

Happy Critters

Designs by E. J. Slayton

*These safe and cuddly stuffed toys are based on old-time sock toys.
Use leftovers from a child's favorite sweater for each friend.*

Skill Level

Intermediate***

Size

Approximately 9 (11) inches high

Materials

- Plymouth Encore D.K. weight 75 percent acrylic/25 percent wool DK weight yarn (150 yds/50g per ball): 1 ball
- Plymouth Encore Worsted 75 percent acrylic/25 percent wool worsted weight yarn (200 yds/100g per ball): 1 ball
- Size 3 (3.25mm)
- Size 5 (3.75mm) needles or size needed to obtain gauge
- Stitch markers
- Approximately 1-2 yds contrasting yarns or 6-strand embroidery floss for features

- Crochet hook
- Polyester fiberfill
- Tapestry needle



Gauge

13 sts and 16 rows = 2 inches/5cm with DK weight yarn and smaller needles

10 sts and 14 rows = 2 inches/5cm with worsted weight yarn and larger needles

Gauge is not critical for this project, but sts should be firm enough that fiberfill does not poke through.

Special Abbreviations

CDD (centered double decrease):

Sl next 2 sts as if to k2tog, k1, p2sso.

M1 (Make 1): Inc by making a backward loop over RH needle. On next rnd, k in back of loop.

Pattern Notes

These toys are knitted as a tube with a sock toe at one end. All features are either knitted on or embroidered, so they are safe for any age.

Designs may be worked in either weight of yarn from same instructions. Sample projects were worked as follows:

Worsted weight: dog, medium blue #4045; frog, medium olive green #45

DK weight: cat, yellow gold #1382; pig, hot pink #1385

Using short sts that won't snag little fingers, work ears and features before stuffing so ends can be fastened off securely on inside. Purl side of ears will be toward front.

Most features on DK weight samples were embroidered with 6-strand floss. Check floss for color fastness before using.



Features on worsted weight samples were worked with small amounts of yarn.

Body (All Animals)

Cast on 40 sts. Join without twisting, pm at beg of rnd and after st No. 20.

Rnd 1: Knit.

Rnd 2: [K1, M1, k to 1 st before marker, M1, k1] twice. (44 sts)

Rnds 3 and 4: Rep Rnds 1 and 2. (48 sts)

Rnds 5–64: Knit.

Shape top

Rnd 1: [K1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1] twice.

Rnd 2: Knit.

Rnds 3–8: Rep Rnds 1 and 2.

Rnds 9–11: Rep Rnd 1. (16 sts)

Cut yarn, leaving a 12-inch end.

Weave sts tog using Kitchener method.

Finishing

With crochet hook, pick up sts to work ears as needed for chosen critter.

Embroider features as shown in Figs. 1–4, making sure all ends are fastened off securely on inside.

Mark exact center of front and back at bottom edge and on Rnd 25. Stuff body lightly with fiberfill, then sew or weave bottom. Going through stuffing layer sew front and

back tog from Rnd 25 to bottom to form legs.

Fasten off securely.



Kitty

Referring to Fig. 1, embroider mouth, nose, eyes and whiskers as shown. Sample used 6 strands of floss for nose, mouth and eye outlines, and 3 strands for whiskers. Small amounts of green and pink yarn were used to fill eye and nose outlines.

Left Ear

With front facing, starting at 2nd dec of top shaping and working through both loops of last st of back, pick up and k [1 st in every other rnd] 6 times.

Row 1 (WS): K1, M1, [k2, M1] twice, k1. (9 sts)

Rows 2 and 4: K2, p5, k2.

Row 3: Knit.

Row 5: K1, ssk, k3, k2tog, k1. (7 sts)

Row 6: K2, p3, k2.

Row 7: K1, ssk, k1, k2tog, k1. (5 sts)

Row 8: Knit.

Row 9: K1, sl 1, k2tog, pssso, k1. (3 sts)

Row 10: Sl 1, k2tog, pssso. Fasten off.

Right Ear

Rep as for left ear, beg at same point of top shaping as left ear ended and picking up from top to bottom.



