

cheeky monkey

advanced pattern by Amanda Berry from Fluff and Fuzz

You will need: a pair of 3.25mm (UK 10/US 3) straight knitting needles, a darning or tapestry needle, a sewing needle, brown, beige, yellow and black DK yarn, embroidery thread, 2 x 4mm black beads, a piece of white felt and some toy stuffing (cotton wool balls work just as well)

Grab a banana and get comfy in your favourite knitting spot. Let's get down to monkey business.

techniques

To cast on: Use the knitted cast on for all pieces. For seaming: Use mattress stitch.

To cast off: Cut the yarn leaving a 30cm tail. Thread the tail onto a darning needle and sew through the remaining stitches on the knitting needle. Pull the stitches off the knitting needle onto the yarn, gather tightly together and secure the yarn.

pattern for the body

Make 1. Cast on 28 sts in brown on straight 3.25mm needles

Rows 1 and 2: k

Rows 3 to 16: Starting with a RS knit row, work in st.st

Row 17: k2tog fourteen times (14 sts)

Row 18: p

Row 19: k2tog seven times (7sts)

Pull through to cast off

for the head

Make 1. Cast on 9 sts in brown on straight 3.25mm needles

Start at the back of the head

Work rows 1 to 8 in brown

Row 1: p (WS)

Row 2: kfb nine times (18 sts, RS)

Row 3: p

Row 4: [kfb, k2] six times (24 sts)

Rows 5 to 8: Starting with a WS purl row, work in st.st

Work rows 9 to 14 in beige

Row 9: p

Row 10: k3, [k2tog, k1] six times, k3 (18 sts)

Rows 11 to 13: Starting with a WS purl row, work in st.st

Row 14: k2tog nine times (9 sts)

Pull through to cast off



Abbreviations DK - Double knitting or light worsted weight yarn; k - knit; kfb - knit into the front and back of the next stitch; k2tog - knit two stitches together; p - purl; rep - repeat; RS - right side of work; st(s) - stitch(es); st.st. - stockinette, knit on RS, purl on WS; WS - wrong side of work

for the ears

Make 2. Cast on 8 sts in brown on straight 3.25mm needles

Row 1: k

Row 2: k2tog four times (4 sts)

Pull through to cast off

for the arms

Make 2. Cast on 5 sts in brown on straight 3.25mm needles

Rows 1 to 16: starting with a WS purl row, work in st.st

Pull through to cast off

for the banana

Make 1. Cast on 3 sts in yellow on straight 3.25mm needles

Row 1: p (WS)

Row 2: k1, kfb, k1 (4 sts, RS)

Row 3: p

Row 4: k1, kfb twice, k1 (6 sts)

Rows 5 to 7: Starting with a WS purl row, work in st.st

Row 8: k1, k2tog twice, k1 (4 sts)

Row 9: p

Row 10: k1, k2tog, k1 (3 sts)

Pull through to cast off

here comes the sewing bit...

make the hat

Sew the side edges together to make the back seam.

make monkey's head

Sew the side edges together adding a little stuffing as you sew (this seam runs down the underside of the head). Gather the cast on sts together. Use black embroidery thread to add the mouth. Sew on the beads backed with felt circles for eyes.

make monkey's ears

For each ear, sew the first and last cast on sts together to make a small circle, and sew onto the side of the head.

now to put it all together

Sew the finished head onto the top of the hat. Now take the arms and sew the side edges of each arm together, and sew the cast on edge onto the top of the hat. Make the banana by sewing the side edges together and adding a little stuffing as you sew, then gather the cast on stitches together. Sew the banana onto monkey's hand to finish.

Good job, you've created the cheekiest of cheeky monkeys.