



EASTER BUNNY

knitting pattern by Claire Garland

FINISHED SIZE 20cm/ 8in long - from tail to nose

YARN DK/ sport weight, however to create the multi-layering of colour I used two shades; one dk yarn with mohair yarn at the same time in these shades:

Yarn **A** – King Cole Baby Alpaca dk shade 179 straw

Yarn **B** – Phil Mohar Soie shade 105 poudre (peach)

Yarn **C** – Phildar Phil Alpaga dk shade 107 ecru

Yarn **D** – Debbie Bliss Angel Mohair shade 1501 white

You'll need less than 1 ball of each of the colours listed

NEEDLES Pair 3.50mm/ US 4 knitting needles

TENSION 14 rows and 12 stitches over 5cm

EXTRAS Toy filling or scraps fabric or yarn for stuffing, pair 15mm toy safety eyes or black amigurami safety eyes - however if the toy is intended for a very young child then embroider eyes instead.

- You will also need 10 stitch markers.

PATTERN NOTES:

Use Cable Cast-on throughout

W+Tk bring working yarn to the front of the work, slip next st purl-wise onto the RH needle, take working yarn to the back, slip the slipped stitch back onto the LH needle, turn the knitting = **W+Tk** (wrap and turn knit)

W+Tp take working yarn to the back of the work, slip next st purl-wise onto the RH needle, bring working yarn to the front, slip the slipped stitch back onto the LH needle, turn the knitting = **W+Tp** (wrap and turn purl)

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Begin at the Nose

As mentioned in the ingredients, unless stated in the pattern, I have used two yarns of yarn held together throughout.

With yarns A & B (straw dk and peach mohair) and 3.50mm/ US 4 needles, cast on 13 sts

Rows 1-2 St st 2 rows

Row 3 inc) K5, kfb, k1, kfb, k to end - 15sts

Rows 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 & 14 P

Row 5 inc) K6, kfb, k1, kfb, k to end - 17sts

Row 7 inc) K7, kfb, k1, kfb, k to end - 19sts

Row 9 inc) K8, kfb, k1, kfb, k to end - 21sts

Row 11 inc) [K2, kfb] three times, k3, [kfb, k2] three times - 27sts

Row 13 inc) K10, kfb, k5, kfb, k to end - 29sts

Row 15 inc) Kfb, k10, kfb, k5, kfb, k to last st, kfb - 33sts. Place marker at each end for **Chin**

Rows 16-20 St st 5 rows. Place marker at each end of fifth row for **Ear Front**

... decreases for **Head Back**

Row 21 dec) Skpo, k to last 2 sts, k2 tog - 31sts

Row 22 dec) P1, p2 tog, p to last 3 sts, p2 tog, p1 - 29sts

Rows 23-26 dec) Rep last 2 rows twice - 21sts

Row 27 dec) Skpo, k5, skpo, k3, k2 tog, k to last 2 sts, k2 tog - 17sts.

Row 28 dec) P6, p2 tog, p1, p2 tog, p to end – 15sts

Row 29 dec) Skpo, k to last 2 sts, k2 tog - 13sts

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Row 30 dec) P4, p2 tog, p1, p2 tog, p to end – 11sts

Row 31 dec) K2, skpo, k3, k2 tog, k2 - 9sts

Row 32 P

Row 33 inc) K1, kfb, k to last 2 sts, kfb, k1 - 11sts

Rows 34-37 inc) Rep last 2 rows twice – 15sts

Row 38 P. Place marker at each end for **Ear Back**

Head Sides

Rows 39 & 40 inc) Cast on 7 sts at beg. of next 2 rows – 29sts.

... shape back

Row 41 inc) K9, kfb, k2, kfb, k3, kfb, k2, kfb, k to end – 33sts. Place marker at each end for **Neck**

Rows 42 & 44 P

Row 43 inc) K10, [kfb, k3] three times, kfb, k to end – 37sts

Row 45 inc) Kfb, k15, kfb, k3, kfb, k to last st, kfb – 41sts

Row 46 P

Cut yarn A (straw dk), join on yarn C (ecru dk), cont. with two yarns as foll:

Row 47 inc) K18, kfb, k3, kfb, k to end – 43sts

Rows 48-56 Work 9 rows st st.

