

Fiber Trends[®]

FT-202

The Marigold Bears



Design by Bev Galeskas

Marigold was the eldest of the grandmother angora goats on Steadfast Farms in Northern Idaho. She spent the last years of her life along with other older relatives producing packages of Marigold's Goat Hair Stuffing, for bears and other special creatures.

Sizes:

Depending on your yarn choice and the amount of felting, your bear will measure from 12 to 18 inches (30 to 46 cm) tall.

Yarn Requirements:

Choose a worsted weight wool, mohair or alpaca yarn that felts well. It is best to use the same type of yarn for all colors.

Yardage:

About 450 yds (411m) for a solid color bear. For a bear with clothes, the following amounts: Head and hands: 110 yds (101m). Coat: 160 yds (146m). Pants or legs: 75 yds (69m). Boots or shoes: 40 yds (37m). Felt Hat: 100 yds (91m).

Caution: It is important to test felt a sample of your yarn in all the colors you will be using. They must all felt at the same rate. Many white and light colored wools do not felt well if at all. For white bears we recommend Alpine from Naturally.

Other Supplies:

Natural fleece or synthetic fiber fill for stuffing; pearl cotton or fiber and felting needle for nose.

Needles:

For bear, straight or circular needles in US size 10½ (6.5mm). For hat, a 16" (40cm) circular and a set of double pointed needles in US size 10 ½ (6.5mm).

Gauge:

About 12 to 14 sts = 4" (10cm) before felting.

Stitches And Abbreviations Used:

(RS) or (WS): Right side or wrong side.

Garter stitch: Knit all rows. (2 rows = 1 ridge)

Slip 1: Move a st from left to right needle without working it.

psso: Pass slipped stitch over stitch just worked.

k2tog: Knit two stitches together as one.

ssk (slip, slip, knit): Slip 2 sts, one at a time, as if to knit. Slide left needle through front loops of these slipped sts, from left to right, and knit them together from this position.

Inc in a stitch: Knit into front, then into back of the same stitch.

w&t (wrap and turn): Slip the next stitch to the right needle as if to purl. Bring the yarn between the needles to the front. Put the slipped stitch back onto the left needle. Turn and work in the other direction.

Brackets []: Repeat sts between brackets the given number of times (x).

Color Notes:

Directions are for making a bear with coat, pants and boots or shoes. Bear color can be used in place of all or part of these sections. For the bear in his drawers, use the same color for both the pant and coat sections.

Instructions:**Arms:**

With bear color, cast on 10 sts.

Row 1 and all other WS rows: Knit unless otherwise stated.

Be very careful not to skip any of the WS rows.

Row 2: (Mark as RS) k1, inc in each of next 8 sts, k1. (18 sts)

Row 4: k1, inc in next st, k5, inc in next st, k2, inc in next st, k5, inc in next st, k1. (22 sts)

Row 6: Knit.

Row 7: (WS) Knit. Cut bear color. Join coat color.

Rows 8, 12, 16 & 20: Knit.

Row 10: k1, inc in next st, knit to last 2 sts, inc in next st, k1. (24 sts)

Rows 14, 18 & 22: Repeat row 10. (30 sts)

Row 23: (WS) Cast off 4 sts at beginning of row, k22, cast off last 4 sts.

Cut yarn. Make second arm the same as first.

Set arms aside.

Left Foot And Leg:

Use boot or shoe color, or begin with bear color for a 'bare foot' bear. Cast on 15 sts.

Put a pin in the 6th cast on stitch. (Count from beginning of cast on.)

Row 1 and all other WS rows: Knit unless otherwise stated.

Row 2: (RS) k1, inc in each of next 4 sts, k1, inc in each of next 8 sts, k1.

Row 4: Knit. (27 sts)

Row 6: k3, inc in each of next 3 sts, k9, inc in each of next 6 sts, k6. (36 sts)

Row 8: k22, ssk, k1, k2tog, k9.

Row 10: k19, ssk, ssk, k1, k2tog, k2tog, k6.

Row 12: k17, ssk, ssk, k1, k2tog, k2tog, k4. (26 sts)

Color Changes: For shoes, change to pant or bear color on row 16. For boots, change on row 20.

Rows 14, 16, 18, 20 & 22: Knit.

Rows 24, 26, 28, 30 & 32: k1, inc in next st, knit to last 2 sts, inc in next st, k1.

Row 33: (WS) Cast off the first 5 sts, k26, cast off the last 5 sts. (26 sts)

Slip sts onto spare needle, cut yarn and set aside.

Right Foot & Leg:

Cast on and mark 10th st the same as left foot.

