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**Photo tutorial “Knitted Easter bunny”
Designer: Irina Ferrer Davydova**



The toy is knitted in the round on 4 double-pointed needles in stockinette stitch. The finished toy is about 12 cm [4.7 inches] tall.

Materials needed:

Yarn (see also recommendations below):

- 7 g [0.25 oz] white yarn for the head, hands and feet,
- 5 g [0.18 oz] lilac yarn for the body,
- 5 g [0.18 oz] turquoise yarn for the body,
- 2 black beads for the eyes,
- embroidery floss in black and light brown,
- set of 4 DPNs in size 2.5 mm [US1.5]
- crochet hook in size 2.5 mm [US1.5]
- polyester filling or wool roving as stuffing ,
- extra long sewing needle or threading bodkin for assembly
- tapestry needle for seaming pieces
- 2 decorative buttons, diameter 5 mm [0.2 in],

Yarn recommendations:

The pictured sample toy was made from: Novita Alpaca Wool (50% alpaca, 50% wool; 50g [1.75 oz] = 100 m [109.4 yds]) in White for the toy’s head and paws; Adelia Claire (50% wool, 50% acrylic; 50g [1.75 oz] = 138 m [151 yds]) in aquamarine and lilac for body and dress.

You may use any yarn you like, as long as it is of similar yarn weight and has a comparable fiber content. Softer yarns are better suitable.

You can find links to online shops that sell yarn suitable for knitted dolls and soft toys in the supplement “useful links”, which is provided in a separate file entitled.

Please note the needle size recommendations. The author prefers to use needles one or one-and-a-half sizes smaller than stated on the ball band, which helps to achieve a dense fabric for the doll’s body.

The yarn used for the hair should be thicker and more voluminous – the hairdo is easier to create this way. Using yarn of a different yarn weight than that of the pictured sample doll is also perfectly acceptable, but will affect the size of the finished toy.

Pattern notes:

In addition to the traditional long-tail cast-on, this pattern calls for casting on in the round with a crochet hook (the addendum contains a link to a video tutorial). The pattern instructions will state when to use which cast-on method. Stitches are bound of knit-wise, except for where otherwise stated.

After casting off, always leave a long tail on each piece to be used later for seaming.

Useful tip for adding in a new color: leaving a tail of 15 cm [5.9 in] each in the old and the new color, make a simple knot with the new color around the old one. Pull it taut in the direction of the right needle. Hold it in place while you work the first few stitches of the round. After a few rounds, with the tip of a needle, undo the knot and hide the tails, for example by duplicating the stitches on the wrong side of the knitted fabric, the right end towards the left, and the left end towards the right. When adding in a new color for a stripe, don’t cut the old color.

A small knotted loop from wool yarn in a contrasting color or an ordinary paper clip can substitute for a stitch marker and will slide easily from one needle to the other (wool holds its shape well, which acrylic doesn’t).

Stitch patterns used:

Reverse stockinette – in rows: p on RS, k on WS; in rounds: p all rounds

Stockinette stitch – in rows: k on RS, p on WS; in rounds: k all rounds

Abbreviations used:

k – knit

p – purl

kfb – increase (knit the same stitch twice: first through the front, then again through the back loop)

k2tog – knit two stitches together (1 decreased)

RS – right side row

WS – wrong side row

st(s) – stitch(es)

Doll's head.



Cast on 9 sts using crochet cast-on in the round (see link in the supplement “useful links”). Distribute sts evenly onto 3 needles, pull the first stitch taut and begin to work in the round. Take care not to twist the sts. Place a marker at the beginning of the round.

Round 1: kfb (9 times)	(18 sts)
Round 2: stockinette stitch	(18 sts)
Round 3: (kfb, k5) 3 times	(21 sts)
Rounds 4 – 12: 9 rounds stockinette stitch	(21 sts)
Round 13: (k2tog, k5) 3 times	(18 sts)
Round 14: stockinette stitch	(18 sts)
Round 15: (k2tog, k1) 6 times	(12 sts)
Round 16: stockinette stitch	(12 sts)
Round 17: k2tog 6 times	(6 sts)
Round 18: stockinette stitch	(6 sts)

Stuff firmly with polyester filling or wool roving.

Break the working yarn, pull through the remaining 6 sts and pull taut. Hide the yarn tail inside the head, secure and trim end.

Body



The body is worked from the bottom up.

In Turquoise and using crochet cast-on in the round, cast on 6 sts. Distribute sts evenly onto 3 needles, pull the first stitch taut and start to work in the round.

Take care not to twist the sts. Place a marker at the beginning of the round.

Round 1: kfb 6 times	(12 sts)
Round 2: (kfb, k1) 6 times	(18 sts)
Round 3: (kfb, k2) 6 times	(24 sts)
Round 4: (kfb, k3) 6 times	(30 sts)

Round 5: (kfb, k4) 6 times (36 sts)
 Round 6: (kfb, k5) 6 times (42 sts)
 Round 7: reverse stockinette (42 sts)
 Rounds 8 – 16: 9 rounds stockinette stitch (42 sts)
 Rounds 17 – 18: 2 rounds reverse stockinette (42 sts)
 Change color to Lilac.
 Rounds 19 – 24: 6 rounds stockinette stitch (42 sts)
 Round 25: (k2tog, k5) 2 times, k2tog, k12, (k2tog, k5) 2 times (37 sts)
 Round 26: (k2tog, k4) 2 times, k2tog, k11, (k2tog, k4) 2 times (32 sts)
 Round 27: (k2tog, k3) 2 times, k2tog, k10, (k2tog, k3) 2 times (27 sts)
 Round 28: stockinette stitch (27 sts)
 Round 29: (k2tog, k2) 2 times, k2tog, k9, (k2tog, k2) 2 times (22 sts)
 Round 30: (k2tog, k1) 2 times, (k2tog, k3) 2 times, (k2tog, k1) 2 times (16 sts)
 Round 31: k4, (k2tog, k2) 2 times, k4 (14 sts)

Bind off 14 sts knit-wise and stuff the body. The upper edge of the body is still open.

