

THE KNIT-FOR-NOWT WORRY CAT!

Kindly donated by Ruth Ogilvie-Brown

This is a variation on a “Worry Monster”, in that it has a deep pocket for the child to place worry papers in. Please ensure that your pocket is nice and deep so it could accommodate several pieces of paper.



What you need:

- Chunky yarn - use any colour of yarn. Can be knitted plain, striped, or a mixture of both. Cream or white looks good for the cat's muzzle and pink for the nose
- Size 5mm knitting needles
- Black embroidery thread for the whiskers
- Safety eyes look best if affordable, or you can use pieces of white and black felt. Please avoid using buttons for the eyes of the cat, as they don't look so authentic and also we want the cat to be super safe, thank you
- Stuffing – this must be approved for toys, and have a BS or CE marking on the packaging. Please note that for safety no other stuffings may be used

The body of the cat is knitted in two pieces: front and back.

Front of Cat

Cast on 24 stitches

First 4 rows: SS

Next Row: K1, KFB, Knit to last 2 stitches KFB, K1

Next Row: Purl

Repeat last two rows 4 times (34 stitches)

SS until work measures 8 inches, ending with a RS row facing

Next Row: K1, K2tog, Knit to last 3 stitches, K2tog, K1 (32 stitches)

Next Row: Purl

Repeat these two rows 5 times more (22 stitches)

SS two rows

Next Row: K1, KFB, Knit to last two stitches, KFB, K1 (24 sts)

Next Row: P1, PFB, purl to last 2 stitches, PFB, P1 (26 sts)

SS 2 rows

Next rows will make opening for mouth

Next Row: K6, cast off 14 sts, K6

Next Row: P6, cast on 14 sts, P6

SS 16 rows

Next Row: K1, K2tog, Knit to last 3 stitches, K2tog, K1 (24 sts)

Next Row: Purl

Next Row: K1, K2tog, Knit to last 3 stitches, K2tog, K1 (22 sts)

Next Row: P1, P2tog, Purl to last 3 stitches, P2tog, P1 (20 sts)

Next Row: (K2tog) to end of row (10 sts)

Next Row: Purl

Next Row: (K2tog) to end of row (5sts)

Cast off work.

Back of Cat

Cast on 24 stitches

First 4 rows: SS

Next Row: K1, KFB, Knit to last 2 stitches KFB, K1

Next Row: Purl

Repeat last two rows 4 times (34 stitches)

SS until work measures 8 inches, ending with a RS row facing

Next Row: K1, K2tog, Knit to last 3 stitches, K2tog, K1 (32 stitches)

Next Row: Purl

Repeat these two rows 5 times more (22 stitches)

SS two rows

Next Row: K1, KFB, Knit to last two stitches, KFB, K1 (24 sts)

Next Row: P1, PFB, purl to last 2 stitches, PFB, P1 (26 sts)

SS 20 rows

Next Row: K1, K2tog, Knit to last 3 stitches, K2tog, K1 (24 sts)

Next Row: Purl

Next Row: K1, K2tog, Knit to last 3 stitches, K2tog, K1 (22 sts)

Next Row: P1, P2tog, Purl to last 3 stitches, P2tog, P1 (20 sts)

Next Row: (K2tog) to end of row (10 sts)

Next Row: Purl

Next Row: (K2tog) to end of row (5sts)

Cast off work.

Make Mouth pocket

Cast on 14 stitches

Knit until work measures 12 inches

Cast off.

Sew the mouth pocket on to the top and bottom of the mouth opening. Sew the sides of the mouth piece to complete the pocket. Please ensure that there isn't a gap at the sides where stuffing could get through.

Cat's muzzle:

Make in two pieces

Cast on 4 stitches

Purl 1 row

Next row: kfb into every stitch (8 stitches)

Purl 1 row

SS 6 rows

Next row: (k2tog) to end of row (4 stitches)

Cut yarn and thread through remaining stitches and pull tight. Stuff and stitch. Should be oval shape.

Make another one the same.

Attach each half of the muzzle to the cat's face by sewing them on length-wise right above the opening to the cat's mouth.

Use black embroidery thread to embroider whiskers.

Use pink yarn to make a few stitches over the join between the two halves of the muzzle.

Nose

Cast on 4 stitches

Purl 1 row

KFB into every stitch (8)

Purl 1 row

SS 4 rows

Next row: (K2tog) to end (4 stitches)

Cut yarn and thread through remaining stitches. Stuff and pull gathers tightly and stitch.

Sew onto cat directly above the muzzle.

If using safety eyes, attach now before sewing and stuffing the cat. Placing the eyes close together, as in the picture, is very effective and gives the cat a lovely characterful look!

Join the front and back of the cat by using mattress stitch. Sew up the sides and top of head. Please ensure at this point that your stitches when sewing up are close together, because the yarn will be stretched when you've stuffed the cat, and there mustn't be any gaps where the stuffing could be pulled out by a small child.

Stuff firmly then sew up the bottom. **Please ensure that the stuffing you use is approved for toys and had a BS or CE marking on the packaging.**

Cat's arms/legs

Make 4 the same

Cast on 10 stitches

SS until work measures 6 inches, finishing with a right side facing

Next row: KFB into every stitch (20 stitches)

Next row: purl

SS 8 rows

Next row: (K2tog) to end of row (10 stitches)

Leave a long tail for sewing up. Cut yarn and thread through remaining stitches.

Sew up the seams using mattress stitch and stuff.

Optional: After stuffing, make the paws of the cat more realistic by putting a few stitches into each paw to divide it into sections.

Ears

Cast on 10 stitches

Knit 1 row

Purl 1 row

Next row: k2 tog, knit to last 2 stitches, k2tog

Next row: purl

Repeat last two rows twice (4 stitches)

Next row: k2tog twice (2 stitches)

Next row: purl

Next row: k2tog (1 stitch)

Fasten off.

Ear Linings

Using cream or a contrasting colour, cast on 8 stitches

Knit 1 row

Purl 1 row

Next row: k2 tog, knit to last 2 stitches, k2tog

Next row: purl

Repeat last two rows once (4 stitches)

Next row: k2tog twice (2 stitches)

Next row: purl

Next row: k2tog (1 stitch)

Fasten off.

Sew ear linings onto the ears before sewing the ears onto the cat.

Tail

Cast on 16 stitches

SS 4 rows

Next row: K4, K2tog, K4, k2tog, k4 (14 stitches)

Next row: purl

SS 12 rows

Next row: K3, k2 tog, K4, K2 tog, K3 (12 stitches)

Next row: purl

SS 12 rows

Next row: K2, K2tog, K4, K2tog, K2 (10 stitches)

Next row: purl

SS 12 rows

Next row: K2, K2tog, K2, K2tog, K2 (8 stitches)

Next row: purl

SS 24 rows

Cut yarn and thread through remaining stitches.

Begin sewing up the seam on the right side of work using mattress stitch, and stuff as you go, putting in some stuffing every couple of inches until the whole tail is sewn and stuffed. Attach to cat.