Color Joy by LynnH
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Fast-Finish Teddy *(Free, Streamlined Version)*

Materials Needed

- 50gm Aran-weight yarn,*
  sometimes called heavy-worsted weight (rated 4.5 stitches/inch).
  (I used Berroco Weekend cotton/acrylic)
- Size 5 US (3.75mm) knitting needles (if you are a relaxed knitter, consider a size smaller so that stuffing will not show.)
- Small amount of polyester fiberfill.
- Standard knit tools.
- My gauge is approximately 18.5 stitches/4 inch/10cm, and approx. 18 garter ridges (36 rows) high per 4 inch/10cm, unstretched. My bear measures approximately 10 inches tall by 6 inches wide.

* If you choose to make this with another size of yarn, use needles about 2 sizes smaller than normally used for that yarn. The corresponding size of your bear and amount of yarn needed will also change.

*NOTE: Two *rows* of knitting equals one *ridge* of garter stitch. Instructions include both rows; however, when counting vertically, count RIDGES rather than rows (as specified).*

Instructions Used Throughout Pattern:

One-*Increase* Sequence: Knit 1, Kfb, knit all remaining stitches to end of row.

Two-*Increase* Sequence: (Knit 1, Kfb) twice, then knit all remaining stitches to end of row.

One-*Decrease* Sequence: Knit 1, K2tog, knit all remaining stitches to end of row.

Two-*Decrease* Sequence: (Knit 1, K2tog) twice, knit all remaining stitches to end of row.

NOTE: The above box, plus instructions for Backward Loop Cast On and Knit Front and Back increase (Kfb) are included on Pg. 5. Other techniques can be found on the Internet or in books.

Leg

A. Cast On 6 stitches with backward-loop technique (also called e-wrap cast on).
B. For 2 rows/1 ridge, knit all stitches (hold yarn tail tightly to left needle while making final stitch on 1st row). *(**Note**: if you did a long-tail cast on instead, knit only 1 row here.)*
C. For 2 rows/1 ridge, perform a **One-*Increase* Sequence** as detailed above. (8sts)
D. Knit all stitches until you have 10 RIDGES (20 rows including above) on both sides, and the first yarn tail is hanging from bottom left side.
E. Cut yarn, leaving 4–6 inch tail for working in end later.

Repeat above leg instructions to make second leg. (You can leave first leg on same needle for later if you wish, or put it on a holder/extra needle while making second leg.)

Make sure two legs are now placed on same left-hand needle, both with yarn tail hanging to left side. *(You may wish to identify the front of your work with a pin/marker in the leg fabric.)*

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‣ Please respect that I spent time and money creating this product, writing instructions, and testing it/having others test it; so that it works well and is easy to execute. This is my "day job," it is how I pay my bills. Please honor my gift to you, by not profiting from my work (and that of my volunteer test knitters). Thank you.

Leg—Connecting Transition Ridge (2 Rows)

Row 1: (K1, Kfb) twice, knit to end of first leg. Cast On 2 stitches with backward loop, onto right-hand needle, continue by knitting across all stitches from second leg.
Row 2: Perform **Two-*Increase* Sequence**. (22 st)

Body

Knit all stitches (garter fabric) until the front of the bear (tails hanging left) includes 7 ridges of the full width. (Count ridges from point between legs.)

Waist

For 6 rows/3 ridges, perform a **One-*Decrease* Sequence**. (16 st)

Arms

A. Cast On 4 stitches with backward loop to the needle holding your knitting, then perform **Two-*Increase* Sequence** starting at the beginning of your new stitches. (22 st)
B. Repeat above row another time, starting with Cast On. (28 st)
C. For 2 rows/1 ridge, perform a **Two-*Increase* Sequence**. (32 st)
D. For 2 rows/1 ridge, perform a **One-*Increase* Sequence**. (34 st)
E. For 6 rows/3 ridges, knit all stitches.
F. For 4 rows/2 ridges, perform a **Two-*Decrease* Sequence** (26 st)

Shoulders

For 2 rows: Bind Off 5, K2Tog; *then* perform a **One-*Decrease* Sequence**. (12 st)

Neck

For 2 rows/1 ridge, knit all stitches.

