Suppliers
If you have difficulty in obtaining any of the materials and equipment mentioned in this book, then please visit the Search Press website for details of suppliers:
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Materials can also be obtained from the author's own website: www.suestratford.co.uk.

Techniques

I-cord

To make an i-cord, cast on your stitches using double-pointed needles, knit them and slide them to the other end of the same needle. Pull the yarn across the back of the needle and knit the stitches again. Repeat these instructions until the cord is long enough. By pulling the yarn behind the stitches on the needle, you close the 'gap' and give the appearance of French knitting. Alternatively, you can work the stitches in stocking stitch and sew up the seam.

Mattress stitch

This is a really neat way to join two pieces of stocking stitch together. The seam is practically invisible and not at all bulky. Begin by laying the work side by side with the right side facing you. Slip your needle through the horizontal bar between the first and second stitch of the first row on one piece and then repeat this process on the opposite piece. Work back and forth up this line of stitches for about 2.5cm (1in). Gently pull the yarn in the direction of the seam (upwards) and you will see the two sets of stitches join together. Repeat this process until you reach the top of the seam.

Wrap and turn

This technique ensures you do not end up with a 'hole' in your knitting when working short row shaping and turning your work mid-row. Slip the following stitch from the left needle to the right needle. Move the yarn from the back to the front of the work, between the needles. Slip stitch back to the left-hand needle. Turn work.

Three-needle cast off

With both pieces still on the knitting needles, place your two pieces of knitting right sides together. Using a third needle, knit the first stitch from each needle together. Now knit the next stitch from each needle together. Cast off the first stitch in the usual way by lifting it over the second stitch. Repeat until all the stitches have been cast off.

Fair Isle technique

Fair Isle is a method of knitting with two colours, in which only a few stitches in the contrasting colour are used. The yarn not being knitted is carried across the back of the work. It is best not to carry the contrasting yarn over more than two or three stitches without 'looping' the main colour around it. This will secure it to the back of the work and avoid large loops appearing.

French knots
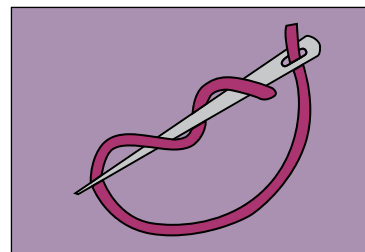
1. Bring the sewing needle through to the front of the work and wind the yarn around the needle twice.
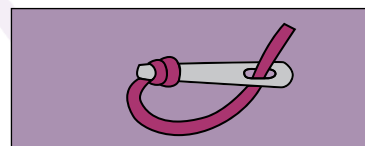
2. Take the needle through the work, half a stitch away, holding the loops around the needle with your fingers while pulling the yarn through to the back of your work.

3. Pull the thread into a knot and fasten off.

Next row: K22, M1, K2, M1, K22 [48 sts].
Knit 1 row.
Next row: K21, K2tog, K2, ssK, K21 [46 sts].
Knit 1 row.
Next row: K20, K2tog, K2, ssK, K20 [44 sts].
Knit 1 row.
Next row: K19, K2tog, K2, ssK, K19 [42 sts].
Knit 1 row.
Next row: K18, K2tog, K2, ssK, K18 [40 sts].
Knit 1 row.
Next row: K17, K2tog, K2, ssK, K17 [38 sts].
Knit 1 row.
Next row: K1, K2tog, knit to last 3 sts, ssK, K1 [36 sts].
Rep this row twice more [32 sts].
Next row: K6, K2tog, ssK, K12, ssK, K2tog, K6 [28 sts].
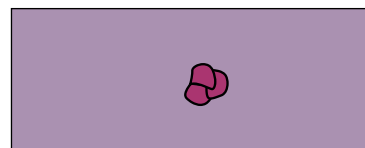**Next row:** K5, K2tog, ssK, K10, ssK, K2tog, K5 [24 sts].
Next row: K4, K2tog, ssK, K8, ssK, K2tog, K4 [20 sts].
Next row: K3, K2tog, ssK, K6, ssK, K2tog, K3 [16 sts].
Cast off.

