

Liam's Beaver



Liam's Beaver is a loveable, huggable toy knit in the round. Although the body is knit in stockinette, the tail utilizes linen stitch to create a dense, sturdy fabric. Eyes, nose, and teeth can be embroidered on, or made with buttons, fabric, felt, etc. Finished size is 16 inches long from nose to tip of tail, and 6 inches tall from top of head to floor. A photo tutorial on one way to make the teeth can be found on my blog at:

<http://rabbitholekints.blogspot.com/2012/06/beaver-teeth-photo-tutorial.html>

Materials Required

Worsted weight yarn – app. 150 yards

Size 4 double pointed needles

Size 4 circular needle (optional)

Darning needle

Stuffing

Embroidery thread, buttons, felt, or other embellishment for eyes, nose and teeth

Abbreviations

CO – cast on

dpn – double pointed needles

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

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

s1 wyif – slip one stitch purl wise with the yarn held in front of the work

LS – linen stitch

Special Notes

- Pattern is written to be knitted using four double pointed needles. Each needle is separated within the rounds by a long dash (--). If using a circular needle instead of dpns, please use stitch markers to mark the places where the dpns would begin. It is especially important to maintain the point between the beginning of the 1st needle, and the end of the 3rd needle.
- Linen stitch in the round is worked by repeating the following two rounds:
 - 1) (K1, s1 wyif) repeat to end of round
 - 2) (s1 wyif, K1) repeat to end of round

Begin at beaver's neck

CO 44 sts onto 3 dpns (16 – 12 – 16) and work the following rounds:

- 1-3) K all sts
- 4) K1, Kfb, (K2, Kfb) three times, K to end of dpn – K all sts – K to 11 sts before end, (Kfb, K2) three times, Kfb, K1
- 5-7) K all sts

Repeat last 4 rounds until there are a total of 84 sts (36 – 12 – 36). (You may want to switch to a circular needle temporarily at some point during this section due to the number of stitches.) K all sts for 12 additional rounds, then work the following rounds:

- 1) K1, K2tog, (K2, K2tog) three times, K to end of dpn – K all sts – K to 15 sts before end, (K2tog, K2) three times, K2tog, K1
- 2-4) K all sts

Repeat last 4 rounds until there are a total of 36 sts (12 – 12 – 12), then work the following rounds:

- 1) K1, K2tog, (K2, K2tog) two times, K1 – K all sts – K1, K2tog, (K2, K2tog) two times, K1
- 2-4) K all sts
- 5) K1, K2tog, K2, K2tog, K2 – K all sts – K2, K2tog, K2, K2tog, K1
- 6-8) K all sts
- 9) K1, K2tog, K4 – K5, K2tog, K5 – K4, K2tog, K1
- 10-12) K all sts

There should now be a total of 23 sts (6 – 11 – 6). Measure off about 25 yards of yarn, cut, roll into a ball and stuff inside of beaver for knitting his tail later. Thread a darning needle with a piece of scrap yarn, remove dpns (one at a time) and thread scrap yarn through remaining live stitches.

Head

Stitches are now picked up on the original CO sts to form the beaver's head. Beginning exactly opposite of the first CO st (center of the underside of the beaver's neck) and working to the left, PU the following number of sts:

- 1st dpn: PU 8 sts (one for every *other* CO st)
- 2nd dpn: PU 16 sts (one for every CO st, plus 4 extra to fill in any holes)
- 3rd dpn: PU 8 sts (one for every *other* CO st)

Work the following rounds:

- 1) K all sts
- 2) K8 – K4, (Kfb, K1) 3 times, Kfb, K5 – K8
- 3) K all sts
- 4) K8 – K7, (Kfb, K1) 2 times, Kfb, K8 – K8
- 5) K all sts
- 6) K8 – K10, Kfb, K1, Kfb, K10 – K8
- 7) K all sts
- 8) K2tog, K6 – K10, SSK, K1, K2tog, K10 – K6, SSK
- 9) K all sts
- 10) K7 – K9, SSK, K1, K2tog, K9 – K7
- 11) K all sts
- 12) K2tog, K5 – K8, SSK, K1, K2tog, K8 – K5, SSK
- 13) K all sts
- 14) K6 – K7, SSK, K1, K2tog, K7 – K6
- 15) K all sts
- 16) K2tog, K4 – K6, SSK, K1, K2tog, K6 – K4, SSK
- 17) K all sts
- 18) K 5 – K15 – K4, K last st and 1st st of next round together
- 19-21) K all sts
- 22) (K1, K2tog) repeat to end of round
- 23) K all sts

Cut yarn, thread through remaining live sts and pull tightly closed. Insert needle into center of nose and secure.



Tail

After knitting the head, stuff it and the body firmly. Place live sts at end of body back onto 3 dpns (6 – 11 – 6) and work the following rounds:

- 1-6) LS all sts
- 7) LS to last stitch, Kfb – Kfb, LS to last st, Kfb – Kfb, LS to end
(Every increase round will have a total of four stitches added. By adding an even number of stitches, the LS pattern can be worked without interruption on the next and following rounds.)

Repeat rounds 1-7 until you have worked a total of 5 increase rounds. Work in LS for 12 additional rounds, and then work the following:

- 1) LS to last 2 sts, SSK – K2tog, LS to last 2 sts, SSK – K2tog, LS to end

Repeat this one round (decreasing 4 sts each time) until there are a total of 11 sts remaining (3 – 5 – 3). Cut yarn, thread through a darning needle, remove dpns and thread yarn through remaining live sts. Pull tightly closed and secure.

Ears (make 2)

CO 4 sts onto 1 dpn and work the following rows:

- 1) P
- 2) K

Repeat these two rows one more time, then cast off on the purl side. You will have knit a little square. Using the long tail from the cast on and a darning needle, reinforce the outside edges by stitching around them. This will also round them a bit. Fold to create a hollowing and seam to beaver's head.

Back Legs (make 2)

CO 12 sts onto 3 dpns (4 – 4 – 4) and knit all sts for 1 ½ inch. Then work the following rounds:

- 1) (K1, K2tog, K1), repeat each dpn
Knit all sts for an additional 1 ½ inches.
- 2) (K1, Kfb, K1), repeat each dpn
- 3) K1, Kfb, K2), repeat each dpn
- 4-5) K all sts

Divide all sts onto 2 needles, 7 on one and 8 on the other.

- 6) SSK, K to last 2 sts on needle, K2tog – SSK, K to last 2 sts on needle, K2tog

Repeat row 6 until 2 sts remain on each needle. The needle which had 7 sts will end in a K1 instead of a K2tog. K all 4 sts one more time. Cut yarn and thread it into a darning needle. Remove dpns and thread through live sts. Pull tightly closed and secure; stuff. Seam to bottom of beaver about 4 inches from tail.

Front Legs (make 2)

CO 9 sts onto 3 dpns (3 – 3 – 3) and knit all sts for 1 inch. Then work the following rounds:

- 1) (K2tog, K1), repeat each dpn
Knit all sts for an additional 1 inch.

Cut yarn and thread it into a darning needle. Remove dpns and thread through live sts. Pull tightly closed and secure; stuff. Seam to beaver's body.

Embroider eyes, nose, and teeth, or use other embellishments as desired.

Hug and love!

