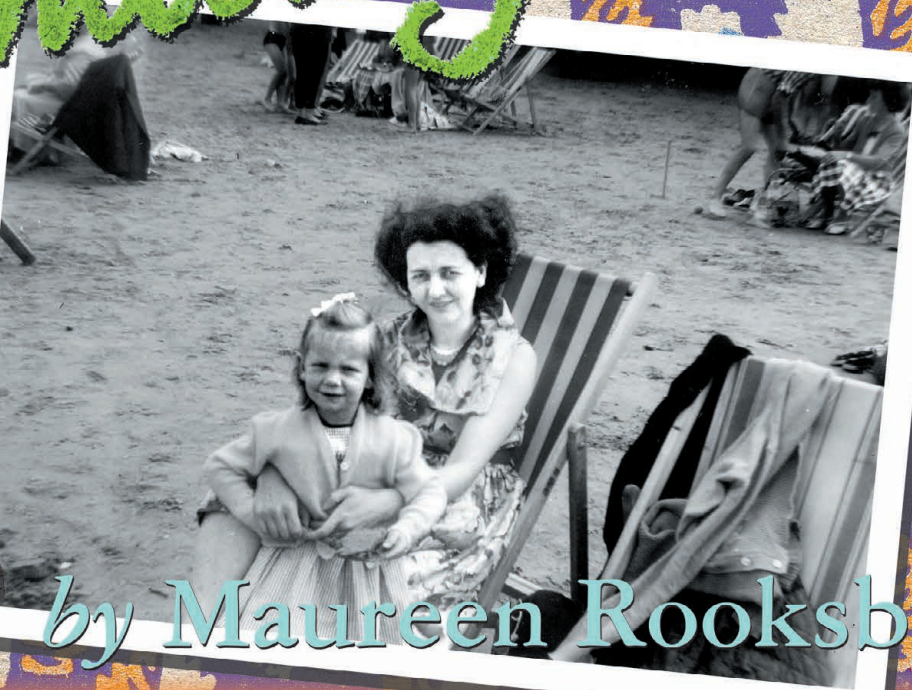


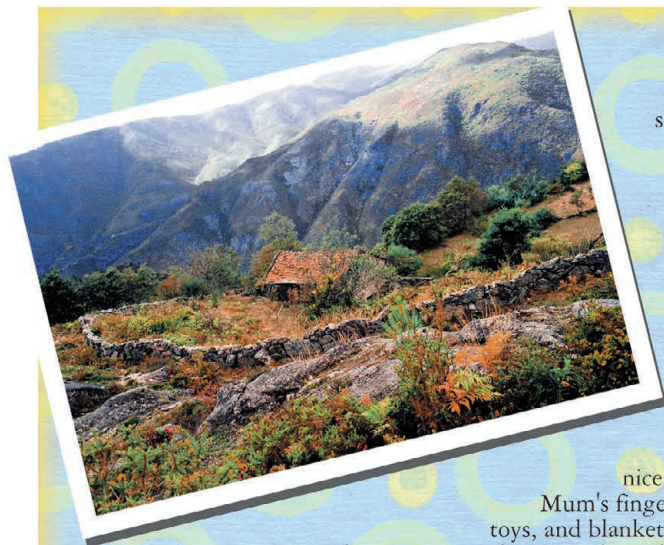
monkey  
& sofia

KNITTING BOOK

# MONKEY & SOFIA Knitting Book



by Maureen Rooksby



### Welcome to the Monkey & Sofia knitting book.

It's a bit of an unusual publication because whilst it is comfortably full of stitches, rows, increasing, decreasing, and some truly cute patterns, I wanted it to break out a bit, show that knitting can be bigger and more powerful than just the lovely thing it is. In the right hands, knitting is radical, powerful and subversive. It sneaks into our lives, steals time we didn't even know we had and suddenly we can't live without it.

This is odd really for a craft whose image has not been associated with anarchism or revolution, but I reckon that's just been a smokescreen, that there really is something important and potentially life-changing about knitting. Well, I suppose I would say that, given what's happened to me in the last six years. Just listen to this.

I learned how to knit when I was really young, 3 or 4 years old. My Mum was a keen knitter and I liked everything about it. The needles were nice bright plastic, the wool was soft and colourful, and the twiddling about my Mum's fingers did with the needles and wool produced lovely things, like clothes for my toys, and blankets for my dolls pram. I was hooked even before I began doing it myself. My knitting career began with my hands under my Mum's on her needles, pretending. In, round, through, off. In, round, through, off. Suddenly I realised that the fiddling around actually made the stitches, which slipped along the needles and then as if by magic, passed from one needle to another. I couldn't believe it, and then I was making it happen, very powerful stuff for a child.

I knitted all through my childhood, teens and adulthood, and such was the feeling I got from it I subconsciously began measuring all other life experiences against it. Was it really worth spending the evening in a smelly pub when I could get a bit of knitting done? How quickly could I finish my college course work so that I could get to grips with that complicated piece of pattern? Should I apply for that job in the Highlands because of the proximity to the Shetland Isles, home of wool?

Well, I managed to get on in life, finding the perfect partner, working in wonderful and creative places, using my own personal calibration system. Mostly, things measured up well, but they were never equal. How could they be? Knitters will know all this. The thrill of planning a new project, the hunt for the wool, the choice of colours, the moment of beginning when all those pristine balls of wool wrapped in their own little paper belts start being turned into something completely different. That's saying nothing about the smell. Pure wool has a smell all its own, you can smell the sheep. Maybe that's the essence of it for me, it's natural. The yarn, the process, the making of something.

So you won't be amazed to hear that the things which passed my 'knitting value' measuring quotient always seemed to be things to do with art or crafts, things to do with nature like gardening, being in the countryside, and all that sort of stuff. Which is a bit odd for a born Londoner, but that's how it turned out.

And everything did turn out well. Good job, nice home, lots of friends. Everything my partner, Phil, and I wanted. Or was it? There were times when that knitting thing kept niggling, was life really good enough? Was the balance right? Was there really enough time to do everything we really wanted? But on the whole, life was really too full and busy to think about that.

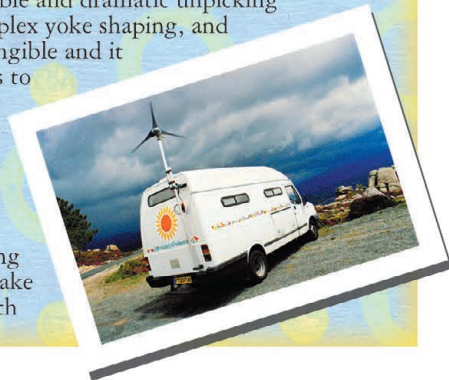
Now this is what I mean about subversive. Suddenly, from having everything all lined up, all our ducks in a row, we began to wonder. It was like those people who were completely happy with their old kitchen. Never thought about having a new one until some kitchen company called and started them off, wondering about their old Formica units, their un-fitted refrigerator and their lack of extractor fan. Suddenly their old kitchen was a tip, an embarrassment, how could they live for another minute in such a disaster?

That was us. We had been completely sold on our home, the acre of wilderness we had got back in shape and turned into our beautiful, magazine-featured organic garden. I'd got my job and my knitting. Then for some reason we started to think about it all. Was it really what we wanted? Were we really going to go to work every day and then become pensioners? In this house? Was that it? What happened to those ideas of self-sufficiency, doing it for real, were we really going to settle for what we'd got?

Almost overnight we were thinking about moving. Not just moving, that makes it sound almost normal. No. Leaving, emigrating, going for good. And what was that all about? Well. It had to be the knitting measuring stick. Gardening and all the things we loved were always fitted in around everything else, measuring up well on the old 'knit-o-meter', but never totally equal. Now for some reason the time had come to be radical, to take our life by the neck and make big changes.