Body
Worked in two-row stripe pattern.
Using orange yarn and 3.25mm (UK 10, US 3) needles, cast on 14 sts and work 3 rows in GS.
Next row: K1, M1, knit to last st, M1, K1 [16 sts].
Knit 1 row.
Rep last 2 rows twice more [20 sts].
Work 14 rows in stripe pattern.
Next row: K1, K2tog, knit to last 3 sts, ssK, K1 [18 sts].

Knit 1 row.
Rep last 2 rows twice more [14 sts].
Work 2 rows in GS.
Next row: keeping stripe pattern correct, cast on 21 sts at beg of row, knit across 35 sts on needle, turn and cast on 21 sts [56 sts].
Knit 23 rows in stripe pattern.
Change colour and knit 1 row.
Next row: K2, K2tog, (K5, K2tog) 7 times, K3 [48 sts].
Work 6 rows in stripe pattern.
Change colour and knit 1 row.
Next row: K2, K2tog, (K4, K2tog) 7 times, K2 [40 sts].
Work 6 rows in stripe pattern.
Change colour and knit 1 row.
Next row: K1, K2tog, (K3, K2tog) 7 times, K2 [32 sts].
Work 4 rows in stripe pattern.
Change colour and knit 1 row.
Next row: K1, K2tog, (K2, K2tog) 7 times, K1 [24 sts].
Work 2 rows in GS.
Change colour and knit 1 row.
Next row: (K1, K2tog) 8 times [16 sts].
Thread yarn through rem sts and secure.

Legs (make two)
Using orange yarn and 3.25mm (UK 10, US 3) needles, cast on 16 sts and work 7 repeats of the two-row stripe pattern. Cast off.

Foot (make two)
Work in stripe pattern.
Using orange yarn and 3.25mm (UK 10, US 3) needles, cast on 7 sts and knit 1 row.
Next row: K1, M1, knit to last st, M1, K1 [9 sts].
Next row: K1, M1, knit to last st, M1, K1 [11 sts].
Knit 5 rows.
Row 1: K1, M1, knit to last st, M1, K1 [13 sts].
Row 2: knit 1 row.
Rep last 2 rows once more [15 sts].
Knit 2 rows.
Row 1: K1, K2tog, knit to last 3 sts, ssK, K1 [13 sts].
Rep last row once more [11 sts].
Knit 2 rows.
Next row: K1, M1, knit to last st, M1, K1 [13 sts].
Rep last row once more [15 sts].
Knit 2 rows.
Row 1: K1, K2tog, knit to last 3 sts, ssK, K1 [13 sts].
Row 2: knit.
Rep last 2 rows once more [11 sts].
Work 4 rows in GS.

Body front
Using light brown, cast on 36 sts using 4mm (UK 8, US 6) needles and knit 1 row.

