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Felted Polar Bear

Designed by Michele Wilcox

Finished Measurements

Length: 11"

Materials

Fibra Natura Deluxe Worsted (100% wool; 100g/220 yds)

- 40001 Cream Undyed Natural – 1 skein

Needles: US Size 9 (5.5 mm) straight needles OR SIZE TO OBTAIN GAUGE

Notions: polyester fiber fill, 2 – 6 mm black safety eyes (for eyes), small amount of black wool yarn (for embroidery – sample used Universal Yarn Deluxe Worsted, color 1900 Ebony), tapestry needle

Gauge

16 sts x 20 rows = 4" in St st, before felting

SAVE TIME, CHECK YOUR GAUGE.

Note: Originally worked in discontinued yarn *Shepherd's Own, Deluxe Worsted* makes a great substitute!

Knit, Relax, Smile, Repeat!

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BEAR

Head

Cast on 3 sts.

Row 1 (RS): Knit. **Row 2 (and all WS rows):** Purl.
Row 3: * Kfb; rep from * to end – 6 sts. **Row 5:** * Kfb; rep from * to end – 12 sts. **Row 7:** * K1, kfb; rep from * to end – 18 sts. **Row 9:** * K2, kfb; rep from * to end – 24 sts. **Row 11:** * K3, kfb; rep from * to end – 30 sts. **Row 13:** Knit. **Row 15:** K12, [kfb] 6 times, k12 – 36 sts. **Rows 17-20:** Work even in St st. **Row 21:** * K5, kfb; rep from * to end – 42 sts. **Rows 22-28:** Work even in St st.
Bind off all sts. Sew side seam, leaving seam at bound-off edge unsewn, and set aside.

Body

Cast on 18 sts.

Row 1: * K2, kfb; rep from * to end – 24 sts. **Row 2 (and all WS rows):** Purl. **Row 3:** * K3, kfb; rep from * to end – 30 sts. **Row 5:** * K4, kfb; rep from * to end – 36 sts. **Row 7:** * K5, kfb; rep from * to end – 42 sts. **Row 9:** * K6, kfb; rep from * to end – 48 sts. **Row 11:** * K7, kfb; rep from * to end – 54 sts. **Row 13:** * K8, kfb; rep from * to end – 60 sts. **Row 15:** * K9, kfb; rep from * to end – 66 sts. **Rows 16-40:** Work even in St st. **Row 41:** * K9, k2tog; rep from * to end – 60 sts rem. **Row 43:** * K8, k2tog; rep from * to end – 54 sts rem. **Row 45:** * K7, k2tog; rep from * to end – 48 sts rem. **Row 47:** * K6, k2tog; rep from * to end – 42 sts rem. **Row 49:** * K5, k2tog; rep from * to end – 36 sts rem. **Row 51:** * K4, k2tog; rep from * to end – 30 sts rem. **Row 53:** * K3, k2tog; rep from * to end – 24 sts. **Row 55:** * K2, k2tog; rep from * to end – 18 sts. **Row 56:** Purl.
Bind off all sts. Sew side seam, leaving 5" closest to bound-off edge, unsewn.

Ear (Make 2)

Cast on 6 sts.

Row 1 (RS): * Kfb; rep from * to end – 12 sts.
Rows 2-4: Work even in St st. **Row 5:** * K2tog; rep from * to end – 6 sts rem.
Break yarn, leaving a 10" tail. Thread tail through rem sts and pull tightly. Sew side seam.

Tail

Cast on 6 sts.

Row 1 (RS): * Kfb; rep from * to end – 12 sts. **Row 2 (and all WS rows):** Purl. **Row 3:** * K1, kfb; rep from * to end – 18 sts. **Rows 4-6:** Work even in St st.
Bind off all sts. Sew side seam, leaving seam at bound-off edge unsewn.

Leg (Make 4)

Cast on 6 sts.

Row 1 (RS): * Kfb; rep from * to end – 12 sts. **Row 2 (and all WS rows):** Purl. **Row 3:** * K1, kfb; rep from * to end – 18 sts. **Row 5:** * K2, kfb; rep from * to end – 24 sts. **Row 7:** * K3, kfb; rep from * to end – 30 sts. **Rows 8-10:** Work even in St st. **Row 11:** K9, [k2tog] 6 times, k9 – 24 sts. **Rows 12-20:** Work even in St st.
Bind off all sts. Sew side seam, leaving seam at bound-off edge unsewn.

FINISHING

Weave in all ends.

Place pieces into a delicates bag and felt in hot water in the washing machine, watching fabric as it felts and removing it when felted fabric has a consistent texture and stiffness. Dry pieces in dryer on low.
Sew eyes in place at front of head. Sew ears to top of head approx 1" behind eyes. Embroider nose using satin stitch and mouth using straight stitch. Stuff body and sew bound-off edge closed. Stuff legs and sew in lace on either side of side seam at bottom of bear, placing back legs approx 1" in front of tail, and front legs approximately 3" from neck. Stuff head and sew in place at top of body. Stuff tail lightly and sew in place.

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