

Dollytime

Darcy the dancing mouse



Let me introduce you to Darcy, a sweet little mouse who loves to dance. She measures 17cm (7in) to the tips of her ears and is knitted in DK yarn (USA- light worsted, Australia - 8 ply). As this is a much used yarn weight I'm hoping many knitters will have a good supply of it in various shades which they can mix and match for the project. I chose pale grey for the mouse to complement the pretty pink dress, but you could also use beige or white.

The tension of your knitting is not important but the fabric should be fairly firm otherwise the knitting will stretch and the filler will show through the stitches. If you know your knitting tends to be loose then use a needle one size smaller than specified. The pattern for Darcy the dancing mouse is available from my Etsy shop - <http://dollytime.etsy.com>

Happy knitting,

Wendy

<http://dollytime.blogspot.com>

© 2009 Wendy Phillips copyrighted design. Please do not reproduce or distribute.

Materials

Pair of 3.25mm needles (US 3)
Pale grey DK yarn (mouse)
Dark pink DK yarn
Pale pink DK yarn
Short length of black yarn (eyes)
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 – Make 2 stitches out of one by knitting into the front and back of a stitch to create a new stitch. For a kfb increase simply 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.

For an excellent online video see - www.knittinghelp.com/videos/increases

Let's get started

Head

Cast on 7 stitches in grey leaving a 15cm (6in) tail of yarn for sewing up later

1. purl

2. kfb across row (14st)

3. purl

4. kfb across row (28st)

5 - 17. st-st starting with a purl row

For best results, the following face shaping stitches should be kept firm and tight.

18. *k2tog* 6 times, k4, *k2tog* 6 times (16st)

19. purl

20. knit

21. purl

22. k1 *k2tog* 3 times, k2, *k2tog* 3 times, k1 (10st)

23. purl

24. k2tog across row (5st)

Break yarn leaving 15cm (6in) tail. Use a tapestry needle to remove stitches onto yarn

Making up

Draw up the stitches on the tail of yarn and secure but don't break off yarn. This end of the head will be the mouse's nose. Stitch 2cm (half inch) seam at the front (nose end) of the head. Now, with the tail of yarn at the cast-on end, gather the stitches of the cast-on edge and draw up. Stitch a 2cm (half inch) seam at the back of the head. The hole left in the centre of the seam should be large enough to stuff head. Start by pushing small pieces into the nose and gradually fill the head which should be firmly filled but not stretched too much. When satisfied with the shape close the rest of the seam.

Eyes and nose

Once the head the seam is stitched the features can be added. Using pink yarn, embroider a tiny nose (see picture for guide). Three or four tiny stitches will be sufficient for a nose.

Next place two pins in the position you want the eyes. As a guide they need to be just above the row where face shaping commenced (see the picture below). Leave the pins in place until you are ready to embroider the eyes.



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 a 15cm (6in) length of black DK yarn for each eye.



Tie a knot in the centre of the yarn (illustration left) pull firmly. Then tie another knot exactly over the first (pull firmly). Finally tie a third knot in the same way (illustration right). You now have three knots one over the other and these will form the eye.



Thread one of the yarn ends onto a needle and pass it through the position of the pin and out at the base of the head (where it won't be seen when the head is attached to the body). Don't fasten off. Thread the second yarn end onto the needle and push it through the stitch which is next to the first one. Bring the yarn end 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 tie each pair of yarn ends together (firmly) so that the eyes cannot be moved.

Ears (knit two alike)

Cast on 4 stitches in grey

1. kfb, k2, kfb (6st)

2. kfb, k4, kfb (8st)

3 - 6. knit

Break yarn leaving 15cm (6in) tail and thread this onto a tapestry needle. Take stitches off onto needle and draw up to make a nice saucer shaped mouse ear. Stitch to head along bottom of ear.



The tail of yarn at the top of the ear (cast-on edge) can be woven down through the stitches to the base of the ear and then through the head to conceal the end. Cut off the remaining yarn tail.



Body and legs - Work in st-st to row 19

Cast on 30 stitches in dk. pink

1 - 7. st-st (starting with a knit row)

Join pale pink but don't break off dk. pink. Carry the two pinks up the side of the work and use when indicated in the pattern.

8 - 9. pale pink

10 - 11. dk. pink

12 - 13. pale pink

14 - 20. garter stitch pale pink

21. *k3, k2tog, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k2tog, k3* repeat this sequence once more (22st)

Divide for legs

22. knit 11 stitches turn and leave the remaining 11 on a stitch holder.

