

Minty the Monkey and Aniseed the Ape

by Val



Minty and Aniseed use the same basic body pattern with the nice big mouth pocket. If you wish, you can change to a furry non shedding yarn for the last few rows of the head decrease to give your monkey a top knot, but that is entirely optional.

To make the simplest version of Minty you add the face mask, ears, eyes and nose and suggest the shaping of the upper jaw by adding a row of chain stitching or stem stitching as shown in the photograph of the monkey in the green striped jumper (see below at the end of the Minty Face section).

Minty has simple arms, legs and a tail and fan shaped ears.

To make Minty more realistic you can knit the shaped jaw which is a little bit fiddly to construct, but well worth the effort.

Aniseed has shaped arms and legs with fingers and toes. The pattern would suit a more experienced knitter who doesn't mind taking time over the sewing up.

There are two ear patterns to choose from.

I prefer not to use safety eyes for this pattern as they have to be inserted before the body is sewn and stuffed. The face is sewn to the stuffed body and felt eyes are added last to get the best expression.

You will, of course, choose your own colour scheme, but I have given Minty's measurements in terms of stripes for quick and easy counting as well as in figures, and have referred to my own colour scheme.

Materials

Minty's body, arms, legs, tail and ears were knitted in Aran weight yarn on 4mm needles. I used about 120g of red and 150g of cream.

Minty's facial features are made in DK on 3.75 needles, except the nose which I made on 3mm needles, but 3.50 or 3.75mm would also work. You need about 30g of DK yarn.

Aniseed's body, limbs hands and feet were knitted with 2 strands of DK on 4.50mm needles. His face and ear linings were knitted with single DK on 4 mm needles. I used about 200gms for body and limbs and another 100gms of a face coloured yarn for features and hands and feet.

Tension

It is important that no stuffing is accessible in your finished item as this would be a safety hazard.

Tension varies between yarn brands and weights and from knitter to knitter. Needle sizes are suggested in the pattern, but if you know you knit loosely, reduce your needle size to achieve a firm weave. As a rough guide use a needle a size smaller than that recommended for garment knitting on the ball band.

Abbreviations

C & T – cut and thread yarn leaving sewing tail, thread it through the remaining stitches

K – knit

P – purl

Ss – stocking stitch (1 row knit, 1 row purl)

K2tog – knit 2 stitches together

P2tog – purl 2 stitches together

K2togtbl – knit 2 stitches together through back of loops

P2togtbl – purl 2 stitches together through back of loops

sts – stitches

Kfb – increase one stitch by knitting into the front and back of the same stitch

m1 – make 1 by picking up the strand between one stitch and the next and knitting into the back of it

RS – right side of work

WS – wrong side of work

dec – decrease

inc – increase

Body for Minty and Aniseed

The body and head are knitted in one piece with the seam at the back. It can be knitted in either Aran weight yarn or two strands of DK. In the examples shown, Minty was made in Aran weight yarn on 4mm needles in stripes of two rows alternating red and white. Aniseed was made with two strands of DK on 4.5mm needles. Wherever colours are mentioned they refer to the striped pattern.

Starting at the base, beginning with a red row for Minty, cast on 51sts.

Ss 2 rows.

(k7, Kfb) 3 times, K3, (Kfb, K7) 3 times (57 sts).

Ss 3 rows.

(k8, Kfb) 3 times, K3, (Kfb, K8) 3 times (63sts).

Ss 3 rows.

(k9, Kfb) 3 times, K3, (Kfb, K9) 3 times (69sts).

Ss 3 rows.

(K 10, Kfb) 3 times, K3, (Kfb, K10) 3 times (75sts)

Continue until 10.5 inches, 34 stripes in total, have been worked, ending on a white stripe.

Cast off whole row in red.

With RS facing and mouth colour, pick up as follows for mouth pocket:

Leave 26 sts, pick up and knit centre 23sts, leave 26sts.

With WS facing K 1 row to form a ridge.

RS facing, starting with a K row, Ss pocket / mouth lining to 10" ending with a P row.

Leaving long tail for sewing pocket side, break off yarn.

With RS facing (red yarn for Minty):

Pick up and knit across first 26 cast off sts, K across 23 sts from pocket, pick up and knit last 26 cast off sts. (75 sts)

P25, P2tog, P21, P2tog, P 25 (73sts)

(Starting with a white stripe), Ss a further 13 stripes/ 3.75"
(48 stripes from cast on edge/ about 14")

Decrease for top of head.

