

Skunk Baby



Skunk Baby is a simple pattern that is easy enough for a beginner, and knits up very quickly. The body is knitted in the round with black yarn, and the white stripes are knitted flat and seamed on afterward. The tail is made from pieces of the same yarn and one pipe stem cleaner. A photo tutorial on how to make the tail can be found on my blog at: <http://rabbitholekints.blogspot.com/2012/07/skunk-baby-photo-tutorial.html>

Materials Required

Worsted weight yarn – app. 50 yards in black, and 20 yards in white
Size 4 double pointed needles
Darning needle
Stuffing
Scrap yarn to embroider eyes and nose
1 fuzzy pipe stem cleaner for tail

Abbreviations

CO – cast on
dpn – double pointed needle
K – knit
P - purl
Kfb – knit in the front and the back of the next stitch
st – stitch
sts – stitches
K2tog – knit two stitches together
K3tog – knit three stitches together
PU – pick up (create) a new stitch from existing work
SSK – slip next two stitches knit-wise, place them back onto left needle, and then knit them together through the back loop

Begin at Skunk Baby's neck

CO 21 sts onto 3 dpns (7 on each) and begin the following rounds:

- 1) K all sts
- 2) K1, Kfb, K1, Kfb, K to last 4 sts in round, Kfb, K1, Kfb, K1
- 3-5) K all sts

Repeat last 4 rounds 4 more times until there are a total of 41 sts. End after the 3 rounds of straight knitting. The stitches may be redistributed around the needles as you work to make knitting easier.

Work decrease rounds

- 1) (K3, K2tog) repeat to last 6 sts, K3, K3tog
- 2) K all sts
- 3) (K2, K2tog) repeat to end of round
- 4) K all sts
- 5) (K1, K2tog) repeat to end of round
- 6) K all sts

Measure about a foot of the working yarn for finishing the end of the body later, and then cut it. Thread a darning needle with a piece of scrap yarn, remove dpns carefully (one at a time) and thread scrap yarn through remaining live stitches.

Head

Stitches are now picked up at the original cast on stitches to form the head. Count 4 sts to the right of the first cast on stitch, and working to the left, PU 7 sts on each needle (21 sts total). Work the following rounds:

- 1) 1st dpn: K all sts
2nd & 3rd dpns: (K2tog) repeat to end of round

(There should now be 14 sts, separated on dpns as 7 – 4 – 3).

- 2) K2, (Kfb) 3 times, K to end of round
- 3) K all sts
- 4) K4, (Kfb) 2 times, K to end of round
- 5) K all sts
- 6) K5, K2tog, K to end of round
- 7) K all sts
- 8) K4, K2tog, K to end of round
- 9) K all sts
- 10) K4, K2tog, K to end of round
- 11) K all sts
- 12) K4, K2tog, K5, SSK, K2tog, K1
- 13) K all sts
- 14) K3, K2tog, K to end of round
- 15) K all sts
- 16) (K1, K2tog) repeat to end of round
- 17) (K2tog) repeat to end of round

Cut yarn and thread the end of it through a darning needle. Remove dpns and thread through the remaining live stitches. Pull tightly closed, insert darning needle down through center stitch and secure to inside. Stuff head and body firmly through opening at end of body. Replace live sts at end of body back onto dpns and work the following two rounds:

- 1) (K2tog) repeat to end of round
- 2) K all sts

Cut yarn and thread the end of it through a darning needle. Remove dpns and thread through the remaining live stitches. Pull tightly closed and secure.

Back stripes (make 2)

CO 2 sts to one dpn and work the following rows:

- 1) P
- 2) K
- 3) P
- 4) Kfb, K1
- 5) P
- 6) K
- 7) P
- 8) K1, Kfb, K1

Work these 4 sts in stockinette stitch for 2 inches. Then work the following rows:

- 9) K1, K2tog, K1
- 10) P
- 11) K
- 12) P
- 13) K2tog, K1
- 14) P
- 15) K
- 16) P

Cut yarn, thread through remaining 2 sts and pull tightly closed. Seam stripes to each side of skunk's back as pictured. They will meet at neck and end of body, curving outward slightly in the center.

Head stripe

CO 2 sts to one dpn and work the following rows:

- 1) P
- 2) Kfb, K1
- 3) P
- 4) K1, Kfb, K1
- 5) P
- 6) K
- 7) P
- 8) K1, K2tog, K1

- 9) P
- 10) K2tog, K1
- 11) P
- 12) K2tog
- 13) P

Cut yarn, thread through remaining live st and pull tightly closed. Seam to top of skunk's head as pictured.

Legs (make 2)

CO 9 sts onto 3 dpns (3 on each) and knit all sts for 1 inch. Then (K2tog, K1) on each dpn, and knit all sts for an additional inch. Cut yarn, thread through a darning needle, and thread it through the live sts. Pull tightly closed, insert needle down through center st and secure. Using a dpn to help, stuff smaller portion of the leg only. Seam legs side by side to the bottom of the skunk, extending out from chest about 3/4 inch.

Embroider eyes and nose; add tail.

Have fun!

