

Otter

Materials:

5g (½oz) of fleecy DK (8-ply/light worsted) yarn in dark brown (A) and a small amount in white (B)

Small amount of 4-ply (fingering) yarn in black (C)

Two 4mm (½in) black beads

Black cotton thread

Toy stuffing

Needles:

3.5mm (UK 9 or 10, US 4) needles

Size:

10cm (4in) tall

Instructions:

Body

Using yarn A, cast on 9 sts.

Row 1 (WS): p to end.

Row 2: (kfb) to end (18 sts).

Row 3: p to end.

Row 4: join in yarn B, k4 (B), k10 (A), join in another strand of yarn B, k4 (B).

Rows 5–19: keeping colours correct and beg with a p row, work 15 rows in st st.

Row 20: cast off 4 sts using yarn A to cast off last st (B), k1 (A), k2tog (A), k2 (A), k2tog (A), k2 (A), cast off remaining 4 sts (B) (8 sts).

Continue using yarn A only.

Row 21: cast on 6 sts, p to end (14 sts).

Row 22: cast on 6 sts, k to end (20 sts).

Rows 23–25: beg with a p row, work 3 rows in st st.

Row 26: k6 (A), join in yarn B, k8 (B), join in another strand of yarn A, k6 (A).

Rows 27–28: keeping colours correct and beg with a p row, work 2 rows in st st.

Keeping colours correct, cast off.

Head

Using yarn A, cast on 8 sts.

Row 1 (WS): p to end.

Row 2: (kfb) to end (16 sts).

Rows 3–11: beg with a p row, work 9 rows in st st.

Row 12 (eyeline): k5, (k2tog) three times, k5 (13 sts).

Row 13: p to end.

Break off yarn A.

Rows 14–17: change to yarn B and beg with a k row, work 4 rows in st st.

Break yarn, draw through sts, pull tightly and fasten off.

Legs: make two

Using yarn A, cast on 10 sts.

Rows 1–3: beg with a p (WS) row, work 3 rows in st st.

Row 4: k3, (k2tog) twice, k3 (8 sts).

Rows 5–10: beg with a p row, work 6 rows in st st.

Break yarn, draw through sts, pull tightly and fasten off.

Ears: make two

Using yarn A, cast on 12 sts.

Break yarn, draw through sts, pull tightly and fasten off.

Sew the ends together to make a semi-circle.

Tail

Using yarn A, cast on 10 sts.

Rows 1–10: beg with a k (RS) row, work 10 rows in st st.

Break yarn, draw through sts, pull tightly and fasten off.

To make up

Using the cast-on yarn end, work a gathering thread along the cast-on edge of the body and draw up tightly. Using matching yarn, sew up the tummy seam. Fold each arm horizontally and sew each arm from the tip. Work a gathering thread along the tip of each arm and draw up tightly to close. Stuff the body and arms and sew the cast-off edge to the tummy edge.

Beginning at the fastened-off end, use matching yarn to sew up the head seam to half way. Using the cast-on yarn end, work a gathering thread along the cast-on edge and draw up tightly. Stuff the head and close the seam. Using yarn A, work a gathering thread over the eyeline and pull gently to shape. Attach the beads for the eyes. Attach the ears to the head. Using yarn C, embroider a nose and a mouth with straight stitches.

Attach the head to the body. Beginning at the fastened-off end, sew up each leg seam and stuff. Using the cast-on yarn end, work a gathering thread along the cast-on edge of each leg and draw up tightly to close. Attach this end of the legs to the body. Thread a length of yarn A up through the sole of one foot, bring it out at the top of the foot and repeat. Pull the thread gently to shape the ankle. Repeat for the other foot. Beginning at the fastened-off end, sew the tail seam and attach the cast-on edge of the tail to the body without stuffing.

