

VINTAGE RABBIT

Vintage Rabbit has a classic look reminiscent of the velveteen rabbit. He stands 15" tall – the perfect size for a child's best friend, or your own knitting companion. The original version of this pattern is from Patons Knits, circa 1940's. Here it is with my own modifications.



Materials

Yarn – Cascade 220 Heathers (or any worsted weight)

Brown - ½ skein or about 100-130 yards

White – about 30-50 yards

Needles – Size US 4

Stuffing

Two small buttons (for eyes)

Whiskers (can be made of anything)

Canvas or stiff fabric (to line ears)

Pink embroidery thread (for nose)

Abbreviations

CO – cast on

st – stitch

K – knit

P – purl

K2tog – knit two stitches together

P2tog – purl two stitches together

S11 – slip one stitch (purl-wise)

SSK – slip 2 sts purl-wise, place back on left needle
and knit both of them tog through back loop

PSSO – pass the slipped stitch over

Kfb – knit in the front and back of stitch

Seed Stitch: Row 1 – *K1, P1* to end

Row 2 – *P1, K1* to end

Note: The seed stitch can seem tricky when you're increasing or decreasing stitches. Don't worry too much about which stitch comes next (knit or purl) -- do whatever is the opposite of the stitch below. It won't matter if the edges don't follow the *K1, P1* pattern exactly, since they will be seamed to another piece.

Outer Leg and Lower Body

- With brown yarn, CO 40 sts
- Rows 1-10 – Seed stitch
- Row 11 – Cast off 12 sts for leg, seed stitch to end
- Row 12 – Seed stitch
- Row 13 – K2tog, seed stitch to end
- Row 14 – Seed stitch
- Repeat rows 13 and 14 until 25 sts remain
- Work seed stitch for 2" straight, ending after a plain seed stitch row

Back

- Next row – Seed stitch until 2 sts before end, SSK
- Next 3 rows – Seed stitch
- Repeat the last 4 rows until 18 sts remain
- Next row – Seed stitch until 2 sts before end, SSK
- Next row – Seed stitch
- Repeat last 2 rows until 13 sts remain on needle

Head

- Next row – CO 2 sts to tip of needle, seed stitch to end of row
- Next row – Repeat row above
- Next row – Kfb, seed stitch to end
- Next row – Seed stitch
- Repeat the last 2 rows once
- Next 2 rows – Seed stitch
- Next row – Kfb, seed stitch to last st, Kfb (21 sts)
- Next row – Seed stitch
- Next row – K2tog, seed stitch to end
- Next 3 rows – Seed stitch
- Next row – K2tog, seed stitch until 2 sts before end, SSK
- Next row – Seed stitch
- Repeat the last 2 rows until 12 sts remain
- Cast off
- Make another piece exactly the same

Inner Legs and Belly

- With white yarn, CO 60 sts
- Row 1 (wrong side) – Purl all stitches
- Row 2 – (right side) – K28, K2tog, SSK, K28
- Row 3 – Purl all stitches
- Row 4 – K27, K2tog, SSK, K27
- Row 5 – Purl all stitches
- Continue in this manner, decreasing 2 sts at center of every right side row, and purling all stitches on every wrong side row until 50 sts remain
- Next row – Cast off 12 sts for leg, purl to end
- Next row – Cast off 12 sts for the other leg, K to end (26 sts remain)
- Next row – P2tog, purl to last 2 sts, Sl1, P1, PSSO
- Next row – K10, K2tog, SSK, K10
- Next row – P2tog, purl to last 2 sts, Sl1, P1, PSSO
- Next row – Knit all stitches
- Next row – P2tog, purl to last 2 sts, Sl1, P1, PSSO
- Next row – K7, K2tog, SSK, K7 (16 sts remain)
- Work in straight stockinette stitch for 2", ending after a purl row
- Next row – K6, K2tog, SSK, K6
- Work in straight stockinette stitch for 1", ending after a purl row
- Next row – K5, K2tog, SSK, K5
- Knit 5 rows straight stockinette stitch
- Next row – K4, K2tog, SSK, K4
- Knit 5 rows straight stockinette stitch
- Next row – K3, K2tog, SSK, K3
- Knit 5 rows straight stockinette stitch
- Next row – K2, K2tog, SSK, K2 (6 sts remain)
- Knit 4 rows straight stockinette stitch
- Cast off



Head Gusset

- With brown yarn, CO 3 sts
- Rows 1-3 – K1, P1, K1
- Row 4 – Kfb, P1, Kfb
- Rows 5-7 – Seed stitch
- Row 8 – Kfb, seed st to last st, Kfb
- Repeat rows 5-8 two more times (11 stitches)
- Work in straight seed stitch for 2”
- Next row – K2tog, seed st until 2 sts before end, SSK
- Next 3 rows – Seed stitch
- Repeat the last 4 rows until 3 sts remain
- Work 3 rows straight seed stitch
- Cast off

Ears

- With brown yarn, CO 3 sts
- Row 1 – Seed stitch
- Row 2 – Kfb, K1, Kfb
- Rows 3-9 – Seed stitch
- Row 10 – Kfb, seed st to last st, Kfb
- Rows 11-17 – Seed stitch
- Row 18 – Kfb, seed st to last st, Kfb
- Rows 19-25 – Seed stitch
- Row 26 – Kfb, seed st to last st, Kfb (11 stitches)
- Work in straight seed st until entire ear measures 6”
- Cast off
- Make another ear exactly the same

Front Legs

- With brown yarn CO 20 sts
- Work in straight seed stitch for 2”
- Cast off
- Make another leg exactly the same

Finishing

Join back seams from bottom to back of head. Insert the white belly piece and seam to side pieces, leaving opening for stuffing at base. Insert head gusset and seam to white piece in the front and sides of head. It may help to pin or baste the head gusset in place before seaming. Stuff whole body from base and seam opening.

Fold front legs in half lengthwise and stitch edges together, gathering the seam slightly to shape the leg. Stuff and sew to body.

Cut canvas in pieces which are slightly smaller than the ears, ironing the raw edges under. Sew to ears, then stitch to body.

Eyes, nose, and whiskers can be made with anything you like, or even embroidered on. I like the look of straw from an old broom for the whiskers.

Tail

This can also be made with anything you like – even a cotton ball! I made a pom pom for my rabbit's tail using this method: <http://www.helloknitty.com/pdfs/pompom.pdf> and used hot-glue to attach it.

Don't worry if your rabbit ends up looking different than mine – various seaming and stuffing methods can create a wide variety of looks. Rabbits in the wild don't all look the same, after all.



Enjoy!