Us knitters recognise this intangible feeling, it's that feeling you get when faced with the inevitable and dramatic unpicking of an entire sweater, when it's been a mammoth labour involving masses of colour changes, complex yoke shaping, and completion of both sleeves. There is something wrong with it, something fundamental but intangible and it niggles, you know you'll never be happy with it, despite all the work. The only way to solve it is to start unpicking, which is too terrible to consider when you've just finished knitting, so you put it in a drawer out of sight, leave it for a while, it might be alright when you've not looked at it for a while. But it isn't, you can't live with it there, festering away, it has to be sorted out and before long, there you are surrounded by a big pile of crinkly wool.

It's terrible. All those hours of work unravel before your eyes and as you start pulling, the rows unpick and the misery is intense. Then you just want it over. It's painful, but strangely liberating and empowering. You're in charge, it's your choice and if it's not good enough, unpick and make it right. Then it feels great. You've solved the problem, you've won. You won't have to live with



that jumper not looking quite right, you'll be working hard at getting it right, knitting with a passion. And then you finish again, and this time it is perfect. How great a feeling is that?

So back to us and our house moving. There we were, unpicking. We sold the house, we sold the furniture. We got rid of everything, apart from all the wool I could fit in the old van we converted into a camper and a few clothes, then we left.



Where did we go? Well, we went to Northern Spain to start with. This is going to sound mad now. We had never been to Spain before, we didn't speak a word of Spanish but Phil met someone on a course and they said we'd like Galicia. So that's where we went first, setting off a week before Christmas, camping in our van through the wettest winter ever (2000). Then we rented old places, mainly so we could dry out.

It was really terrible. We suddenly realised what we'd done and there was no going back, the house was sold, I'd given up my job. We didn't have anything, no stuff, no home and no address. It definitely was a sort of purge, but hell we hadn't realised it would be like THIS!

Still, us knitters (and gardeners) are made of strong stuff and we didn't weaken. Galicia proved to be amazing. There were examples in the most remote and mountainous parts of people doing what we thought we wanted to do. Knitting and gardening?

Well, yes, sort of. Living a simple life which allowed those things to be possible. People weren't concerned with the latest electronic gadgetry or getting to town to cruise around shops looking at things they didn't need, which was lucky really since it was 60 kilometres away. All that stuff, we began to realise, had been a big part of our life and it just wasn't necessary.

A bit of a revelation so early in our journey but we started to realise that we needed those. Revelations, in order to see a different life. We hadn't chucked in our old life to swap it for another version of it. No, we really were into suffering big time and we could see that we had taken on a lot more than we intended. Everything was far more different than we imagined. There was nothing we could look at and understand, and that's not even mentioning the language situation. Everyday life; how people lived, families, neighbours, what they ate, what was growing in the gardens, the things which people thought were important, the pace of life, absolutely everything.

We decided, somewhat uncharacteristically for us, to stop trying to be in charge of the situation and accepted that we were in a different world and needed time to decompress and adapt.

So instead of rushing head-long into just buying a replacement home, we decided to wait, take a breath and really try and understand what we were doing. Yes, possibly just a little bit late for that, given what we'd done, but the moment had arrived for a bit of contemplation.

There we were, far away from everything we knew, and my knitting-gauge of life seemed to be in turmoil too. The strangeness of everything made it difficult to judge things; to make decisions



based on nothing solid seemed foolhardy, the only thing that seemed to make any sense was to keep gathering new experiences and hope that they would shake out into something as we went along. It sounds an easy decision to make, sort of like a licence to do nothing, but it wasn't like that, it was really hard.

Imagine no family or friends around, no job, nothing familiar at all and being surrounded by people who didn't understand a word you were saying. That's a bit of what it was like, but there were good things, lots of them, and the more relaxed we got the more we could see them. Things like people who were nothing but kind to us, helping where they could, supporting us, looking after us, sort of adopting us and introducing us to their lives. That was great. From our stay in Galicia there are so many poignant memories. Like the autumn afternoon we sat with our new friends in the winter kitchen of a neighbour's house, gathered around the open fire where strange frying pans full of holes were held over the flames to roast chestnuts from the tree outside.

Or the hot May morning I gathered with a group of local women to cut the fleece off a flock of sheep, using a big pair of scissors. A dirty, hot job but it was worth it to get the prize. 12 sacks of filthy fleece. It was a necessity, there was no other wool and my stash was getting to dangerously low levels. Afterwards I glowed with oily satisfaction and looked at my wool. The question now was how to turn it into something I could recognise as balls with little belts?

Now you'll see what I mean about life being so totally different, no wool, no shops to buy it, so do it yourself. All the women knew about cleaning the fleeces so I had lots of advice on that one. Turning it into yarn? That was something else, not many people did it now, but there were some and a neighbour had an elderly aunt who still did it. So off I went to see her and met the Spanish incarnation of a knitting addict. We had such a brilliant time, Mercedes and me, language hardly came into it. She was a Gallego speaker and my Castellán was still at a basic level but the international commune of knitters was fluent. She had the passion for wool, she worked at it everyday, in amongst all her other work of gardening, cooking, caring for her animals and keeping house. She still enjoyed settling down with a pile of fleece and spinning some yarn, or knitting socks or jumpers. She was 85 years old and her life had a rhythm we could only dream of.

So, here was the thing, the thread which unravelled back to the start of our journey. Somehow it was meant to be, there we were in this tiny mountain village, actually seeing the simple life we were hankering after all around us and meeting up with a person whose life had been completely different from mine but our passion for wool was just the same.

We sat out on her balcony, surrounded by buckets of dried beans and heaps of maize cobs, a kitten rolling about in the pile of fleece as I started to learn how to spin. A branch from a Chestnut tree under one arm, to hold a bundle of fleece, and a little wooden spindle in the opposite hand where the yarn was supposed to appear.



Whilst I tried to make it happen I mentioned to Mercedes that the fleece I had was a mess, really dirty and full of difficult to remove grass seeds. I said it hardly seemed worth the time, cleaning the fleece, picking out the seeds, it was such a lot of effort. Mercedes shrugged and just said, *yeah, but it's wool isn't it?*

And that was when my knitting-life calibrator seemed to switch back on and I started to get a glimpse of how it could all work out. We were looking for how to put knitting and gardening first, rather than fitting them around our previous conventional life. Now with Mercedes help it was possible to look at life differently. So what if something took time, if that's what you want to do, do it. In this culture no-one would think it was odd if you spent however long you wanted, just combing out fleece.

In fact no-one thought anything was weird, spending each day planting seeds, growing vegetables, watering plots, harvesting potatoes, saving seeds, discussing food. It was natural to do those things and no-one was going to think otherwise.

That was it, and I could go on and on about all the things we've found out on our journey, but at risk of losing the thread, or should I say yarn, I must get back to the point. As I say six years have passed now and have we bought a house? No, not yet. We might, and it's increasingly possible because at least we now feel that we could be part of this culture. Are we still in Galicia? No, not now. We were there for nearly two years before we decided we should have a few more experiences to add to our collection, so now we are in the south west of Portugal, where we have been for four years. And we are still having experiences, which add up to something.

Obviously I have been knitting throughout and it was through my experience with Mercedes that I glimpsed the real power of it. I knew before that it was important to me but I hadn't reckoned on its guiding influence. It didn't stop there either, it seemed the more I stuck to knitting the more clear things became. About two years ago I was sitting outside our latest rented hovel, knitting as usual, when our neighbour Maria came past. We talked about the usual things, weather, vegetables, just who baked the best bread around here and why using fresh oil for making those strange greasy doughnut things was so important. Then she turned to my pile of knitted toys, they always seem to make her laugh and I explained I was making them as Christmas presents for friends. She was impressed, it was a nice idea, and then caught up with the thought suggested I get a stall at the local market to sell them, where she sold her produce each Saturday.

