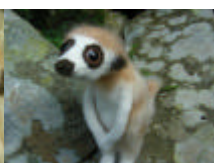




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<http://littlegreen.typepad.com/romansock/>

Meerkat



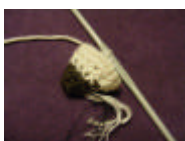
Curious and Cute: these little babies love to be together and cause havoc on their patch. One will always stand guard, if you want a snooze or a snack, just so long as you'll look after them too. They like to be a part of the mob... so once you've got one, you may find your crochet fingers throbbing from making many more.

You will need

- 25g cream coloured yarn (I used RY Classic Bamboo Soft in oatmeal – as bamboo fibres make a very realistic short fur when brushed)
- 25g brown/ beige dk/ light worsted mohair (I used Paton's Spirit in toffee, which is self striping – but if you can't find this, use any mohair, you can always double or triple strand to make dk)
- A tiny amount (like 10 to 15 metres) of dark brown dk/ light worsted yarn
- 15mm safety eyes (I used teddy brown from craftbits.co.uk)
- A small amount of stuffing, needle and thread and yarn needle
- Approx 30 cm of pipe cleaner
- A slicker brush (must have, in order to get the right fur effect) and a 3.5mm crochet hook



Head

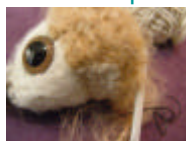


- Work in a spiral.
- Row 1: Magic circle with **brown** wool (7 sts).
- Row 2: Single st in each, 7 sts in total.
- Row 3: Single st in each, 7 sts in total
- Row 4: 2 single sts in each st, apart from the first and last st (12 sts).
- Row 5: Single st in each, 12 sts in total, slip st and cast off.
- Row 6: In **cream** wool (bamboo) Single st in each, 12 sts in total.
- Row 7: Single st in each, 12 sts in total.
- Row 8: 2 single sts in each st, apart from the last st (23 sts).
- Row 9-14: Single st in each, 23 sts in total.
- Row 15: Single st in each, but put 2 sts in every 7th, (this should increase the row count by 3) 26 sts in total, slip st and cast off.
- Using the slicker brush, vigorously brush the cream face – don't be afraid!
- Place and secure eyes – make sure you have already brushed or you could damage the eyes.
- Row 16-20: Use **mohair** and single st into 10 of the 26 sts. Using a turning st, work 4 rows with 10 sts on each row. Cast off.
- Row 16-20: Use **bamboo** and single stitch into the remaining 16 sts. Using a turning st work 5 rows with 10 sts on each row.



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- Row 21: Continue with the **mohair** and single st into each of the 16 worked in **bamboo**. (This will create a head with two slits down the side.)
- Row 22-23: Single st in each, 26 sts in total.
- Close the side slits and stuff the head.
- Now reduce by working every other 2 sts together, then every 2 sts together to create the domed back of the head, add more stuffing as you go.



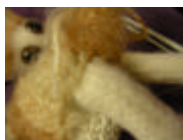
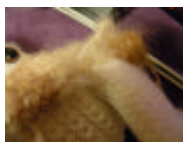
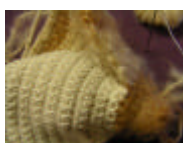
Arms (x 2)

- In **bamboo**, magic circle 9 sts. (7 for thinner arms.)
- Spiral 26 rows, slip st, cast off.
- Put a pipe cleaner in each arm and brush thoroughly.

Body – with the mohair

- Row 1: Magic circle with **mohair**. (9 sts)
- Row 2-4: Single st in each, 9 sts in total.
- Row 5: 2 Single st in each st. (18 sts)
- Row 6-7: Single st in each, 18 sts in total.
- Row 8: Single st in each, but put 2 sts in every 9th -this should increase the row by 2. (20 sts)
- Row 9: Single st in each, 20 sts in total, slip st and cast off.
- Row 10: Single st into 15 of the 20 sts.
- Row 11: Single st in each, but put 2 sts in every 3rd -this should increase the row by 3. (18 sts)
- Row 12: Single st in each, 18 sts in total.
- Row 13: Single st in each, but put 2 sts in every 3rd -this should increase the row by 6. (24 sts)
- Row 14-22: Single st in each, 24 sts in total.
- Row 23: Single st in each, but put 2 sts in every 6th -this should increase the row by 4. (28 sts)
- Row 29: Single st in each, 28 sts in total.

