



MABEL THE PATCHWORK COW PLUSHIE

Free Knitting Pattern

Soft stockinette cow with duplicate-stitch patches, knitted muzzle, ears, horns, hooves and tail



Skill level: Confident Beginner to Intermediate

Pattern at a glance Worked mainly in the round with simple increases and decreases. The black markings are added with duplicate stitch before stuffing, so the knitted V texture remains visible across the patches.

1. Introduction

This pattern makes a plump standing cow plushie with a rounded head, softly tapered body, black hoof tips, pink muzzle and inner ears, small tan horns, asymmetrical black patches and a slim tail with a black tassel. The head, body, horns and limbs are knitted in the round; the muzzle and ear panels are knitted flat; the tail is a knitted I-cord. The shaping uses only basic increases, decreases and straightforward sewing.

2. Finished Size

Measurement	Approximate finished size
Overall height, including horns	30-32 cm / 11.75-12.5 in
Overall width, ear tip to ear tip	20-22 cm / 7.9-8.7 in
Head	about 10-11 cm / 3.9-4.3 in high and wide
Body	about 12.5-13.5 cm / 4.9-5.3 in high; 10.5-11.5 cm / 4.1-4.5 in wide
Muzzle	about 8 cm / 3.1 in wide x 5.5-6 cm / 2.2-2.4 in high
Arm length	about 6.5 cm / 2.6 in
Leg length	about 7.5 cm / 3 in
Outer ear	about 5.5-6 cm / 2.2-2.4 in long
Horn	about 3.5-4 cm / 1.4-1.6 in long
Tail, including tuft	about 9-10 cm / 3.5-3.9 in

Finished size may vary depending on yarn, needle size, tension, stuffing and individual technique.

3. Materials and Tools

Item	Quantity / details
Worsted / Aran weight yarn, cream	125-150 g / 250-300 m
Worsted / Aran weight yarn, black	40-50 g / 80-100 m
Worsted / Aran weight yarn, dusty pink	20-25 g / 40-50 m
Worsted / Aran weight yarn, tan / camel	10-15 g / 20-30 m
Needles	3.5 mm circular needle suitable for magic loop or a set of 3.5 mm double-pointed needles; same size may be used flat
Eyes	2 x 12 mm black safety eyes, or black yarn for embroidered eyes
Stuffing	About 120-150 g polyester toy stuffing
Notions	Tapestry needle, locking stitch markers, removable markers, pins, scissors and measuring tape

Safety Note

Safety eyes and other small rigid components may not be suitable for projects intended for children under three years. Embroidered eyes can be used instead.

4. Gauge and Tension

24 sts x 32 rnds = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in in stockinette stitch worked in the round on 3.5 mm needles, measured without stretching. Flat stockinette should match the same stitch gauge closely.

Tension Aim for a firm, dense plush fabric. If stuffing can be seen between stitches, use a smaller needle. If the fabric is stiff enough to distort the shaping, use a slightly larger needle. When using different yarn brands for the colours, check that each colour works to a similar gauge.

5. Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
BO	bind off
BOR	beginning of round
CB	centre back
CF	centre front
CO	cast on
k	knit
k2tog	knit 2 stitches together; 1 stitch decreased
kfb	knit into front and then back of the same stitch; 1 stitch increased
p	purl
RS	right side
ssk	slip 2 stitches knitwise one at a time, insert the left needle through both slipped stitches from left to right, then knit them together through the back loops; 1 stitch decreased
st / sts	stitch / stitches
WS	wrong side

6. Method and Orientation

- Head, body, horns, arms and legs are worked in the round with the RS facing outward. The muzzle and ear panels are worked flat in stockinette stitch, with RS rows knitted and WS rows purled.
- For the head and body, place the BOR marker at CB. The marker remains at CB throughout shaping. For limbs, place BOR along the underside/back of the limb.
- Right and left are described from the finished cow's point of view unless stated otherwise.
- On any even stitch-count round, CF is the gap exactly halfway around from BOR. Use a removable marker at CF whenever placement is being checked.
- For placement maps, Rt1 means the first stitch immediately to the cow's right of CF, Rt2 the second, and so on. Lt1, Lt2 and so on are counted away from CF on the cow's left. Count physically from CF on the stated side; this does not depend on the knitting direction.

7. Construction Overview

1. Knit the head through Rnd 36. While the 32-st opening remains accessible, complete both Black duplicate-stitch patches and, if using safety eyes, install the eyes and washers. Stuff the head, then work Rnds 37-40, adding small amounts of stuffing as needed before gathering the lower pole closed. If using embroidered eyes, add them after the head is stuffed.
2. Knit the body from the 32-st neck opening downward. Add the two black body patches before stuffing. Gather the lower pole closed; the neck opening remains open until the head is attached.
3. Knit the muzzle flat. Make four black outer ear panels and two pink inner ear panels, then assemble two unstuffed ears. Knit two lightly stuffed horns.
4. Knit two arms and two legs from black hoof tip to cream upper limb. Close each hoof tip, stuff the limb, then flatten the upper opening for attachment.
5. Knit the cream I-cord tail and add a black tassel tuft.
6. Finish the face, then attach horns and ears to the head. Partially stuff the body, attach arms, legs and tail, finish stuffing through the neck opening, and sew the body neck one-to-one around Head Rnd 36.

