

MILO THE LITTLE DONKEY

Free Knitting Pattern

Soft stockinette donkey plush with contrast muzzle, inner ears, mane and tassel tail



Skill level: Confident beginner to intermediate

Worked mainly in the round, with simple flat pieces for the muzzle, inner ears and mane base.

1. About This Pattern

This pattern makes a softly rounded knitted donkey with long lined ears, a gently stuffed cream muzzle, dark hooves, a looped mane and an I-cord tail with a full tassel. The head, body and limbs are worked on a small circumference in stockinette; the muzzle, inner ears and mane base are worked flat. The pieces are assembled with secure sewn joins, then finished with small contrast seam stitches that give the donkey a neat handmade character.

The shaping is built from regular increases and decreases. Makers comfortable with knitting in the round, basic seaming and simple embroidery should find the project straightforward to follow.

Finished View Guide



Use the front, side and back views while pinning the ears, limbs, mane and tail.

2. Finished Size

Measurement	Approximate finished size
Overall height	Approximately 33-35 cm / 13-13.75 in from hoof base to ear tip.
Overall width	Approximately 18-20 cm / 7-7.75 in across the arms.
Head	About 10.5-11 cm / 4.25 in wide and 12-13 cm / 4.75-5 in high, excluding ears.
Body	About 11-12 cm / 4.25-4.75 in wide, 13.5-14.5 cm / 5.25-5.75 in high, and 9-10 cm / 3.5-4 in deep.
Outer ear	About 8.5-9 cm / 3.25-3.5 in long and 4.5-5 cm / 1.75-2 in wide when flattened.
Muzzle	About 9 cm / 3.5 in wide and 5.5-6.5 cm / 2.25-2.5 in high after shaping and light stuffing.
Arm	About 8 cm / 3.25 in long.
Leg	About 7 cm / 2.75 in long.
Tail	About 12-13 cm / 4.75-5 in including tassel.

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

3. Materials and Tools

- DK / light worsted smooth yarn: gray, approximately 150 g / 360 m (394 yd).
- DK / light worsted smooth yarn: dark brown, approximately 40 g / 95 m (104 yd).
- DK / light worsted smooth yarn: cream, approximately 30 g / 72 m (79 yd).
- DK / light worsted smooth yarn: soft pink, approximately 15 g / 36 m (39 yd).
- 3.5 mm (US 4) DPNs or a long circular needle for magic loop.
- 3.5 mm (US 4) needles for flat knitting.
- Two 12 mm black safety eyes, or black embroidery yarn for embroidered eyes.
- Polyester toy stuffing, approximately 120-150 g.
- Removable stitch markers, one contrasting marker for BOR, tapestry needle, pins, scissors and 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

24 sts x 32 rnds = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in in stockinette worked in the round with 3.5 mm needles, measured before stuffing.

For flat stockinette pieces, aim for approximately 24 sts x 32 rows = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in. The fabric should be firm enough that stuffing does not show through when the piece is gently stretched.

If your fabric is loose, use a smaller needle. If it is very stiff and difficult to work, use the next larger needle while keeping the fabric dense.

5. Abbreviations

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

6. Method and Orientation

- Head, body, outer ears, arms and legs are worked in the round. Join without twisting and place the BOR marker at the start of every round. Slip the marker as you reach it; the BOR does not move.
- For the head and body, BOR is CB. When a section has 80 sts, CF is the gap after st 40. Count from BOR around the finished donkey's right side toward CF, then around the left side back to BOR.
- For arms and legs, keep BOR along the underside/back of each piece so the color-change jog is less visible.
- The muzzle, inner ears and mane base are worked flat. On stockinette flat pieces, knit RS rows and purl WS rows except where shaping instructions say otherwise.
- Right and left are described from the finished donkey's point of view throughout the pattern.

Loop Stitch for the Mane

Work each loop st on an RS row as follows: knit into the next st but do not slip the old st off the left needle. Bring the working yarn forward between the needles, wrap it around the left thumb to form a 2.5-3 cm / 1-1.25 in loop, bring the yarn back between the needles, knit into the same st again, then slip the old st off. Pass the first of the two new sts over the second. One st remains and one secure loop is formed on the RS.

7. Construction Overview

Piece	Make	Construction / opening
Head	1	Stuffed; crown gathered closed; 24-st cast-on neck opening left open until head/body join.
Body	1	Stuffed; lower base gathered closed; 24-st cast-on neck opening left open until head/body join.
Muzzle	1	Flat oval panel; lightly stuffed against the head while sewing.

Piece	Make	Construction / opening
Outer ears	2	Worked in the round; unstuffed; gathered tips; open cast-on bases flattened for attachment.
Inner ears	2	Flat pink panels sewn to the front of outer ears.
Arms	2	Stuffed lightly; hoof ends gathered closed; cast-on shoulder openings flattened for attachment.
Legs	2	Stuffed moderately; hoof ends gathered closed; cast-on upper openings flattened for attachment.
Mane strip	1	Flat loop-stitch strip; unstuffed; sewn along crown and CB.
Tail cord	1	5-st I-cord; unstuffed; tassel added to free end.

Assembly order: install eyes first; stuff and join head to body; prepare and attach ears; add muzzle and nostrils; attach mane; attach limbs; add tail; finish with the small contrast seam stitches.

