

Mary Jane's
TEAROOM
presents
'Bluebell Rabbit'

'Bluebell' is a free spirit. She likes to spend her time outdoors in the woods around the tearoom picking her favourite flowers...



Equipment

1 Pair of 2.75 mm Knitting Needles (U.K No.12/ U.S 2)

1 Pair of 3.25 mm Knitting Needles (U.K No.10/ U.S 3)

Pompom maker (Outer diameter approx 3.5cm (1 1/4")/ Inner 2cm (3/4"))

2 Long Pointed Darning Needles approx 8cm (3") / 2 Wool Needles

Good Quality Washable Polyester Filling conforming to Current Safety Standards

Glass/Plastic-Headed Pins

Soft Tape Measure

Clear or Pale Blue Sewing Thread

A few notes before beginning

Yarns

Below are the yarns that I have used for 'Bluebell'...

I have used good quality natural yarns which I feel give the best, long-lasting results but you can use up leftover yarns with a very satisfactory outcome.

*I have used a combination of DK (double knitting) yarn and 4 ply yarn (fingering). **Please check that the ball band details correspond with those listed below for substitute yarns.***



Yarns used in order of making up (rounded up to nearest 10g)

Socks: Yarn A ROWAN Pure Wool DK Snow 20g

Yarn B ROWAN Pure Wool DK Marine 10g

Head/Body/Limbs/ Tail: Yarn C ARTESANO 100% ALPACA DK Biscuit 90g

Shoes & Jumper: Yarn D ROWAN 4 Ply Cotton Baby 50g

Bloomers & Jumper Yarn E ROWAN 4 Ply Cotton Bleached 30g

Skirt /Jumper & Bluebells Yarn F ROWAN 4 Ply Cotton Bluebell 40g

Stems /Jumper Stem Decoration Yarn G Siena Cotton 4 ply yarn Greengage strands

Brown strands of yarn for Jute Bow (optional)

Black DK Yarn for embroidery to face

Ball Band Details

Here I have listed the **ball band information** required for any substituted yarns for you to compare. This information is always given on the ball label and if purchasing on the internet it will be stated in the yarn details. It is usually given for a 10 x 10cm (4 x 4") tension square knitted using stocking stitch. (Please note that smaller needles are used for the DK yarn in the pattern than those given on the original ball band details. This is common in knitted toys to avoid holes when stretched but if the ball band details of the original yarn match those of the substitute yarn you can then just move down to the needle size required for the pattern)

Knitted over a 4 x 4" (10 x 10 cm) tension square (gauge swatch) in St-st

Artesano 100% ALPACA DK

22sts. 30 rows, (4mm/ UK 8/ U.S 6)

Ball size 50g/100m

Cotton 4 ply

28sts, 38 rows (3mm /U.K.11/U.S 2)

Ball size 50g/170m

Pure Wool DK

22sts, 30 rows (4mm/ UK 8/ U.S 6)

Ball size 50g/125m

One final note on tension!

If you know that your knitting tension is always on the looser side then move down a needle size from those used in the pattern to prevent the stuffing showing through when stretched. Otherwise personal knitting tension is not so much of a worry in toys i.e. if your tension is on the tighter side it will only result in an overall slightly smaller **Bluebell!**

Casting On I always use the thumb method

Casting off Always cast off K wise unless otherwise stated

Increase into every stitch: K into front and back of stitch

Only press pieces where indicated and check the ball band details for substituted yarns

Making Up I always use *Mattress Stitch* working with RS of work uppermost to close seams although this is a personal choice. I have allowed an extra 1 stitch seam allowance on either side to provide a really neat finish.

Measurements: Head to Toe 38cm (15")

Arm Span 28cm (11") Arm Circ 10cm (4") /L 14cm (5 ½")

Toe to Heel 8cm (3 ¼")/ Foot circ 16cm (6 ¼")

Leg L16cm (6 ¼")/ Leg Circ 11.5cm (4 ½")

Safety

For safety reasons I recommend that **Bluebell** should only be made as a decorative item and not a toy for the very young i.e. children under 3 years of age. All seams and limbs must be made secure and no extra items should ever be added such as buttons, ribbon, felt or eyes which could come loose.