8. Duplicate Stitch for the Black Patches

Work all patch maps before stuffing. Thread black yarn on a tapestry needle. Bring the needle up at the base of the knit V to be covered, pass it under both arms of the V directly above, then return the needle to the starting point. The black strand should sit on top of the existing knit stitch and match its tension. Fill every V listed in the maps. Keep floats on the WS loose and secure yarn ends on the WS.

Common CF gaps used in this pattern are listed below so the placement marker can be moved quickly after shaping rounds.

Round count	CF position
32 sts	gap 16/17
40 sts	gap 20/21
48 sts	gap 24/25
56 sts	gap 28/29
64 sts	gap 32/33
72 sts	gap 36/37
80 sts	gap 40/41

Placement bands such as Lt5-Lt12 or Rt4-Rt10 are inclusive: cover every stitch from the first number through the last.

9. Head - Make 1

Use Cream. Work from the crown downward. Leave a 25 cm / 10 in CO tail so the small crown opening can be tightened.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Setup	CO 8 sts. Distribute evenly, join to work in the round without twisting, and place BOR at CB.	8 sts
Rnd 1	K all sts.	8 sts
Rnd 2	Kfb in each st.	16 sts
Rnd 3	K all sts.	16 sts
Rnd 4	(K1, kfb) 8 times. After the round, thread the CO tail through the 8 original cast-on loops and pull the crown opening closed; secure the tail on the WS.	24 sts
Rnd 5	K all sts.	24 sts
Rnd 6	(K2, kfb) 8 times.	32 sts
Rnd 7	K all sts.	32 sts
Rnd 8	(K3, kfb) 8 times.	40 sts
Rnd 9	K all sts.	40 sts
Rnd 10	(K4, kfb) 8 times.	48 sts
Rnd 11	K all sts.	48 sts
Rnd 12	(K5, kfb) 8 times.	56 sts
Rnd 13	K all sts.	56 sts
Rnd 14	(K6, kfb) 8 times.	64 sts
Rnd 15	K all sts.	64 sts
Rnd 16	(K7, kfb) 8 times.	72 sts
Rnd 17	K all sts.	72 sts
Rnd 18	K all sts.	72 sts
Rnd 19	K all sts.	72 sts
Rnd 20	K all sts.	72 sts
Rnd 21	K all sts.	72 sts
Rnd 22	K all sts.	72 sts
Rnd 23	K all sts.	72 sts
Rnd 24	K all sts.	72 sts
Rnd 25	K all sts.	72 sts

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 26	K all sts.	72 sts
Rnd 27	(K7, k2tog) 8 times.	64 sts
Rnd 28	K all sts.	64 sts
Rnd 29	(K6, k2tog) 8 times.	56 sts
Rnd 30	K all sts.	56 sts
Rnd 31	(K5, k2tog) 8 times.	48 sts
Rnd 32	K all sts.	48 sts
Rnd 33	(K4, k2tog) 8 times.	40 sts
Rnd 34	K all sts.	40 sts
Rnd 35	(K3, k2tog) 8 times.	32 sts
Rnd 36	K all sts.	32 sts

After Rnd 36, pause with 32 sts remaining. While the head is still unstuffed, complete both Black duplicate-stitch patches and secure all patch yarn ends on the WS. Insert the safety eyes at the marked positions, check that they are level and equally distant from CF, then fit the washers from inside the head through the 32-st opening. Stuff the head firmly without stretching the stitches, keeping the lower shaping slightly softer. Resume Rnds 37-40, adding small amounts of stuffing as needed before the opening becomes too small. After Rnd 40, thread the tail through the remaining 8 sts twice, pull closed and bury the tail inside the head.

Head Black Patch Map

With the head unstuffed and RS facing outward, work the following duplicate-stitch bands in Black. Leave one knit V of Cream between separate patches where the maps do not meet.

Head rnd	St count	Cow's right-eye patch	Cow's left forehead patch
11	48	-	Lt5-Lt10
12	56	-	Lt6-Lt13
13	56	-	Lt5-Lt14
14	64	-	Lt5-Lt16
15	64	-	Lt4-Lt18
16	72	-	Lt5-Lt20
17	72	-	Lt4-Lt21
18	72	Rt7-Rt8	Lt4-Lt22
19	72	Rt6-Rt9	Lt3-Lt22
20	72	Rt5-Rt10	Lt3-Lt21
21	72	Rt4-Rt11	Lt7-Lt20
22	72	Rt4-Rt11	Lt10-Lt19
23	72	Rt4-Rt11	Lt11-Lt18
24	72	Rt4-Rt11	Lt11-Lt17
25	72	Rt4-Rt11	Lt11-Lt15
26	72	Rt4-Rt11	Lt12-Lt13
27	64	Rt5-Rt10	-
28	64	Rt6-Rt9	-
29	56	Rt7-Rt8	-

Eye Placement

- Cow's right eye: between Head Rnds 23 and 24, centred in the gap between Rt7 and Rt8.
- Cow's left eye: between Head Rnds 23 and 24, centred in the gap between Lt7 and Lt8.