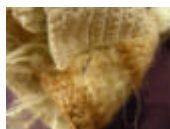
Body - with the bamboo



- Row 10: Using the **bamboo**, single st into the remaining 5 of the 20 sts.
- Row 11: Single st in each, but put 2 sts in every 2nd - this should increase the row by 3, 8 sts in total.
- Row 12: Single st in each, but put 2 sts in every 4th - this should increase the row count by 2, 10 sts in total.
- Row 13: Single st in each, but put 2 sts in every 2nd - this should increase the row count by 4, 14 sts in total.
- Row 14: Single st in each, but put 2 sts in every 4th - this should increase the row count by 3, 17 sts in total.
- Row 15-29 Single st in each, 17 sts in total.
- Sew the edges of the **mohair** and **bamboo** sections, together with the arms, sewing through the pipe cleaner to secure.

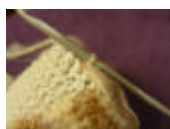


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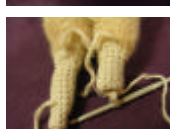
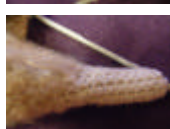
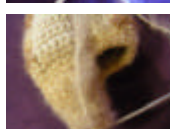
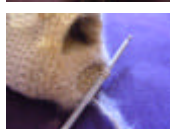
Body - cont

- Sew the sides of the body, the **bamboo** onto the **mohair**.
- Row 30: Using the **mohair**, single st into each st at the bottom of the body joining the two sections together. (this should be 45 sts.)
- Row 31: Single st in each, but st every 15th and 16th sts together. (This should reduce the row count by 3 - 42 sts in total.)
- Row 32: Single st in each, 42 sts in total.
- Row 33: Single st in each, but st every 3rd and 4th sts together. (This should reduce the row count by 12 - 30 sts in total.)
- Row 34: Single st in each, 30 sts in total.
- Stuff the body.



Legs

- Continue with the body, but now we are splitting the body into 2 legs.
- Row 1: Find the 2 middle sts of the body 15th and 16th. Now, using the **mohair**, st into the 15th and chain 4.
- Now attach this chain to the other side of the body with a slip stitch.
- Continue on to the other side and work in a spiral.
- Row 2: Single st in each, 18 sts in total. (St 3 round the chain.)
- Row 3-6: Single st in each, 18 sts in total.
- Row 7: Single st in each, but st every 6th and 7th sts together. (This should reduce the row count by 3, 16 sts in total.)
- Row 8: Single st in each, but st every 4th and 5th sts together. (This should reduce the row count by 4, 12 sts in total.)
- Row 9: Single st in each, 12 sts in total, slip st and cast off.
- Stuff the legs
- Row 10: Using **bamboo** Single st in each, 12 sts in total.
- Row 12: Single st in each, but st every 6th and 7th sts together. (This should reduce the row count by 2, 10 sts in total.)
- Row 13-22: Single st in each, 10 sts in total.
- Insert a pipe cleaner.
- Sew bottom together, and repeat with the other leg.



Tail

- In **mohair**, magic circle 9 sts, spiral single crochet until you have the length you desire.
- Insert pipe cleaner.

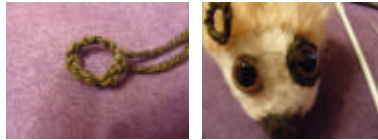




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Head - detail

- Chain 10 sts and slip st together to create a loop (x 2)
- Stitch these around eyes.



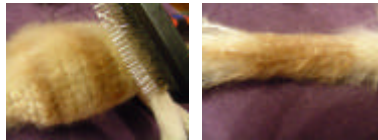
Ears

- Magic circle 7 sts, slip st and cast off (X 2).
- Brush the yarn to make a little fuzzy and weave in ends, before attaching to the head.



Finishing

- Frantically brush the **mohair** section of the head, the whole body, legs and tail.
- Attach the tail to the back of the body – where the tail should be!
- Weave in any ends – do this after brushing to stop the brush from pulling them back out.
- Use the brown yarn to give your meerkat a big smile.



Say hello to your
Meerkat!



Remember, they are naughty, so you
have to grab hold of them sometimes!

