



Cat Mies, dog Kees, and fox Teun

a pattern by

Zijmaakthet

First, I knit a cat and called her Mies, after the cat in the ‘Oud-Hollandse leesplankje’, the traditional Dutch primer with the first words children used to learn. The body of Mies is also suitable for a little dog, his name is Kees, from the same origin, and his pattern is included. And then you take the pattern for Kees the dog, use the pointed ears from Mies, and make a thicker tail, and you have Teun, the fox.

The animals are knitted in one piece, without seams, in the round. First you knit the head with the ears. Kees, and Mies and Teun have a bit of a wobbly head, as there isn’t an open connection between the body and the head. Because of this, the animals can lie on their bellies and still look up. The body with the legs is knitted on to the head though. The tail is last. When you have finished knitting, you can move straight on to stuffing the softy, without spending hours working out how to fit the pieces together and sew it up first.

In Dutch, we have the single word “knuffel”, which is a cuddly stuffed animal like the ones described in this pattern. In this pattern I use the word softy for a stuffed animal in general.

What you need

- For one softy you will need about 250 meters of yarn, that is 150 grams of yarn suitable for 4 or 5 mm needles (worsted) or 100 grams of yarn suitable for 2.5 to 3.5 mm needles (fingering/sport). You can make the softy using a finer or heavier weight yarn. A heavier weight yarn will use more, and a finer weight will use less yardage.
- A circular needle or double pointed needles (DPNs) in a size that matches the yarn you are using. If you use DPNs, then preferably use a set of 5. It can be useful to have a few DPNs at hand in a smaller size.
- A darning needle for slipping stitches on to waste yarn and weaving in ends.
- Some waste yarn in a contrasting color for setting stitches aside. Choose a smooth yarn for this so it can easily be removed again.
- A small length of darker yarn to knit and embroider the mouth and nose.
- Stuffing. Use wool or polyester stuffing for filling.
- Eyes. For this softy buttons or eyes that are sewn on are easiest. If you are making the softy for a small child, you should embroider the eyes or use special safety eyes (see the box on page 11)



General instructions

- You can use any kind of yarn. Always use smaller needles than the yarn requires, the knitting needs to be tight enough for the stuffing not to show through. The animals in the picture on the front page of this pattern were knit using yarn requiring 5 mm needles, but I knit them on 4 mm needles. Using this yarn the softy will be about 25 cm/10" high sitting down. I made the samples on a circular needle (80 cm/32" or longer), but it can be easily done on a set of 5 DPNs too. A large part could be done on just 4 needles, but in some sections it will be more comfortable to use a set of 5 rather than forcing your knitting into a triangle shape.
- The softies are knit in the round. Unless specified otherwise, each round begins and ends at the same spot in your knitting. If it helps you, you can mark this spot with a stitch marker. You will know you have counted correctly, if you end the round exactly at the stitch marker.
- In various places, you will have to pick up stitches or slip stitches off waste yarn back on to the needle. Use a smaller size extra needle/DPN for this. It will be easier to pick up the stitches. Continue knitting using the main needle you use for the whole softy.
- How to avoid holes. In some spots where stitches are picked up, small holes or gaps will easily appear. If you are worried about this happening, pick up an extra stitch in this spot and knit it together with the stitch before or after it on the next round.
- Knitting Short Rows. I use short rows in a number of places in this pattern to achieve the desired shape in the knitted fabric. In the pattern description it might look like this: k14 ← sl p8 ← sl k7 k2tog k4. Read this line as follows: knit 14 stitches, turn (yes really, turn your knitting in the middle of the round). You will now knit on the

wrong side of the fabric – in circular knitting this is the inside – slip 1 stitch and then purl 8 stitches. Turn your work again, you are now back on the right side of your knitting, slip another stitch, knit 7 stitches, then knit 2 stitches together; the gap from the previous turn was between these two stitches and is now closed up. Finish knitting the row according to the pattern, in this example that is knit 4. There is still a gap where the second turn was made. In this pattern you will always be closing this gap in the next round by knitting the stitches before and after the gap together, which will make that gap disappear.

- Some people think the pattern looks like higher mathematics. Actually, it isn't as complicated as it looks. Make sure to check the list of abbreviations, so you know what to expect. After that just start at the beginning and do exactly what it says. Every stitch that needs to be knitted is in the pattern, don't create more.
- A post-it note is very useful for marking the pattern to keep track of your progress. You can easily replace them. Stick it under the line you are working on. If you need to knit a certain line multiple times, you can keep a tally on the post-it note.



Abbreviations

k2	Knit 2 stitches
p3	Purl 3 stitches
*	Increase one stitch between stitches by lifting the bar between two stitches and knitting it twisted, as the pictures below show.
@	Increase one stitch between stitches by lifting the bar between two stitches and purling it twisted, as the pictures below show
k2tog	Knit 2 stitches together
k3tog	Knit 3 stitches together
ssk	Slip, slip, and knit these two stitches together through the back leg
sssk	slip, slip, slip, knit these 3 stitches together through the back leg
[1]	Your knitting should now look like the sample in photo 1
[k2 k2tog]7x	Work the instructions between brackets 7 times
{k30}3x	Instructions between these brackets are for full rounds. In this example, work this round 3 times
sl	Slip one stitch
←	Turn your work
yo	Yarn Over: Wrap the yarn around the right needle.
w5	Work the following 5 stitches as they present themselves, knit the knit stitches, purl the purl stitches



*
Knitwise increase



@
Purlwise increase

Lay-out of the pattern

The 3 softies in this pattern have the same body, the heads with the ears and the tails are different.
You can knit the softies individually.

Make sure you read the general directions on page 2/3 before you start and check the list of abbreviations on page 3.

The cat's pattern starts at page 5



The dog's pattern starts at page 8.

On some pages of the pattern you will find this type of box. In these boxes there will be additional information about the pattern. Sometimes, for example, a round will not be knitted to the end and the beginning/end of the round will be moved. You will find these pointers in a box like this on the appropriate page.



The fox's pattern starts at page 18.

Cat Mies

The cat is knitted from the head down. The cat's head is knitted in the round starting at the centre back of her head and ending at the tip of her nose. The beginning/end of each round is at the bottom of the head. Cast on 18 stitches and start knitting the head as follows:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. {k18}4x 2. [k2 *]9x 3. {k27}3x 4. [k2 *]13x k1 5. {k40}4x 6. [k2 *]20x 7. {k60}3x 8. k57 p3 9. p3 k53 p1 k3 10. k3 p1 k7 * [k2 *]19x k6 p1 k4 11. k4 p1 k69 p1 k5 12. k5 p1 k67 p1 k6 13. k6 p1 k15 p11 k14 p11 k15 p1 k6 14. k6 p1 k14 p1 k11 p1 k12 p1 k11 p1 k14 p1 k6 15. k6 p1 k14 p1 k1 p9 k1 p1 k12 p1 k1 p9 k1 p1 k14 p1 k6 16. k6 p1 k14 p2 k9 p2 k12 p2 k9 p2 k14 p1 k6 17. k6 p1 k14 p2 k9 p2 k12 p2 k9 p2 k15 p6 18. p6 k26 p2 k12 p2 k32 19. {k32 p2 k12 p2 k32}3x 20. k11 ssk k11 k2tog k28 ssk k11 k2tog k11 21. k76 22. k23 k3tog k24 sssk k23 23. k10 ssk k48 k2tog k10 | <p>The purl stitches in step 31 mark the position of the eyes</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 24. k22 k3tog k20 sssk k22 25. k66 26. k9 ssk k11 k3tog k16 sssk k11 k2tog k9 27. k60 28. k8 ssk k11 k3tog k12 sssk k11 k2tog k8 29. k54 30. k7 ssk k11 k3tog k8 sssk k11 k2tog k7 31. k15 p1 k16 p1 k15 32. k6 ssk k11 k2tog k6 ssk k11 k2tog k6 33. k44 34. k5 ssk k10 k2tog k6 ssk k10 k2tog k5 35. k40 36. k4 ssk k9 k2tog k6 ssk k9 k2tog k4 37. k36 38. k3 ssk k7 k3tog k6 sssk k7 k2tog k3 39. k30 40. k2 ssk k5 k3tog k6 sssk k5 k2tog k2 41. k24 42. k1 ssk k3 k3tog k6 sssk k3 k2tog k1 43. k18 44. k1 ssk k1 k2tog k2tog k2 ssk ssk k1 k2tog k1 45. ssk k2tog k2tog ssk ssk k2tog [1] |
|---|---|---|

