BEGINNER'S BUNNY

YARN 1/4 50g ball any type DK or 4-ply yarn, I used Drops Sky for the grey bunny a cotton mix sock yarn from my stash for the brown and various rainbow shades of alpaca and alpaca mix 4-ply for Rainbow Rabbit

NEEDLES Pair straight knitting needles - 3.25mm-3.50mm/ size 3 or 4 for 4-ply, fingering and sock weight yarns or 3.75mm-4.00 size 5 or 6 for DK/ light worsted or aran/ worsted yarns

TENSION not really necessary for such a small project

EXTRAS Toy filling; 2 pairs locking type stitch markers; black sewing thread or thin black yarn and sewing needle for nose; 12-15mm toy eyes with plastic or metal washer backs

PLEASE NOTE: It is suggested that toy eyes make any knitted toy **NOT SUITABLE** for very young children

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

W+Tk bring working yarn to the front of the work, slip next stitch knit-wise onto the RH needle, take working yarn to the back, slip the slipped stitch back onto the LH needle, turn the knitting = W+Tk (wrap and turn knit)

W+Tp take working yarn to the back of the work, slip next stitch purl-wise onto the RH needle, bring working yarn to the front, slip the slipped stitch back onto the LH needle, turn the knitting = W+Tp (wrap and turn purl)

All other abbreviations can be found at the end of the pattern

I have used Cable Cast On Throughout

HEAD

Beginning at the Nose cast on 10 sts

Rows 1-2 Work two rows stocking stitch (that's one row knit and one row purl)

Row 3 inc) K3, kfb, k2, kfb, knit to end - 12sts

Rows 4, 6, 8 & 10 Purl

Row 5 inc) K4, kfb, k2, kfb, knit to end - 14sts

Row 7 inc) Kfb, k4, kfb, k2, kfb, k4, kfb - 18sts

Row 9 inc) Kfb, k6, kfb, k2, kfb, k6, kfb - 22sts

Row 11 inc) Kfb, k8, kfb, k2, kfb, k8, kfb - 26sts

PM (place marker) at each end of last row for left and right **Chin Markers**

Row 12 Purl

Row 13 inc) Kfb, k10, kfb, k2, kfb, k10, kfb - 30sts

Row 14 Purl

Row 15 dec) K2tog, k to last 2 sts, k2tog - 28sts

Rows 16-19 dec) Repeat last 2 rows twice - 24sts

Row 20 Purl

PM at each end of last row for left and right **Neck Markers**

Row 21 dec) K2tog, k7, skpo, k2, k2tog, k to last 2 sts, k2tog - 20sts

Row 22 dec) P2tog, p to last 2 sts, p2tog - 18sts

Cast off all 18 Head Back sts.

Join Nose Seam

Fold the cast-on edge for Nose Seam in half, RS (knit-side) together, and back stitch or running stitch to join both halves of the cast-on edge from the corners to the fold, then work back stitch to join the row ends to create the Chin Seam from that seam along row ends to the Chin Markers. Turn out to RS and remove both chin markers (*see Figs. 1, 2 and 3*).

To shape this nose seam, with your thumb on the wrong side of the nose, behind the seam, rub and smooth out the seam to create a rounded nose.
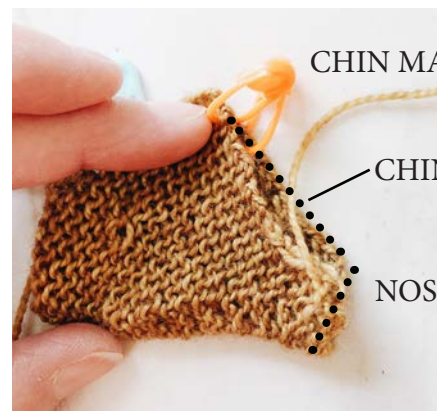

HEAD BACK STITCHES
NECK MARKER
BUNNY'S LEFT SIDE
CHIN MARKER
CAST-ON EDGE CORNERS

Fig. 1

CHIN MARKERS
CHIN SEAM
NOSE SEAM

Fig.2

Fig. 3

Join Head Back Seam

Fold the cast-off edge for Head Back Seam in half, RS (knit-side) together, and back stitch or running stitch to join both halves of the cast-off edge from the corners to the fold. Turn out to RS (*see Figs. 4 & 5*).

If using - insert and secure the eyes in place at each side of the head.

Stuff the head a little with either spare yarn or toy filling.

