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Flamingo

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

Finished Measurements:

3 inches wide by 5 inches tall

Yarn:

Spud & Chloë Sweater (55% superwash wool, 45 % organic cotton; 160 yards/100 grams), 1 skein each in Watermelon #7512, Ice Cream #7500 and Popsicle #7501

Blue Sky Alpacas Worsted Cotton (100% organically grown cotton; 150 yards/100 grams), 1 skein in Ink #613

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

Pinky Hi-Bounce Ball (optional)

Black embroidery floss

Stitch marker

2 pipe cleaners

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 Watermelon 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 13 stitches on each needle, 39 stitches total.

End with a round 5.

Next rnd: (k1, m1, knit to the end of the needle) repeat on each needle (14 sts per needle, 42 total stitches)

Place a stitch marker on the last completed round and leave it there. Knit every round until the body measures 1 ¼ inches above the stitch marker.

Decrease rounds:

Rnd 1: (k5, k2tog) repeat to the end of the round (12 sts per needle, 36 sts total remain)

Rnd 2: knit

Rnd 3: (k4, k2tog) repeat to the end of the round (10 sts per needle, 30 sts total remain)

Rnd 4: knit

At this point place the end from the cast on stitches on a yarn needle. Take some stitches to gather and close the hole at the bottom of the body. Pull the end to the inside, weave in and trim.

Place the Pinky Hi-Bounce Ball inside of the body and continue knitting with the ball inside. It is a little awkward for a few rounds!

Rnd 5: (k3, k2tog) repeat to the end of the round (8 sts per needle, 24 sts total remain)

Rnd 6: (k2, k2tog) repeat to the end of the round (6 sts per needle, 18 sts total remain)

Rnd 7: knit

Rnd 8: (k1, k2tog) repeat to the end of the round (4 sts per needle, 12 sts total remain)

Neck:

Place a stitch marker on round 8 and leave it there. Continue to knit every round until the neck measures 1 ½ inches above the stitch marker. Stuff the neck with fiberfill until firm. Continue to stuff the neck and head as you work to the end.



Increase for the head:

Rnd 1: (k1, m1, k2, m1, k1) repeat on each needle (6 sts per needle, 18 sts total)

Rnds 2-6: knit

Rnd 7: (k1, k2tog) repeat to the end of the round (4 sts per needle, 12 sts total remain)

At this point continue to stuff the head with fiberfill. At the same time cut two pipe cleaners to 6 inches in length each. Twist them together. Bend $\frac{1}{4}$ inch over at the ends so the wire doesn't stick out. Insert the twisted pipe cleaners into the head and neck (along the top of the head and neck). Push it in until the ends reach the ball. The pipe cleaners become sort of like a spine and allow you to bend the neck and beak to form a curved shape. The other ends of bent over pipe cleaners will be sticking out of the head at this time. Continue to knit around the pipe cleaner ends.

Beak:

Switch to Ice Cream.

Note: Make sure the ends are secure and then trim. I often tie a half-knot to secure. I leave about an inch on the ends when trimming and then just tuck them inside.

Rnds 8 and 9: knit

Switch to Ink.

Rnds 10 and 11: knit

Rnd 12: (k2, k2tog) repeat on each needle (3 sts per needle, 9 sts total remain)

Rnds 13 and 14: knit

Rnd 15: (k1, k2tog) repeat on each needle (2 sts per needle, 6 sts total remain)

Rnds 16 and 17: knit

Rnd 18: (k2tog) repeat on each needle (1 st per needle, 3 sts total remain)

Complete any last stuffing. Trim the pipe cleaners to fit inside the beak if necessary, remember to bend the ends over. Cut the yarn and pull through the remaining stitch. Place the end on a yarn needle and pull to the inside and trim to stay inside.

Eyes:

With a cut length of black embroidery floss take 2 tiny straight stitches for each eye. Use the photos as a guide. Trim all ends to stay inside.



Leg (make 2):

With Popsicle and 2 double-pointed needles cast on 3 stitches. Work in I-cord for 6 inches.

Increase for foot and continue to work the remaining rows in I-cord (sliding the stitches to the other end of the needle and carrying the yarn around the back):

Row 1: k1, m1, k1, m1, k1 (5 sts)

Rows 2-5: work in I-cord

Row 6: k2tog, k1, k2tog (3 sts remain)

Row 7: work in I-cord

Row 8: slip 1, k2tog, pass the slipped stitch over the first stitch and off the right needle. (1 st remains)

Cut the yarn and place the end on a yarn needle. Pull the end to the inside and trim.

Tie a knot about half way on the leg. Place the end from the cast on stitches on a yarn needle. Use the whipstitch to attach the legs to the bottom and toward the front of the body. Use the photos as a guide.

Tail and Wings (make 3):

With Watermelon cast on 14 stitches placing 4 stitches on the first two double-pointed needles and 6 stitches on the third double-pointed needle. Join to work in the round making sure not to twist the stitches. Place a stitch marker on the first stitch.

Rnds 1-5: knit

Rnd 6: (k5, k2tog) repeat to the end of the round (12 sts remain)

Rnd 7: (k4, k2tog) repeat to the end of the round (10 sts remain)

Switch to Popsicle.

Rnd 8: knit

To make the frilly edging use the picot bind off as follows:

Knit 1 stitch. Place the stitch back on the left needle. *Using the backward loop cast on technique, cast on 2 stitches on the left needle. Bind off 4 stitches. Place the remaining stitch on the right needle onto the left needle and repeat from the *.

Cut the yarn leaving a 5-inch end. Pull the end through the remaining stitch. Place the end on a yarn needle and whipstitch the end of the wing or tail together leaving the picot edge open (stitch along the color change round on the inside of the wing/tail). Pull the end to the inside and trim.

Place the end from the cast on stitches on a yarn needle. Lay the wing or tail flat and whipstitch the cast on edge closed. Whipstitch the tail to the lower center of the back and the wings to each side. Use the photos as a placement guide. Pull all ends to the inside and trim.

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