Confirm from the front that the eyes are level and equally distant from CF. If using safety eyes, fit the washers during the pause after Head Rnd 36. If using embroidered eyes, mark these same positions and embroider the eyes after the head is stuffed.

Head - Rnds 37-40

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 37	(K2, k2tog) 8 times.	24 sts
Rnd 38	K all sts.	24 sts
Rnd 39	(K1, k2tog) 8 times.	16 sts
Rnd 40	K2tog 8 times. Cut Cream, leaving a 25 cm / 10 in tail.	8 sts

10. Body - Make 1

Use Cream. Work from the neck opening downward. The 32-st cast-on edge stays open until the head is sewn on.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Setup	CO 32 sts loosely. Join to work in the round without twisting and place BOR at CB. Leave the cast-on edge open as the neck opening.	32 sts
Rnd 1	K all sts.	32 sts
Rnd 2	(K3, kfb) 8 times.	40 sts
Rnd 3	K all sts.	40 sts
Rnd 4	(K4, kfb) 8 times.	48 sts
Rnd 5	K all sts.	48 sts
Rnd 6	(K5, kfb) 8 times.	56 sts
Rnd 7	K all sts.	56 sts
Rnd 8	(K6, kfb) 8 times.	64 sts
Rnd 9	K all sts.	64 sts
Rnd 10	(K7, kfb) 8 times.	72 sts
Rnd 11	K all sts.	72 sts
Rnd 12	(K8, kfb) 8 times.	80 sts
Rnd 13	K all sts.	80 sts
Rnd 14	K all sts.	80 sts
Rnd 15	K all sts.	80 sts
Rnd 16	K all sts.	80 sts
Rnd 17	K all sts.	80 sts
Rnd 18	K all sts.	80 sts
Rnd 19	K all sts.	80 sts
Rnd 20	K all sts.	80 sts
Rnd 21	K all sts.	80 sts
Rnd 22	K all sts.	80 sts
Rnd 23	K all sts.	80 sts
Rnd 24	K all sts.	80 sts
Rnd 25	K all sts.	80 sts
Rnd 26	K all sts.	80 sts
Rnd 27	K all sts.	80 sts

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 28	(K8, k2tog) 8 times.	72 sts
Rnd 29	K all sts.	72 sts
Rnd 30	(K7, k2tog) 8 times.	64 sts
Rnd 31	K all sts.	64 sts
Rnd 32	(K6, k2tog) 8 times.	56 sts
Rnd 33	K all sts.	56 sts
Rnd 34	(K5, k2tog) 8 times.	48 sts
Rnd 35	K all sts.	48 sts
Rnd 36	(K4, k2tog) 8 times.	40 sts
Rnd 37	K all sts.	40 sts
Rnd 38	(K3, k2tog) 8 times.	32 sts
Rnd 39	K all sts.	32 sts
Rnd 40	(K2, k2tog) 8 times.	24 sts
Rnd 41	(K1, k2tog) 8 times.	16 sts
Rnd 42	K2tog 8 times. Cut Cream, leaving a 25 cm / 10 in tail.	8 sts

Work the black body patches before stuffing. After Rnd 42, thread the tail through the remaining 8 sts twice, pull the lower pole closed and bury the tail. The body is stuffed later through the 32-st neck opening.

Body Black Patch Map

Body rnd	St count	Cow's right lower patch	Cow's left upper patch
13	80	-	Lt10-Lt16
14	80	-	Lt8-Lt18
15	80	-	Lt7-Lt20
16	80	-	Lt6-Lt22
17	80	-	Lt5-Lt23
18	80	Rt9-Rt15	Lt5-Lt23
19	80	Rt7-Rt17	Lt6-Lt22
20	80	Rt6-Rt18	Lt7-Lt21
21	80	Rt5-Rt19	Lt8-Lt20
22	80	Rt4-Rt20	Lt10-Lt18
23	80	Rt4-Rt20	Lt12-Lt16
24	80	Rt5-Rt19	-
25	80	Rt6-Rt18	-
26	80	Rt7-Rt17	-
27	80	Rt9-Rt15	-
28	72	Rt8-Rt14	-
29	72	Rt9-Rt13	-
30	64	Rt7-Rt11	-
31	64	Rt8-Rt10	-

Patch shape The exact stitch bands give the placement and size. The tapered ends come from the changing band widths; do not add an outline around the patches.

11. Muzzle - Make 1

Use Dusty Pink and work flat in stockinette. The cast-on edge will be the upper edge of the muzzle.

