

MABEL THE LITTLE GOAT

Free Knitting Pattern

A softly shaped standing goat plush with knitted horns, pink-lined ears, contrast hooves and a tasselled tail



Skill level: Confident beginner / intermediate

1. Introduction

This pattern makes a standing knitted goat plush with a rounded cream head and body, short taupe-tipped limbs, a softly padded muzzle, pink-lined ears, small beige horns, narrow taupe-grey front and rear head stripes, a pointed beard and a tasselled tail. The main pieces are knitted in the round for a smooth finish; the muzzle, ears and beard are knitted flat.

The shaping uses simple increases and decreases. Small-circumference knitting, basic flat stockinette, duplicate stitch, mattress stitch and careful placement are the main techniques. The pattern is suitable for a confident beginner who is comfortable knitting in the round, or an intermediate maker looking for a straightforward plush project.

Construction style Body and head are knitted separately and joined at matching 40-stitch neck edges. Limbs are knitted from the closed tip upward and attached with flattened two-layer shoulder or thigh seams. Ears and decorative pieces remain unstuffed.

2. Finished Size

Measurement	Metric	Imperial
Standing height to horn tips	29-31 cm	11.5-12.25 in
Head width	10-11 cm	4-4.25 in
Head height, crown to chin	11-12 cm	4.25-4.75 in
Body height	12-13 cm	4.75-5.25 in
Body width	9-10 cm	3.5-4 in
Body depth	8.5-9.5 cm	3.25-3.75 in
Muzzle	about 5.5-6 x 4-4.5 cm	2.25 x 1.5-1.75 in
Outer ear length	about 6 cm	2.25-2.5 in
Horn height	4.5-5 cm	1.75-2 in
Arm length	about 6 cm	2.25 in
Leg length	6-6.5 cm	2.25-2.5 in
Tail including tassel	4.5-5.5 cm	1.75-2.25 in

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

3. Materials and Tools

Yarn

Colour	Suggested yarn	Approximate quantity
Cream	DK / light worsted, smooth yarn	about 100 g / 230-250 m
Taupe-grey	DK / light worsted, smooth yarn	about 30 g / 65-75 m
Warm beige	DK / light worsted, smooth yarn	about 20 g / 40-50 m
Blush pink	DK / light worsted, smooth yarn	about 5 g / 10-15 m
Dark brown	embroidery yarn or a split strand of smooth yarn	small amount

Cotton, cotton-acrylic or a smooth acrylic yarn works well. Choose yarns that knit to a dense fabric with clearly visible stitches.

Needles and notions

- 3.25 mm needles suitable for small circumferences: DPNs or a long circular needle for magic loop

- 3.25 mm needles for flat pieces
- 2 black safety eyes, approximately 10-12 mm
- Polyester stuffing
- Tapestry needle
- Stitch markers and removable locking markers or contrast yarn
- Pins
- Scissors
- Measuring tape

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

4. Gauge and Tension

Worked firmly in stockinette stitch in the round with 3.25 mm needles:

Gauge 24 sts x 34 rnds = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in.

The fabric should be dense enough that stuffing does not show between stitches. If the fabric is loose, use a smaller needle. If the fabric is very stiff and difficult to shape, use a slightly larger needle while keeping the stitch fabric closed.

For the flat muzzle, ears and beard, use the same needle size and aim for the same stitch width as the circular fabric. Row gauge may vary slightly without affecting assembly.

5. Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
BO	bind off
BOR	beginning of round
CB	centre back
CF	centre front
CO	cast on
DPN / DPNs	double-pointed needle / needles
k	knit
k2tog	knit 2 stitches together
kfb	knit into the front and back of the same stitch
p	purl
p2tog	purl 2 stitches together
PM	place marker
rnd / rnds	round / rounds
RS	right side
ssk	slip 1 knitwise, slip 1 knitwise, return both stitches to the left needle and knit them together through the back loops
st / sts	stitch / stitches
WS	wrong side

6. Method and Orientation

- The Body, Head, Horns, Arms and Legs are knitted in the round. The Tail begins as a 4-stitch I-cord.
- The Muzzle, Outer Ears, Inner Ears and Beard are knitted flat in stockinette stitch.
- For circular stockinette, knit every round. For flat stockinette, knit on RS rows and purl on WS rows unless a shaping instruction says otherwise.
- For the Head and Body, PM for BOR and keep BOR on the CB line. The marker does not move intentionally.
- After knitting the Head and Body, gently flatten each piece with BOR centred at the back. Mark the opposite vertical line with removable yarn; this is CF. Mark the two side folds as side axes when useful for limb and ear placement.
- Right and left are described from the finished goat's point of view unless stated otherwise.
- Placement-coordinate convention: From CB/BOR, the first half of each numbered round corresponds to the goat's left side and the second half to the goat's right side.

