



# HAZEL THE TRICOLOR GUINEA PIG

## Free Knitting Pattern

A softly rounded tricolor guinea pig worked from nose to rear in stockinette



**Skill level: Confident Beginner / Easy Intermediate**

## Pattern Overview

Hazel is a plump knitted guinea pig with a rounded one-piece body worked in cream from the nose through the shoulder band, a dark chocolate brown rear, two mirrored cinnamon face panels that form the upper cheeks and crown while leaving the lower face cream, floppy cinnamon ears, and four small blush-beige feet. The main body is knitted in the round from the nose toward the rear. The two face panels are knitted flat and sewn over the cream head section before the eyes are installed.

The shaping uses knit stitches, kfb increases, k2tog and ssk decreases, stockinette worked both in the round and flat, and straightforward sewing. The most important finishing steps are keeping the two face panels mirrored, keeping the exposed cream centre blaze straight, maintaining symmetrical facial placement, and shaping the stuffing into a low oval rather than a ball.

## Finished Size

- Overall length: approximately 24-25 cm / 9.5-9.75 in from nose to rear.
- Body height: approximately 13-14 cm / 5-5.5 in.
- Body width: approximately 14-15 cm / 5.5-6 in at the widest point.
- Each ear: approximately 3.5 cm / 1.4 in long and 4 cm / 1.6 in wide when flattened.
- Each foot: approximately 3.5 cm / 1.4 in long and 2.5-3 cm / 1-1.2 in wide.

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

## Materials and Tools

- DK / light worsted smooth yarn in cream: about 65 g / 145 m.
- DK / light worsted smooth yarn in cinnamon brown: about 35 g / 80 m.
- DK / light worsted smooth yarn in dark chocolate brown: about 60 g / 135 m.
- DK / light worsted smooth yarn in blush beige for the feet: about 15 g / 35 m.
- Small amount of peach embroidery yarn or floss for the nose.
- Small amount of dark brown embroidery yarn or floss for the mouth.
- 3.25 mm / US 3 needles suitable for small-circumference knitting in the round: a long circular needle for Magic Loop or a set of DPNs.
- Two 12 mm black safety eyes, or black yarn for embroidered eyes.
- Approximately 130-160 g polyester toy stuffing.
- Tapestry needle, stitch marker for BOR, removable markers, 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.

## Gauge and Tension

Main body, ears and feet: 24 sts x 32 rnds = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in in stockinette worked in the round with 3.25 mm / US 3 needles. Cinnamon face panels: 24 sts x 32 rows = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in in flat stockinette with the same needles.

Use firm, dense toy-knitting tension so the stuffing does not show between stitches. Measure swatches without stretching them. Keep the cream, cinnamon, dark brown and blush-beige structural fabrics close to the stated stitch gauge so the sewn pieces remain proportional.

### Gauge priority

If you need to change needle size, match the stitch gauge first. Row/round gauge controls the length, so also check it before beginning the full body.

## Abbreviations

|                 |                                                 |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>BO</b>       | bind off                                        |
| <b>BOR</b>      | beginning of round                              |
| <b>CO</b>       | cast on                                         |
| <b>DK</b>       | double knitting yarn weight                     |
| <b>DPN/DPNs</b> | double-pointed needle/double-pointed needles    |
| <b>k</b>        | knit                                            |
| <b>k2tog</b>    | knit 2 stitches together                        |
| <b>kfb</b>      | knit into the front and back of the same stitch |
| <b>p</b>        | purl                                            |
| <b>rnd/rnds</b> | round/rounds                                    |
| <b>row/rows</b> | row/rows                                        |
| <b>RS</b>       | right side                                      |
| <b>ssk</b>      | slip, slip, knit; a left-leaning decrease       |
| <b>st/sts</b>   | stitch/stitches                                 |
| <b>WS</b>       | wrong side                                      |

## Method and Orientation

- The main body, ears and feet are worked in the round. Two mirrored cinnamon face panels are worked flat in stockinette.
- Keep the BOR marker at the underside centre of the main body. Do not move it from round to round.
- Persistent foot-placement references: The BOR needle marker will disappear when the body is closed. At the end of Body Rnd 26 and again at the end of Body Rnd 58, clip a removable locking marker directly through the fabric at BOR. Keep both fabric markers in place through stuffing and rear closure. They mark the exact centreline used for the front and rear foot pairs.
- The nose is the front of the project and the dark brown end is the back/rear.
- The top/crown is directly opposite BOR. At the 96-stitch section, top centre lies between stitch columns 48 and 49.
- Right and left are described from the finished guinea pig's point of view unless stated otherwise.
- Placement stitch columns are counted on the 96-stitch body section. Paired features are positioned by equal distances from top centre or BOR so they remain mirrored.