Abbreviations**beg:** beginning**circ:** circumference**cont:** continue**dec:** decrease**g-st:** garter stitch (every row a K row)**inc:** increase**K:** Knit**M1:** Pick up the loop between the stitch just worked and the next stitch with left hand needle. Knit into the back of it to make a new stitch.**P:** Purl**pssso:** Pass slipped stitch over**RS:** Right side**sl:** slip**skpo:** slip 1, K 1, pass slipped st over**rep:** repeat**st:** stitch**st-st:** stocking stitch (alternate rows: K1 row, P 1 row)**tbl:** through back of loop**tog:** together**WS:** Wrong side**yf:** yarn forward**yon:** yarn over needle**yrn:** yarn round needle (Take yarn under and over tip of R hand needle then continue)

Time to begin

Legs with Stripy Socks 3.25mm Needles (Make 2)*Cast on 24 sts in A beg with sole***Next row** K1, increase in next 22 sts, K1 - 46 sts**Next: St-st 4 rows beg with a P row****Next: St-st 11 rows beg with a P row alternating yarns as follows:***2 rows in B**2 rows in A****Shape foot continuing 2 colour change as follows:*****Next row** K.9, (K2tog) 14 times, K9 - 32sts.**P 1 row****Next row** K9, (K2 tog) 7 times, K9 - 25 sts.**St-st 9 rows beg with a P row continuing in 2 colour change*****Change to C*****St-st 26 rows beg with a K row*****Shape top*****Next row** K4, (K2tog) 3 times, K5, (K2tog) 3 times, K4 - 19 sts.*Cast off**Fasten off leaving a long strand to attach to body later*

Put the legs to one side for the moment and make the **Shoes** as follows:

Mary Jane Shoes 2.75mm Needles (Make 2)

Cast on 31 sts in D beg with sole

Next row: K1, increase in next 29 sts, K1 - 60 sts.

Next: St-st 16 rows beg with a P row

Cast off

Straps 2.75mm Needles (Make 2)

Cast on 30 sts in D (Make sure your casting on is not too tight)

K 1 row (this will be the RS)

Cast off K wise

Now Make Up The Legs

Sew sock seams together to just beyond the ankle. (I use 2 wool needles threaded with both colour yarns and alternate up the stripy sock seam) At this point stuff the foot firmly (the shoe should stretch over the foot) and then sew and fill the rest of the leg. Thin the stuffing at the top of the leg slightly to enable sitting and the leg openings at the top should remain open.

When the legs are completed lightly press the leg seam under a cotton/linen cloth then place the cloth over the foot seam, press firmly and apply a light puff of steam. This will flatten the foot seam and sole area giving a really neat appearance.

Make Up Shoes and Position

Fold in half and sew seam together along sole and up centre back (there is an extra stitch in the seam allowance at the back of the heel). Place the shoe on the foot and mark to position strap. Sew the strap in place and decorate with a French Knot for the button fastening on the other side of shoe (Make sure that you reverse the fastening on the other shoe!)

I like to secure the shoe in place with a strand of clear sewing thread around the edges but this is optional (It is best to do this after the bloomers have been positioned so that they can be removed before putting bloomers on)

Press the base of the foot under a cloth and apply a puff of steam again to flatten the shoe seam and sole.

Sock Edging 3.25mm Needles (Make 2)

Cast on 32 sts in A

Next row: K 1 row (this will be the RS)

Cast off K wise

To Make Up

Sew in place at the top of the sock (I use a clear thread for this)



Body 3.25mm Needles

Cast on 15 sts in C beg at neck edge

P 1 row

Next row: K1, (M1, K1) to end - 29 sts

P 1 row

Next row: (K2, M1) 7 times K1, (M1, K2) 7 times - 43 sts

St-st 9 rows beg with a P row

Next row: (K7, M1) 3 times, K1, (M1 K7) 3 times - 49 sts

St-st 5 rows beg with a P row

Next row: K 23, (M1, K1) 3 times, M1, K 23 - 53 sts

St-st 9 rows beg with a P row

Next row: K 21, skpo, K1, skpo, K1, K2tog, K1, K2tog, K 21 - 49 sts

St-st 5 rows beg with a P row

Next row: K19, skpo, K1, skpo, K1, K2tog, K1, K2tog, K19 - 45sts

St-st 5 rows beg with a P row

Next row: K1, (K2tog) to end - 23sts.

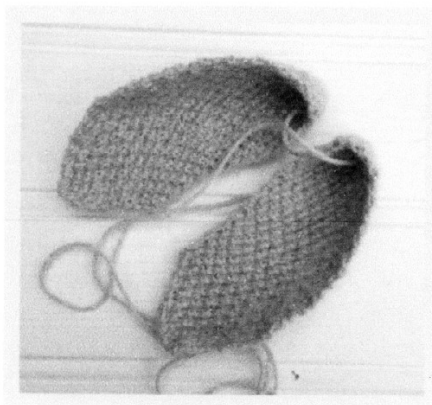
P 1 row

Cast off

To Make Up Body

Close centre back. Stuff firmly from each end, turning and moulding as you work. Slightly 'square off' the bottom end as you stuff (*see photograph above*) and keep in mind that you need to 'fill out' the abdominal area (the girth should measure 24cm when finished) Close the bottom end seam using mattress stitch or slip stitch but leave the top end open at this point.