No, I said, I didn't think so. My knitting was something that happened in the house, besides, what would people think of knitted toys? The market was for vegetables not other stuff. Maria couldn't understand my reticence, what was the matter with me? Why not? People love hand-made things here. So, feeling cornered, I agreed. Maria was right, of course. It couldn't have been a better thing to do. Yes, people loved the toys, they loved the look of the stall all festooned in bright fabric. They loved the felt Christmas tree ornaments, the little fabric gift bags, the knitted cats, the woolly mice, the rabbits. Everything.

It was a great moment. Being strangers in a place where virtually everyone else was born, we knew that belonging or even being a part of the place was going to be hard. But we cracked it with a table of knitted toys. Knitting had done it! What kind of person doesn't like a little knitted cat with its own duffle coat? It was what I meant when I said knitting was powerful; here was the beginning of our

new life. We knew that if we waited long enough things would shake out and they did. Knitting was at the front of our life now. It gave us the introduction to being part of our local community and it became the focus for our creative venture called Monkey & Sofia.

I started having a stall every week, I sold things at the beach, I took part in craft fairs and last year I made a little catalogue of the things and sold them mail order. And now I've made this book so I can fill the world with woolly toys! It sounds mad really, I can see that. But this whole journey has been about far more than we could even imagine, and luckily for us we were able to give in to it, to enjoy the ride. Using the trusty knitting gauge as our compass we seem to have arrived somewhere good. Us, together with our motley collection of stray cats. Did I mention them before? Well, it had to happen. How many knitters do you know who manage to live without a cat? None.

So, in celebration of my discovery I thought I'd write up my patterns and send them out into the world for more people to enjoy. That's it really, the purpose of it, although I do have a secret aspiration for them too and that is that they continue to have meaning. Monkey & Sofia means something to me because it turns out that knitting is my purpose and what I hope is that the patterns in this book continue to have meaning for whoever makes them. Maybe new knitters will glimpse the possibilities this craft can bring. Skilled knitters will discover the power wool has to affect other areas of their life. Or, and this would be great, that funds are raised using these patterns to give more cats a better life. The inspiration for the whole Monkey & Sofia idea came from two of the loveliest cats ever. We took them in and loved them and they repaid us by just being themselves. As ever, cats get it right, a lesson to us all!

### ~kitten blanket

the idea for this came when we got our first Spanish kitten. He was really small and always wedging himself down behind cushions to get warmer, so I got an old pair of woolly socks and made them into a small blanket, simply by cutting them up and reassembling the pieces flat. If you've not picked up stitches from a finished edge before this is a nice project to start with, since it isn't a jumper or something requiring an exact number of stitches, you can just concentrate on the process. And once you know how, it's a weirdly liberating feeling, you can tackle a lot more new projects.



### ~socks

I'd always rather fancied the idea of hand-knitted socks - not those grey/green ones my Dad wore, but thick colourful and cosy. Portugal sounds sunny and hot, but the winters here are cold so these beauties keep my toes warm!





~cats: **Monkey & Sofia**  
 Inspired by the real cats, Monkey and Sofia, these easy-to-make woolly incarnations were the first toys I made and are still popular, especially in Portuguese cities where they are considered very *cool*. They are our tiny cultural ambassadors!

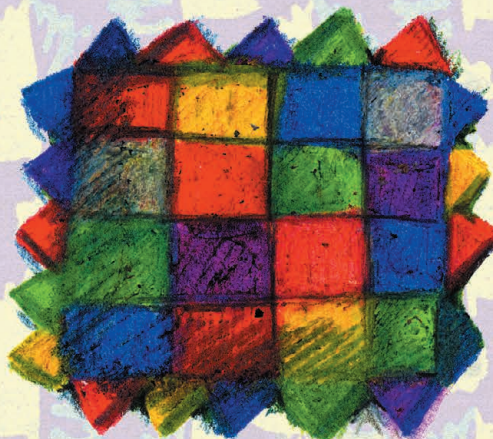
~rabbits

This is the easiest toy pattern, small and straightforward, made in a nice rabbit-grey with good bright colours for their jumpers and feet. They can look very sweet too, if you make a bundle of them.



~cushion cover

This pattern is a variation on the traditional blanket, made from squares knitted together rather than sewn, so the join is more of a feature. It also demonstrates my theory that knitting is great for improvisation and interpretation. Have a look at how this cushion has been made, then start making one to your own design.



### ~hat

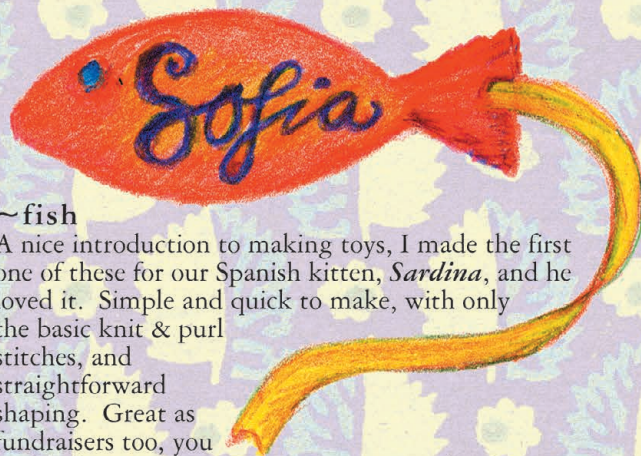
Phil wanted to knit a hat for himself and managed to work in the round with no problems. He stuck to one colour, but if you're a confident knitter this is a nice opportunity to do some fancy colours, bobbles, or even Fair Isle.

### ~mice

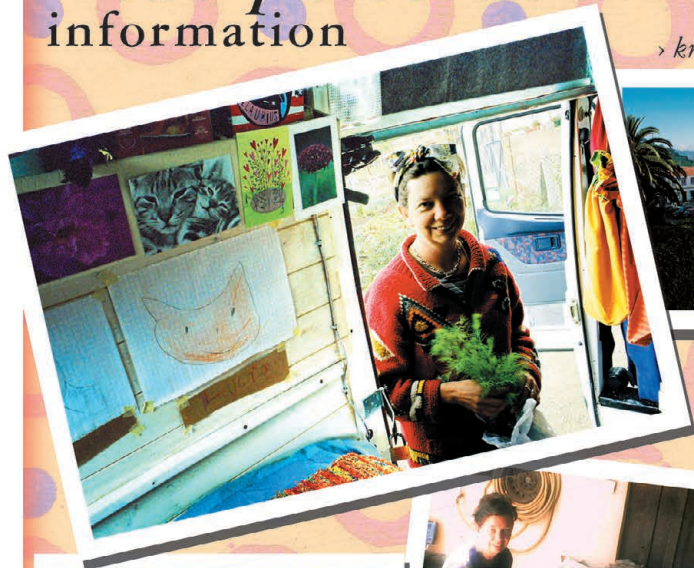
These are a little more technical for new knitters, but they are certainly not impossible. The original design came from a drawing I did and I think they still have a sort of graphic or cartoon feeling about them with their triangular bodies, pointy faces and thin limbs ending in exaggeratedly bigger feet and hands.

### ~fish

A nice introduction to making toys, I made the first one of these for our Spanish kitten, *Sardina*, and he loved it. Simple and quick to make, with only the basic knit & purl stitches, and straightforward shaping. Great as fundraisers too, you could also grow some catnip (*nepeta cataria*) to make them even more irresistible!



