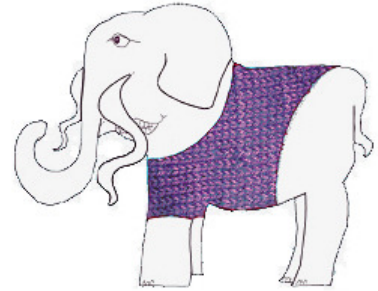


woolly mammoth knits

designs and patterns by Linda Wilgus



Little Whale Baby Booties

by Linda Wilgus



We are expecting our first little one in June '09 and one of the perks of being pregnant is of course having the best reason ever for knitting lots of sweet tiny baby things. With this in mind, I designed this baby hat and booties set. The hat has a wide ribbed band in a contrasting color to the top, and the booties have a ribbed top in a contrasting color, as well as a drawstring to keep them from slipping off. The hat also features a simple embroidered picture of a whale, courtesy of my husband who made a sweet drawing for me to work from, which inspired the name of the patterns: "little whale baby hat" and "little whale baby booties".

This is the pattern for the baby booties. The pattern for the hat is available for free on my website as well.

These booties are knit from the top down, with a heel that's turned but (and I realize this is doing things a bit differently) without a proper gusset at the instep. Instead of

picking up stitches and knitting them at this point to create the gusset, this pattern will allow you to just continue without doing so, starting with the foot right away and keeping things very simple and easy for such a tiny project. The loose, holey-looking stitches that will appear on the sides at the point will be sewn shut at the end, with one of the yarn ends. This creates the half-round stitched look that you can see in the last picture in this pattern. If, however, you prefer working a proper gusset and foregoing the sewing part, you can do this, too, of course :-)

If you have any questions, please contact me at linda.wilgus@yahoo.com.



SIZE

one size: baby/newborn

YARN USED FOR BOOTIES SHOWN IN PICTURES

MC: Sirdar Snuggly Baby Bamboo DK [80% bamboo, 20% wool; 105 yd/96 m per 50g skein]; color: Happy (145)

CC: NaturallyCaron.com Spa [75% acrylic, 25% bamboo; 251 yd/230 m per 3 oz/ 85g skein]; color: Ocean Spray (0005)

MATERIALS NEEDED

2 skeins of 50 g. DK weight yarn, with similar yardage to the yarns used for the hat pictured.

(These 2 skeins will be enough to make both the booties and the hat shown in the pictures. The hat pattern is available for free on my website as well).

1 set US #5/3.75mm double pointed needles or size needed to obtain gauge

1 stitch marker, 1 stitch holder, darning needle or size needed to obtain gauge

GAUGE

20 sts/24 rows = 4" in stockinette stitch

PATTERN NOTES

Worked from the top down, these little booties do not have a regular sock-style gusset and the instep. After turning the heel, you continue directly with the foot of the bootie. This will result in a row of very loose, "holey" stitches where the heel turns into the foot. Don't worry about these; they will be sewn shut when weaving in the yarn ends at the end. This will create the half-round line of stitches that can be seen in this picture:



PATTERN

Using CC, CO 24 sts and divide them across three needles. Place marker and join after the first row.

Work in 1 x 1 rib for 1 inch

Change to MC. Work in st st for 1 inch

Turning the heel

Place 6 sts on a stitch holder and put the remaining 18 sts on 1 needle

Next: beginning with a WS row, purl across these 18 sts

Turn work. Knit across these 18 sts

Turn work. Purl to last 1 st before end of row

Turn again. Knit to last 1 st before end of row.

Turn. Purl to last 2 sts before end of row

Turn. Knit to last 2 sts before end of row

Turn. Purl to last 3 sts before end of row

Turn. Knit to last 3 sts before end of row

Turn. Purl to last 4 sts before end of row

Turn. Knit to last 4 sts before end of row

Turn. Purl to last 5 sts before end of row
Turn. Knit to last 5 sts before end of row
Turn. Purl to last 6 sts before end of row
Turn. Knit to last 6 sts before end of row

Distribute sts over 2 needles. Place 6 sts from stitch holder on 3rd needle. Place marker to remember where the row begins.

Knit across all sts. These sts will be very loose and will look “holey” once you continue. As mentioned before, however, the sts in this row will be “sewn shut” when weaving in the yarn ends at the end.

Work in st st for 1.5 inches

Next row (dec row): [k2, k2tog] rep to end ---18 sts on needle

Next row (dec row): [k1, k2tog] rep to end ---12 sts on needle

Next row (dec row): [k2tog] rep to end ---6 sts on needle

Cut the yarn, leaving a long tail. With darning needle, thread tail through the remaining 6 sts and slide them off the needles. Pull tight, closing the toe of the bootie.

FINISHING

Using the yarn tail that closed the toe of the bootie, weave yarn towards the beginning of the row of “loose” or “open” stitches where the heel and foot of the bootie join. Use the same technique as you would when weaving in yarn ends to get the yarn there. When at the beginning of this row of loose stitches, weave the yarn through the purl bump above the first loose stitch, and then through the purl bump below it. Next do the same for the next loose stitch. Continue weaving like this until you’ve got all loose stitches in the row covered, now slowly pull them tight. This will create the stitched or “sewn” look at the instep as shown in the picture above. Weave in just a little more of this strand of yarn using your regular technique for weaving in yarn ends and cut it. Next weave in the other yarn ends.

Drawstring with bow

Using CC, cut a piece of yarn long enough to go around the top of the bootie, with enough left for you to be able to tie it into a bow at the front. With the darning needle, thread this strand of yarn through the stitches at the last row of 1 x 1 rib. Tie a little bow at the front.

Block bootie if desired. That’s it! Now all you have to do is repeat the pattern for the second bootie.

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