



Ring
Tailed
Lemur

A MOREHOUSE ORIGINAL

Ring Tailed Lemur

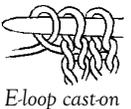
A M O R E H O U S E O R I G I N A L

- Size:** about 47" long from tip of toes on front legs to tip of tail, body width about 5"
Yarn: 2 skeins of Morehouse Merino 2-Ply in oatmeal color (sport weight, 225 yards per skein), 1 skein of black Morehouse Merino Bulky (115 yards per skein)
Needles: double-pointed needles US #5 or #6 (size to obtain gauge) and US #10½
Gauge: 5½ stitches = 1 inch over stockinette stitch pattern with sport weight yarn using #5 or #6 needles
Other materials: 2 small stitch holders (1¾" long); 2 yellow 18mm plastic eyes; black felt 1" x 2"

Body

Lemur is knit in the round as a tube. You'll start the critter at the rear end and work towards head; then add legs and tail after completing body and head. With oatmeal color yarn and double-pointed needles #5 or #6, cast on 54 stitches. Join to knit in the round and knit until body measures 14" from cast-on round (around 105 to 110 rounds).

Next round: knit 19 stitches, then slide the next 16 stitches – without knitting stitches – on small stitch holder (size of stitch holder used for mitten thumbs), now cast on 4 stitches using e-loop cast-on (see illustration at right), then knit the next 11 stitches and slide the last 8 stitches together with the first 8 stitches on next round on second stitch holder – again without knitting stitches – and cast on 4 stitches again. You now have 30 stitches on needles for head and 16 stitches each on two stitch holders for front legs. Knit 1 round. Next round: *knit 2 stitches, knit next stitch twice (knit stitch but don't drop stitch off left-hand needle; now knit stitch again, this time through back of stitch); repeat from * to end of round = 40 stitches. Knit 4 rounds. Next round: *knit 3 stitches, knit next stitch twice (same as before) = 50 stitches. Distribute stitches as follows: 13 stitches on first needle, 12 stitches on second and third needle, and final 13 stitches on fourth needle.



E-loop cast-on

Head

Knit 2 rounds. Next you'll be working black stripe above eyes of lemur with bulky yarn using stitches on first and second needle (you'll be working back and forth on these two needles). And you'll be creating two slits at either side of head for ears to be added later. Here is how: switch to larger needles (#10½) and using black bulky yarn (don't break off oatmeal yarn – just leave it hanging on wrong side of lemur's head) knit 25 stitches (stitches on first and second needle), turn and knit (on wrong side) back to beginning of round. Turn and purl the same 25 stitches again, turn and knit back to beginning of round. Break off black bulky yarn (leave a short tail for darning in). Pick up oatmeal yarn and with #5 or #6 needles, *purl the 25 stitches on fourth and third needle on wrong side of head, turn and knit back to beginning of round. Repeat from * once more. Now you are going to join stitches again and start knitting in the round once more. Knit 4 rounds (knit stitches on all four needles again). Start decreases: *knit 4 stitches, knit 2 stitches together; repeat from * to end of round, ending round with knit 2 (knit those 2 stitches at end on all subsequent decrease rounds). Knit 5 rounds. Next round: *knit 3 stitches, knit 2 stitches together; repeat from * to end of round. Knit 5 rounds. Next round: *knit 2 stitches, knit 2 stitches together; repeat from * to end of round. Knit 5 rounds. Next round: *knit 1 stitch, knit 2 stitches together; repeat from * to end of round = 18 stitches remaining. Break off oatmeal yarn color.

Black Nose

Switch to black bulky yarn and larger needles and knit 1 round. Before you continue, tie ends of bulky and oatmeal yarn together on wrong side using a square knot, then cut off ends leaving ½" tails. Once you finish nose, it will be impossible to access yarn ends for darning in. Next round: *purl 2 stitches together; repeat from * to end of round. Purl 1 round. Next round: *purl 2 stitches together; repeat from * to end of round, purl last stitch. Pull yarn through remaining stitches (with darning needle). Darn in tail end by pulling yarn through stitches twice then push needle to inside of nose and out on right side at beginning of nose. Cut off yarn by pulling on it lightly so end will disappear inside nose.