There are purl stitches in steps 8 through 18. You will be using these purl stitches to knit the ears and body of Mies.



There are 6 stitches left, 3 on either side of the head [2]. Break the yarn leaving a tail of about 25 cm/10". You will get the best result if you use the kitchener stitch to graft the two sides together. If you find that difficult you can also just draw the end through all the stitches and pull it tight, weave in the end. [3]

The Cat's ears

In picture 4, you see the left side of the head of the cat. At the bottom of the head, there are purl stitches that form the base for the body, and at the top of the head, there are purl stitches that form the base for the ears. In picture 5, you see the stitches that form the base of the left ear of the cat (from the cat's viewpoint). On the outer ear there are 8, 11 and then 4 purl stitches, followed by 2, 9 and 6 more for the inner ear. The ear is knitted in the round over these stitches. Pick up the stitches in the order shown by the arrows in the picture. (It is not easy to pick up all these stitches, especially if you are using DPNs, because they don't form a circle. If you can't manage, look at the pictures on the next page for more detailed instructions).

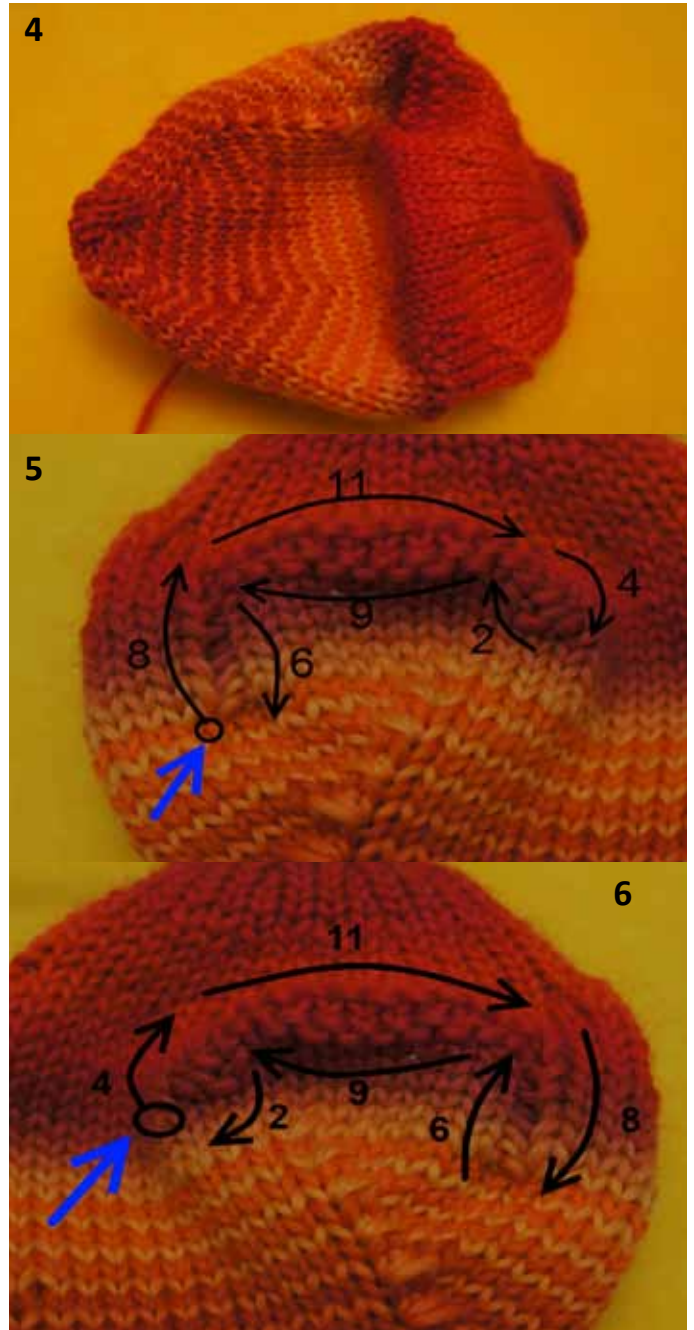
Knit the ear in the round over these stitches; start knitting at the first of the set of 8 stitches; the blue arrow in picture 5 marks that stitch.

1. {k40}2x
2. ssk k19 k2tog k17
3. k38
4. ssk k17 k2tog ssk k13 k2tog
5. k34
6. ssk k15 k2tog ssk k11 k2tog
7. k30
8. ssk k13 k2tog ssk k9 k2tog
9. k26
10. ssk k11 k2tog ssk k7 k2tog
11. k22
12. ssk k9 k2tog ssk k5 k2tog
13. k18
14. ssk k7 k2tog ssk k3 k2tog
15. k14
16. ssk k5 k2tog ssk k1 k2tog
17. k10
18. ssk k3 k2tog ssk k1
19. k7

Break the yarn, pull the end through the stitches left on the needle, draw up tight and weave in the end.

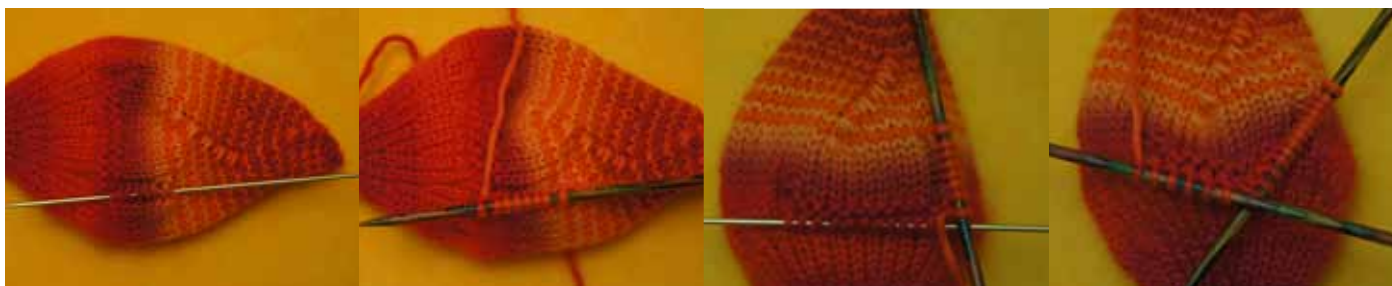
The other ear is knitted in the same way. The base stitches are positioned on the head in a mirror image of the first ear, so here you start knitting at the first of the set of 4 stitches, the blue arrow in picture no. 6. Knit the right ear identically to the left one.