Beak off pale pink and join grey

23 - 40. st-st starting with a purl row

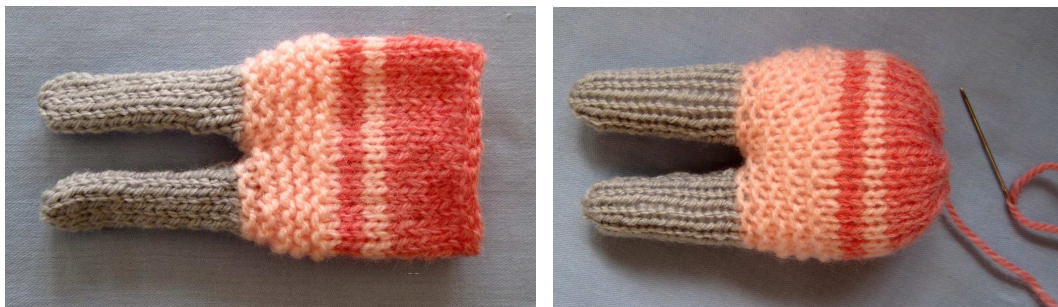
Break yarn leaving 15cm (6in) tail. Use a tapestry needle to remove stitches onto yarn tail.

Replace 11 stitches from holder onto needle and knit one row in pale pink. Join grey and work 2nd leg as first leg from row 23 to 40

Making up

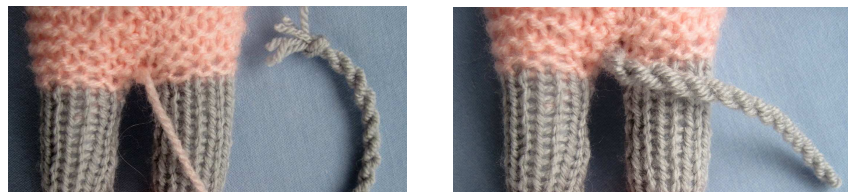
Draw up bottom of each leg and with this yarn tail stitch leg seams.

Stitch back seam. Leave a tiny length of seam open at base of body just large enough to insert tail later. Using very small pieces of stuffing start filling each leg making sure there are no bulges as you fill. Continue filling until you reach the top of the body. Using matching yarn pick up alternate stitches from the cast on edge at the top of the body. Pull yarn to gather leaving a small circular 15mm (half inch) opening for the neck. When the head is stitched onto the body it should sit directly over this opening. Fasten off gathering yarn.



Tail

You must decide how long you want your mouse's tail. Mine is 8cm (3in) long. I made a twisted cord from grey yarn. Alternatively you could make a plaited tail or a crochet chain tail. If you are unsure how to make a twisted cord you will find a tutorial link in the sidebar at dollytime.blogspot.com



The length of pink yarn indicates where an opening has been left in the seam to take the tail. Push the knotted end of the twisted cord through the hole in the seam and secure. Close the seam.

Shoes

Cast on 16 stitches in dk pink

1. k7, kfb, kfb, k7 (18st)

2 - 5. knit

6. k6, *k2tog* 3 times, k6 (15st)

7. k5, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k5 (13st)

Cast off



Making up

Making up is done with small whip stitches and right side facing outwards.

Fold the shoe in half and using the cast-on tail whip-stitch the cast on edges together to form the base of the shoe. Next whip-stitch from the heel up the back but leave partly open for fitting shoe onto leg. If you want to put a little bobble on the front of each shoe (see picture) this is the best time to do it.

Shoe decoration to resemble bobble

Cast on 2 stitches in pale pink. Knit one row. Cast off. Fold the little knitted piece in half to make a bobble shape and pass both tail ends through the top front of the shoe and tie together on the wrong side to secure.

Now take a tiny piece of stuffing to fill the toe of the shoe. Fit shoe onto leg making sure the bottom of the leg is resting on the inside base of the shoe. Holding the shoe firmly in position, close the remainder of the back seam. Now back stitch around the cast-off edge to attach the shoe firmly to the leg.



Arms

Cast on 9 stitches in dk. pink leaving a 20cm (8in) tail for stitching to shoulder later.

1 - 11. st-st starting with a purl row (dk. pink)

12 - 13. knit (pale pink)

14. knit (grey)

15. purl (grey)

16. knit (grey)

17. purl (grey)

Break yarn leaving 15cm (6in) tail. Use a tapestry needle to remove stitches onto yarn tail.



Making up

Draw up stitches and secure. Stitch arm seam. I only add a tiny piece of stuffing to the hand area and lower arm and leave the rest empty so that it hangs down when stitched at the shoulder and can be moved more easily. You might want to stuff the entire arm, the choice is yours. Using the cast-on tail of yarn gather the stitches on the cast-on edge and stitch the top of the arm to the mouse's shoulder. Repeat for other arm.

Firmly stitch the head onto the body making sure the head covers the opening at the top of the body. Stitch all the way round the head securing it to the open top of the body. I stitch round approximately three times to ensure the head will not wobble or become loose.



Skirt (garter stitch throughout)

Cast on 124 stitches in dk. pink

1. knit

Break off dk. pink and join pale pink

2 - 7. knit

8. k2tog across row (62st)

9. knit

10. k2tog across row (31 st)

11. knit

Cast off

Making up

Stitch back seam leaving small opening to allow skirt to be fitted onto mouse. Fit skirt onto the mouse so that the waistband sits just above the pale pink garter stitch area on the body. Close the remainder of the skirt seam and stitch the waistband to the mouse all round the body. Fasten off.



Here is little Darcy, ready to start dancing