

Little Cotton Rabbits Christmas tree bears



*These bears are made from scraps of 4ply cotton yarn (Yarn A) and
Rowan Kid Classic /Rowan Felted Tweed (Yarn B)*

*More knitting patterns are available at
<https://littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk>*

Materials:

- Oddments of 4ply yarn in red (Yarn A) and white (Yarn B), less than 10m (11yds)
- Oddments of bear coloured yarn (4ply or DK) (Yarn C), less than 10m (11yds)
- A small circle of felt to reinforce the stitching on the face
- Scraps of black yarn, DK or 4ply for the eyes and nose
- A small amount of toy stuffing / carded wool
- 6 inch length of ribbon
- A couple of 8 inch lengths of strong yarn for gathering in the top of the head and the neck.

Finished size:

approx 6cm (2 ½ inches) from top to toes, not including hanging loop.

Notions:

- 2.25mm straight needles (US size 1, UK/Canada 13)
- A pair of double pointed needles 2.25mm (US size 1, UK/Canada 13)
- A tapestry needle for sewing the seams

Gauge:



7 stitches x 10 rows to 1 inch

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Thanks for downloading this pattern. It is quite an easy little pattern, with no shaping or complicated stitches, just the basics of casting on, Knitting and Purling. It is slightly fiddly though, with the sewing on of the limbs and ears best done in natural daylight. If you choose to you can work this pattern in thicker weight yarns with a larger needle size to give a larger decoration.

I hope that you find the pattern enjoyable, and are pleased with the decorations that you make. I have other free patterns available over on Ravelry and a selection of patterns to buy too.

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Yarn suggestions:

There's a nice contrast in working the body part of this little decoration in a smooth cotton and the head, ears and limbs in a fuzzy woollen yarn. But you can choose whatever yarns you like. I've shown the pattern knitted up here in 4ply cotton yarn for the body and DK weight yarn for the head etc. but you could use a thicker weight yarn along with larger needle sizes to make a larger decoration if you prefer.

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Extra tips:

I hope you enjoy using this pattern. I have written up some extra tips about knitting and finishing, so please pop by for a visit and check out the knitting tips section on [Little Cotton Rabbits blog](#).

If you get stuck with any aspect of the pattern, please come and visit the Little cotton Rabbit group on Ravelry:

<https://www.ravelry.com/groups/little-cotton-rabbits>

Or the Little Cotton Rabbits Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/littlecottonrabbits>

Lots of knitters who've already used my patterns hang out there and one of us will do our best to help you. You'll also find lots of other projects made from these patterns, please come and share yours.

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The pattern instructions:



fig. 1

fig. 2

fig. 3

Body and head (knitted in one piece):

Using 2.25mm (US 1) needles cable cast on 20 stitches with **Yarn A**

row 1: (right side) **Knit**

row 2: **Knit**

row 3: **K2**, join in Yarn B and (K1, **K1**) 9 times, cut Yarn B from the work leaving a short tail for weaving in

row 4: **Purl**

rows 5-10: Beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl row, work 6 rows of stocking stitch.

Cut **Yarn A** from the work, leaving a long tail for seaming the body section with later.

rows 11-18: Change to **Yarn C**, beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl, work 8 rows of stocking stitch.

Cut **Yarn C** from the work, leaving a long tail for seaming the head section with later.

Now you've finished knitting the head and body (*fig. 1*). Next thread the tapestry needle with an 8 inch long length of strong yarn (one that will not break) and sew this through the 20 stitches on the needle. Slip them off as you go and leave the tail ends of this thread loose for now. Take the second length of the strong yarn and sew through the loops from the back of the topmost row of red knitting (*fig. 2*), again leaving this loose for now.

Next take your small circle of felt and place at the back of the work behind where you plan to embroider the face. Using black yarn embroider a small nose in centre of face - I use one horizontal stitch and one small vertical stitch (*fig. 3*). To add the eyes embroider two small vertical stitches either side of the nose (if you wish you can tie a small knot in the thread to make the eyes stand out). Knot the black thread ends securely at the back of the work and trim off the excess (*fig. 4*).

Take the length of ribbon, double it over and tie a knot at the cut ends to form a hanging loop. Position the knotted end of this ribbon loop so that it is behind the face. Pull the strong yarn ends at the very top of the head to begin gathering it in and once you are happy with the position of the ribbon pull the yarn ends tightly, fully gathering in the top of head and trapping the knotted end of the ribbon inside the head. Tie the strong yarn tails together securely (*fig. 5*) and leave the tail ends inside the head. Begin joining the seam down the back of the head using the cast off tail end of **Yarn C**. When you reach the bottom of the **Yarn C** section take a small piece of toy stuffing and use it to firmly stuff the head. Then take up the pair of strong yarn ends at the intersection between the head and body and pull them very tightly to gather in the neck. Tie them off securely and poke the tail ends inside the body, leaving them long will reduce the risk of the knot loosening.



fig. 4

fig. 5

fig. 6

fig. 7

Next thread the tapestry needle with the **Yarn A** tail end from the top of the body and use this to continue seaming down the rest of the body to the cast on edge (*fig. 6*).

Stuff the body cavity and join the seam at the bottom of the dress by sewing through the purl loops inside the body from the back of the second row up, which gives a nice flared out edge to the bottom of the dress (*fig. 7*)

Next make the limbs:

Arms & legs (make four the same):

Please note: The arms are sewn to the sides of the body, below the neck and the legs are sewn underneath the 'skirt'.

Cast on 4 stitches with the pair of double pointed needles and work a short i-cord of around 6 rows in length. There's a good i-cord tutorial here if you are not familiar with this technique:

Cut the work from the ball leaving a long tail and sew this tail end through each of the 4 stitches on the needle (*fig. 8*), slipping them off the needle as you go, and then sew through the middle of the limb. Knot both yarn tail ends together securely. Repeat so that you have four identical limbs (*fig. 9*).

Thread the tapestry needle with the longer tail end from one of the limbs and use it to sew the limb to the body with a few stitches. Knot the two tail ends from the limb securely together again and sew them through the body before trimming the excess. Repeat with the remaining limbs.



fig. 8



fig. 9



fig. 10

Ears (make two the same):

With **Yarn C** and 2.25mm (US 1) needles cable cast on 3 stitches, leaving a 6 inch tail for sewing with later.

row 1: Knit,

row 2: Cast off knit-wise

Tie the cast on and cast off ends together tightly which will form a little curved ear (*fig. 10*). Join each ear to the top of the head with a few stitches. Knot ends securely together and sew through the head before trimming excess.

Cut the work from the ball and tie the cast on and cast off ends together tightly to make a tiny ear shape. Sew the ear to the top of the head with a few stitches. Knot the tail ends securely together and sew through the body before trimming the excess. Repeat for the second ear.

And there you have a little, itty, bitty bear Christmas decoration, all ready for hanging on the tree or for attaching to a nicely wrapped gift. I hope you've enjoy making this.

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It's easy to change the pattern on the little dress, either by repeating the colour-work row interspersed with 2 rows of single colour and/or offsetting the contrast stitches, or by using duplicate stitch to embroider a heart or other small design. A self striping or hand-dyed yarn would also work well.

If you prefer you can make the dress extra long (around 12 - 14 rows) and not bother with making the legs.

If you would like a rabbit instead of a bear please see my free pattern for 'Teeny tiny toys' for the rabbit ear instructions: <https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/teeny-tiny-knitted-toys>