

Teddy Bears

These little guys are the fewest number of stitches (i.e. fastest) and least amount of yarn that make a proportionate bear. Any repeated project pulls up your speed and skill level. Once you've done a couple, you can vary proportions at will.

As well as toys for family/friends, consider making extras to donate locally or to the Children of Pine Ridge. (Ravelry links are at the bottom of page 4.

These are worked in the round using Magic Loop.

There's a complete [Cheat Sheet](#) on Page 6 that works two (or more) components at a time: 2aaT.

Yarn: worsted weight in two (or more) colors, here called "Body" and "Pajama" (PJ). You can work from both ends of one ball or wind off about half of it without cutting, so it's easier to work with. A loop of the body yarn is used to draw up the neck after the change to the PJ color. Test an end to see if you can break the yarn by pulling on it. If so, substitute something stronger for that step.

Toys of feltable yarn can be washed! If you suspect your yarn is going to shrink, stuff the toy more loosely.

Lighter yarn (fingering) or embroidery floss for face details.

Polyfil for stuffing. Or leftover waste yarn: it's a good use for it.

Circular Needle, Size US 6 / 4 mm (or that on the right and US 3 / 3.25 mm. on the left if you have interchangeable points - the stitches will slide more easily). Length of cable is your preference.

Standard tools: scissors, yarn needle, crochet hook, stitch markers.



Stitches: K (Knit), P (Purl), LIL (Lifted Increase Left), LIR (Lifted Increase Right), SSK (Slip, Slip, Knit, a decrease), K2T (Knit Two Together, a decrease), binding off (any method), crocheting a chain.

Important Links!

Judy's Magic Cast-on (JMCO)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhBIS0AhhQY>

Lifted Increases

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ckoSogTddQ>

Toe Chimney

<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/ccn/info/Business/Tradewind/tbsoctoe.html>

For a bigger bear, use a thicker yarn (or several strands) and a larger needle.

These bears are identical other than the size of the needles and weight of the yarn: they have the same number of stitches and took the same amount of time to knit.



The total weight of this bear (including stuffing) is 48 grams.



Cheat Sheet: Getting Started

Judy's MCO

Start ARMS: 2+2, 2+2, (5" tails) will become 6x6
[Knit one round, increase each edge of each side]

Repeat till 6x6, 6x6

Knit 3 rounds, change color

Knit 1 round,

Slip first stitch, Purl rest of round

Purl one round

Knit 6 rounds, bind off.

Full Instructions: Getting Started

ARMS: (for a single arm):

Judy's Magic Cast-On (JMCO)

Using body color, cast on 4 stitches, 2 on each needle, starting with a 5" / 12.5 cm. tail

Row 2: As per Judy's instructions, knit one round plain.

Row 3: Knit front and back of first and last stitch = 4+4 stitches

Row 4: Knit front and back of first and last stitch = 6+6 stitches

Rows 5-7: Knit

Row 8: Change to pajama color, K one round

Row 9: Slip first stitch, Purl rest of round

Row 10: Purl

Rows 11-16: Knit

Bind off, leaving 12" / 30.5 cm. tails to sew to body.

Make a second arm the same way.

HEAD:

Start with an arms-length tail. You will use the extra to finish the ears.

Using JMCO, cast on 20 stitches, 10 on each needle.

Row 2: as per Judy's instructions, knit one round plain.

Using a crochet hook, loosely chain up the tail, so you won't use it before you need it.

Row 3: Knit front and back of first and last stitch on front and back = 12 + 12 stitches.

Row 4: Knit front and back of first and last stitch on front and back = 14 + 14 stitches.

Row 5: Knit 5, place marker, K4, place marker, K5

Shaping nose (front only; back stitch count remains at 14):

Row 6: Knit 5, LIL (Lifted Increase Left), slip marker, K4, slip marker, LIR (LI Right), K5 = 16 stitches

Row 7: Knit

Row 8: Knit 6, LIL, slip marker, K4, slip marker, LIR, K6 = 18 stitches

Row 9: Knit

Rows 10 +: Continue until you have 8 stitches outside each marker on the front (20 stitches total). After the next knit round, K6, SSK (Slip, Slip, Knit), slip marker, K4, K2T (Knit 2 Together), slip marker, K6. Knit one round plain and decrease as above, back to 5-4-5. Knit one final round plain of body color.