K1,(K7, K2tog) 4 times, (K2tog, K7) 4 times (65sts)

Purl

K1, (K6, K2tog) 4 times, (K2tog, K6) 4 times (57sts)

Purl

K1, (K5, K2tog) 4 times, (K2tog, K5) 4 times (49sts)

Purl

K1, (K4, K2tog) 4 times, (K2tog, K4) 4 times (41sts)

Purl

K1, (K3, K2tog) 4 times,, (K2tog, K3) 4 times (33sts)

Purl

K1, (K2, K2tog) 4 times, (K2tog, K2) 4times (25sts)

Purl

K1, (K2tog) to end (13sts)

Purl

K1, (K2tog)to end (7sts)

Cut yarn leaving enough length to sew up, thread onto tapestry needle and pass needle through stitches (hereafter called C&T), draw up tightly and fasten off.

To make up Minty and Aniseed body

Fold mouth pocket in half, RS together, and sew up the sides. Put the body face down, smooth the mouth pocket to make sure it is lying flat, then stitch the bottom of the pocket to the underside of the body making sure none of the stitching shows at the front of the work.

Beginning at the top of the head and using mattress stitch, sew up the centre back seam. Stuff firmly, but do not overstuff. With seam centre back sew one half of bottom seam. Top up stuffing at bottom corner to give a firm base for attaching legs. Sew second half of seam, making sure the other corner is also well padded.

Minty the Monkey



Minty the Monkey Legs

In red Aran weight yarn and on 4mm needles cast on 24 sts.

Work in two row stripes, 2 rows red, 2 rows white.

Work 35 stripes, approx 12 inches.

In white Ss 2 rows
Next row: K6, (Kfb, K1) to last 6 sts, K6 (30sts)
Next row: P
Repeat last 2rows, (39 sts)
Ss 4 rows
K17, K2togtbl, K1, K2tog, K17 (37sts)
P16, P2tog, P1, P2togtbl, P16
Cast off

Fold leg in half lengthways, wrong sides together and sew up base of foot and back seam using mattress stitch, stuffing as you go. Do not overstuff to keep leg flexible. Mattress stitch to base of body with seam at back. I usually sew all round twice.

Minty the Monkey Arms

Cast on 22sts
Knit in stripes as for legs. Work 33 stripes. (about 27cms)
Change to white for hand. Ss 4rows.
Next row: (K1,Kfb)3 times, K to last 6sts, (Kfb, K1)3 times (28sts)
Next row: P
Repeat last 2rows (34sts)
Ss 2 rows
Cast off 4sts at beg of next 2 rows (26sts)
(k1, K2togtbl) 2 times, K to last 6 sts, (K2tog, K1) twice (22sts)
Next row: P
Repeat last two rows until 10sts remain
Cast off on K row

Make up as for legs. Attach to sides of body about 8 sts from corner of mouth and with arm seam 4 stripes down from cast off between body and head. Mattress stitch all round arm twice.

Minty the Monkey Tail

Cast on 18sts
Work 40 stripes (about 32 cms)
In white only, Ss 2rows
Next row: K1, (K2tog, K2) to las st, K1 (14sts)

Next row: P

Next row: K1, (K2tog, K1) to last st, K1 (10sts)

Next row: P

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

C & T. Leave a long thread for sewing up.

Mattress stitch seam stuffing lightly as you go.

Sit monkey on a flat surface and pin across centre back seam to mark point where base of tail should join (probably about 5 stripes up from base seam). Attach securely. (Monkeys have been known to have been swung around by their tails)

Minty the Monkey Ears

In red, cast on 9 sts

Starting with a P row, Ss 3 rows

Next row: Kfb in every st (18sts)

Next row: P

Next row: (K1, Kfb) to end (27sts)

Ss 3 rows

K 2 rows

P 1row. Cut red yarn leaving long tail

Join white. P 1row

(K1,K2tog) to end (18sts)

Ss 3 rows

(k2tog) to end (9sts)

P 1 row

(K2tog) twice, K1, (K2tog) twice (5sts)

Cast off purlwise.

Fold ear so cast on and cast off edges meet. Using long tail, sew back of ear to front so the red edge slightly overlaps the white.

Sew in a slight curve to sides of head so that base and top of ear are in line with arm seam, starting two stripes up from head/body join. Ears will span 10/11 stripes.

Minty the Monkey Face

All parts of the face, except the nose which is made on finer needles, are made in DK yarn on 3.75mm or 4mm needles.

Face: cast on 30 sts.