## Construction Overview

- Make 1 main body. Leave the rear open after Rnd 74 for face-panel attachment, eye installation and stuffing.
- Make 2 mirrored cinnamon face panels. Keep them unstuffed and sew them flat over the cream head before inserting safety eyes.
- Make 2 cinnamon ears. Keep them completely unstuffed and flatten them for attachment.
- Make 4 blush-beige feet. Lightly stuff only the toe end and keep the attachment end soft.
- Install the eyes before closing the body. Embroider the nose and mouth after the final body shape is established.
- Attach ears before feet, then complete facial embroidery and final shaping.

## Main Body - Rnds 1-25

With cream, CO 12 sts. Join to work in the round without twisting. Place BOR at the underside centre and leave a 25 cm / 10 in cast-on tail; this tail will close the nose opening later.

| Rnd/Row | Instruction                       | Count |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 1       | With cream, k all sts.            | 12    |
| 2       | Kfb in every st around.           | 24    |
| 3       | K all sts.                        | 24    |
| 4       | *K1, kfb; repeat from * 12 times. | 36    |
| 5       | K all sts.                        | 36    |
| 6       | *K2, kfb; repeat from * 12 times. | 48    |
| 7       | K all sts.                        | 48    |
| 8       | *K3, kfb; repeat from * 12 times. | 60    |
| 9       | K all sts.                        | 60    |
| 10      | *K4, kfb; repeat from * 12 times. | 72    |
| 11      | K all sts.                        | 72    |
| 12      | *K5, kfb; repeat from * 12 times. | 84    |
| 13      | K all sts.                        | 84    |
| 14      | *K6, kfb; repeat from * 12 times. | 96    |
| 15      | K all sts.                        | 96    |
| 16      | With cream, k all sts.            | 96    |
| 17      | With cream, k all sts.            | 96    |
| 18      | With cream, k all sts.            | 96    |
| 19      | With cream, k all sts.            | 96    |
| 20      | With cream, k all sts.            | 96    |
| 21      | With cream, k all sts.            | 96    |
| 22      | With cream, k all sts.            | 96    |
| 23      | With cream, k all sts.            | 96    |
| 24      | With cream, k all sts.            | 96    |
| 25      | With cream, k all sts.            | 96    |

### Colour placement

Rnds 1-42 form the cream main-body foundation. Cinnamon face colour is added later with two sewn panels over the upper head from the Rnd 15/16 boundary to the Rnd 31/32 boundary. Dark chocolate brown begins on Rnd 43; keep that colour-change jog at BOR on the underside.

## Main Body - Rnds 26-50

| Rnd/Row | Instruction                                                                                                            | Count |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 26      | With cream, k all sts. At BOR, clip a removable marker through the fabric to mark the Rnd 26/27 front-foot centreline. | 96    |
| 27      | With cream, k all sts.                                                                                                 | 96    |
| 28      | With cream, k all sts.                                                                                                 | 96    |
| 29      | With cream, k all sts.                                                                                                 | 96    |
| 30      | With cream, k all sts.                                                                                                 | 96    |
| 31      | With cream, k all sts.                                                                                                 | 96    |
| 32      | With cream, k all sts.                                                                                                 | 96    |
| 33      | With cream, k all sts.                                                                                                 | 96    |
| 34      | With cream, k all sts.                                                                                                 | 96    |
| 35      | With cream, k all sts.                                                                                                 | 96    |
| 36      | With cream, k all sts.                                                                                                 | 96    |
| 37      | With cream, k all sts.                                                                                                 | 96    |
| 38      | With cream, k all sts.                                                                                                 | 96    |
| 39      | With cream, k all sts.                                                                                                 | 96    |
| 40      | With cream, k all sts.                                                                                                 | 96    |
| 41      | With cream, k all sts.                                                                                                 | 96    |
| 42      | With cream, k all sts.                                                                                                 | 96    |
| 43      | Cut cream, leaving a 15 cm / 6 in tail. Join dark chocolate brown at BOR and k all sts.                                | 96    |
| 44      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts.                                                                                  | 96    |
| 45      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts.                                                                                  | 96    |
| 46      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts.                                                                                  | 96    |
| 47      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts.                                                                                  | 96    |
| 48      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts.                                                                                  | 96    |
| 49      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts.                                                                                  | 96    |
| 50      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts.                                                                                  | 96    |

### Head landmarks

The eye line sits between Rnds 23 and 24. Ear bases are attached between Rnds 28 and 29. The cinnamon face panels end at the Rnd 31/32 boundary. The cream shoulder band runs from Rnds 32-42, and the dark brown rear begins on Rnd 43.