# ~the patterns information



- > to help new knitters I decided against having too many abbreviations, so words like tog, slp, etc. are written in full, but experienced knitters will know what it's all about anyway!
- > knitting small things like toys, or their clothes, requires fewer stitches so I use double-point needles, because they're much easier to handle



~**increasing and decreasing**  
I've tried to keep to a simple method of shaping, so while there are other ways of increasing and decreasing which experienced knitters will know, these work fine - to **increase** simply knit into the front of a stitch and before you slip off push the needle through the back, then knit again to make an extra stitch - or **decrease** by knitting two stitches together, or slipping the first stitch, knitting the next, then lifting the first stitch over the second

~**stocking stitch**

- > knit one row, purl one row

~**garter stitch**

- > knit only

~**rib**

- > knit one stitch, purl one stitch

~**knitting in the round**

- > just like knitting on two needles, except it can only ever be **knit** or **rib** or **purl**, as you're always working on the same side

## ~kitten blanket

### Materials:

one pair of old woolly socks  
oddmments of wool, any thickness  
3.5 mm needles

### ~cutting the socks

- › cut off the toes
- › remove the heel by cutting above and below it, creating four tubes
- › then as flat pieces are needed, cut lengthways along each tube to open it out

### ~joining the pieces

- › arrange them on a table and make the best square shape possible
- › to join them together take two of the pieces, lay them on top of each other, right sides outwards
- › knit them together, beginning at one end of the edge, by pushing a knitting needle through both pieces
- › having cast on now knit enough rows to fold over, sew down, and hide the rough edge

*the needles I've suggested are quite thick (for woolly socks) so if you only have fine yarn double it (two different shades make a nice soft effect)*

- › when you've joined one pair do the same with the other, then the whole piece

### ~edging

- › as before, pick up stitches along one edge at a time and work enough rows to fold over and cover

*~ this is an easy project for experienced knitters and wonderfully creative, because once you've cut the socks and begun to join them together, there are no rules. It can be stripy, with bobbles, or whatever you fancy. The only consideration is to make a piece of knitting which when folded over covers the raw edge, then the stitches won't run. Do the same around the outside edges, working first to prevent it falling to pieces, then make a fancy edge however you like*



the raw edge. This can be minimal or you can increase the size of the blanket by making wider edges. Alternately you could cover the edge then pick up the stitches again and make a fancy edge of points, or whatever you like.

### ~ socks

Materials:

*men's socks* - 2 x 100 gm balls of  
double-knit yarn

4 x 3.5 mm double-point needles

*women's socks* - 100 gm ball of 4 ply yarn

4 x 3 mm double-point needles

both require an oddment of cotton yarn  
to reinforce the heel and toe

*You might notice the number of stitches in  
this pattern is the same for both men and  
women, this is because of using a  
different thickness yarn and needles*

### ~ leg

> cast on 48 stitches

*if you tend to cast on tightly the top of  
the sock might not have any stretch, this  
happened to me and I found the answer  
by casting on using two needles in my  
left hand, don't worry if it feels loose,*

*it will settle down and gives a nice elastic edge*

> then divide them onto three needles (16 stitches each)  
*where the three needles join and make a circle, is the start of each row  
the tail of yarn from casting on will remind you as you work round*

> work 10 rows in rib



› then change to knit and work until sock measures 15 cm (*including rib*)

### ~*heel flap*

› knit 12 stitches, turn work, slip 1 and purl 23 stitches (*you should now have 24 stitches on one needle*)

› move remaining 8 stitches to either end of the other needle (*for the instep later*)

› work back and forth for 24 rows, introducing the reinforcing yarn, which will be bulky but it works *if you don't want to do it this way then carry the reinforcing yarn behind, weaving it in as you would another colour*

### ~*turn the heel*

*now for the fancy bit, where the sock changes direction and heads off under the foot*

› knit to the middle of the row (12 stitches), knit 2, slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over, then knit 1, turn

› slip 1, purl 5, purl 2 together, purl 1, turn

› slip 1, knit to one stitch away from the gap, slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over, knit 1, turn

› slip 1, purl to one stitch away from the gap, purl 2 together, purl 1, turn

› repeat the last two rows (*knit & purl*), working the stitches on either side of the gap together until they have all been used up, then (*with the right side facing*) **work to the middle of the row (7 stitches)**

### ~*rejoining the instep*

*this is where the 24 instep stitches which have been waiting on the spare needle get brought back in*

› with a new needle, knit the second half of the heel flap stitches, then pick up 12 stitches down the side of the heel flap

› with another needle, knit across the waiting instep stitches

› and with the third needle, pick up 12 stitches on the other side of the heel flap, and knit the remaining heel flap stitches onto this needle

*if you've done all this right you'll be back with three needles again. The two heel side needles should have 19 stitches each, and the instep needle 24 - congratulations!*

### ~*heel shaping*

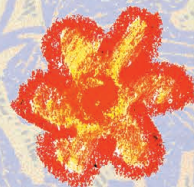
*decreasing happens at the end of the first needle and the beginning of the third, on alternate rows*

› **first needle:** work to the last 3 stitches, knit 2 together, knit 1

› **second needle:** knit (*no shaping*)

› **third needle:** knit 1, slip 1, pass slipped stitch over

› next row knit (*no shaping*)



- › repeat in this manner until there are 48 stitches, 12 stitches on each side of the heel, and 24 stitches on the instep needle, then knit (*without shaping*) until the sock is 4 cm short of the required length  
*measure against the foot or sock of the person you're making for*

~toe

*I use reinforcing yarn here too, you can never make a sock strong enough!*

- › now decreasing on all needles: **first row**

*first needle:* work to the last three stitches then knit 2 together, knit 1

*second needle:* knit 1, slip 1, pass slipped stitch over, work to the last three stitches, knit 2 together, knit 1

*third needle:* knit 1, slip 1, pass slipped stitch over, work to the end

- › **second row**, work with no decreasing

- › repeat these two rows until there are 24 stitches left, then decrease on every row until just 12 stitches remain

- › cut the yarn, leaving a long enough piece to thread through the remaining stitches and fasten off

## ~cats: MONKEY & SOFIA

Materials:

4 ply yarn (25 gm) for the body - black for MONKEY and grey for SOFIA

oddments of coloured yarn for socks and pants

3 mm double-point needles

stuffing material

large sewing needle

safety pin

ribbon to tie around SOFIA's ankles

- *patterns for clothes at the end of the book* -



~feet and legs

- › using the sock colour cast on 12 stitches and work 10 rows in stocking stitch then change to body colour and continue for a total of 36 rows (*including socks*), cut the yarn and transfer leg to a safety pin

- › make another

~body

- › put both legs on the same needle, right sides facing you

- › using the yarn colour for the pants, knit right across the tops of the two legs in stocking stitch (24 *stitches*) for 14 rows
- › then change yarn to the body colour, and work another 13 rows

*~shoulders and neck*

*this shaping creates a slope, where the arms will be attached*

- › **knit row:** slip first stitch, knit 1 then pass first stitch over to decrease, knit until 3 stitches remain, knit 2 together, knit 1
- › **purl row:** no shaping
- › repeat these two rows until 14 stitches remain
- › cast off 4 stitches at the beginning of the next 2 rows (6 *stitches*)
- increase now for the head*
- › **knit row:** slip first stitch, knit twice into each of the next 4 stitches, knit 1 (10 *stitches*)
- › **purl row:** no shaping
- › **knit row:** slip first stitch, knit twice into the next 2 stitches, knit 4, knit twice into the next 2 stitches, knit 1 (14 *stitches*)
- › **purl row:** no shaping
- › **knit row:** slip first stitch, knit twice into the next 2 stitches, knit 8, knit twice into the next 2 stitches, knit last one (18 *stitches*)
- › now work 6 rows in stocking stitch with no shaping
- › then decrease one stitch at *each end* of the next and alternate rows until 10 stitches remain, and cast off
- › make another





### ~arms

- › using body colour cast on 18 stitches
- › work 20 rows in stocking stitch
- › decrease 1 stitch *each end* of next row
  - › work 4 rows in stocking stitch
- › decrease 1 stitch *each end* of next and *every 5th row* until 10 stitches remain
  - › then knit 2 together across the whole row
- › cut yarn, leaving a tail long enough to thread through the remaining 5 stitches and pull to form the paw
- › begin to sew up the arm with any thread left over
- › make another arm