Ss 4 rows

Next row: K1, m1(by picking up the bar between the first stitch and the next and knitting into the back of it). K to last st. m1. K1

Next row: P

Repeat these two rows 3 more times (38sts)

Ss until work measures 6cms

Next row: K2togtbl, K to last 2 sts, K2tog

Next row: P

Repeat these two rows twice more (32sts)

Next row: K2togtbl, (K4, K2togtbl) twice, (K4, K2tog) three times (26sts)

Next row: P

Next row: K2togtbl, (K3, K2togtbl) twice, K2, (K2tog, K3) twice, K2tog (20sts)

Next row: P

Next row: K2togtbl, (K2, K2togtbl) twice, (K2tog, K2) twice, K2tog (14sts)

Next row: P

Next row: K2togtbl , (K1, K2togtbl) twice, (K1, K2tog) twice (9 sts)

Next row: (P2tog) twice, P1, (P2tog tbl) twice (5sts)

Cast off.

Pin the face to the monkey with the cast on edge along the edge of the stripe where the back of the mouth pocket and head joined.

Match the centre of the face shaping to the centre of the head shaping, then smooth out and pin around the sides. Try to get an even curve on each side of the forehead. Use mattress stitch to sew the face to the head. Leave the mouth edge to last, then if you wish you can create a contoured brow by pushing a little roll of stuffing up along the very top edge between the head and the face.

If you are not making the shaped jaw use matching yarn to work a muzzle outline as illustrated and stuff lightly below stitching before closing the mouth edge.



Minty the Monkey Upper and lower palate: (make 2)

In colour for inside of mouth, cast on 80sts.

Row 1: P

Row 2: (K8, K2tog) to end of row. (72sts)

Row 3: (P2tog, P7) to end of row. (64sts)

Row 4: (K6, K2tog) to end of row. (56sts)

Row 5: (P2tog, P5) to end of row. (48 sts)

Row 6: (K4, K2tog) to end of row. (40 sts)

Row 7: (P2tog, P3) to end of row. (32sts)

Row 8: (K2, K2tog) to end of row. (24sts)

Row 9: (P2tog, P1) to end of row. (16sts)

Row 10: (K2tog) to end of row. (8sts)

Row 11: (P2tog) to end of row. (4sts)

C & T leaving long tail for sewing. Pull tight and sew side seam.
Fold in half, WS tog, and sew round outer edge

Minty the Monkey Upper muzzle

In face colour, cast on 80 sts.

Rows 1 -4: Ss

Row 5: (K8, K2tog) to end of row ,(72sts)

Row 6: and every following alternate row, P

Row 8: (K7 K2tog) to end of row, (64sts)

Row 10: (K6, K2tog) to end of row. (56sts)

Row 12: (K5, K2tog) to end of row. (48sts)

Row 14: (K4, K2tog) to end of row. (40sts)

Row 16: (K3, K2tog) to end of row. (32sts)

Row 18: (K2, K2tog) to end of row. (24sts)

Row 20: (K1, K2tog) to end of row. (16sts)

Row 22: (K2tog) to end of row. (8sts)

Row 23: P

Cast off

Fold in half with WS tog. (there will be 4 cast off sts either side of the fold). Sew side seam and around outer edge.

Minty the Monkey Lower muzzle

In face colour, cast on 80 sts

Ss 2 rows, then follow instructions for upper muzzle from Row 5

Minty the Monkey Making up muzzle

Place one palate piece on top of one muzzle piece WS tog, matching the curved edges. Pin together so that decreasing spines match. Sew curved edges together neatly using basketball stitch. Leave other edge open.

Sew straight open edge of palate to edge of mouth pocket, easing to fit. For the lower lip this will be the edge where you began the mouth pocket, and for the upper lip the row below where the face meets the mouth pocket.

Stuff the upper muzzle lightly, then measure 4.5cms up from the centre of the mouth opening and mark with a pin to indicate where

the centre of the muzzle will be attached to the face. Make sure the centre point of the muzzle lines up with centre point of face and head. Pin the rest of the open muzzle edge to the body in a curve to meet the mouth at the corners. Mattress stitch to head, adjusting stuffing as necessary. Make sure you have removed the marker pin as well as the other pins.

Repeat process for lower muzzle, but measure 3.5 cms down from mouth edge. Make sure centre point of muzzle lines up with centre of face and centre of head. Complete as for upper muzzle.

Minty the Monkey Nose

You need to make 2 nostril pieces and sew them together side by side to make the nose.