Row 57 dec) K18, skpo, k3, k2 tog, k to end - 41sts

Row 58 P

Row 59 dec) K16, skpo, k5, k2 tog, k to end - 39sts

Row 60 P

Cut yarn C (ecru dk), join on yarn A (straw dk), cont. with two yarns as foll:

Left Hind Leg

Cast on 6 sts - then cont. with short rows as foll:

... short rows to create the top of the left leg

Short row 1 K8, W+Tk

Short row 2 P1, W+Tp

Short row 3 K2, W+Tk

Short row 4 P3, W+Tp

Short row 5 K4, W+Tk

Short row 6 P5, W+Tp

Short row 7 K6, W+Tk

Short row 8 P7, W+Tp

Short row 9 K8, W+Tk

Short row 10 P9, W+Tp

Short row 11 K10, W+Tk

Short row 12 P11, W+Tp

Row 61 K19, skpo, k5, k2 tog, k15 sts to end.

Right Leg

P-side is facing cast on 6 sts, cont. with short rows as foll:

... short rows to create the top of the right leg

Short row 1 P8, W+Tp

Short row 2 K1, W+Tk

Short row 3 P2, W+Tp

Short row 4 K3, W+Tk

Short row 5 P4, W+Tp

Short row 6 K5, W+Tk

Short row 7 P6, W+Tp

Short row 8 K7, W+Tk

Short row 9 P8, W+Tp

Short row 10 K9, W+Tk

Short row 11 P10, W+Tp

Short row 12 K13 sts to end

Row 62 P across to the other side of the body

Row 63 dec) K21, skpo, k3, k2 tog, k to end - 47sts

Rows 64, 66 & 68 P

Row 65 dec) K21, skpo, k1, k2 tog, k to end - 45sts

Row 67 dec) K20, skpo, k1, k2 tog, k to end - 43sts **Row**

69 dec) K19, skpo, k1, k2 tog, k to end - 41sts

... separate lower back from hind legs

Row 70 P31. Turn, so knit-side is facing

Row 71 dec) K8, skpo, k1, k2 tog, k8. Turn, so purl-side is facing

Row 72 P19. Turn

LOWER BACK

Work on 19 sts for **Lower Back** as foll:

Row 73 dec) K7, skpo, k1, k2 tog, k7. Turn - 17 lower back sts

Row 74 P17, Turn

Row 75 dec) K6, skpo, k1, k2 tog, k6. Turn - 15 lower back sts

Row 76 P15, Turn

Row 77 dec) K5, skpo, k1, k2 tog, k4. Turn - 13 lower back sts

Row 78 P13, Turn

Tail

Cut yarn A (straw dk) and join on yarn C (ecru dk), cont. with two yarns as foll:

Row 79 dec) Skpo, k9, k2 tog - 11sts

... short rows to create the bobtail

Short row 1 P9, W+Tp

Short row 2 K8, W+Tk

Short row 3 P7, W+Tp

Short row 4 K6, W+Tk

Short row 5 P5, W+Tp

Short row 6 K4, W+Tk

Short row 7 P3, W+Tp

Short row 8 K2, W+Tk

Short row 9 P6

Cast off all 11 tail sts, leaving a long tail end to sew the seam with.

Working on one side at a time, rejoin yarns A and B to the 11 sts either side of the tail and **cast off** for thigh seams, leaving a long tail end to sew the seam with.

Working on one side at a time, with RS (knit side) facing, ease the cast-off edge for thigh seam with the row ends for lower back, the corner of the cast-off edge should meet the last row end before the tail colour change, back stitch to join.

Therefore, joining dashed line to dotted line (see diagram).

