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Rabbit

An original pattern by Susan B. Anderson for Spud & Chloë

Finished Measurements:

3 inches wide by 7 inches tall

Yarn:

Spud & Chloë Sweater (55% superwash wool, 45 % organic cotton; 160 yards/100 grams), 1 skein in Ice Cream #7500

Tools:

US size 5 double pointed needles, set of 4 or size to obtain gauge
Yarn needle
Scissors
Tape measure or ruler
Polyester fiber-fill (small amount)
Tennis ball (optional)
Black embroidery floss
Stitch marker
Stitch holder or waste yarn

Gauge:

6 stitches per inch in stockinette stitch

Abbreviations:

k knit

p purl

k2tog knit 2 stitches together

m1 make a stitch by placing the bar between the stitches on the left needle and knitting it through the back loop

kfb knit in the front and back of the same stitch

st(s) stitch(es)

rnd(s) round(s)

**Body:**

Starting at the bottom of the body with Ice Cream and the double-pointed needles cast on 9 stitches placing 3 stitches on each of 3 double-pointed needles. Join to

work in the round being careful not to twist the stitches. Place a stitch marker on the first stitch.

Rnd 1: knit

Rnd 2: (k1, m1, k1, m1, k1) repeat to the end of the round (5 sts per needle, 15 sts total)

Rnd 3: knit

Rnd 4: (k1, m1, knit to the last stitch on the needle, m1, k1) repeat on each needle

Rnd 5: knit

Repeat rounds 4 and 5 until there are 15 stitches on each needle, 45 stitches total. End with a round 4. Place a stitch marker on the last completed round and leave it there.

Knit every round until the body measures 1 ½ inches above the stitch marker.

Decrease rounds:

Rnd 1: (k3, k2tog) repeat to the end of the round (12 sts per needle, 36 sts total remain)

Rnd 2: (k2, k2tog) repeat to the end of the round (9 sts per needle, 27 sts total remain)

At this point, place the end from the cast on stitches on a yarn needle. Gather up and close the hole at the cast on end of the body. Pull the end to the inside and trim.

Now is the time to insert the tennis ball into the body and continue knitting around the tennis ball to the end. This is a little awkward but there are only a few rounds left. The other option is to stuff the body with fiber-fill at this time and continue stuffing until the last round. Stuff the body until it is firm.

Rnds 3 and 4: knit

Rnd 5: (k1, k2tog) repeat to the end of the round (6 sts per needle, 18 sts total remain)

Rnd 6: knit

Rnd 7: (k2tog) repeat to the end of the round (3 sts per needle, 9 sts total remain)

Cut the yarn and place the end on a yarn needle. Pull through the remaining stitches and pull up tight to close the hole. Pull the end to the inside and trim.

Next up are the arms and bottom paws. You can wait until after the head is attached to place the arms and paws or you can attach them as they are completed.

Arm (make 2):

With double-pointed needles and Ice Cream, cast on 4 stitches on each of three double pointed needles, 12 stitches total. Join to work in the round being careful not to twist the stitches. Place a stitch marker on the first stitch.

Rnds 1-10: knit

Rnd 11: (k2, k2tog) on each needle (9 sts remain)

Cut the yarn and pull through the remaining stitches. Pull up tight to close the hole and take a few stitches to secure. Pull the end to the inside, weave in the end and trim.

Stuff the arm lightly with fiberfill and whipstitch the cast on end closed. Whipstitch the arm to the body using the photo as a guide. I attached the arms at a slight angle so the arms would hang forward.

Bottom Paw (make 2):

With double-pointed needles and Ice Cream, cast on 5 stitches on each of three double pointed needles, 15 stitches total. Join to work in the round being careful not to twist the stitches. Place a stitch marker on the first stitch.

Rnds 1-7: knit

Rnd 8: (k3, k2tog) on each needle (12 sts remain)

Rnd 9: (k2, k2tog) on each needle (9 sts remain)

Cut the yarn and pull through the remaining stitches. Pull up tight to close the hole and take a few stitches to secure. Pull the end to the inside, weave in the end and trim.

Stuff the paw lightly with fiberfill and whipstitch the cast on end closed. Whipstitch the paw to the bottom front body using the photo as a guide. I attached the paws at a slight angle so they would point slightly out.



Head:

Starting at the bottom of the head with Ice Cream and double-pointed needles, cast on 9 stitches placing 3 stitches on each of 3 needles. Join to work in the round being careful not to twist the stitches. Place a stitch marker on the first stitch.

Rnd 1: knit

Rnd 2: kfb in each stitch (6 sts per needle, 18 sts total)

Rnd 3: knit

Rnd 4: kfb in each stitch (12 sts per needle, 36 sts total)

Place a stitch marker on round 4 and leave it there. Knit every round until the head measures 1½ inches above the stitch marker.

Decrease:

Rnd 1: (k4, k2tog) repeat to the end of the round (10 sts per needle, 30 sts total remain)

Rnd 2: (k3, k2tog) repeat to the end of the round (8 sts per needle, 24 sts total remain)

At this time place the end from the cast on stitches on a yarn needle. Take several stitches to gather and close the hole at the base of the head. Pull the end to the inside and trim. Stuff the head with fiber-fill until firm.

Ears:

Continuing on, place the first 12 stitches on 3 double-pointed needles placing 4 stitches on each needle. Leave the other 12 stitches on a stitch holder or waste yarn. Join to work in the round on the 12 stitches on the needles.

Knit 6 rounds.

Next rnd: (k1, m1, k2, m1, k1) on each needle (6 sts per needle, 18 sts total)

Knit every round until the ear measures 2 ¼ inches from the beginning of the ear.

Decrease for the top of the ear as follows:

Rnd 1: (k4, k2tog) on each needle (5 sts per needle, 15 sts total remain)

Rnd 2: (k3, k2tog) on each needle (4 sts per needle, 12 sts total remain)

Rnd 3: (k2, k2tog) on each needle (3 sts per needle, 9 sts total remain)

Cut the yarn and place the end on a yarn needle. Pull through the remaining stitches and pull up tight to close the hole. Stitch to secure and pull the end to the inside. I pulled the end back through the bottom front of the ear and took several stitches to pull the bottom of the ear edges together (see photo). Pull the end to the inside and trim.

Reattach the yarn in between the ears leaving a 6 inch end on the outside of the head (this end will be used later). Place the 12 stitches from the stitch holder or waste yarn onto 3 double-pointed needles (4 sts per needle). Repeat as for the first ear.

Finish stuffing the head. Do not stuff the bunny ears.

Place the end from the reattached yarn on a yarn needle and take a few stitches to close the gap in between the ears. Pull the end to the inside and trim to stay inside.

Place a length of Ice Cream on a yarn needle and whipstitch the head to the top of the body. Pull the end to the inside and trim.

Bunny Tail:

With Ice Cream make a 1-inch pom-pom with 50 wraps. Attach at the lower back of the body. Attach the tail last and place to assure that Rabbit can stand up on its own.



Face:

Use the black embroidery floss and the yarn needle to stitch the face. Take straight stitches to make the eyes and nose. Pull the ends to the inside and trim. Use the photos as a guide.

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