In face colour and on 3mm or 3.25mm needles, cast on 20 sts

Row 1: P

Row 2: (K2tog) to end (10sts)

Row 3: P

Row 4: (K2tog) to end (5sts)

C & T

Fold each nostril piece in half WS tog and sew round edges, then fold in half again (cast on and cast off tails together) and sew along bottom edge. Hold the two nostrils together, facing the same way and stitch all the way round the touching edges and up the centre front without catching the nostrils closed. (Yes, I know. It's fiddly).

Sew the nose to the centre of the upper muzzle two rows from the top seam.

Minty the Monkey Eyes

We all have our own preferred way to make eyes. Mine were made from circles of white and brown felt. A 2p piece for white and a 5p piece for brown are about the right size. I use small black buttons with 4 holes for the pupils. Experiment to get the best placing for the iris and the pupil. The placing of the eyes will decide the personality of the monkey. If you centre the iris and pupil the eye will stare and look threatening. Both eyes looking outwards or upwards are also disconcerting. Place the iris towards the bottom and slightly to one side of the white, and the same with the

pupil. You can either make the monkey very slightly cross eyed to make it look at you with a quirky expression, or make both eyes look down and very slightly to one side to look mischievous.

Using matching sewing thread, neatly stitch the iris to the white. Using white sewing thread (to give a highlight and bring the eyes to life) sew the button (pupil) very firmly to the eye, and the eye in place on the face just above the muzzle.

Aniseed the Ape



Follow the pattern for Minty to make body, face, upper and lower jaw (muzzle) and palate and nose. Aniseed does not have a tail.

Tip:

If you are knitting with two strands of DK you can replace the Kfb increase by knitting once into each strand of a single stitch.

If you find K2togtbl at the beginning of a row tricky, begin the stitch as usual as far as the yarn over, then allow both stitches to slip on to the RH needle and slip them off one at a time.

Aniseed the Ape Legs

With 2 strands of DK on 4.5mm needles, cast on 36 sts.

Ss 4 rows

(K2, K2tog, K2) repeat to end (30sts)

Ss 5 rows

(K1, K2tog, K2), repeat to end (24sts)

Ss to 5 inches

Knee

K2togtbl, K1, K2tog, K4, (Kfb) 6 times, K4, K2tog, K1, K2togtbl (26sts)

Ss 5 rows

K7, (K2togtbl) 3 times, (K2tog) 3 times, K7 (20 sts).

Ss 13 rows

K7, K2togtbl, K2, K2tog, K7.(18sts)

Ss to 10.5 inches from cast on

Ankle

K1, (K2tog, K2) twice, (K2, K2tog) twice, K1 (14sts)

P 1 row

Cast off.

Aniseed the Ape Arms

Cast on 32 sts

Ss 4 rows

K1, (K2, K2tog, K2) 5 times, K1 (27sts)

Ss 5 rows.

K 1, (K1, K2tog, K2) 5 times K1 (22sts)

Ss until arm measures 5 inches

Elbow

(K2tog) twice, K4, (Kfb) 6 times, K4, (K2tog) twice (24sts)

Ss 5 rows

K6, (K2togtbl) 3 times, (K2tog) 3 times, K6 (18sts)

Ss 13 rows

K 1, (K1, K2tog, K1) 4 times, K 1 (14sts)

Ss 13 rows

Cast off

Aniseed the Ape Feet

With 2 strands of DK in your chosen ape skin tone and on 4.5mm needles
Cast on 14 sts for heel.

Ss 2 rows

(Kfb, K4, Kfb, K1) twice (18sts)

Ss 11 rows

Big toe

Cast on 8 sts at beg of next 2 rows (34sts)

Ss 2 rows

Cast off 7 sts at beg of next 2 rows (20 sts)

Dec 1 st at each end of next row.

P 1 row

***Fingers/toes**

K2, Kfb, (K1, Kfb) twice, K3, Kfb (15 sts. You still have 7 on the LH needle)

Turn

P 6, turn, and on these sts only Ss 6 rows.

C & T leaving tail for sewing, pull tight and sew side seam of little finger/toe. Do not finish off or break yarn yet.

With RS facing (9 sts on RH and 7 on LH needle)

****Join yarn to 1st stitch on LH needle, K1, Kfb (3sts) turn**

P 6, turn.

Ss 8 rows

C & T, pull tight and sew finger/toe seam.

Go back to join between the first two digits. Pull all yarn ends tight and tie together firmly. If there is still a hole, close it with a stitch or two. Leave the loose ends of yarn inside the foot/ hand as stuffing.**

Repeat from **** to **** to make 3rd finger/toe.

