

Sassy Snake

DESIGNED BY Rae Sprague, Lynn Levin, & Betty Ulanski



Kids will love this whimsical snake in bright colors from head to pointed tail with a gentle curve for coiling. It is knit lengthwise and finished by sewing up the side. It is a great way to use up small balls of colorful yarn. Adding a novelty yarn on the top of the snake adds an interesting texture. Be creative and add your own decorative touches. Don't forget to read through the pattern (especially the Pattern Notes) before beginning.

Materials

Yarn

- worsted, approximately 220 yds (*See Pattern Notes*)
- novelty yarn, approximately 110 yards for top side
- scraps of yarn for spoke eyes, optional

Needles:

US 6/4mm circular, 32" or size that will produce a firm fabric (*See Pattern Notes*)

Gauge:

Gauge is not critical (*See Pattern Notes*)

Additional Materials

Scraps of felt for forked tongue and eyes (*See Pattern Notes*)

Fiberfill for stuffing (*See pattern notes*)

Yarn/tapestry needle

Sewing needle and thread

Abbreviations: **K:** knit; **K2tog:** knit 2 sts together (1 st decreased); **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) as you like. Children delight in creatures of wild and wacky colors.
- The top of the snake can be knit with multiple colors or a single color with a novelty yarn carried along to add texture. The snake's bottom can be made with variety of colors but using the same color for the first and last several rows gives a distinct difference between the top and bottom of the snake.
- Using different weight yarns will vary the snake size.
- 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.
- Facial features: Eyes can be created with sewn-on felt pieces. French knots are often used for pupils on felt piece circles. Directions and demonstrations can be found online. "Spoke" eyes are an 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.



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THANK YOU FOR KNITTING FOR OTHERS!

DIRECTIONS

Cast on 210 sts.

Top of Snake

Row 1: [K30, place marker] 6 times; K30.

Row 2: Adding novelty yarn to worsted yarn and working with both held together, [knit to 2 sts before the marker, K2tog] 6 times; K30. — 204 sts

Rows 3-7: Knit.

Row 8: Repeat Row 2. — 198 sts

Rows 9-13: Knit.

Row 14: Repeat Row 2. — 192 sts

Rows 15-18: Knit.

Bottom of Snake

Row 19: Drop novelty yarn. Working just with worsted yarn, knit across the row to begin the belly.

Row 20: [Knit to 1 before the marker, kfb] 6 times; K30. — 198 sts

Rows 21-25: K.

Row 26: Repeat Row 20. — 204 sts

Rows 27-31: Knit.

Row 32: Repeat Row 20. — 210 sts

Row 33: Knit.

Row 34: [Note: the shaping in this row is done to reduce bulk in the snake's tail when it is folded as directed in the finishing instructions.] K to last 16 sts, [k2tog] 8 times. — 202 sts

Rows 35-36: Knit.

Bind off, leaving a long tail for sewing up seams.

Finishing

Tail

Fold snake in half lengthwise, with the snake's bottom on the top side (see Figure 1). To shape the tail point, fold and tack the corner of the snake's top onto the snake's bottom, making a pointy tail (see Figure 2).



Figure 1 White=top of snake,
Red = bottom of snake



Figure 2 Fold & tack the tail

Body

Continue sewing up side seam, stuffing with fiberfill as you go.

Before closing the end for the head, attach forked felt tongue to the bottom side.

Head/Face

Add additional fiberfill to enlarge the head, close seam across end of head around tongue, tack tongue down on top surface as needed with thread. Sew on felt eyes or make embroidered eyes.

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