Ears

With oatmeal yarn and smaller needles, pick up stitches along both sides of slit of ear opening. For right ear (head facing you) start at left side of slit and 2 rounds below black strip (below beginning of slit) and pick up stitches one stitch in from edge of opening (in other words: don't pick up edge stitches, but pick up stitches between first and second stitch). Pick up 8 stitches (1 stitch per round) going 2 rounds beyond ear opening at top. Then pick up 1 stitch in middle, and 8 stitches down the other side (again, one stitch in from edge stitch). Distribute stitches over 2 needles. Put middle stitch on second needle. Ears are knit back and forth. Knit first round. Next, *knit to 1 stitch before middle stitch, then knit 3 stitches together and knit to end of row. Knit next row. Repeat from * until you have 3 stitches left. Knit these 3 stitches together. Repeat for other ear, again starting at left side of slit and picking up stitches same as on other ear.

Important: Before knitting front legs, darn in ends on ears by reaching through leg openings. Then add eyes.

Eyes

Cut out 2 felt circles, 1" in diameter each. Cut small slit in middle and insert eye shaft through slit. The black felt creates the black circles around yellow eyes on lemur. Carefully insert eye shafts through head about 1" below black stripe in bulky on head and 1½" in from ear slits. Check to make sure eyes are evenly spaced and look right on the face before clipping on washers on inside of head. **Caution:** shafts cannot be removed once they are clipped onto shaft! So check and make sure eyes are in the right position.

Front Legs

Put stitches from first stitch holder on 3 needles (#5 or #6 needles). With oatmeal yarn color, pick up 4 stitches where you cast on 4 stitches for head (if you need to pick up an extra stitch or two because the leg opening got a little stretched out from inserting the eyes, that's OK – just knit 2 stitches together in first round where you picked up those extra stitches so you'll end up with a total of 20 stitches for leg. Knit 50 rounds. Then start toes.

Toes

Put stitches on legs on 2 needles – 10 stitches per needle. For first toe, use the first two stitches together with last 2 stitches on second needle (4 stitches total) and knit 10 rounds using I-cord (see box at right). Pull yarn through stitches and darn in end by pulling yarn to inside of toe and down to beginning of toe. Repeat for each toe – using the next 2 stitches on first needle together with the last 2 stitches on second needle and knit 10 rows of I-cord. When starting new toe, leave yarn tail from beginning on outside of toe and darn in later by working tail to inside of toe up to tip of toe.

I-cord: knit stitches on needle. Then slide stitches to other end of needle and knit again in same sequence as in first row— pulling yarn tight between last stitch and first stitch on new row.

Work second front leg same as first leg.

Tail

With #5 or #6 needles and oatmeal yarn, pick up 54 stitches along entire cast-on round on body as follows: right side facing out, pick up stitches *between* stitches in cast-on round, so stitches will appear to be facing in same direction. Knit 1 round. Next round: knit 19 stitches, then slide the next 16 stitches – without knitting stitches – on small stitch holder (same as for front legs), now cast on (using e-loop cast-on) 2 stitches, then knit the next 11 stitches and slide the last 8 stitches together with the first 8 stitches on next round on second stitch holder – again without knitting stitches— and cast on 2 stitches again. You now have 26 stitches on needles for tail and 16 stitches each on two stitch holders for back legs.

Knit 5 rounds. *Switch to black bulky yarn and larger needles and knit 1 round, then purl 3 rounds. Switch back to oatmeal yarn color and smaller needles and knit 6 rounds (when switching yarn weights, just pull up new yarn weight loosely on inside of tail and cross over behind yarn weight you've just finished with to avoid creating a gap). Repeat from * until you have 18 black rings, ending with black bulky and 3 purl rounds. Switch to oatmeal yarn color and smaller needles and knit 5 rounds. Next round: *knit 4 stitches, knit 2 stitches together; repeat from * to end of round, ending round with knit 2 = 22 stitches. Switch to black bulky and larger needles, knit 1 round then purl 3 rounds. Switch back to oatmeal and smaller needles and knit 5 rounds. Next round: *knit 3 stitches, knit 2 stitches together; repeat from * to end of round, ending with knit 2 = 18 stitches. Break off oatmeal yarn, leaving a short tail. Switch to black bulky yarn and larger needles and knit 1 round. Then purl 2 rounds. Before finishing tail, darn in oatmeal yarn tail. Next round: *purl 2 stitches, purl 2 stitches together; repeat from * to end of round. Purl 1 round. Next round: *purl 1 stitch, purl 2 stitches together; repeat from * to end of round. Purl 1 round. Next round: *purl 2 stitches together; repeat from * to end of round. Pull yarn through remaining stitches.

Back Legs

Put the 16 stitches from stitch holder on 3 needles and with oatmeal yarn color and smaller needles pick 4 stitches where you cast on the 2 stitches for tail = total of 20 stitches. Now work leg and toes same way as on front legs. Repeat for second back leg.

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