Row	Instruction	Count
Setup	CO 14 sts.	14 sts
Row 1	Kfb, k to last st, kfb.	16 sts
Row 2	P all sts.	16 sts
Row 3	Kfb, k to last st, kfb.	18 sts
Row 4	P all sts.	18 sts
Row 5	Kfb, k to last st, kfb.	20 sts
Row 6	P all sts.	20 sts
Row 7	K all sts.	20 sts
Row 8	P all sts.	20 sts
Row 9	K all sts.	20 sts
Row 10	P all sts.	20 sts
Row 11	K all sts.	20 sts
Row 12	P all sts.	20 sts
Row 13	Ssk, k to last 2 sts, k2tog.	18 sts
Row 14	P all sts.	18 sts
Row 15	Ssk, k to last 2 sts, k2tog.	16 sts
Row 16	P all sts.	16 sts
Row 17	Ssk, k to last 2 sts, k2tog.	14 sts
Row 18	P all sts.	14 sts
Row 19	BO all sts knitwise. Leave a short tail and weave it in on the WS; the muzzle will be attached with a separate length of Cream yarn.	BO

Do not stuff the muzzle yet. Light stuffing is added while it is sewn to the head.

12. Outer Ear Panels - Make 4

Use Black and work flat. Two panels form each ear. The cast-on edge is the ear base.

Row	Instruction	Count
Setup	CO 6 sts.	6 sts
Row 1	Kfb, k to last st, kfb.	8 sts
Row 2	P all sts.	8 sts
Row 3	Kfb, k to last st, kfb.	10 sts
Row 4	P all sts.	10 sts
Row 5	Kfb, k to last st, kfb.	12 sts
Row 6	P all sts.	12 sts
Row 7	Kfb, k to last st, kfb.	14 sts
Row 8	P all sts.	14 sts
Row 9	K all sts.	14 sts
Row 10	P all sts.	14 sts
Row 11	Ssk, k to last 2 sts, k2tog.	12 sts
Row 12	P all sts.	12 sts

Row	Instruction	Count
Row 13	Ssk, k to last 2 sts, k2tog.	10 sts
Row 14	P all sts.	10 sts
Row 15	Ssk, k to last 2 sts, k2tog.	8 sts
Row 16	P all sts.	8 sts
Row 17	Ssk, k to last 2 sts, k2tog.	6 sts
Row 18	P all sts.	6 sts
Row 19	BO all sts knitwise.	BO

13. Inner Ear Panels - Make 2

Use Dusty Pink and work flat.

Row	Instruction	Count
Setup	CO 4 sts.	4 sts
Row 1	Kfb, k to last st, kfb.	6 sts
Row 2	P all sts.	6 sts
Row 3	Kfb, k to last st, kfb.	8 sts
Row 4	P all sts.	8 sts
Row 5	Kfb, k to last st, kfb.	10 sts
Row 6	P all sts.	10 sts
Row 7	K all sts.	10 sts
Row 8	P all sts.	10 sts
Row 9	Ssk, k to last 2 sts, k2tog.	8 sts
Row 10	P all sts.	8 sts
Row 11	Ssk, k to last 2 sts, k2tog.	6 sts
Row 12	P all sts.	6 sts
Row 13	Ssk, k to last 2 sts, k2tog.	4 sts
Row 14	P all sts.	4 sts
Row 15	BO all sts knitwise. Leave a short tail and weave it in on the WS; ear assembly will use a separate length of Cream yarn.	BO

Ear Assembly

1. Place one pink inner panel RS up on the RS of one black outer panel. Centre it from side to side. Position the pink cast-on edge approximately 2 outer-ear rows above the black cast-on base so a narrow black border remains visible around the entire pink panel, including its lower edge. The upper tip of the pink panel should finish approximately 2 rows below the black outer-ear tip. Using a separate length of Cream yarn, sew around the inner panel with clearly visible decorative running or blanket stitches.
2. Place a second black outer panel behind the first with WS together and RS facing outward on both sides. Using Black, whip stitch from one base corner around the side, tip and opposite side to the other base corner. Leave the 6-st cast-on base open.
3. Keep the ear unstuffed. Gently flatten and shape the edges so the pink insert faces forward. Make the second ear the same way.

14. Horns - Make 2

Use Tan / Camel. Work from the horn tip toward the open base. Leave a 20 cm / 8 in CO tail for closing the tip.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Setup	CO 6 sts. Distribute evenly, join to work in the round and place BOR.	6 sts

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 1	K all sts.	6 sts
Rnd 2	(K1, kfb) 3 times.	9 sts
Rnd 3	K all sts.	9 sts
Rnd 4	(K2, kfb) 3 times. After the round, thread the CO tail through the 6 original cast-on loops and pull the tip closed; secure on the WS.	12 sts
Rnd 5	K all sts.	12 sts
Rnd 6	K all sts.	12 sts
Rnd 7	K all sts.	12 sts
Rnd 8	K all sts.	12 sts
Rnd 9	K all sts.	12 sts
Rnd 10	K all sts.	12 sts
Rnd 11	K all sts.	12 sts
Rnd 12	K all sts, then BO loosely. Leave a 45 cm / 18 in tail for attachment.	12 sts

Add a small amount of stuffing, enough to keep each horn upright without making it rigid. Keep the 12-st base open for sewing.

