ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE PENGUIN

An original knitting pattern by Liz Wray

This knitted penguin pattern has been kindly designed by Liz Wray, a member of The Martinsey Isle Trust in Sturminster Newton, specifically to help with fundraising for Royal Voluntary Service, a charity helping older people across Great Britain.

Use this pattern to join in our Big Knit campaign to knit a penguin (or two) and raise vital funds to tackle loneliness and social isolation in older people. Once complete, please send to Royal Voluntary Service Dorset & Wiltshire, Suite 7, Somerleigh Gate, Somerleigh Road, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1TL. The finished penguins will be sold in Dorset, with all money going to supporting older people to live independent, enriched lives.

KNITTING INSTRUCTIONS

MATERIALS

Needles: Adult Penguin – UK Size 3mm knitting needles

Yarn: Amounts given are approximate but generous.

Any DK (8 ply) knitting yarn in black (approx 25g), yellow (approx 5g) and white (approx 10g).

Additional materials: polyester fibre filling, scraps of felt, toy safety eyes (optional – you can embroider these if you prefer), plastic weighting beads and muslin for 'bottom bag' (see making up instructions)

TENSION/SIZE

I don't give tension for this pattern as it is largely unimportant. The difference in size between the adult and baby is due to the difference in thickness of yarn and needles. However, if you follow yarn and needle size advice above the penguin will be approx 15cm tall.

ABBREVIATIONS

St	Stitch
St.st	Stocking stitch (one row knit, one row purl)
K	Knit
P	Purl
K2tog	Knit two together
K2tog tbl	Knit two together through back of loops
P2tog	Purl two together
Inc	Knit (or purl, as appropriate) into front and back of stitch
SKPO	Slip 1, K1, pass slipped stitch over knit stitch
Psso	Pass slipped stitch over

INSTRUCTIONS

NB. Unless otherwise stated all pieces begin with a knit row

BODY (MAKE 1, IN BLACK)

Cast on 11 st (bottom edge)
Row 1: Purl 1 row
Row 2: Increase in every stitch to end of row   (22)
Row 3: Purl 1 row
Row 4: (K1, inc) to end of row   (33)
Rows 5-7: St.st (3 rows)
Row 8: K1, (Inc, K2) to last 2 st, inc, K1   (44)
Rows 9-11: St.st (3rows)
Row 12: K1, (inc, K3) to last 3 st, inc, K2   (55)
Rows 13-37: St.st (25 rows)
Row 38: K1, (K2tog, K3) to last 4 st, K2tog, K2   (44)
Rows 39-57: St.st (19 rows)
Row 58: K1, (K2tog, K2) to last 3 st, K2tog, K1   (33)
Rows 59-73: St.st (15 rows)
Row 74: (K2tog, K1) to end of row   (22)
Rows 75-79: St.st 5 rows
Row 80: K2tog to end   (11)
Leaving a long end, thread yarn back through remaining stitches and leave loose.

WHITE FRONT (MAKE 1 IN WHITE)

Cast on 8 st
Row 1: K1, inc, K4, inc, K1   (10)
Row 2: P1, inc, P6, inc, P1   (12)
Row 3: K1, inc, K8, inc, K1   (14)
Row 4: Purl
Row 5: K1, inc, K to last two st, inc, K1   (16)
Row 6: Purl
Rows 7-10: Repeat rows 5 and 6 twice more   (20)
Rows 11-24: St.st (14 rows)
Row 25: K1, SKPO, K to last three st, K2tog, K1   (18)
Rows 26-32: St.st (7 rows)
Row 33: K1, SKPO, K to last three st, K2tog, K1   (16)

Rows 34-40: St.st (7 rows)
Row 41: K1, SKPO, K to last three st, K2tog, K1 (14)
Row 42: Purl
Row 43: K1, SKPO, K8, K2tog, K1 (12)
Row 44: P1, P2tog, P6, P2tog, P1 (10)
Row 45: K1, SKPO, K4, K2tog, K1 (8)
Cast off purlwise.