8. Head - Make 1 in Gray

CO 24 sts. Distribute for small-circumference knitting, join to work in the round without twisting, and place BOR at CB. The cast-on edge remains open for the neck. Use a removable marker in the fabric at CF once the piece reaches 80 sts.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	Knit. Keep BOR at centre back (CB).	24
2	*K2, kfb; repeat from * 8 times.	32
3	Knit.	32
4	*K3, kfb; repeat from * 8 times.	40
5	Knit.	40
6	*K4, kfb; repeat from * 8 times.	48
7	Knit.	48
8	*K5, kfb; repeat from * 8 times.	56
9	Knit.	56
10	*K6, kfb; repeat from * 8 times.	64
11	Knit.	64
12	*K7, kfb; repeat from * 8 times.	72
13	Knit.	72
14	*K8, kfb; repeat from * 8 times.	80
15	Knit.	80
16	Knit.	80
17	Knit.	80
18	Knit.	80
19	Knit.	80
20	Knit.	80
21	Knit.	80
22	Knit.	80
23	Knit.	80
24	Knit.	80
25	Knit.	80
26	Knit.	80
27	Knit.	80
28	Knit.	80
29	Knit.	80
30	*K8, k2tog; repeat from * 8 times.	72

Rnd	Instruction	Count
31	Knit.	72
32	*K7, k2tog; repeat from * 8 times.	64
33	Knit.	64
34	*K6, k2tog; repeat from * 8 times.	56
35	Knit.	56
36	*K5, k2tog; repeat from * 8 times.	48
37	*K4, k2tog; repeat from * 8 times.	40
38	*K3, k2tog; repeat from * 8 times.	32
39	*K2, k2tog; repeat from * 8 times.	24
40	*K1, k2tog; repeat from * 8 times.	16
41	K2tog 8 times. Cut yarn, thread through remaining sts and gather crown firmly closed.	8

Eye Placement Before Stuffing

With the head still open at the neck, place the right eye in the gap after st 32 and the left eye in the gap after st 48, both between Head Rnds 22 and 23. These positions are mirrored around CF. Check from the front and top before securing the washers.

For embroidered eyes, leave the safety-eye positions uncut and embroider the eyes after the head is stuffed, using the same coordinates.

Leave the 24-st cast-on neck opening open. Do not attach the muzzle yet.

9. Body - Make 1 in Gray

CO 24 sts. Distribute for small-circumference knitting, join without twisting, and place BOR at CB. The cast-on edge remains open for the neck. Mark CF on the fabric once the piece reaches 80 sts.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	Knit. Keep BOR at centre back (CB).	24
2	*K2, kfb; repeat from * 8 times.	32
3	Knit.	32
4	*K3, kfb; repeat from * 8 times.	40
5	Knit.	40
6	*K4, kfb; repeat from * 8 times.	48
7	Knit.	48
8	*K5, kfb; repeat from * 8 times.	56
9	Knit.	56
10	*K6, kfb; repeat from * 8 times.	64
11	Knit.	64
12	*K7, kfb; repeat from * 8 times.	72
13	Knit.	72
14	*K8, kfb; repeat from * 8 times.	80
15	Knit.	80
16	Knit.	80
17	Knit.	80
18	Knit.	80
19	Knit.	80
20	Knit.	80
21	Knit.	80
22	Knit.	80
23	Knit.	80
24	Knit.	80
25	Knit.	80
26	Knit.	80

Rnd	Instruction	Count
27	Knit.	80
28	Knit.	80
29	Knit.	80
30	Knit.	80
31	*K8, k2tog; repeat from * 8 times.	72
32	Knit.	72
33	*K7, k2tog; repeat from * 8 times.	64
34	Knit.	64
35	*K6, k2tog; repeat from * 8 times.	56
36	Knit.	56
37	*K5, k2tog; repeat from * 8 times.	48
38	Knit.	48
39	*K4, k2tog; repeat from * 8 times.	40
40	Knit.	40
41	*K3, k2tog; repeat from * 8 times.	32
42	Knit.	32
43	*K2, k2tog; repeat from * 8 times.	24
44	*K1, k2tog; repeat from * 8 times.	16
45	K2tog 8 times. Cut yarn, thread through remaining sts and gather base firmly closed.	8

Leave the 24-st cast-on neck opening open. The lower body is already gathered closed at Rnd 45.

10. Muzzle - Make 1 in Cream

CO 10 sts in cream.

Work flat in stockinette. The increases and decreases are worked on both RS and WS rows so the oval grows quickly without becoming too tall. Leave a 45 cm / 18 in sewing tail after binding off.

Row	Instruction	Count
1	RS: Knit.	10
2	WS: P1, pfb, purl to last 2 sts, pfb, P1.	12
3	RS: K1, kfb, knit to last 2 sts, kfb, K1.	14
4	WS: P1, pfb, purl to last 2 sts, pfb, P1.	16
5	RS: K1, kfb, knit to last 2 sts, kfb, K1.	18
6	WS: P1, pfb, purl to last 2 sts, pfb, P1.	20
7	RS: K1, kfb, knit to last 2 sts, kfb, K1.	22
8	WS: Purl.	22
9	RS: Knit.	22
10	WS: Purl.	22
11	RS: Knit.	22
12	WS: Purl.	22
13	RS: Knit.	22
14	WS: P1, p2tog, purl to last 3 sts, p2tog, P1.	20
15	RS: K1, ssk, knit to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.	18
16	WS: P1, p2tog, purl to last 3 sts, p2tog, P1.	16
17	RS: K1, ssk, knit to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.	14
18	WS: P1, p2tog, purl to last 3 sts, p2tog, P1.	12
19	RS: K1, ssk, knit to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.	10
20	WS: Purl.	10
21	RS: Bind off knitwise.	0

Do not stuff the muzzle separately. It will be lightly stuffed between the panel and the head as it is sewn in place.