## Main Body - Rnds 51-75

| Rnd/Row | Instruction                                                                                                                                 | Count |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 51      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts.                                                                                                       | 96    |
| 52      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts.                                                                                                       | 96    |
| 53      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts.                                                                                                       | 96    |
| 54      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts.                                                                                                       | 96    |
| 55      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts.                                                                                                       | 96    |
| 56      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts.                                                                                                       | 96    |
| 57      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts.                                                                                                       | 96    |
| 58      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts. At BOR, clip a second removable marker through the fabric to mark the Rnd 58/59 rear-foot centreline. | 96    |
| 59      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts.                                                                                                       | 96    |
| 60      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts.                                                                                                       | 96    |
| 61      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts.                                                                                                       | 96    |
| 62      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts.                                                                                                       | 96    |
| 63      | With dark chocolate brown, *k6, k2tog; repeat from * 12 times.                                                                              | 84    |
| 64      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts.                                                                                                       | 84    |
| 65      | With dark chocolate brown, *k5, k2tog; repeat from * 12 times.                                                                              | 72    |
| 66      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts.                                                                                                       | 72    |
| 67      | With dark chocolate brown, *k4, k2tog; repeat from * 12 times.                                                                              | 60    |
| 68      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts.                                                                                                       | 60    |
| 69      | With dark chocolate brown, *k3, k2tog; repeat from * 12 times.                                                                              | 48    |
| 70      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts.                                                                                                       | 48    |
| 71      | With dark chocolate brown, *k2, k2tog; repeat from * 12 times.                                                                              | 36    |
| 72      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts.                                                                                                       | 36    |
| 73      | With dark chocolate brown, *k1, k2tog; repeat from * 12 times.                                                                              | 24    |
| 74      | With dark chocolate brown, k all sts.                                                                                                       | 24    |
| 75      | With dark chocolate brown, k2tog around.                                                                                                    | 12    |

### Pause After Rnd 74

Do not work Rnd 75 yet. The remaining 24-stitch rear opening must stay open while you close the nose cast-on, attach both cinnamon face panels, install the eyes, and stuff the body.

- Thread the original cream cast-on tail onto a tapestry needle. Run it through the cast-on edge loops at the nose and draw the 12-stitch opening fully closed. Secure the yarn inside the body.
- Work and attach both mirrored cinnamon face panels using the instructions in the next section.
- Insert the safety eyes at the marked positions and secure the washers inside the body.
- Stuff the head and body gradually. Keep the nose softly rounded, the sides full, the underside slightly flatter, and the rear smoothly domed. Firm stuffing is appropriate, but do not stretch the stitches open.

Return to the needles and work Rnd 75. Cut the dark brown yarn, leaving a 25 cm / 10 in tail. Thread the tail through the remaining 12 sts, draw tightly closed, secure, and bury the tail inside the body.

## Cinnamon Face Panels - Make 2, Mirrored

Work flat in cinnamon. The panels are sewn over the cream body to form the two cinnamon cheek/crown areas while leaving the lower face cream and a tapered cream blaze at top centre. Match the main gauge: 24 sts x 32 rows = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in in flat stockinette.

| Panel A |                             |        | Panel B - mirrored |                             |        |
|---------|-----------------------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Row     | Instruction                 | Count  | Row                | Instruction                 | Count  |
| CO      | CO 25 sts.                  | 25     | CO                 | CO 25 sts.                  | 25     |
| 1       | WS: P25.                    | 25     | 1                  | WS: P25.                    | 25     |
| 2       | RS: K23, k2tog.             | 24     | 2                  | RS: Ssk, k23.               | 24     |
| 3       | WS: P24.                    | 24     | 3                  | WS: P24.                    | 24     |
| 4       | RS: K24.                    | 24     | 4                  | RS: K24.                    | 24     |
| 5       | WS: P24.                    | 24     | 5                  | WS: P24.                    | 24     |
| 6       | RS: K22, k2tog.             | 23     | 6                  | RS: Ssk, k22.               | 23     |
| 7       | WS: P23.                    | 23     | 7                  | WS: P23.                    | 23     |
| 8       | RS: K23.                    | 23     | 8                  | RS: K23.                    | 23     |
| 9       | WS: P23.                    | 23     | 9                  | WS: P23.                    | 23     |
| 10      | RS: K21, k2tog.             | 22     | 10                 | RS: Ssk, k21.               | 22     |
| 11      | WS: P22.                    | 22     | 11                 | WS: P22.                    | 22     |
| 12      | RS: K22.                    | 22     | 12                 | RS: K22.                    | 22     |
| 13      | WS: P22.                    | 22     | 13                 | WS: P22.                    | 22     |
| 14      | RS: K20, k2tog.             | 21     | 14                 | RS: Ssk, k20.               | 21     |
| 15      | WS: P21.                    | 21     | 15                 | WS: P21.                    | 21     |
| 16      | RS: BO all 21 sts knitwise. | 0 live | 16                 | RS: BO all 21 sts knitwise. | 0 live |

