

Ziraffe



A MOREHOUSE ORIGINAL

Size: about 12" tall
Yarn: 2 skeins of Morehouse Merino 3-Strand in 2 colors (145 yards per skein)
Needles: #5 or #6 (size to obtain gauge)
Gauge: 4½ stitches = 1 inch over garter stitch pattern

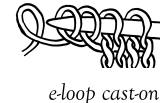
Ziraffe is knit back and forth. First you knit one side beginning with underbelly, then work from the legs up to top of head; then continue with second side from top of head down (Ziraffe is knit in one piece, then sewn together at sides and belly).

Underbelly

Begin with yarn color for legs and cast on 26 stitches for underbelly. Knit 2 rows. Next row: knit first stitch twice (knit first stitch, but don't drop stitch off left-hand needle; now knit stitch again, this time through back of stitch), knit to end of row. Repeat from * for the next 3 rows = 30 stitches total.

Legs

Next row: knit 12 stitches, bind off the next 6 stitches, knit remaining 12 stitches. Continue on these last 12 stitches for first leg. Knit 72 rows (count 36 garter stitch ribs). Leave stitches on holding needle and break off yarn. Continue with the other 12 stitches and knit to same length. Knit next row, at end of row cast on 6 stitches (using e-loop cast-on; see illustration); then knit stitches on first leg = 30 stitches total.



e-loop cast-on

Body

Knit 6 rows and start stripe pattern on body: *switch to contrasting yarn color and knit 2 rows (don't break off yarn after finishing with color; leave yarn idle at side, then pull up loosely when resuming with color). Back to main yarn color and knit 2 rows. Repeat from * until you have 8 stripes in contrasting yarn color, finishing with 2 rows in main color. Break off contrasting yarn color. Next row: with main yarn color, bind off the first 15 stitches. Break off main yarn color.

Neck & Head

Re-attach contrasting yarn color (leave 10" tail for sewing neck together later). Knit 24 rows. Next row: knit to end of row and cast on 5 stitches (using e-loop cast-on) = 20 stitches. Knit 19 rows.

Nose decreases: *knit next row to last 2 stitches, knit those 2 stitches together. Knit 1 row. Repeat from * 3 more times = 16 stitches left. Work ears in next row as follows: knit 3 stitches, work ear in next stitch (see box upper right); knit row to last 2 stitches, knit those 2 stitches together = 15 stitches. Knit 3 rows. This is the top of the head. Now continue with other side.

SECOND SIDE

Head & Neck

Knit 2 rows. Next row: knit 3 stitches and repeat ear; knit row to last stitch, knit last stitch twice. Knit next row. *Knit next row to last stitch, knit last stitch twice. Knit 1 row. Repeat from * until you have 20 stitches. Knit 19 rows. Next row: bind off the first 5 stitches, knit to end of row = 15 stitches. Knit 24 rows for neck. Break off contrasting yarn.

Body

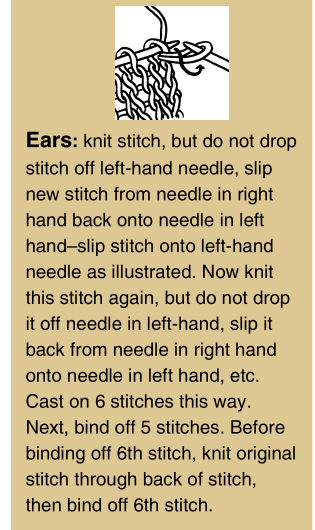
With main yarn color, cast on 15 stitches; then knit neck stitches = 30 stitches total on needle. Knit next row. Re-attach contrasting yarn color and *knit 2 rows. Then knit 2 rows in main yarn color. Repeat from * until you have 8 stripes in contrasting yarn color. Break off contrasting yarn color and continue with main yarn color. Knit 6 rows.

Legs Work same way as legs on first side.

Underbelly

*Knit row to last 2 stitches, knit those 2 stitches together. Repeat from * for the next 3 rows = 26 stitches. Knit 2 more rows. Bind off in next row.

Finishing: Sew sides together, including legs. Leave underbelly open and stuff Ziraffe using fiberfill or other suitable stuffing. Then sew underbelly together. Add mane (see illustration) and add braided tail.



Ears: knit stitch, but do not drop stitch off left-hand needle, slip new stitch from needle in right hand back onto needle in left hand—slip stitch onto left-hand needle as illustrated. Now knit this stitch again, but do not drop it off needle in left-hand, slip it back from needle in right hand onto needle in left hand, etc. Cast on 6 stitches this way. Next, bind off 5 stitches. Before binding off 6th stitch, knit original stitch through back of stitch, then bind off 6th stitch.

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Mane: Cut pieces of yarn 9" long, fold in half and pull middle loops through seam on back of neck using crochet hook or needle. Pull ends through loop. Trim to even length.

