Work as given for front legs from *.

St st 9 rows.

SHAPE FRONT

Next row K6, inc 1, K1, inc 1, K7. (18 sts)

P 1 row.

Next row K7, inc 1, K1, inc 1, K8. (20 sts)
P 1 row.

SHAPE BACK AND FRONT

Next row K1, k2tog, K5, inc 1, K1, inc 1, K6, S. (20 sts)

P 1 row.

Rep the last 2 rows two more times. (20 sts)

SHAPE FRONT

Next row K8, inc 1, K1, inc 1, K9. (22 sts)

P 1 row.

Next row K9, inc 1, K1, inc 1, K10. (24 sts)

P 1 row.

Next row K10, inc 1, K1, inc 1, K11. (26 sts)

P 1 row.

Next row K11, inc 1, K1, inc 1, K12. (28 sts)

St st 9 rows.

SHAPE TOP

Next row K1, (SKPO, K9, k2tog) twice, K1. (24 sts)
St st 3 rows.

Next row K1, (SKPO, K7, k2tog), K1. (20 sts)

P 1 row.

Next row K1, (SKPO, K5, k2tog) twice, K1. (16 sts)
P 1 row.

Cast off for top edge.



The cute little bobbles on Muffin's saddle are simple to make!

SADDLE (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 5 sts using 3mm needles and Signal Red yarn and st st 1 row.

Next row Inc 1 st at beg and end of row. (7 sts) K 1 row.

Next row Inc 1 st at beg and end of row. (9 sts) St st 42 rows.

Next row Dec 1 st at beg and end of row. (7 sts) P 1 row.

Next row Dec 1 st at beg and end of row. (5 sts) Cast off.

SADDLE EDGING (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 80 sts using 3mm needles and Primrose yarn and K 1 row.

Cast off K wise.

SADDLE BOBBLES (MAKE 6)

Cast on 10 sts using 3mm needles and Sunflower yarn

St st 5 rows.

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread this through the sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

TAIL STRAP (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 10 sts using 3mm needles and Signal Red yarn and K 1 row.

Cast off K wise.

TAIL SURROUND (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 12 sts using 3mm needles and Signal Red yarn and K 1 row.

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

TAIL (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 6 sts using 3mm needles and White.

St st 32 rows

Cast off.

TAIL TIP (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 10 sts using 3mm needles and Walnut yarn for base edge and st st 5 rows.

Fold row (M1, k2tog) to end. (10 sts)

St st 3 rows, beg with a K row.

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

Muffin has a spring in his step and his tail at a jaunty angle!



How to... Chain stitch

To make the rings on his harness



1

Come out of the fabric at 1 and leaving a loop, go back down again in the same hole at 2. Bring the needle out again at 3, keeping the thread under the needle. Take it down again in the same hole and repeat. Make a small stitch over the last loop.

How to... Swiss darn

Work across (1) or upwards (2).



1

Leaving a 4in (10cm) tail on the WS work from right to left, bringing the needle out at the base of a knit 'V' stitch, at 1. Take the needle behind the top of the 'V', in at 2 and out at 3. Next, take the needle down at the bottom of the stitch at 4 to complete the first stitch, and up at the base of the next 'V' at 5 to start the second. Finish off on the WS securing the end by oversewing. Cut the thread and thread the needle with the tail left at the start and oversew it in place.



2

Work from bottom to top, bringing the needle out at the base of the stitch at 1. Take the needle behind the top of the 'V', in at 2 and out at 3. Take the needle down at 4 (where it came out at 1) and bring it up at 5 the base of the stitch above.



TO MAKE UP

For best results, sew seams and join pieces using mattress stitch, working with right side of knitting uppermost. A one-stitch knitted seam turning has been allowed on all pieces to accommodate this method.

BODY AND HEAD

Take body piece, fold cast-on back edge in half and sew across, then join side edges (this seam will run along underside of body), leaving a 1/4in (3cm) space open at front. Stuff body firmly and join remainder of seam, then fold cast-off front edge in half and sew across. Starting at gathered front point, join side edges of head piece (this seam will run along underside of head), leaving a 1/4in (3cm) space open at back. Stuff head

firmly and join remainder of seam, then work gathering thread through every stitch along cast-on back edge, draw up tightly and fasten

NECK AND MANE

Trace off neck-former pattern and cut one piece from card, then glue a thin layer of stuffing to both sides of former. Wrap knitted neck piece around former and join back seam from middle threads up to top edge, then remove marker.

Position and sew base of neck securely to body, placing neck back seam in line with first decrease row at front of body. Now sew top of neck securely to head, placing neck back seam in line with last increase row at back of head. Fold mane piece along knitted fold row and sew across at each end, then position and sew in place on top of neck back seam.

LEGS

You will now need to make four leg supports from the drinking straws. Cut four 5 1/2in (14cm) lengths, avoiding the bendy section, for the front legs. Then cut four 4 1/4in (12cm) lengths, including the bendy section in centre of each piece, for the back legs.

Take two front pieces together and bind closely with White yarn to cover completely a join, securing ends of yarn with spots of glue. Repeat with the remaining two front pieces. Now take two back pieces together and bend centre section of each to approximately 45°, then bind as before. Repeat with remaining two back pieces.