11. Outer Ears - Make 2 in Gray

CO 24 sts. Join to work in the round without twisting. Keep BOR at one side edge. The ear is a flat, unstuffed tube; the cast-on edge remains open for attachment.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	Knit.	24
2	Knit.	24
3	Knit.	24
4	Knit.	24
5	Knit.	24
6	Knit.	24
7	Knit.	24
8	Knit.	24
9	Knit.	24
10	Knit.	24
11	Knit.	24
12	Knit.	24
13	Knit.	24
14	Knit.	24
15	Knit.	24
16	Knit.	24
17	Knit.	24
18	Knit.	24
19	*K1, ssk, K6, k2tog, K1; repeat from * twice.	20
20	Knit.	20
21	Knit.	20
22	*K1, ssk, K4, k2tog, K1; repeat from * twice.	16
23	Knit.	16
24	Knit.	16
25	*K1, ssk, K2, k2tog, K1; repeat from * twice.	12
26	Knit.	12
27	*Ssk, K2, k2tog; repeat from * twice.	8
28	K2tog 4 times. Cut yarn, thread through remaining sts and gather the tip closed.	4

Flatten each ear so 12 sts form the front layer and 12 sts form the back layer. Finger-press the side folds and keep the base open.

12. Inner Ears - Make 2 in Pink

Work flat in stockinette. Leave a 35 cm / 14 in sewing tail. The bound-off 4-st end is the tip.

Row	Instruction	Count
—	CO 6 sts in pink.	6
1	RS: Knit.	6
2	WS: Purl.	6
3	RS: K1, kfb, K2, kfb, K1.	8
4	WS: Purl.	8
5	RS: Knit.	8
6	WS: Purl.	8
7	RS: Knit.	8
8	WS: Purl.	8
9	RS: Knit.	8

Row	Instruction	Count
10	WS: Purl.	8
11	RS: Knit.	8
12	WS: Purl.	8
13	RS: Knit.	8
14	WS: Purl.	8
15	RS: K1, ssk, K2, k2tog, K1.	6
16	WS: Purl.	6
17	RS: Knit.	6
18	WS: Purl.	6
19	RS: K1, ssk, k2tog, K1.	4
20	WS: Purl.	4
21	RS: Knit.	4
22	WS: Purl.	4
23	RS: Bind off knitwise.	0

Layer the Ears

Place one pink panel RS up on the front of each flattened gray ear. Centre it so an even gray border remains around the sides and tip, with the pink lower edge ending about 8-10 mm / 3/8 in above the open gray base. Pin in place.

Using cream yarn, work small whip stitches around the pink panel, approximately one stitch every 5-6 mm / 1/4 in. Pass the needle only through the front gray layer so the stitches do not show on the solid gray back. Secure and bury the yarn inside the ear.

13. Arms - Make 2

CO 20 sts in gray. Join to work in the round, keeping BOR along the underside/back. The cast-on edge is the shoulder opening and remains open.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	With gray, knit.	20
2	With gray, knit.	20
3	With gray, knit.	20
4	With gray, knit.	20
5	With gray, knit.	20
6	With gray, knit.	20
7	With gray, knit.	20
8	With gray, knit.	20
9	With gray, knit.	20
10	With gray, knit.	20
11	With gray, knit.	20
12	With gray, knit.	20
13	With gray, knit.	20
14	With gray, knit.	20
15	With gray, knit.	20
16	With gray, knit.	20
17	With gray, knit.	20
18	Break gray. Join dark brown at BOR. *K4, kfb; repeat from * 4 times.	24
19	With dark brown, knit.	24
20	With dark brown, knit.	24
21	With dark brown, knit.	24
22	With dark brown, knit.	24

Rnd	Instruction	Count
23	With dark brown, knit.	24
24	*K2, k2tog; repeat from * 6 times.	18
25	*K1, k2tog; repeat from * 6 times.	12
26	K2tog 6 times. Cut yarn, thread through remaining sts and gather hoof end closed.	6

Stuff each arm lightly, keeping the top 2 rounds soft. Flatten the 20-st shoulder opening into two layers of 10 sts. Do not close the flattened edge before attachment.