Turn out to RS, mattress sew the tail seam.



Belly

With yarns C & D (ecru dk and white mohair) and 3.50mm/ US 4 needles, beg at the left side outer thigh marker, pick up and knit 25 sts evenly around to the right-side outer thigh marker, making sure you are working beneath the tail. Remove thigh markers.

Rows 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 & 11 P

Row 2 dec) K10, skpo, k1, k2 tog, k to end – 23sts

Row 4 dec) K8, skpo, k3, k2 tog, k to end – 21sts

Row 6 dec) K6, skpo, k5, k2 tog, k to end – 19sts

Row 8 dec) K4, skpo, k7, k2 tog, k to end – 17sts

Row 10 dec) K2, skpo, k9, k2 tog, k to end – 15sts

Row 12 dec) Skpo, k11, k2 tog – 13sts

... short rows to shape the belly

Short row 1 P11, W+Tp

Short row 2 K9, W+Tk

Short row 3 P8, W+Tp

Short row 4 K7, W+Tk

Short row 5 P10 to end of row

Rows 13-18 Work 6 rows st st. Place marker at each end of sixth row for

Neck

Row 19 dec) K3, skpo, k3, k2 tog, k to end – 11sts

Rows 20-21 Work 2 rows st st

Row 22 dec) P3, p2 tog, p1, p2 tog, p to end - 9sts

Rows 23-24 Work 2 rows st st

Row 25 dec) K2, skpo, k1, k2 tog, k2 - 7sts

Row 26 P

... short rows to create the mouth

Short row 1 dec) K1, skpo, k1, k2 tog, W+Tk - 5sts

Short row 2 P3, W+Tp

Short row 3 K2, W+Tk

Short row 4 P1, W+Tp

Short row 5 K3 sts across to the end of the row

Row 34 dec) P2 tog, p1, p2 tog - 3sts

Cut yarns and thread through all 3 sts - pull up and secure end.

Ears**Left Ear**

With yarns B & C (peach mohair and straw dk) and 3.50mm/ US 4 needles, beg at the left ear front marker, pick up and knit 12 sts across, evenly, to the left ear back marker

***Row 1** P

Row 2 inc) Kfb, k to last st, kfb - 14sts

Rows 3-4 inc) Rep last 2 rows once - 16sts

Rows 5-9 Work 5 rows st st

Row 10 dec) K1, skpo, k to last 3 sts, k2 tog, k1 - 14sts

Row 11 P

Rows 12-17 dec) Rep last 2 rows three times - 8sts

... short rows to shape the ear tip

Short row 1 K7, W+Tk

Short row 2 P6, W+Tp

Short row 3 dec) Skpo, k1, k2 tog, W+Tk

Short row 4 P2, W+Tp

Short row 5 K1, W+Tk

Short row 6 P3

Row 18 Skpo, k2, k2 tog – 4sts

Cut yarn, thread end through all 4 sts. Pull up and secure the end.

Weave in all ends to neaten*

Right Ear

With yarns B & C (peach mohair and straw dk) and 3.50mm/ US 4 needles, beg at the right ear back marker, pick up and knit 12 sts across, evenly, to the left ear front marker

Work as left ear from * to **.

Remove ear markers.

Working on one side at a time, join the very bottom of the ear – at the ear base – mattress sew with just a couple of stitches.

Match the chin marker with the neck marker, ease them join from marker to the base of the ear.

Match the neck markers and mattress sew to join along the row ends down to the thigh.

RS facing, fold the cast on edge, from the beginning of the pattern, in half and back stitch to join at the nose but leave about 5mm (about 4 stitches) un-sewn at the top/ bend so that when the nose is turned out it creates a tiny nose.

Turn out to right side.

Stuff the rabbit into the head and body via the neck, making sure you ease stuffing into the shaping created at the cheeks, thighs and back - though don't over stuff - you still want an element of floppiness especially around the ears and the neck.