There are three pieces per bear: the two arms and the head/body. You can start with the head if you'd rather.

Cheat Sheet: Head

...has you cast on the head after **Row 10**, using a ball of the body color. The rest of the arms and the head are worked at the same time, with the head continuing after the arms have been bound off.

Cheat Sheet: Body

BODY: 2' / 61 cm. tail for pulling up neck

LIFELINE

Knit 1 round of new color = 14+ 14, pull tail through leaving loop at side and tail hanging out.

Slip first stitch, Purl rest of round, P 2 rounds.

Optional if odd number is needed for pattern:

Increase ONE stitch at each end of each side = 15 + 15.

Knit 2 rounds, stuff head, sculpt ears, pull up neck, embroider face.

Continue body to length: 18 rounds after purls.

If you increased for pattern, K2T each side to get back to 14 + 14.

Stuff body.

CROTCH:

K5, lifted increases toward CF on next 2 sts., marker, LIs toward CF on next two sts., K5.

(repeat on reverse)

K5, K2T, K2T. Tie on new PJ yarn w/2' / 61 cm. tail to sew hip joints. Loosely crochet tail. K2T, K2T, K5.

(reverse: K5, K2T, K2T. Pick up first PJ yarn: K2T, K2T, K5.)

Work legs with separate balls.

9 rounds, 2 P rounds, change to body color, K 1 round, slip 1st st., K, K 6 rounds.

Stuff legs as desired, then cram stuffing towards body.

Decrease toes to 3 x 3 (x2), leave 12" / 30.5 cm. tails.

Knit 5 rounds of contrast waste yarn for chimney (6-stitch I-cord), graft shut.

Use tail of 2nd leg ball to close hole at crotch; (optional) sew hip joints.

Use needle to move stuffing back down legs.

Sew on arms.

Full Instructions

BODY:

Add a LIFELINE (a strong piece of thin cord/dental floss threaded through the stitches) to the first round.

Row 1: Test an end to see if you can break PJ yarn by pulling on it; if so, use a stronger yarn for the extra length that will draw up the neck.

Leaving a 2' / 61 cm. tail, tie on PJ yarn and Knit 1 round of new color = 14 + 14.

Use the Lifeline to pull the tail through, leaving a loop at the side and the tail hanging out at the start.

Row 2: Slip first stitch, Purl rest of round.

Optional if odd number is needed for a colorwork pattern:

Increase ONE stitch at beginning of each side = 15 + 15

Rows 3-4: Purl.

Rows 5-6: Knit.

Finish head: (see Page 5)

Stuff lightly, sculpt ears, pull up neck, embroider face.

Continue body to length: 18 rounds after purl rows.

If you increased for pattern, K2T at beginning of each side to get back to 14 + 14.

Stuff body.

The reason for a knit round at a color change is to avoid the contrasting loops you'll get if you immediately start to purl.

The slipped first stitch on the second row where the color changes avoids a jog.

BODY, continued

Crotch Preparation row:

K6, LIL, K, LIL, place marker, LIR, K, LIR, K6 = 18 sts.
(repeat on reverse)

Legs separate in next step. This is a great place to get comfortable with 2aaT!
Pull stitches as firmly as you can in the crotch. Any hole left will be stitched up later.

K5, K2T, K2T. Tie on new PJ yarn with a 2' / 61 cm. tail to sew crotch hole and hip joints. Loosely crochet tail.
With new yarn K2T, K2T, K5.

Second side: K5, K2T, K2T. Pick up first PJ yarn: K2T, K2T, K5. = 7+7 (x2).

Continue to work legs with separate balls.

Knit 9 rounds.