14. Legs - Make 2

CO 24 sts in gray. Join to work in the round, keeping BOR along the back. The cast-on edge is the upper leg opening and remains open.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	With gray, knit.	24
2	With gray, knit.	24
3	With gray, knit.	24
4	With gray, knit.	24
5	With gray, knit.	24
6	With gray, knit.	24
7	With gray, knit.	24
8	With gray, knit.	24
9	With gray, knit.	24
10	With gray, knit.	24
11	With gray, knit.	24
12	With gray, knit.	24
13	With gray, knit.	24
14	Break gray. Join dark brown at BOR and knit.	24
15	With dark brown, knit.	24
16	With dark brown, knit.	24
17	With dark brown, knit.	24
18	With dark brown, knit.	24
19	With dark brown, knit.	24
20	*K2, k2tog; repeat from * 6 times.	18
21	*K1, k2tog; repeat from * 6 times.	12
22	K2tog 6 times. Cut yarn, thread through remaining sts and gather hoof end closed.	6

Stuff each leg moderately so the hoof stays rounded but firm. Keep the top 2 rounds soft. Flatten the 24-st upper opening into two layers of 12 sts. Do not close the flattened edge before attachment.

15. Mane Strip - Make 1 in Dark Brown

CO 5 sts and work flat. Keep every loop 2.5-3 cm / 1-1.25 in long. The narrow stockinette base will be hidden beneath the loops after sewing.

Row	Instruction	Count
1	RS: K1, loop st in each of next 3 sts, K1.	5
2	WS: Purl.	5
3	RS: K1, loop st in each of next 3 sts, K1.	5
4	WS: Purl.	5
5	RS: K1, loop st in each of next 3 sts, K1.	5
6	WS: Purl.	5
7	RS: K1, loop st in each of next 3 sts, K1.	5
8	WS: Purl.	5

Row	Instruction	Count
9	RS: K1, loop st in each of next 3 sts, K1.	5
10	WS: Purl.	5
11	RS: K1, loop st in each of next 3 sts, K1.	5
12	WS: Purl.	5
13	RS: K1, loop st in each of next 3 sts, K1.	5
14	WS: Purl.	5
15	RS: K1, loop st in each of next 3 sts, K1.	5
16	WS: Purl.	5
17	RS: K1, loop st in each of next 3 sts, K1.	5
18	WS: Purl.	5
19	RS: K1, loop st in each of next 3 sts, K1.	5
20	WS: Purl.	5
21	RS: K1, loop st in each of next 3 sts, K1.	5
22	WS: Purl.	5
23	RS: K1, loop st in each of next 3 sts, K1.	5
24	WS: Purl.	5
25	RS: K1, loop st in each of next 3 sts, K1.	5
26	WS: Purl.	5
27	RS: K1, loop st in each of next 3 sts, K1.	5
28	WS: Purl.	5
29	RS: K1, loop st in each of next 3 sts, K1.	5
30	WS: Purl.	5
31	RS: K1, loop st in each of next 3 sts, K1.	5
32	WS: Purl.	5
33	RS: K1, loop st in each of next 3 sts, K1.	5
34	WS: Purl.	5
35	RS: K1, loop st in each of next 3 sts, K1.	5
36	WS: Purl.	5
37	RS: K1, loop st in each of next 3 sts, K1.	5
38	WS: Purl.	5
39	RS: K1, loop st in each of next 3 sts, K1.	5
40	WS: Purl.	5
41	RS: K1, loop st in each of next 3 sts, K1.	5
42	WS: Purl.	5
43	RS: K1, loop st in each of next 3 sts, K1.	5
44	WS: Purl.	5

Bind off knitwise after Row 44. Leave a 60 cm / 24 in sewing tail. Do not cut the loops.

16. Tail and Tassel

Tail Cord - Make 1 in Gray

CO 5 sts on one DPN. Work the I-cord rows below. Keep the cord relaxed so it remains flexible.

Row	Instruction	Count
1	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
2	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5

Row	Instruction	Count
3	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
4	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
5	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
6	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
7	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
8	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
9	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
10	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
11	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
12	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
13	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
14	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
15	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
16	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
17	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
18	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
19	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
20	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
21	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
22	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
23	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
24	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5

Row	Instruction	Count
25	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
26	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
27	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5
28	K5; do not turn. Slide the 5 sts to the other end of the DPN and pull the working yarn snug across the back.	5

After Row 28, BO all 5 sts. The cast-on end is the body end; the bound-off end receives the tassel.

Dark Brown Tassel

Cut 20 lengths of dark brown yarn, each approximately 12 cm / 4.75 in. Lay them together, place their midpoint against the bound-off end of the I-cord, and fold the strands in half over the cord end. With a separate 25 cm / 10 in strand of cream yarn, wrap the bundle tightly 8-10 mm / 3/8 in below the fold, secure with several small stitches through the wrap and cord, then bury the end inside the tassel. Trim the tassel to approximately 4 cm / 1.5 in long.