15. Arms - Make 2

Start with Black at the hoof tip, then change to Cream. Work in the round.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Setup	With Black, CO 8 sts. Distribute evenly, join to work in the round and place BOR along the underside/back of the arm. Leave a 20 cm / 8 in CO tail.	8 sts
Rnd 1	K all sts.	8 sts
Rnd 2	Kfb in each st.	16 sts
Rnd 3	K all sts.	16 sts
Rnd 4	(K1, kfb) 8 times. After the round, thread the CO tail through the 8 original cast-on loops and pull the hoof tip closed; secure on the WS.	24 sts
Rnd 5	K all sts.	24 sts
Rnd 6	K all sts.	24 sts
Rnd 7	K all sts.	24 sts
Rnd 8	Cut Black, leaving a 15 cm / 6 in tail. Join Cream at BOR and k all sts.	24 sts
Rnd 9	K all sts.	24 sts
Rnd 10	K all sts.	24 sts
Rnd 11	K all sts.	24 sts
Rnd 12	K all sts.	24 sts
Rnd 13	K all sts.	24 sts
Rnd 14	K all sts.	24 sts
Rnd 15	K all sts.	24 sts
Rnd 16	K all sts.	24 sts
Rnd 17	K all sts.	24 sts

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 18	(K4, k2tog) 4 times.	20 sts
Rnd 19	K all sts.	20 sts
Rnd 20	K all sts.	20 sts
Rnd 21	K all sts, then BO loosely. Leave a 55 cm / 22 in Cream tail for attachment.	20 sts

Stuff the black hoof moderately and the cream arm lightly. Keep the top 2 rounds soft. Flatten the 20-st opening so 10 sts lie on the front layer and 10 on the back layer. During attachment, each sewing stitch must capture both flattened layers before entering the body.

16. Legs - Make 2

Start with Black at the hoof tip, then change to Cream. Work in the round.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Setup	With Black, CO 8 sts. Distribute evenly, join to work in the round and place BOR along the underside/back of the leg. Leave a 20 cm / 8 in CO tail.	8 sts
Rnd 1	K all sts.	8 sts
Rnd 2	Kfb in each st.	16 sts
Rnd 3	K all sts.	16 sts
Rnd 4	(K1, kfb) 8 times.	24 sts
Rnd 5	K all sts.	24 sts
Rnd 6	(K2, kfb) 8 times. After the round, thread the CO tail through the 8 original cast-on loops and pull the hoof tip closed; secure on the WS.	32 sts
Rnd 7	K all sts.	32 sts
Rnd 8	K all sts.	32 sts
Rnd 9	K all sts.	32 sts
Rnd 10	Cut Black, leaving a 15 cm / 6 in tail. Join Cream at BOR and k all sts.	32 sts
Rnd 11	K all sts.	32 sts
Rnd 12	K all sts.	32 sts
Rnd 13	K all sts.	32 sts
Rnd 14	K all sts.	32 sts
Rnd 15	K all sts.	32 sts
Rnd 16	K all sts.	32 sts
Rnd 17	K all sts.	32 sts
Rnd 18	K all sts.	32 sts
Rnd 19	(K6, k2tog) 4 times.	28 sts
Rnd 20	K all sts.	28 sts
Rnd 21	(K5, k2tog) 4 times.	24 sts
Rnd 22	K all sts.	24 sts
Rnd 23	(K4, k2tog) 4 times.	20 sts
Rnd 24	K all sts, then BO loosely. Leave a 60 cm / 24 in Cream tail for attachment.	20 sts

Stuff each hoof firmly enough to hold its round shape, then stuff the cream leg moderately. Keep the top 2 rounds slightly soft. Flatten the 20-st opening into two 10-st layers. During attachment, capture both layers with every sewing stitch.

17. Tail - Make 1

Use Cream. Work a 4-st I-cord without turning. Use one double-pointed needle, or one tip of the 3.5 mm circular needle listed in Materials. After every knitted row, slide the 4 sts back to the working end without turning, bring the working yarn firmly across the back, and knit the next row.

Row	Instruction	Count
Setup	CO 4 sts.	4 sts
Row 1	K4; slide the 4 sts without turning.	4 sts
Row 2	K4; slide the 4 sts without turning.	4 sts
Row 3	K4; slide the 4 sts without turning.	4 sts
Row 4	K4; slide the 4 sts without turning.	4 sts
Row 5	K4; slide the 4 sts without turning.	4 sts
Row 6	K4; slide the 4 sts without turning.	4 sts
Row 7	K4; slide the 4 sts without turning.	4 sts
Row 8	K4; slide the 4 sts without turning.	4 sts
Row 9	K4; slide the 4 sts without turning.	4 sts
Row 10	K4; slide the 4 sts without turning.	4 sts
Row 11	K4; slide the 4 sts without turning.	4 sts
Row 12	K4; slide the 4 sts without turning.	4 sts
Row 13	K4; slide the 4 sts without turning.	4 sts
Row 14	K4; slide the 4 sts without turning.	4 sts
Row 15	K4; slide the 4 sts without turning.	4 sts
Row 16	K4; slide the 4 sts without turning.	4 sts
Row 17	K4; slide the 4 sts without turning.	4 sts
Row 18	K4; slide the 4 sts without turning.	4 sts
Row 19	K4; slide the 4 sts without turning.	4 sts
Row 20	K4; slide the 4 sts without turning.	4 sts
Row 21	K4; slide the 4 sts without turning.	4 sts
Row 22	K4; slide the 4 sts without turning.	4 sts
Row 23	K4; slide the 4 sts without turning.	4 sts
Row 24	K4; slide the 4 sts without turning.	4 sts
Row 25	BO all 4 sts. Leave a 45 cm / 18 in Cream tail for attachment.	BO