The pattern for the cat continues on page 10, section: the body.



Picking up stitches for the left ear of cat Mies

Below are pictures showing you how to pick up the stitches if you are using DPN. If you knit with a circular needle, it is easier, because the cable of the needle will follow the curve of the ear. If you can't manage at all, you could just pick up the stitches for the outer ear, then cast on 17 stitches for the inner ear. When the ear is done you can sew down the cast-on edge of the inner ear. The first few rounds will be awkward to knit, but after that knitting will be much easier.



Use a smaller size needle to pick up the first 8 stitches (pic 4),

and knit these with the right size needle.

Now pick up 11 stitches (or 10 for the fox) at the back of the ear with the smaller size needle.

Knit these stitches too, changing to a second DPN after the first 5 stitches.

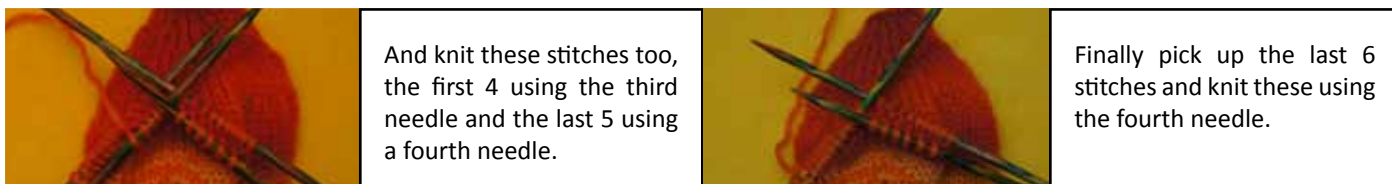


Now pick up the last 4 stitches (5 for the fox) of the outer ear,

and knit these using the second needle.

For the inner ear pick up 2 stitches first (3 for the fox).

Knit these stitches using a third needle and then pick up 9 more stitches (8 for the fox).



And knit these stitches too, the first 4 using the third needle and the last 5 using a fourth needle.

Finally pick up the last 6 stitches and knit these using the fourth needle.



Dog Kees



The dog's head is also knitted first. The head is knitted in the round from the center back of the head to the tip of the nose. The start/end of each round is situated at the bottom of the head.

Cast on 18 stitches and then knit the head in the round as follows:

1. {k18}3x
2. [k2 *]9x
3. {k27}3x
4. [k2 *]13x k1
5. {k40}3x
6. [k2 *]20x
7. {k60}5x
8. k8 * [k4 *]11x k5 p3
9. p3 k65 p1 k3
10. k3 p1 k63 p1 k4
11. k4 p1 k10 p6 k30 p6 k9 p1 k5
12. k5 p1 k15 p2 k26 p2 k14 p1 k6
13. {k6 p1 k16 p1 k24 p1 k16 p1 k6} 4x
14. k6 p1 k16 p1 k24 p1 k17 p6

15. p6 k17 p1 k24 p1 k23
16. {k23 p1 k24 p1 k23}2x
17. k20 k2tog k28 ssk k20
18. k70
19. k20 k2tog k26 ssk k20
20. k68
21. k20 k3tog k22 sssk k20
22. k64
23. k20 k3tog k18 sssk k20
24. k60
25. k5 k2tog k13 k3tog k14 sssk k13 ssk k5
26. k15 p1 k22 p1 k15
27. k18 k3tog k12 sssk k18
28. k5 k2tog k36 ssk k5
29. k16 k3tog k10 sssk k16
30. k44
31. k5 k2tog k8 k3tog k8 sssk k8 ssk k5
32. {k38}2x
33. k5 k2tog k24 ssk k5
34. k36
35. k5 k2tog k22 ssk k5
36. k34
37. k5 k2tog k20 ssk k5
38. k16
39. k21 ← sl p9 ← sl k8 k3tog k3 ssk k4
40. k4 k2tog k3 sssk k17
41. k17 ← sl p7 ← sl k6 k3tog k2 ssk k3
42. k3 k2tog k2 sssk k13
43. k13 ← sl p5 ← sl k4 k3tog k1 ssk k2
44. k2 k2tog k1 sssk k9
45. k7

After step 45, you will be at the center bottom of the head again. Break the yarn. Using the yarn for the nose knit 2 full rounds over the remaining stitches. [7]

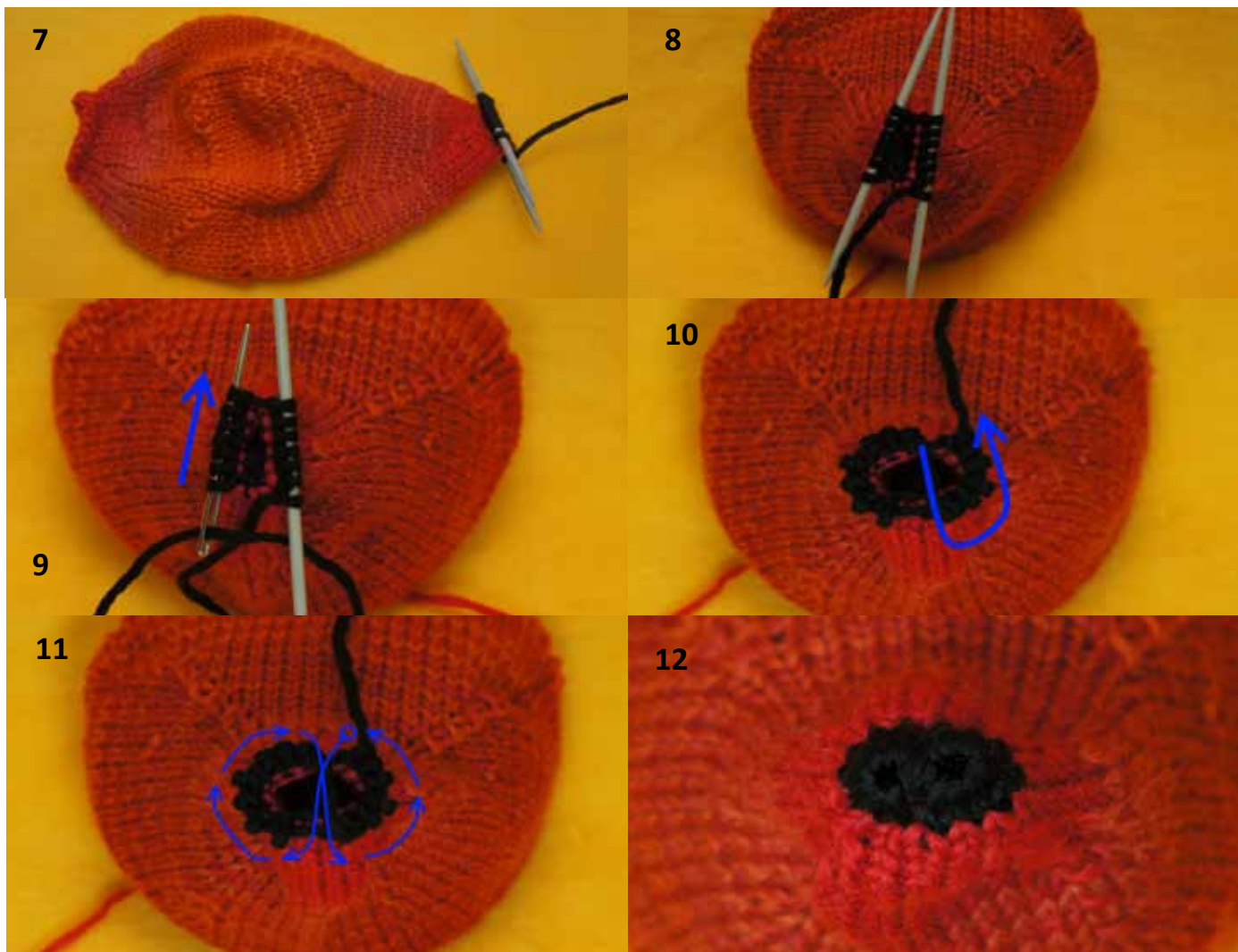
For finishing the nose, I distributed the stitches evenly over two needles [8]. Break the yarn leaving an end of about 30 cm/12". The end of the main color and the end at the beginning of the nose color can now be tucked away into the head and knotted together.