Row 1 and all WS rows: Knit unless otherwise stated.

Row 2: k1, inc in each of the next 8 sts, k1, inc in each of next 4 sts, k1.

Row 4: Knit. (27 sts)

Row 6: k6, inc in each of the next 6 sts, k9, inc in each of the next 3 sts, k3. (36 sts)

Row 8: k9, ssk, k1, k2tog, k22.

Row 10: k6, ssk, ssk, k1, k2tog, k2tog, k19.

Row 12: k4, ssk, ssk, k1, k2tog, k2tog, k17. (26 sts)

Continue as for left foot & leg through row 32.

Row 33: Cast off 5 sts at beginning of row, knit to end. (31 sts)

Join Legs:

Row 34: With RS of right leg facing, cast off 5 sts at beginning of row, then *[k1, inc in next st] 5x, k6, [inc in next st, k1] 5x, pick up left leg, and with RS facing, repeat from * once more. (72 sts)

Row 36: Knit.

Row 38: [k2, inc in next st] 4x, k48, [inc in next st, k2] 4x. (80 sts)

Row 39: (WS) Knit. Cut yarn.

Change To Coat Color.

Row 40: Cast on 3 sts at beginning of row, knit to end, cast on 3 more sts. (86 sts)

Rows 41 – 49: Work even in garter stitch. (5 ridges)

Row 50: k13, ssk, knit to last 15 sts, k2tog, k13.

Row 52: k13, ssk, k7, inc in next st, k2, inc in next st, k32, inc in next st, k2, inc in next st, k7, k2tog, k13.

Row 54: Repeat row 50.

Row 56: k13, ssk, k6, inc in next st, k2, inc in next st, k34, inc in next st, k2, inc in next st, k6, k2tog, k13.

Row 57: (WS) k19, cast off 8, k32, cast off 8, k19.

Join In Sleeves:

Row 58: k19, *place a marker, knit 22 sts of one sleeve, place a marker,* k32, repeat between *'s with second sleeve, k19.

Row 60: Knit. (114 sts)

Row 62: *Knit to 3 sts before 1st marker, ssk, k1, slip marker, k1, k2tog,* repeat at each marker across row, knit to end. (106 sts)

Row 64: Knit.

Row 66: Repeat row 62. (98 sts)

Row 68: Knit.

Rows 70 – 80: Repeat row 62 on every RS row, knit every WS row.

Row 81: (WS) Knit across row, removing markers.

Cut yarn.

Slip first 14 sts and last 14 sts onto a holder for front of head.

Back Of Head:

With RS facing, join bear color to remaining 22 sts.

Rows 82, 83 & 84: Knit.

Row 85: (WS) [k1, k2tog] 3x, k4, [k2tog, k1] 3x. (16 sts)

Row 86: Knit.

Row 88: k1, inc in each of next 14 sts, k1. (30 sts)

Row 90: k2, inc in the next st, knit to last 3 sts, inc in next st, k2.

Rows 92 & 94: Repeat row 90. (36 sts)

Rows 95 – 105: Work even in garter stitch.

Row 106: k2, ssk, knit to the last 4 sts, k2tog, k2.

Row 108 & 110: Repeat row 106. (30 sts)

Rows 112: k27, w&t, k24, w&t, k22, w&t, k20, w&t, k18, w&t, k16, w&t, k14, w&t, k12, w&t, k10, w&t, k8, w&t, k6, w&t, k4, w&t, knit to end.

Row 114: k4, inc in next st, k1, inc in next st, k4, cast off next 8 sts, k4, inc in next st, k1, inc in next st, k4.

Do not cut yarn.

Ears:

Work each ear separately, beginning where yarn is attached.

Row 1: (WS) k13.

Row 2: k4, inc in next st, k3, inc in next st, k4.

Row 3: k15.

Row 4: ssk, k11, k2tog.

Row 5: k2tog, k9, ssk.

Row 6: ssk, k7, k2tog.

Row 7: k2tog, k5, ssk.

Row 8: ssk, k3, k2tog.

Row 9: k2tog, k1, ssk.

Row 10: Slip 1, k2tog, psso.

Cut yarn and fasten off.

Attach yarn to WS of remaining sts and repeat rows 1 – 10 for second ear.

Front Of Head:

With RS facing, join bear color to left front shoulder.

Row 82: k8, slip the next 6 sts onto a cable needle.

Hold this needle over the first 6 sts of the right front, so that coat fronts are overlapped. Knit across these 6 sts, knitting together a st from the cable needle and a st from the back needle. Knit remaining 8 sts of the right front. (22 sts)

Work same as back of head through row 89.