Attach open ended legs by slip stitching around the edges.



Raggedy Rabbit Ears 3.25mm Needles (Make 2)

Cast on 20 sts in C beg at top of ear

Work next 4 rows in Double Moss Stitch as follows:

1st row K1, P1 to end

2nd row K1, P1 to end

3rd row P1, K1 to end

4th row P1, K1 to end

Rep. these 4 rows working a further 38 rows ending on the 2nd row of pattern

Continuing in pattern start decrease

Next row: Skpo, work in pattern to last 2 sts, P2tog.

Work 1 row in pattern beginning with K1

Repeat these 2 rows until last 6 stitches remain finishing on 2nd row of decrease

Break off yarn, thread through remaining stitches, gather slightly and fasten off.

To Make Up

Fold ear in half at cast on edge matching corner to corner and sew seam.

Head 3.25mm Needles

Cast on 11 in C beg at back of head

1st row P to end

2nd row K1, (M1, K1) to end – 21 sts

Rep last 2 rows once more – 41 sts

St-st 5 rows beg with a P row

Next row: K1, (M1, K3) to last remaining stitch M1, K1 – 55 sts

St-st 21 rows beg with a P row

Next row: K1, (K2tog) to end - 28 sts

St-st 9 rows beg with a P row

Next row: K1, (K2tog.) to last remaining stitch, K1 - 15 sts

P 1 row

Break off yarn, thread through remaining stitches, gather and secure, leaving yarn end to close seam

To Make up**1. Sew up**

Gather up and secure stitches at the nose leaving a long strand of yarn to close seam.

Close nose to chin seam (*ending 1cm past K2tog decrease*) then fasten off.

Gather up the stitches at the back of the head and sew the seam leaving an opening of approx 2.5cm at the base of the head (*You will use this opening to embroider the face before closing*)

2.Fill

Fill with small amounts of stuffing at a time starting at the nose and back of the head areas first then working evenly around the head (*tearing off small amounts at a time will ensure that the fibres knit together*) Mould and firm the stuffing as you work (*the head should be really firm to the touch*) but avoid overstretching the stitches resulting in holes. This may seem to take quite an amount of time but you will suddenly see everything fit into place!

3.Press

Gently smooth any uneven areas around the nose, back of head and seams by placing a cotton/linen cloth over the area and gently pressing. Build up the heat gradually so that you don't overdo this!



Use round headed pins to position features



Draw back yarn to produce an eye socket and secure

4.Embroider

It will help to pin the ears in place at this point to help you position the features (*approximately 4cm apart*)

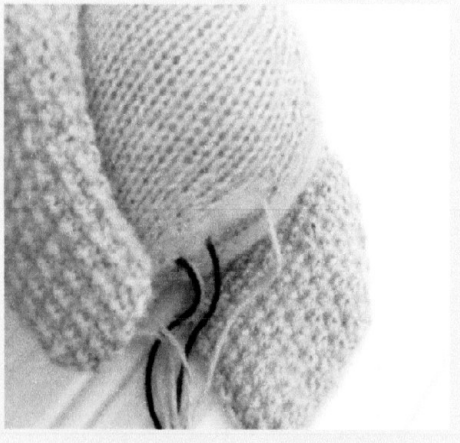
Mark out the features with round headed pins (*Count your pins to make sure they are all removed afterwards*)

Place eyes 4 knit stitches apart and just below the decrease row (see photograph below) using **French Knots** as follows:

Thread a long darning needle with black yarn .Tie a knot 4" from the end of the thread. Insert the needle into the opening at the base of the head and bring out through the centre of the area where you

have placed your eye pins. Remove these pins now and return the needle back through the stuffing and neck opening pulling slightly so that this produces an eye socket and gives contour to the face. Thread another long darning needle and repeat this process for the other eye so that you are now working with 2 needles and threads. Once the eye sockets are evenly placed knot your yarn ends to secure and now you can carry on and apply the French Knots. I make a series of these in each eye working from one eye to the other slowly building up until I am satisfied that someone is looking directly back at me!

When you are happy that the eyes are equally sized, tie the ends of the yarns together again securely and cut off any excess,



Needle is inserted through base of head



Welcome Bluebell!

