

Little Owl Tea Cosy

To fit a traditional 2 cup (450ml) teapot



Materials:

4mm knitting needles - the wings can be knit on 4.5mm needles if preferred to make sure it will stretch more easily over the body/head

Double knit yarn in colours of choice to create your own owl breed - 50g for body/head and 40g for wings (yarn is used double for both) – before starting make sure you have sufficient amounts to finish

Small amounts of double knit yarn for beak and talons

Stitch markers (or small lengths contrast yarn)

10g toy stuffing for head

Safety eyes or buttons

Stitch holders or spare knitting needles

Pins

Large eye sewing needle

Abbreviations:

() work instructions between brackets as many times as given

alt alternate

B&T bind and tie, feed yarn through stitches left on needle, pull tight to tie off leaving yarn length for sewing up

CO cast on

DK double knit

DPN double pointed needles

K knit

KFB knit into front and back of stitch

K2tog knit two stitches together

K3tog knit three stitches together

M1 pick up bar between stitches, place onto left hand needle and knit into the back

P purl

P2tog purl two stitches together

P3tog purl three stitches together

R row

SS stocking stitch

st stitch

Tension:

There is no specified tension to work to as no branded DK is mentioned. All yarns work up differently, some are thicker/thinner than others. I suggest if you are a tight knitter change to 4.5mm or 5mm needles, if you are a loose knitter change to 3.25mm, 3.5mm or 3.75mm needles.

To work an i- cord:

Cast on number of stitches required, knit

*Slip all stitches back to the left hand needle, pull yarn tight, knit

Repeat from * until length required, B&T

Or use DPNs with no need to transfer stitches back to left hand needle each time

Mattress stitch:

I prefer to sew up with mattress stitch which creates an almost invisible seam. Lay pieces side by side, right sides facing top. Thread yarn through the horizontal bars between stitches on opposite edges, alternating back and forth, using every bar or every other bar at 1-2cm intervals each time, pull the yarn to close up.



Body and head of tea cosy knit as one:

Make two

Using double strands of DK and 4mm needles, CO 27sts

Row 1-2: knit

Rows 3-28: starting with a knit row work 26 rows SS (or until work measures 11cm in length) adding a stitch marker to both end stitches at row 28 (the width at this point should be approximately 15-17cm depending on the thickness of yarns used)

Shape top:

Row 1: K2, K2tog, K5, K2tog, K5, K2tog, K5, K2tog, K2 (23sts)

Row 2 and every alt row to R10: Purl

Row 3: K2, K2tog, K4, K2tog, K3, K2tog, K4, K2tog, K2 (19sts)

Row 5: K2, K2tog, K2, K2tog, K3, K2tog, K2, K2tog, K2 (15sts)

Row 7: K1, K2tog, K1, K2tog, K3, K2tog, K1, K2tog, K1 (11sts)

Row 9: K1, K2tog, K1, K3tog, K1, K2tog, K1 (7sts)

Shape head:

Row 11: (K1, M1) x6, K1 (13sts)

Row 12: Purl

Row 13: (K2, M1) x3, K1, (M1, K2) x3 (19sts)

Row 14: Purl

Row 15: K2, (M1, K3) x5, M1, K2 (25sts)

Row 16-26: starting with a purl row work 11 rows SS

Row 27: K2, (K2tog, K2) x5, K2tog, K1 (19sts)

Row 28: Purl

Row 29: K1, (K2tog, K1) x6 (13sts)

Row 30: Purl

Row 31: K1, (K2tog) x6 (7sts)

Row 32: (P2tog) x3, P1 (4sts)

B&T leaving 30-40cm of yarn for sewing up

Sew up each side from top middle head to the stitch markers and place on the teapot. It should now rest just above the spout and handle. Sew bottom sides together for 3-4 rows. Partly stuff the head. Add the eyes half way down as shown. Add more stuffing for a nice rounded head shape. Add the beak by oversewing as shown below, pinch in the rows between the eyes or mark with pins to get the right position.



Right Front Wing:

Using double strands of DK and 4mm needles, CO 3sts

Row 1: Knit

Row 2: Purl

Row 3: K2, M1, K1 (4sts)

Row 4: Purl

Row 5: K2, (M1, K1) x2 (6sts)

Row 6-8: starting with a purl row work 3 rows SS

Row 9: K4, (M1, K1) x2 (8sts)

Row 10: Purl

Row 11: K6, (M1, K1) x2 (10sts)

Row 12-18: starting with a purl row work 7 rows SS

Row 19: K6, (M1, K1) x4 (14sts)

Row 20-24: starting with a purl row work 5 rows SS

Cut yarn and place on a stitch holder or spare knitting needle

Tail Wing:

Using double strands of DK and 4mm needles, CO 3sts

Row 1: Knit

Row 2: Purl

Row 3: K1, M1, K1, M1, K1 (5sts)

Row 4: Purl

Row 5: (K1, M1) x4, K1 (9sts)

Row 6: starting with a purl row work 3 rows SS

Row 9: (K1, M1) x2, K5, (M1, K1) x2 (13sts)

Row 10: Purl

Row 11: (K1, M1) x4, K5, (M1, K1) x4 (21sts)