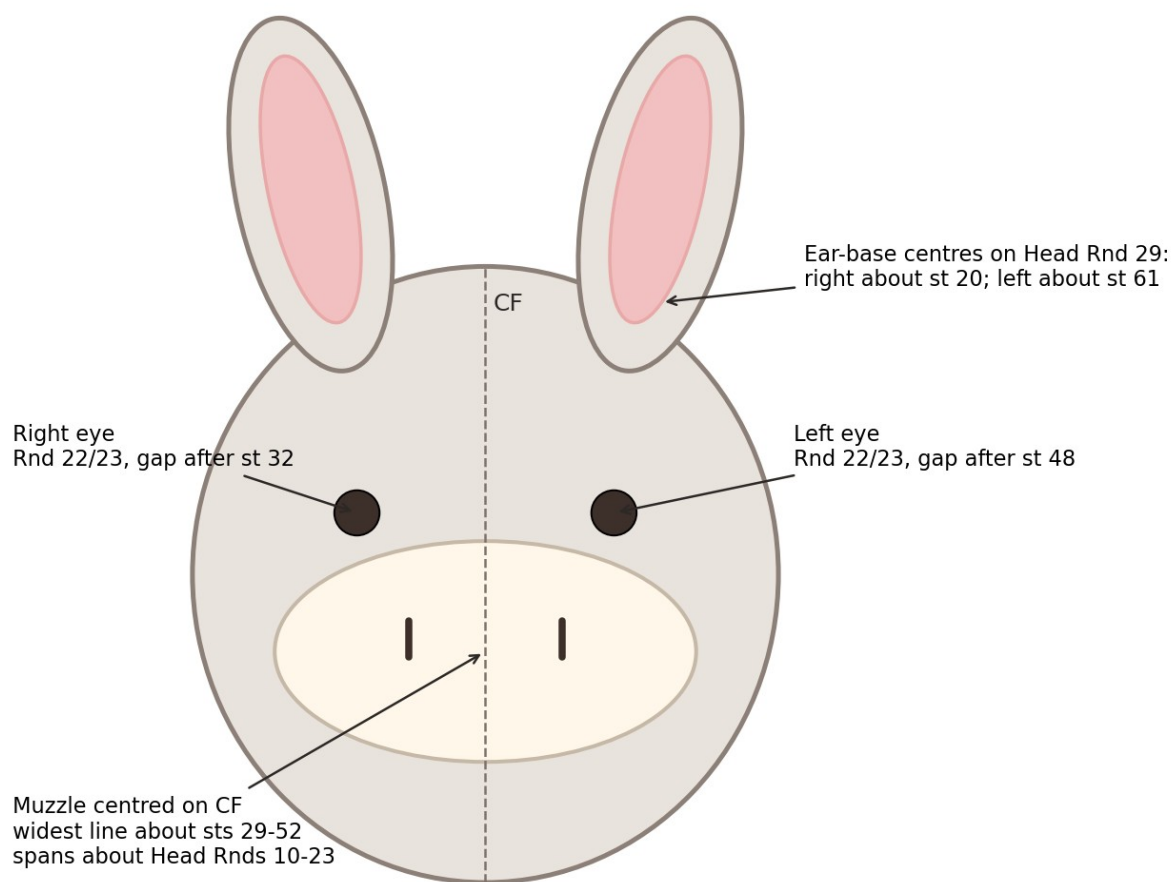
17. Stuffing and Shaping

Piece	Stuffing and shaping
Head	Firmly stuff the cheeks and crown without stretching the knit fabric. Keep the lowest 1 cm / 3/8 in at the neck slightly softer for joining.
Body	Moderately firm through the belly and lower body. Keep the top 1-1.5 cm / 3/8-5/8 in slightly softer so the neck seam can settle neatly.
Muzzle	Add only enough stuffing beneath the panel to make a soft rounded oval; keep the edges flat against the face.
Arms	Lightly stuff; leave the upper 2 rounds soft so the shoulder can flatten cleanly.
Legs	Moderately stuff the hooves and lower legs; leave the upper 2 rounds soft for a flat attachment edge.
Ears, mane and tail cord	Do not stuff.

18. Placement Maps

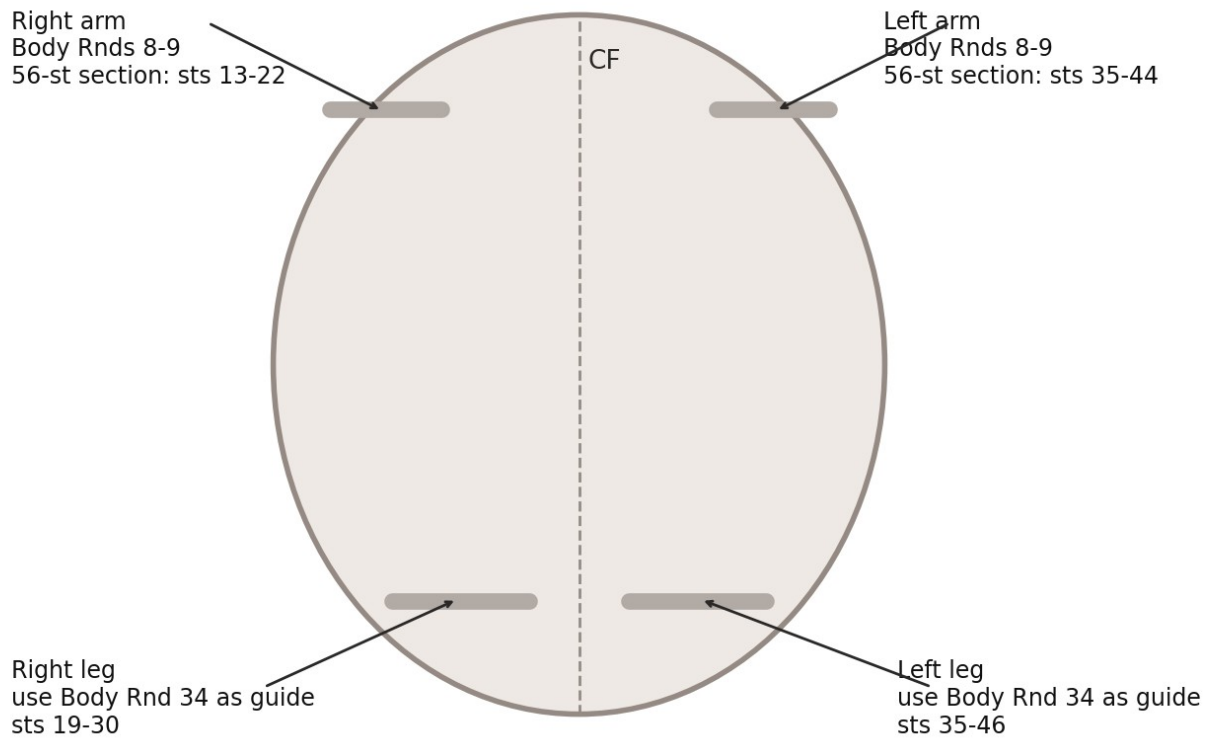
Pin every visible piece before sewing. Check the donkey from the front, both sides, top and back. Small adjustments of 1-2 knit stitches or 1 round are fine when needed to compensate for individual stuffing, but keep paired features mirrored.

