

Monster

Adapted by Rae Sprague from *Beans the Cat*, by Linda Dawkins



Monsters can be funny, especially when they are made in fun colors with bright and goofy facial features.

This Monster 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 Monster 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.

Materials

Sizes: One size

Yarn

- 75-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

Needles

- Circular needle (if using magic loop technique) and/or dpns US 11/8 mm – US 15/10 mm, or size that will produce a firm fabric.
- One needle two sizes smaller than working needle for eye stalks

(See *Pattern Notes*)

Gauge

Gauge is not critical

Additional Materials

Scraps of felt for facial features and other embellishments

Fiberfill or other material for stuffing

Crochet hook or yarn/tapestry needle

(See *Pattern Notes*)

Abbreviations: Dpn(s): double-pointed needle(s); K: knit; K2tog: knit 2 sts together (1 st decreased); Kfb: knit into front & back of st (1 st increased); P: purl; P2tog: purl 2 sts together (1 st decreased); Sts: stitches; [...] repeat enclosed instructions as specified.

PATTERN NOTES

- Feel free to use whatever colors (and as many colors) you like; 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...



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If you are using an MKG Ready-to-Knit kit, please return the bag for re-use. **THANK YOU FOR KNITTING FOR OTHERS!**

Pattern Notes are continued from previous page...

- **Facial features:** Facial features (nose, mouth, eyes for face and eye stalks) can be created with scraps of felt; French knots can be embroidered as “pupils” on felt eyes. “Spoke” eyes can be an embroidered option for the eyes: 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 15 rounds.

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.

Eye Stalks (make as many as you like):

Using a needle two sizes smaller than your working needle for the body, cast on 4 sts and **work each eye stalk as an I-cord** as follows:

Rows 1-5: Knit.

Row 6: K1, kfb, kfb, k1. — 6 sts

Rows 7 and 9: Purl.

Rows 8 and 10: Knit

Row 11: P2tog, p2, p2tog. — 4 sts

Row 12: K2tog twice. — 2 sts

Cut yarn and thread through the 2 sts.

Secure the eye stalks to the head wherever you fancy.

Finishing

Stuff Monster 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.

Facial Features: Add facial features to the face either with embroidery or pieces of felt. See the Pattern Notes for suggestions. **Please remember: Do not use beads or buttons for eyes or any other embellishment!**

Now give your Monster a hug!!

