



Thanks for offering to knit a critter for the reading programs. The children like the more novel critters, so creativity is in demand! The pattern is the same for both small and large sizes; the weight of the yarn determines the finished size. The critter is knit in rounds from the tip of the tail, up the body, to the tip of the trumpet. The critter is stuffed, and then eyes, hair, and ears are added. Knit this from leftovers, or from one of the kits provided by MKG. Most of all, have fun!!

Please be sure to read through pattern and pattern notes before beginning.

MATERIALS

Sizes: Small, Large

Yarn:

- Small size: 75 yds of fingering/sock yarn
- Large size: 85 yds of worsted weight yarn

Needles:

Double-pointed needles in following sizes, or a size that produces a tight fabric:

- Small size: US 2/2.75mm
- Large size: US 4/3.5mm – US 6/4mm
- Optional: needles smaller than the working needle for the trumpet

(See Pattern Notes)

Gauge:

Gauge is not critical

Other Materials:

- Felt and embroidery thread or yarn for eyes (See Pattern Notes.)
- Yarn remnants for hair
- Fiberfill or other material for stuffing
- About 24" yarn (small); 24" narrow ribbon (large) to tie off body at tail and head
- Crochet hook or tapestry/yarn needle

Abbreviations: dpns: double-pointed needles; K: knit; K2tog: knit 2 sts together; Kfb: knit into front and back of st; P: purl; Sts: stitches; Yo: yarn over; [...] repeat enclosed instructions as specified

PATTERN NOTES

- Feel free to use whatever colors (and as many colors) you like; children delight in creatures of wild and wacky colors.
- Be sure the fabric is tight enough to prevent the stuffing from showing but not stiff. It's ok to have knots on the inside of critters; just tie the knots tightly and leave about 2" tails inside the critter.
- For a nice, straight trumpet (the long "nose"), use a smaller size needle to create a denser fabric.

- When stuffing your critter, you want your critter firm, but not hard; aim for “cuddly”.
- **Do not use beads or buttons for eyes or any other embellishment!** These toys may be going to very young children and beads or buttons are choking hazards.
- Facial features: Eyes can be embroidered using simple stitches or created with sewn-on felt pieces. French knots are often used for knitted critters' eyes. Directions and demonstrations can be found online. “Spoke” eyes are another embroidered option: Make 5 running stitches coming out from the center of the eye to the outer edge (like spokes of a wheel), then weave the yarn from the outer edge in a circular direction going under and over the spokes to make a solid eye.

DIRECTIONS

Body with Head & Tail

Cast on 40 sts and distribute on dpns. Join and place marker for beginning of round.

Rounds 1-3: Knit.

Round 4 (eyelet round): [Yo, k2tog] to end of round. (Later, yarn or ribbon will be threaded through this round and pulled tight to form the tail at the end of the body.)

Knit 35 rounds.

Round 40 (eyelet round): Repeat Round 4. (Later, yarn or ribbon will be threaded through this round and pulled tight to form the head.)

Knit 15 rounds.

Head Shaping

Round 1: [K1, k2tog] to end of round, ending with k1. — 27 sts

Round 2: Knit.

Round 3: [K1, k2tog] to end of round. — 18 sts

Round 4: Knit.

Round 5: [K1, k2tog] to end of round. — 12 sts

Trumpet

Note: Switching to a smaller needle will create a nice, straight trumpet.

[K1, p1] to end of round, repeating until trumpet is desired length (Recommended length is approx. 2” for the small and 3” for the large).

Last round of trunk: Kfb of each stitch to end of round. Bind off loosely; pull ends into trumpet.

Finishing

Filling

Cut two lengths of yarn for the small trumpet sniffer or two lengths of ribbon for the large about 12 in long. Using a crochet hook or needle, weave the yarn or ribbon through the holes in the openwork of Rounds 4 and 40. Stuff the head section, then tie the yarn or ribbon tightly below the head. For the small critter, make a double-knotted bow and use a needle or crochet hook to bury ends inside the body. For the large critter, tie the ribbon in a bow and tack it securely to the critter body. Continue stuffing until the end, then tie the yarn or ribbon (that was woven into the eyelets of Round 4) tightly at the end, securing the yarn or ribbon as before. This creates a little ruffled tail.

Ears (make 2)

Leaving a long tail for sewing the ear onto the critter, cast on 10 or 12 sts on two needles and work in garter stitch (knit every row) until you have a little square. Bind off loosely, leaving a long tail. Fold the square diagonally to form a triangle and sew one side of the triangle closed with one of the tails. Turn the ear inside out and sew it to the critter with the other tail.

Eyes

Embroider eyes (see Pattern Notes) or sew on bits of felt for eyes. **No beads or buttons, please!**

Hair

Get creative: use contrasting yarn scraps and knot them into the head using a crochet hook or yarn needle; decorate with a bow; create pigtailed or braids... whatever tickles your fancy!