### Panel Placement and Sewing

- With BOR centred underneath, place both panels RS outward. The 25-stitch CO edges sit at the Body Rnd 31/32 boundary and the 21-stitch BO edges sit at the Rnd 15/16 boundary.
- At the rear edge, Panel B spans body stitch columns 21-45 and Panel A spans 52-76. At the front edge, Panel B spans columns 21-41 and Panel A spans 56-76.
- Keep the shaped edge of each panel toward top centre. This leaves body columns 1-20 and 77-96 cream around the lower face/underside, while the central cream blaze widens from 6 stitches at the rear of the head to 14 stitches at the muzzle boundary. At the eye line around Rnds 23/24, the exposed centre blaze is roughly 10 stitches wide and the eye gaps remain within the cinnamon panels.
- Pin both panels before sewing and confirm that they are mirrored. Sew around each entire panel perimeter with cinnamon yarn using small whip stitches. Catch one edge bar of the panel and one leg of the nearest cream body stitch; keep the seam flexible and do not pucker the body.

#### Before installing eyes

Sew both cinnamon face panels first. Check that the gaps after stitch columns 39 and 57 remain level on the Rnd 23/24 eye line and sit cleanly within the cinnamon panels.

## Ears - Make 2

Work in cinnamon in the round. These are small unstuffed tubes that are closed at the tip, then flattened. The cast-on edge becomes the attachment edge.

| Rnd/Row | Instruction                                                                        | Count |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| CO      | CO 20 sts, leaving a 35 cm / 14 in tail for attachment. Join to work in the round. | 20    |
| 1       | K all sts.                                                                         | 20    |
| 2       | K all sts.                                                                         | 20    |
| 3       | K all sts.                                                                         | 20    |
| 4       | K all sts.                                                                         | 20    |
| 5       | K all sts.                                                                         | 20    |
| 6       | K all sts.                                                                         | 20    |
| 7       | *K3, k2tog; repeat from * 4 times.                                                 | 16    |
| 8       | K all sts.                                                                         | 16    |
| 9       | *K2, k2tog; repeat from * 4 times.                                                 | 12    |
| 10      | K all sts.                                                                         | 12    |
| 11      | *K1, k2tog; repeat from * 4 times.                                                 | 8     |

Cut yarn, thread through the remaining 8 sts and draw closed. Flatten the ear so the two layers lie together. Do not stuff. Weave the closing tail inside the flattened ear. Keep the 35 cm / 14 in cast-on tail for sewing.

## Feet - Make 4

Work in blush beige in the round from toe to attachment edge.

| Rnd/Row | Instruction                                                                           | Count  |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| CO      | CO 8 sts, leaving a 20 cm / 8 in tail for closing the toe. Join to work in the round. | 8      |
| 1       | Kfb in every st around.                                                               | 16     |
| 2       | K all sts.                                                                            | 16     |
| 3       | K all sts.                                                                            | 16     |
| 4       | K all sts.                                                                            | 16     |
| 5       | K all sts.                                                                            | 16     |
| 6       | K all sts.                                                                            | 16     |
| 7       | K all sts.                                                                            | 16     |
| 8       | *K2, k2tog; repeat from * 4 times.                                                    | 12     |
| 9       | K all sts.                                                                            | 12     |
| 10      | K all sts.                                                                            | 12     |
| BO      | BO all 12 sts loosely.                                                                | 0 live |

Thread the cast-on tail through the 8 cast-on edge loops at the toe. Draw the opening fully closed, secure the tail, and bury it inside the foot. Lightly stuff the toe end only. Keep the final 1 cm / 0.4 in near the BO edge nearly unstuffed. Flatten the BO edge so the front and back layers form 6 paired attachment points. After binding off, leave a 35 cm / 14 in working-yarn tail for sewing.