Head

The above instructions are followed identically for both front and back pieces. The head shape is different between pieces. Use **Back of Head** instructions *(below)* to complete the first piece. For second piece, skip to **Face with Snout Shaping** instructions *(next page)* starting at this point.

BACK OF HEAD WITH EARS, Make ONE:

A. For 2 rows/1 ridge, perform a **One-*Increase* Sequence**. (14 st)
B. For 4 rows/2 ridges, perform a **Two-*Increase* Sequence**. (22 st)
C. For 12 rows/6 ridges, knit all stitches.
D. For 2 rows/1 ridge, perform a **Two-*Decrease* Sequence** (18 st)
E. For 2 rows/1 ridge, perform a **One-*Decrease* Sequence** (16 st)

Ear 1

A. Knit 6 stitches. Turn around in the middle of the row as if you finished a full row (first ear).
B. Knit those 6 stitches for 3 more rows, to finish 2 full ridges for first ear.
C. **One-*Decrease* Sequence**, turn.
D. **One-*Decrease* Sequence**, turn (4 st)
E. Bind Off all stitches. Cut yarn, leaving 4–6 in. tail for hiding ends later.

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Top of Forehead

Go back to the remaining 10 stitches on hold. Hold new strand of yarn in place (pretend the short end is attached to the back of the knitting).
Bind Off 4 center stitches (this leaves one stitch on right needle).

Ear 2

A. Knit remaining 5 stitches onto right needle (6 sts). Turn.
B. Starting on wrong side of bear (yarn tails hanging right), knit all 6 ear stitches for 3 more rows/finish 2 ridges as for first ear.

Repeat **Ear 1** Instructions for steps C, D & E. Back of bear done!

Go back to beginning (**Leg**) and make front of bear, using below **FACE** instructions for Head.

FACE WITH SNOUT SHAPING, Make ONE:

A. For 2 rows/1 ridge, perform a **One-*Increase* Sequence**. (14 st)
B. For 4 rows/2 ridges, perform a **Two-*Increase* Sequence**. (22 st)
C. For 4 rows/2 ridges, knit all stitches.
D. **Snout**
    1) For 2 rows/1 ridge, knit 6, Kfb, knit to end of row. (24 st)
    2) For 4 rows/2 ridges, knit all stitches.
    3) For 2 rows/1 ridge, knit 9, K2tog, knit to end of row. (22 st)
E. For 2 rows/1 ridge, perform a **Two-*Decrease* Sequence** (18 st)
F. For 2 rows/1 ridge, perform a **One-*Decrease* Sequence** (16 st)

Next 1 row, K2tog twice, knit all remaining stitches. (14 st)
Next 1 row, K2tog twice, lift first stitch you made (right side) over second to bind off. Knit next stitch, lift to bind off. Continue binding off normally (no more decreases).

Finishing

1) General Tidying

Work in all yarn ends, hidden on inside surfaces.

Make sure you stretch the fabric a bit while you work. This ensures that your sewing is not going to pucker the front of the fabric. You want it to act like stretchy knitted fabric, even on the back.

2) Optional Ear Shaping

Get ears barely moist. (Run under faucet briefly, press in towel to dry.)

Using 8 in/20cm or so of your yarn, thread needle. Anchor one end on the inside of the back piece of your bear. This should be just under the bottom ear edge, at the far right or left of head.

Run your needle through all of the bumps around the very edge of the ear, ending at forehead at opposite side of that ear. Snug yarn a bit firmly to make edges of ear round out and cup a little, as ears do. At that forehead spot/base of ear, anchor yarn so that it maintains your slight tension.

Run needle across bound off forehead stitches, or just below them, on inside of piece. Again, anchor yarn at closest base of second ear, run yarn through edges of ear, firm up to make it look better; anchor with a little tension at the far edge of the ear. Work in any ends so they stay to the inside when you sew/stuff bear.