Marker reminder Keep the CB/BOR and CF markers in place until the final finishing check. They make it much easier to mirror paired features and keep the face and limbs centred.

7. Construction Overview

Piece	Make	Construction / finishing
Body	1	Knitted from the lower centre upward. Close the 8-stitch cast-on ring. Stuff through the 40-stitch neck opening; leave the neck open for joining.
Head	1	Knitted from the crown downward. Close the 8-stitch crown ring. Install eyes and work the front and rear head stripes before final stuffing. Leave the 40-stitch neck opening open.
Muzzle	1	Knitted flat and left unstuffed until sewing. Add a small amount of stuffing under it as the seam is closed.
Outer ears	2	Knitted flat, unstuffed.
Inner ears	2	Knitted flat in pink and sewn to the outer ears before ear attachment.
Horns	2	Knitted in the round from the open base to the gathered tip. Stuff lightly; bases remain open for sewing.
Beard	1	Knitted flat in taupe-grey from the point upward and left unstuffed.
Arms	2	Knitted from the hand tip upward. Close the cast-on tip; flatten and close the live shoulder stitches in two layers.
Legs	2	Knitted from the hoof base upward. Close the cast-on tip; flatten and close the live thigh stitches in two layers.
Tail	1	Work a short 4-stitch I-cord and add a taupe tassel to the free end.

8. Complete Written Pattern

Read each piece through before beginning. All stitch counts shown in the final column are the counts after completing the row or round.

8A. Body

With cream, CO 8 sts, leaving a 30 cm / 12 in cast-on tail. Divide the stitches evenly for working in the round and PM for BOR. BOR is CB.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 1	Kfb in every st.	16
Rnd 2	*K1, kfb; repeat from * around.	24
Rnd 3	Knit.	24
Rnd 4	*K2, kfb; repeat from * around.	32
Rnd 5	Knit.	32
Rnd 6	*K3, kfb; repeat from * around.	40
Rnd 7	Knit.	40
Rnd 8	*K4, kfb; repeat from * around.	48
Rnd 9	Knit.	48
Rnd 10	*K5, kfb; repeat from * around.	56
Rnd 11	Knit.	56
Rnd 12	*K6, kfb; repeat from * around.	64
Rnd 13	Knit.	64
Rnd 14	*K7, kfb; repeat from * around.	72
Rnds 15-30	Knit.	72
Rnd 31	*K7, k2tog; repeat from * around.	64
Rnds 32-34	Knit.	64
Rnd 35	*K6, k2tog; repeat from * around.	56
Rnds 36-38	Knit.	56
Rnd 39	*K5, k2tog; repeat from * around.	48
Rnds 40-42	Knit.	48
Rnd 43	*K4, k2tog; repeat from * around.	40
Rnds 44-46	Knit.	40

After Rnd 14, use the cast-on tail to pass through the 8 cast-on edge loops at the lower centre. Pull the opening fully closed, secure the yarn on the inside and bury the tail.

After Rnd 46, BO all 40 sts loosely, leaving a 90 cm / 36 in tail for joining the neck. Stuff the lower body moderately firmly and the upper body a little firmer so the neck remains upright. Keep the bind-off edge circular and open.

8B. Head

With cream, CO 8 sts, leaving a 30 cm / 12 in cast-on tail for closing the crown. Divide the stitches for working in the round and PM for BOR. BOR is CB.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 1	Kfb in every st.	16
Rnd 2	*K1, kfb; repeat from * around.	24

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 3	Knit.	24
Rnd 4	*K2, kfb; repeat from * around.	32
Rnd 5	Knit.	32
Rnd 6	*K3, kfb; repeat from * around.	40
Rnd 7	Knit.	40
Rnd 8	*K4, kfb; repeat from * around.	48
Rnd 9	Knit.	48
Rnd 10	*K5, kfb; repeat from * around.	56
Rnd 11	Knit.	56
Rnd 12	*K6, kfb; repeat from * around.	64
Rnd 13	Knit.	64
Rnd 14	*K7, kfb; repeat from * around.	72
Rnd 15	Knit.	72
Rnd 16	*K8, kfb; repeat from * around.	80
Rnds 17-30	Knit.	80
Rnd 31	*K8, k2tog; repeat from * around.	72
Rnd 32	Knit.	72
Rnd 33	*K7, k2tog; repeat from * around.	64
Rnd 34	Knit.	64
Rnd 35	*K6, k2tog; repeat from * around.	56
Rnd 36	Knit.	56
Rnd 37	*K5, k2tog; repeat from * around.	48
Rnds 38-39	Knit.	48
Rnd 40	*K4, k2tog; repeat from * around.	40
Rnds 41-42	Knit.	40

After Rnd 16, use the cast-on tail to pass through the 8 cast-on edge loops at the crown. Pull the crown opening fully closed, secure the yarn on the inside and bury the tail.