### Flattened attachment rule

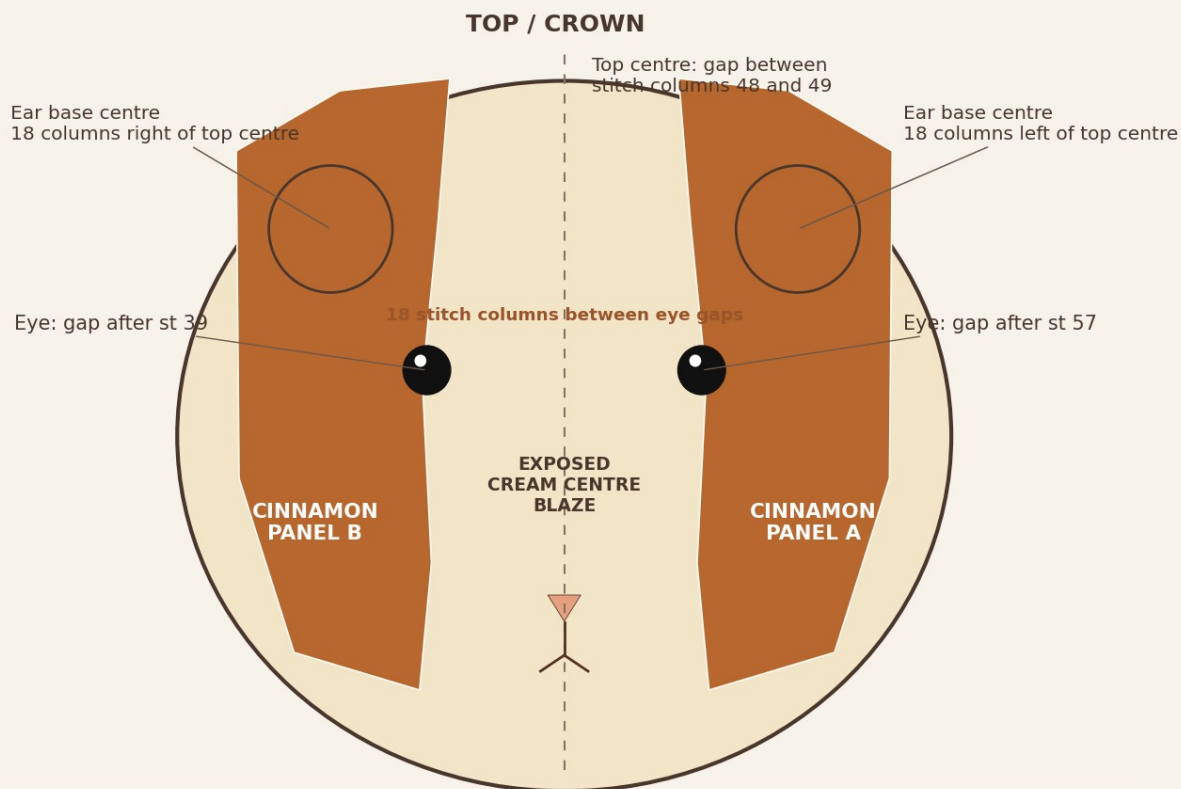
When attaching an ear or foot, every sewing stitch must pass through both flattened layers of the piece before entering the body. This keeps the attachment stable and prevents one layer from peeling away.

## Placement Maps

Use the body after Rnd 74, before final rear closure, for cinnamon face-panel placement and eye placement. Ear and foot positions are sewn after the body is closed and shaped. Pin every paired feature first, then compare it from the front, sides, top and underside before sewing.