Thread up a sewing needle with doubled-up black sewing thread or a length black yarn and work a 'Y' over and either side of the nose seam to create the nose detail (*see Fig. 6*).
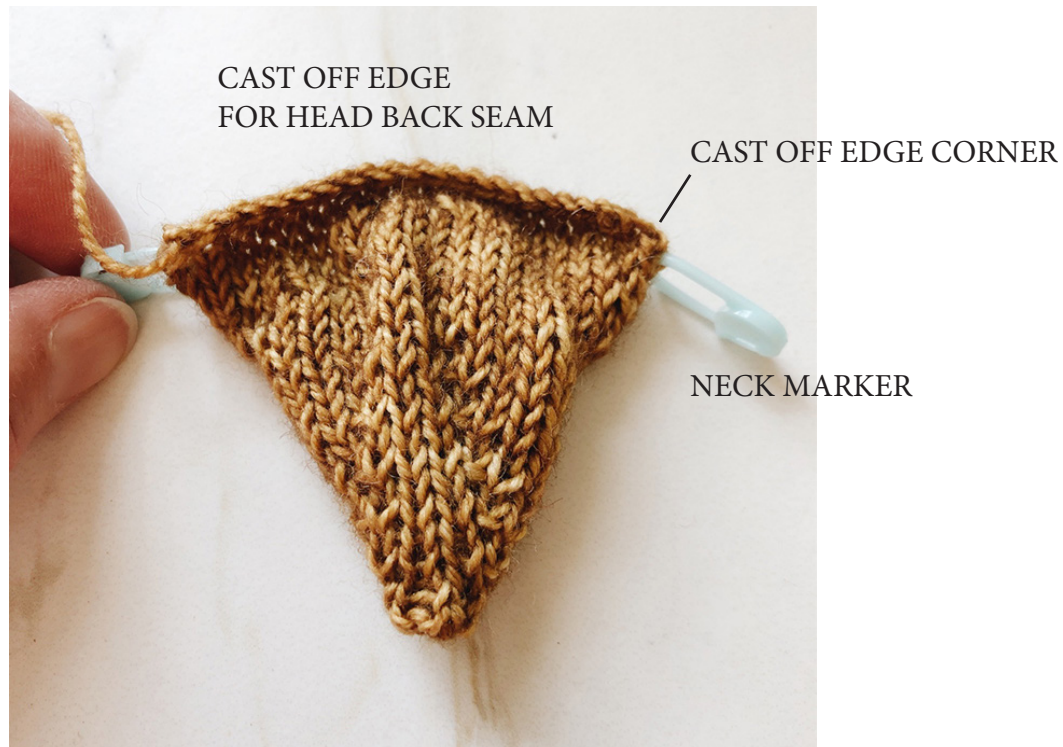
NECK MARKERS

HEAD BACK SEAM

Fig. 5

CAST OFF EDGE
FOR HEAD BACK SEAM

CAST OFF EDGE CORNER
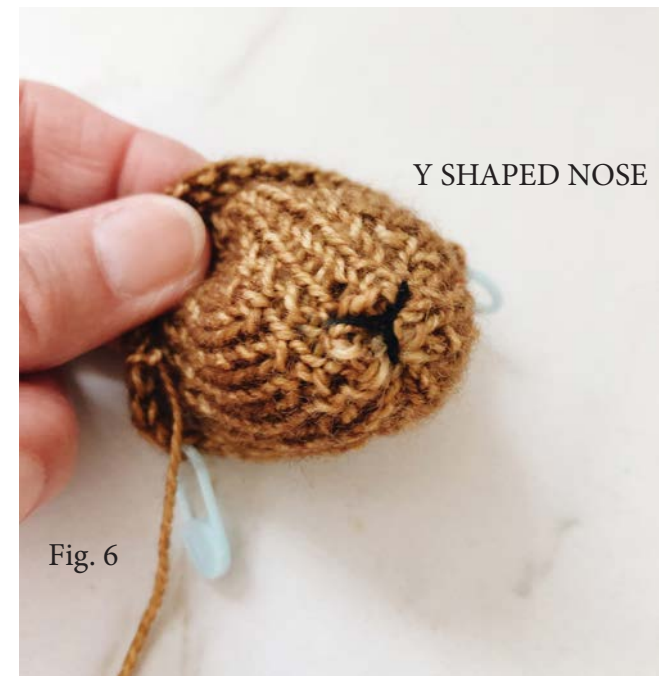
NECK MARKER

Fig. 4

Y SHAPED NOSE

Fig. 6

BACK

With back of head facing you, knit-side up, beginning at bunny's left (your right) Neck Marker pick up and knit 8 sts from left neck marker to bunny's right Neck Marker (*see Fig 7, pick up from A to B*).

