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Schaefer Yarn



#308 Lola Bunny Love

by Beth Skwarecki

Materials:

Schaefer Yarn, *Lola*

(100% merino wool superwash, 4 oz/280 yds), 1 skein

Needles: Set of 5 dpns, US size #3

2 st holders (or short lengths of embroidery floss)

Tapestry ndl

Stuffing (approximately 1.5 oz/42 grams)

1 hank of embroidery floss (black or the color of your choice)

Gauge: 20 sts / 28 rows = 4 " in st st

Abbreviations:

BO: bind off

CO: cast on

sl: slip

k: knit

p: purl

st(s): stitch(es)

ndl(s): needle(s)

k2tog: knit two together

ssk: sl 2 sts together knitwise and k both tog through the back of the sts

cdd: centered double decrease. Sl 2 tog as if to knit, k1, pass both slipped sts over. This decreases 2 sts.

m1: make one st

mkm: m1, k 1, m1

kfb: knit in the front and back of the same st. This increases 1 st.

pm: place marker

rem: remain(s), remaining

rnd(s): round(s)

Notes:

If you're giving this toy to a child, make sure to tie all yarn ends with a knot so they can't come loose.

You don't have to weave in any ends on a stuffed animal: just hide the ends inside. If the animal is already stuffed as you're finishing an end, use a tapestry needle to poke through to the other side of the animal's body. Pull the yarn taut, and cut it near the body. The end will disappear into the body.

Body (starting at waist)

CO 48. Join and work in the round.

K 19 rnds.

Shoulder shaping

K9, sl 6 sts onto scrap yarn or holder, CO 18, k18, sl 6 sts onto scrap yarn or holder, CO 18, k9; 72 sts. (The held sts will become the arms later.)

K8, cdd, k14, cdd, k16, cdd, k14, cdd, k8; 64 sts.

Work 1 rnd even.

K7, cdd, k12, cdd, k14, cdd, k12, cdd, k7; 56 sts.

Work 1 rnd even.

K6, cdd, k10, cdd, k12, cdd, k10, cdd, k6; 48 sts.

Work 1 rnd even.

K5, cdd, k8, cdd, k10, cdd, k8, cdd, k5; 40 sts.

K4, cdd, k6, cdd, k8, cdd, k6, cdd, k4; 32 sts.

Work 1 rnd even.

Head

K4, mkm, k6, mkm, k8, mkm, k6, mkm, k4; 40 sts.

Work 1 rnd even.

K5, mkm, k8, mkm, k10, mkm, k8, mkm, k5; 48 sts.

K 15 rnds.

(K4, k2tog) across; 40 sts.

K 1 rnd.

(K3, k2tog) across; 32 sts.

K 1 rnd.

(K2, k2tog) across; 24 sts.

K 1 rnd.

(K1, k2tog) across; 16 sts.

K2tog across; 8 sts.

Draw tail of yarn through rem sts, pull tight, and tie off.

Arms

For the first arm:

Pick up the 6 sts from the holder at the armpit, pick up 1 st from the edge of knitted fabric in the "gap" between the held and CO sts, pick up 18 sts along the CO edge at shoulder, pick up 1 more st in the edge of the knitted fabric as before; 26 sts.

K 29 rnds.

(K1, k2tog) 8 times, end k2; 18 sts.

K 1 rnd.

K2tog around; 9 sts.

Draw tail through rem sts, pull tight, and tie off.

Repeat for other arm.

Legs

At the cast-on edge at the bunny's waist, pick up 24 sts along the front of the bunny's waist. CO another 24 sts. (As you knit, this will leave a large hole where you'll knit the bunny's butt later). Join and work in the round; 48 sts.

K 3 rnds.

For the first leg: beg at the bunny's side, k12, place next 24 sts onto holder or scrap yarn (these will be used for the other leg) and k last 12 sts; 24 sts rem for the first leg.

K 40 rnds.

(K2tog, k1) around; 16 sts.

K 1 rnd.

K2tog around; 8 sts.

Draw tail through rem sts, pull tight, and tie off.

For the second leg, pick up 24 sts from the holder and k 1 rnd. Work as for first leg.

Ears

CO 14 sts over 3 ndls, leaving a long (18") tail to sew ear on later; join and work in the round.

K 16 rnds.

M1, k7, m1, k7; 16 sts.

K 9 rnds.

M1, k8, m1, k8; 18 sts.

K 12 rnds.

K2tog, k5, ssk, k2tog, k5, ssk; 14 sts.

K 1 rnd.

K2tog, k3, ssk, k2tog, k3, ssk; 10 sts.

Draw tail through rem sts, pull tight, and tie off.

Repeat for second ear.

Face and Stuffing

Now that you've knitted most of the bunny's features, prepare for closing him up:

- 1) tie off any remaining yarn ends, closing off any gaps that may remain in the armpits or crotch.
- 2) embroider the bunny's face with the black floss.
- 3) sew the bunny's ears on.

It may help to stuff the bunny, temporarily, while you decide exactly where you wish to put the eyes, nose, and ears. See chart for one way you can embroider the face, or be creative! Embroidery floss is typically made of 8 thin strands; use all 8 strands together for the best results. Remember to tie off the ends securely on the inside of the bunny's head.

Now, stuff the bunny's head, arms, and legs. To avoid lumps, first fluff the stuffing in your hands: holding a clump of stuffing, pinch off a small amount, and hold in your other hand or set aside. Continue pinching off small amounts of stuffing until the whole handful of stuffing is thoroughly "fluffed".

Stuff the bunny lightly, to keep it soft. Use as little stuffing as possible in the shoulders so that the arms hang down instead of sticking out to the side.

Butt

Return to the gap you left at the bunny's rear end and pick up 48 sts around this opening on 4 ndls (12 sts/ndl).

Dec as follows:

Rnd 1: (K2tog, k to end of ndl) 4 times (on each ndl)

Rnd 2: (Ssk, k to end of ndl) 4 times.

Repeat rnds 1 and 2 until only 8 sts rem. Pull tail of yarn through rem sts, pull tight, and tie off.

Tail

CO 8 sts. Join and work in the round.

(Kfb, k1) around; 12 sts.

(Kfb, k1) around; 18 sts.

K 3 rnds.

(K1, k2tog) around; 12 sts.

(K1, k2tog) around; 8 sts.

Stuff the tail, then break yarn and draw it through rem sts. Pull tight, and tie off. Sew tail on.

Finishing

Tie off any remaining yarn ends, hiding them in the body as described in the Notes.

Tie a strand of yarn around the bunny's neck, making a bow. (Skip this step if the toy is a gift for a very young child).

Schaefer Yarn

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www.schaefer yarn.com