

ALAN DART *designer of knitted & fabric toys*

Furry Fairies



MEASUREMENTS

5in (12.5cm) long.

MATERIALS

For each mouse you will need: Of Hayfield Bonus DK 100g balls: 10g in White 961, 5g in dress shade (colours used here are Mint 956, Primrose 957, and Iced Pink 958); of Anchor Artiste Metallic 25g balls: 2g in Silver 301; scrap of dusky pink yarn; pair of 3mm (no.11) knitting needles; 5g of washable toy stuffing; two 1/8in (3mm) diameter black beads; silver machine embroidery thread; white sewing thread or clear adhesive; long tweezers; hair spray.

TENSION

26 sts and 36 rows to 10cm (4in) square, measured over stocking stitch worked with DK on 3mm needles.

ABBREVIATIONS

beg = beginning; dec = decrease (by working 2 stitches together); inc = increase (by working into front and back of stitch); K = knit; P = purl; PSSO = pass slipped stitch over; sl = slip; ss = stocking stitch; st(s) = stitch(es); SKPO = slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over; tog = together.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Use 3mm needles throughout and cast on by using the cable (two needle) method.

This is most important when knitting the smaller pieces. Begin all pieces with a K row, unless otherwise stated.

Please also take time to make sure that you are familiar with the correct method of increasing before commencing, otherwise you will find that the number of stitches on your needle will not match those stated in the pattern. 'Inc 1' means to increase by

working into the front and back of the next stitch, thus making two stitches from one without leaving a hole in the knitting. This technique is sometimes referred to as KFB and is the only form of increasing that I use, so once you have mastered this you will be able to knit any of my patterns with complete confidence.



BODY AND HEAD make 1 piece

With White cast on 10 sts for base edge and ss 2 rows.

1st inc row: (Inc 1) nine times, K1 [19 sts].

P 1 row.

2nd inc row: K1, (inc 1, K1) to end [28 sts].

Ss 7 rows.

Shape waist, 1st dec row: (K1, K 2 tog, K1) to end [21 sts].

P 1 row.

2nd dec row: (K1, K 2 tog) to end [14 sts].

P 1 row.

Change to dress shade and ss 2 rows.

K 2 rows for top edge of bodice.

Change to White and ss 2 rows, beg with a K row.

Shape head, inc row: K2, (inc 1, K2) to end [18 sts].

Ss 5 rows.

1st dec row: (K1, K 2 tog) to end [12 sts].

Ss 3 rows.

2nd dec row: (K 2 tog) to end [6 sts].

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

EARS make 2 pieces

With White cast on 10 sts for outside edge.

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

ARMS AND FEET make 4 pieces

With White cast on 5 sts and ss 12 rows.

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

SKIRT make 1 piece

With dress shade cast on 50 sts for base edge.

Rows 1 & 3: K2, (P4, K2) to end.

Rows 2 & 4: P2, (K4, P2) to end.

Row 5: K1, (SKPO, P2, K 2 tog) to last st, K1 [34 sts].

Row 6: P2, (K2, P2) to end.

Row 7: K1, (SKPO, K 2 tog) to last st, K1 [18 sts].

Cast off K wise for waist edge.



WINGS make 2 pieces

With lurex cast on 14 sts for outside edge.

Row 1: K5, SKPO, K 2 tog, K5 [12 sts].

Row 2: P4, (P 2 tog) twice, P4 [10 sts].

Cast off.



STAR make 1 piece

With lurex cast on 8 sts for centre edge.

1st row: (Inc 1) seven times, K1 [15 sts].

P 1 row.

Work first point: *K3, turn and work on these sts only.

Next row: Purl.

Next row: Sl 1, K 2 tog, PSSO.** Break yarn, leaving a 1yd (1m) length, draw through st, then sew yarn down left-hand side of point to meet sts remaining on needle.

Work second point: Using remaining length of yarn, work as given for first point from * to **, then draw yarn through st and sew down side of point to meet sts remaining on needle.

Work third, fourth, and fifth

points: Work each in turn, following instructions as given for second point.

TO MAKE UP



Unless otherwise specified, sew seams and join pieces using mattress stitch, working with right side of knitting uppermost. A one stitch knitted seam turning has been allowed on most pieces to accommodate this method.

First take a 24in (60cm) length of White yarn for tail and fold in half. Holding cut ends in left hand, insert right index finger into folded end and twist yarn tightly, keeping taut. Bring ends together and allow yarn to twist into a cord, then tie a secure knot 3in (7.5cm) in from neat end and trim away excess. Mark position of tail on body piece with a pin, placing centrally and 2 knitted rows above 2nd inc row at base. Using a large needle, thread tail through body piece at this point, from wrong side to right, and draw up until knot meets knitting. You may like to secure the knot with a spot of glue.

Starting at gathered nose point, join body seam, stopping 1/2in (12mm) away from base edge. Use tweezers to stuff head and body firmly, then join remainder of seam. Work a gathering thread through every stitch along base edge, draw up tightly and fasten off. The body and head seam will run along underside.

Join side edges of skirt piece, then fit over head and pull down until waist edges of skirt and bodice meet. Matching body and skirt seams, sew skirt in place by working backstitch over every stitch along waist edge.



When attaching the following small pieces you can either do this with white sewing thread or clear adhesive, depending upon whether the mouse is going to be used as a toy or a decoration.

Starting at gathered end, join side edges of each arm and foot piece and leave unstuffed. Work a gathering thread through

every stitch along cast-on edge. draw up tightly and fasten off, then position and sew or glue arms and feet in place.

Join side edges of each ear piece, then position and sew or glue to top of head, placing 2 knitted rows before 1st dec row at front of head, and spacing 2 knitted stitches apart.

With dusky pink yarn, embroider three tiny, horizontal, satin stitches for nose, then either sew or glue bead eyes in place. If making this for a very young child, you should embroider the eyes with black yarn instead of using beads.

Fold cast-off edge of each wing piece in half and oversew, then open out flat. Using remaining length of yarn that has been sewn down side of fifth point, oversew side edges of star piece for the first 2 knitted rows up from cast-on edge, then work a gathering thread through every stitch along cast-on edge, draw up tightly and fasten off. Coat wings and star with hair spray, pull each wing to form an oval shape, and pinch each star point to shape, then leave on a flat surface to set.

Sew or glue paws together, trapping one point of the star between paws, then sew or glue wings to back of bodice, spacing 2 knitted stitches apart.

Thread a sewing needle with a 12in (30cm) length of silver thread and take a single stitch through bodice, between wings.

Check to see that mouse hangs correctly, removing thread and repositioning if necessary, then tie thread securely, 3in (7.5cm) away from bodice, to form a hanging loop. Trim away excess thread, then dab a spot of glue on knot and draw into knitting so that knot becomes hidden. Coat tail with hair spray, curve into shape, and leave to set.



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