Remove neck markers.

Row 1 inc) Cast on 8 sts for Chin Edge, purl to the end - 16sts

Row 2 inc) Cast on 8 sts for Chin Edge, knit to the end - 24sts

Row 3 Purl (*see Fig 8*).

Row 4 inc) Kfb, k9, kfb, k2, kfb, k9, kfb - 28sts

Rows 5-7 Beginning with a purl row work three rows stocking stitch

Row 8 inc) Kfb, k11, kfb, k2, kfb, k11, kfb - 32sts

Rows 9-19 Beginning with a purl row work eleven rows stocking stitch

Row 20 inc) K14, kfb, k2, kfb, knit to end - 34sts

Row 21 Purl

Work short rows to create Bunny's Left Hind Leg

Short row 1 K9, W+Tk (Wrap and Turn knit, see page 2)

Short row 2 P2, W+Tp (Wrap and Turn purl)

Short row 3 K3, W+Tk

Short row 4 P4, W+Tp

Short row 5 K5, W+Tk

Short row 6 P6, W+Tp

Short row 7 Knit to the end of the row

Work short rows to create Bunny's Right Hind Leg

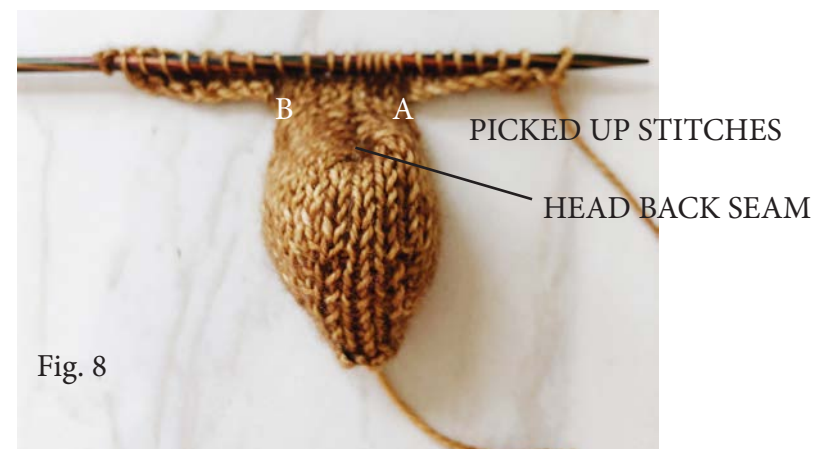Short row 1 P9, W+Tp

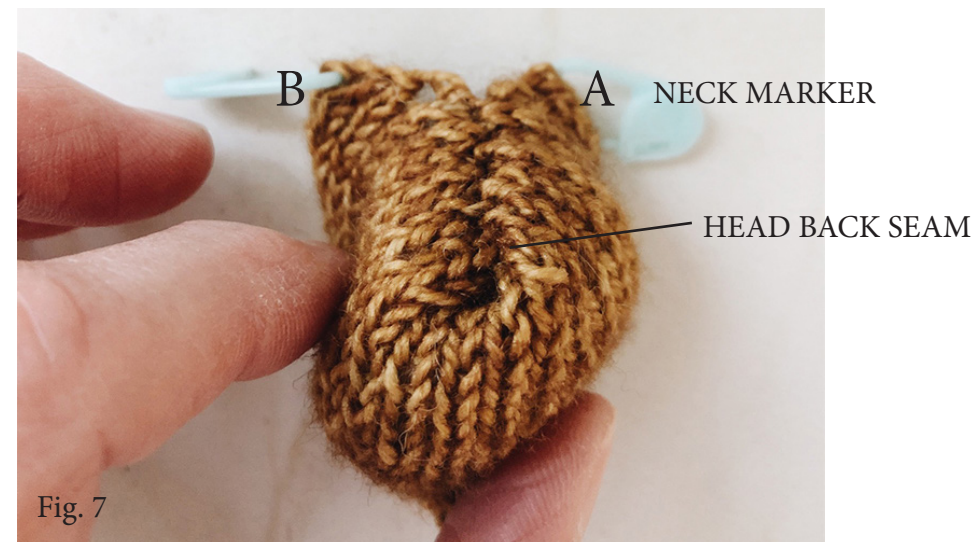Short row 2 K2, W+Tk

Short row 3 P3, W+Tp

Short row 4 K4, W+Tk

Short row 5 P5, W+Tp

Short row 6 K6, W+Tk

Short row 7 Purl to the end of the row

B   A   NECK MARKER

HEAD BACK SEAM

Fig. 7

B   A   PICKED UP STITCHES

HEAD BACK SEAM

Fig. 8

Shape Back and Belly

Row 22 inc) inc) Kfb, k14, kfb, k2, kfb, knit to last st, kfb - 38sts

Rows 23-25 Beginning with a purl row work three rows stocking stitch

Row 26 inc) Kfb, k16, kfb, k2, kfb, knit to last st, kfb - 42sts

Rows 27-29 Beginning with a purl row work three rows stocking stitch

Row 30 dec) K2tog, k to last 2 sts, k2tog - 40sts

Rows 31, 33 & 35 Purl

Row 32 dec) K2tog, k2, k2tog, k7, skpo, k10, k2tog, k7, k2tog, k2, k2tog - 34sts

Row 34 dec) K2tog, k2, k2tog, k5, skpo, k8, k2tog, k5, k2tog, k2, k2tog - 28sts