### ~tail

- › using body colour cast on 5 stitches

*the tail is made by knitting an i-cord, this is a really clever way to knit thin pieces without having to sew them up*

- › knit the first row, then when you swap needles don't turn the work round so the yarn stays on the left, pull the yarn around the back, it doesn't have to be very tight, and knit the next row, in a few rows you'll notice the two sides closing together at the back and becoming a cord

*then decrease a little to give the tail a nice shape at the end*

- › knit 2 together, knit 1, knit 2 together
- › next row knit 2 together, knit 1
- › cast off

## making up ~the body

› sew the two halves together (*right sides out*) and stuff. To get a good finish, look for the slipped first stitches and sew only through these, using back stitch for strength

## ~arms

› fold lengthways and sew (*right sides out*) as above, then stuff and stitch across the top  
› attach to the body on the slope of decreased stitches, at the shoulder, pinching the slope and arm top together which will help make a nice straight join

## ~ears

› on the decreasing stitches, towards the top of the head, take a knitting needle and pick up 6 stitches, knit 6 rows in garter stitch, then shape the ear by knitting 2 together *each end* of the next and *every other* row until 2 stitches remain  
› cast off

## ~tail

› attach to the waist at the top of the pants

## ~paws

› with a sewing needle and the body colour, fasten on strongly and sew a running stitch around the top of the sock, when you're back at the beginning pull the thread in making the sock look more foot-like, fasten off strongly and do the same at the end of the arms, counting about 10 rows from the end of the paw

## ~face

› thread a sewing needle with your choice of colours and make the eyes and a nose using a couple of simple stitches, then add whiskers with one or two colours threaded on a nice big sewing needle, pushing through and knotting each side of the face, trimming to the desired length

## jumper and cardigan

*I love making miniature clothes, so quick compared to the full-size versions. The jumper is easy (for new knitters). The cardigan is made in one piece up to the underarms, then divided into front & back, and joined at the shoulders. The sleeves are knitted in the round. When I make MONKEY he has the jumper, and SOFIA the cardigan, but either looks good. I like to add a bit of Fair Isle or stripes but have stuck to the simplest instructions here. Once you get to know the pattern you can experiment with colours and designs of your own invention.*





## jumper

- › using 4 ply yarn and 3 mm needles cast on 28 stitches, work 3 rows in rib, then 24 rows in stocking stitch
  - › divide for the neck by knitting 8 stitches, casting off 12, and knitting the remaining 8
  - › work one shoulder at a time, knit 8 rows, leave the stitches on a pin (*do not cast off*)
  - › *when you have completed them both, with right side facing*, knit across one shoulder, cast on 12 stitches, and knit across the other bringing it back to 28 stitches
  - › work 24 rows down the back of the jumper, 3 rows in rib, and cast off
- ~sleeves
  - › *with right side facing and the jumper lying open* count 9 rows up from the top of the rib and begin picking up stitches (*between 22-24*) up to and across the shoulder join, stopping 9 rows before the other rib
  - › work 20 rows in stocking stitch, 3 rows in rib, and cast off
  - › repeat for other sleeve
- ~making up
  - › (*right side facing*) stitch together the side seams and sleeves
- › at the neck (*right side facing*) pick up stitches onto three needles (*ie. 13/ 13/ 12*), work 4 rows in rib and cast off

## cardigan

- › using 4 ply yarn and 3 mm needles cast on 56 stitches and work 3 rows in rib, followed by 9 rows in stocking stitch *except the first and last 5 stitches (for the button band) which are in garter stitch*
  - › at the arm holes divide, working 16 stitches and transferring them to a safety pin
  - › then work to the end, and on the next row do the same with the first 16 stitches
- › with the remaining 24 stitches work 15 rows in stocking stitch for the back of the cardigan
  - › divide for the neck by working 8 stitches, cast off 8 stitches, work 8 stitches
    - › then work 4 rows on each shoulder and cast off
- › for the fronts pick up the stitches from one of the pins and (*right side facing*) work 14-15 rows in stocking stitch *remembering to continue the button bands in garter stitch*
  - › then cast off 8 stitches on the button band edge, working the remaining 8 stitches for 4 rows
    - › cast off and repeat on the other front, then sew shoulders together
  - › pick up stitches (*approx. 24*) around the armhole on 3 double point needles and knit 18 rows
    - › then 3 rows in rib, and cast off
- › repeat for other sleeve, sew in ends and add buttons

## ~rabbits

### Materials:

4 ply yarn, a main shade for the body and oddments of other colours for the shoes and jumper

3 mm double-point needles

stuffing material

sewing needle

- *pattern for skirt at the end of the book* -

### ~legs

- › cast on 12 stitches in shoe colour
- › knit 3 rows
- › change to body colour, knit 20 rows
- › cast off and make another leg

### ~body

- › cast on 12 stitches in body colour
- › knit 9 rows
- › change to jumper colour, work 17 rows
- › cast off and make another body

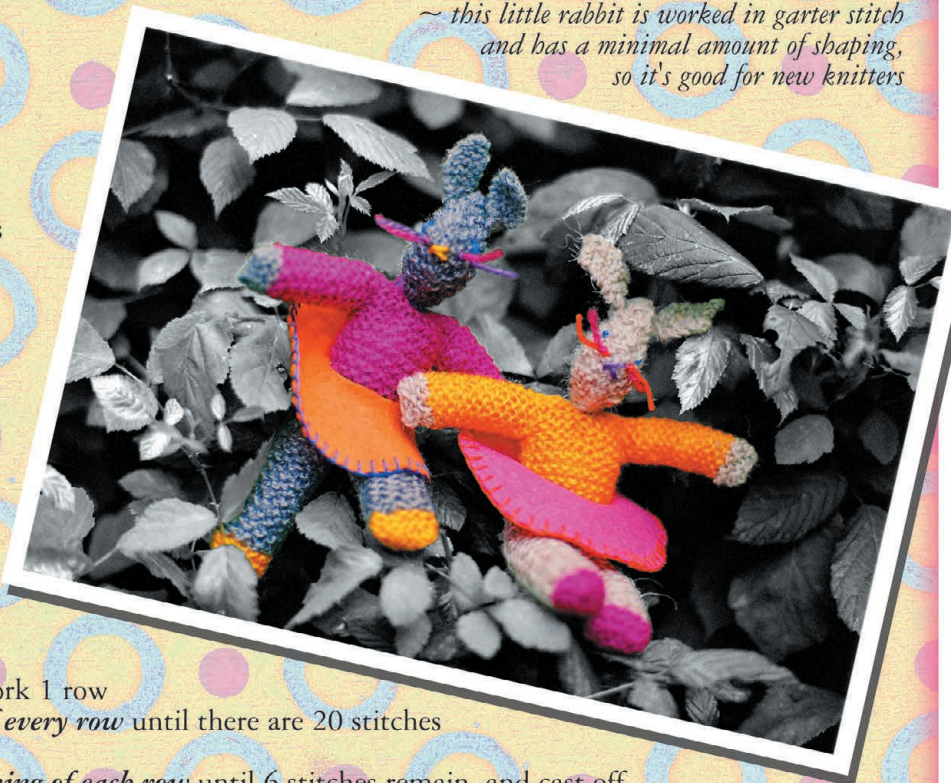
### ~arms

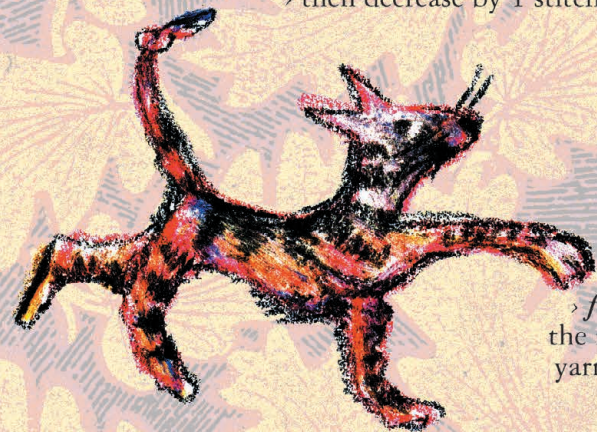
- › cast on 10 stitches in body colour
- › work 3 rows
- › change to jumper colour, work 19 rows
- › cast off and make another arm

