

Tummy Ticklin' Finger Puppets

by Terri Burns

These finger puppets were first published in Terri's book "Timely Treasures". The book is out of print, but the puppets will continue to be favorites with all the children in your life!

There are twelve different puppets included in this pattern. The leg directions are the same for all of them; the heads and ears are what make each one different. Read through the complete instructions before you begin to knit and then proceed step by step. The double crochet cast on and the method for inserting beads are used throughout all of the patterns and are described below as part of the general directions.

Double Crochet Cast On:

Bring the required number of NDLS to HP. Make a slip knot in the yarn and slip the loop onto the latch tool. Start from the carr side with the latch tool under the NDLS and the yarn above them (like you do for a regular latch tool C/O): Bring the latch tool up between the 2nd and 3rd NDLS. Lay the yarn over the NDLS, catch the yarn with the hook of the latch tool and pull through. Continue working latch tool C/O over every 2 NDLS to the end. Then beg working back across the bed, bringing the latch tool up between the 1st and 2nd NDLS, catching the yarn and pulling through. Continue working back to the carr side, bringing the tool up between the two NDLS the yarn laid across in the first step. Transfer the loop from the latch tool to the last NDL. Thread the carr. C/O complete.

Inserting Beads:

6 mm round black beads are used for the eyes in many of these puppets. You will need a bead needle (a very fine latch hook), a size 11 crochet hook or a Snag-it tool. Slide one bead onto the beading NDL. Use the hook of the beading NDL to lift a ST off the machine. Slide the bead down the shaft of the beading tool and over the ST. Return the ST to its NDL on the machine. **Notes:** To save steps, you may want to load the beading NDL with several beads at one time. When knitting the next row, make sure the beads are below the fabric presser of the carriage, and knit very slowly.

General Directions

Unless otherwise stated, follow these directions for all of the finger puppets; consulting individual directions for exceptions and changes.

Suggested Yarns: Mary Lue's "Symphony"
4/15, Nomis 3/12, or Tamm "Sky".

Machine: Standard gauge (4.5 mm).

Additional Materials: One 1.5" Styrofoam ball for each puppet, a small amount of fiberfill for each puppet, 10" of 3/8" grosgrain ribbon. See supplies for specific animals.

Stitch Size: 8 or to get gauge as follows.

Gauge: 7 STS/10 Rs = 1 inch.

Legs

C/O 40 NDLS using Double Crochet C/O method. COR. Knit 4 Rs with SS 4, 6 Rs with SS 6, 10 Rs with SS 8. Set Russel Levers (I)(I). COR. Place 20 NDLS at L in HP. K 20 Rs on the 20 NDLS at RT then G/O. Russel Levers (II)(II). K 20 Rs on the rem 20 NDLS at L then G/O.

Abbreviations

A/R	alternate rows (EOR)
adj	adjacent
alt	alternate
beg	begin(ning)
B/O	bind off
carr(s)	carriage(s)
CC	contrast color
C/O	cast on
col	color
COL	carriage on left
cont	continue(d)
COR	carriage on right
dec(s)	decrease(s), (ing)
E/N	every needle
EON	every other needle
EOR	every other row (A/R)
EOS	every other stitch
E/R	every row
ff	full fashioned
fol	following
GB	garter bar
G/O	gather off
HP	holding position
inc(s)	increase (s), (ing)
K	knit (ting), (ed)
K/M	knitting machine
KWK	knit, wrap, knit
L	left
MB	main bed
MC	main color
NDL(S)	needle (s)
NWP	non-working position
opp	opposite
patt	pattern
pos	position
P/U	pick up
R(s)	row (s)
RB	ribber bed
RC	row count (er)
rem	remain (ing), (s)
rep (s)	repeat (s)
ret	return (ed), (ing)
RT	right
S/O	scrap off
SR	short row (ing), (ed)
SS	stitch size
ST(S)	stitch (es)
tog	together
tr(s)	transfer (s)
UWP	upper working position
WP	working position
x	times
8/R	every 8 rows
...	Repeat stitches or directions between asterisks
(...)	group of stitches to be treated as a single unit
Russel Levers (I)(I)	carr set to hold NDLS in HP
Russel Levers (II)(II)	carr set to K NDLS in HP