BEAK (MAKE 1 IN YELLOW/ORANGE)

Cast on 10 st
Rows 1-3: Starting with a purl row, st.st 3 rows
Row 4: K3, K2tog, SKPO, K3 (8)
Rows 5-7: St st. (3 rows)
Row 8: K2, K2tog, SKPO, K2 (6)
Rows 9: Purl
Row 10: K1, K2tog, SKPO, K1 (4)
Rows 11: Purl
Row 12: K2tog, SKPO (2)
Break the yarn and thread through the remaining stitch and pull tight.

FLIPPERS (MAKE 2 IN BLACK)

Cast on 16
Rows 1-25: Starting with a purl row, st.st (25 rows)
Row 26: K6, (K2tog) twice, K6 (14)
Row 27: Purl
Row 28: K5, (K2tog) twice, K5 (12)
Row 29: Purl
Row 30: K4, (K2tog) twice, K4 (10)
Row 31: Purl
Row 32: K3, (K2tog) twice, K3 (8)
Row 33: Purl
Row 34: K2, (K2tog) twice, K2 (6)
Row 35: Purl
Row 36: K1, (K2tog) twice, K1 (4)
Row 37: Purl
Row 38: (K2tog) twice (2)
Cast off

FEET (MAKE 4 IN YELLOW/ORANGE)

Cast on 6 st
Rows 1: Purl
Row 2: K1, inc, K to last 2 st, inc, K1 (8)
Row 3-5: St.st
Row 6: K1, inc, K to last 2 st, inc, K1 (10)
Row 7: Purl
Rows 8-11: repeat rows 6 and 7 twice more (14)
Rows 12 and 13: Cast of 4 st, work to end of row (6)
Row 14: K1, SKPO, K2tog, K1 (4)
Row 15: Purl
Row 16: SKPO, K2tog
Row 17: P2tog
Break off yarn and tie off securely (i.e. break the yarn, loop yarn around last stitch, thread the loose end through and pull tight).

MAKING UP

Make a 'bottom bag' as follows:

Cut out a round of muslin (or similar) approx 20 cm diameter (a small dinner plate is about the right sort of size). Stitch a row of medium running stitches around the edge of this, leaving the ends of the thread loose. Draw up the muslin to make a bag, filling it with 2 to 2.5 tablespoons of plastic weighting beads. You can use rice or beans but then your penguin WILL NOT BE WASHABLE (it will become a risotto or cassoulet)! Draw the gathering threads up tightly and tie off, using the ends to stitch through the gather to make it secure.

Body: With right sides together, gather up the stitches of the cast on (bottom) edge of the body and sew the row ends together to about 2/3rds of the way up the body. Turn out the right way out, insert the bottom bag and then close the rest of the seam with ladder stitch. Stuff evenly to get an elongated pear shape. Do not close the top of the head yet!

Eyes/Front: Making sure that the body seam is at centre back of the body, check the position of the front, eyes, beak etc before attaching them as follows:

Adult: Cut a small piece of felt to back the eyes if you wish, and place in position on the front of the body, together with the white front. When you are happy with the position, push the washers firmly onto the back of the safety eyes and stitch the white front into place.

(NB. If you are making a rockhopper-type penguin, make and fit the 'ears' now. For each ear, take two lengths each of yellow, white and black yarn and knot them together at one end with a large knot. With a large-eyed darning needle, thread these through the top of the head from the inside and if necessary stitch them into place to secure them.)

Finally, draw up the remaining stitches left on the thread at the top body opening, and fasten off securely.

Beak: Fold the beak in half and over-sew the lower edge. Stuff and stitch into place between the eyes and above the white front.

Feet: With right sides outwards, stitch around the edges of the feet. Stuff lightly and stitch the feet into place on the base of the body.

Flippers: Fold in half with right sides outermost and overstitch the row ends together. Sew in place on sides of the body.