

Dollytime

Butternut Bear



Let me introduce you to Butternut, a cheeky little bear. He measures 25 cm (10 in) from his feet to the tips of his ears and is knitted in DK yarn (USA - light-worsted/Australia - 8 ply). The five rows of fairisle patterning on Butternut's sweater are knitted from a graph which is easy to follow. I have included a striped alternative to the fairisle which you can use if preferred.

The tension of your knitting is not important but the fabric should be fairly firm otherwise the knitting will stretch and the stuffing will show through the stitches. If you know your knitting tends to be loose then use a needle one size smaller than specified.

Happy dolly knitting

Wendy

<http://dollytime.etsy.com>

<http://flutterbypatch.typepad.co.uk>

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Materials

Pair of 3.25mm needles (US 3)
DK yarn in the following colours (USA - light-worsted/Australia - 8 ply).
Butter (warm yellow)
Scarlet
Forget-me-not blue
White
Dark brown (eyes and nose)
Brown embroidery floss or 4 ply yarn for mouth
Toy filler

Abbreviations

K - knit
P - purl
St(s) - stitch(es)
St-st - stocking stitch
K2tog - knit two stitches to together to make one
* * - repeat the pattern within asterisks
Kfb - knit in front and back to create a new stitch. For a kfb increase you make a knit stitch but don't slide the old stitch off the left-hand needle. To finish the increase knit into the back of the old stitch on the left-hand needle and slide it onto the right needle. You have made 2 stitches out of one.

Let's get started

Head

Cast on 8 stitches in butter colour

1. purl
2. kfb every stitch across row (16st)
3. purl
4. kfb every stitch across row (32st)
- 5 - 25. stocking stitch starting with a purl row
26. k2tog across row (16st)
27. purl - ensure you keep the yarn as tight as possible on this row to avoid unwanted holes appearing where decreasing took place on the previous row.
28. knit
29. purl
30. knit
31. purl
32. k2tog across row (8st)

Cut the yarn leaving a long tail and using a tapestry needle take the 8 stitches from the knitting needle onto the tail. Gather tightly to close the nose end of head and then seam 2.5cm only and leave the tail of yarn attached to the head. Gather the stitches along the cast-on edge and seam 2cm only and leave the tail of yarn attached to the head. You should now have an opening in the seam at the base of the head just large enough to fill the head with stuffing. Fill firmly and move the stuffing around to create a good head shape. Make sure plenty of stuffing has been pushed into the nose. When satisfied with the shape close the opening in the seam.

Ears – make 2 alike. Use garter stitch for all rows

Cast on 4 stitches in butter colour

1. knit
2. k1, kfb, kfb, k1 (6st)
3. knit
4. k2, kfb, kfb, k2 (8st)
5. knit
6. k3, kfb, kfb, k3 (10st)
7. knit
8. k2tog across row (5st)

Cut the yarn leaving a long tail and using a tapestry needle take the 5 stitches from the knitting needle onto the tail. Pull to gather the bottom of the ear and form into a good ‘saucer shape’.

Once the two ears are knitted you can give Butternut a face. Make sure the seam runs along the bottom of the head (back to front) and remember that the area at the centre of this seam will be concealed when the head is stitched to the body so all finishing off can be done here with no fear of it being visible.

Start by pinning the ears to the head. Then place two pins to represent eyes. Now the nose and mouth can be done in straight stitch. I used dark brown DK yarn for the eyes and nose and 4 ply yarn for the mouth (alternatively use embroidery floss).

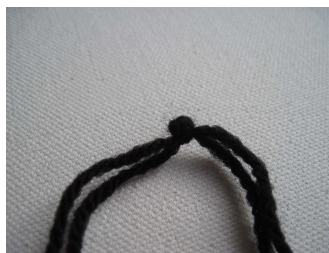


Ensuring the ears are a good ‘cup shape’, attach them to the head. To neaten the tail of yarn on the cast-on edge weave it down through the ear then out of the head and cut it off.

Using butter coloured yarn, place a single stitch in each eye position (see centre picture above) and take the pairs of yarn tails through to the underside of the head. Pull hard to make a socket for each eye and tie the yarn ends together firmly (picture on right)

Eyes are often done by embroidering French knots but I prefer the following method as it produces two identical eyes and if you don’t like the position you can easily pull them out and start again (very useful!)

You need to cut four 15cm (6in) lengths of brown DK yarn for each eye



Take two lengths of yarn and tie a knot in the centre (illustration left) pull firmly. Then tie another knot exactly over the first and pull firmly. You now have two knots one over the other and these will form the eye (illustration right). Thread a pair of yarn ends onto a needle and pass them through the eye socket and out at the base of the head (where they won't be seen). Don't fasten off. Thread the second pair onto the needle and push them through the socket close the first stitch. Bring the yarn ends out through to the base of the head as before. Pull the two ends until the eye is in the correct position but don't fasten off yet. Repeat this process for the second eye. Now you can make sure that both eyes are well spaced and just where you want them. If not simply take hold of the knots and pull them out of the head and then insert them again in a better position. When you are satisfied that the eyes are positioned correctly gently pull on the pairs of yarn ends and tie them together so that the eyes cannot be moved.



Leg – knit 2 alike

Cast on 8 stitches in red

1. knit
2. kfb across the row (16st)
3. knit
4. kfb across the row (32st)
- 5 - 12. st-st starting with a knit row
13. k4. *k2tog* (12 times). K4 (20st)
14. purl
15. k4, *k2tog* (6 times), k4 (14st)
- Break of red and join butter colour
16. purl. Make sure you keep yarn tight to avoid holes in shoe where decreasing took place on the previous row.
- 17 - 32. st-st starting with a knit row
33. k2, *k2tog, k2* (3 times) (11st)
- 34 - 36. st-st
- Cast off

NB. Row 33 to the end will be tucked inside the trouser leg.