Row 2: P1, M1, P34, M1, P1 [38 sts].
Row 3: K1, M1, K36, M1, K1 [40 sts].
Row 4: P39, M1, P1 [41 sts].
Row 5: **K5**, K35, M1, K1 [42 sts].
Row 6: **P1**, **M1**, **P3**, P31, **P7** [43 sts].
Row 7: **K9**, K27, **K7**.
Row 8: **P8**, P24, **P11**.
Row 9: **K12**, K22, **K9**.
Row 10: **P10**, P23, **P10**.
Row 11: **K6**, K26, **K11**.
Row 12: **P12**, P27, **K4** [43 sts].
Row 13: **K2**, K28, **K13**.
Row 14: **P8**, P34, **P1**.
Row 15: K38, **K5**.
Row 16: **P3**, P36, **P4**.
Row 17: **K8**, K33, **K2**.
Row 18: P33, **P10**.
Row 19: **K13**, K26, **K4**.
Row 20: **P7**, P35, **P11**.
Row 21: **K9**, K25, **K9** [43 sts].
Row 22: **P10**, P26, **P7**.
Row 23: **K5**, K27, **K11**.
Row 24: **P12**, P27, **P4**.
Row 25: **K2**, K34, **K7**.
Row 26: **P7**, P34, **P2**.
Row 27: **K1**, K11, **K3**, K23, **K5**.
Row 28: **P4**, P25, **P5**, P9.
Row 29: K5, **K8**, K28, **K2** [43 sts].
Row 30: P31, **P9**, P3.
Row 31: **K11**, K29, **K3**.
Row 32: **P7**, P26, **P7**, **P2togtbl**, **P1** [42 sts].
Row 33: **K8**, K24, **K10**.
Row 34: **P11**, P24, **P7**.
Row 35: **K1**, **K2tog**, **K4**, K7, **K3**, K17, **K8** [41 sts].
Row 36: **P6**, P20, **P4**, P6, **P5**.
Row 37: **K1**, **k2tog**, **K1**, K5, **K6**, K22, **K4** [40 sts].
Row 38: **P3**, P24, **P6**, P4, P2togtbl, **P1** [39 sts].
Row 39: cast off 2 sts, K2, **K8**, K25, **K1** [37 sts].
Row 40: P27, **P7**, **P2togtbl**, P1 [36 sts].
Row 41: cast off 2 sts, **K2tog**, **K4**, K22, **K5** [33 sts].
Row 42: **P7**, P22, **P4**.
Row 43: **cast off 2 sts**, **K2**, K3, **K5**, K13, **K7** [31 sts].
Row 44: **P8**, P10, **P7**, P3, **P2togtbl**, **P1** [30 sts].

Row 45: **cast off 2 sts**, **K6**, K14, **K4**, **K2tog**, **K1** [27 sts].
Row 46: **P4**, P17, **P6**.
Row 47: **K1**, **K2tog**, **K3**, K18, **K3** [26 sts].
Row 48: **P2**, P20, **P1**, **P2togtbl**, **P1** [25 sts].
Row 49: **K1**, **K2tog**, K21, **K1** [24 sts].
Row 50: P23, **P1**.
Row 51: K1, K2tog, K20, **K1** [23 sts].
Row 52: **P3**, P17, **P3**.
Row 53: **K5**, K13, **K5**.
Row 54: **P6**, P13, **P4**.
Row 55: **K4**, K16, **K3**.
Row 56: **P2**, P19, **P2**.
Row 57: **K1**, K10, **K1**, K10, **K1**.
Row 58: P11, **P1**, P11.
Row 59: K8, **K1**, K1, **K3**, K1, **K1**, K8.
Row 60: P8, **P1**, P1, **P3**, P1, **P1**, P8.
Row 61: K7, **cast off 9 sts**, K6.
Turn and, working over first set of 7 sts, P7.
Next row: knit.
Next row: P4, P2togtbl, P1.
Next row: knit.

Next row: P3, P2togtbl, P1.
Next row: knit.
Next row: P2, P2togtbl, P1.
Next row: K2tog twice.
Next row: P2tog and fasten off rem st.
With WS facing, rejoin yarn to rem 7 sts and purl 1 row.
Next row: knit.
Next row: P1, P2tog, P4.
Next row: knit.
Next row: P1, P2tog, P3.
Next row: knit.
Next row: P1, P2togtbl, P2.
Next row: K2tog, twice [4 sts].
Next row: P2tog and fasten off.

Base
Using light brown and 4mm (UK 8, US 6) knitting needles, cast on 18 sts and work 2 rows in SS.
Next row: K1, M1, knit to last st, M1, K1 [20 sts].
Next row: P1, M1, purl to last st, M1, P1 [22 sts].
Rep last 2 rows twice more [30 sts].
Work 4 rows in SS.
Next row: K1, K2tog, knit to last 3 sts, ssK, K1 [28 sts].
Next row: P1, P2togtbl, purl to last 3 sts, P2tog, P1 [26 sts].
Rep last 2 rows twice more [18 sts].
Work 2 rows in SS.
Cast off.