Row 36 dec) Cast off 9 sts for Bottom Seam, knit next 9 sts, cast off last 9 sts for Bottom Seam - 10sts

TAIL

Rejoin yarn (if you like you can add a white yarn here) to the ten remaining stitches, these are your tail stitches, continue as follows:

Rows 1-3 Beginning with a purl row work three rows stocking stitch

Row 4 dec) K2tog, k to last 2 sts, k2tog - 8sts

Row 5 Purl

Rows 6-7 dec) Repeat last 2 rows once - 6sts

Row 8 dec) K2tog, k to last 2 sts, k2tog - 4sts

Cut yarn and thread end through all 4 sts, pull up to close up the stitches to a point.

Join Tail Seam

WS (wrong side/ purl side) facing fold tail so that the row ends from either side of the fastened-off point match. Mattress stitch along the tail row ends from the tail point to the beginning of the tail (*see Fig. 9, matching dotted lines*).

Fig. 9

Join Bottom Seam

WS (wrong side/ purl side) facing, have the cast-off edges together and work mattress stitch to join both cast-off edges for the bottom of the bunny (*see Fig. 10*).

NECK END

B

A

CAST-OFF EDGES FROM BOTTOM

Fig. 10

Join Belly and Front Seam

WS facing, match the row ends from the Front and Belly.

You may wish to place a pin to hold the front and belly row edges together whilst you join them as follows:

Starting at the Bottom Seam, carefully work mattress seam up to the corners of the cast on edges (*see Fig. 10, A to B*). Don't cut your joining yarn yet. Stuff the body through the opening in the neck.

Join Front to Neck

Match front/ belly Seam with Nose Seam and work a couple of stitches to join (*see Figs. 11, joining B to C*).

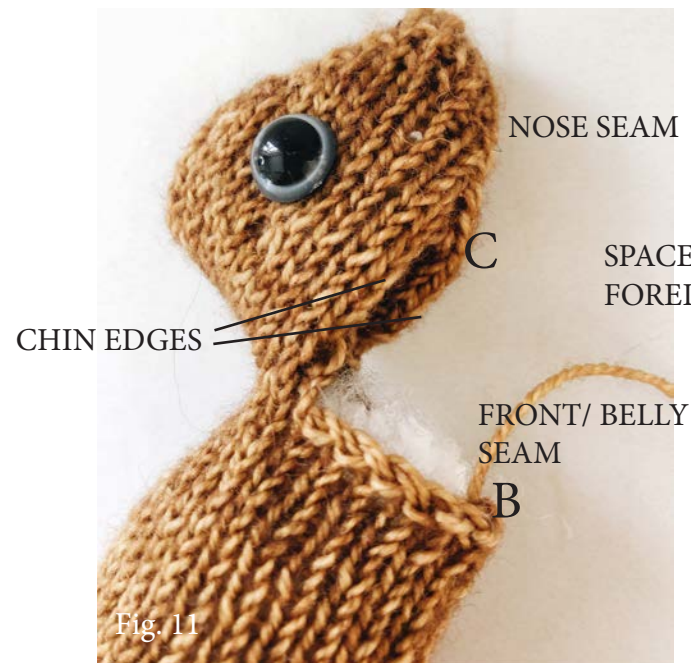Leave spaces at the chin edges so that you can place the forelegs.