### ~head

- › cast on 6 stitches in body colour, work 1 row
- › then increase 1 stitch at *each end of every row* until there are 20 stitches
- › work 6 rows with no shaping
- › then cast off 2 stitches at the *beginning of each row* until 6 stitches remain, and cast off

*~ this little rabbit is worked in garter stitch  
and has a minimal amount of shaping,  
so it's good for new knitters*





- › then increase by 1 stitch at *each end* of the next row *by knitting into the front and the back of the first and last stitch*
- › then decrease by 1 stitch at *each end* of the next row *by knitting two together (3 stitches)*
- › followed by 7 rows with no shaping
- › followed by 3 rows with no shaping
- › cast off and make another ear

#### ~ears

#### ~making up

- › the legs and arms are folded length-ways, sewn and stuffed
- › the two body halves sewn and stuffed
- › the head folded in half, sewn and stuffed
- › sew in the ends on the ears, then attach, stitching firmly
- › sew arms and legs to the body
- › pull on skirt
- › *for the face:* make a couple of stitches for each eye, a cross for the nose, add whiskers by pulling a couple of strands of coloured yarn through the face with a sewing needle, knotting either side

#### ~cushion cover

##### Materials:

oddments of chunky yarn in at least 8 different colours, or double strands if you only have 4 ply  
*the colours are the most important element, use fewer rather than include ones that don't really work*

4 mm needles

4 large buttons

sewing needle with a big eye

*For experienced knitters this is an opportunity to improvise with colour and joining. For new knitters this is a project which combines making small pieces of work, matching colours, and knitting finished pieces together. If you haven't picked up stitches from a finished edge before ask an experienced knitter to show you how. It's not hard and a really useful thing to know. Making bobbles on the joins is not essential but will give the cushion a more 3-dimensional quality. Have a go, and if you get stuck don't be shy ask for help.*

### *~the squares*

- › cast on 18 stitches and work 22 rows in stocking stitch, which should produce a square approximately 10 x 10 cms
- › cast off, then make 15 more squares in different colours

### *~joining the squares*

*arrange them so you can see how the colours work best with each other, then into four rows of four. Take the first two adjoining squares from the top row and place them back-to-back (right sides out) and knit together (see ~kitten blanket) using contrasting coloured yarn*

- › work 3 rows in garter stitch

### *~bobbles*

*you only need 1 stitch to make a bobble, so to calculate the number of bobbles count how many stitches go equally between them, mine are about 8 stitches apart*

- › knit to where you want your first bobble
- › knit into the front of the next stitch as normal, then without slipping it off knit into the back, and again into the front, then into the back, so you have 4 stitches
- › **turn** the work, knit the bobble stitches
- › **turn** again and do the same
- › **turn** again and once more do the same
- › then (*right side facing*) knit all 4 stitches together, finishing the bobble and leaving just 1 stitch
- › knit to where you want the next bobble and repeat, continue like this until the end of the row
- › work 2 rows in garter stitch, and cast off
- › bend over the cast-off edge so it covers the picked-up stitches and sew, creating a neat join where the bobbles





- are proudly standing up
- › take the next square (*from the top row*) and join it in the same way
  - › followed by the fourth
  - › then with the first strip finished start another, and so on, until you have four strips with four squares each

*~joining the strips*

*this is done in just the same way*

- › take 2 strips, back-to-back (*facing out*) and pick up stitches along the whole length
  - › knit 3 rows, then do the bobble row, knit 2 rows
  - › join as before, add another strip, etc

*~back*

- › with the right side of the work facing you, pick up stitches along one edge
  - › work in *stocking stitch* until you have 26 cms
  - › change to *garter stitch* for another 10 rows, then cast off
  - › pick up stitches along the opposite edge and repeat
- › lay the two pieces so they overlap each other in the middle and sew them down along the sides

*~edges*

*new knitters might feel they have had enough by now, especially since the cushion already looks great, however the edge can look even better with a nice pointy finish*

- › with the cushion front facing you pick up stitches along one edge
- › count the stitches and divide into groups of 8, 9 or 10 (*whichever goes exactly*) to get the number you need for each point
  - › then working just on the first point knit 2 rows
  - › on the next row knit 2 together at *each end*
  - › next row simply knit
- › repeat these alternating rows until all the stitches have gone, knitting the last two together
  - › move to the next point and so on

*~making up*

- › sew in all the loose ends, position and sew the buttons under the overlap and it should be possible to just push the buttons through the knitting to close



## ~hat

### Materials:

50 gm of 4 ply yarn (100 gm for a plain hat)  
oddments of coloured yarn in 4 ply  
set of four 3 mm double-point needles

- › cast on 138 stitches using two needles  
*if you tend to cast on tightly try using two needles together to make bigger stitches*
- › then divide onto three needles, 46 stitches each, *the tail of yarn from casting on will indicate the beginning and end of rows*
- › work in knit 1, purl 1 **rib** until the work measures 10 cm (*for a turned brim, 5 cm without*)
- › change to knit only, and at the same time begin decreasing at **each end of each needle**, on this and every alternate row  
*if you want stripes this is the time to start, and to avoid gaps at the beginning/end of rows carry the new colour behind the last 6 stitches in the row, begin knitting with the new colour, looping it under the main shade which you can leave until you need it again*
- › continue until there are just 39 stitches left (13 on each needle)
- › next row, knit 2 together along the entire row (20 stitches)
- › next row, knit
- › next row, knit 2 together along the entire row (11 stitches)
- › cut the yarn, leaving a long enough length to thread through all the stitches using a sewing needle, pull them together and fasten off securely





## ~mice

### Materials:

- 25 gm of 4 ply yarn for the body
- oddments of coloured yarn
- 3 mm double-point needles
- 2 safety pins
- stuffing material
- large sewing needle
- short lengths of ribbon to tie at the ankles

- *patterns for the clothes are at the end of the book* -

*The bodies of both mice are knitted in **stocking stitch** using grey or white, mousy colours. The MOUSE BOY has a coloured vest, the MOUSE GIRL coloured pants, and they are both knitted in **garter stitch**. They also both have their hands (which are like gloves) and feet (nice and big too) knitted in coloured yarn. Oddments will be enough for all of these*

### ~body of MOUSE BOY

- › using body colour cast on 24 stitches
- › begin with a knit row, and knit 10 rows in stocking stitch
- › *row 11*: slip 1, knit 2 together, work until last 3 stitches, knit 2 together, knit 1 (22 stitches)
- › work 8 rows without shaping
- › *row 20*: change to *vest colour* and *garter stitch*
- › there are four more *decreasing rows* (as row 11), these are rows: 22/ 33/ 44/ & 55
- › at the end of this shaping you should have 14 stitches left
- › *rows 56 & 57*: cast off 4 stitches, work to the end
- › transfer the remaining 6 stitches to a safety pin

› make another body piece

~*body of MOUSE GIRL*

- › using the yarn colour for the pants cast on 24 stitches
- › in garter stitch work 10 rows
- › **row 11:** slip 1, knit 2 together, work until last three stitches, knit 2 together, knit 1 (22 stitches)
- › work 8 rows without shaping
- › **row 20:** change to body colour and stocking stitch
- › there are four more *decreasing rows* (as row 11), these are rows: 22/ 33/ 44/ & 55

*at the end of this shaping you should have 14 stitches left*

- › **rows 56 & 57:** cast off 4 stitches, work to the end
- › transfer the remaining 6 stitches to a safety pin
- › make another body piece