Hands (make 2).



Cast on 4 sts. Either work as stated above (as for head or body), or knit i-cord (link to video in the supplement “useful links”), which is faster and easier for small diameter tubes as this one.

Rounds 1–12: 12 rounds stockinette stitch (4 sts)

Do not fill.

Break the working yarn, pull through the remaining 4 sts and pull taut. Hide one of the two ends inside the tube, leave hanging at the other end, to be used for joining with sleeve later.

Sleeves (make 2)



Worked in the round.

In Lilac and using long-tail cast-on, cast on 8 sts.

Distribute sts evenly onto 3 needles and begin to work in the round. Take care not to twist the sts. Place a marker at the beginning of the round.

Rounds 1–12: 12 rounds stockinette stitch (8 sts)

Bind off knit-wise.

Ears (make 2)



Worked flat in color White on two needles in back- and forth rows.

Cast on 7 sts.

Rows 1–8: stockinette stitch in rows (7 sts)

Row 9: k2, k2tog, k3 (6 sts)

Row 10: p6 (6 sts)

Row 11: k2, k2tog, k2 (5 sts)

Row 12: p5 (6 sts)

Row 13: k2, k2tog, k1 (4 sts)

Row 14: p4 (4 sts)

Row 15: k2tog 2 times (2 sts)

Row 16: p2tog (1 sts)

Cut yarn. Draw tail through remaining stitch and pull tightly and secure.

Legs (make 2)



In White and using crochet cast-on in the round, cast on 6 sts. Distribute sts evenly onto 3 needles, pull the first stitch taut and start to work in the round.

Take care not to twist the sts. Place a marker at the beginning of the round.

Round 1: (kfb, k1) 3 times (9 sts)

Rounds 2–13: 12 rounds stockinette stitch (9 sts)

Do not fill.

Break the working yarn, pull through the remaining 9 sts and pull taut. Hide one of the two ends inside the tube, leave hanging at the other end, to be used for joining with body later.

Embroidering a face.

Embroider the nose and mouth. Photos below illustrate the process.



Assembling the doll.

Fold each ear in half and sew to the head with invisible stitches around. Photos below illustrate the process.





Eyes

Mark the spots where the eyes will go with pins. Move the pins a little to find the best spot.



Thread a long needle with sturdy black thread or a piece of mercerized cotton. Insert the needle into the spot where the head connects with the body, leaving a tail of 15 cm [5.9 in] on the outside. Exit the needle in the marked spot of the doll's future face. Now, remove the pin, pull the thread through the opening in the bead or the hook of the sew-on eye, and, inserting the needle again into the same spot, exit the thread in the beginning spot. Try to end up in the same spot where you previously left the tail. Pull the thread taut, to ease the eye in place, now leaving two ends of equal length. Those will be secured with a knot a little later. Repeat the process for the other eye. The process shown below on a grey mouse uses the same method.



Now, grasp both thread ends from both eyes together and pull to form the eye sockets, checking that the eyes are correctly aligned. Knot the strands from each eye with themselves, adjusting tension as needed. Hide the ends in the filling. Trim any excess.

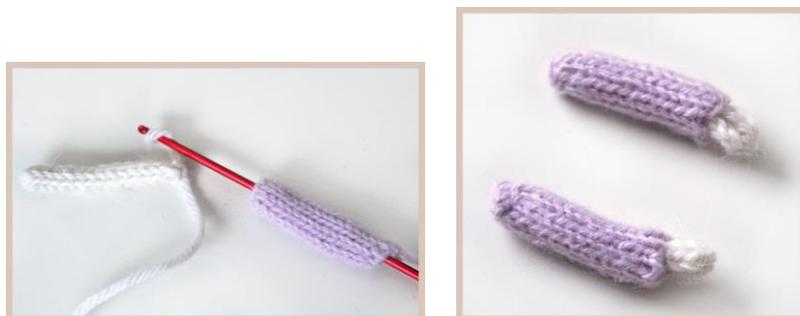
Sew the head to the body with invisible stitches around.



Pin the legs to the body and sew them.



Insert the arms into the sleeves with the aid of a crochet hook. Sew the top edge of the sleeve closed, at the same time attaching the sleeve to the arm with a few small stitches. Hide the end inside the arm.



Sewing on the arms.

First, pin the arms to the body, to determine the best spot.



Let's look into the process of sewing on the arms with the "thread hinge" method, shown on the example of the "Pippi" doll.

With thread held double and going right through the body, sew the arms on: Insert the needle through the body and the first arm, and go back with the needle, creating an almost invisible stitch. Go with the needle through the body again and attach the other arm.

This has to be done several times for durability, always inserting the needle into the same spot, for the limbs to stay moveable. End on the inside between the body and the arm. Secure the end, and hide the tail within the body.

Photos below illustrate the process.



Suspenders (make 2)

Crochet a chain of 28.

On both sides leave the end of the thread about 10 cm [4 inches] for sewing to the toy.



Sew suspenders and decorative buttons as shown in the photos.



Our doll is ready!



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Useful links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0gK7yn-M7Yg>

Circular cast on knitting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtEcPORG5Aw>

How to Knit an I-cord

You are welcome to visit my pages:

<https://twitter.com/elvesworld>

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