Head

Begin COR. C/O 30 NDLS using weaving C/O and SS 6. K 6 Rs (C/O counts as 1 R). Then K 6 Rs with SS 8. COR. Set Russel Levers (I)(I). Put 12 NDLS at L into HP. K 1 R. Wrap the last NDL in HP and put 1 more NDL at L into HP. Hold 13 NDLS at RT. K 1 R over the 4 STS rem in WP. Wrap the last NDL in HP at RT and put one more NDL at RT into HP. K 1 R over the 3 STS rem in WP. COL. Wrap the last NDL in HP. With black yarn, by hand, K 3 Rs on these 3 STS for nose. Try to keep the tension exactly the same and be sure to wrap the edge NDL in HP at each side. K 1 R main color (still on 3 STS). Wrap the HP NDL on the carr side, put all the HP NDLS on the side opp carr back into WP. K 1 R. Russel Levers (II)(II). K 3 Rs over all NDLS. Place beads on STS 3 RT and 4 L for eyes. K 4 Rs. Then K 3 Rs with SS 4 and 1 R with SS 9. G/O. Note: Manually wrapping the HP NDLS is extremely important because automatic wraps are not sufficient to prevent holes around the noses of the puppets.

Finishing

See additional finishing notes for each style.

Head: With RT sides tog, tightly pull up the bottom (C/O) R to gather. ST back seam by hand or sewing machine. (If stitching by machine be sure to backstitch 2 or 3 times to anchor the bottom gathering yarn. Be careful not to ST through the gathering yarn at the top of the head). Turn head RT side out.

Legs: With RT sides tog, tightly pull up the gathering yarn on the first leg.

ST the seam by hand or sewing machine, anchoring the gathering yarn and sewing up to 3 STS into the body. Rep for other leg. Place the gathered bottom of the head into the top seam. (Head is inside the body, nose is pointing toward the legs, gathering is distributed as evenly as possible). ST the seam by hand or machine. (If stitching by machine you may have difficulties due to the thickness, try stitching down the head to one side first and then stitching the two sides tog.)

Turn RT side out. Finish ears as directed in individual patterns.

Place a small amount of fiberfill into the nose area to fill in the shaping. Insert the Styrofoam ball into the head. Distribute the knitted fabric evenly around the ball. Pull up the top gathering yarn as tight as possible and anchor; you should not be able to see any of the Styrofoam from the top. Tie a 10" length of ribbon around the neck and tie a bow if called for in the pattern.

Bunny

K in white with baby pink for the inside of the ears. 24" white carpet thread for whiskers.