### Front placement map

96-stitch head section - cinnamon areas are sewn face panels



**Panel CO edges at R31/32:** B cols 21-45 | A cols 52-76

**Panel BO edges at R15/16:** B cols 21-41 | A cols 56-76

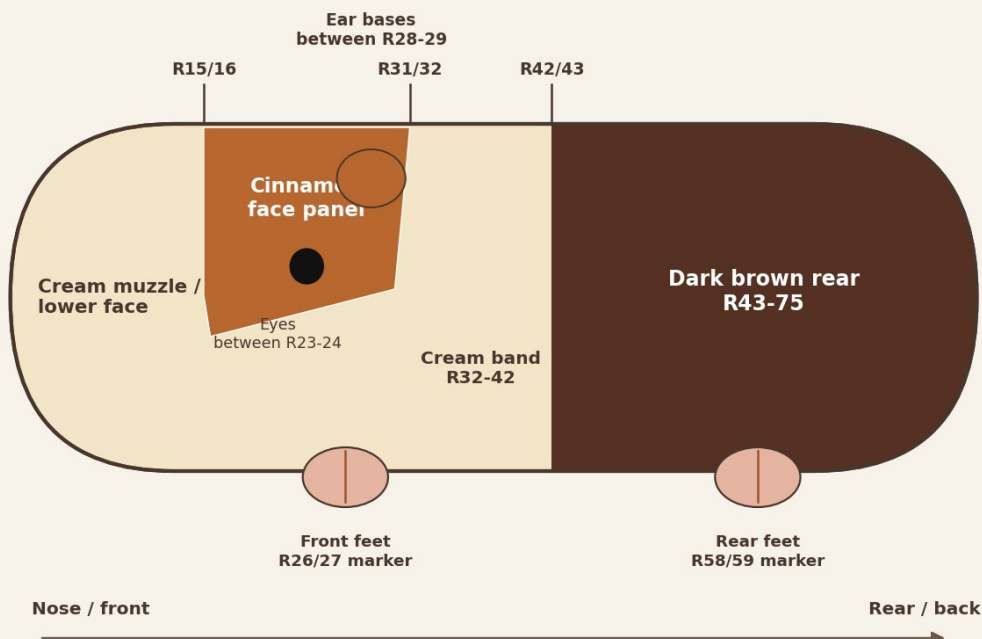
Lower face/underside stays cream: cols 1-20 and 77-96. Centre blaze widens 6 sts -> 14 sts.

**BOR AT UNDERSIDE CENTRE**

## Colour and Underside Placement

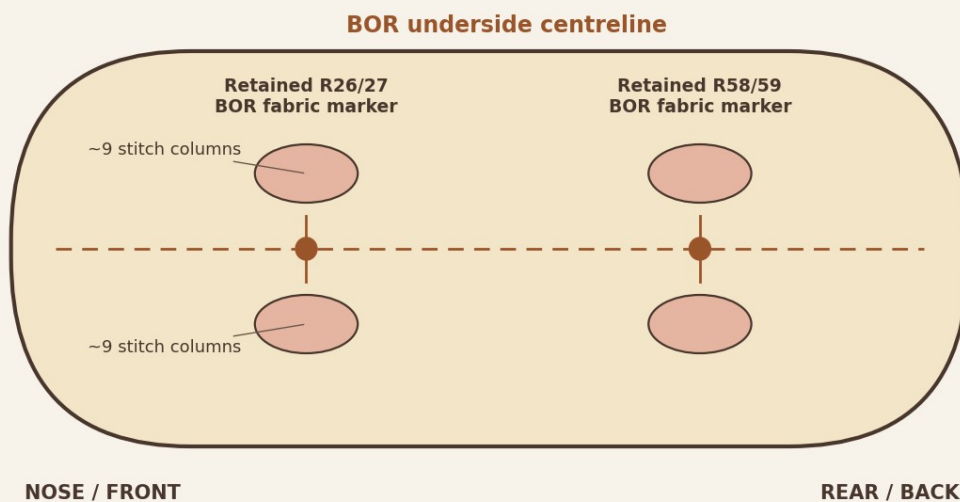
### Side map: colour zones and feature rounds

Round numbers run from the nose toward the rear.



### Underside placement map

Feet use retained fabric BOR markers after the body is closed.



Front pair: between Body Rnds 26 and 27, centred ~9 stitch columns to either side of the retained front marker.

Rear pair: between Body Rnds 58 and 59, mirrored at the same ~9-column offset from the retained rear marker.

**Remove both fabric markers only after all four feet are sewn.**

#### Placement symmetry

At the 96-stitch section, top centre is between stitch columns 48 and 49. The eye gaps are after columns 39 and 57. The cinnamon face panels are mirrored around top centre. Each foot pair is centred equally to either side of its retained fabric BOR marker.

## Assembly - Face and Body

Complete the cinnamon face-panel and safety-eye steps while the 24-stitch rear opening is still accessible. Then finish stuffing and close the rear before attaching ears and feet.