~*head (for both mice)*

*begin by sewing the two body pieces together (right sides out), looking for the first stitch in each row to sew through, keeping the seam flat, and stuffing through the opening where the stitches are still left on their safety pins*

- › with a knitting needle carefully pick up the first 3 stitches from one safety pin, and the nearest 3 from the other (6 stitches)

~*chin*

- › **row 1:** knit
- › **row 2:** purl
- › **row 3:** increase into each stitch, by knitting into the front then the back of each one (12 stitches)
- › **row 4:** purl

~*nose*

- › **row 5:** cast on 3 stitches, knit to the last 2 stitches, then knit into the front and





- back of the next stitch, knit 1 (16 stitches)
- › row 6: purl
  - › row 7: cast on 2 stitches, knit to the last 2 stitches, then knit into the front and back of the next stitch, knit 1 (19 stitches)
  - › row 8: purl, row 9: knit, row 10: purl
  - › row 11: slip 1, knit 2 together, work to the last 3 stitches, knit 2 together, knit 1 (17 stitches)
  - › row 12: purl
  - › row 13: slip 1, knit 2 together and work to the end of the row (16 stitches)
  - › row 14: purl
  - › rows 15, 17 & 19: decrease as row 13
  - › rows 16, 18 & 20: purl, with no shaping (13 stitches)
  - › row 21: slip 1, knit 2 together, work to the last three stitches, knit 2 together, knit 1 (11 stitches), and cast off
- you now have one side of the face done, to make the other side...*
- › pick up the remaining stitches from the safety pins and with the finished face on top, (and right side up) repeat the pattern substituting *pearl for knit* and *knit for pearl*
  - › sew up and stuff the head
- ~ears*
- › using body colour and working in *garter stitch*, cast on 2 stitches
  - › row 1: knit into the front and back of both stitches (4 stitches)
  - › row 2: knit 1, knit into the front and back of the next 2 stitches, knit 1 (6 stitches)
  - › row 3: knit 1, increase into second stitch, work until 2 stitches remain, increase into next stitch, knit 1 (8 stitches)
  - › repeat row 3 until there are 12 stitches
  - › work 8 rows without shaping
  - › then decrease 1 stitch *each end* of the next and following alternate rows until 8 stitches remain
  - › work 3 rows with no shaping, cast off and make another ear
  - › sew in ends, fold an ear in half (*lengthways*), stitch the cast off edge sides together, and attach to the head
- ~arms and hands*
- › using body colour cast on 6 stitches and work a 25 row *i-cord* (see ~cats: MONKEY & SOFIA tail)
  - › next row change yarn to hand colour and in *stocking stitch* work 10 rows, beginning with knit

- › **row 11:** slip 1, knit 2 together, knit 1 (4 stitches)
- › **row 12:** purl
- › **row 13:** slip 1, increase by knitting into the front and back of the next 2 stitches, knit 1 (6 stitches)
- › work 10 rows in stocking stitch without shaping
- › cast off, and make another arm
- › sew in ends, fold each hand in half at the single purl row between the shaping rows, then sew together, putting a little stuffing in to give the hands a bit of weight and make them look cute

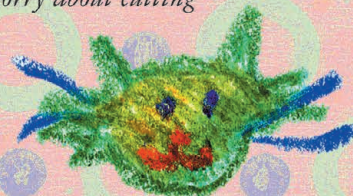
~**legs**

*these are thin to give the mouse a delicate look, however they need to be strong so I use two strands of 4 ply yarn together. MOUSE GIRL has stripy legs using two colours, MOUSE BOY has body colour legs with coloured socks*

- › cast on 12 stitches in body colour
- › **mouse girl:** work 2 rows in stocking stitch using one colour, then 2 rows in another, continuing like this until you have 32 rows of stripes (*new knitters: don't worry about cutting the yarn at the change of colour, leave it on to pick up again*)
- › cast off, and make another leg
- › sew in ends, fold the leg lengthways and sew together, add stuffing
- › **mouse boy:** work 26 rows of body colour in stocking stitch
- › change to sock colour and work 6 rows
- › cast off, make another and then sew & stuff as before

~**shoes**

- › pick up 6 stitches 3 rows up from the cast off edge, and working in stocking stitch purl the first row
- › next row knit into front and back of **every stitch** (12 stitches)
- › work 8 rows with no shaping
- › then slip 1, purl 2 together, work to the last 3 stitches, purl 2 together, and purl 1 (10 stitches)
- › work 3 rows with no shaping
- › slip 1, purl into the front and back of the next stitch, work to the last 2 stitches, purl into the front and back of the next stitch, purl 1 (12 stitches)
- › work 8 rows with no shaping
- › knit 2 together over the whole row (6 stitches)



- › now work 7 rows with no shaping, this is for the heel
  - › cast off, and sew in the ends
- › fold over at the increase/decrease, sew up and stuff the shoe then sew the heel to the bottom part of the leg, this will help make the shoe stick out, then either leave it like this or add a ribbon bow to finish it off
  - › make the other shoe

~*face*

- › using short lengths of coloured yarn and simple stitches, create eyes, nose and a mouth
  - › for the whiskers use two strands of the body colour or nice bright colours, and tie a knot either side to secure them

~*scarf for MOUSE BOY*

*obviously a vital element!*

- › cast on 10 stitches in red
- › work 5 rows in garter stitch, then change to yellow and work 5 rows
  - switching back and forth between the two colours is easy, simply leave both yarns on all the time*
- › repeat until you have 11 stripes of red and 10 yellow, then cast off
  - › fold the scarf lengthways so it is half as wide
  - › sew together, pushing all the loops from changing colour inside
  - › finish off with **tassels**:
    - hook lengths of yarn (10 cms) doubled-over through the end of the scarf and trim
    - › place finished scarf around neck, cross it over and stitch into place



~*fish*

Materials:

- oddment of a nice bright 4 ply yarn
- pair of 3 mm double-point needles
- a small bell
- stuffing material
- sewing needle
- scrap of contrasting yarn
- short length of ribbon