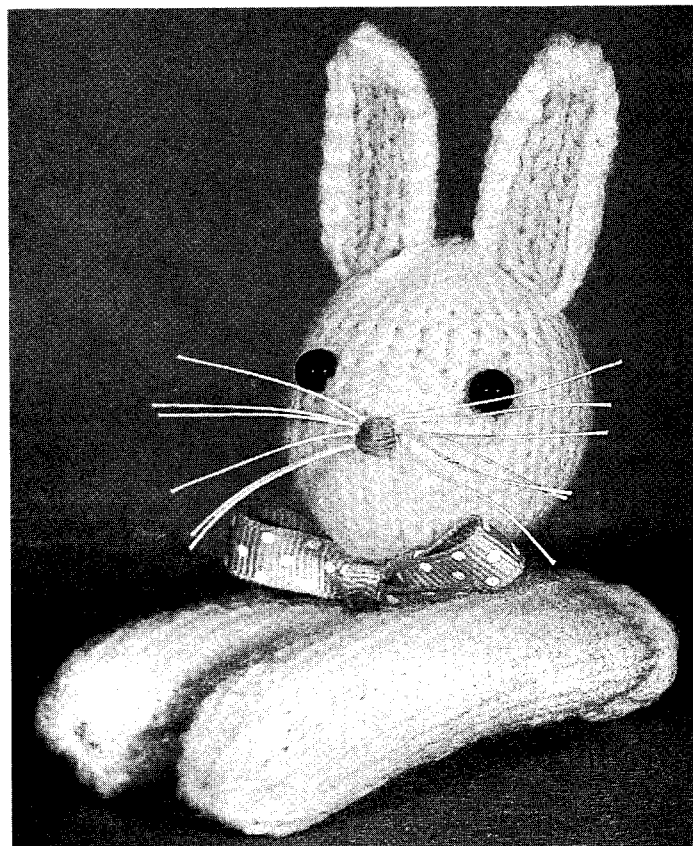
Head and Legs: K in white yarn and omit the black nose.

Bunny Ears: With the RT side of the head facing you, P/U the side of the 4th ST over from the eye. Place it and the next 4 STS onto EON. This will be tight; [see picture #3]. Bring these NDLS to HP. Bring the 3 in-between, NWP NDLS plus a fourth one on the side of the top of the head to WP. Using white, lay the yarn from the carriage across the HP NDLS (with the STS on them) and set carr for automatic weaving C/O. With SS 5, do automatic C/O and K 14 Rs (C/O counts as 1 R). Using a 2 prong tool, [dec 1 ST each side, K 2 Rs] twice. Using a single prong tool, dec 1 ST each side, K 2 Rs (2 STS rem). Cut white yarn, replace with pink. K 2 Rs. [Bring to WP 1 new NDL on carr side then K 1 R] twice. 4 NDLS working. K 8 Rs then G/O. Rep for other ear.

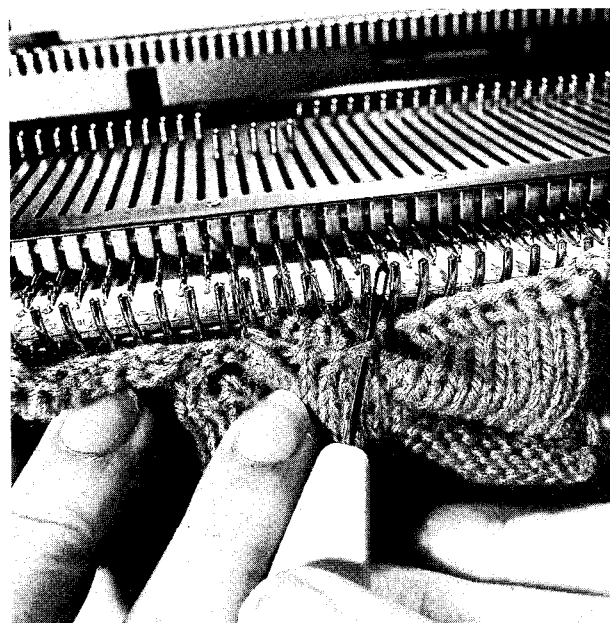
Finishing

Ears: Twist tog the white and pink yarns where the ear changes colors. Lay the twisted yarn ends down the center of the white part of the ear. Lay the pink part of the ear over the top (wrong sides are together) and stitch by sewing machine down the center. Be careful not to catch the bottom gathering yarns on either the white half or the pink. Alternatively you could glue the two parts of the ear tog, using non-toxic glue suitable for use by children. Cut away the extra twisted yarn ends. Rep for the other ear. Using the latch tool, pull the white and the pink yarn tails through to the underside of the head. Pull up the gathering tight on both and tie into a square knot. Cut excess yarn.