After Rnd 42, BO all 40 sts loosely. Leave the neck opening unseamed for eye installation and stuffing. Gently flatten the head with BOR at CB and mark CF directly opposite BOR.

8C. Muzzle

With cream, CO 8 sts. Work flat in stockinette. Leave a 60 cm / 24 in tail when binding off for sewing.

Row	Instruction	Count
Row 1 (RS)	K8.	8
Row 2 (WS)	P8.	8
Row 3	Kfb, k6, kfb.	10
Row 4	P10.	10
Row 5	Kfb, k8, kfb.	12
Row 6	P12.	12

Row	Instruction	Count
Row 7	Kfb, k10, kfb.	14
Row 8	P14.	14
Row 9	K14.	14
Row 10	P14.	14
Row 11	Ssk, k10, k2tog.	12
Row 12	P12.	12
Row 13	Ssk, k8, k2tog.	10
Row 14	P10.	10
Row 15	Ssk, k6, k2tog.	8
Row 16	P8.	8

BO 8 sts. Do not stuff yet. Lightly steam or hand-shape the piece only if your yarn benefits from it; do not flatten the edge into a hard crease.

8D. Outer Ears - make 2 in cream

CO 4 sts. Work flat in stockinette. The cast-on edge is the ear base.

Row	Instruction	Count
Row 1 (RS)	K4.	4
Row 2 (WS)	P4.	4
Row 3	Kfb, k2, kfb.	6
Row 4	P6.	6
Row 5	Kfb, k4, kfb.	8
Row 6	P8.	8
Row 7	K8.	8
Row 8	P8.	8
Row 9	K8.	8
Row 10	P8.	8
Row 11	K8.	8
Row 12	P8.	8
Row 13	K8.	8
Row 14	P8.	8
Row 15	Ssk, k4, k2tog.	6
Row 16	P6.	6
Row 17	Ssk, k2, k2tog.	4
Row 18	P4.	4
Row 19	Ssk, k2tog.	2
Row 20	P2tog.	1

Cut yarn and pull through the final st. Leave the cast-on edge free for attachment.

8E. Inner Ears - make 2 in blush pink

CO 2 sts. Work flat in stockinette. These smaller panels sit on the RS of the outer ears with the purl side (WS) of each pink panel facing outward.

Row	Instruction	Count
Row 1 (RS)	Kfb in each st.	4
Row 2 (WS)	P4.	4
Row 3	Kfb, k2, kfb.	6
Row 4	P6.	6
Row 5	K6.	6
Row 6	P6.	6
Row 7	K6.	6
Row 8	P6.	6
Row 9	K6.	6
Row 10	P6.	6
Row 11	K6.	6
Row 12	P6.	6
Row 13	Ssk, k2, k2tog.	4
Row 14	P4.	4
Row 15	Ssk, k2tog.	2
Row 16	P2tog.	1

Cut yarn and pull through the final st. Block only enough to smooth the panels. Keep both ear layers soft and flexible.

8F. Horns - make 2 in warm beige

CO 14 sts, leaving a 35 cm / 14 in cast-on tail for attachment. Join to work in the round and PM for BOR. The cast-on edge remains open.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnds 1-10	Knit.	14
Rnd 11	K5, k2tog, k5, k2tog.	12
Rnd 12	Knit.	12
Rnd 13	K4, k2tog, k4, k2tog.	10
Rnd 14	Knit.	10
Rnd 15	K3, k2tog, k3, k2tog.	8
Rnd 16	Knit.	8
Rnd 17	K2tog 4 times.	4

Cut yarn, thread through the remaining 4 sts and pull the tip closed. Secure and bury the working tail inside. Add a very small amount of stuffing from the base, keeping the horn flexible enough to angle slightly backward. Keep the cast-on tail at the base for sewing.

8G. Beard - make 1 in taupe-grey

CO 1 st in taupe-grey. Work flat in stockinette from the point toward the top edge.

Row	Instruction	Count
Row 1 (RS)	Kfb.	2
Row 2 (WS)	P2.	2
Row 3	Kfb in each st.	4
Row 4	P4.	4
Row 5	Kfb, k2, kfb.	6
Row 6	P6.	6
Row 7	Kfb, k4, kfb.	8
Row 8	P8.	8
Row 9	K8.	8
Row 10	P8.	8
Row 11	K8.	8
Row 12	P8.	8
Row 13	K8.	8
Row 14	P8.	8

BO 8 sts, leaving a 45 cm / 18 in tail for attachment.

