



## Willows Cat



### MATERIALS

- 50g DK white
- 50g DK contrasting colour (A)
- Oddments of DK brown
- 3mm (no 11) needles
- Tapestry and sewing needles
- Scissors
- Scraps of felt for eyes and nose (safer than plastic eyes or buttons)
- Washable polyester stuffing

### ABBREVIATIONS

**beg** = begin / beginning

**cm** = centimetre(s)

**cont** = continue / continuing

**dec** = decrease / decreasing

**fol** = follow / following

**inc** – increase / increasing

**k** = knit

**M1** = pick up the bar between the stitch just worked and the next stitch on the left-hand needle and knit into the back of it

**skpo** – slip one, knit one, pass the slipped stitch over

**p** = purl

**rem** = remain / remaining

**RS** = right side

**st(s)** – stitch(es)

**st st** = stoking stitch

**tog** = together

**WS** = wrong side

## BODY

**(Make one in white, one in A)**

Cast on 15sts

Beg with a k row, work 2 rows st st.

**Next row:** (RS) k7, \*M1, k1, M1, k7

**Next row:** p to end

**Next row:** k8, M1, k1, M1, k8

Cont in st st, inc 1 st each side of centre st on every RS row as before until there are 31 sts.

Work 13 rows st st ending with a p row.

**Next row:** (RS) k13, \*skpo, k1, k2tog, k13

**Next row:** p to end

**Next row:** k12, skpo, k1, k2tog, k12

Cont in st st, dec 1 st each side of centre st on every RS row as before until 15 sts rem, ending with a p row. Cast off.

## TOP OF HEAD

**(Make one using A)**

\*\* Work as for body until there are 29 sts, ending with k row.

Beg with a p row, work 7 rows st st.

**Next row:** k12, \*skpo, k1, k2tog, k12

**Next row:** p to end.

Cont in st st, dec 1 st each side of of centre st on every RS row until 23 sts rem, ending with a p row.

\*\* Cast off.

## BOTTOM OF HEAD

**(Make 1 in white)**

Work as for the top of the head from \*\* to \*\*. Place a loop of coloured thread as a marker at the last row. Cont to dec each side of centre st until 5 sts rem, ending with a p row.

Cast off.

## LEGS

**(Make 4)**

Cast o 13 sts in white. Beg with a k row, work 2 rows in st st.

**Next row:** (RS) k1, M1, k5, M1, k1, M1, k5, M1, k1

**Next row:** p to end

**Next row:** k1, M1, k7, M1, k1, M1, k7, M1, k1

**Next row:** p to end

**Next row:** k1, M1, k9, M1, k1, M1, k9, M1

**Next row:** p to end

**Next row:** k1, M1, k11, M1, k1, M1, k11, M1, k1 (29sts)

Beg with a p row, work 7 rows in st st.

Cut off white, join on A and work 22 rows st st.

**Next row:** k2tog, k12, k2tog, k11, k2tog.

**Next row:** p to end  
**Next row:** k2tog, (k10, k2tog) twice  
**Next row:** p to end  
**Next row:** k2tog, k9, k2tog, k8, k2tog  
**Next row:** p to end  
**Next row:** k2tog, (k7, k2tog) twice  
**Next row:** p to end  
**Next row:** k2tog, k6, k2tog, k5, k2tog  
**Next row:** p to end. Cast off

## **TAIL**

### **(Make 1)**

Using A, cast on 18 sts. Work 26 rows in st st, ending with a p row.  
Cut off A, join on white and work 2 rows st st ending in a p row.  
Cont in st st, dec at each end of next and every foll RS row until 4 sts rem, ending with a WS row. Thread yarn through rem 4 sts and draw them up tog. Using ladder st, sew seam to cast on edge.

## **EARS**

### **(Make 2 in white and 2 in A)**

Cast on 10 st. Work 6 rows st st.  
**Next row:** k1, skpo, k to last 3, k2tog, k1  
**Next row:** p to end.  
Rep last 2 rows until 4 sts rem, ending with a p row.  
**Next row:** skpo, k2tog  
**Next row:** p to end. Cast off.

## **MAKING UP THE CAT**

Press each piece flat. Use ladder stitch throughout to join the knitted sections together.

## **BODY**

With WS tog, match up the two body pieces. Join straight seams to make a tube. Neatly join the cast on edges together, matching the centre k st on the back to the centre k st on the belly. This is the tail end. Fill the body firmly with stuffing through the open neck end.

## **TAIL**

Stuff the tail firmly and sew the cast on edge of the tail to the closed end of the body. To hold the tail upright, work a few sts a little way up from the base of the tail and the back of the body.

## **HEAD**

With WS together, match the ends of the cast off row in the top of the head section to the markers on the bottom of the head piece. Stitch the straight side seams and remove the markers.

Using ladder st, join the cast on edges of the head to the cast off edges of the body, matching the side seams. Stuff the head firmly through the opening on the face.

To form the face: fold the triangular flap on the bottom of the head up to meet the front opening of the head then neatly sew the triangle flap in place.

## **EARS**

With WS tog, match each white piece with a coloured one. Sew the shaped edges tog, then stitch the bottom edges in place on the head, with the white sides facing to the front.

## **LEGS**

With RS facing, fold each leg piece in half lengthways. Stitch around the edge of the white paw and up the straight edge of the leg. Stuff each leg, then firmly sew the shaped edges and folded cat off edges together. With the long seams faces inwards, stitch the leg to the body.

## **PAWS**

With brown yarn, sew three long sts on each white paw to represent claws. With the same yarn, make a short st over each claw, where the longer sts cross the seam. Fold up each paw at a right angle so that it point forwards. To hold it in place, stitch across the top of each paw where it joins the leg.

## **FACE**

Using felt or embroidery, add eyes and nose.

With brown yarn, take a st from the nose down to the mouth, then take another st from one side of the mouth to the other. Secure the mouth with a small st of brown yarn at the centre. With white thread, slipstitch the mouth to the face in a smooth curve.

We hope you enjoy making Willows Cats. Please have fun with different colours or textures.

## **SAFETY GUIDELINES**

If making a toy for a young child, please make sure all separate pieces are sewn securely in place, and leave out any additional decoration, such as beads.