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UK HAND KNITTING

Commit to Knit

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PORTLAND BEAR 🖌

Kindly donated by Emma Varnam

This little bear is in celebration of Emma's favourite museum in the North West of England – Portland Basin Museum. Huge thanks to Emma for letting us publish it for the first time here.

Yarn

Sirdar Cotton Dk (212m/100g) 1 ball in shade537 for the bear and oddments in 501 and 514 for the scarf

Black embroidery thread.

Tools

3.5mm hook, 3mm hook

Tapestry needle

10mm safety eyes (optional) – for bears intended for young children, embroider the eyes.

Polyester stuffing

Measurements

23cm/9in tall x 13cm/5in wide

PATTERN

LEGS (make 2)

Using 3.5mm hook make a magic ring.
Round 1: 1 ch, 6 dc into the centre of the ring.
Round 2: 2 dc into each st (12 sts).
Round 3: (1 dc, dc2inc) 6 times (18 sts).
Round 4: (2 dc, dc2inc) 6 times (24 sts).
Rounds 5-8: Work 4 rounds straight.
Round 9: 9 dc,(dc2tog) 3 times, 9 dc (21 sts).
Round 10: 8 dc, dc2tog, dc3tog, 8 dc (18 sts).
Round 11-23: Work 13 rounds straight.

Fasten off leaving a 20cm tail of yarn. Fill each leg firmly with stuffing. Fold the top of the leg width wise. You will now use the stitches at the top of the leg to start working the body.

Body and head

Attach yarn to the back of the left leg, work 18 dc then attach the right leg by working 18 dc from right leg. Work now in continuous spirals (36 sts).

Round 1: (5dc, dc2inc) 6 times (42 sts).
Rounds 2-25: Work 24 rounds straight.
Round 26: (5 dc, dc2tog) 6 times (36 sts).
Round 27: (4 dc, dc2tog) 6 times (30 sts).
Round 28: (3 dc, dc2tog) 6 times (24 sts).
Round 29: (2 dc, dc2tog) 6 times (18 sts).

At this point using the photo as the guide, position the safety eyes and stuff the majority of the legs and body.

Round 30: (1 dc, dc2tog) 6 times (12 sts).
Round 31: (dc2tog) 6 times (6 sts).

Fasten off leaving a 20cm tail of yarn. Finish stuffing the head then use the tail of yarn to gather and secure the last stitches.

Arms (make 2)

Using 3.5mm hook, make a magic ring.
Round 1: 1 ch, 6 dc into the centre of the ring.
Round 2: (1 dc, dc2inc) 3 times (9 sts).
Round 3: (2 dc, dc2inc) 3 times (12 sts).
Rounds 4–18: Work 15 rounds straight.
Round 19: (2dc, dc2tog) 3 times (9 sts).

Fasten off. Leave a yarn tail to sew to the body.

Ears (make 2)

Using 3.5mm hook and A, make a magic ring.
Round 1: 1 ch, 6 dc into centre of the ring (6 sts).
Round 2: (1 dc, dc2inc) 3 times (9 sts).
Round 3: (2 dc, dc2inc) 3 times (12 sts).
Round 4: (3 dc, dc2inc) 3 times (15 sts).
Rounds 5–6: Work 2 rounds straight.

Fasten off. Leave a yarn tail to sew to the head.

Neckerchief

With 3mm needles and white, 3 ch.
Row 1: 1 dc in second ch from hook, dc2inc in last ch, turn (3sts).

Row 2: 1 ch, dc to end, turn (3 sts).
Change to Blue.
Row 3: 1 ch, miss 1 st, (dc2inc) twice, turn, (4 sts).
Row 4: 1 ch, dc to end, turn (4 sts).
Change to White.
Row 5: 1 ch, miss 1 st, dc to last 2 sts, (dc2inc) twice, turn, (5sts).
Row 6: 1 ch, dc to end, turn (5 sts).

Continue to rep rows 5 and 6, alternating between blue and white every two rows.
Work until you have 14 sts.
Fasten off.

Attach two strands of wool approximately 7cm long to the corners of the neckerchief to create ties.

Making up

Body: Below the eyes embroider a small triangle for the nose and a mouth using back stitch.

Legs: Sew or slip stitch the top of the legs together between the last row of the legs and the first round of the body to create a seam which will allow the legs to bend.

Arms: Firmly stuff the arms and sew securely to the sides of the body.

Fold ear in half and sew firmly to head.

Tie the neckerchief around his neck.

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STANDARD KNITTING ABBREVIATIONS

C4B	place next 2 sts on cable needle and hold to back, k2, k2 from cable needle
C4F	place next 2 sts on cable needle and hold to front, k2, k2 from cable needle
cm	centimetre(s)
cont	continue
dec	decreas(e)ing
foll(s)	follow(s)ing
in	inch(es)
inc	increas(e)ing
K	knit
M1	make 1 sts, by lifting yarn before next st on to left needle and knitting into back of loop
P	purl
patt	pattern
Pm	place marker
rem	remain(ing)
rep	repeat
RS	right side
Sl	slip st
Sm	slip marker
Ssk	sl1 knitwise, sl1 knitwise, k the two slipped sts tog tbl
St(s)	stitch(es)
St st	stocking stitch
tbl	through back of loop
Tog	together
WS	wrong side.

Crochet Abbreviations (UK)

Ch	chain
cm	centimetre(s)
cont	continue
Dc	double crochet
dc2inc	dc two stitches into stitch below
dc2tog	double crochet next 2 sts together
dc3tog	double crochet next 3 sts together
dec	decreas(e)ing
foll(s)	follow(s)ing
htr	half treble
in	inch(es)
patt	pattern
rem	remain(ing)
rep	repeat
RS	right side
Sp	space
Ss	slip stitch
St(s)	stitch(es)
tbl	through back of loop
tr	treble
WS	wrong side.