8H. Arms - make 2

With taupe-grey, CO 8 sts, leaving a 25 cm / 10 in cast-on tail for closing the hand tip. Join in the round and PM for BOR. Keep BOR on the underside/back of the arm.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 1	Kfb in every st.	16
Rnd 2	*K3, kfb; repeat from * around.	20
Rnds 3-6	Knit in taupe-grey.	20
Rnd 7	Change to cream and knit.	20
Rnds 8-16	Knit in cream.	20
Rnd 17	*K3, k2tog; repeat from * around.	16
Rnds 18-20	Knit.	16

After Rnd 2, use the cast-on tail to pass through the 8 cast-on edge loops and close the hand tip completely. Secure the tail inside.

After Rnd 20, stuff the lower two-thirds lightly, keeping the upper arm soft. Cut the cream yarn leaving a 75 cm / 30 in working tail. Flatten the 16 live sts so 8 sts sit against 8 sts. Using the working tail, pass through and secure the paired live stitches to close the flattened shoulder edge. Each pass must capture one stitch from the front layer and its matching stitch from the back layer. Keep the remaining tail for attachment.

8I. Legs - make 2

With taupe-grey, CO 8 sts, leaving a 25 cm / 10 in cast-on tail for closing the centre of the hoof. Join in the round and PM for BOR. Keep BOR on the rear/inner side of the leg.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 1	Kfb in every st.	16
Rnd 2	*K1, kfb; repeat from * around.	24
Rnd 3	*K2, kfb; repeat from * around.	32

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnds 4-7	Knit in taupe-grey.	32
Rnd 8	Change to cream and knit.	32
Rnds 9-15	Knit in cream.	32
Rnd 16	*K6, k2tog; repeat from * around.	28
Rnds 17-19	Knit.	28
Rnd 20	*K5, k2tog; repeat from * around.	24
Rnds 21-22	Knit.	24

After Rnd 3, use the cast-on tail to pass through the 8 cast-on edge loops and close the hoof centre completely. Secure the tail inside.

After Rnd 22, stuff the hoof firmly enough to stay rounded and the cream upper leg moderately. Keep the top 2 rounds slightly softer. Cut the cream yarn leaving an 85 cm / 34 in working tail. Flatten the 24 live sts so 12 sts sit against 12 sts. Pass the working tail through paired live stitches to close the flattened thigh edge, capturing both layers with every pass. Keep the remaining tail for attachment.

8J. Tail

With taupe-grey on DPNs, CO 4 sts, leaving a 35 cm / 14 in cast-on tail for attachment.

Row	Instruction	Count
I-cord Row 1	K4. Do not turn. Slide the 4 sts to the opposite needle tip, draw the working yarn firmly across the back and knit the next row.	4
I-cord Rows 2-8	Repeat the I-cord action from Row 1.	4

BO 4 sts. Cut 8 strands of taupe-grey yarn, each about 12 cm / 4.75 in long. Fold the strands in half, pass the folded centre through the bind-off end of the I-cord, then bring all strand ends through the fold and pull snug. Wrap a separate strand around the tassel about 8 mm / 0.3 in below the cord end and secure it. Trim the tassel to about 3 cm / 1.25 in.