(Tip: If you struggle with French Knots make a large knot in the middle of a long thread of yarn then pass both ends through the eye socket and out through the head opening, then tie together securely. Alternatively you could back-stitch)

Next, knotting the yarn first as before, embroider a 'V' for the nose and then an inverted 'Y' for the mouth following the photograph above. Slightly turn up the corners of the mouth. Remove your pins as you work and finally tie ends together securely at the base of the head.

Once the features are completed cover the open area with a small amount of stuffing and close the open seam.

Check that the ears are positioned correctly, sew in place and secure head to body gathering neck opening slightly. (The head will 'nod' from side to side)

Arms 3.25mm Needles (Make 2)

Cast on 9 sts in C beg at shoulder

P 1 row

Next row: K1, (M1, K1) to end - 17sts

P 1 row

Next row: K4, (M1, K2) twice, M1, K1, M1, (K2, M1) twice, K4 – 23 sts

St-st 37 rows beg with a P row

Next row: K1, (K2tog) to end - 12 sts

Break off yarn, thread through remaining stitches and secure leaving a long strand



This is how 'BB' should look at this point

To Make Up

Gather up cast off edge at top of arm, close seam using long strand and leave a small opening for stuffing. Stuff firmly, close and press lightly under a cloth. Pass a long strand of yarn from one arm through the body to the other side and pull slightly. This will produce a shoulder socket. Using the same yarn, attach the second arm and pass yarn through the body in the opposite direction. Repeat this process again ensuring both arms are securely in place. *Fasten off.*

Bloomers 2.75mm Needles (Make 2)

Cast on 31sts in E beg inside hem

Next: St-st 5 rows beg with a K row

Picot row

K1, (yrn, K2tog) to end – 31 sts (WS)

Next: St-st 5 rows beg with a K row

Next row: K through the back of loops (WS)

Next row: K1, (inc. in every stitch) to end - 61 sts

Next: St-st 7 rows beg with a P row

Begin decrease

Decrease 1 st at each end of next 6 rows - 49 sts

Next: St-st 22 rows beg with a K row

Next row: K1, (K2tog) to end - 25 sts.

Cast off.



To Make Up

Press pieces lightly under a cloth turning up hems to form ***picot*** edge. Slip stitch hems in place using yarn or thread (*I use thread*)
 Join front centre seam and fasten off.
 Join back seam from waistband down for 2cm (*do not secure yarn for the moment as you are leaving an opening for the tail*)
 Next join each separate leg seam to point of decrease then continue up the back seam for approx 3cm (*do not secure yarn for the moment*) Position bloomers approx 9cm down from neck

Skirt 2.75 mm needles (1 piece)

Cast on 125 sts in F beg inside hem

Next: St-st 5 rows beg with a K row

Picot hem edge

K1, (yrn, K2tog) to end – 125 sts (WS)

Next: St-st 6 rows beg with a K row

Next: G- st 2 rows in D

Next: St-st 34 rows in F beg with a K row

Decrease row

Next: K1, (K2tog) to end – 63 sts

Waistband

Next: G-st 3 rows

Cast off

To Make Up

Lightly press skirt piece under a cloth (*avoiding g-st decoration*) and turn up hem to form ***picot*** edge. Slip stitch hem in place either with yarn or thread (*I use thread*)

Join centre back seam by sewing 4cm down from waistband and 4cm up from hemline leaving an opening for the tail (*do not secure yarn for moment*)

The edgings of the bloomers should be visible (*skirt waistband will be positioned approx 6cm down from neck*)

Make your pompom tail and check position through openings in skirt and bloomers. When you are happy that everything is in the correct place fasten off the yarn ends securely.

Slip stitch around both waistbands then sew tail securely in place



Fair Isle Jumper1 2.75mm Needles

Front

Cast on 45 sts in D

G-st 4 rows

Make Bluebell Border

Next: St-st 10 rows for border beg with a K row following Diagram1 changing colours as required

The border is worked over these 45 stitches

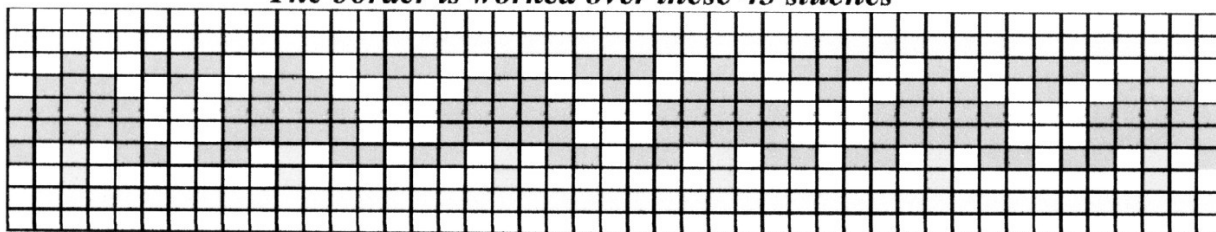


Diagram 1

Your 1st row of the border is a K row beg in E

Next: St-st rows 11 – 36 in D beg with a K row (At the same time mark each end of 17th row for sleeve placement)