Nose: Cut six 4" pieces of carpet thread. Lay the pieces tog and tie into an overhand knot at the center. Place the knot at the center of the nose and satin stitch (by hand or sewing machine) over the knot with pink thread. Trim the whiskers.



#3



Kitty Cat

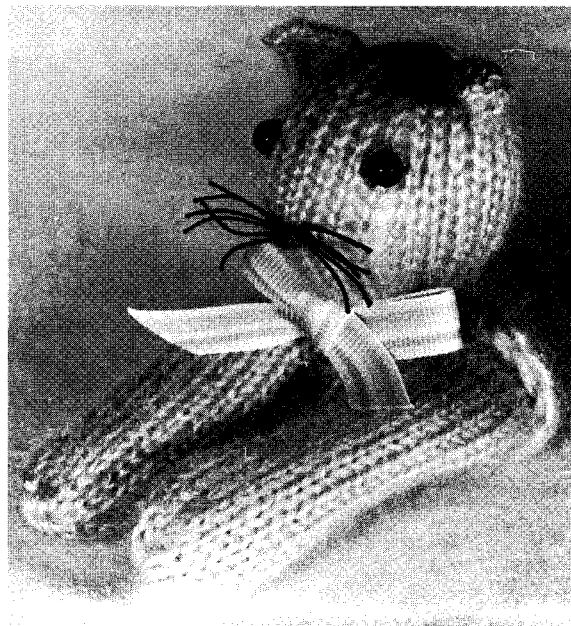
Knit the Kitty in grey, or pink yarns described above or in Yarn Country's Fluff. 24" gray carpet thread for whiskers.

Head: Omit black nose.

Ears: K in same color as head. With RT side of the head facing you, P/U the side of the 4th ST over from the eye, and hang 6 STS on the machine, starting from the top of the head and working down the Rs. K 4 Rs with SS 6. Using a 2 prong tool, dec 1 ST ea side, K 2 Rs. Using a single prong tool, dec 1 ST ea side, K 1 R (2 STS rem). Dec to 1 ST. K 1 R, cut yarn and pull down on ear, pulling cut yarn through last ST. Rep for other ear.

Finishing

Apply whiskers and nose as described in Bunny directions. Weave yarn ends from ears to the inside and tie into a square knot, cut excess yarn. Trim the whiskers



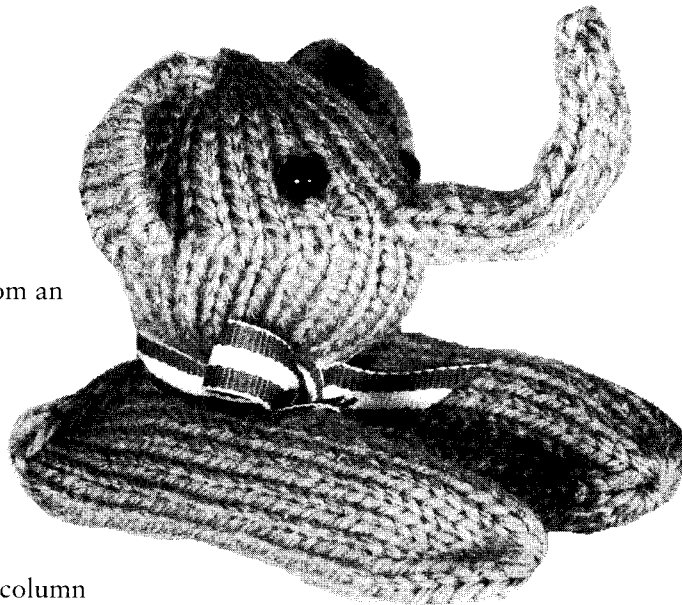
Elephant

Knit in grey yarn. The trunk is made from an I-cord.

Head: Use grey yarn and omit the black nose.

