

# HAPPY CHINESE KNIT YEAR BAO THE BEAVER

A BUNNYMUFF KNIT PATTERN - MONA ZILLAH

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I was so excited to work up a little ox pattern for Chinese New Year, but alas...the yarn was telling me otherwise and who am I to argue with yarn?? (I think beavers have been on my mind with some wonderful flood control projects introducing beaver skills bringing me an awful lot of happy!) So here it is, my little Chinese Knit Year beaver. Gung Hay Fat Choy!

I wish you balance and personal fulfilment for your Metal Ox/Bao the Beaver year!

## yarn:

Shetland by Gathered Sheep Yarns; Light Fingering / 3 ply; 100% Shetland; 96yds (87.8m)/20g mini skein Cobweb to Lace weight fluffy yarn (mohair, alpaca, etc)

## approximate yarn amounts:

15g of MC-A (Shetland fingering yarn in Red) & MC-B (lace weight yarn such as mohair or alpaca in Gold/Ochre)

5g or CC-A (Shetland light fingering yarn in Brown)

\* CC-B (lace weight yarn such as mohair or alpaca in Brown)

muzzle colour - small bit of ecru or pale neutral colour fingering weight

## needles:

2.25mm (us no 1) DPNs set of 5, 6in/15cm or needles to achieve a relatively tight fabric after blocking

## gauge:

5.5 sts x 9 rows = 1in/2.5cm over stranded stockinette Gauge is not hugely important, but will affect the height vs width of your toy.

## approximate finished size:

5in/12.5cm (nose to tail) x 2.5in/6cm (height)

## additional tools:

needle to weave in ends, st markers, st holders/waste yarn, floss to embroider eyes and nose, stuffing (keep it all wool and find stuffing at World of Wool - UK; CeCesWool, Shepherd's Dream, or Home of Wool - US; Custom Woolen Mills Ltd. - Canada)

## Abbreviations

**CO** - Cast on, use long-tail unless otherwise noted.

**k2tog** - Knit two stitches together.

**k** - Knit.

**kfb** - Knit into the front then back of stitch. This will make an increase of one stitch.

**Linen Stitch** (worked flat over an even number of sts)

Wrong Side Row: \*P1, sl with yarn held to Right Side of work; repeat from \* to end.

Right Side Row: K2, \*Sl with yarn held to Right Side of work, k1; repeat from \* to end.

**m1L-lift/m1R-lift** - Left or right leaning lifted/raised increase. *m1L-lift*: Lift the left leg of the stitch two rows below the stitch on right-hand needle onto left-hand needle and work a knit through the back loop. *m1R-lift*: Lift right leg of the stitch below the next stitch on the left-hand needle onto the left-hand needle and work a knit stitch.

**sl** - Slip stitch from left hand needle to right hand needle purlwise with yarn held to the right side of work.

**ssk** - Slip one stitch, knit-wise, slip the next stitch knit-wise, replace stitches to left needle, and knit these stitches together through the back loops.



This is a pattern for a knitted beaver. It is worked mainly in stockinette and in the round. With the ears and tail worked flat. The legs are picked up from waste yarn and worked similarly to glove fingers for a few rounds. Eyes and nose are embroidered with straight sts.

You may use any yarn with this project. The sample used Shetland fingering weight yarn held together with a lace mohair.



## BEGIN

### Head (beginning at nose)

With muzzle colour (held single), long-tail CO 8 sts, distributing sts between 3 DPNs.  
Join to work in the round, being careful not to twist.

**Round 1:** K8.

**Round 2:** Kfb to end of round. (16 sts)

**Round 3:** K16.

**Next Round:** K1, (kfb, k1) x 7, k1. (23 sts)

Change to MC-A & MC-B held together, place markers as follows:

**Round 5:** K3, pm, k5, pm, k7, pm, k5, pm, k3.

**Round 6:** \*Knit to 1 st before m, m1L-lift, k1, sm k1, m1R-lift; repeat from \* 3 more times, knit to end. (8 sts inc'd)

**Rounds 7 & 8:** Knit 2 rounds (slipping markers as you encounter them).

Work Rounds 6 - 8 once more. (39 sts)

### Short Rows

**Row 1:** (Knit to m, sm) x 3, knit to 1 st before m, wrap & turn,

**Row 2:** (Purl to m, sm) x 2, purl to 1 st before m, wrap & turn,

Knit to end.

Knit 8 Rounds.