8K. Head Stripes

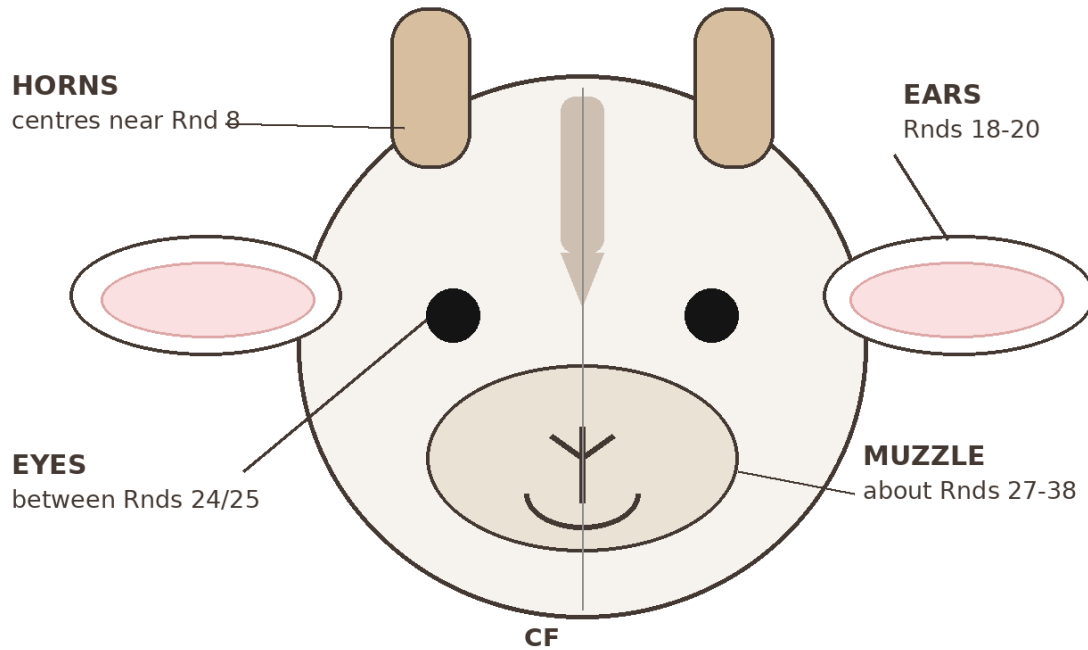
With taupe-grey and a tapestry needle, work the front stripe in duplicate stitch centred on CF. Begin near Head Rnd 7 and keep the upper and middle section approximately 4 stitches wide through about Rnd 18. Over Rnds 19-23, taper the lower end symmetrically toward CF so that the stripe finishes in a narrow point just above the eyes.

Work a second 4-stitch-wide duplicate-stitch stripe centred on CB/BOR. Begin near Head Rnd 7 and continue through Head Rnd 42 to the neck edge. Keep this rear stripe straight and untapered.

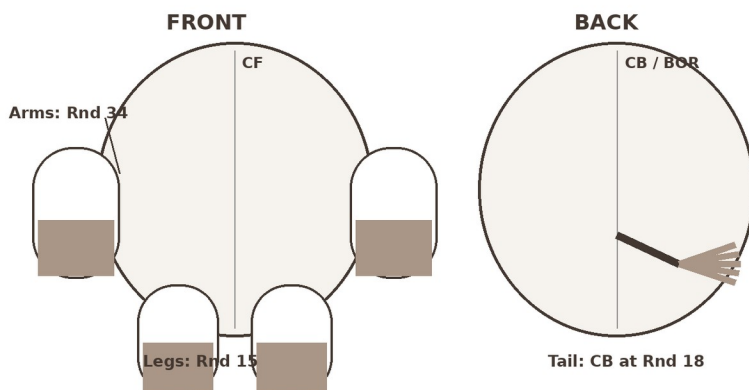
Follow the natural stitch columns and keep the duplicate-stitch tension equal to the knitted fabric; do not cinch the Head inward.

9. Placement Maps

Complete all main pieces before permanent assembly. Pin paired features first and check the goat from the front, both sides and the top before sewing. The coordinates below use the fixed CB/BOR and CF markers described earlier.



Feature	Placement
Eyes	Install between Head Rnds 24 and 25 while the head is still open. Right eye: gap after st 47. Left eye: gap after st 33. Both positions are on the 80-stitch section.
Front head stripe	Centre on CF from about Head Rnd 7 through Rnd 23; keep the upper section about 4 stitches wide and taper the lower end to a point above the eyes.
Rear head stripe	Centre a 4-stitch-wide band on CB/BOR from about Head Rnd 7 through Rnd 42, ending at the neck edge.
Muzzle	Centre on CF. Place the upper edge near Head Rnd 27 and the lower edge near Rnd 38. Keep the Muzzle centred on the current CF throughout the attachment rather than following one fixed stitch-number span, because the Head stitch count decreases through this area. Align the 14-stitch widest section approximately over Head Rnds 31-34: on the 72-stitch Rnds 31-32, centre it roughly across sts 30-43; on the 64-stitch Rnds 33-34, centre it roughly across sts 26-39.
Right horn	Centre the base near Head Rnd 8 around st 32 on the 48-stitch section. Let the base span roughly Head Rnds 5-11.
Left horn	Mirror the right horn near Head Rnd 8 around st 17. Keep both horns the same distance from CF and angle them slightly backward.
Right ear	Place the 4-stitch ear base over the right side axis around Head Rnds 18-20, roughly across sts 59-63 on the 80-stitch section.
Left ear	Mirror the right ear around Head Rnds 18-20, roughly across sts 18-22.
Beard	Centre the 8-stitch bind-off edge on CF at the front neck join. The pointed cast-on end hangs downward over the upper chest.



