

Autumn's Elephant

This little critter was inspired by the pending arrival of my niece, whose mother loves elephants. This is a fun and fluid stuffy that is meant to be enjoyed, so play as you go and try not to worry too much about stitch count

This elephant is knit in one piece from the toes up using the magic loop method. I have incorporated several techniques here in order to create a one piece, almost seamless little guy. There are short rows and the figure eight cast on. (Oh, the lengths I can go to avoid seaming ☺).

This pattern is easily translated to any yarn weight so the size of your elephant is totally dependent on whatever yarn you choose (bulkier weight equals bigger elephant). I would recommend using a needle three to five sizes less than what the label suggests to insure a dense fabric and less stuffing leakage. Swatching will help you to determine what density you prefer.

Yarn:

- Elephant - Red Heart TLC Baby lilac 1 skein
- Dress - Lion Brand Baby Soft in pastel pink 1 skein.

Notions:

- Size 1 42" circular needle
- Tapestry needle
- Polyester fiberfill stuffing
- 1 yard ribbon (optional)

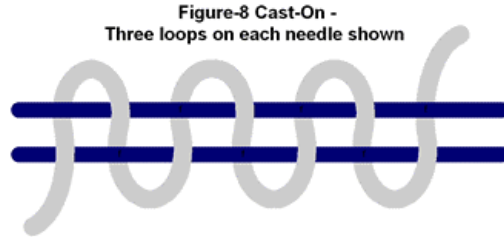
Gauge:

Finished Measurements:

- Elephant is 9" tall, fingertip to fingertip is 5", ear is 4" in diameter

Notes:

- M1 = K1FB
- Using magic loop method means that ss means knit every row.
- This is a toe-up both legs at once critter, so to start you are going to need to pull from both sides of one skein or make a second ball to pull from for knitting both legs at the same time. Remember to switch skein pulling from when you switch toes that you are knitting.
- I love the figure 8 CO, it is super easy, fast and, seamless; but if you do not, please use whichever CO is your favorite.



*Shamelessly borrowed from [Wise Needle](#).

Directions:

Using the figure eight cast on method, CO 8 st for each toe. There will be 4 sts on each needle. Place marker. For the legs, knit each line of instruction starting and ending at the marker.

	Toe 2	Toe 1	
Back Needle	-----4----- -----4-----		
Front Needle	-----4----- -----4-----		Marker

Toes/Legs:

Row 1: Knit (4 sts/needle)
 Row 2: K1, M1, M1, K1 (6 sts/needle)
 Row 3: Knit
 Row 4: K1, M1, K2, M1, K1 (8 sts/needle)
 Cont in ss until the legs measures 3 “.

Torso/Butt:

Push the legs together, and knit across. This time, use the skein or ball from the first leg to knit to the marker – do not change as you did before for the legs. Break yarn from the 2nd leg leaving an 8” tail. Knit one round (32 st).

Butt:

Work back and forth in ss on the back needle.
 Row 1: Knit 12 sts, bring yarn to front, slip 1, wrap yarn to the back around that slipped st, slip slipped st back on the left needle and turn work.
 Row 2: Purl 8 st, bring yarn to the front, slip 1, wrap yarn to the back around that slipped st, slip slipped st back on the left needle and turn work.
 Row 3: Knit 9 st, slip 1 st and wrap and turn as in the previous row
 Row 4: Purl 10 st, slip 1 st and wrap and turn as in the previous row
 Row5: Knit 11, slip 1 st and wrap and turn as in the previous row
 Row 6: Continue in the manner until you have worked across all 16 stitches ending with a knit row.

Torso:

Continue working in the round; remember to pull tight at the first st of every round to prevent ‘ladders’. Knit every row until the torso measures 2 ½ “.

Chest/Shoulder decreases:

Working back and forth on each needle – one at a time begin decreases.

Front:

Row 1: K1, SSK, K10, K2TOG, K1 (14 sts)
Row 2: Purl
Row 3: K1, SSK, K8, K2tog, K1 (12 sts)
Row 4: Purl
Row 5: K1, SSK, K6, K2TOG, K1 (10 sts)
Row 6: Purl
Row 7: K1, SSK, K4, K2TOG, K1 (8 sts)
Break yarn and repeat on the back needle.

Stuff legs and torso – you will have the chance to stuff more as you go, but do most of it now.

Neck:

Once there are 8 sts on each needle, join and knit 2 rows.

Head:

Row 1: K1, M1 [K3, M1] to last 2 sts, M1, K1
Row 2: Knit
Repeat last two rows until there are 29 sts on each needle.
Knit 4 rows

Trunk opening:

Row 1: Working front of elephant, K12, BO 5, K12. Knit across back needle.
Row 2: K12, backward thumb CO 5st, k12, knit across back needle.
Knit 3 rows.

Head Decrease:

Row 1: K1, [SSK, K3] to last 3 sts K2Tog, K1
Row 2: Knit
[Stuff head as you go.]
Repeat last two rows until there are 4 st on each needle, break yarn and pull through to BO.

Check body stuffing, this is a good time to stuff through the arm openings if needed.

Arms: (do twice)

Pick up and knit 15 sts along arm opening. Cont in ss until arm measures 1¼ “ (3cm), stuff arm tightly.

