

Rudolph, that Reindeer!

A pattern by Judith Baser

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Height, top of dinky antlers to cute hooves: Approx 5½ins/14cm, body approx. 2½ins/7cm tall

Gauge is not vital in this project, as long as your knitting produces a good firm fabric which will contain the stuffing. If you normally knit quite loosely, you might like to use a smaller needle.

- Materials:** 10-15gm DK yarn, reindeer coloured
Small amounts (1-4 yds/metres will be plenty) of DK yarn in:
- Bright red nose colour
 - Antler colour
 - Black, to embroider features.
- Good handful of toy stuffing
1 Set of 4 double-pointed needles, size 3mm (2.5 US)
Tapestry Needle

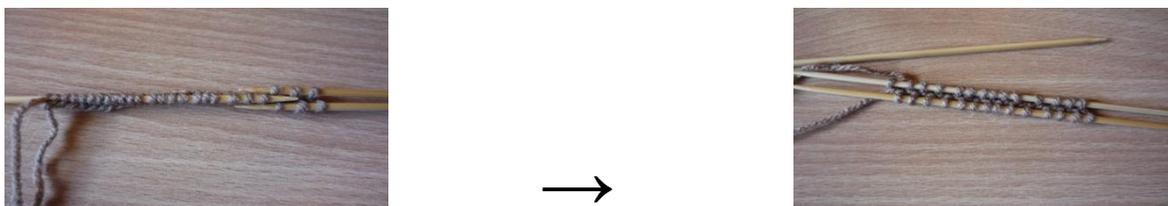
Abbreviations:

st/sts	= stitch / stitches
K	= Knit
Kfb	= Knit into front and back of stitch
K2tog	= Knit 2 together
K3tog	= Knit 3 together
dpn	= double-pointed needle(s)
MC	= Main reindeer-coloured yarn

Body

The body is a little fat tube formed out of 28 stitches x 20 rows stocking stitch, with seams at the top and bottom which need to be at right-angles to each other. When you look down on the finished body from the top or antler end, if you imagine a compass, the bottom seam will run west to east, and the top seam will run north to south. (I'm told this is mathematically a tetrahedron, 4 triangles stuck together, if that's any help!) There are several ways of producing this; my favourite, with no seam-sewing involved, is given first, with alternative possibilities given after.

Using MC, cast on 28 sts onto 1 dpn. I use a thumb or long-tail cast on, but any should work. Hold that dpn in one hand, and hold 2 other dpns parallel to each other in the other hand, and carefully take stitches alternately onto each of these until you have 14 sts on each dpn.



Begin to work in the round, knitting all stitches.

Round 1: This first row is a bit fiddly, but once you've done it, it gets much easier.

K 7 sts onto dpn 1, then 7 sts onto dpn 2, and finally the remaining 14 sts onto dpn 3.



The point between the 2 groups of 7 sts will become Rudolph's nose.

Knit 19 complete rounds.

Knit 7 sts of the next round.

Pause here and rearrange the group of 14 sts on dpn 3, putting 7 of the sts onto dpn 2 and 7 sts onto dpn 1. You should now be back to 14 sts on each of dpns 1 and 2. Hold these parallel to each other, and begin to work a 3-needle cast off:

Knit one stitch from each needle together, then knit the next stitch from each needle together, slip 1st st on right hand needle over the 2nd stitch. Continue casting off in this way, making the top seam as you go, until you're about half-way along. Push the stuffing inside through the remaining gap, then continue with the 3-needle cast off until you have 1 st left, cut the yarn, thread the tail through the final st and pull tight. This will be the top of Rudolph's head. Sew in the cast-on tail, and cut off, but leave the cast-off tail to use in attaching the antlers.

Alternative possibilities:

You could knit the body as a rectangle in stocking stitch, one row knit, one row purl, then sew it together, sides first, then bottom and top, ensuring that these seams run at right angles to each other.

You could begin with a provisional cast-on, knit in the round and cast off as described above, then graft the cast-on edges together, again ensuring that the seam runs at right-angles to the cast off seam.

You could begin with a cast on method used in some socks knitted from the toe up, and complete as above.

A search on the internet will give you more detailed information on these alternatives.

Rudolph's antlers, ears and legs

All of these can either be knitted separately as given in the directions below and then sewn on, or you can pick up stitches in the appropriate areas of his body and knit the parts directly into place.

Antlers (knit 1)

Using the antler coloured yarn, cast on 4 sts, then K 1 row.

Next 2 rows: Cast on 5 sts, cast off 5 sts, knit to end

Next 2 rows: Cast on 6 sts, cast off 6 sts, knit to end.

Next row: Cast on 7 sts, cast off 7 sts, knit to end.