Match the nose seam with the fastened off point at the chin then mattress-sew to join each side of the muzzle, easing and matching shaping.

For the nose, embroider three straight stitches to create with ecru yarn to create a 'Y' either side and beneath the nose.

If you still want to add more stuffing there are still small gaps under the ears.

When you are happy with the final look work a few discrete stitches inside the ears to close the gaps.

Remove markers.

Forelegs *make 2 alike*

Using yarns C & D (ecru dk and white mohair) and 3.50mm/ US 4 needles, cast on 11 sts leaving a long tail end for which to join leg to body

Row 1 inc) Kfb, k to last st kfb - 13sts

Rows 2-4 Work 3 rows st st.

Cut yarn C and join on yarn A (straw dk), cont. with 2 yarns as foll:

Rows 5-10 Work 6 rows st st

... **short rows to create the foreleg feet**

Short row 1 K12, W+Tk

Short row 2 P11, W+Tp

Short row 3 K10, W+Tk

Short row 4 P9, W+Tp

Short row 5 K8, W+Tk

Short row 6 P7, W+Tp

Short row 7 K6, W+Tk

Short row 8 P5, W+Tp

Short row 9 K9 sts across

Row 11 dec) P2 tog, p to last 2 sts, p2 tog – 11sts

Cast off leaving a long tail end to sew the seam with.

Fold in half across the cast-off edge with WS facing matching the row ends and mattress sew, and stuff quite lightly, all along the row ends and joining the cast-off edge which becomes the paw - the cast on edge at the top of the leg is over-sewn to the side of the body, beginning at the marker then over-sewing around the cast of edge joining the foreleg to the side seams, just beneath the neck.

Hind Leg Feet *make 2 alike*

Using yarns A & B (straw dk and peach mohair) and 3.50mm/ US 4 needles, beg at the cast on 9 sts leaving a long tail end for which to join leg to body

Rows 1-4 Work 4 rows st st

Row 5 inc) K3, kfb, k1, kfb, k to end - 11sts

Rows 6, 8 & 10 P

Row 7 inc) K4, kfb, k1, kfb, k to end - 13sts

Row 9 inc) K5, kfb, k1, kfb, k to end - 15sts

Row 11 inc) K6, kfb, k1, kfb, k to end - 17sts

Rows 12-17 Work 6 rows st st

Rows 18, 20, 22 & 24 dec) P2 tog, p to last 2 sts, p2 tog - 15sts; 11sts; 7sts; 3sts

Row 19 dec) K3, skpo, k5, k2 tog, k3 - 13sts

Row 21 dec) K2, skpo, k3, k2 tog, k2 - 9sts

Row 23 dec) K1, skpo, k1, k2 tog, k1 - 5sts

Cut yarn leaving a long tail end with which to join seam, thread end through all 3 sts. Pull up and secure the end.

Fold in half across the cast on edge with WS facing matching the row ends and mattress sew, and stuff fairly well, all along the row ends across the bottom of each foot and up to the cast on edge - the cast on edge at the ankle is over-sewn to the body back and tucked just inside the hind leg crease.

To make the face squish up a little, bend a length of yarn in half and pass the cut ends through a yarn sewing needle. Pass the threaded needle through one side of the head - halfway between the ears and chin -and out the other side of the head - about one inch away - then back in to emerge back out where you started - pull up to squish the face. Secure the thread.

Abbreviations

K = knit

P = purl

inc = increase

dec = decrease;

M1 = make one

foll = follows

K2 tog = knit two together;

Rep = repeat

RH/LH = right hand/ left hand

RS/WS = right side/ wrong side

st/ sts =stitch/ stitches

cont. = continue

Skpo = slip one stitch, knit next stitch, pass slipped stitch over knit stitch

Kfb = knit into front then into back of stitch to increase by one stitch

Pfb = purl into front then into back of stitch to increase by one stitch

Beg. = beginning

rem. = remaining



NOTE: If there is any part of this pattern that you do not understand then please feel free to email me:

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