Using the working end of the nose color, the two nostrils are formed as follows: Draw the end through the first 7 stitches, as shown in picture 9 and then from the last to the first through the last 7 stitches as shown in picture 10, making the shape of the number 8 effectively.

Don't draw up the end tight just yet. Draw the yarn through the same stitches a few more times, following the figure 8 path of the first time round making sure to tighten up a bit more each time round. Once you are pleased with the look tuck the end into the head and secure the end [12].

In steps 8 – 16, purl stitches are knit. These stitches form the base of the ears and the body of the dog. The purl stitches in step 26 mark the placement of the eyes.

In step 38, half a round is knitted. This moves the start/end of the round to the center at the top of the head.



The dog's ears

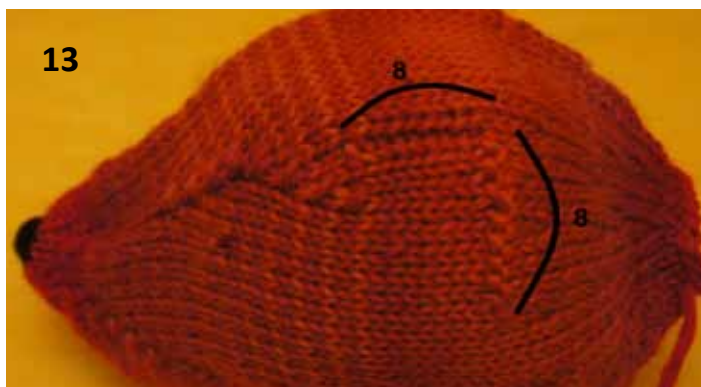


The dog has long droopy ears that are knitted flat in garter stitch.

If you are using thin yarn (up to fingering weight in thickness), you may want to knit the ears using the yarn held double, use slightly larger needles to knit them. The smaller dog in the picture on the left has ears knitted using the yarn held double, the larger dog has ears knitted using a single strand of yarn.

On top of the dog's head, are purl stitches that form the base for the ears. In picture 13, you can see the left side of the dog's head. There are 16 purl stitches in 2 rows of 8.

Using a smaller size needle, pick up the stitches for the ear [14]. The ear is symmetrical, so in this case it doesn't matter on which side you start to knit. [15] Knit the ear as follows:



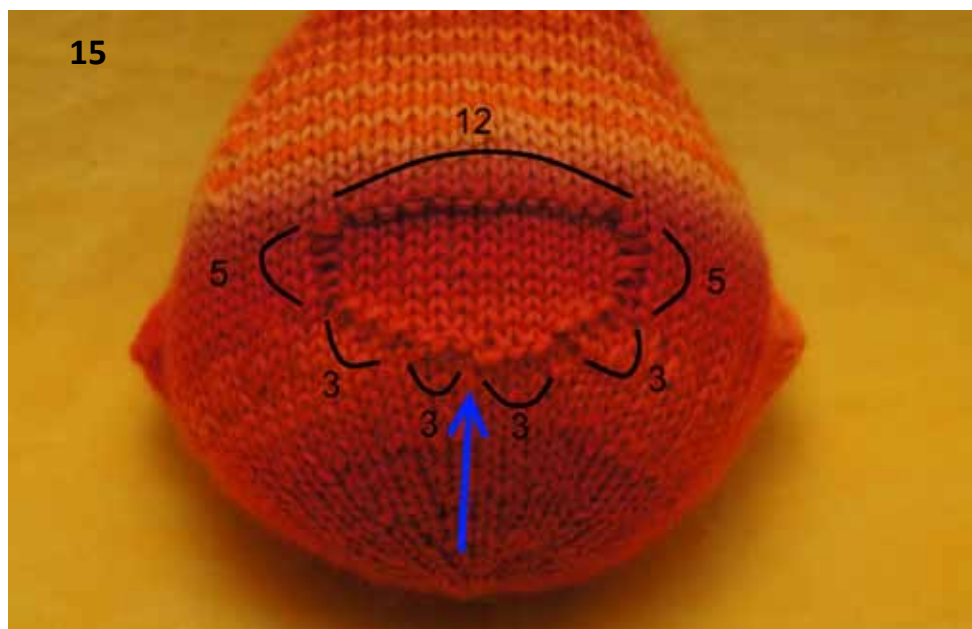
- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. {sl k15}4x | 12. sl k1 k2tog k10 k2tog k2 |
| 2. sl k6 * k2 * k7 | 13. {sl k15}3x |
| 3. {sl k17}3x | 14. sl k1 k2tog k8 k2tog k2 |
| 4. sl k7 * k2 * k8 | 15. {sl k13}3x |
| 5. {sl k19}3x | 16. sl k1 k2tog k6 k2tog k2 |
| 6. sl k8 * k2 * k9 | 17. {sl k11}3x |
| 7. {sl k21}7x | 18. sl k1 k2tog k4 k2tog k2 |
| 8. sl k1 k2tog k14 k2tog k2 | 19. {sl k9}3x |
| 9. {sl k19}3x | 20. sl k1 k2tog k2 k2tog k2 |
| 10. sl k1 k2tog k12 k2tog k2 | 21. sl k7 |
| 11. {sl k17}3x | |

Bind off all the stitches and weave in the end on the inside of the ear.

Knit the second ear in the same way.

The body

At the bottom of the head, 34 purl stitches are visible [15]. Pick up these stitches starting at center back. Make sure you pick up the outer loops of the purl stitches. Knit the body over these stitches as follows:



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. k34 | 8. k8 * k8 * k8 * k8 * k8 |
| 2. k2 k2tog k2 k2tog k4 k2tog k6 k2tog k4 k2tog k2 k2tog k2 | 9. k44 |
| 3. k28 | 10. k2 * k5 * k1 * k10 * k1 * k6 * k1 * k10 * k1 * k5 * k2 |
| 4. k6 * k4 * k8 * k4 * k6 | 11. k54 |
| 5. k32 | 12. k10 * k12 * k10 * k12 * k10 |
| 6. k2 * k3 * k1 * k6 * k8 * k6 * k1 * k3 * k2 | 13. k58 |
| 7. k40 | 14. k2 * k7 * k1 * k14 * k10 * k14 * k1 * k7 * k2 |
| | 15. k66 [16] |

Stuffing the head

Now we first stuff the head. That is done now, because it is easier to position and attach the eyes at this point. Some people don't like knitting while the heavier stuffed head is hanging on their work. You can stuff the head after you have finished all the knitting, but it will be harder to put on the eyes properly.