Next row: Cast on 7 sts, cast off all sts.

Sew in the cast-off tail, then sew the cast on edge of the antlers along the top seam of Rudolph's head near the body cast off tail, so they are sideways on. Twist them so they face forward and sew them into place, using the body cast-off tail to help tidy up the join, and ensure they are firmly held in the right place and orientation.

Ears (knit 2)

Using the MC yarn, cast on 3 sts. K 2 rows.

Next row: Kfb, Kfb, K1

Knit 3 rows

Next row: K1, K2tog, K to end.

Next row: K1, K2tog, K to end.

Next row: K3tog. Cut yarn, thread tail through final st and pull tight.

Sew in the cast-off tail, then use the cast-on tail to sew the ears into place under Rudolph's antlers.

Legs (knit 4)

Using MC yarn, cast on 4 sts.

Knit 10 rows of i-cord. (i-cord: Instead of knitting in the usual way, once you've finished the row, don't turn the needle, but slide the sts to the opposite end of the dpn, pull the yarn firmly across the back of the knitting to the other end and knit the next row. This will form a thin tube of knitting).

Switch to normal knitting and knit two rows.

Next row: Kfb, K1, Kfb, K1.

Knit 3 rows, then cast off.

Sew in the cast off tail, then use the cast-on tail to sew the limb into place.

Nose (just one needed!)

Using red yarn, and leaving a longish tail, cast on 3 sts and K 2 rows.

Next row: Kfb, Kfb, K1.

K 3 rows.

Next row: K2, Kfb, K2.

K 3 rows

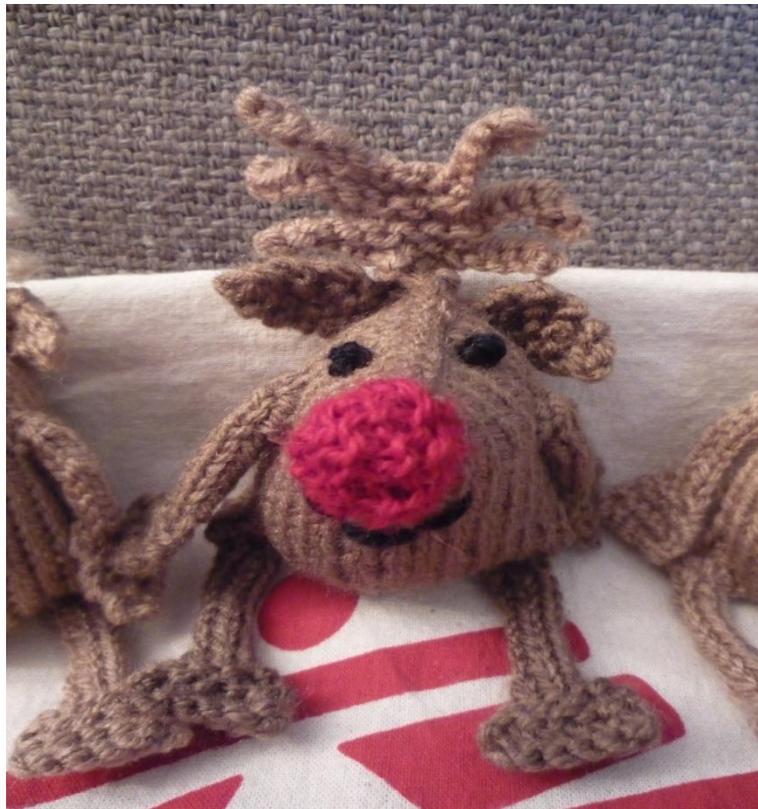
Next 2 rows: K1, K2tog, K to end.

Next row: K1, K2tog, K1.
K 1 row, then cast off.

Thread the cast-on tail into a needle, run it through the row end st 'bumps' all around the edge, then pull gently, gathering the nose into a bowl shape. Stuff the cast-off tail into this, then sew it onto Rudolph's face, covering the pointy end of the top body seam.

Face

Thread a needle with a length of black yarn (approx. 10-12ins/25-30cm should be ample) and knot the end. Give Rudolph a spot of serious acupuncture by going in through the back of his head, burying the knot in his stuffing, and bringing the needle out where you want the first eye to be. Make a French knot here, and as you make the stitch, bring the needle out on the opposite side of his head where you want eye number 2 to be. Make this with a second French knot, this time bringing the needle out under his nose, slightly to one side. Embroider his smile with three large-ish backstitches, then take the yarn back through his head and out the back, knotting it and again allowing the knot to bury itself in the stuffing.



Sit back, swoon at the outrageous cuteness of your creation and feel happy! Make several Rudolfs and give them to others who appreciate outrageous cuteness – spread the happiness!

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Thank you!