Tail Tuft

Cut 8 strands of Black, each about 12 cm / 4.75 in long. Fold the strands in half. Thread the fold through the free end of the I-cord, then pull the strand ends through the folded loop so the bundle is secured to the tail. Wrap a separate 25 cm / 10 in strand of Black firmly around the tuft about 8 mm / 0.3 in below the fold 6-8 times. Pass the end under the wraps, pull snug, bury both tie ends inside the tuft, and trim the tuft to about 3-3.5 cm / 1.2-1.4 in.

18. Face and Head Finishing

Muzzle Placement and Sewing

1. With the head stuffed and the eye line level, mark CF. Place the muzzle RS outward with its cast-on edge uppermost. Centre the muzzle on CF so the upper edge sits around Head Rnd 26 and the lower edge reaches approximately Head Rnd 35. The widest part should sit evenly across the lower face.
2. Pin the muzzle at top, bottom and both sides. Check from the front that the muzzle is level and from the side that it projects evenly.
3. Using a separate length of Cream yarn, work a clearly visible exterior whip stitch or blanket-style decorative stitch around the muzzle edge and into the head fabric. Keep the stitches evenly spaced and deliberately visible on the finished surface. Leave a 2 cm / 0.75 in gap at the lower edge.
4. Add a small amount of stuffing through the gap to make a soft rounded pad. Do not overfill. Complete the remaining Cream decorative stitches across the gap, secure the yarn and bury the end inside the head.

Nostrils

With Black, embroider two short vertical nostrils on the muzzle. On the 20-st central section, place them over stitch columns 7 and 14, spanning approximately Muzzle Rows 8-11. Work 2-3 passes for each nostril, keeping both lines the same length and level.

Embroidered Eye Option

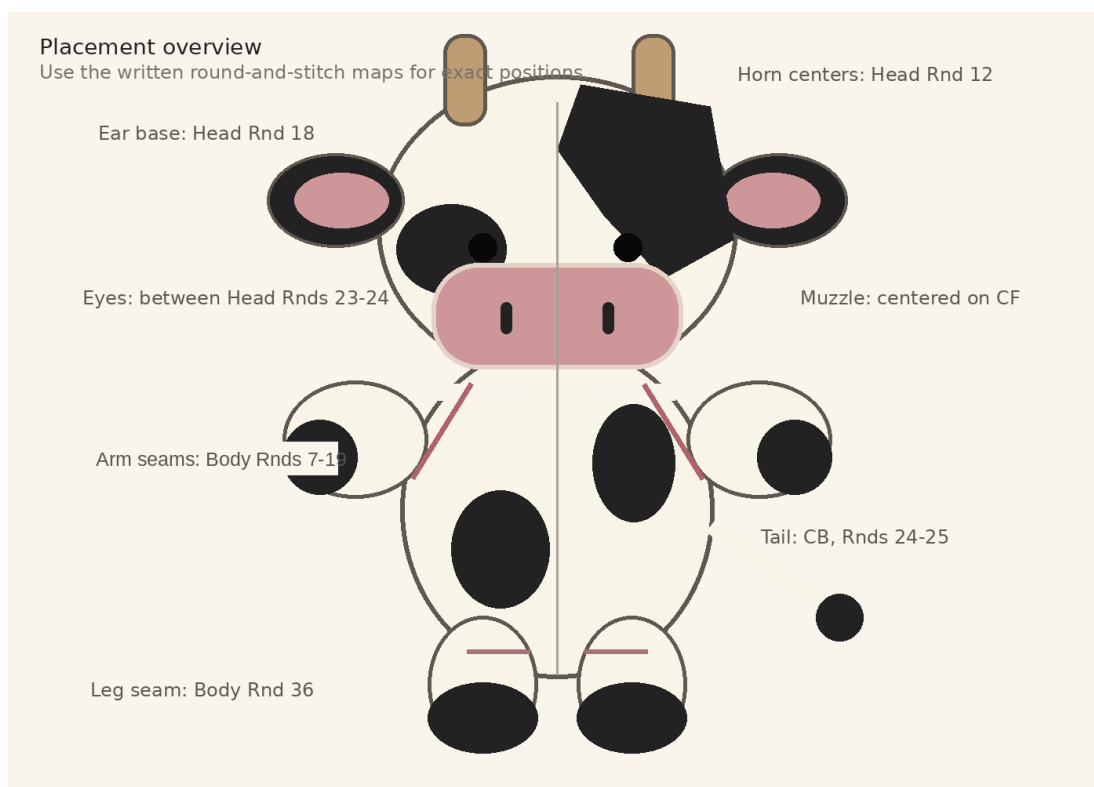
If safety eyes are not used, embroider a compact black oval at each marked eye position between Head Rnds 23 and 24. Build each eye to approximately 9-10 mm / 0.35-0.4 in across with satin stitch, then secure and bury the yarn inside the head.