Row 90: k2, inc in next st, k10, inc in each of next 4 sts, k2, w&t, k12, w&t, k20, inc in next st, k2. (36 sts)

Row 92: k2, inc in next st, k13, inc in next st, k2, inc in next st, k4, w&t, k14, w&t, k23, inc in next st, k2. (40 sts)

Row 94: k2, inc in next st, k16, inc in next 2 sts, k6, w&t, k16, w&t, k26, inc in next st, k2. (44 sts)

Row 96: k30, w&t, k16, w&t, k30.

Row 98: k20, k2tog, ssk, k20. (42 sts)

Row 100: k14, ssk, k3, k2tog, ssk, k3, k2tog, k14. (38 sts)

Row 102: k14, ssk, k6, k2tog, k14. (36 sts)

Row 104: Knit.

Beginning with row 106, follow directions for back of head and ears.

Sewing Up:

Use matching wool for all seams. Keep the seams flat, just catching the edges together. They will not be visible after felting.

Sew together cast on edge of hands, then underarm seams of coat sleeves. Sew the cast off sts of sleeve to the cast off sts of body.

Sew inner leg seams from the cast on edge up to where the 5 sts were cast off. At top of legs, sew cast off sts of one leg to the cast off sts of the other, then sew short center front seam up to the coat.

Fold cast on edge of foot so pin is even with inner leg seam. Sew together. (Seam runs from heel to toe.)

Turn bear inside out. Line up the fronts so that 6 sts are overlapped down front of coat. With wool, sew the inside of the overlap together for the first 1" (2.5cm) at top and bottom.

Turn bear RS out and tack down the lower, (cast on) edge of coat overlap with wool.

Sew front and back of head together around the outer edge, including ears. Stitch across bottom of ears through both layers with a loose running stitch. This gives the ears definition.

Work in all yarn ends.

With waste cotton, (do not use wool) baste the rest of the coat overlap closed.

Felting Instructions:

To protect your washer from excess lint, place your project in a zippered pillow protector.

Set washer for hot wash, low water level and maximum agitation.

Add a small amount of wool wash such as Sweater Soap* or use a mild detergent.

Extremely hot water is not needed or desired. You must be able to handle your project during the process.

Adding an old pair of jeans to the wash will increase agitation and help speed the felting.

Using the spin cycle is not recommended as it may set permanent creases in the felt.

While agitating, check on the progress every 5 minutes, always removing your project from the bag each time for a closer look.

Set washer back to agitate longer if needed.

When your bear has felted to a fairly firm fabric and a nice size, remove and rinse by hand in cool water.

Note: If felting with Sweater Soap, only a light rinsing is needed. If detergent was used, rinse thoroughly by hand to remove all traces of detergent.

Roll in a towel to remove as much water as possible.

Shaping:

For best shape, stuff your bear with a temporary stuffing while it is wet. While your bear is drying, work on the head, nose and ears to get the shape you want. Tying the arms together across the tummy until dry will give them a forward bend. Legs can be tied up if you want your bear to sit instead of stand.

Finishing:

When dry, attach eyes and re-stuff to desired fullness. Embroider nose with pearl cotton or use fiber and a felting needle. Working inside the overlap, sew the coat fronts together with sewing thread so that stitches do not show on outside. Add buttons, embroidery or appliqués. If you have made a bear in drawers, embroider the drop seat as shown in photo.

Felt Hat, Bear Style

Every bear should own at least one.

With 16" (40cm) circular needle, cast on 84 sts.

Join into round and knit 20 rounds of stockinette.

Begin Crown:

Round 21: *k2tog,* repeat around. (42 sts)

Rounds 22 & 23: Knit.

Round 24: *k3, m1,* repeat around. (56 sts)

Rounds 25 through 45: Knit.

Top shaping:

Change to double pointed needles when necessary.

Round 46: *k5, k2tog,* repeat around. (48 sts)

Round 47 and all uneven numbered rounds: Knit.

Round 48: *k4, ssk,* repeat around. (40 sts)

Round 50: *k3, k2tog,* repeat around. (32 sts)

Round 52: *k2, ssk,* repeat around. (24 sts)

Round 54: *k1, k2tog,* repeat around. (16 sts)

Round 56: *ssk,* repeat around. (8 sts)

Cut yarn. With a tapestry needle, thread yarn through remaining 8 sts and pull together tightly. Fasten off.

Work in any yarn ends and felt along with your bear.

*Sweater Soap, by Friendly Products, is a low-rinse woolwash available in yarn and craft stores in the U.S. Other brands of woolwash may be used, but check rinsing requirements.