1. **Close the nose opening.** Use the cream cast-on tail to gather the original 12-stitch nose edge closed. Pull firmly enough to remove the hole, secure the yarn on the inside, and keep the closure centred.
2. Pin the cinnamon face panels. Align the rear and front edges and stitch-column coordinates given on Page 7. Check the exposed cream blaze from the front and crown before sewing.
3. Sew the cinnamon face panels. Work small cinnamon whip stitches around each entire perimeter without puckering the cream body.
4. **Mark the eyes.** At the 96-stitch head section, place temporary pins between Body Rnds 23 and 24 in the gaps after stitch columns 39 and 57. These positions are 9 columns to either side of top centre.
5. Check the eyes before securing. View the face straight on. Both eye pins should be level, equally far from the exposed cream centre blaze, and the same distance from the nose. Adjust now if needed.
6. Install the eyes. Insert each 12 mm safety-eye post through both the cinnamon face panel and the underlying body fabric at the marked gap before fitting the washer inside. If embroidering eyes, leave the pins in place as guides and complete the embroidery after stuffing.
7. **Stuff the body.** Add small pieces of stuffing into the nose and head first, then fill the middle and rear. Keep the head and side walls firm, the underside slightly flatter, and the first few nose rounds a little softer so the muzzle stays rounded rather than pointed.
8. **Close the rear.** Work Body Rnd 75, cut the dark brown yarn, thread through the remaining 12 sts, draw closed, secure and bury the tail. Roll the body gently between your hands to even the stuffing and shape a low oval.

### Body balance

Set Hazel on a flat surface before attaching feet. The underside should rest as a broad, slightly flattened curve. Redistribute stuffing with your fingers if the body wants to roll strongly to one side.

## Assembly - Ears and Feet

9. **Pin the ears.** Flatten each ear. Place the attachment edge between Body Rnds 28 and 29, with each ear base centred about 18 stitch columns to one side of top centre. The two centres are therefore approximately at gaps after stitch columns 30 and 66. Let the closed ear tip hang slightly downward and toward the nose.
10. **Check ear symmetry.** From the front, the inner ear edges should sit equally far from the eyes. From above, both ear bases should angle the same way. From the side, both tips should droop to a similar height.
11. **Sew the ears.** Using the retained cinnamon cast-on tail, or a fresh length of cinnamon yarn if necessary, work the flattened two-layer attachment across about 10 stitch columns of body fabric. For every stitch, pass through both ear layers. Where the ear base overlaps a cinnamon face panel, also catch the panel and underlying body fabric together; elsewhere enter the body fabric directly. Keep the seam firm but not puckered.
12. **Pin the front feet.** Using the retained Rnd 26/27 BOR fabric marker as the underside centreline, place the front feet between Rnds 26 and 27, with the centres approximately 9 stitch columns to either side of that marker. Turn the toe ends slightly toward the nose.
13. **Pin the rear feet.** Using the retained Rnd 58/59 BOR fabric marker, place the rear feet between Rnds 58 and 59, mirrored at the same 9-column offset. Keep the toe ends nearly forward rather than splayed outward.
14. **Check the stance.** Set the body on a flat surface. All four feet should contact the surface without forcing the body upward. The front pair should align with each other, and the rear pair should align with each other.
15. **Sew the feet.** Use the 35 cm / 14 in BO-end sewing tail from each foot. Flatten the BO edge into 6 paired attachment points. Each sewing stitch must capture both layers of the foot edge before entering the body. Use small whip stitches along the short attachment line and keep the seam snug but not puckered.
16. **Secure and bury tails.** After all four feet are sewn, remove the retained Rnd 26/27 and Rnd 58/59 BOR fabric markers. Weave each sewing tail through nearby body stitches, pass the needle through the stuffed body and out at a distant point, then trim so the end retracts inside.

## Sewing Methods at a Glance

| Join                 | Method                                                                                           |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cinnamon face panels | Small surface whip stitch; catch the panel edge and one leg of the underlying cream body stitch. |
| <b>Ears</b>          | Flattened two-layer attachment; catch both ear layers with every stitch.                         |
| <b>Feet</b>          | Flattened two-layer attachment; catch both foot layers with every stitch.                        |
| <b>Rear closure</b>  | Gather the remaining live stitches tightly with the working tail.                                |

## Facial Embroidery and Final Shaping

### Nose

With peach embroidery yarn, centre a small rounded triangle over the gathered nose closure. Make the triangle approximately 1.2 cm / 0.5 in wide and 0.8 cm / 0.3 in high. Build it with short satin stitches placed side by side, keeping the upper edge broad and the lower point centred.

### Mouth

With dark brown embroidery yarn, bring the needle out directly below the nose point. Make a short vertical line approximately 8-10 mm / 0.3-0.4 in long. From the lower end, work two shallow curved lines with small backstitches, one curving about 10-12 mm / 0.4-0.5 in toward the project's right and one matching it toward the project's left. Keep both curves equal so the mouth remains centred.

### Embroidered Eye Option

At the same eye positions used for safety eyes, build each eye into a dense black oval approximately 10-11 mm / 0.4 in wide using satin stitch. Keep the top edges level. A tiny cream or white highlight stitch may be added near the upper front edge of each eye if desired.