Head - Front



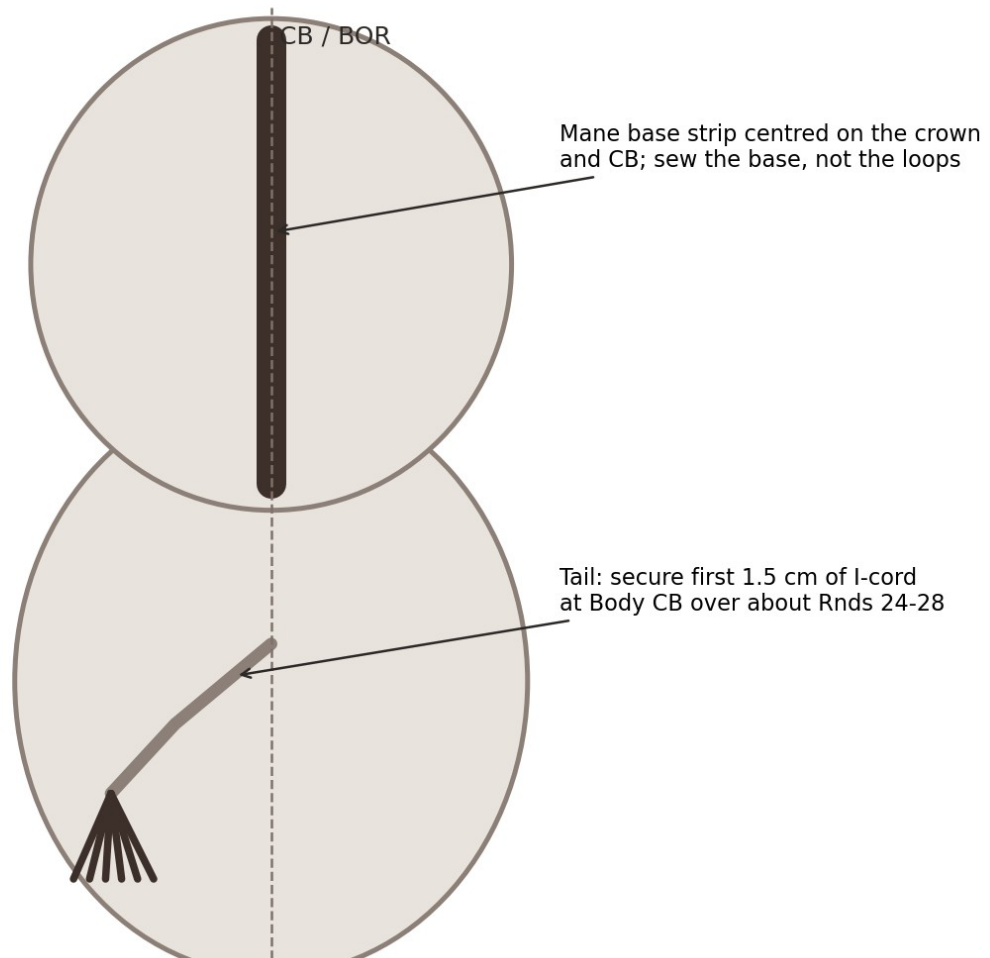
Feature	Placement
Eyes	Right: gap after st 32. Left: gap after st 48. Both between Head Rnds 22 and 23.
Muzzle	Centre on CF. Aim for the lower edge near Head Rnd 10 and the upper edge near Rnd 23. At the widest line, the panel should sit approximately across the front zone corresponding to sts 29-52 of the 80-st section.
Right ear	Base centre approximately at Head Rnd 29 around st 20. Angle the ear 10-15 degrees outward.
Left ear	Mirror the right ear: base centre approximately at Head Rnd 29 around st 61. Angle outward equally.
Mane	Centre the narrow base strip between the ears, then run it over the crown and down CB to the neck. Keep the loops free.

