

Circle Notes

Sharing the joy of knitting

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Taming the Wild Teddy

During spring cleaning this year I came across a wonderful surprise. A treasure in an old box that had been buried under a stack of old trunks and boxes. This precious gem was a bear my grandma crocheted for me well over a half a century ago. Many childhood memories came flooding back as I squeezed and hugged teddy as I once did.

In that moment of reflection I thought, "Wouldn't it be wonderful to knit a bear that became a special friend to a child as this one had to me? Maybe for a child in the hospital or a little person that just needed a friend to share with?"

Simple pattern - see page 3 for pattern

Off to find the perfect teddy bear pattern I went. This is one of the first patterns for knitted bears that I found.

It is a simple pattern (beginners), using two needles, worked mainly in garter stitch (knit each row). It is worked flat then sewn together to be stuffed. It can be made all one colour or you can knit the pants and sweater in different colours from the bear. I modified the pattern a good deal, as I was not pleased with the shape of the first finished bear.

Reminder

One nice thing about toy patterns is that the gauge is not critical. You can use almost any size of needle that corresponds with the size of yarn you have. (Yarn companies always put the recommended size of needle for their type of yarn on the label.) In this case

it is advisable to use one size smaller needle making the stitches tight so the stuffing can't be seen.

Start with a toe

This bear is made by starting with the bear colour and working the bear's "toes". You then switch to the pants colour and finish the leg. Put this aside and make another leg to match. Attach the two legs by knitting across and continue until the pants are finished.

Sweater fun

The sweater is made by changing to a different colour, knitting the body for a ways and casting on stitches on either side for the arms. This is a perfect opportunity for a little fun. You could make a striped sweater by alternating colours or try out a moss stitch. Why not embroider someone's initials on the sweater or vest? The sky's the limit.



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