### Final Body Shape

- Cup the head and rear in your hands and gently redistribute stuffing until the profile is long and rounded rather than spherical.
- Keep the belly line low and slightly flat so all four feet can touch the surface.
- Massage the face and head area so the eyes face forward rather than upward.
- Smooth both cinnamon face panels so their edges lie flat, and keep the exposed cream centre blaze straight and symmetrical.
- If one ear lifts more than the other, add one hidden tack stitch near its base rather than tightening the entire seam.

## Finished Views



## Troubleshooting

| Problem                                          | Practical correction                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Stuffing shows between stitches                  | Check the 24-stitch gauge. If your fabric is looser, use a smaller needle and keep firm, even tension. Add stuffing in small pieces rather than pushing one large clump against the fabric.                               |
| Body is too long or too short                    | Check the 32-round row gauge. A lower round gauge makes the body longer; a higher round gauge makes it shorter. Keep all colour-zone round counts unchanged once your gauge is matched.                                   |
| Body looks too round                             | Remove a little stuffing from the underside and redistribute it toward the side walls. Press the belly into a broad flat curve before attaching the feet.                                                                 |
| Nose looks pointed                               | Soften the first 10-15 body rounds by removing a small amount of stuffing near the gathered nose closure. Shape the muzzle with your fingers into a short dome.                                                           |
| Cinnamon face panel ripples                      | The panel seam is too tight or the panel was pinned on a flat surface. Loosen the edge stitches, repin the panel over the rounded head shape, keep the exposed cream centre blaze straight, and re sew without puckering. |
| Eyes are uneven                                  | Use the top-centre line as the fixed landmark. Both eyes must sit 9 stitch columns from top centre and on the same Rnd 23/24 line. Move the eye pins before securing washers.                                             |
| One ear sits higher                              | Measure both ear-base centres from top centre, not from the eye. Re-pin the higher ear at the same Rnd 28/29 line and the same 18-column offset as the other ear.                                                         |
| Feet splay outward                               | Turn each toe slightly toward the nose before sewing. Keep the flattened attachment line short and roughly across the underside rather than running lengthwise along the body.                                            |
| One foot does not touch the surface              | Before resewing, place the body on a flat table and pin all four feet at once. Adjust the lower foot seam by one round or one stitch column until the body rests evenly.                                                  |
| Colour-change jog is visible                     | Keep BOR on the underside. When changing colours, snug the first new-colour stitch and weave the old and new tails into the underside fabric so the step remains hidden below the body.                                   |
| Ear or foot seam gaps                            | Use more frequent small whip stitches and make sure each attachment stitch catches both flattened layers of the piece before entering the body.                                                                           |
| Different yarn colour works at a different gauge | Check the stitch gauge of that yarn separately. If one colour knits noticeably wider or narrower, adjust needle size for that yarn so the structural fabrics remain close to 24 sts per 10 cm / 4 in.                     |

## Final Visual Checklist

- ☐ Cinnamon face panels are mirrored, lie flat, and leave a straight, symmetrical cream centre blaze.
- ☐ Eyes are level and equally spaced from top centre and the exposed cream centre blaze.
- ☐ Nose triangle is centred over the gathered nose closure.
- ☐ Mouth stem and both mouth curves are centred and balanced.
- ☐ Ears are mirrored in height, angle and distance from the eyes.
- ☐ Front feet are aligned with each other and point slightly forward.
- ☐ Rear feet are aligned with each other and support the body evenly.
- ☐ All four feet touch a flat surface without twisting the body.
- ☐ All four foot toe openings are gathered completely closed.
- ☐ Body remains a long low oval with a softly rounded muzzle and rear.
- ☐ Cream body areas, cinnamon face panels and the dark brown rear are cleanly defined, with the Rnd 43 colour-change jog kept underneath.
- ☐ No stuffing shows through the knitted fabric.
- ☐ No opening remains at the nose or rear.
- ☐ No attachment seam has visible gaps.
- ☐ All yarn tails are secured and buried.
- ☐ All temporary markers and pins have been removed.

### Finished

Your guinea pig should sit securely on four small feet, with the face centred, the ears softly drooping and the body shaped into a smooth tricolor oval.

## Piece Count Check

- 1 main body
- 2 mirrored cinnamon face panels
- 2 cinnamon ears
- 4 blush-beige feet
- 2 eyes or 2 embroidered-eye motifs
- 1 embroidered nose and 1 embroidered mouth