Body - Front



Feature	Placement
Right arm	Use Body Rnds 8-9 as the shoulder line. On the 56-st section, place the flattened 10-st shoulder edge approximately across sts 13-22. Let the arm hang downward with a slight 20-25° outward angle.
Left arm	Mirror the right arm: use Body Rnds 8-9 and place the flattened 10-st shoulder edge approximately across sts 35-44. Match the same outward angle.
Right leg	Use Body Rnd 34 as the main horizontal guide. Place the flattened 12-st upper edge approximately across sts 19-30 of the 64-st round.
Left leg	Mirror the right leg: use Body Rnd 34 and place the flattened upper edge approximately across sts 35-46 of the 64-st round.
Leg spacing	Keep the inner upper edges separated by about 4 body stitches. Let both feet point straight forward before securing.

Body - Back



Feature	Placement
Tail	Centre the gray I-cord on Body CB. Sew the first 1.5 cm / 5/8 in of the cord securely to the body over approximately Body Rnds 24-28, directing the free tail slightly downward.
Mane end	The mane base should finish at the back of the head close to the neck seam, centred on CB; it does not continue onto the body.

19. Assembly

Use matching yarn for structural seams unless a contrast stitch is specifically requested. Pin first, then sew with small even stitches. Do not pull seams so tightly that the fabric puckers.

1. **Install the eyes** - If using safety eyes, insert them at the Head coordinates given above while the neck opening is still accessible. Confirm the eyes are level from the front and top, then secure the washers. For embroidered eyes, complete the head/body join first and embroider at the same positions.
2. **Stuff the head** - Add stuffing through the open 24-st neck. Shape the cheeks evenly and keep the lower neck slightly soft. Check that the crown remains rounded rather than pointed.
3. **Stuff the body** - Add stuffing through the open 24-st neck. Keep the belly rounded and the uppermost rounds slightly soft. Press the gathered base against a flat surface so the lower body does not become overly spherical.
4. **Join head to body** - Align the 24-st head opening with the 24-st body opening, matching CB to CB and CF to CF. With gray yarn, sew one cast-on edge loop from the head to one corresponding cast-on edge loop from the body all the way around using a firm whip stitch or mattress-style edge seam. Add a small amount of final stuffing before closing the last 3-4 cm / 1-1.5 in, then finish the seam and bury the yarn inside.
5. **Prepare the ears** - Make sure each pink inner panel is securely sewn to the front gray layer and both ears are flattened with matching widths. Fold the very bottom 5 mm / 1/4 in of each ear slightly inward if needed to give the base a neat oval.
6. **Attach the ears** - Pin both ears using the Head placement coordinates. Check front, top and side views. With gray yarn, sew each open ear base to the head. Every attachment stitch must pass through both flattened gray ear layers before entering the head fabric. Work across the base twice if needed for a firm upright join.
7. **Attach and shape the muzzle** - Pin the cream oval centred on CF with its long axis horizontal. Using cream yarn and a small mattress or ladder stitch, sew around the edge. Work through the outermost stable stitch of the muzzle and a small bite of head fabric. When about three-quarters of the edge is sewn, add light stuffing beneath the panel, shape a smooth oval, then finish the seam.
8. **Embroider the nostrils** - With dark brown yarn, make two short vertical satin-style stitches on the muzzle, each about 10-12 mm / 3/8-1/2 in long. Place them symmetrically about 3 cm / 1.25 in apart and slightly below the muzzle centreline. Secure the yarn beneath the muzzle edge and bury the ends.
9. **Attach the mane** - Pin the mane base between the ears, continue it over the crown, and centre it on CB down to the neck. Using dark brown yarn, sew the narrow base strip to the head with small backstitches along both long edges. Keep the looped pile free of the sewing thread. Fluff the loops to both sides when finished.

Assembly - Continued

10. **Attach the arms** - Lightly stuff each arm, flatten the 20-st shoulder opening into two 10-st layers, and pin to the Body coordinates. The seam should be a short near-horizontal shoulder line so the arms hang downward. With gray yarn, whip stitch across the flattened edge; every sewing stitch must capture both arm layers before entering the body. Repeat on the second arm and compare from the front before securing. With gray yarn, add several small hidden anchoring stitches down the inner gray side of each arm where it rests against the body, stopping at approximately Arm Rnd 17. Keep the arm softly angled rather than pulling it flat against the body.
11. **Attach the legs** - Moderately stuff each leg and flatten the 24-st opening into two 12-st layers. Pin the legs at the lower-front coordinates with the feet pointing forward. Using gray yarn, sew each flattened edge horizontally to the body, capturing both leg layers with every stitch. Check that the inner edges are evenly spaced and both hoof bases sit at the same height.
12. **Attach the tail** - Place the cast-on end of the gray I-cord at Body CB over approximately Rnds 24-28. Using gray yarn, backstitch the first 1.5 cm / 5/8 in of the cord securely to the body so the free tail points slightly downward and to one side. Tug gently to confirm the join is firm.
13. **Add the contrast seam traces** - Thread cream yarn. Work small, evenly spaced visible running or whip stitches around the head/body neck join; around each arm and leg attachment; along the visible inner arm/body contact line; around each arm at the boundary between Rnds 17 and 18; around each leg at the boundary between Rnds 13 and 14; and around the outer edge of the muzzle. Aim for approximately one visible stitch every 1-2 underlying stitches or rows. Keep these stitches neat and decorative rather than load-bearing. Secure all ends inside existing seams.
14. **Final shaping** - Roll the body gently between your palms to redistribute stuffing. Shape the muzzle into a horizontal oval, straighten the ears, fluff the mane loops and tassel, and adjust the arms and legs until the donkey stands evenly. Remove all temporary markers.