Sew-on eyes are easiest to use, but if you are making this softy for a small child, safety eyes are the better choice. If you are using safety eyes, then attach these first (read the box below on this page. [17])

Stuff the head; make sure to properly stuff the snout and the space under the ears.

When using sew-on eyes or buttons, thread the eye on strong thread and use a long needle to insert both ends of this thread through the purl stitch on the face into the head and out through the center of the area at the bottom of the head where the body is attached [19].

For safety eyes, take the thread you have attached to the eyes out through the bottom of the head [19].

Attach the second eye in the same way. Now knot the threads coming from both eyes together with a sliding knot. Look at the softy's face and adjust the threads, drawing the eyes into the face slightly. Secure the threads with a tight knot [20].

To be able to draw safety eyes into the head as shown, you need to attach a strong thread to them. Some types of these eyes have a hole in the end that you can string a thread through. If there isn't a hole, then you can drill a small hole in the end, or you can attach a thread to the ring that secures the eyes before pressing it onto the eye.

Make sure that you thread these ends out through the head as described, before stuffing the head. [17].



Continuing the body

[20] Now, the stitches for the arms will be put on hold as follows: Knit 11 stitches. Thread the next 18 stitches onto a piece of waste yarn for the first arm [21].

Cast on 4 more stitches consecutively to the 11 you just knit for the armpit [22].

Knit 8 stitches for the front of the body.

Thread the next 18 stitches onto a second piece of waste yarn for the second arm; and cast on 4 more stitches on this side too. Knit the final 11 stitches of the round. You will now have 38 stitches on your needle.

Continue knitting the body as follows:

16. {k38}2x
17. k2 * k8 * k4 * k10 * k4 * k8 * k2
18. {k44}3x
19. k2 * k9 * k22 * k9 * k2
20. {k48}3x
21. k3 * k9 * k6 * k12 * k6 * k9 * k3
22. {k54}3x
23. k4 * k9 * k28 * k9 * k4
24. {k58}3x
25. k5 * k9 * k8 * k14 * k8 * k9 * k5
26. k64

Now, the set up for the legs is made. To start the legs, you need to use a provisional cast on. Any kind of provisional cast on can be used, I will describe, what I think is, the easiest method below. After step 26, you will be at center back. For the provisional cast on, I use two knitted strips in waste yarn, the blue edges in pictures 24 – 27. Use some smooth waste yarn in a contrasting color that is the same thickness as the yarn you are using, or slightly thinner. Using some spare needles, cast on 30 stitches in the waste yarn and knit a purl row, a knit row and another purl row. Break the yarn leaving a tail of about 20 cm/8" .

Pick up main piece again to continue knitting. From center back, knit 19 stitches and then continue by knitting over the 30 stitches of the strips using your main yarn. If you are using DPNs, then change to another needle after 15 of these 30 stitches [24].



Slip the next 4 stitches of the body, adjacent to the 19 you first knit, onto waste yarn [25].

Using your main yarn, now knit 18 stitches along the front of the body (if you are using DPN, change needles after 9 of these 18 stitches).

Make a second strip of fabric in waste yarn for the other leg.

Knit the 30 stitches of this strip now using the main yarn, and thread the next 4 stitches of the body onto waste yarn for this side too.

Finally, knit the last 19 stitches of the round. The set up for the legs will be like two loops on either side of the body. [26, 27]

If all went well, you will now have 116 stitches. Knit the rest of the body as follows:



27. k116

28. k6 * k8 sssk k4 k3tog k20 sssk k4 k2tog k10 ssk k4 k3tog k20 sssk k4 k3tog k8 * k6

29. k104

30. k14 ssk k4 k2tog k18 ssk k4 k2tog k8 ssk k4 k2tog k18 ssk k4 k2tog k14

31. k96

32. k13 ssk k4 k2tog k16 ssk k4 k2tog k6 ssk k4 k2tog k16 ssk k4 k2tog k9

There are 4 stitches left of the round at this point. The next 8 stitches (the last 4 of this round and the first 4 of the next round) will have a removable strand of waste yarn inserted; this is where the tail will be made.

Use a piece of smooth waste yarn in a contrasting color, and knit the next 8 stitches as follows: k1 yo k2 yo k2 yo k2 yo k1. There are now 12 stitches in the waste yarn on your right needle [28]. Slip these stitches back to the left needle [29] and knit them again using your main yarn [30]. Knit 86 stitches, you are now at center back again, the start/end of the round. There are 92 stitches.



33. k14 ssk k4 k2tog k14 ssk k4 k2tog k4 ssk k4 k2tog k14 ssk k4 k2tog k14
34. k84
35. k7 ssk k4 ssk k4 k2tog k12 ssk k4 ssk k2 k2tog k4 k2tog k12 ssk k4 k2tog k4 k2tog k7
36. k74
37. k6 ssk k3 ssk k4 k2tog k10 ssk k3 ssk k2 k2tog k3 k2tog k10 ssk k4 k2tog k3 k2tog k6
38. k64
39. k5 ssk k2 ssk k4 k2tog k8 ssk k2 ssk k2 k2tog k2 k2tog k8 ssk k4 k2tog k2 k2tog k5
40. k54
41. k4 ssk k1 ssk k4 k2tog k6 ssk k1 ssk k2 k2tog k1 k2tog k6 ssk k4 k2tog k1 k2tog k4
42. k44
43. k3 ssk ssk k4 k2tog k4 ssk ssk k2 k2tog k2tog k4 ssk k4 k2tog k2tog k3
44. k34
45. k2 sssk k4 k2tog k2 ssk k4 k2tog k2 ssk k4 k3tog k2
46. k26
47. k1 ssk k4 k2tog k1 ssk k2 k2tog k1 ssk k4 k2tog k1
48. k20

Break the yarn leaving an end of about 20 cm/8", thread the end through the remaining stitches, don't pull it tight yet, this opening will be used to stuff the softy.

