

# Lockdown Bear

## Designed by Fiona McDonald

I have designed this little bear to be a companion in times of loneliness, frustration and hardship – a confidante who never tires of listening and who will enjoy going on tiny, domestic adventures or who will happily sit on the windowsill and watch the world go by.

I have designed this bear to be made of almost any yarn that is to hand. I work a lot in 8ply (Double-fingering weight yarn in the UK) and I recommend this as being an easy weight to work with. I use 3mm needles with my 8ply yarn (and also for textured yarns) for most of my toys as it gives a nice firm finish and is less likely to stretch out of shape.

The bear in the photo is made of a soft, textured yarn: Urban basics, All Sorts, 50gm and is a Lincraft product.



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## **To make this bear you will need:**

Yarn 25gm

3mm knitting needles

Wool/tapestry needle for sewing up body part

Polyester fibrefill for stuffing (you can raid an old pillow if you can't get to the shops to buy some, you could also try cotton wool)

Safety eyes -available at places like Lincraft and Spotlight OR you could use buttons or beads OR you can embroider the eyes on if you are going to give the bear to a child under 3 years of age.

## **Instructions**

### **Head**

Cast on 3 stitches

Row 1: increase (inc.) in each stitch (6)

Row 2: purl (p) row

Row 3: inc. in each stitch (12)

Row 4: p

Row 5: inc. in each stitch (24)

Row 6: p

Row 7: inc. in first and last stitch (26)

Row 8: p

Row 9: inc. in each stitch (28)

Rows 10-18: 9 rows of stocking stitch (ss) starting and ending with a purl row

Row 19: Knit 2 stitches together (K2tog) at each end of the row (26)

Row 20: p

Row 21: K2tog each end (24)

Row 22: p

Row 23: K2tog along the row (that is, 12 times) (12)

Row 24: p casting off as you go

### **Ears make 2**

Cast on 6 stitches

Row 1: k

Row 2: p

Row 3: k2tog along row (3)

Row 4: p casting off as you go

### **Body**

Cast on 3 stitches

Row 1: inc. in each stitch (6)

Row 2: purl

Row 3: inc. in each stitch (12)

Row 4: p

Row 5: inc. in each stitch (24)

Rows 6-24: 19 rows of ss starting and ending with a purl row

Row 25: K2tog along row (that is 12 times) (12)

Row 26: p

Row 27: K2 tog along row (6)

Row 28 p and cast off as you go

## Legs make 2

Starting with top of leg and ending with foot

Cast on 3

Row 1: inc. in each stitch (6)

Row 2: purl

Row 3: inc. in each stitch (12)

Rows 4-22: 19 rows of ss starting and ending with a purl row

Row 23: inc. in each stitch (24)

Rows 24-28: 5 rows of ss starting and ending with a purl row

Row 29: K2tog along row (12)

Row 30: P2tog along row (6)

Row 31: K2tog along row, casting off as you go

## Arms make 2

Cast on 3

Row 1: inc. in each stitch (6)

Row 2: purl

Row 3: inc. in first and last stitch (8)

Rows 4-18: 15 rows ss starting and ending with a purl row

Row 19: K2tog each end (6)

Row 20: p

Row 21: K2tog along row (3)

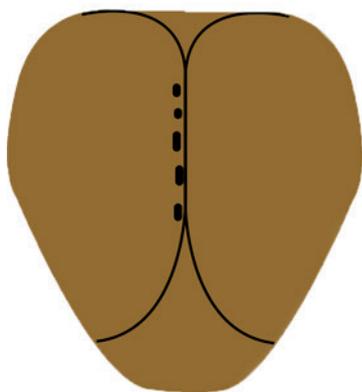
Row 22: p casting off as you go

## To Assemble

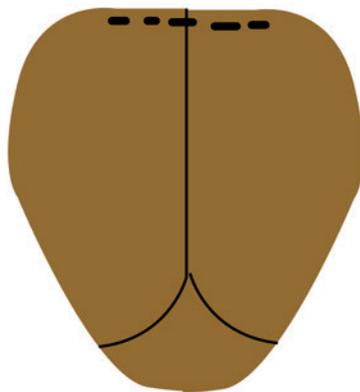
### Head

See diagram for folding and stitching head. Fold the head, bringing the two sides together (right side on the inside). Stitch the sides together leaving an opening towards the bottom. Flatten head so back seam runs down middle of head and sew across the top of the head.

When head is sewn turn right side out. Insert safety eyes. Stuff with small amounts of polyester fibrefil and stitch closed. What appears to be the chin will, with some needle sculpting of the eyes, form part of the nose. The head will be set on the body at an angle.



Head Template



Angle of head

## Body

Fold in half with right sides together. Back stitch from base to 1cm below neck. Turn right side out. Stuff with small amounts of polyester fibrefill. Stitch body closed.

## Attach head to Body

Place head on top of body, matching up the centre back seams. Mattress stitch body to head.

## Needles-sculpting head

Thread a long piece of yarn on a tapestry needle. Do not tie a knot. Insert needle into back of head (leave several centimetres of thread hanging out) and pull out just under the eye area, make a small stitch and push needle back into head and come out in the corresponding place under the other eye. Pull gently and the eyes will start to come together. When happy with the eye and nose shaping, push needle back through head and come out somewhere in the neck under the back of the head. Pull thread gently to pull eye slightly backwards, repeat with other eye.

## Ears

Take the yarn from the cast-off row of the ear and thread it on the needle. Weave it back down the ear until it is at one of the bottom corners, shaping the ear slightly. Use this thread to sew ear in place. Neaten off all threads.

## Nose

Use a contrasting yarn to embroider a nose on your bear OR cut out a piece of felt and glue it on. Use same thread to create the line going from nose to mouth and also the mouth.

## Arms and Legs

Fold each arm or leg in half, right sides together, back stitch from foot or hand up the length leaving enough room to turn limb right side out. Stuff and stitch closed.

Take a long piece of yarn, knot one end and push through the thigh of one of the legs. Push back through leg and then in through body making sure the knot is between the leg and body. Pull yarn through body and push through second leg aligning them as much as possible. When in place, push needle right through both legs and body. Repeat several times.

## Repeat for arms.

Your bear is now ready for a ribbon around its neck and some adventures!