NOSE SEAM

C

CHIN EDGES

SPACE FOR FORELEGS

FRONT/ BELLY SEAM

B

Fig. 11

Fig. 12

FORELEGS make 2 alike

Cast on 10 sts

Rows 1-12 Work 12 rows stocking stitch

Row 13 dec) K2tog, k to last 2 sts, k2tog - 8sts

Row 14 Purl

Rows 15-18 dec) Repeat last 2 rows twice - 4sts

Cut yarn and thread end through all 4 sts, pull up to close up the stitches at paw end.

Join Foreleg Seam

WS facing, mattress stitch along the row ends to join the under-foreleg seam at the same time stuff the foreleg with some spare yarn before closing the seam at the top/ cast-on edge completely with mattress stitch (*see Fig. 13*).

Shape the foreleg with your fingers to sculpt into the desired 'paw' shape then slip the top of the foreleg into the gap at the neck between the side of the body and chin edge and carefully whip stitch or oversew to join the foreleg and close the gap, adding more stuffing to the head and body if need be before completing the sewing in place of the second foreleg (*see Fig. 14, matching dotted lines*).

Fig. 13

Fig. 14

HIND LEG FEET make 2 alike

Cast on 12 sts

Rows 1-14 Work 14 rows stocking stitch

Row 15 dec) K2tog, k to last 2 sts, k2tog - 10sts

Row 16 Purl

Rows 17-18 dec) Repeat last 2 rows once - 8sts

Cut yarn and thread end through all 8 sts, pull up to close up the stitches at claw end.

Join hind Leg Foot Seam

WS facing, mattress stitch along the row ends to join the foot sole seam at the same time stuff the really well with some spare yarn before closing the seam at the heel/ cast-on edge completely with mattress stitch - the cast-on edge, in this case, should be sewn together perpendicular to the seam that runs along the bottom of the foot (*see Fig. 15*).

Shape the foot with your fingers to sculpt into desired shape then Work whip stitch or oversew to join the foot near near the bottom seam - one foot either side of the seam (*see Fig. 16*).

HEEL SEAM

SOLE SEAM

Fig. 15

BOTTOM SEAM

SOLE SEAM

Fig. 16

EARS make 2 alike

Cast on 8 sts

Rows 1-8 Work eight rows stocking stitch

Work short rows to shape bunny's lop ear

Short row 1 K7, W+Tk

Short row 2 P6, W+Tp

Short row 3 K5, W+Tk

Short row 4 P4, W+Tp

Short row 5 K3, W+Tk

Short row 6 P2, W+Tp

Short row 7 Knit to the end of the row

Row 9 dec) P2tog, p to last 2 sts, p2tog - 6sts

Cast off all 6 Ear Edge sts.

Join Ear to Head

Weave tail end from cast-off along the side of the ear.

WS facing, fold the ear in half at the cast-on edge and join the folded
end securely to the side of the head by working whip stitch - the folded
part of the ears lies to the back of the head (*see Fig. 17*).

Fig. 17

To Finish

Bring the tail up a little to touch the back and sew in place with a few small stitches (see *Fig. 18*).

To make the face squish up a little, bend a length of yarn in half and pass the cut ends through a yarn sewing needle.
Pass the threaded needle through one side of the head, just under the eye, and out the other side of the head, at the other eye, then back in to emerge back out where you started - pull up to squish the face a little and secure the thread (see *Fig. 19*).

Optional - With black sewing thread work 4 straight stitches over each each claw end of hind leg foot and/or paw end of foreleg.

Fig. 19

Fig. 18

ABBREVIATIONS

K = knit

P = purl

inc = increase

dec = decrease

K2tog = knit two stitches together

RH = right hand

LH = left hand

RS = right side

WS = wrong side

st/ sts = stitch/ stitches

Skpo = slip one stitch, knit next stitch, pass slipped stitch over knit stitch

Kfb = knit into front then into back of stitch to increase by one stitch

note:

if you want to make Rainbow Rabbit just add a new colour eveytime there is a new part to knit.

In other words the back colour changes at the point where you pick up for the neck. The face changes colour at after you've added 'chin markers'...

To see more patterns and details on how to receive a free knitting pattern every other month follow along with @dotpebbles_knits on Instagram and remember to share your bunny on #imadethisrabbit page on Facebook

The End