Purl 2 rounds.

Change to two balls of body color.

K 1 round, slip 1st st. (at color change only), Knit to end.

Knit 6 rounds.

Stuff legs as desired, then cram stuffing towards body. This gives you room to work the toes.

Each side of each leg: K2T, K3, K2T = 5+5 sts.

Each side of each leg: K2T, K3, K2T = 3+3 sts.

Break yarn, leaving 12" / 30.5 cm. tails.

Knit 3 rounds of contrast waste yarn for toe chimney (you can also make a 6-stitch I-cord using Magic Loop!).

Break yarn leaving 6" / 15.25 cm. tails.

Use a yarn needle to bring the toe chimney tail through the middle of the toe chimney tube, up the inside of the leg and out knee area. Pull it to turn the toe chimney inside-out inside the leg. Graft the toe shut. The waste yarn stays inside.

Pick open the crocheted tail where you joined the ball for the second leg. Use a yarn needle to close hole at crotch; (optional) sew hip joints. Flatten the area slightly by rolling it under your fingers, and backstitch firmly at an angle as shown (this makes the bear sit nicely), with last stitch on each side going around the edge of the body.

Use a needle to move stuffing back down legs.

Stuff and sew on arms.

Feed any yarn tails back into the body.



As well as toys for family/friends, consider making extras to donate locally or to the Children of Pine Ridge.
(Ravelry links to threads)

<https://www.ravelry.com/groups/for-the-children-of-pine-ridge>

The two I send to most often:

The Sacred Shawl Society (several things going on, including a women's shelter)

<https://www.ravelry.com/discuss/for-the-children-of-pine-ridge/3868931/1-25>

The High Horses in Wanblee (different area) -

<https://www.ravelry.com/discuss/for-the-children-of-pine-ridge/3868928/1-25>

Finishing head:

Sculpt ears:

Using a yarn needle, unpick the crocheted tail. Bring the yarn to the inside of the head if it isn't already. Catch a stitch at the side 1.25" / 3 cm. down and knot (float should be loose). Bring the yarn to the outside of the head.

Stuff that ear area lightly. Using a backstitch, run a line diagonally not quite a third across the head, pulling stitches firmly so that the ear cups. Bring yarn to inside and tie off. **DO NOT CUT.** Float the yarn across the center of the head to the start of the other ear, tie off, bring yarn to outside of head, repeat. Tie off yarn on inside.

Firmly knot any ends inside the bear. Don't bother to trim them (less stuffing!).

Sculpt the nose:

Stuff the head with a big ball of polyfill (or waste yarn). Make a firm small ball and position it in the front to push out the nose.

Pull up the yarn hanging out at the neck, first the loop and then the loose end. Bring yarn to inside and tie off securely.



Embroider the face:

Work the face with lighter-weight yarn or embroidery floss using a yarn needle. On the inside front, take a stitch catching the yarn that pulls in the neck and tie that end off. Float the yarn up and give the face your best shot. It's okay if the features are uneven. Exaggerate and make it a feature. No kid I've known has ever cared.

Shape the upper head by running secured stitches back and forth inside between the eyes and pulling tight.

If you're yarn-shopping, pick up colors that will match the kids' skin tones where possible. Solid-colored "bare" bears of any color are fine, too. Kids love those having a little spiral belly button.



If you see dishcloths as the chance to try out patterns, you're going to love the design possibilities here!

Cheat Sheet:

ARMS:

Judy's MCO

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Slip first stitch, purl rest of round

Purl one round

Knit 6 rounds, bind off.

.Start **HEAD** arms-length tail to finish ears

JMCO 10+10

Knit 1 round

Increase as per arms to 14+14

Knit one round, place markers 5-4-5

Increase (front) every other row to 8-4-8

Knit one round.

Decrease nose same places to 5-4-5

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Loosely crochet tail. K2T, K2T, K5.

(reverse: K5, K2T, K2T. Pick up first PJ yarn:

K2T, K2T, K5.)

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