A Felted Eye Patch

A Free and Easy Knitting Pattern in two sizes by "Mad Jenny Bonney" (Aka Jenny "Folkcat" Kubeck)

Aaarrrggghhh! Avast ye, maties! Be ye wantin' to live the pirate's life? Then ye're goin' to want to accessorize! If by chance ye've still got both yer legs, and two whole hands, and two good eyes - wait a minute! What kind of a pirate be ye?!?

Ah, well...we've all gotta start swashbucklin' somewheres, and it takes some time sailin' the seas afore ye can earn the markin's of a true pirate. 'Til then, ye can fake it in gran' style wi' this classic eye patch!

Knittin's a fittin' pastime for those dull moments between lootin' and plunderin', and this pattern's easy to follow, so there's no excuses for slackin' off here! So, pick up yer pointy sticks, grab that wad of wool, and cast on, while singin' Yo Ho! Yo Ho! A Pirate's Life fer Me!

Measurements:

Small: Before felting: 4 inches wide x 2.5 inches high
After felting: 3 inches wide x 2 inches high

Large: Before felting: Forgot to measure - sorry!
After felting: 4.25 inches wide x 2.75 inches high

Materials

For either size, about ½ ounce (15 grams) feltable, worsted-weight, wool yarn
1 pair US size 8 straight needles or size to obtain gauge
1 pair US size 7 dpn needles

Gauge

1 inch = 5 stitches
1 inch = 6 rows.

Abbreviations Used:

K = Knit
SSK = Slip each of next two stitches knitwise, then knit them together.
K2Tog = Knit 2 together.

To Knit an I-Cord:

On a double point needle, cast-on or pick up the required number of stitches.

Knit one row. Instead of turning your work, slide your stitches to the right-hand end of the needle they're on.

Repeat between *'s until cord is desired length. Note that your working yarn at the beginning of each row will be coming from the last stitch to the left - this is perfectly normal for I-cord knitting, and is what helps to draw the cord into a tube as you work.

Knit the patch.

Numbers given are for small size, with numbers for large size in parentheses. Where only one number is given, it applies to all sizes.

With US size 8 straight needles, cast on 18 (26) stitches.

Knit 8 (12) rows.

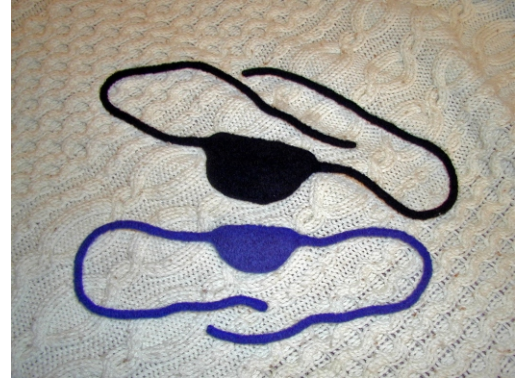Next Row: K1, SSK, K to last 3 stitches, K2Tog, K1 (16 (24) sts.)

K 4 (5) rows.

Next Row: K1, SSK, K to last 3 stitches, K2Tog, K1 (14 (22) sts.)

K 3 (5) rows.

Next Row: *K1, SSK, K to last 3 stitches, K2Tog, K1*

Repeat between *'s 3 (5) more times. 6 (10) sts. remain.

Top: Large eye patch
Bottom: Small eye patch

The Dread Pirate Earnest Sports a Stylish Small Eye Patch

Binding off.

SSK, bind off until two stitches remain on left hand needle, and one on right hand needle. K2tog. You now have two stitches on the right hand needle - pass the right-most stitch over last one made. Cut yarn and pull through remaining stitch.

Add the ties.

You now have a piece of garter-stitch knitting that is roughly semi-circular. The straight edge is the top of the eye patch. Count 3-4 rows down from the top edge. With a US size 7 double-point needle, pick up 3 stitches on one side of the patch, and knit an I-cord for 18 - 24 inches. Repeat on other side of eyepatch.

Finishing and felting.

Weave in ends. Felt by your preferred method. I like to put it in a zippered pillow protector with a load of towels or jeans on a Heavy Cotton, hot water wash cycle, with a bit of detergent. Stop the machine before the spin cycle, and inspect your eye patch. If not sufficiently felted, run the wash cycle again. Repeat as necessary until patch has reached desired size and felting. (I found I needed three cycles for the large patch, but only two for the small one.) (Cont'd next page.)

Iron William Flint
Squints Around a Large Eye Patch
To Choose the Color for His Next One

Before allowing the patch to dry, spend a moment shaping. I find that this pattern forms a naturally curved shape that forms to the eye area well. Adjust the eye patch so the curve is smooth and regular. Stretch the two I-cord ties as long and thin as possible. Leave patch to dry well before wearing.

Caution!

Be sure to rinse the patch well to remove any remaining detergent, as this will be worn near the eye! Also, please be aware that this is not a suitable accessory for anyone with sensitive skin or eyes, or with an allergy to wool. Always use common sense with items worn near the eyes!

About the Designer:

Mad Jenny Bonney (Jenny "Folkcat" Kubeck) refers to herself as a multi-crafter. She works as an artist in many media, including yarn, painting, beading, and sculpting. Other interests include inventive cooking, reading, blogging, and "Knitting Around." She describes the latter as "Knitting in Public, where the location is at least as interesting as the knitting."

Jenny lives and crafts in Southern New Hampshire, having moved there over 12 years ago from Central New York to marry a New Hampshire man she met on the Internet. He is very supportive of her crafting craziness, and understands the best he can, though he admits it's not always easy.

Jenny's blog about her knitting experiences can be found at http://www.folkcatart.com/knitaround. She can be contacted by e-mail at fiber@folkcatart.com, or by snail mail at Jenny Kubeck, PO Box 1290, Wilton, NH 03086.

About the Models:

The eye patches worn in these pictures were knit from Plymouth Galway worsted weight yarn, in the colors black and royal blue. **The Dread Pirate Earnest** has been a close friend and companion of the designer for many years. **Iron William Flint** is better known to readers of the designer's blog as Gryphon. It no longer strikes him as strange to be asked to pose as a pirate for a knitting pattern.