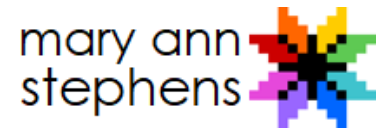


Monkster Gets Stranded



A free, personal-use knitting pattern for a Norwegian teddy bear sweater with raglan shoulders and stranded colorwork typical of Nordic knitting. Uses sport to DK weight wool yarn.

Size: Fits most 16" to 18" tall stuffed animals. (*Monkster, the handsome fellow at left, is from "Build-A-Bear". His friend to his right, Sally, is from "Gund".*)



Finished measurements:

Chest circumference = 18"

Length = approximately 6" (easily varied)

Suggested yarn:

Use sport to DK weight wool yarn with a ball band gauge of 22 to 24 stitches over 4" / 10cm. Dale Garn Falk was used for both samples, but it is no longer available in North America. Monkster's traditional version, at left, used three different colors; Sally's floral version used four different colors.

Note:

Bear chart rows #2, 16 and 26 use 3 colors at a time. The sample was done knitting with 3 colors at once on those rows. If you prefer, you can knit the entire yoke with just 2 colors at a time and use duplicate stitch to embroider the 3rd color in place once you're finished.

Suggested needles:

At least 1 set of 5 double-pointed needles in US size 4(3.5mm).

USE WHATEVER SIZE YOU NEED TO OBTAIN THE GAUGE, BELOW!

Optional: Double-pointed needles, a size or two smaller, for ribbing.

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Gauge:

24 stitches and 28 rows = 4"/10cm in stockinette stitch (on larger needle).

Notions: 4 small safety pins, several stitch holders (you can use dpns or circulars the same size or smaller), 4 stitch markers. (*A scrap of thin yarn in a different color, tied in a loose loop around your needle, makes an ideal stitch marker.*)

Abbreviations:

beg = beginning; BO = bind off; CO = cast on; dpn(s) = double-pointed needle(s); EOR = end of round; K = knit; K2tog = knit 2 stitches together; P = purl; rd(s) = round(s); rep = repeat; sl = slip; SSK = "slip, slip, knit" = slip two stitches individually knitwise, then knit them together as one; st(s) = stitch(es)

Design Overview: Body and sleeves are knit circularly from the bottom up, starting with a few rounds of K1, P1 ribbing; then, continuing in circular stockinette stitch. A few rows into the charted design, all but 3 body and 3 sleeve stitches from each side are joined and worked together circularly for the yoke and ribbed collar. Pairs of raglan decreases at 4 points miter the yoke. The few stitches not included in the yoke are grafted together at the bottom of the armholes.

Pullover instructions:

Designer's note: *I recommend using needles 1 size smaller for the bottom and cuff ribbing, but staying with the larger needles for the collar, since stuffed animals have proportionately huge heads. If you were making a sweater like this for a real, live person (no offense, Monkster), you'd want to do all ribbing in needles at least 1 size smaller, maybe even two. However, for such a tiny sweater that probably won't see a lot of athletic stress (then again, you don't know Monkster! ;-), you can probably get away with doing everything in just one needle size, if you prefer.*

Body: Using main color, CO 108 sts. Join circularly. *K1, P1, rep from * for 4 complete rds. If you've used smaller needles for the ribbing, CHANGE TO LARGER NEEDLES. K 9 rds. Place marker (*to denote end of rd*). K 54 sts, Place marker (*to denote side*). K54 sts to end of rd. Work rows **1 through 11** of one of the charts, below, beginning at row 1, column 1, reading right to left, repeating the 6 sts of each row until the end of each rd. Break off all yarns, leaving several inches of each color for weaving in. If you don't have another set of needles in the same size, transfer sts to st holders. Set aside.

Sleeves: Using main color, CO 42 sts. Join circularly. *K1, P1, rep from * for 4 complete rds. If you've used smaller needles for the ribbing, CHANGE TO LARGER NEEDLES. K 10 rds. Place marker. Work rows **1 through 11** of chart in same manner as above. Break off all yarns, leaving several inches of each color for weaving in. If you don't have another set of needles in the same size, transfer sts to st holders. Set aside. Work 2nd sleeve, but this time, do **not** break off yarns at end of chart row 11.

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Joining round: *Between here and the “Yoke” section, it’s all one doozy of a round. I’ve broken it into sections to make it easier on our eyes.*

Start with the body, carrying yarns over from 2nd sleeve. Rd begins/ends at the back of the right shoulder.

Sl first 2 Back sts to safety pin. Following **row 12** of chart, matching chartwork, K2tog, K halfway across Back, switch to next dpn,

K until 3 Back sts remain before side marker, SSK, sl last Back st to safety pin, sl marker to dpn, sl first 2 left sleeve sts to safety pin, K2tog, K halfway across left sleeve, switch to next dpn,

K until 3 left sleeve sts rem, SSK, sl last left sleeve st to safety pin, sl marker to dpn, sl first 2 Front sts to safety pin, K2tog, K halfway across Front, switch to next dpn,

K until 3 Front sts remain, SSK, sl last Front st to safety pin, sl marker to dpn, sl first 2 right sleeve sts to safety pin, K2tog, K halfway across right sleeve, switch to next dpn,

K until 3 right sleeve sts rem, SSK, sl last right sleeve st to pin, sl marker to dpn, EOR.

Yoke: Following **rows 13-27** of chart, work each rd as follows: *K2tog, K to 2 sts before marker, SSK, sl marker, rep from * to end of rd.

Collar: *K1, P1, rep from * for 4 complete rds. BO loosely.

Finishing: Undo the safety pins on one side. Notice there are 3 sts at the bottom of the sleeve and 3 body sts. Move them from the safety pins to dpns so that sleeve sts are on one dpn, body sts on another. Graft them together. If you need help with grafting, see my photo tutorial on Grafting / Kitchener Stitch on the Technique page of my website. Weave in loose ends. Now get some clothes on that animal!

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Monkster's version

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Bear's version

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Try your very own version!

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