Join yarn to 1st stitch on LH needle and k last 3 sts

Turn, P 6

Ss 8 rows

Cut yarn leaving enough to sew up finger/ toe seam, around thumb/ big toe and side of foot/ hand. Sew as far as base of finger/toe. Tie off ends and make sure there are no holes between digits before sewing around thumb/ big toe seam and side of hand/foot. Tuck all tied off sewing ends inside hand or foot. Fingers and toes are not stuffed. A very little stuffing may be added to the foot or hand, but they should be very nearly flat.

Aniseed the Ape Hands

Cast on 14 sts

Starting with a P row, Ss 5 rows.

Cast on 8 sts at beg of next 2 rows for thumb (30 sts)

Ss 2 rows

Cast off 6 sts at beg of next 2 rows. (18sts)

Ss 6 rows

Work from * on foot pattern to make fingers.

Aniseed the Ape Making up arms

The arm seam runs along the centre front of the forearm. It is joined with mattress stitch. At the wrist complete the first few stitches only of the arm seam before joining the hand to the arm.

Remember that you need a right arm and a left arm. Arms and hands are identical. Turn the hand over to change the thumb from left to right. The arm seam will meet the centre edge of the palm with the thumb pointing outwards.

Join the hand to the arm with mattress stitch.

Complete the arm seam, stuffing as you go. Push the stuffing into the back of the elbow and hold the arm bent as you stuff the upper arm.

Repeat whole process for the other arm making sure the thumb points the other way.

When joining the arms to the body remember thumbs point forwards and upwards. Sit the ape on your knee with its back to you to check against your own that the arms are placed correctly. The centre top of the arm will be two rows below the neckline and about 8 or 9 stitches from the corner of the mouth.

Aniseed the Ape Making up the legs and feet.

The process is the same as making up the arms. Big toes go on the inside edge. Leg seam is centre back and joins the foot at the centre of the heel.

Aniseed the Ape Alternate ear pattern

You can use the pattern for Minty's ears, or for an ear that fits closer to the head, use the pattern below. Make 2 outer ears in one colour and 2 inner ears in your chosen skin colour. The ears are not symmetrical so the

pattern is reversed to make a left and a right ear. Inners and outers are paired WS together, so the right ear will be lined with a left inner, and the left ear with the right inner. It's a good plan to complete and attach one ear at a time to avoid muddling the pieces.

Aniseed the Ape Right inner ear

In DK on 4 mm needles and flesh colour

Cast on 8 sts for lower edge.

Row 1 : K

Row 2 and every following alternate row: P

Row 3: K2, Kfb, K1, Kfb, K3 (10 sts)

Row 5: K 3, SKPO (slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over), K2tog, K3 (8 sts)

Row 7: K 2, Kfb, K1, Kfb, K3 (10 sts)

Row 9: K3, Kfb, K1, Kfb, K4 (12sts)

Row 11: K4, Kfb, K1, Kfb, K5 (14 sts)

Row 13: K

Row 15: K1, (K2tog, K2, SKPO) twice, K1 (10 sts)

Row 17: K5, (K2tog) twice, K1 (8sts)

Row 19: K3, (K2tog) twice, K1. (6 sts)

Row 21: K1, (K2tog) twice, K1 (4 sts)

Cast off purlwise.

To make a **right outer ear**: use the left inner ear pattern **but** cast on 10 sts and **add one stitch to each end of every row of the pattern so that the stitch count for each row will be 2 extra until Row 22, then**

Row 22: P (6sts)

Row 23: K1, K2tog, K3 (5 sts)

Cast off purlwise.

Aniseed the Ape Left inner ear

Cast on 8sts

Row 1: K

Row 2 and every following alternate row: P

Row 3: K 3, Kfb, K1, Kfb, K2 (10sts)

Row 5: K 3, SKPO, K2tog, K3 (8sts)

Row 7: K3, Kfb, K1, Kfb, K2 (10sts)

Row 9: K4, Kfb, K1, Kfb, K3 (12sts)
Row 11: K5, Kfb, K1, Kfb, K4 (14sts)
Row 13: K
Row 15: K1, (K2tog, K2, SKPO) twice, K1 (10sts)
Row 17: K1, (K2tog) twice, K5 (8sts)
Row 19: K1, (K2tog) twice, K3 (6sts)
Row 21: K1, (K2tog) twice, K1 (4sts)
Cast off purlwise for inner ear
For outer ear: Row 22: P (6sts)
Row 23: K3, K2tog, K1
Cast off purlwise

Stitch an inner ear to an outer ear, wrong sides together. There should be a one stitch rim of outer ear to show all round. Stitch the ear to the head about 3 stitches from the edge of the face following the cheek curve of the face mask. Stitch both front and back of ear to head.

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