Fold shoe and leg in half and stitch along the cast on edge of the shoe then up the back of the shoe. Stuff the shoe making sure it is well filled and then continue to stitch the leg. Stuff the leg but leave a 2cm unfilled gap at the top.

This un-stuffed top part of the leg will slide inside the trouser leg. Ensuring the leg seam is at the back, over sew the cast-off edge

Body

Cast on 18 stitches in red

1 - 4. knit

Place these 18 stitches on a stitch holder (they will form one trouser leg opening).

Second leg opening - Cast on 18 stitches in red

1 - 4. knit

Now put the first 18 stitches onto this needle so that you have a total of 36 stitches.

5. knit across all 36 stitches

6. k3, *k2tog, k2* (8 times), k1 (28st)

7 - 18. st-st starting with a knit row

19. purl

20. knit

Break of red yarn and join butter

21. knit

22. - 34. st-st starting with a purl row

35. k2tog across row (14st)

Cut the yarn leaving a long tail and using a tapestry needle take the 14 stitches from the knitting needle onto the tail. Leave this neck area open for stuffing the body later. Fold the body so that the seam will be at the back. You will find that the first four red garter stitch rows form short trousers legs. Stitch each short leg seam and then continue stitching the back seam to the top.

The two legs can now be inserted. Push 1cm of each leg into the trouser leg openings. With red yarn, back stitch in position across row 3 of the trouser leg. Take your needle right through the trouser and the leg from the back and out at the front and back again. You shouldn't be passing the needle through stuffing as this should be below the trouser. Make sure there are no gaps for stuffing to squeeze out.



Stuff the body really well making sure the stuffing is well pushed down to give Butternut Bear a plump tummy. Pull yarn to gather the neck and secure.

Now Butternut's head can be attached. Making sure it covers the gathered neck area. Angle the head so that it is tilted forwards and downwards and stitch it to the body.



Arm – knit 2 alike

Cast on 11 stitches in butter

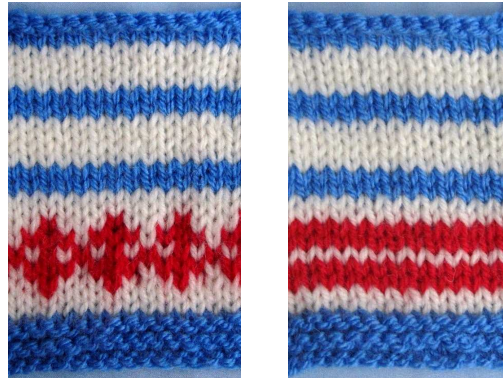
1. purl
2. knit
3. purl
4. k2, *kfb, k2* across row (14st)
- 5 - 23. st-st starting with a purl row
24. k2tog across row (7st)

Cut the yarn leaving a long tail and using a tapestry needle take the 7 stitches from the knitting needle onto the tail. Pull to gather the bottom of the arm and stitch the seam. Stuff the arm leaving a 2cm gap without stuffing at the top (this allows the arm to move freely). Oversew the cast-on edge. Pin to shoulder and stitch in place.



Sweater

This is a very simple sweater to knit. The fairisle pattern is easy to follow from the graph below and if you haven't knitted fairisle before you might want to give it a go. Just remember not to pull the yarn too tightly across the back of the work. If you're not confident knitting fairisle I have given you red stripes as an alternative.



Front

Cast on 22 stitches in blue

1 – 4. knit

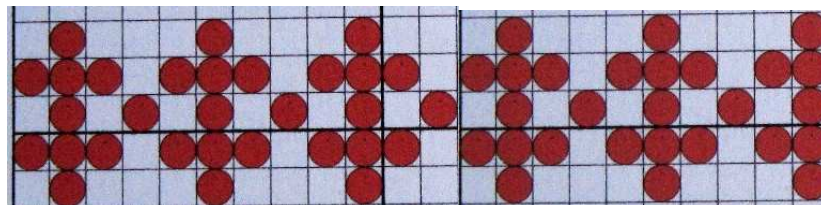
Break off blue and join white. Work in st.st from now on

5. knit

6. purl

FAIRISLE

7 – 11. Follow fairisle graph below. Red pattern on white in st-st



STRIPED ALTERNATIVE

7 – 8. red

9. white

10 – 11. red

Both designs

12 – 13. white

14 – 15. blue

16 – 19. white

20 – 21. blue

22 – 25. white

26 – 27. blue

Cast off

Knit a second piece for the back following the instructions above.

Sleeve – knit two

Cast on 22 stitches in blue

1 – 2. knit

Break off blue and join white. Work in st.st for remainder of sleeve

3 – 6. st-st starting with knit row

7 – 8. blue

9 – 12. white

13. blue

Cast off

Making up

Weave in any loose yarn ends that won't be needed for stitching seams. Over sew 1cm on each shoulder seam but don't fasten off. Leave the stitching yarn in place for adjusting the neck opening later. Fold each sleeve in half and mark the centre. With the cast-off edge at the top, match the centre pin to the shoulder seam. Stitch in place.



Now you are ready to adjust the neck. If you want the sweater permanently fitted to Butternut then put it on him and stitch the neck opening securely on either side. However, you should find you can make the sweater removable by leaving a medium sized neck opening or alternatively leave a generous opening and stitch a tiny button on each shoulder with loops to fasten. Stitch the side and sleeve seams

Butternut's sweater is finished and he wears it with pride. With a little blue bow (made from twisted cord) stitched to each shoe he's the smartest bear in town.