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3) Embellish (optional)

If you wish, embroider eyes and nose on the face. The nose is often depicted as an upside-down triangle. Work with the bumps on the fabric, they can help you match sizes. Fighting them is impossible, so let them guide you.

Do not use button eyes for infants, as a safety measure. If you wish to use safety eyes and nose, it is wise to place a bit of fabric or synthetic felt on the back of the knit fabric before attaching. This will reinforce their strength on this stretchy fabric.

4) Assemble

Sew bear together, starting with legs. (You need a sewing yarn/thread at least 8 times longer than your bear is tall. You may wish to use multiple pieces to make it manageable.)

Sew by catching one "garter bump" with your needle on one side, then catch matching bump on other piece, going back and forth in a zigzag pattern. It may be easier for you if you stretch the fabric a bit to see those bumps more clearly.

Notice that while I was sewing (photo 1), I kept the pieces far from each other and let the yarn be loose so I could see what I was doing.

In photo 2, you can see that I pulled my sewing yarn tight after I was done. The seam is barely visible, even with contrasting sewing yarn.

If you find you have a mismatched number of ridges, fudge by skipping one ridge and keep going. The bumpy, stretchy fabric is forgiving of such "hiccups."

At bound off areas, follow a similar pattern back and forth, in a similar stitch length. At ears, sew through both pieces of fabric at base of ear, leaving the single-layered ear free.

Stuff small areas as you work. Do not stuff too fully; knits do not work well overstuffed.

5) Optional Tie (Sewn on for Safety)

I decorated my bear with a neck tie. Mine is made of knitted "I-Cord," three stitches of the base yarn held together with my face-embroidery sockyarn, on larger needles. If you have never made I-cord, there are many videos on the technique on the Internet.

I made the tie a little longer than twice the circumference of the neck. I then SEWED the side and back of the tie to the bear for safety purposes. Consider the age of the recipient if you choose to give your bear a tie. Sew it on firmly if you make the choice to go ahead.

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Two-*Decrease* Sequence: (Knit 1, K2tog) twice, knit all remaining stitches to end of row.

Appendix: Uncommon Techniques Used in Pattern

Backward Loop Cast On

1) You need not use a slip knot to start. Just hold the yarn together with the needle in your right hand, yarn tail hanging toward the floor, needle point up. (Your hand replaces the knot, at first.)

2) Hold working yarn in left hand and swoop first finger over the yarn and then toward your body as if you are scooping ice cream, ending pointing at ceiling. *(You may have learned this with your thumb.)*

3) Put the point of your right-hand needle touching your skin underneath the loop. *(See photo.)* Slide it up until it catches the yarn, and yarn loop surrounds needle.

4) Let the yarn loop fall off your finger, onto needle. Snug yarn gently. One stitch made. (Don't let go with right hand until you have made at least 2 stitches, or it will come undone.)

Repeat steps 2–4 until you have the proper number of stitches.

Knit Front and Back Increase (Kfb)

This is an increase method that transforms one stitch into two stitches, with a little horizontal bar at the base of one of the stitches. *DO NOT SUBSTITUTE another increase. Your stitch count is likely to come out wrong if you do.*

1) First make a regular stitch in your normal way, but do not slide that new stitch off the left-hand needle. Tug lightly at the new stitch so you get a little extra wiggle room in it.

2) Put the right needle's point behind the left needle's point, and poke that right needle through the stitch on the left hand needle. Your needles will be pointing in opposite directions (picture hands in a fuzzy muff, the fingers point sideways in different directions).

3) While the right needle is in the back of the left stitch, wrap the yarn counter-clockwise (the same way as before) around the tip.

4) Using the right needle tip, pull that new wrap out of the left loop (it feels like you are pulling it up or to the right) until you have created a new loop on the right needle.

5) Slide the left loop off the left needle. You now should have an extra stitch on your right needle (see photo). Notice the small "necklace" at the base of the left-hand stitch.

There are videos of this technique available on the Internet, if you wish to see it in motion.)

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