Tail
Using dark brown and 4mm (UK 8, US 6) knitting needles, cast on 10 sts and work 11cm (4¼in) in SS, ending with a RS row.
*Next row: P4, w&t.
K4, turn.
P6, w&t.
K6, turn.
P8, w&t.
K8, turn.
Rep from * a further 4 times.
Purl 1 row.
Next row: K1, K2tog, knit to last 3 sts, ssK, K1 [8 sts].
Purl 1 row.
Rep last 2 rows twice more [4 sts].
Cast off.

Nose
Using black 4-ply (fingering) yarn and 2.75mm (UK 12, US 2) knitting needles, cast on 4 sts and knit 1 row.
Next row: (P2tog) twice [2 sts].
Next row: K2tog.
Fasten off rem st.

Feet (make two)
Using light brown and 4mm (UK 8, US 6) knitting needles, cast on 2 sts.
Row 1: (Kfb) twice [4 sts].
Row 2: (Kfb) 4 times [8 sts].
Row 3: knit.
Row 4: (P2tog) 4 times [4 sts].
Row 5: (K2tog) twice [2 sts].
Row 6: purl.
Rep these 5 rows twice more to make 3 toes. Cast off rem 2 sts.

Making up
Sew the side seams of the cat, matching the markings on the front and the back. Attach the eyes and stuff two-thirds of the cat with toy filling. Half fill the sock with rice so that it fits inside the cat. Sew across the sock just above the rice, and fold the top part of the sock back over the stuffed part. Place the sock inside the cat and pad the cat with toy filling until you are happy with the shape. Pin and sew the base in place. Pin and sew the tail in place using the picture as guidance, and stuff gently to make it look three dimensional. Sew the nose in place and embroider the mouth and whiskers using the picture as guidance.
Gather the edges of each foot to give the toes definition and sew them to the seam between the base of the cat and the body, using the picture for guidance.

Work 3 rows in SS.
Rep last 4 rows 7 times [20 sts].
Next row: K1, K2tog, knit to last 3 sts, ssK, K1 [18 sts].
Purl 1 row.
Rep last 2 rows twice more [14 sts].
Cast off.

Back

NB: when working the back of the body you start by creating a triangular shape which will be the base of the cat. You then need to pick up the stitches along the decreased edges over the next two rows to join the base to what will be the rest of the body. It is important that you pick up the stitches knitwise or purlwise as indicated so that you don't get a line on the right side of the body.

Using ginger yarn and 4mm (UK 8, US 6) needles, cast on 20 sts and work 2 rows in SS.
Row 1: K1, K2tog, knit to last 3 sts, ssK, K1 [18 sts].
Row 2: purl 1 row.
Rep last 2 rows 4 more times [10 sts].
Next row: K10, pick up 7 sts purlwise and purl these sts [17 sts].
Next row: P17, pick up 7 sts knitwise and knit these sts [24 sts].
Row 1: K1, M1, knit to last st, M1, K1 [26 sts].
Row 2: P1, M1, purl to last st, M1, P1 [28 sts].
Rep last 2 rows 3 more times [40 sts].
Work 6 rows in SS.
Next row: K1, K2tog, knit to last 3 sts, ssK, K1 [38 sts].
Work 3 rows in SS.
Rep last 4 rows once more [36 sts].
Next row: K1, K2tog, K14, K2tog, K14, ssK, K1 [33 sts].
Work 3 rows in SS.
Next row: K1, K2tog, K27, ssK, K1 [31 sts].
Work 3 rows in SS.
Next row: K1, K2tog, K11, sl1,K2tog, psso,K11, ssK, K1 [27 sts].
Work 3 rows in SS.
Next row: K1, K2tog, K9, K2tog, K10, ssK, K1 [24 sts].
Work 3 rows in SS.
Next row: K1, K2tog, knit to last 3 sts, ssK, K1 [22 sts].
Work 3 rows in SS.
Rep last 4 rows once more [20 sts].

