

# Beans the Cat

DESIGNED BY Linda Dawkins



*This little kitty will charm any youngster, especially when made in fun colors with bright and pretty facial features. Beans is knit in the round, either on double-pointed needles, or on a long circular using the magic loop technique. Many different yarn combinations work well, so this is a great stash buster!*

*You can knit Beans the Cat from a Community Projects kit, or you can use your own leftover yarn.*

*Be sure to read through the pattern (especially the Pattern Notes) before beginning.*

**Abbreviations:** Dpn(s): double-pointed needle(s); K: knit; K2tog: knit 2 sts together; Kfb: knit into front & back of st (1 st increased); Sts: stitches; [...] repeat enclosed instructions as specified.

## PATTERN NOTES

- Feel free to use whatever colors (and as many colors) you like; “realistic” cat colors are not required. Children delight in creatures of wild and wacky colors.
- Be sure the fabric is tight enough to prevent the stuffing from showing but not stiff. It’s ok to have knots on the inside of critters; just tie the knots tightly and leave about 2” tails inside the critter.
- Stuff firmly, but not too hard. Aim for “cuddly” – not too soft or too hard.
- **Do not use beads or buttons for eyes or any other embellishment!** These toys may be going to very young children and beads or buttons are choking hazards.

*Pattern Notes are continued on the next page...*

## Materials

**Sizes:** Small, Large

### Yarn

- **Small:** worsted, 40 yds
- **Large:** 60-yd **balls** of yarn in **any** of these combinations:
  - Worsted, 2 balls [*held together when knitting*]
  - Worsted, 1 ball, + worsted-weight novelty yarn, 1 ball [*held together when knitting*]
  - Worsted, 2 balls, + novelty yarn (any weight), 1 ball [*held together when knitting*]
  - Super bulky yarn, 1 ball
- **Both sizes:** scraps of yarn to embroider facial features. (*Felt scraps can also be used; see Pattern Notes for suggestions*).

### Needles

Circular needle (if using magic loop technique) and/or dpns in these sizes, or size that will produce a firm fabric (*See Pattern Notes*):

- Small size: US 6/4 mm - US 7/4.5 mm
- Large size: US 11/8 mm – US 15/10 mm

### Gauge

Gauge is not critical. *See Pattern Notes.*

### Additional Materials

Fiberfill or other material for stuffing  
Small scraps of felt for facial features  
Crochet hook or yarn/tapestry needle



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Pattern Notes are continued from previous page...

- **Facial features:** Whiskers can be embroidered with straight stitches or tied onto the face (*See the photo for examples*). Eyes can be embroidered using simple stitches or created with sewn-on felt pieces. French knots are often used for knitted critters' eyes. Directions and demonstrations can be found online. "Spoke" eyes are another embroidered option: Make 5 running stitches coming out from the center of the eye to the outer edge (like spokes of a wheel), then weave the yarn from the outer edge in a circular direction going under and over the spokes to make a solid eye.
- **Alternative bind-off and closure method:** When you have finished knitting, cut the working yarn, leaving a tail approx. 2-4". Divide the sts at the top onto two needles with the front of the body on one needle and the back of the body on the other needle. With a crochet hook, start at the end opposite the tail and pull each stitch sequentially through the previous, going from side to side (i.e., needle to needle) working towards the tail. Thread the tail through the final stitch and fasten.

## DIRECTIONS

Cast on 10 sts and join for knitting in the round.

**Round 1:** Knit.

**Round 2:** Kfb into each stitch. — 20 sts

**Round 3:** Kfb into each stitch. — 40 sts

Knit 12 rounds for small size; knit 15 rounds for large size.

**Next round:** [K1, k2tog] to end of round, ending with k1. — 27 sts

Knit 10 more rounds for small size; knit 12 more rounds for large size.

Bind off, then fold the bound-off top edges together and sew together, or try the "alternative bind-off and closure method" described in the Pattern Notes.

## Finishing

Stuff Beans and make him plump! Aim for a firm and "cuddly" feel.

Take a needle and yarn and sew around the edge of the opening at the base of the body, then pull tight to close the opening.

Take a needle and yarn and sew into the base, then push the needle through the body and pull it out the top of the head. Sew back down again, pull tight and sew the yarn securely into the base. This creates a depression on the top of the head that forms two ears.

Sew or tie on whiskers. Add embroidered or felt facial features. See the Pattern Notes for suggestions for embroidered eyes. **Please remember: Do not use beads or buttons for eyes or any other embellishment!**

## Tail:

With two dpns, cast on 5 sts and knit an I-cord for the tail. When the I-cord is about 5" long for the small cat, 6"-8" for the large cat, bind off. Sew the tail onto the back of the body, a little off-center, so it can wrap around the body.

**Now give Beans a hug!!**



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