Horn Placement

At Head Rnd 12, where there are 56 sts, mark horn centres at Rt7 and Lt7 from CF. Each 12-st horn base should sit as a small oval spanning approximately Head Rnds 10-14. Pin both horns upright and compare from the front and top. Using the Tan attachment tail, whip stitch around the entire open horn base into the head fabric. Keep the stuffing inside the horn and do not overtighten.

Ear Placement

At Head Rnd 18, where there are 72 sts, place the right ear base across Rt15-Rt20 and the left ear base across Lt15-Lt20. The pink inner panels face forward and slightly upward. Each 6-st ear base is attached along a short horizontal line. Using Black, stitch through both ear-base layers and into the head at each of the 6 base positions. Make a second pass if needed for firmness, then bury the yarn inside the head.



19. Body Assembly and Limb Placement

Before attaching limbs, confirm that the black body patches are complete and all duplicate-stitch yarn ends are secured on the WS. The bottom of the body should already be gathered closed; the 32-st neck opening remains open.

1. Add stuffing through the neck opening until the body is about two-thirds full. Shape it into a rounded pear with a slightly flatter lower front so the legs can support the cow.
2. Pin the arms as mirrored near-vertical diagonal shoulder joins. Distribute the 10 attachment stitches of each flattened arm opening evenly over approximately Body Rnds 7-19. For the cow's right arm, begin near the side-axis gap Rt14/Rt15 on Body Rnd 7 and allow the seam to travel downward and slightly outward toward approximately Rt20/Rt21 by Body Rnd 19. Mirror this on the cow's left using Lt14/Lt15 at Rnd 7 and Lt20/Lt21 by Rnd 19. Keep the upper ends close to the neck and both lower ends at matching heights. Using Cream, sew through both flattened arm layers and the body with a clearly visible exterior whip stitch or blanket-style joining stitch to create the intended patchwork seam.
3. Pin the legs at Body Rnd 36, where there are 40 sts. The right leg seam spans Rt3-Rt12 and the left leg seam spans Lt3-Lt12. This leaves Rt1-Rt2 and Lt1-Lt2 clear at centre front, creating a 4-stitch cream gap between the two leg joins. Keep both flattened openings horizontal and the black hooves pointing forward. Using Cream, sew each 10-column edge through both leg layers and into the body with a clearly visible exterior whip stitch or blanket-style joining stitch.
4. Position the tail at CB, centred over BOR between Body Rnds 24 and 25. Lay the first 1 cm / 0.4 in of I-cord against the back of the body and secure it with 4-6 small whip stitches through the I-cord and body fabric. The black tuft hangs freely downward.
5. Stand the body upright and compare arm height, leg height and front-facing balance. If needed, remove only the affected attachment stitches and repin before continuing.
6. Add the remaining stuffing through the neck. Keep the shoulders full enough to support the head but do not stretch the 32-st neck opening. Firm the lower body around the leg joins and keep the gathered base slightly flat.

20. Attach the Head to the Body

1. Head Rnd 36 contains 32 sts. Place the head over the 32-st body neck opening so the small closed lower pole of the head sits inside the opening and Head Rnd 36 meets the body cast-on edge.
2. Align CB to CB and CF to CF. Add temporary markers at the right and left side quarters so the 32 body neck loops and 32 head stitches are divided into four equal groups of 8.
3. Using a separate 90 cm / 36 in length of Cream, work a clearly visible exterior whip stitch or blanket-style joining stitch around the neck, passing through one body cast-on loop and one corresponding stitch of Head Rnd 36 at each position: 32 one-to-one attachment stitches in total. Keep the stitches evenly spaced and deliberately visible to form the patchwork neck seam.
4. Before the final 5-6 stitches are closed, check the head from the front and both sides. Add or redistribute a small amount of shoulder stuffing if the head leans. Finish the seam, secure the yarn inside the body and bury the end.

21. Final Shaping and Finishing

- Gently roll the head and body between your hands to smooth stuffing lumps. Keep the muzzle softly rounded rather than firm.
- Pinch and shape the horn tips so they point upward with a slight outward lean. Flatten the ears gently so the pink inserts face forward.
- Press the black hoof sections into rounded ends. Adjust leg stuffing so both feet sit at the same height.
- Check the tail from the back. The I-cord should leave CB cleanly and the tuft should hang freely without pulling the body fabric.
- Remove all temporary markers and bury every remaining yarn tail inside the nearest stuffed piece.