Next row: K1, K2tog, knit to last 3 sts, ssK, K1 [18 sts].
Purl 1 row.
Rep last 2 rows twice more [14 sts].
Cast off.

Bib
Using cream yarn and 4mm (UK 8, US 6) needles, cast on 12 sts and knit 1 row.
Row 1: P1, M1, purl to last st, M1, P1 [14 sts].
Row 2: K1, M1, knit to last st, M1, K1 [16 sts].
Rep last 2 rows once more [20 sts].
Rep row 1 once more [22 sts].
Work 6 rows in SS.
Next row: K1, k2tog, knit to last 3 sts, ssK, K1 [20 sts].
Work 3 rows in SS.
Rep last 4 rows 6 more times [8 sts].
Cast off.

Head
The head is worked in one piece.
Using ginger yarn and 4mm (UK 8, US 6) needles, cast on 16 sts and work 2 rows in SS.
*****Row 1:** K1, M1, knit to last st, M1, K1 [18 sts].
Row 2: P1, M1, purl to last st, M1, P1 [20 sts].
Rep last 2 rows once more [24 sts].
Rep row 1 once more [26 sts].
Work 13 rows in SS*.
Row 1: K1, K2tog, knit to last 3 sts, ssK, K1 [24 sts].
Row 2: P1, P2togtbl, purl to last 3 sts, P2tog, P1 [22 sts].
Rep last 2 rows once more [18 sts].
Rep row 1 once more [16 sts].
Purl 1 row.
Rep from * to * [26 sts].
Row 1: K1, K2tog, knit to last 3 sts, ssK, K1 [24 sts].
Row 2: P1, P2togtbl, purl to last 3 sts, P2tog, P1 [22 sts].
Rep last 2 rows once more [18 sts].
Rep row 1 once more [16 sts].
Cast off.

Face
Using cream yarn and 4mm (UK 8, US 6) needles, cast on 18 sts.
Row 1: K1, M1, K7, M1, K2, M1, K7, M1, K1 [22 sts].
Purl 1 row.

Next row: K1, K2tog, K7, M1, K2, M1, K7, ssK, K1 [22 sts].
Purl 1 row.
Rep last 2 rows 4 more times.
Next row: K1, K2tog, knit to last 3 sts, ssK, K1 [20 sts].
Purl 1 row.
Next row: K1, K2tog, K4, K2tog, K2, ssK, K4, ssK, K1 [16 sts].
Purl 1 row.
Next row: K1, K2tog, K2, K2tog, K2, ssK, K2, ssK, K1 [12 sts].
Purl 1 row.
Next row: K1, K2tog, knit to last 3 sts, ssK, K1 [10 sts].
Purl 1 row.
Rep last 2 rows 3 more times [4 sts].
Next row: K2tog, ssK [2 sts].
Cast off.

Ears (make two)
The ears are worked in GS.
Cast on 12 sts using ginger yarn and 4mm (UK 8, US 6) needles, and knit 2 rows.

Next row: K1, K2tog, knit to last 3 sts, ssK, K1 [10 sts].
Knit 2 rows.
Rep last 3 rows 3 more times [4 sts].
Next row: K2tog, ssK.
K2tog.
Thread yarn through rem st.

Nose
Using black 4-ply (fingering) yarn and 2.5mm (UK 13, US 1) knitting needles, cast on 5 sts.
Work 2 rows in SS.
Next row: K2tog, K1, ssK [3 sts].
Purl 1 row.
Next row: sl1, K2tog, psso.
Thread yarn through rem st and tighten.