Ears: K in grey, same as the head. With the RT side of the head facing you, P/U the side of the 4th ST over from the eye, and hang 13 STS on the machine starting from the top of the head and working down that column of STS. Carr must be on same side as the top of the head. K 2 Rs with SS 8. *Place the first NDL on the carr side into HP, K 1 R.** Rep * to ** until there are 3 NDLS in HP each side and carr is on same side as top of the head. Place the next NDL on the carr side into HP and put the group of 3 NDLS opp the carr into UWP. K 1 R. Place the next NDL opp the carr into HP, K 1 R. Place the next NDL on the carr side into HP, K 1 R. 6 NDLS in HP. K 1 R across all STS. Carr should end up on same side as top of head. Latch tool B/O. Rep for the other ear

Trunk: Use grey. P/U 6 STS: the center 4 STS of face (top of nose) and the two outside STS one R down and under the previous STS P/U so that there are 6 STS total (see picture #4). Set machine to K an I-cord (carr K in one direction and slips in the other).



#4





Bear, Tiger and Leopard

The bear, tiger and leopard are all knitted exactly the same using different colors of yarn. Follow the general directions described above using brown or tan for the bear, orange for the tiger, and pale yellow for the leopard. You'll need a permanent black marker.

Ears: K in same color as the head. With the RT side of the head facing you, P/U the side of the 4th ST over from the eye, and hang 7 STS on the machine starting from the top of the head and working down

the side of the Rs. (see picture #1). Carr must be at the side of the top of the head. K 2 Rs with SS 6.

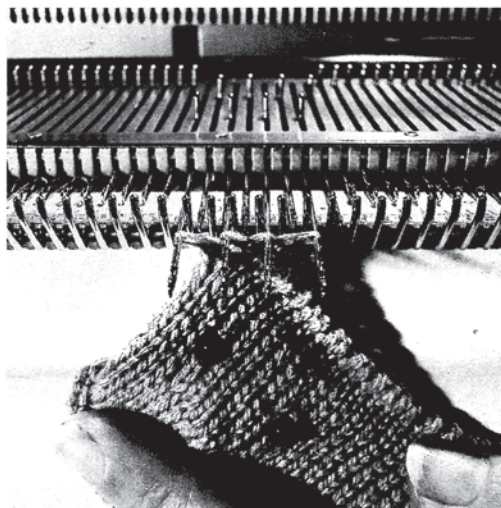
Russel Levers (I)(I). *Place the first NDL on carr side into HP, K 1 R.** Rep * to ** until only 2 STS rem in WP and

carr is on side opp top of head. Weave yarn over the second and under the edge NDLS. Russel Levers (II)(II). K 1 R across all NDLS. Latch tool B/O. Rep in reverse for other ear, starting with carr at top of head.

Finishing:

Ears: With latch tool, pull yarn end from top of ear to the inside pulling down tightly. Weave the B/O yarn through the edge of the bottom of the ear and

#1



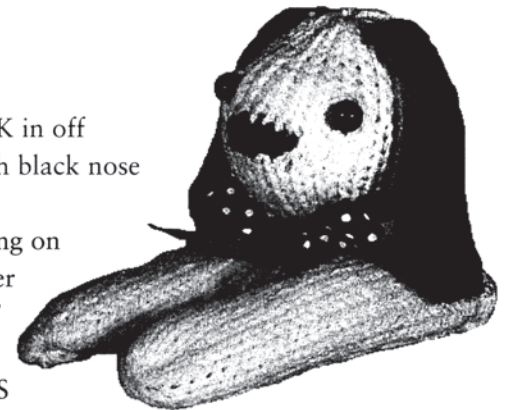
Dog

The dog is K in off white yarn, with black nose and black ears.