22. Placement Summary

Feature	Round / row	Stitch position	Orientation
Eyes	Head between Rnds 23-24	Right: gap Rt7/Rt8; Left: gap Lt7/Lt8	Level and symmetrical
Muzzle	Head Rnds about 26-35	Centred on CF	Cast-on edge uppermost
Right ear	Head Rnd 18	Rt15-Rt20	Short horizontal base
Left ear	Head Rnd 18	Lt15-Lt20	Short horizontal base
Right horn	Centre at Head Rnd 12	Rt7 from CF	Base spans about Rnds 10-14
Left horn	Centre at Head Rnd 12	Lt7 from CF	Base spans about Rnds 10-14
Right arm	Body Rnds 7-19	Approx. Rt14/Rt15 to Rt20/Rt21	Mirrored diagonal exterior seam
Left arm	Body Rnds 7-19	Approx. Lt14/Lt15 to Lt20/Lt21	Mirrored diagonal exterior seam
Right leg	Body Rnd 36	Rt3-Rt12	Flattened 10-column seam, horizontal
Left leg	Body Rnd 36	Lt3-Lt12	Flattened 10-column seam, horizontal
Tail	Body Rnds 24-25	CB / BOR	Secure first 1 cm of I-cord
Head-to-body seam	Head Rnd 36 to body neck CO edge	32 sts to 32 loops	One-to-one all around

23. Final Visual Checklist

- Face is centred and both eyes are level.
- Black head patches follow the intended asymmetrical layout and do not pucker the cream fabric.
- Muzzle is level, centred on CF and softly rounded.
- Nostrils are vertical, equal in length and evenly spaced.
- Ears are the same height, with pink panels facing forward.
- Horns are symmetrical and stand upright with similar angles.
- Head sits straight over the body with an even neck seam.
- Arms hang downward from mirrored diagonal shoulder joins, with the exposed Cream seams and arm lengths matching on both sides.
- Legs are attached at the same height; black hooves point forward and support a stable standing pose.
- Tail is centred at CB and the tuft hangs freely.
- Body patches are smooth with visible knit V texture.
- No stuffing is visible through the fabric.
- No opening or seam gap remains.
- No yarn tail, temporary marker or exposed securing point remains visible.

24. Troubleshooting

Problem	Practical correction
Stuffing shows between stitches	Check the 24 sts x 32 rnds gauge. Use a smaller needle or reduce stuffing until the knit fabric closes cleanly.
Cow is larger or smaller than expected	Measure stockinette gauge before changing piece counts. A looser gauge with fewer stitches per 10 cm / 4 in makes every fixed-stitch-count circumference larger; a tighter gauge with more stitches per 10 cm / 4 in makes it smaller. Adjust needle size first.
Head leans after assembly	Open a short section of the neck seam, redistribute shoulder stuffing, realign the four quarter markers and re sew the affected section.
One arm or leg sits higher	For arms, confirm both seams follow Body Rnds 7-19 and the mirrored diagonal side-axis placement. For legs, confirm both use Body Rnd 36 and the stated Rt/Lt spans. Repin the higher piece before resewing.
Hoof colour change has a visible step	Keep BOR on the underside/back of the limb. On the second round of the new colour, gently tighten the first new-colour stitch and smooth the join before stuffing.
Duplicate stitch puckers	The black yarn is too tight. Ease each covered V until it matches the size of the surrounding cream stitches.
Patch looks too bulky	Use the same yarn weight and similar gauge for Black and Cream. If Black is noticeably thicker, use a slightly smaller black strand or separate a plied yarn only if it remains structurally sound.
Muzzle is off-centre	Remove the seam over the shifted side, re pin the muzzle to CF with top and bottom markers, then re sew only after checking the front view.
Safety eyes are uneven	Check placement before fitting the washers. Once washers are secured, replacement usually requires opening the head. Embroidered eyes can be repositioned by removing the stitches.
Ear heights do not match	Make sure both ear bases are attached on Head Rnd 18 and use the same Rt15-Rt20 / Lt15-Lt20 spans.
Attachment feels loose	Add a second sewing pass through the same seam path, catching firm body fabric and both flattened limb layers. Do not rely only on surface strands.
Visible seam gaps	Use smaller, more closely spaced whip or ladder stitches. Tighten only enough to close the gap without drawing the knit fabric inward.
Body base is too round to stand	Move some stuffing upward, press the gathered base flatter with your fingers, and keep the lower front firm around the leg joins.
Different colours work at different gauges	Check each structural colour with the same needles. If one colour knits looser or tighter, adjust tension or use a nearby needle size for that colour so the pieces remain compatible.

25. Finished Cow

After the final shaping, the cow should stand with a rounded cream body, black hoof tips, two asymmetrical head patches, two body patches, a broad pink muzzle, matching pink inner ears, tan horns and a slim tail with a black tuft. The visible joins should be secure and even, while the stuffing remains smooth and fully enclosed.

Careful finishing Small placement adjustments make a noticeable difference. Check the cow from the front, sides, top and back before securing the final sewing ends.