The Hind Legs

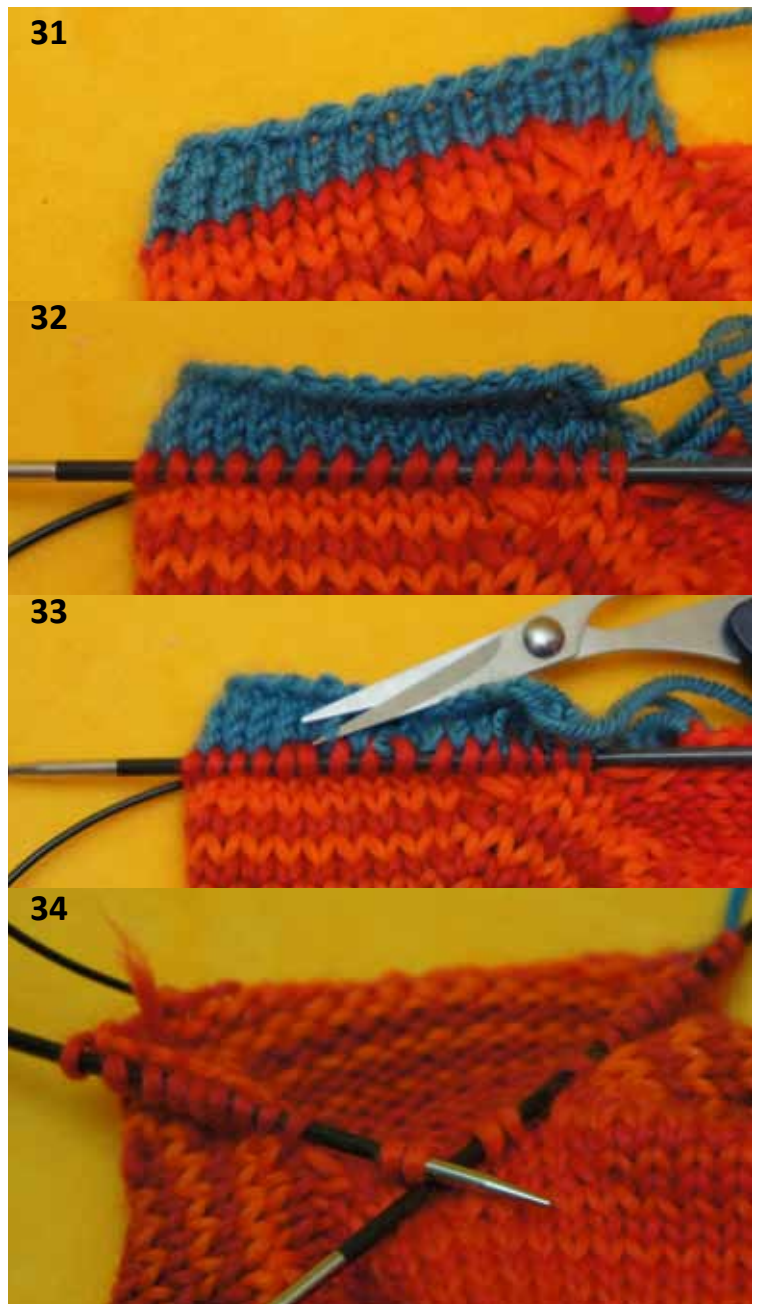
The hind legs are both the same, it doesn't matter which leg you start to knit on. In the samples, I knit the left leg first, so this is what you see in the pictures. Below the provisional cast on of the leg, you can see the stitches knitted in the main color [31].

Slip these **31** stitches on to needles [32]; it is easier to do if you use a smaller size needle for this. Be careful at the corners as there are half stitches to pick up there, but you do need them.

Snip the yarn of the strip of waste yarn in a few places [33] and remove it completely. Add the 4 stitches held on waste yarn to the needles. Start the round in the middle of these 4 stitches which will be mid leg on the front [34]. Knit the leg as follows:

1. k1 ssk k29 k2tog k1
2. {k33}15x
3. k1 k2tog k27 ssk k1
4. {k31}2x
5. k1 k2tog k25 ssk k1
6. {k29}2x
7. k1 k2tog k23 ssk k1
8. {k27}2x
9. k1 k2tog k21 ssk k1
10. {k25}2x
11. k1 k2tog k19 ssk k1
12. {k23}4x

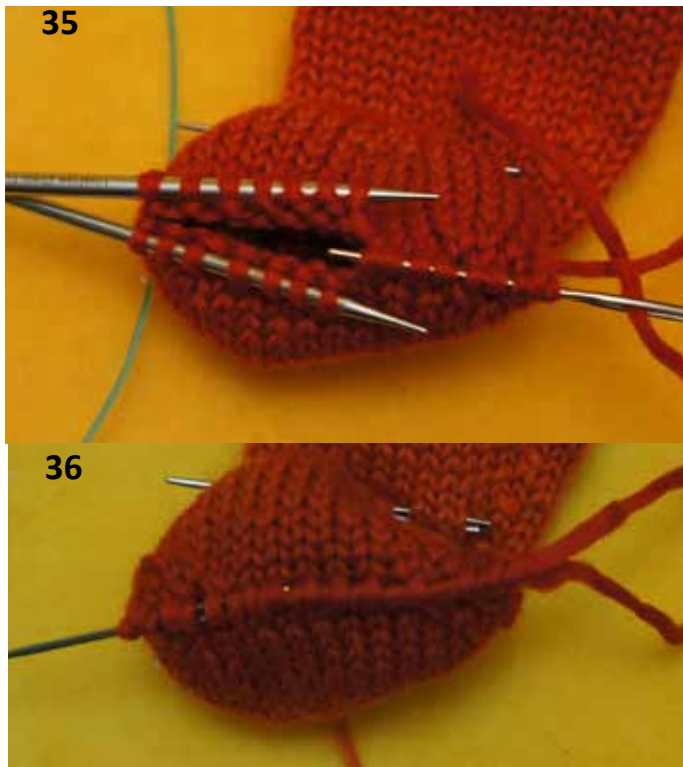
The feet of the cat and dog are made differently. The fox has the same feet as the dog.



The feet of the cat.

13. k1 * k1 * k1 * k1 * k15 * k1 * k1 * k1 * k1
14. {k31}6x
15. [k2 k2tog]7x k3
16. k24
17. [k1 k2tog]8x
18. [k2 k2tog]4x

Break the yarn and thread the end through the remaining stitches on the needle, don't draw it tight just yet, this opening is used to stuff the legs.



The dog's and fox's feet

13. k1 * k1 * k1 * k1 * k15 * k1 * k1 * k1 * k1
14. k31
15. k1 * k1 * k1 * k1 * k23 * k1 * k1 * k1 * k1
16. {k39}6x
17. k1 ssk ssk k9 k2tog k2tog k2 ssk ssk k10 k2tog k2tog k1
18. k31
19. k1 ssk ssk k5 k2tog k2tog k2 ssk ssk k6 k2tog k2tog k1

Redistribute the stitches, so the first 11 stitches are on one needle and the next 12 stitches on an other. Break the yarn leaving a 25 cm/10" tail. Thread the end through the stitches from both needles alternately [35]. Draw the end up but not too tight, thread the end back through the same stitches again once more and weave in the end [36, 37].