Ears: Starting on the third ST over from the eye, P/U the bar between the STS directly below the gathering yarn. Moving away from the face, P/U 5 bars across the R. (see picture #2). The base of the dog's ear is

#2

horizontal rather than vertical as in the bear. *K 6 Rs with SS 9. FF inc 1 ST each side.** Rep * to ** one more time. K 4 Rs. [Dec 1 ST ea. side with a single prong tool. K 1 R] 3 times. 3 STS rem. Crochet B/O. Rep for other ear



Finishing:

Ears: With latch tool, pull yarn end from top of ear to the inside of head and cut, leaving about a 1" tail. Weave the end yarn from the bottom of the ear back up into the ear. Block ears to flatten. Then use steam to flatten the ears against the dog's head.

Panda Bear

The Panda is K in black and white yarn. Black felt scraps for eyes.

Legs: Beg legs with white yarn, changing to black when NDLS are placed into HP to K each leg separately

Head: Use white yarn for head, black for nose. Do *not* insert beads for eyes.

Ears: K the ears in black following the directions for the Bear, Tiger and Leopard.

Finishing

Cut out 2 pieces of black felt (following pattern at right) and place next to the nose. Satin ST the eyes onto the felt, through the knitted piece, using black thread.

Ear pattern



Lion

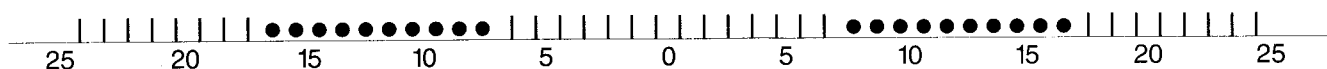
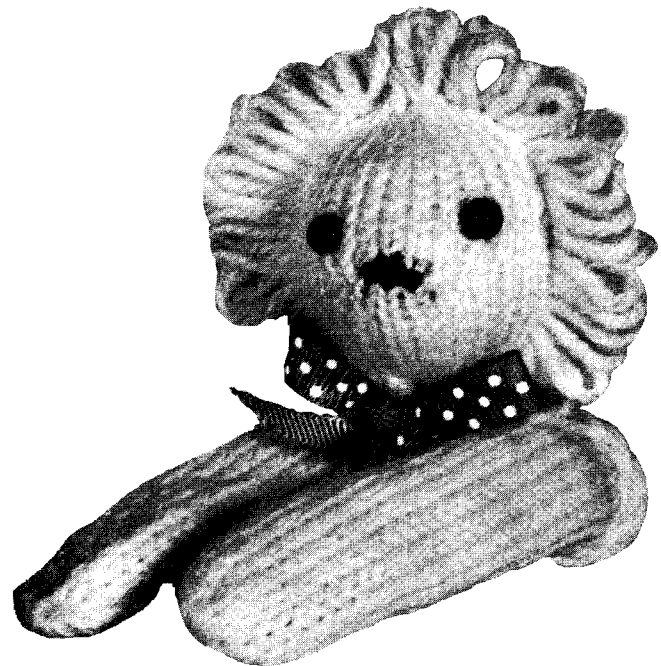
The Lion is K in gold yarn. His mane is produced by using NDLS out of work to form floats which are then folded in half to form the loops.

Legs: Use gold yarn.

Head: Select NDLS as fol: Fol general directions, leaving NDL set up constant and counting only WP NDLS.

Finishing

Fold the long floats created by the NWP NDLS in half, bringing wrong sides of the head tog. Pull up the gathering yarns on top and bottom so that they are not included in the loops. Using a long NDL or stiff wire, hold the loops out and ST the K parts together, i.e. 6th the two side seams of the head with the mane extending beyond. Be careful not to sew through the top or bottom gathering yarns. This creates the lions mane. Finish as described in the General Directions. With an extra piece of yarn, create more loops across the top of the head to fill out the mane



Needle arrangement for lion's head

- | NDL in WP
- NDL in NWP

K 15 Rs with SS 7 (30 passes of carr). G/O, pull yarn through middle of trunk

Finishing

Ears: With latch tool, pull yarn end from top of ear to the inside, pulling down tightly. Weave the B/O yarn tail through the edge of the bottom of the ear and to the inside. Tie the yarn ends tog in a square knot on the inside of the head, forming a slight cupping of the ear. Rep for the other ear.

