

Teddies for Tragedies Knitting Pattern

Where is your teddy going?

Know where your teddy/teddies are going before you start knitting. The website or collectors cannot automatically take everyone's teddies. If you were not asked to knit them for a specific appeal yet still want to knit them, it's possible to find a need for them local to you. For ideas on how to do that contact the website. Please do not rely on someone else, to get your teddies to children. Knitting teddies is just the beginning; a lot of time, effort and money is needed before your teddy will be loved by a child.

You will need: double knitting wool

main colour for head and paws

trouser colour

jumper colour

scarf colour

size 10 (3 1/4) needles (NB smaller needle than usual for double-knitting wool)

Cast on 10 stitches in main colour. Knit 10 rows. Change to trouser colour and knit 30 rows. Measure the length of the leg if it's 3 1/2 " then you'll knit a perfect teddy if it's more/less adjust your needle size.

Knit another leg Then knit across all 20 stitches and work a further 15 rows.

Change to jumper colour and knit 24 rows.

Change to main colour and stocking stitch (one row knit one row purl) for 5 1/2 " (14 cm)

Change to jumper colour and continue to knit teddy in the reverse order.

Stitch the sides of the head

Make arms: with jumper colour pick up 8 stitches each side of the neck join (16 stitches). Knit 20 rows then change to main colour and knit 10 rows for paws, repeat for the other arm.

Scarf: Cast on 75 stitches, knit 4 rows. Cast off loosely.

Weave in all loose ends and sew up the teddy leaving an opening in the crotch for stuffing. Sew across the top corners of the head to make ears before stuffing. Stuff your teddy with clean, new polyester stuffing (BS1425 or BS5852). Run a thread through the knitting and draw it in to make a neck, knot the ends and weave the in the excess. Embroider a smiley face. Use small stitches, (back-stitch and stem-stitch) and ensure all the ends are firmly finished. Sew the scarf to the back of the neck of the teddy so it won't get lost, but only at the back to increase the possibilities for play.

Check List

1. Teddies should be approximately 10" tall. To check tension, measure the first leg, if it's 3 1/2" then teddy will be the right size, if not, adjust your needle size.
2. Please adhere to the pattern, as we do like the teddies to be the same to avoid jealousy, i.e. no added hat, skirts, bags etc. Stripes are OK particularly when using up duller colours.
3. When drawing in the neck please weave wool through the knitting, starting at the centre back. Knot the ends together. Do not wind surplus wool round the neck as a child could put their fingers underneath it and break it and perhaps pull the wool out and choke on it.
4. Leave the scarf free at the front so child can tie and untie it. Do not use ribbon round the neck.
5. Please embroider mouth in stem stitch or backstitch so that the child cannot pull it out.
6. Stuff fairly firmly. With the amount of play the teddy gets, if there is not enough stuffing, it could be shaken down to one end.
7. Don't put teddy in the bag, all teddies have to be checked and this saves time.

Make a simple drawstring bag

The bag should be big enough for a teddy (12 - 13" long and 9 - 10" wide). Turn over and stitch a casing at the top; leave a gap in the stitching for the drawstring. Use only one drawstring. Twisted yarn drawstrings made from oddments of yarn are cheap/free and effective. There are instructions on the website:
www.teddiesfortragedies.org.uk