Next: Shape Shoulders

Continuing in D cast off 11sts at beginning of next 2 rows - 23sts.

Next: Work 2 rows in K1, P1 rib increasing 1 stitch at each end of every row - 27sts.

Next: Work a further 9 rows in rib

Cast off **LOOSELY** in rib (Use a larger needle if you find this difficult)

Back

Cast on 45 sts in D

G-st 4 rows

Next: K 1 row in E

Next: St-st rows 2 – 36 in D beg with a P row (At the same time mark each end of 17th row for sleeve placement)

Next: Shape Shoulders

Continuing in D cast off 11sts at beginning of next 2 rows - 23sts.

Next: Work 2 rows in K1, P1 rib increasing 1 stitch at each end of every row - 27sts.

Next: Work a further 9 rows in rib

Cast off **LOOSELY** in rib

To Make Up

Press pieces lightly under a cloth on WS and join front to back down neck seams (remember the neck will be rolled over) and across shoulder seams. Fasten off and press seams lightly.

Sleeves 2.75mm Needles (Make 2)

With right side facing and using D evenly pick up 36 sts across back and front between markers.

Next; St-st 18 rows beg with a P row

Next: P 1 row in E

Next: G-st 4 rows in D beg with a K row

Cast off

To Make Up

Press lightly under a cloth on WS, sew up sleeve and side seams and fasten off. Fold over neck opening.

Bluebell Hair Corsage 2.75mm needles (Make 2)

Cast on 6 sts in F starting inside flower

Next: P 1 row

Next: K1, (inc. in every st) to end - 11 sts.

Next: P 1 row

Next: K 1 row

Picot row

K1, (yrn, K2tog) to end - 11 sts (WS)

Next: St-st 4 rows beginning with a K row

Next: K1, (K2tog) to end - 6 sts.

Next: P 1 row

Break off, thread through remaining stitches and secure.

Double Twisted Cord Stem (Make 2)

Cut a long piece of yarn in G

Fold in half

Tie a loop at each end

Ask a friend to hold one end or tie to a handle

Put the other loop around your index finger and move your finger round in a clockwise motion.

Keep the yarn taught and your other hand cupped lightly over it. Continue to wind until the whole length is twisting back on itself when you loosen your hold.

Next take the centre of the yarn length with your other hand and fold in half releasing the loop from your finger and allowing the cord to double up.

Smooth the twisted cord and then tie a knot 2.5cm from end as photograph below to secure and form stem.

Trim as below (the length can be further shortened later)



Make a simple twisted cord for the stems



Wrap the flower head around the stem

Make Up

Turn up hem on each **flower** to form picot edge, press gently under a cloth and secure with thread.

Wrap flower head around twisted cord enclosing knot and leaving the stem on the outside. Close seam on flower and secure stem in place with a small slip stitch. Trim yarn ends to required length.

Hold iron over bluebell without touching and press steam then shin an' outwards in an outwards direction. Secure bluebells in place at corner of right ear.

Alternative Jumper 2 (with Brooch) 2.75mm Needles (Make

Work front and back as for back **Jumper 1**

Work sleeves as for **Jumper 1**



Bluebell Brooch with 'Jute' bow for Jumper 2 2.75mm Needles

Make a *single flower* in F as for hair corsage

Knot together 4 strands of yarn in G securely and trim against then knot (*no need for a stem this time*)

Make a double twisted cord as above to form the 'jute' bow in brown yarn or any of the colours we have used in the pattern (*blue, white or green*) would look just as pretty.

Make Up

Make up *bluebell flower* as for hair corsage securing knotted yarn inside before sewing side seam.

Arrange twisted cord into a *bow* shape and then knot each end securely. Cut yarn against each knot

(*Tip: I spray the bow with hairspray to secure a pretty shape but this is optional*)

Sew bow to flower head and secure on jumper.



'Bluebell' has been created!

Other characters in the Mary Jane's TEAROOM series

Oscar Rabbit

Primrose Rabbit

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