

# Knit One, Squirrel Two



This squirrel is knit in the round, with short rows shaping the curved back and head. His bushy tail is easy to make using the same yarn as for the body. A photo tutorial on how to make the tail is available on my blog at: [www.rabbitholeknits.com](http://www.rabbitholeknits.com)

## Materials Required

Worsted weight yarn – about 150 yards  
Size 4 double pointed needles (or size 5 if you're a tight knitter)  
Darning needle  
Stuffing  
Embroidery thread, buttons, felt, or other embellishment for eyes  
1 pipe stem cleaner

## Abbreviations

CO – cast on  
dpn – double pointed needles  
K – knit  
P – purl  
st – stitch; sts – stitches  
K2tog – knit two stitches together  
K3tog – knit three stitches together  
M1 – make one new stitch (see note below)  
WT – wrap & turn (see note below)  
SSK – slip next two stitches knit-wise, place them back onto left needle, and then knit them together through the back loop  
PU – pick up (create) a new stitch from existing work

## Special Notes

- The increases in this pattern (M1) are made by lifting the right “leg” of the next stitch (the right side of the stitch directly below the next stitch on your left needle), placing it on the left needle, then knitting it as you would any other stitch.
- The wrap & turn (WT) rows are worked on dpns 1 and 3 only, and are used to shape the curve in the squirrel’s back and head. After knitting the number of sts specified on needle 1, bring yarn to the front of your work, slip the next st on the left dpn to the right one, move yarn to the back of your work, and slip the stitch back to the left needle. Then turn your work and purl the stitches back to the beginning of the needle. Then purl the number of sts specified on needle 3, bring yarn to the back of your work, slip the next st on the left dpn to the right one, move yarn to the front of your work, and slip the stitch back to the left needle. Then turn your work and knit the stitches back to the beginning of the needle. There’s a very good video on how to do knit wrap & turns (or short rows) in the round at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14YwbnGfohM>

## Squirrel Body

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

- 1-2) K all sts
- 3) \*K3, M1, K4\*, repeat on each dpn
- 4-6) K all sts
- 7) \*K4, M1, K4\*, repeat on each dpn
- 8-10) K all sts
- 11) \*K4, M1, K5\*, repeat on each dpn
- 12-14) K all sts
- 15) \*K5, M1, K5\*, repeat on each dpn

Knit all sts (33) for 10 rounds, then begin the wrap & turn rows to shape the squirrel’s back:

- 1) Needle 1: K2, WT, P2  
Needle 3: P2, WT, K2
- 2) Needle 1: K3, WT, P3  
Needle 3: P3, WT, K3
- 3) Needle 1: K4, WT, P4  
Needle 3: P4, WT, K4

Continue in this manner, increasing the number of stitches to knit/purl by one on each row, until all of the sts (except the first two on each dpn) have been wrapped. Then knit all sts (33) for 6 rounds.

Measure off about 1 yard of the working yarn, cut, and stuff inside for later. Thread a darning needle with a piece of scrap yarn. Remove dpns (one at time), and thread scrap yarn through live sts.



### **Squirrel Head**

Stitches are now picked up in each of the original cast on stitches to form the head. Beginning just to the right of the first cast on stitch, pick up the following number of stitches:

Needle 1: PU 8 sts

Needle 2: PU 5 sts

Needle 3: PU 8 sts

Knit all stitches for one round, then begin the wrap & turn rows to shape the head:

- 1) Needle 1: K1, WT, P1  
Needle 3: P1, WT, K1
- 2) Needle 1: K2, WT, P2  
Needle 3: P2, WT, K2
- 3) Needle 1: K3, WT, P3  
Needle 3: P3, WT, K3

Continue in this manner, increasing the number of stitches to knit/purl by one on each row, until all of the sts (except the first one on each dpn) have been wrapped.

In the following even numbered rounds, the three dpns are separated by a long dash (–). All sts on the odd rounds are knitted.

- 1) K all sts
- 2) K8 – K1, M1, K1, M1, K1, M1, K2 – K8
- 3) K all sts
- 4) K6, K2tog – K3, K2tog, K3 – SSK, K6
- 5) K all sts
- 6) K5, K2tog – K3, K2tog, K2 – SSK, K5
- 7) K all sts
- 8) 4K, K2tog – K2, K2tog, K2 – SSK, K4
- 9) K all sts
- 10) K3, K2tog – K2, K2tog, K1 – SSK, K3
- 11) K all sts
- 12) K2, K2tog – K1, K2tog, K1 – SSK, K2
- 13) K all sts
- 14) K1, K2tog – K1, K2tog – SSK, K1

Cut yarn and thread into 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 top half of squirrel's body firmly.

Place live stitches at squirrel's bottom back onto the dpns and work the following rounds to close:

- 1) \*K2, K2tog\*, repeat to end. Last 3 sts will be knitted as K3tog.
- 2) \*K1, K2tog\*, repeat to end
- 3) \*K2tog\*, repeat to end.
- 4) K all sts

Finish stuffing body. Cut yarn and thread into a darning needle. Remove dpns and thread through the remaining live stitches. Pull tightly closed and secure.

### **Ears (make 2)**

CO 9 sts onto 3 dpns and work the following rounds:

- 1-2) K all sts
- 3) \*K1, K2tog\*, repeat on all dpns
- 4) K all sts
- 5) \*K2tog\*, repeat on all dpns

Cut yarn and thread into a darning needle. Remove dpns and thread through the remaining live stitches. Pull tightly closed and secure. Fold ear slightly lengthwise (to create a hollowed look) and sew to squirrel's head.

## Arms (make 2)

CO 15 sts onto 3 dpns and K all sts for 1 inch. Then work the following rounds:

- 1) \*K2tog, K3\*, repeat on all dpns
- 2-6) (5 rounds) K all sts
- 7) \*K2tog, K2\*, repeat on all dpns
- 8-11) (4 rounds) K all sts
- 12) \*K2tog, K1\*, repeat on all dpns

K all sts (6) for 1 additional inch. Cut yarn and thread into 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 arm with a small amount of stuffing, then PU 15 sts (1 for each CO st) in the arm's original cast on stitches. Work the following rounds to shape and close the top of the arm:

- 1) \*K2tog\*, repeat to last st, K1
- 2) \*K2tog\*, repeat to end
- 3) K all sts

Cut yarn and thread into a darning needle. Remove dpns and thread through the remaining live stitches. Pull tightly closed and secure. Sew to squirrel's body.

## Legs (make 2)

CO 24 sts onto 3 dpns. Knit all sts for 1 inch, then work the following rounds:

- 1) \*K2tog, K to last 2 sts on dpn, K2tog\*, repeat on each dpn
- 2-3) K all sts

Repeat rows 1-3 until 2 sts remain on each dpn. K all sts for 1 inch. Cut yarn and thread into a darning needle. Remove dpns and thread through the remaining live stitches. Pull tightly closed and secure. Stuff leg with a small amount of stuffing, then PU 24 sts (1 for each CO st) in the leg's original cast on stitches. Shape and close the top of the leg just as you did for the arm:

- 1) \*K2tog\*, repeat to end
- 2) \*K2tog\*, repeat to end
- 3) K all sts

Cut yarn and thread into a darning needle. Remove dpns and thread through the remaining live stitches. Pull tightly closed and secure. The upper (fat) part of the squirrel's leg should be flattened out as much as possible, then seamed to squirrel's body as pictured.

Make a tail as shown on my blog , add eyes, and enjoy!