Mouse

24" black carpet thread for whiskers.

Head and Legs: Follow the General directions using grey yarn and omitting black nose.

Ears: K in grey. With the RT side of the head facing you, P/U the side of the 4th ST over from the eye, and hang 4 STS on the machine starting from the top of the head and working down 6 that column of STS. K 2 Rs with SS 6. FF inc 1 ST ea side. K 2 Rs. *FF inc 1 ST ea side. K 3 Rs.** Rep * to ** until there are 10 NDLS working. K 5 Rs. [Using a 2 prong tool, dec 1 ST ea side, K 2 Rs] twice. Using a 2 prong tool, then a 1 prong tool, dec 2 STS ea side until only 2 NDLS rem working with 3 STS on each NDL. Latch tool B/O. Rep for other ear.

Finishing

Nose: Finish as for bunny directions.

Ears: Weave yarn ends into ear and cut. After completion of finishing directions, block the ears heavily with steam, pulling into a circular shape so that they will stand up flat and round.

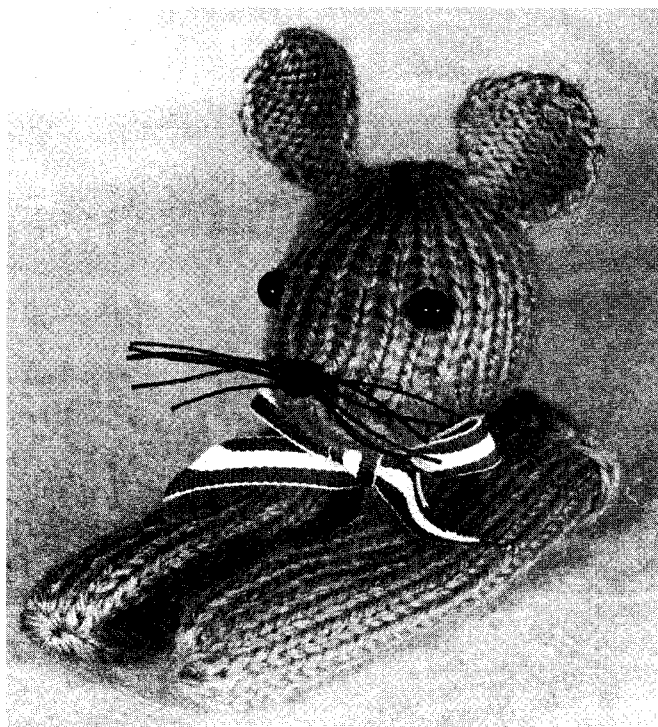
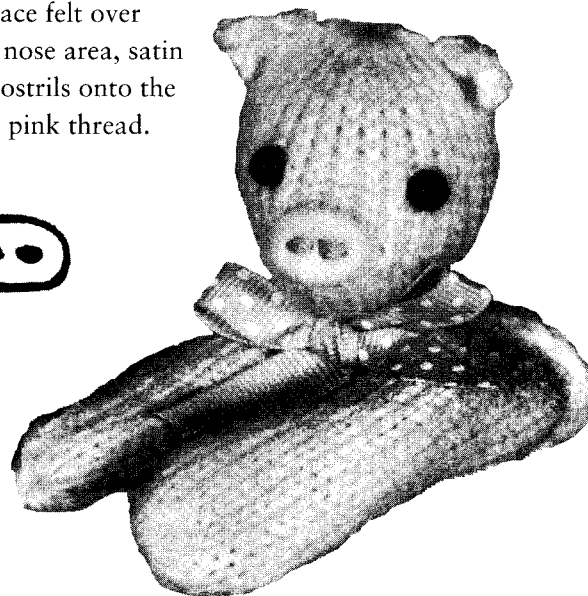
Pig

Head and Legs: use baby pink yarn ; do not change to black yarn for nose.