FIG. 1
KITTY

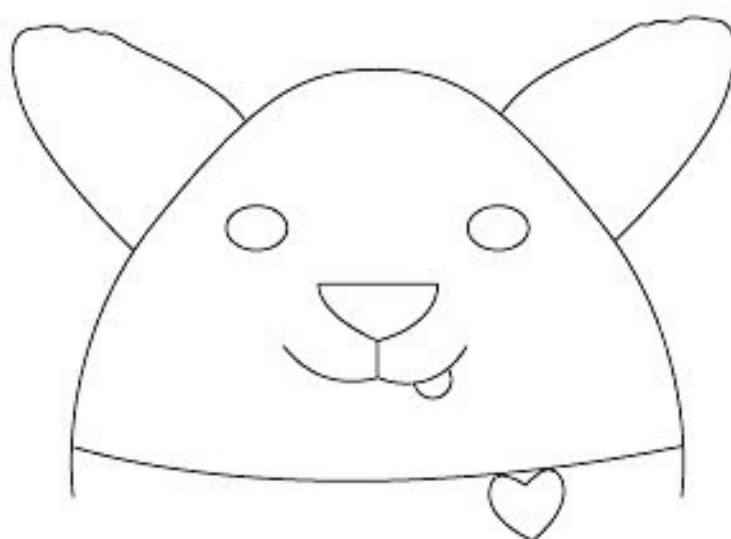


FIG. 2
DOGGY



Doggy

Collar

Referring to Fig. 2, knit Rnd 53 of body with CC, or work 1 rnd of duplicate st for collar after knitting is completed.

Embroider mouth, tongue, nose, eyes and heart tag as shown.

Sample used small amounts of black, pink and yellow gold yarn.

Left Ear

With front facing, starting at beg of top shaping and working through both loops of last st of back, pick up and k [1 st in every other rnd] 6 times.

Row 1 (WS): K1, M1, [k2, M1] twice, k1. (9 sts)

Row 2: K2, p5, k2.

Row 3: Knit.

Rows 4-6: Rep Rows 1 and 2, ending with Row 2.

Row 7: K1, ssk, k3, k2tog, k1. (7 sts)

Rows 8 and 10: K2, p3, k2.

Row 9: Knit.

Row 11: K1, ssk, k1, k2tog, k1. (5 sts)

Row 12: Knit.

Row 13: K1, cdd, k1. (3 sts)

Row 14: Sl 1, k2tog, pssso. Fasten off.

Right Ear

Rep as for left ear, beg at same point of top shaping as left ear ended and picking up from top to bottom.

Froggy

Referring to Fig. 3, embroider eyes, brows, nostrils and mouth.

Sample used small amounts of black, blue and hot pink yarn.

Piggy

Referring to Fig. 4, embroider mouth, snout, brows and eyes as shown.

Sample used 6 strands of floss for all features.

Left Ear

Pick up and k 6 sts as for dog, placing ear approximately 1 st below end of top shaping.

Row 1 (WS): K1, M1, [p2, M1] twice, k1. (9 sts)

Rows 2, 4 and 6: Knit.

Row 3: K2, p5, M1, k2. (10 sts)



FIG. 3
FROGGY

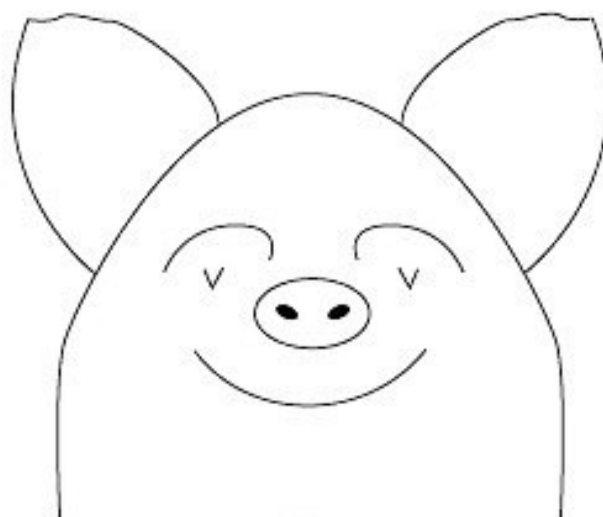


FIG. 4
PIGGY



Row 5: K2, p6, M1, k2. (11 sts)

Row 7: K2, p7, k2.

Row 8: K1, ssk, k to end. (10 sts)

Row 9: K2, p6, k2.

Row 10: Rep Row 8. (9 sts)

Row 11: K3, Cdd, k3. (7 sts)

Row 12: K2, p3, k2.

Row 13: K2, cdd, k2. (5 sts)

Row 14: K5.

Row 15: K1, Cdd, k1. (3 sts)

Row 16: Sl 1, k2tog, pss0. Fasten off.

Right Ear

Rep as for left ear, beg at same point of top shaping as left ear ended and picking up from top to bottom. ♦