Take a knitted front leg and work a gathering thread through every stitch along cast-on back edge, draw up tightly and fasten off, then join hoof seam. Stuffing base of leg lightly, while inserting leg support, join side edges of leg up to top of black knee stripe, then stuff top of leg lightly and join remainder of seam to run down back of leg.

Now fold cast-off top edge in half and sew across. Work a gathering thread through every stitch halfway up black knee stripe, draw up tightly to shape and fasten off securely. Make remaining front leg in same manner. Assemble back legs as given for front legs, stuffing even and omitting knee shaping. Pin legs in position on body, checking that Muffin stands correctly then sew securely in place.

LEG MARKINGS

To work markings on front legs, follow photograph and use embroidery pen to draw pointed shapes above and below black knee stripe on one leg, then fill in these shapes with Swiss darning, using Black yarn. Now copy on



work these markings in reverse on to other front leg. If any background white stitches remain visible, use laundry pen to colour these in.

Take a length of White yarn and work a single, vertical straight stitch behind each knee, then cover these with buttonhole stitch. Draw out a single strand from a length of Black yarn and use this to embroider a circle of eight tiny chain stitches on the top section of each leg.

Follow photograph to draw and work markings on back legs in same manner. Using chalk pencil, draw gloss shape on one hoof and fill in with Swiss darning using Powder Blue yarn, then copy and work this shape in same position on all three remaining hooves.

Any marks left by the embroidery pen will disappear within 24 hours.

HEAD

Pin head stripe in position, placing back edge $\frac{1}{4}$ in (1cm) below gathered back point of head, then sew in place. Wrap harness front strap around front of head and join ends at underside, then sew in place, working backstitch along cast-on and cast-off edges. Also wrap harness back strap around head and join ends at front of neck, then sew in place. Now wrap and pin head joining strap around back of harness so it covers base edge of head stripe and ends touch front strap, then sew in place. Using Primrose yarn, embroider a circle of 12 chain stitches at each of the four points where the straps join.

EARS

Join each ear seam, sewing from gathered top edge down to marker threads, then remove markers. Position and sew ears to sides of head, then follow photograph to draw ear lining with embroidery pen on one ear. Fill in this shape with Swiss darning, using Iced Pink yarn, then copy and work in reverse on other ear.

FACE DETAIL

Draw out a single strand from a length of Black yarn and use this to embroider a line of chain stitches for mouth, then use remaining two strands of yarn to embroider a tear-shaped nostril of chain stitches at each side of nose.

Follow photograph and use embroidery pen to draw eyes, then embroider outline and eyelashes in split stitch with another single strand drawn out from a length of Black yarn. Now use the remaining two strands of yarn to embroider pupils in chain stitch, first working outline, then filling in this shape with a spiral of chain stitches. Work a gloss mark on edge of each pupil with two tiny satin stitches of White yarn.

SADDLE

Join together ends of saddle edging strip to form a band, then sew this around saddle and press lightly on wrong side, following instructions given on ball band.

Join side edges of each bobble piece, then use tweezers to stuff firmly with a scrap of matching yarn. Work a gathering thread through every stitch along cast on edge, draw up lightly to make a small ball shape and fasten off. Sew three bobbles securely to each end of saddle, then pin saddle in place on body.

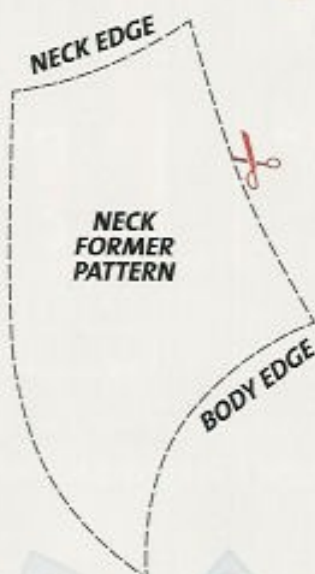
Pin and sew tail strap in place down centre back of body, using backstitch as for harness strap and tuck one end under edge of saddle, then join side edges of tail surround piece to make a circle and sew to other end of strap. Hold saddle in place with a few stitches.

TAIL

Join side edges of tail piece, drawing up sewing yarn slightly to make tail curve. Join side edges of tail tip piece, then work a gathering thread through every stitch along cast-on base edge, draw up tightly and fasten off. Push gathered cast-off point inside, folding along knitted fold row, and catch both gathered points together with a few stitches.

Sew tip to end of tail, then use a single strand drawn from a length of Black yarn to embroider a line of chain stitches around tail, $\frac{1}{4}$ in (1.5cm) below tip. Position and sew tail to centre of tail surround. You may like to stiffen tail with hairspray to retain shape (see right).

Turn to pages 56-7 to find out more about Alan Dart, the talented man behind our gorgeous Muffin the Mule design.



How to... Stiffen the tail

Shape the tail and keep it in place with our top hairspray tip...



1

Once you've sewn the tail together and added the embroidery detail, bend it into shape and hold in place. You could also pin it in position on an old towel.



2

Now spray the tail with hairspray, holding it in place until it's dried. The fibres in the yarn mean that the tail will keep its shape for a long time.

Muffin the Mule

In the shops every three weeks *Muffin the Mule Magazine* is packed with puzzles, stories and activities for you and your child to play together. Featuring Muffin and all his friends from the popular CBeebies TV show, the magazine makes learning fun and comes with a high-quality education gift for only £1.75.

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