20. Sewing Method Guide

Join	Recommended sewing method
Neck	Whip stitch or mattress-style edge seam through corresponding cast-on edge loops, 24 head loops to 24 body loops.
Muzzle	Small mattress/ladder stitch through the edge of the flat panel and shallow bites of head fabric. Add stuffing before the last quarter closes.
Ear bases	Flattened two-layer attachment. Each sewing stitch passes through both ear layers, then through the head.
Arms and legs	Flattened two-layer attachment. Keep the seam short and near-horizontal so limbs hang correctly.
Mane	Backstitch along both long edges of the narrow base strip. Do not catch the loops.
Tail	Backstitch the first 1.5 cm / 5/8 in of I-cord to the CB body surface.
Contrast traces	Cream visible running/whip stitches at the neck join, arm and leg attachments, inner arm/body contact lines, gray-to-brown hoof transitions and muzzle edge. Add only after the structural seams are secure.

21. Finishing Details

Embroidered Eyes Option

Using doubled dark brown or black yarn, work each eye as a compact satin-stitched oval at the same Head Rnd 22/23 positions used for safety eyes. Aim for an oval approximately 11-12 mm / 7/16-1/2 in wide. Count stitches from CF so the two eyes remain mirrored. Secure ends inside the head through the neck seam area or beneath the muzzle edge.

Ear Shape

For a lively upright ear, curve the outer gray edge slightly backward with your fingers while keeping the pink front mostly flat. If an ear leans, add one or two hidden gray anchoring stitches at the back of its base rather than tightening the whole seam.

Standing Balance

Set the donkey on a flat surface before the final yarn ends are buried. The two leg seams should be level, the hoof bases should point forward, and the lower body should rest just behind the legs rather than pushing them apart. Redistribute body stuffing if the figure tips backward.

22. Troubleshooting

Problem	Practical correction
Stuffing shows between stitches	The fabric is too loose or the piece is overstuffed. Remove a little stuffing first. For a future piece, use a smaller needle and recheck the stockinette gauge.
Finished donkey is too large or small	Recheck both stitch and round gauge. A difference in row gauge changes head, ear and limb length even when stitch gauge is correct.
Head leans after joining	Open a short section of the neck seam, redistribute stuffing evenly around the neck, realign CF and CB, then re sew without pulling one side tighter.
Muzzle sits crooked	Remove only the affected section of the muzzle seam, recenter its widest point on CF, repin the upper and lower edges, then re sew while keeping stuffing even.
Eyes look uneven	Check both the round height and horizontal stitch position. If using embroidery, remove the higher or wider eye and restitch at the exact mirrored coordinate.

Problem	Practical correction
One ear sits higher	Compare the two base centres against Head Rnd 29. Reposition the higher base or add a small hidden anchoring stitch behind the lower ear so both tips reach the same height.
Arm points outward instead of down	The flattened shoulder seam is probably too vertical. Undo the attachment and resew it as a short near-horizontal line across the stated Body Rnds 8-9 area.
Feet turn sideways	Before tightening the leg seam, rotate the flattened upper opening until each hoof faces forward. Keep both leg seams horizontal and matched.
Mane loops collapse into the seam	Gently free any loops caught by the sewing thread. When reattaching, stitch only through the narrow knitted base strip.
Tail droops at the join	Add a few extra backstitches through the first 1.5 cm / 5/8 in of I-cord and the body surface; do not stitch through only the cord tip.
Visible color-change jog on hooves	Rotate the limb so BOR sits on the underside/back before attachment. The body will then hide most of the transition.
Seam gaps appear	Use smaller, more frequent sewing bites through stable edge stitches. Do not pull so hard that adjacent stitches stretch apart.

23. Final Visual Checklist

- Face is centred on CF.
- Eyes are level and evenly spaced.
- Muzzle is horizontal, softly rounded and centred beneath the eyes.
- Nostrils are matched in height, length and spacing.
- Pink inner-ear panels are centred with even gray borders.
- Ears are symmetrical in height and outward angle.
- Mane runs cleanly over the crown and down CB without trapped loops.
- Head sits straight on the body with CF and CB aligned.
- Arms attach at equal heights and hang downward.
- Legs attach at equal heights with balanced inner spacing.
- Both feet point forward and the donkey stands evenly.
- Tail is centred at CB and the tassel hangs freely.
- The tassel root is secured with the visible cream wrap.
- Cream contrast stitches are present and evenly spaced at the neck join, limb attachment seams, inner arm/body contact lines, gray-to-brown hoof transitions and muzzle edge.
- No stuffing is visible through the fabric.
- No openings or seam gaps remain.
- All yarn tails are secured and buried.
- No temporary stitch markers remain.
- No exposed knots remain.

Once the final shaping is complete, gently smooth the stockinette with your hands, fluff the mane and tassel, and stand the donkey on a flat surface for one last front, side and back check.

Pattern Complete

Your knitted donkey is ready once every seam is secure, the stuffing is evenly shaped, and all yarn ends are hidden inside the work.