



Time Rabbit Knitting Pattern

As part of our campaign to raise awareness about the challenges posed by long parental absences, The Naval Children's Charity is delighted to invite you to create these Time Rabbits which will be sent out, alongside the original work of Children's Literature Zoe and the Time Rabbit, to Royal Navy and Royal Marines Families. The time rabbits come in pairs – one with a happy face on the bellow, and one with a sad face. Please send any bunnies you knit to the address below, or email Sharon.noble@navalchildrenscharity.org.uk if you have any questions. Thank you for your time.

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This pattern was very kindly created by Fiona Goble. For more information on Fiona, you can visit her website www.fionagoble.com

Measurement

15 cm from the tip of the feet to the top of the head
(excluding ears)

Equipment

A pair of 4mm knitting needles
A needle to sew your work together
A large-eyed embroidery needle



Water-soluble pen (optional but very useful to mark features and clock face before stitching them)

Materials

20g ($\frac{3}{4}$ oz) Aran weight yarn in bright yellow

10g ($\frac{1}{3}$ oz) polyester toy stuffing

Very small amounts of red and black 4ply or DK yarn (or you could use embroidery thread)

Skill level

You will need to know the knitting basics (casting on, casting off, the knit and purl stitch) plus how to increase and decrease stitches in various ways and how to sew your work together. You will also need to know a few embroidery techniques – straight stitch, French knots and chain stitch.

A note on yarn

The best yarns to choose for the main rabbit are 100% wool or wool/acrylic mixes – although good quality acrylic yarns will also work well. Budget acrylic yarns are best avoided because they don't have enough stretch. For similar reasons, please avoid cotton, linen and bamboo yarns for this project.

RABBIT

Body and head

(The pieces are knitted from base of body to top of head)

Make 2 pieces

Cast on 8 sts.

Row 1: Inc, k5, inc, k1. [10 sts]

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: K1, m1, k to last st, m1, k1. [12 sts]

Row 4: Purl.

Rep rows 3-4 once more. [14 sts]

Work 8 rows in st st beg with a k row.

Row 15: K1, (ssk) 3 times, (k2tog) 3 times, k1. [8 sts]

Row 16: P2tog, p4, p2tog tbl. [6 sts]

Row 17: Knit.

Row 18: Purl.

Row 19: K2, (m1, k1) to end. [11 sts]

Row 20: Purl.

Row 21: K2, m1, k to last 2 sts, m1, k2. [13 sts]

Work 7 rows in st st beg with a p row.

Row 29: K1, (ssk) twice, k3, (k2tog) twice, k1. [9 sts]

Row 30: P2tog, p to last 2 sts, p2tog tbl. [7 sts]

Cast off.

Legs

(Legs are knitted from top of thigh to tip of foot)

Make 2

Cast on 8 sts.

Work 4 rows in st st beg with a k row.

Row 5: K2, m1, k4, m1, k2. [10 sts]

Work 5 rows in st st beg with a p row.

Row 11: (Ssk) twice, k2, (k2tog) twice. [6 sts]

Break yarn, thread it through rem sts and pull up securely.

Arms

(Arms are knitted from top of arm to tip of hand)

Make 2

Cast on 7 sts.

Work 8 rows in st st beg with a k row.

Row 9: K1, ssk, k1, k2tog, k1. [5 sts]

Break yarn, thread it through rem sts and pull up securely.

Ears

(Ears are knitted from base to tip)

Make 2

Cast on 3 sts.

K 10 rows.

Row 11: Sl1, ssk, pss0. [1 st]

Fasten off.

To make up

Sew the two head and body pieces together, leaving the lower edges open for stuffing. Stuff the piece, shaping the head and body as you go. Close lower edge. Sew the back seams of all the limbs, leaving the top edges open. Stuff fairly lightly. Sew the arms in place, just to the front of the side seams on the body. Sew the legs in place. Sew the ears in place.

Using black yarn or embroidery thread, embroider two French knots for the eyes and one French knot for the nose. Add the mouth using straight stitch.

Using red yarn or embroidery thread, embroider a circle in chain stitch on the rabbit's tummy for the clock face. If you have a water-soluble pen, you might find it useful to draw round a 2p piece to make a sewing guide for the circle. Add French knots for the eyes and work a flattened 'V' in straight stitch for the smiley mouth - or an upside-down flattened 'V' for the sad mouth.

Weave in all loose ends.

If you are not completely happy with the shape of your rabbit, dunk it thoroughly in lukewarm water. Then cup it in your hands and shake out the excess water, reshape it and leave it to dry thoroughly in a warm place.

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
DK	double knitting/light worsted weight yarn
inc	increase one stitch by knitting into the front then the back of the next stitch
K/k	knit
k2tog	knit the next two stitches together
m1	make one stitch (by picking up the horizontal loop before the next stitch and knitting into the back of it)
P/p	purl
p2tog	purl the next two stitches together
P2tog tbl	Purl the next two stitches together through the back of loops
psso	pass slipped stitch over
rem	remaining
rep	repeat
sl	slip one stitch from the left to the right needle without knitting it
ssk	slip, slip, knit (slip the next two stitches, one at a time, then insert your left needle into the front of the two slipped stitches and knit them together)
st/sts	stitch/stitches
st st	stocking (stockinette) stitch – formed by alternate rows of knit and purl stitches
cm	centimetres
g	grams
in	inches
mm	millimetres
oz	ounces
()	when a knitting instruction has to be repeated a number of times, the instruction is given in brackets like

	these
[]	the figures given in brackets like these usually indicate the number of stitches you should have on your needle at this stage