

# Gertie Guinea pig



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20 g of Mohair yarn

(Thick mohair just results in a bigger toy, thin yarn gets you a baby piggy, the yarn I used was called Paton's spirit)

2 x 10mm toy safety eyes

Pair of 3.25mm needles (UK 10) – (USA 3)

2 x stitch markers or safety pins

Pink floss or yarn for nose

Oddments of DK (light worsted) yarn in flesh for ears & feet

Large eyed wool needle  
toy filling

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fine wire or teazle grooming brush  
(or any stiff brush capable of pulling fibres)

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Approx. 18 cm (7") depending on yarn used

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No gauge/tension required

#### NOTES

Read instructions carefully before starting.

The knitting is very easy, the fluffy appearance is achieved with constant grooming.

### Let's get started

BODY/HEAD (make in 1 piece)

Begin at the piggie's bottom

CO 10sts

Row 1; K 1 Row

Row 2; P 1 Row

Row 3; (inc1)x10 = 20sts

Row 4; P 1 Row

Row 5; (inc1, k1)x10 = 30sts

Row 6; P 1 Row

Row 7; (inc1, k2)x10 = 40sts

Row 8; P 1 Row

Row 9; (inc1, k3)x10 = 50sts

Rows 10-34; St-st

Row 35; K3, (k2tog, k1)x15, k2 = 35

Row 36; P 1 Row

Row 37; K5, (k2tog)x13, k4 = 22sts

Row 38; P 1 Row

Increase for head as follows:

Row 39; K2, (inc1)x18, k2 = 40sts

Row 40; P 1 row

Row 41; (inc1, k3)x10 = 50sts

Rows 42-48; St-st

Row 49; (k2tog, k3)x10 = 40sts

Row 50; P 1 row

Row 51; (k2tog, k2)x10 = 30sts

On the next row you will need to mark the eye positions.

Row 52; P10, insert marker, P10, insert marker, P10.

Row 53; K 1 row

Row 54; P 1 row

Row 55; (k2tog, k1)x10 = 20sts

Row 56; P 1 row

Row 57; (k2, k2tog, k3, k2tog)x2, k2 = 16sts

Row 58; P 1 row

Row 59; K1, (k2tog, k3, k2tog)x2, k1 = 12sts

Row 60; P 1 row

Cast off.

EARS (make 2 the same) in flesh

CO 18sts

Row 1; K1, (k2tog)x8, k1 = 10sts

Row 2; P 1 row

Row 3; K1, (k2tog)x4, k1 = 6sts

Row 4; P 1 row

Cut yarn leaving 15cms, thread on a needle & pass through remaining sts. Gather up & tie off. Leave yarn end for finishing off.

FEET (make 4 the same) in flesh

CO 10sts

St-st 11 rows

Cut yarn leaving 15cms, thread on a needle & pass through remaining sts. Gather up & tie off. Leave yarn end for finishing off.

#### FINISHING OFF.

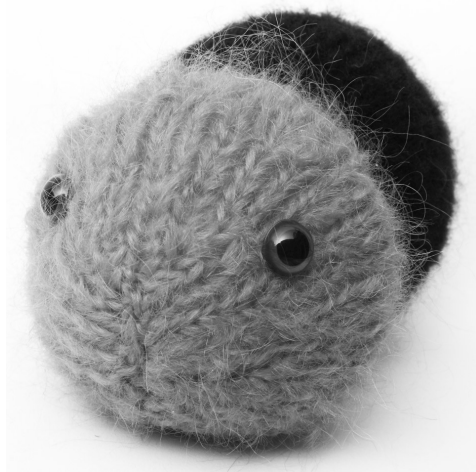
Note the markers & insert eyes on the knit (not purl) side of your work, clip on the safety washers.

With body piece inside out, fold guinea pig in half lengthways nose to bottom. Run a row of gathering stitches along the cast on edge of the guinea pig's bottom, gather up tight & secure. Now go to your cast off edge at the head and sew the seam together from the nose to the end of the head increase (the neck).

Leave the remainder of the tummy open. Turn guinea pig in the right way and stuff firmly. Shape head into a neat round firm ball. Now stuff & sew closed the rest of the body.

Your guinea pig should now look like this.

(example shows a 2 colour piggy, change colour at neck if you want to use 2 colours)



Thread a length of yarn with a large knot, insert under head and bring out next to 1 eye, tug so that yarn knot is embedded inside head. Make stitch next to eye and pass needle through middle of head to come out at other eye. Pull yarn to draw the 2 eyes in towards each other. Make a stitch & pass yarn back through head to come out back underneath head and secure tight.

Now is the time to groom your guinea pig (before attaching feet & ears)

Start at the neck area & brush vigorously **DO NOT brush the nose or eye areas**. Brush continuously to pull the pile through & make the fur as fluffy as you can.

You can part the fur on top of the head and trim the fur around the ears & nose if you wish.

EARS; Thread yarn tail on needle & catch ear at the bottom on either side to create a shell shape, sew ear to head between eye & neck edge.

FEET; Gather up cast on edge & stuff, close seam to create small baked bean shaped feet. Attach 2 under neck edge and 2 near the back end.

NOSE: Stitch a "Y" shape in pink floss as in my photo.

#### ABBREVIATIONS

Always repeat instructions in brackets ( ) x the amount given

CO = cast on. Beg = begin. K = knit.

P = purl. sts = stitches.

St-st = stocking stitch, knit 1 row purl 1 row.

K2tog or P2tog = knit or purl 2sts together to decrease 1 stitch.

Inc1 = increase 1 stitch by knitting back & front of same stitch

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kindest wishes

*Debi Birkin*