Feature	Placement
Right arm	Centre the flattened shoulder edge on the right side fold around Body Rnd 34. Keep the attachment line shallow and approximately horizontal so the arm hangs downward.
Left arm	Mirror the right arm on the left side fold around Body Rnd 34.
Right leg	Centre the flattened 12-pair thigh edge around Body Rnd 15, with the seam midpoint near st 45 on the 72-stitch section. The seam should run as a shallow horizontal arc, roughly across sts 40-51.
Left leg	Mirror the right leg around Body Rnd 15, with the midpoint near st 28 and the seam roughly across sts 22-33.
Tail	Centre the I-cord cast-on edge on CB around Body Rnd 18. Let the tassel point slightly outward and downward.

Symmetry check When the body is viewed from the front, the leg tops should be the same distance from CF and the feet should point forward. When viewed from the back, the tail should sit directly on CB.

10. Stuffing and Shaping

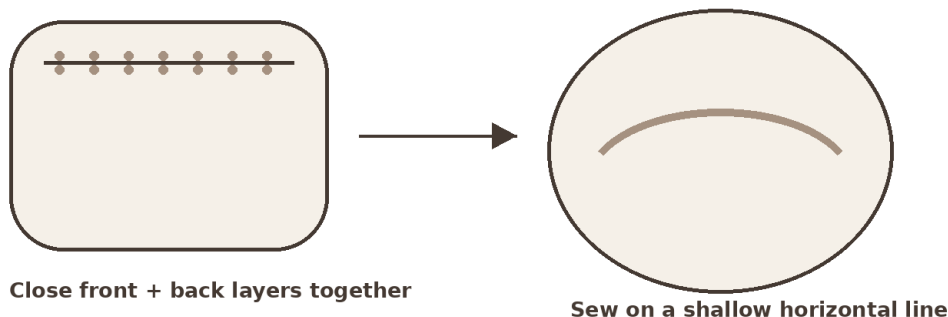
Piece	Stuffing
Body	Moderately firm through the belly and lower body; slightly firmer near the neck so the head stays upright. Keep the lower centre rounded rather than pointed.
Head	Firm enough to hold a smooth round shape without stretching the stitches. Add stuffing evenly around the cheeks and crown. Keep the lower front slightly softer where the muzzle will sit.
Muzzle	Add only a small amount while sewing. The finished muzzle should project softly without becoming a hard ball.
Horns	Very lightly stuffed. Keep them flexible enough to angle and match.
Arms	Lightly stuffed through the lower two-thirds. Keep the upper rounds soft for a flat shoulder attachment.
Legs	Hooves firm enough to stay rounded; upper legs moderately stuffed. Keep the top 2 rounds slightly softer for a smooth join.
Ears and beard	Do not stuff.

Before closing any final seam, roll the piece gently between your palms to redistribute stuffing. Add small amounts rather than forcing in one large clump. If a stitch gap opens, remove a little stuffing instead of tightening the seam around an overfilled piece.

11. Assembly

Use matching yarn for structural seams unless a contrast colour is specified. Pin before sewing and recheck alignment after every few stitches.

Flattened limb attachment



1. Prepare the ears. Place one pink Inner Ear with its purl side (WS) facing outward on the RS of each cream Outer Ear, centred with an even cream border. With cream yarn, work small, evenly spaced whip stitches directly along the pink-panel edge, catching only the front layer of the cream Outer Ear so the stitches form the visible cream outline. Do not pull tightly. At the cream cast-on base, pinch the outer ear very slightly so the ear cups forward; tack the pinch with two or three small stitches.

2. Install the eyes. With the Head still open, place the right safety eye in the gap after st 47 and the left eye in the gap after st 33, both between Head Rnds 24 and 25. Check from the front that the eyes are level and equally spaced from CF, then secure the washers inside. For embroidered eyes, stitch them at the same positions after stuffing.

3. Work the head stripes. With taupe-grey and a tapestry needle, work the front stripe in duplicate stitch centred on CF. Begin near Head Rnd 7 and keep the upper and middle section approximately 4 stitches wide through about Rnd 18. Over Rnds 19-23, taper the lower end symmetrically toward CF so that the stripe finishes in a narrow point just above the eyes. Work a second 4-stitch-wide duplicate-stitch stripe centred on CB/BOR. Begin near Head Rnd 7 and continue through Head Rnd 42 to the neck edge. Keep this rear stripe straight and untapered. Follow the natural stitch columns and keep the duplicate-stitch tension equal to the knitted fabric; do not cinch the Head inward.

4. Stuff and join the neck. Finish stuffing the Body and Head. Match the 40-stitch Head bind-off edge to the 40-stitch Body bind-off edge with CB aligned to CB and CF aligned to CF. Using the long Body tail, work mattress stitch or neat edge-to-edge whip stitch around the full neck, taking one corresponding stitch from each edge. Add or remove a small amount of stuffing before the last few stitches, then close the seam without drawing it into a tight ridge.

