

Hedgehogs (Small & Large)

Adapted from *Blue's Hedgehog*



This cuddly hedgehog is **knit flat** in garter stitch, starting with a simple triangle for the nose/head, then extending into a rectangle for the body. Depending on the size of the hedgehog, the head is knit with a single- (small) or double- (large) strand of worsted yarn, and the body is knit with a single strand of thick eyelash yarn (small) or a combined strand of worsted and eyelash yarn (large). When knitting is finished, the piece is **seamed and stuffed**. Embroidery of eyes and nose on the small size is easiest if done after seaming and stuffing.

Please be sure to read through pattern and pattern notes before beginning.

Abbreviations: **Dpn(s)**: double-pointed needle(s) **K**: knit; **K2tog**: knit 2 sts together (1 st decreased); **Kfb**: knit into front and back of st (1 st increased); **St(s)**: stitch(es)

PATTERN NOTES

- Feel free to use whatever colors you like; “realistic” hedgehog 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

Pattern Notes are continued on the next page...

Materials

Yarn

Small:

- Worsted, 7 yds for the head
- Worsted, 1-3 yds to embroider nose and eyes (black or color of your choice that contrasts with head color)
- Thick eyelash yarn (e.g., Lion Brand *Fun Fur*), 40 yds for the body

Large:

- Worsted, 10 yds for the head + 40 yds for head and body (Knitter’s choice whether to use the same color or different colors for the head)
- Worsted, 3 yds for the nose (black or color of your choice that contrasts with head color)
- Worsted, 2 yds if you choose to embroider the eyes (or felt, see below)
- Thick eyelash yarn (e.g., Lion Brand *Fun Fur*), 40 yds for the body (to be stranded with the body worsted)

Needles

Small: US 8 (4mm); **Large:** US 10-11 (6mm-8mm). See Gauge requirement.

Additional Materials:

- Yarn/tapestry needle for weaving in ends and seaming the body
- Stuffing material
- (Optional) Small pieces of felt for eyes

Gauge

Fabric should be firm enough to hide the stuffing, but not stiff.

Finished Dimensions

Small: approx. 5½” long, 4½” diameter

Large: approx. 10” long, 6” diameter



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Pattern Notes are continued from previous page...

critters; just tie the knots tightly and leave about 2" tails inside the critter.

- Remember to stuff before closing up the opening; 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.
- **Facial features:** 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.

DIRECTIONS

Small size:

Head:

With worsted, cast on 3 sts.

Rows 1 and 2: Kfb, k to end.

Row 3: Knit.

Repeat Rows 1-3 until **width** is approximately 4½ inches, ending with a Row 3.

Continue with *Body Section*.

Large size:

Nose:

With 2 strands of nose yarn, cast on 3 sts.

Rows 1 and 2: Kfb, k to end.

Row 3: Knit.

Row 4: Kfb, k to end. (6 sts)

Row 5: Knit.

Head:

Drop nose yarn and continue with 2 strands of worsted.

Rows 1 and 2: Kfb, k to end.

Row 3: Knit.

Repeat Rows 1-3 until **width** is approximately 6 inches, ending with a Row 3.

Continue with *Body Section*.

Body Section

Small size:

Drop worsted. With eyelash, work in garter stitch (knit every row) for approx. 4 inches, or until the eyelash section is somewhat square.

Continue with *Decrease Rows*.

Large size:

Drop **one strand** of worsted and join eyelash. Continue with one strand of worsted and one strand of eyelash held together.

Work in garter stitch (knit every row) until the body is 6-7 inches long.

Continue with *Decrease Rows*.

Decrease Rows (both sizes):

Decrease Row 1: *K1, k2tog; repeat from * to end of row.

Decrease Row 2: K2tog to end of row.

Break yarn, leaving a long tail for sewing up. Pull end through sts on needle, pull tight and tie off securely.

Continue with *Finishing*.

Finishing (both sizes)

Seam the head section and stuff firmly (but not rock hard). Seam body section, stuffing as you go. Aim for "cuddly" – not too soft or too hard.

Small size: Using the nose yarn, make a nose by sewing over the tip of the nose section until no head yarn can be seen.

Both sizes: Add felt or embroidered eyes (*See Pattern Notes*).
No beads or buttons for eyes or any other embellishment, please!

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