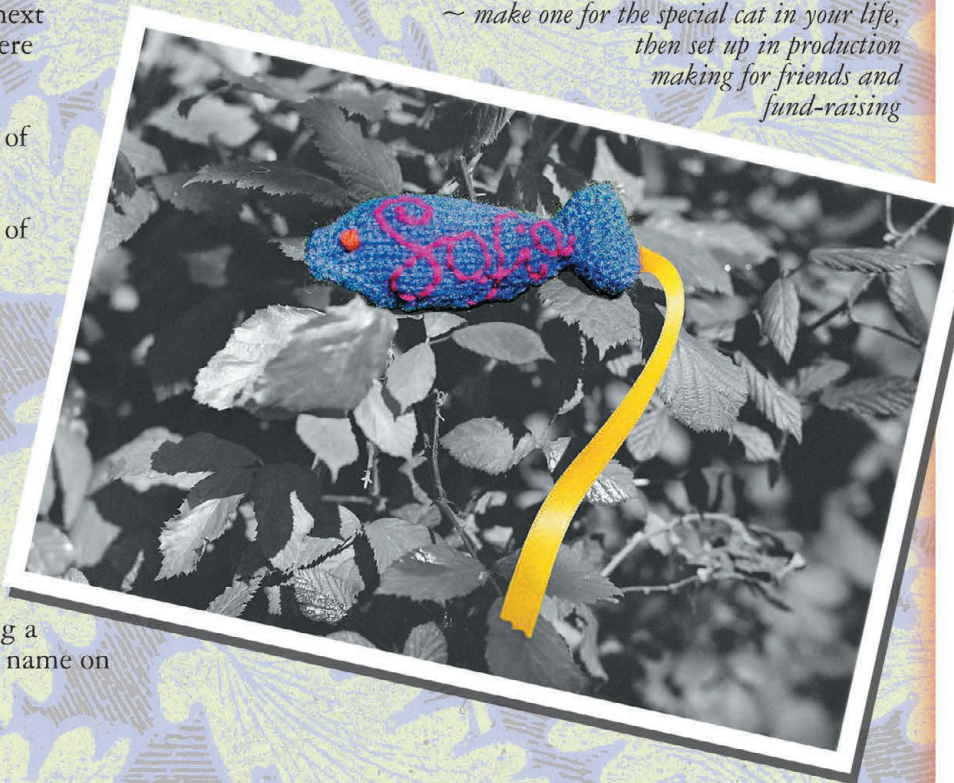
~*fish body*

- › cast on 12 stitches, and starting at the tail in *garter stitch* work 4 rows
- › then decrease one stitch *each end of every row* until 4 stitches remain
- › work one row, then change to *stocking stitch* and increase 1 stitch *each end* of the next and following *alternate rows* until there are 8 stitches
- › work 3 rows without shaping
- › *next row*: increase 1 stitch *each end* of the row (10 stitches)
- › work 5 rows without shaping
- › *next row*: increase 1 stitch *each end* of the row (12 stitches)
- › work 11 rows without shaping
- › now decrease 1 stitch *each end* of the next and following *alternate rows* until 4 stitches remain
- › cast off
- › make another body piece

~*making up*

- › very simple, just stitch the two halves of the body together (*right sides out*), insert the bell and stuff (*adding dried catnip if you have it*)
- › sew the ribbon on the tail, then using a contrasting yarn embroider your cat's name on

~ *make one for the special cat in your life,  
then set up in production  
making for friends and  
fund-raising*





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Love  
Maureen

fold

MOUSE GIRL  
bag  
felt

MOUSE GIRL kerchief  
felt

fold

SOFIA  
dress/ facing  
- cut two -

MONKEY  
trousers  
- cut four -

fold

MOUSE GIRL  
dress/ bodice  
- cut two -

MONKEY  
& MOUSE GIRL  
pocket

fold

SOFIA  
dress  
- cut two -

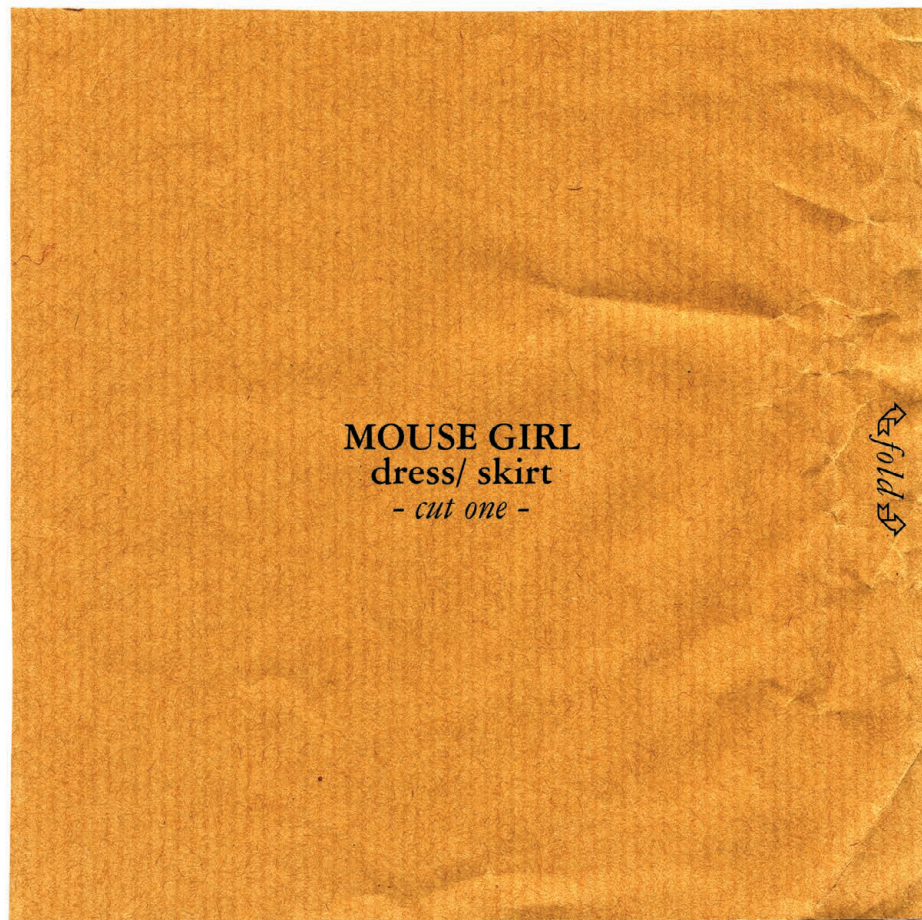
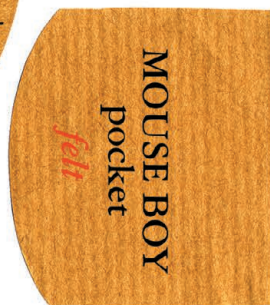
front & back

MOUSE BOY  
trousers/ front  
- cut two -  
*felt*

centre front

centre back

MOUSE BOY  
trousers/ back  
- cut two -  
*felt*



~**making up the clothes** - IMPORTANT - the paper patterns are NOT actual size, you will need to photocopy them first, enlarging from A5 to A4 (*they will then also include a 5 mm seam allowance*)

~**MONKEY's trousers:** cut out the *trouser pieces* and *pocket*. Sew down the *pocket* top hem first, then arrange trouser pieces so there is a right and a left leg. Stitch the *outer legs* of the trousers. Place the pocket in position and stitch. Sew the *inner legs*, then the crotch. To make the crotch seam simpler to sew, after joining the inside seams of each leg, turn one leg through to the right side and put it inside the other leg. Now stitch around the crotch. The *waist* is simply folded over, stitched, then thread through with elastic.

~**SOFIA's dress:** cut out the 6 pieces. With right sides together sew the 2 *pocket* pieces together, leaving a gap at the bottom to turn through, and tuck the raw edges inside. Pin the *pocket* on the *dress* and stitch it into place. Now, take the 2 dress *facings* and sew a little hem across the bottom of each, then position each one on the right side of its piece of dress. Stitch round the armhole, across the shoulder, around the neck, across the other shoulder and around the other armhole. Then turn through. Sew side seams and sew the shoulders together. Hem.

~**MOUSE BOY's trousers:** make in felt. Cut out the 5 pieces. They look a bit weird because of the bib, but it's simple. Pin together a *front* and a *back*, then stitch the outside seams. Now the inside leg seams, then the crotch (*as with MONKEY's trousers*), which in this case begins at the top of the bib. Sew on the *pocket*. Add ribbon or tape for the straps.

~**MOUSE GIRL's dress:** cut out the 4 pieces of the dress, making sure you cut the *skirt* against a fold so you have a 40 cm x 17 cm piece. Sew a little hem at the two short edges of the skirt. Take the 2 *bodice* pieces and place them right sides together. Stitch around leaving one long side open, then turn through so that the right sides are now outside. Thread a running stitch through one of the longer edges of the skirt in order to gather. Now tuck the gathered skirt fabric up inside the bodice, using pins to keep it in place, and tuck inside the raw edge. Tack the whole thing together, then machine across the right side of the bodice. Remove tacking stitches. Attach ribbon or tape to make the *shoulder straps*, and a ribbon tie at the back to close the dress. For the *pocket* make a little hem across the top, pin into position and machine round. Take up dress hem.

~**MOUSE GIRL's bag:** cut out in felt, sew side seams and around the flap using embroidery thread and blanket stitch. Sew on a piece of ribbon or tape to be the strap.

~**MOUSE GIRL neckerchief** ~**RABBIT skirt:** are both made from felt, cut them out and blanket stitch around the skirt, then they are ready .