5. Attach and pad the muzzle. Pin the Muzzle on CF with its upper edge near Head Rnd 27 and lower edge near Rnd 38. Use the bind-off tail and mattress stitch or tiny ladder stitches around the oval edge. When about 3 cm / 1.25 in remains open, add a small amount of stuffing behind the panel. Finish the seam and shape the muzzle into a softly rounded oval.

6. Embroider the nose and mouth. With dark brown yarn, make a small inverted V or compact triangular nose centred on the upper half of the Muzzle. Bring one vertical stitch downward from the nose for about 1.5 cm / 0.6 in. Form a shallow smile by working one curved line to the right and one to the left from the lower end of the vertical stitch. Secure and bury the yarn inside the Muzzle seam.

7. Attach the horns. Pin both Horns at the marked Head Rnd 8 positions, right around st 32 and left around st 17. Angle the tips slightly backward. Using each horn's cast-on tail, whip stitch around the open base, passing through one horn edge stitch and a small bite of Head fabric on every stitch. Keep the base round and avoid flattening it.

8. Attach the ears. Pin the right Ear at the right side axis around Head Rnds 18-20 and the left Ear at the mirrored position. The pink panels face slightly forward. Whip stitch the 4-stitch cream base securely to the Head, then add one small anchoring stitch at each lower corner if the ear rotates. Check from the front and top that both ears sit at the same height.

9. Attach the beard. Place the 8-stitch bind-off edge of the Beard on CF directly over the front neck join. With taupe-grey, mattress stitch or whip stitch the top edge to the seam while leaving the pointed lower section free. The beard should hang flat against the upper chest.

10. Attach the legs. Pin the flattened top of the right Leg on the lower front body around Body Rnd 15, centred near st 45, and the left Leg at the mirrored position centred near st 28. Keep both hoof tips pointing forward. Using each long working tail, whip stitch the closed two-layer thigh edge to the Body. Every attachment stitch passes through the already closed two-layer leg edge and then through one body stitch. Do not pull the body inward. Check standing balance before securing the last few stitches.

11. Attach the arms. Pin the right Arm on the right side fold around Body Rnd 34 and the left Arm on the left side fold at the same height. Keep the flattened shoulder line approximately horizontal. Whip stitch each two-layer shoulder edge to the Body, taking a small body bite for every paired shoulder stitch. The arms should hang downward with a slight forward angle.

12. Attach the tail. Place the Tail I-cord cast-on edge on CB around Body Rnd 18. Use the cast-on tail to make several firm whip stitches through the I-cord base and Body fabric. The tassel should project slightly outward before dropping downward.

13. Final shaping. Check the goat from the front, both sides, top and back. Adjust stuffing by gentle massage, smooth the neck seam, align the horns and ears, and confirm that all limbs sit evenly. Secure and bury all remaining yarn tails, then remove the CB, CF and side-axis markers.

12. Sewing Methods

Method	Use
Mattress stitch	Use for neat edge-to-edge joins such as the Head-to-Body neck seam and the Muzzle edge. Pass the needle under the horizontal bar just inside each edge, alternating from one side to the other. Tighten only enough to bring the edges together.
Whip stitch	Use for Horns, Ears, limbs and Tail. Pass through the attachment edge and then a small bite of the receiving fabric. Space stitches evenly and keep the seam flexible.
Flattened two-layer attachment	The Arm and Leg top edges are closed before they are sewn to the Body. During attachment, the needle enters through the closed two-layer edge and then the Body. The closure must remain flat so the limb hangs in the intended direction.
Duplicate stitch	Use for the front and rear head stripes. Follow the V shape of the knitted stitches with matching-sized loops. Do not pull tighter than the surrounding stockinette.

13. Facial Embroidery Detail

The face is intentionally simple. Use dark brown yarn and a tapestry needle. Keep the yarn tension soft so the embroidered lines sit on the surface rather than sinking into the Muzzle.

- **Nose:** centre it on the Muzzle about one-third of the way down from the upper edge. Work 3-5 short stitches to make a compact inverted V or small triangular shape about 1.2-1.5 cm / 0.5-0.6 in wide.
- **Philtrum:** from the centre of the nose, take one straight vertical line downward for about 1.5 cm / 0.6 in.
- **Mouth:** from the lower end of the vertical line, work one shallow curved line to each side. Keep both sides the same length and angle.
- **Optional embroidered eyes:** replace each safety eye with several short satin stitches or a small French-knot-style eye at the stated eye coordinates. Keep both eyes level.

Face check Before burying the embroidery tail, set the goat upright and view the face from about arm's length away. The nose and mouth should sit on CF and the smile should be balanced under the eyes.

