

POLAR BEAR FELTED PUPPET

by Susan Prince

May 2012

This is an easy project - starts out like a hat or a sock ... knitting in the round.

Yarn - Icelandic plotulopi, 1 cake in white, knit double. (You'll use about half of the cake.) 14 yards or so of plotulopi - or any other feltable wool, knit double - in black, for the nose. 14 yards or so of plotulopi - or any other feltable wool, knit double - in red or pink, for the tongue. 2 glass eyes - any color.

Tools - US size 10; Crochet hook G; Chibi or similar large darning needle; scissors, 2 yds waste yarn.

Cast on 50 stitches in white plotulopi, doubled, on a circular needle. Join & knit 4 rows - garter stitch. Switch to stockinette, knit about 7 in.

Drop working yarn and use waste yarn to knit half of the live stitches, as if for an afterthought sock heel. (See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Wvvc1AfgpU> for demo on how to do this.) Move stitches in waste yarn back to left needle and knit over them with working yarn, for the top of the bear's head.

Knit 5 rows in stockinette. Decrease by half, K2t, until you have 25 stitches. Knit 10 rows.



Decrease row - *K 2, K2t* - you'll end up with about 17 stitches.

Knit 3 rows.

Final decrease row - K2t all the way around. Break off the yarn, leaving a 6" to 8" tail. Thread one of your Chibi needles and draw the yarn through the remaining live stitches, to close the bear's nose.

Go back to waste yarn row. Pick up live stitches - 50 total. Repeat from ***** and finish lower jaw.

Thread Chibi with black plotulopi, doubled, and loosely sew bear's triangular nose on top of head.

Use crochet hook - size G or so - with doubled white plotulopi to crochet 2 ears on top of head. Determine placement by looking at polar bear pictures. Then use Wool of the Andes - or any other feltable red/pink wool, doubled, to crochet a tongue slightly below the middle of the bear's mouth.



Toss the bear in the washing machine once or twice, until it's felted to the size you want. Let it dry. Sew on eyes.

I cut a **tiny** hole in each side and pushed the wire loop at the back of the eye through the puppet's head, and secured the eye from the inside. That fixes the eyes flush to the bear's head.

All done!