Row 1: [K3, K2TOG] to end
Row 2: Knit
Row 3: [K2, K2TOG] to end
Row 4: Knit
Row 5: [K1, K2TOG] to end
Row 6: [K2TOG] to end, break yarn, and pull thru to BO

Check head stuffing, you can adjust stuffing through the trunk opening if needed. This might be your last chance to adjust stuffing, so take advantage of it.

Trunk:

Pick up and knit 16 sts (8 for the top of the trunk, 8 for the bottom). This will allow you to knit in the curve of the trunk, so make sure that your needles are oriented horizontally. Knit 2 rows even.

Curve- working the needle holding the top of trunk sts, knit across the 8 sts, turn work, purl 8, turn and knit, continue onto needle holding bottom of trunk sts.

Repeat this 3 more times, to give the top of trunk more rows and curve downward. **Be sure to pull first st of each row tight, especially after a short row.**

Knit every row until trunk measures 3 “ Stuff trunk.

Decrease:

Row 1: [K3, K2TOG] to end (12 sts)

Knit every row for another 1”

-[K2TOG] to end (6 sts)

-[K2TOG] to end (3 sts) break yarn and pull thru to BO.

Ears: (make 2)

These are double knitted using magic loop so the front and the back look the same.

CO 8 sts (you can do this as you would for the toes, doing both at once), place marker.

Work every row starting and ending at the marker. There will be 4 sts per needle.

Row 1: Knit

Row 2: K1, M1, M1, K1 (6 sts/needle)

Row 3: K1, M1, K2, M1, K1 (8sts)

Row 4: Knit

Row 5: K1, M1, K1, M1, M1, K1, M1, K1 (12 sts)

Row 6: Knit

Row 7: K1, M1 [K2, M1] to last st, K1

Row 8: Knit (16 sts/needle)

Row 9: K1, M1, K2, M1, K6, M1, K2, M1, K1

Row 10: Knit (20 sts/needle)

Row 11: K1, M1, [K3, M1] the patient last 3 sts, K1, M1, K1

Row 12: Knit

Knit every row until Ear measures 3 ½ “ from CO edge. Begin decrease.

Row 1: K1, K2TOG, [K3, K2TOG] to last 3 sts, K1, K2TOG, K1

Row 2: Knit

Row 3: K1, K2TOG, K2, K2TOG, K6, K2TOG, K2, K2TOG, K1

Row 4: Knit

Row 5: K1, K2TOG [K2, K2TOG] to last st, K1

Row 6: Knit

Row 7: K1, K2TOG, K1, K2TOG, K2TOG, K1, K2TOG, K1

Row 8: Knit

Row 9: K1, K2TOG, K2, K2TOG, K1

Row 10: K1, K2TOG, K2TOG, K1

Row 11: Knit, break off yarn, and pull through to bind off.

Finishing:

Sew up the crotch, sew ears to head about ½ inch from the top of head, sew eyes weave in ends and you have an elephant!

Dress:

Using Pink yarn and Sz 1 42” needle, CO on 90sts (45 sts per needle). Join (be careful not to twist) and knit every row until piece measures 3 “. Next row, [K1, K2TOG] to end. At this point there should be 27 sts on each needle, 54 sts total. Work one row of pattern on one needle and then change needles and work row again on second needle.

Elephant Dress Chart:

Work one time.

□ =knit on the RS and purl on the WS

● =purl on the RS andknit on the WS

○ =yarn over

⊘ =slip 1, K2TOG, PSSO

⊙ =slip 1, knit 1, PSSO

⊚ =K2TOG

Non-Chart pattern:

Row 1: [P1, K1, P, K3, YO, Slip1, K2TOG, PSSO, K3] repeat once, last 3 sts, P1, K1, P1

Row 2: [K1, P1, K1, P9] repeat once, to last 3 sts, K1, P1, K1 –work this row for every following even row of the pattern finishing on row 8.

Row 3: [P1, K1, P1, K2, K2TOG, YO, K1, YO, SKP, K2] repeat once, last 3 sts P1, K1, P1

Row 5: [P1, K1, P1, K1, K2TOG, YO, K3, YO, SKP, K1] repeat once, last 3 sts P1, K1, P1

Row 7: [P1, K1, P1, K2TOG, YO, K5, YO,SKP, K1] repeat once, last 3 sts P1, K1, P1

Shoulder Decreases:

End in a WS row.

Work back and forth on each needle separately.

BO 6st, knit to end or row. Turn work.

BO 6sts purlwise, purl to end of row.

Work 3 more rows in ss ending in a RS row. Break yarn.

Move to back needle.

Repeat decrease as you did for the front, but at the last knit row do not break yarn – backward thumb CO 12 sts. Join with front and purl across row, backward thumb CO 12 sts, join and purl across row. Purl 2 more rows and bind off.

Finishing:

Weave in ends, lace ribbon through lace as desired and dress your Elephant.

For more Magic Loop help try...

http://www.knittinghelp.com/knitting/advanced_techniques/

<http://www.az.com/~andrade/knit/mloop.html>

<http://www.knitaddicted.com/html/185.html>

For Figure 8 cast on help try...

<http://www.knitty.com/issuewinter02/FEATtiptoptoes.html> (scroll down a bit)

http://www.purlwise.com/2004/06/figure_8_cast_o.html

For Short Row help try...

<http://www.sweaterscapes.com/shortrok.htm>

<http://www.dnt-inc.com/barhtmls/knit/shortrows.html>

http://alison.knitsmiths.us/shortrow_tutorial.html



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