14. Finishing

- Roll the Head and Body gently between your hands to smooth any stuffing ridges.
- If one Horn leans more than the other, add a hidden anchoring stitch from the back of the Horn base into the Head.
- If an Ear sits too flat, add one small tack at the lower rear corner to hold a slight forward cup.

- Comb the Tail tassel with your fingers and trim only uneven strand ends.
- Inspect every seam for gaps. Add a small matching-yarn stitch wherever stuffing could become visible.
- Bury all yarn tails deeply through stuffed sections, then clip the yarn only after it has travelled through the stuffing and emerged at a distant point.

15. Troubleshooting

Problem	Practical correction
Stuffing shows between stitches	Use a smaller needle or remove a little stuffing. For an already finished area, redistribute stuffing away from the gap and add a tiny matching-yarn closing stitch if necessary.
Finished goat is larger than expected	Check the 24-stitch gauge first. A looser stitch gauge enlarges every circumference. Move down a needle size and keep the fabric firm.
Finished goat is smaller than expected	Check the stitch gauge. If you have more than 24 sts per 10 cm / 4 in, use a slightly larger needle while keeping the fabric dense.
Head leans	The upper Body may be too soft or the neck seam may be uneven. Add firmness near the neck if the seam is still open, or add two hidden stabilising stitches at the rear neck.
Eyes look uneven	Before securing safety-eye washers, count both positions again and check the Head from directly in front. For embroidered eyes, remove the higher or wider eye and restitch it at the matching coordinate.
Muzzle is off-centre	Use CF as the centre line. Remove only the section of seam that is displaced, repin the Muzzle and resew while checking the top and bottom points against CF.
One ear sits higher	Compare the ear bases against Head Rnds 18-20. Move the higher ear before adding anchoring stitches. The cast-on bases should be level even if the tips curve slightly differently.
Horns do not match	Check that the bases are centred at the mirrored Rnd 8 positions. Adjust the sewing angle before tightening the final base stitches.
Arms rotate forward or backward	The flattened shoulder line should be shallow and approximately horizontal. If the seam is vertical, remove it and reattach the shoulder edge along the side fold around Body Rnd 34.
Feet point outward	Re-pin the flattened thigh seams so they follow a shallow horizontal line around Body Rnd 15. The centres should remain near sts 28 and 45, with both hoof tips facing forward.
Body does not stand steadily	Check that both Leg tops are level and equally spaced from CF. Redistribute hoof stuffing so each foot has a broad flat contact area.
Visible colour-change jog on limbs	Place the colour change at BOR, keep BOR on the inner or rear side of the limb, and snug the first cream stitch after the change without overtightening.
Seam gaps appear	Use smaller, evenly spaced sewing bites through sound edge stitches. Do not pull so hard that the fabric puckers; the goal is edge contact, not compression.
Flat pieces curl	Lightly dampen and shape them before assembly, or pin them flat until dry. Avoid heavy pressing, which can flatten the knitted texture.

16. Final Visual Checklist

- ☐ Face is centred on CF.
- ☐ Eyes are level and equally spaced.
- ☐ Front stripe is centred and tapers cleanly; rear stripe is straight, centred on CB and reaches the neck edge.
- ☐ Nose and mouth are centred on the Muzzle.
- ☐ Muzzle is level and softly rounded.
- ☐ Ears are the same height and angle.

- ☐ Horns are mirrored and lean slightly backward.
- ☐ Head sits straight on the Body.
- ☐ Arms are level and hang downward.
- ☐ Legs are level, equally spaced and point forward.
- ☐ Tail is centred on CB.
- ☐ Beard is centred at the front neck join.
- ☐ Body stands without tipping.
- ☐ No stuffing is visible through stitches or seams.
- ☐ No openings remain unresolved.
- ☐ No yarn tails or markers remain visible.
- ☐ Decorative details are secure and aligned.

17. Quick Piece Checklist

Piece	Quantity	Colour / detail
Body	1	Cream
Head	1	Cream
Muzzle	1	Cream
Outer Ears	2	Cream
Inner Ears	2	Blush pink
Horns	2	Warm beige
Beard	1	Taupe-grey
Arms	2	Cream with taupe-grey hand tips
Legs	2	Cream with taupe-grey hoof tips
Tail	1	Taupe-grey
Head stripes	2 bands	Taupe-grey duplicate stitch
Eyes	2	Black safety eyes or embroidery

Before you finish Set Mabel upright one last time and check the face, ear and horn symmetry, limb balance and standing posture. Small placement changes are easiest to make before the final yarn tails are buried.



Finished Mabel

Mabel the Little Goat - Free Knitting Pattern