Row 12-18: starting with a purl row work 7 rows SS

Row 19: (K1, M1) x4, K13, (M1, K1) x4 (29sts)

Row 20-24: starting with a purl row work 5 rows SS

Cut yarn and place on a stitch holder or spare knitting needle

Left Front Wing:

Using double strands of DK and 4mm needles, CO 3sts

Row 1: Knit

Row 2: Purl

Row 3: K1, M1, K2 (4sts)

Row 4: Purl

Row 5: (K1, M1) x2, K2 (6sts)

Row 6-8: starting with a purl row work 3 rows SS

Row 9: (K1, M1) x2, K4 (8sts)

Row 10: Purl

Row 11: (K1, M1) x2, K6 (10sts)

Row 12-18: starting with a purl row work 7 rows SS

Row 19: (K1, M1) x4, K6 (14sts)

Row 20-24: starting with a purl row work 5 rows SS

Cut yarn and place on a stitch holder or spare knitting needle

Joining Wings:

Place all stitches on needle, K side facing, in order of Left Front Wing, Tail Wing, Right Front Wing (57sts)

Using double strands of DK and 4mm needles

Row 1: Knit (place stitch markers on both end stitches)

Row 2: Purl

Row 3: K3, (K2tog, K5) x7, K2tog, K3 (49sts)

Row 4 and every alt row to R12: Purl

Row 5: K3, (K2tog, K4) x3, K2tog, K3, K2tog, (K4, K2tog) x3, K3 (41sts)

Row 7: K3, (K2tog, K2) x2, (K2, K2tog) x2, K3, (K2tog, K2) x2, (K2, K2tog) x2, K3 (33sts)

Row 9: K3, K2tog, K2, (K2tog, K1) x2, K2tog, K3, K2tog, (K1, K2tog) x2, K2, K2tog, K3 (25sts)

Row 11: K1, (K2tog) x3, K1, K2tog, K1, K3tog, K1, K2tog, K1, (K2tog) x3, K1 (15sts)

Row 13: Knit

Row 14: Purl

Row 15: K5, (M1, K1) x6, K4 (21sts)

Row 16: Purl

Row 17: K4, (K2, M1) x3, K1, (M1, K2) x 3, K4 (27sts)

Row 18: Purl

Row 19: K4, M1, K2, (M1, K3) x 5, M1, K2, M1, K4 (35sts)

Row 20-32: starting with a purl row work 13 rows SS

Row 33 – ears, work across the row as follows cutting and re-joining yarns as necessary:

K9

*(KFB) x3, working on these 6 stitches only, turn work, P6, turn work, (K2tog) x3, turn work, P3, turn work, K3tog, B&T**

K11

Repeat *-**

K9 (29sts)

Row 34: P8, P2tog, P2, P2tog, P1, P2tog, P2, P2tog, P8 (25sts)

Row 35: (K2tog) X5, K5, (K2tog) x5, (15sts)

Row 36: P2tog, P11, P2tog (13sts)

Row 37: (K2tog) x3, K1, (K2tog) x3, (7sts)

Row 38: P2tog, P3tog, P2tog (3sts)

Row 39: K3tog

B&T



Sew up the side seams on the ears as shown above.



You will be left with a bat shape to stretch over and pin onto the body and head.



Pin the wing overcoat over the body/head using plenty of pins to hold firmly in position. Pin both shoulder seams first to help with positioning. Place on the teapot to pin the remainder. Tug and stretch over the body/head until it looks owl like. The stitch markers act as a guide to make sure wings are level at the front. It did help to remove some of the stuffing from the head to make it an easier fit over the head, I then added a little more back after the sewing up was complete.

Talons:

Make two

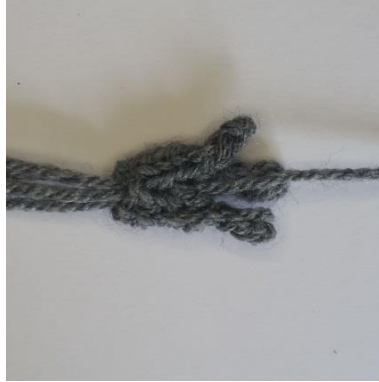
Using a single strand of DK and 4mm needles, CO 7sts

Rows 1-4: Knit 4 rows SS starting with a K row

Rows 5-7: Work an i-cord on the next 2 sts for 3 rows, B&T

Rows 8-11: Work an i-cord on the next 3 sts for 4 rows, B&T

Rows 12-14: Work an i-cord on the next 2 sts for 3 rows, B&T



The talons are knitted flat but if preferred rows 1-4 can be knitted as an i-cord. Sew the 'B&T' ends through the i-cords to the top cast on edge. Sew up the side seams, feed yarn through the centre of the tube formed up to the top. Separate strands into two lots of three and knot securely. Leaving the longest strand at the top for sewing onto the body, thread the remaining five through to the bottom, trim near the knot to neaten off. Pin talons centrally to the underside of the body (position as shown on the main image). Sew on through the ankle to the bottom two rows, leaving the three talons showing at the front. The talons are a nice finishing touch but can be left off if preferred.

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