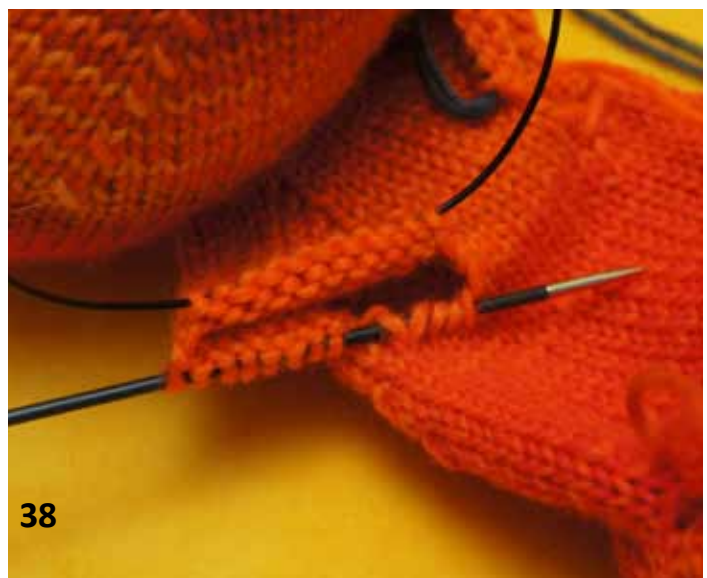
The front legs

Put the 18 stitches held on waste yarn onto needles for the first front leg, and pick up an extra 5 stitches under the 'arm' [38]. Start knitting from the second of the 5 underarm stitches and knit the front leg as follows:

1. k3 k2tog k16 ssk
2. {k21}35x
3. [k3 *]7x
4. {k28}6x
5. [k2 k2tog]7x
6. k21
7. [k1 k2tog]7x
8. k14

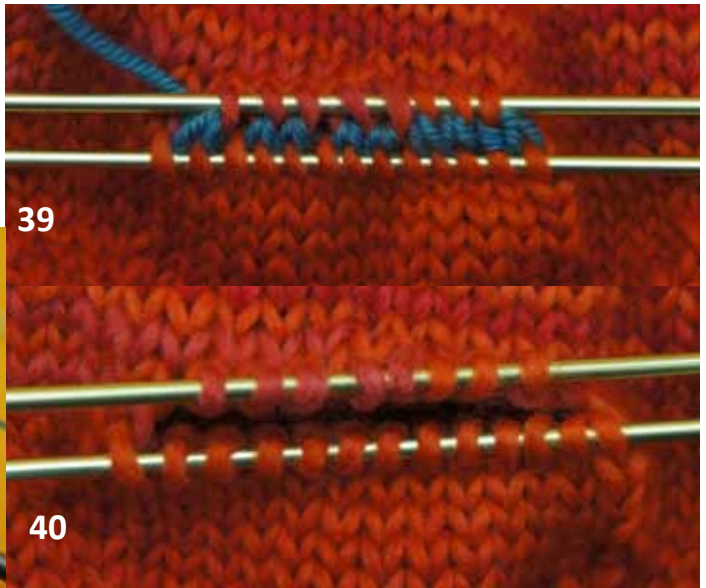
Break the yarn and thread the remaining stitches on the end, don't pull it tight yet, this opening will be used to stuff the front legs.

Knit the second front leg in the same way.



Picking up stitches for the tail all softies

For the tail, pick up all the stitches on both sides of the bit of waste yarn that you knitted into the lower back area [39]. At the top side, there are 8 stitches and at the bottom side, there are 13 stitches. Snip the waste yarn in a few places and remove it [40].



The tail of the Cat

Start knitting in the middle of the 8 stitches at the top side of the tail [41] and knit the tail as follows:

1. k3 ssk ssk k7 k2tog k2tog k3
2. k17
3. k3 ssk k7 k2tog k3
4. {k15}48x
5. [k2tog k1]5x
6. k2 k2tog k2 k2tog k2

Break the yarn, thread the remaining stitches on the end, draw up tight and fasten the end.



The tail of the dog

Start knitting in the middle of the 8 stitches at the top side of the tail [41] and knit the tail as follows:

1. k3 ssk k11 k2tog k3
2. k14 ← sl p8 ← sl k7 k2tog k4
3. k4 ssk k12
4. k12 ← sl p6 ← sl k5 k2tog k4
5. k4 ssk k10
6. [k15]10x
7. k7
8. k12 ← sl p7 ← sl k6 k2tog k2
9. k3 ssk k9
10. k10 ← sl p5 ← sl k4 k2tog k2
11. k3 ssk k7
12. k1 k2tog ssk k2 s ssk

Break the yarn, thread the remaining stitches on the end, draw up tight and fasten the end.

In step 7, half a round is knit. The start/end of the round is hereby moved to the other side of the tail.



Finishing

Fasten all ends that are left hanging, except the ones at the openings left for stuffing. The opening at the back of the head is closed by threading the end left after cast on through the stitches of the cast on, draw up tight and fasten the end. Stuff the softy. The tail of the cat shouldn't be stuffed too tight. It looks best if you just stuff the tail of the cat with a few lengths of thick yarn, it gives the tail some body, but it will remain flexible. The tail of the dog can be stuffed with a tuft of stuffing.

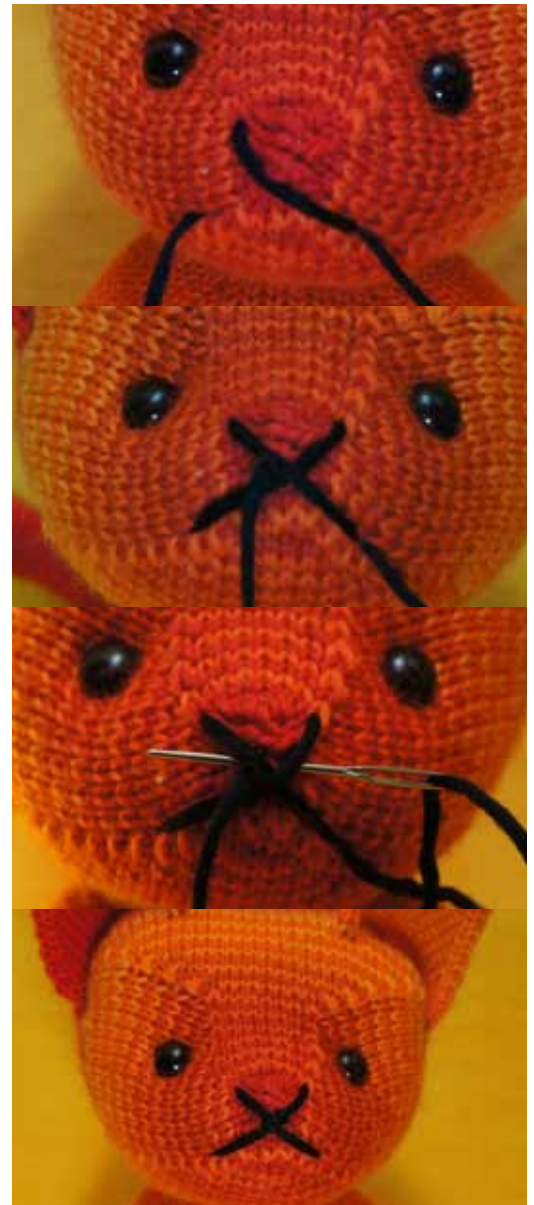
The hips of this softy should only be stuffed lightly, this way the hips will be flexible and the legs can move forward. De softies have a wobbly head. This makes it possible to lay the softy down on it's tummy and still have it looking forward. How much the head wobbles will depend on how tight you stuff the body. I always put an extra wad of stuffing at the top front of the body. This is what the head rests on if it is sitting up, and it will be able to sit without it's head drooping.

Check whether you are pleased with the stuffing. You can move the stuffing about a bit by prodding a thick knitting needle into the softy. Once it is done to your satisfaction, draw up all the ends of the openings tight, thread the ends through the stitches one more time and finish off the ends.

You can achieve a nice effect, if you weigh the paws and the bottom with some rice or weighted poly beads stuffed in an old nylon stocking (to avoid having the beads come out through the knitting). Then stuff the rest of the legs with a bit of stuffing. The rice/poly beads in the bottom you should also wrap in a bit of nylon stocking, put it in the bottom of the softy after stuffing the rest of it.

