

# 44 Tiny Secrets

## Knitting Pattern

### Materials:

- DK (light worsted/ 8 ply yarn):
- Small ball of brown (approx 30 m/33 yards) Colour A
- Small ball of white (approx 10m/11yards) Colour B
- Small amount of pink (to embroider details)
- Small amount of black (to embroider details)
- Small amount of black sewing cotton for whiskers.
- Toy filling (polyester fibrefill recommended)
- Optional - White and black felt for eyes, pink felt for inside of ears.

### Needles:

- 2.5 mm knitting needles and double pointed needles (US 1.5, UK 12)
- (optional - just use DPNs)
- 3mm double pointed knitting needles (US 2 or 3, UK 11)
- Large eyed blunt tapestry needle or bodkin for making up and finishing

### Other:

- Sharp scissors
- Pencil



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### **Tension:**

Tight enough so stuffing does not show through - approx. 2.5cm (1 inch) measured over 10 sts and 10 rows worked in stocking stitch, using 2.5mm needles

### **Finished size:**

Height approx. 7.5 cms/3 inches nose to base of body, tail 11cm / 4.5 inches long.

### **Notes:**

- a) Before starting to knit, wind off a separate small ball of colour A from original ball to use for colour change with B when knitting body.
- b) When joining in a new colour, twist with working yarn of previous colour at back of work before making next stitch in new colour each time, to avoid holes in work and keep tension tight.

### **Abbreviations:**

cm	centimetre(s)
DPN	double pointed needle(s)
in	inch(es)
K	knit
Kfb	knit into front and back of stitch to increase by one stitch
K2tog	knit 2 stitches together to decrease by one stitch
mm	millimetre(s)
P	purl
Pfb	purl into front and back of stitch to increase by one stitch
P2tog	purl 2 stitches together to decrease by one stitch
sts(s)	stitch(es)
(-, -) x times	repeat stitch sequence inside brackets by number of times shown



## INSTRUCTIONS:

### **Body and head (worked bottom to top):**

Using Colour A, cast on 6 stitches on 2.5 mm needles

Row 1: (Kfb) 6 times (12 sts)

Row 2: Purl

Row 3: (Kfb, K2) 4 times (16 sts)

Row 4: Purl

Row 5: (Kfb, K3) 4 times (20 sts)

Row 6: Purl

Row 7: Knit

Row 8: Purl

Row 9: K9 in A, join in colour B twisting at back of work with A to avoid hole, K2, join in second ball of A twisting with B on back of work as before, K9 with A

Continue to twist yarn on back of work with each colour change in following rows:

Row 10: P8 A, P4 B, P8 A

Row 11: K7 A, K6 B, K7 A

Row 12: P7 A, P6 B, P7 A

Rows 13 - 18: Repeat Rows 11 and 12 three times

Row 19: K7 A, K6 B, K7 A (20 sts)

Row 20: in A P1, (P2tog, P1) twice, in B P2, P2tog, P2, in A P1, (P2tog, P1) twice (15sts)

Row 21: in A K1, K2tog, K2, in B K2tog, K1, K2tog, in A K2, K2tog, K1 (11sts)

Row 22: P4 A, P3 B, P4 A

Shaping the head:

Row 23: in A K1, (Kfb) twice, K1, in B K3, in A K1, (Kfb) twice, K1 (15 sts)

Row 24: in A (P1, Pfb) 3 times, in B P1, P2tog, in A (Pfb, P1) 3 times (20 sts)

Row 25: Continue in colour A only: K9, K2tog (but twist A with end of B on reverse as



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you knit), K9 (pick up second A ball and twist with working yarn on reverse as you knit for a few stitches, cut off second A ball) leaving main working yarn from first ball. Cut off B leaving end, weave this into sts on purl side of white patch using tapestry needle (19 sts)

Row 26: P9, Pfb, P9 (20 sts)

Row 27: K9, (Kfb) twice, K9. (22 sts)

Row 28: P2tog, P8, (Pfb) twice, P8, P2tog (22 sts)

Row 29: (K2tog, K2) twice, K2tog, (Kfb) twice, (K2 tog, K2) twice, K2tog (18 sts)

Row 30: P2 tog, P6, (Pfb) twice, P6, P2tog (18 sts)

Row 31: K2tog, K6, (Kfb) twice, K6, K2tog (18 sts)

Row 32: Optional:

**Either:** Cast off purlwise, pull yarn through last st and tighten. Cut off yarn leaving long end. Turn head right side facing out. Using long end with tapestry needle and ladder stitch, sew up seam from nose and over head to back of neck. Make sure end of nose is fully pushed out (use point of a pencil). Stuff head with toy stuffing.

**Or:** Divide 18 sts equally onto 2 DPNS, fold sts so knit sides are together and sts are parallel on the 2 needles. Push all sts to ends of DPNs with working end of yarn on first st.

Use third 2.5 mm needle for 3 needle cast off - pick up and Ktog first stitches on each of parallel DPNs. Repeat for next pair of stitches, one from each needle. Once 2 sts on third needle, cast off first stitch there by lifting over second stitch and off end of needle.