Ears: Knit in pink following the directions for the Kitty Cat

Finishing

Cut out the nose from pink felt fol the pattern below. Place felt over center of nose area, satin ST two nostrils onto the felt using pink thread.

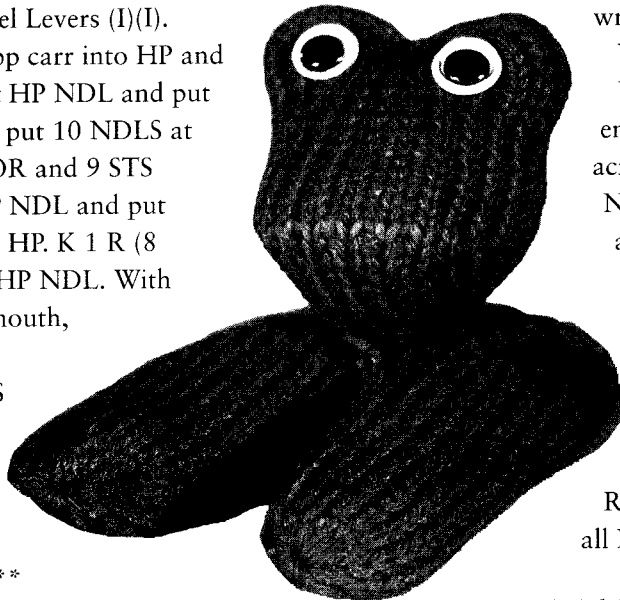


Frog

Head and Legs: Use green yarn.

Use automatic weaving C/O, SS 6 and green to C/O over 30 NDLS. K 6 Rs (counting C/O as 1 R). K 6 Rs with SS 8. Russel Levers (I)(I). COR. Put 10 NDLS at Lopp carr into HP and K 1 R. COL. Wrap the last HP NDL and put 1 more NDL at L into HP; put 10 NDLS at RT into HP and K 1 R. COR and 9 STS working. Wrap the last HP NDL and put one more NDL on RT into HP. K 1 R (8 STS). COL. Wrap the last HP NDL. With red yarn, hand K 1 R for mouth, weave ends back in and be sure to wrap the HP NDLS at each side. K 1 R MC over the 8 working NDLS. *Wrap the last HP NDL, put one NDL on side opp carriage into UWP. K 1 R.** Rep * to **. 10 NDLS in WP.

Wrap the last HP NDL on the carr side, put all the HP NDLS on the side opp carr into UWP and K 1 R. Russel Levers (II)(II). K 1 R across all NDLS. K 4 Rs, ending COR. Place the last 6 NDLS at L into HP and K 1 R.



Wrap the last HP NDL, leave the next 5 NDLS in WP and put the rem NDLS into HP (NDLS #15-10 L in hold, 9-5 L in WP, 4-1 L and 1-15 RT in HP). K 8 Rs on these 5 NDLS,

wrapping the edge NDL every R. COL.

Wrap the last HP NDL, put back to UWP all the right NDLS except the end 6 (6 NDLS rem in HP each end). K across the middle STS. Wrap the last HP NDL, leave the next 5 NDLS in WP and put the rem NDLS into HP (NDLS #15-1 L and 1-4 RT in hold, 5-9 RT in WP, 10-15 RT in HP). K 8 Rs on these 5 NDLS, wrapping every R (watch the STS carefully). COR. Wrap the last HP NDL, put all the NDLS opp carr into UWP. K 1 R. Russel Levers (II)(II). K 3 Rs across all NDLS. G/O.

Finishing

After inserting the styrofoam ball into the head, insert two pompons into the bulges for the eyes, pull up the top gathering yarn and anchor. Sew 2, 10 mm wiggle eyes onto bulges.

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