**Next Round:** K2, with waste yarn knit 3, slip these back to left hand needle and knit over them, sm, (knit to m, sm) x 3, with waste yarn knit 3, slip these back to left hand needle and knit over them, k2. (39 sts)

Knit 8 Rounds.

**Next Round:** K2, with waste yarn knit 3, slip these back to left hand needle and knit over them, sm, (knit to m, sm) x 3, with waste yarn knit 3, slip these back to left hand needle and knit over them, k2. (39 sts)

Knit 5 Rounds.

Stuff Bao.

**Dec Round 1:** K3, ssk, sm, k2tog, k5, ssk, sm, k2tog, k7, ssk, sm, k2tog, k5, ssk, sm, k2tog, k to end of round. (31 sts)

Knit 1 round.

**Dec Round 2:** K1, k2tog, k1, sm, k1, ssk, k2tog, k2, sm, k2, ssk, k1, k2tog, k2, sm, k2, ssk, k2tog, k1, sm, k1, ssk, k1. (23 sts)

Knit 1 round.

**Dec Round 3:** K2tog, k1, remove marker, k2tog, k1, ssk, remove marker, k2tog, k3, ssk, remove marker, k2tog, k1, ssk, remove marker, k1, ssk. (15 sts)

**Dec Round 4:** K2tog x 7, k1. (8 sts)

Break yarn and pull through remaining sts.

You may want to add the eyes and nose at this point.



## Legs

Using MC-A & MC-B, you will be picking up sts on either side of the waste yarn and each side opening to work the legs in the round. Stuff a tiny bit in each leg, as you work before last round.

### Front Legs (work both the same)

Pick up 11 sts total around the opening of the leg and removing waste yarn.

Distribute sts evenly across and join MC-A & MC-B and knit 5 rounds.

**Next Round:** Purl 1 round.

**Next Round:** K2tog x 5, k1.

Break yarn and pull through remaining sts.

### Back Legs (work both the same)

Pick up 13 sts total around the opening of the leg and removing waste yarn.

Distribute sts evenly across and join MC-A & MC-B and knit 3 rounds.

**Next Round:** Purl 1 round.

**Next Round:** K2tog x 5, k1.

Break yarn and pull through remaining sts.

You may want to embroider little claws at this point.

## Ears (make 2)

With MC-A & MC-B, long-tail CO 9 sts (do not join).

Knit 1 row.

**Row 2:** Ssk x 2, k1, k2tog x 2. (5 sts)

Knit 1 row.

**Row 4:** Ssk, k1, k2tog. (3 sts)

Break yarn and thread through remaining sts, pull tight. Gather the remaining sts edge together with the corners, you will see the cast-on edge curving to shape the top of the ear.

At this point you may want to sew ears to head on either side and a bit above the eyes.



## Tail

Using CC-A & CC-B, you will work the tail flat and using the Linen Stitch. (Don't work the sts too tightly; you may want to go up a needles size, if you are a tight knitter)

With CC-A & CC-B, long-tail CO 5 sts (do not join).

**Row 1:** Kfb, k1, sl1, k1, kfb. (7 sts)

**Row 2:** K1 (sl1, p1) x 2, sl1, k1.

**Row 3:** K1, (k1, sl1) x 2, k2.

**Row 4:** Kfb, (p1, sl1) x 2, p1, kfb. (9 sts)

**Row 5:** K1 (k1, sl1) x 3, k2.

**Row 6:** K1, (sl1, p1) x 3, sl1, k1.

Work Rounds 5 & 6 five additional times.

**Dec Row 1:** K1, ssk, k1, sl1, k1, k2tog, k1. (7 sts)

**Dec Row 2:** K1 (sl1, p1) x 2, sl1, k1.

**Dec Row 3:** K1, (k1, sl1) x 2, k2.

Work Dec Rounds 2 & 3 twice more.

**Dec Row 8:** K1, ssk, sl1, k2tog, k1. (5 sts)

**Dec Row 9:** K1, (sl1, k1) to end of row.

**Dec Row 10:** K1, p1, sl1, p1, k1.

**Dec Row 11:** K1, ssk, k2tog. (3 sts)

Bind off sts and leave a long tail to sew to body.

## FINISHING

Weave in any remaining ends and attach any remaining parts and embroider anything you like (perhaps a little lucky blossom).

岁岁平安 suì suì píng'ān May you stay safe and sound all year round!