The mouth and nose of the cat

For the nose and mouth of the cat, embroider a cross, like you see in the picture sequence. After the cross, let the needle come out in the center of the cross. Fasten the cross's center down with a few stitches. Weave in the end.



The mouth of the dog and the fox

The dog and the fox already have knitted noses.

For the mouth, embroider a few parallel stitches at the bottom of the head. After the last stitch let the needle come out at the bottom of the nose. Thread the yarn under the stitches for the mouth and draw those stitches up towards the nose. Repeat this last stitch and fasten off the ends.



Teun the fox, an alternative



As a variation on the pattern, I will describe the fox here, or if you prefer, a German Shepherd. In any case, it is canine with upright ears. For this softy, you follow most of the pattern for the dog. Only the ears that belong to the cat are knitted instead. The head is knitted first, from center back to the tip of the nose.

Knit the head for the dog (page 8) steps 1 – 8. For the dog, the purl stitches for the base of the drop ears are now knitted in, The fox will have a set up for upright ears. Knit the rest of the fox's head as follows:

9. p3 k17 p10 k12 p10 k16 p1 k3
10. k3 p1 k15 p1 k10 p1 k10 p1 k10 p1 k14 p1 k4
11. k4 p1 k14 p1 k1 p8 k1 p1 k10 p1 k1 p8 k1 p1 k13 p1 k5
12. k5 p1 k13 p2 k8 p2 k10 p2 k8 p2 k12 p1 k6
13. {k6 p1 k12 p2 k8 p2 k10 p2 k8 p2 k12 p1 k6} 2x
14. {k6 p1 k22 p2 k10 p2 k22 p1 k6} 2x
15. k6 p1 k22 p2 k10 p2 k23 p6
16. p6 k66

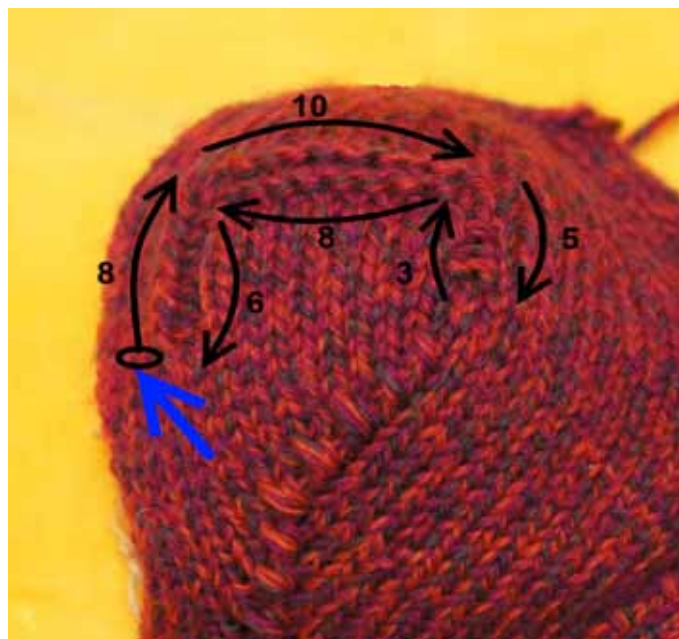
Continue to knit the pattern for the head of the dog from step 17 (page 8); hereby knit step 34 and 36 twice each, this gives the fox a pointer nose than the dog.

Finish off the fox's nose in the same way as the dog's nose.

The fox's ears

Just like for the dog and the cat, there are purl stitches on the head that form the base of the body and the ears. On the picture to the right, you can see which stitches are used as a base for the fox's left ear (from the fox's point of view). On the outside of the ear, you can see in succession 8, 10 and 5 purl stitches, on the inside of the ear there are 3, 8 and 6 stitches. The ear is knitted in the round over these stitches. Pick up the stitches following the arrows on the picture. (It can be awkward to pick up the stitches, especially if you are using DPN, because they don't easily form a circle. If you can't manage, look back to page 7; extensive instructions are found there.)

Knit the ear in the round over these stitches; start knitting at the first 8 stitches, the blue arrow in the picture. Knit the ear in the same way as the cat's ear, step 1 – 19 on page 6. To give the fox slightly bigger ears, you can knit step 1 three times in stead of twice, and step 3 twice.



Knit the body and the legs of the fox in the same way as the body and legs of the dog (page 10, the body, and onwards).

The fox's tail.

A fox has a nice bushy tail of course. To give the illusion of hairs on the tail, the tail is knitted in rib (knit 1 purl 1).

In the instructions for the tail there are two new symbols, @ means: increase a purl stitch. On page 3, are pictures showing how to do this. w means: work the stitch as it presents itself, knit stitches are knitted, purl stitches are purled, make sure to check properly while knitting the tail, the purl and knit stitches aren't always nicely alternating.

For the fox's tail, pick up the stitches as explained on page 16 and knit the beginning in the same way as the dog's tail, up to and including step 5 (page 16). From there on, the tail is knitted in rib stitch. There are 15 stitches on the needles. Knit the rest of the tail as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. k1 @ [k1 p1]6x k1 @ k1 | 7. k1 * w5 ssk k3 k2tog w5 * k1 |
| 2. w17 | 8. w19 |
| 3. k1 * w5 ssk k1 k2tog w5 * k1 | 9. k1 @ w17 @ k1 |
| 4. w17 | 10. w21 |
| 5. k1 @ w15 @ k1 | 11. k1 * w7 ssk k1 k2tog w7 * k1 |
| 6. w19 | 12. w21 |



13. k1 @ w19 @ k1
 14. w23
 15. k1 * w7 ssk k3 k2tog w7 * k1
 16. w23
 17. k1 @ w21 @ k1
 18. w25
 19. k1 * w9 ssk k1 k2tog w9 * k1
 20. w25
 21. k1 @ w23 @ k1
 22. w27
 23. k1 * w9 ssk k3 k2tog w9 * k1
 24. w27
 25. k1 @ w25 @ k1
 26. w29
 27. k1 * w11 ssk k1 k2tog w11 * k1
 28. w29
 29. k1 @ w27 @ k1
 30. w31
 31. k1 * w11 ssk k3 k2tog w11 * k1
 32. w31
 33. k1 @ w29 @ k1

34. { w33 } 2x
 35. w16
 36. k1 k2tog w20 ← sl w11 ← sl w10 k2tog w7 ssk
 37. w9 ssk w19
 38. w29
 39. w4 k2tog w3 ssk w8 k2tog w3 ssk w3
 40. w25
 41. k2 k2tog w13 ← sl w7 ← sl w6 k2tog w4 ssk w1
 42. w7 ssk w13
 43. w21
 44. w2 k2tog w3 ssk w4 k2tog w3 ssk w1
 45. w17
 46. w1 k2tog p1 ssk ssk k2 k2tog k2tog p1 ssk
 47. w11

Break the yarn; thread the end through the remaining stitches, draw up tight and finish off the end on the inside of the tail.

Finish the fox according to the instructions on pages 17 and 18.

In step 35, half a round is knitted. This moves the beginning/end of the round to the other side of the tail.



Zijmaakthet

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Look at my website for more information

<http://www.zijmaakthet.com>

I quite often put pictures of my current projects on facebook www.facebook.com/annita.wilschut

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