K next pair of parallel stitches together, cast off another st on third needle as before.

Continue until all sts cast off, thread yarn through last stitch leaving long end. Turn head right sides facing out, sew up seam from top of head to back of neck using long end, tapestry needle and ladder stitch. Make sure end of nose is fully pushed out (use point of pencil). Stuff head with toy stuffing.

Sew rest of back seam to base with more of colour A, tapestry needle and ladder stitch, leaving 2.5cm/1 in gap at base. Stuff body fairly firmly, sew gap and finish off end of yarn.

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### Ears: (Make 2)

Optional: Either cast on 4 sts in A, or pick up 4 sts on one side of top of mouse's head

Row 1: K4

Row 2: P1, (Pfb) twice, P1 (6 sts)

Row 3: K6

Row 4: P6

Row 5: K1, (K2tog) twice, K1 (4 sts)

Row 6: P1, P2tog, P1 (3 sts)

Row 7: K2tog, cast off 1

Pull yarn through last st, cut off leaving long end. Use tapestry needle to weave in end down one edge of back of ear. Pull end to adjust and 'round' off ear shape if necessary, fasten off at base of ear, or use to sew ear to side of head if ears knitted separately.

### Legs: (Make 2)

Change to size 3mm DPNs, use colour A and cast on 4 sts leaving long end

Using icord method:

K4, slide sts to other end of same needle, take working yarn round back of existing sts, K4 again from st nearest end of needle. Repeat process to form 'tube' of knitted icord, until leg measures approx. 6cm/2.5 in

Change to size 2.5mm DPNs: K4 onto first 2.5 DPN, continuing in icord method.

Next row: K1, K2tog, K1 (3 sts)

Knit next 4 rows in icord method.

Final row: Cast off 2 sts, pull yarn through last st, tighten and cut off leaving end, weave end back through leg

Optional (only if mouse not to be used as children's toy): thread a length of brown pipe cleaner through centre of icord leg, easing yarn over with tapestry needle. Take care pipe cleaner does not poke through side or end of icord at narrow 'foot' end. Lightly stuff icord at thigh end of leg with small wisps of toy stuffing around pipe cleaner.

Estimate length of pipe cleaner already threaded, allow this length again and add 3cms.

Cut off pipe cleaner at combined length. Make a channel through mouse body stuffing

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at base, from side to side about 1cm up, using a pencil - entry and exit should each be about .75cms/.5 in from middle of back (for top of legs). Carefully thread empty end of pipe cleaner through channel and pull up existing leg to body. Thread second leg onto pipe cleaner, lightly stuff thigh end and pull up to body on other side.

Bend both legs into 2 shape with 'knee' bend half way along wider stuffed icord, 'heel' bend at start of narrower icord 'foot'. Sew top of legs firmly to sides of body about .75cms/.5 in from middle of back with long yarn end and tapestry needle, also sew on insides of thighs to fix 2 shape, feet facing forwards in position to allow mouse to sit squarely.

### **Arms: (Make 2)**

Use colour A and 2.5mm DPNs to cast on 3 sts leaving long end, K approx 3cms in icord method.

Last row: Cast off 2 sts, pull yarn through last st, tighten and cut off yarn, weave end back through arm using tapestry needle.

Use long ends at cast on edge to sew arms to sides of upper body, either side of white patch and below neck, to hang angled down towards middle front.

### **Tail:**

Use pink yarn and 2.5mm DPNs to cast on 2 sts, leaving long end. K in icord method until tail measures approx 11cm/4.5 in.

Final row: K2tog, pull yarn through last st and tighten, cut off and weave end back through tail. Sew tail to mouse centre back at bottom between legs, using long end from cast on edge.

### **Finishing:**

Using tapestry needle:

Embroider pink yarn 'satin stitch' on inside of ears (optional - use circles of pink felt)

Embroider 3 small lines of pink yarn on front ends of feet to suggest 'toes'

**Eyes:** Embroider 'circles' in white yarn for eyes approx .75cm/.25in wide ('chain st' or 'satin st'), on either side of face below ears and approx 2.5cm/1in back from nose (optional - use circles of white felt)

Embroider small dots in black yarn as 'pupils' on front of white eyes (optional - use black felt)



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**Nose:** Embroider small rounded 'triangle' v shape in black yarn on tip of nose

**Mouth:** Stitch one strand of black yarn from point approx 1cm back from nose on right side of face, round under chin to matching point on left side. Bring needle with black yarn out again at top centre of front white patch next to black stitch and catch middle of black yarn with another tiny stitch, tighten to form curved 'smile' and finish off.

**Whiskers:** Use black sewing cotton to sew in whiskers each side of nose, above and in front of mouth. On each side: fasten on with 2 small sts, make a 2cm loop, anchor with another small st at base of loop. Make another 2cm loop, anchor with 2-3 more small sts at base and finish off. Cut loops to make 4 equal 1cm whiskers, on either side of face.

Finally, if using pipe cleaner in legs, adjust legs and feet to help mouse to sit up straight.

Keep away from your favourite cheese.



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