Arms (make two)
Using ginger yarn and 4mm (UK 8, US 6) needles, cast on 18 sts and work 7cm (2¾in) in rev SS, ending with a WS row (knit row).
Next row: change to cream and, starting with a knit row, work 4 rows in SS.
Next row: K1, M1, K7, M1, K2, M1, K7, M1, K1 [22 sts].
Purl 1 row.
Next row: K1, M1, K9, M1, K2, M1, K9, M1, K1 [26 sts].
Purl 1 row.
Work 2 rows in SS.
Next row: K1, K2tog, K7, ssK, K2, K2tog, K7, ssK, K1 [22 sts].
Next row: P1, P2tog, P5, P2togtbl, P2, P2tog, P5, P2togtbl, P1 [18 sts].
Cast off.

Legs (make two)
Using ginger yarn and 4mm (UK 8, US 6) needles, cast on 18 sts and work 8cm (3¼in) in rev SS.
Cast off.

Feet (make two)
Using cream yarn and 4mm (UK 8, US 6) needles, cast on 7 sts and knit 1 row.
Next row: P1, M1, purl to last st, M1, P1 [9 sts].
Next row: K1, M1, knit to last st, M1, K1 [11 sts].
Work 5 rows in SS.
Row 1: K1, M1, knit to last st, M1, K1 [13 sts].
Row 2: purl 1 row.
Rep last 2 rows once more [15 sts].

Work 2 rows in SS.

Next row: K1, K2tog, knit to last 3 sts, ssK, K1 [13 sts].

Next row: P1, P2togtbl, purl to last 3 sts, P2tog, P1 [11 sts].

Work 3 rows in SS.

Next row: P1, M1, purl to last st, M1, P1 [13 sts].

Next row: K1, M1, knit to last st, M1, K1 [15 sts].

Work 3 rows in SS.

Row 1: K1, K2tog, knit to last 3 sts, ssK, K1 [13 sts].

Row 2: purl.

Rep last 2 rows once more [11 sts].

Work 4 rows in SS.

Next row: K1, K2tog, knit to last 3 sts, ssK, K1 [9 sts].

Next row: P1, P2togtbl, purl to last 3 sts, P2tog, P1 [7 sts].

Cast off.

Tail

Using ginger yarn and 4mm (UK 8, US 6) needles, cast on 16 sts and work 14cm (5½in) in rev SS, ending with a WS row. Change to cream and, starting with a RS row (knit), continue in SS for 8 rows.

Next row: (K2, K2tog) 4 times [12 sts].

Purl 1 row.

Next row: (K2, K2tog) 3 times [9 sts].

Purl 1 row.

Next row: (K2tog) 4 times, K1 [5 sts].

Thread yarn through rem sts and tighten.

Making up

Sew the seam on each arm (remembering that the back of the ginger knitting is the right side), stuff and oversew the end of the arm with cream yarn to form a paw shape, using the picture for guidance. Sew each leg seam, again with the back of the knitting on the right side. Sew the foot seams and oversew to make paws, as for the arms. Sew the bottom of each leg to the top of a foot, placing weighting beads in the bottom of the leg and filling the rest of the leg with toy filling.

Sew the side seam of the tail, placing weighting beads at the end of the tail and filling the rest with toy filling.

Position the arms and legs, placing them in the seams of the body. Sew the seams, stitching the arms and legs in place as you go. Place weighting beads in the bottom of the body and fill the rest with toy filling. Sew the tail to the back of the body, using the picture for guidance.

With the back of the knitting facing outwards, sew the side seams of the head. Stuff lightly with toy filling and sew the face to the front of the head with the RS facing outwards, stuffing gently to give definition as you sew.

Attach the safety eyes and place more toy filling inside the head. Sew the nose to the front of the face and embroider the mouth and whiskers with black yarn. Sew the ears to the top of the head, using the picture as guidance. Sew the head to the body.

Sew the bib to the front of the body, matching the top of the bib to the cream edge of the face.