



HAZEL THE COZY HAMSTER

Free Knitting Pattern

A softly rounded hamster plushie with cream cheeks and belly, peach paws, and tiny rounded ears



Skill level: Confident Beginner to Intermediate

Pattern style

Mostly knitted in the round in smooth stockinette, with small flat-knit face, belly, and inner-ear pieces. Components are stuffed and sewn together with clear placement references.

1. Project Overview

This pattern makes a cuddly, round hamster with a tan head and body, broad cream cheek pads, a cream belly, peach paws, rounded ears, and a small back tail. The head and body are shaped in the round; the cream face pieces and belly are worked flat and sewn on for clean colour placement.

The pattern is suited to makers who are comfortable knitting small circumferences, working simple increases and decreases, and sewing stuffed pieces together. Careful pinning before sewing is the key to the balanced face and seated shape.



Finished views: front, quarter, side, back, opposite side, and opposite quarter.

Finished Size

Overall height	Approximately 25-27 cm / 9.75-10.5 in, including ears
Overall width	Approximately 16-18 cm / 6.25-7 in across the cheeks and body
Body depth	Approximately 12-14 cm / 4.75-5.5 in
Head	Approximately 13-14 cm / 5-5.5 in wide and 11-12 cm / 4.25-4.75 in high

Body	Approximately 10-11 cm / 4-4.25 in wide and 11-12.5 cm / 4.25-5 in high
Ear	Approximately 4-4.5 cm / 1.5-1.75 in across
Arm	Approximately 6-6.5 cm / 2.25-2.5 in long
Foot	Approximately 3-3.5 cm / 1.25-1.4 in across
Tail	Approximately 2.5-3 cm / 1-1.2 in across

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

2. Materials and Tools

Yarn weight	DK / light worsted yarn with smooth stitch definition
Tan	Approximately 100-120 g / 230-275 m / 250-300 yd
Cream	Approximately 60-75 g / 140-175 m / 150-190 yd
Peach	Approximately 20-25 g / 45-60 m / 50-65 yd
Face embroidery	Small amount of dark brown or black embroidery floss or fine yarn
Needles	3.25 mm / US 3 needles suitable for small-circumference knitting: DPNs or a long circular needle for Magic Loop
Stuffing	Approximately 140-170 g washable polyester fibre fill
Eyes	Two 12 mm black safety eyes, or black yarn for embroidered eyes
Notions	Tapestry needle, stitch markers, locking/removable markers or contrast yarn, pins, scissors, measuring tape

Yarn Notes

A smooth wool blend, acrylic, cotton blend, or similar DK yarn works well. Choose yarns of similar thickness so the cream and peach pieces scale correctly against the tan head and body. A firm fabric keeps stuffing from showing and helps the rounded pieces hold their shape.

Safety Note

Small components

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

In the round	23 sts x 32 rnds = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in in stockinette stitch with 3.25 mm needles
Worked flat	23 sts x 32 rows = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in in stockinette stitch with 3.25 mm needles

Aim for a dense, even fabric. If stuffing is visible between stitches, use a smaller needle or work more firmly. If the fabric is very stiff and difficult to shape, use a slightly larger needle while keeping the same proportional relationship between all pieces.

Abbreviations

BO	bind off
BOR	beginning of round
CB	centre back

CF	centre front
CO	cast on
k	knit
k2tog	knit 2 stitches together; 1 stitch decreased
kfb	knit into 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
RS	right side
ssk	slip 1 knitwise, slip 1 knitwise, return both to left needle and knit together through the back loops; 1 stitch decreased
st / sts	stitch / stitches
WS	wrong side

3. Method and Orientation

- Head, body, ears, arms, feet, and tail are knitted in the round. Do not turn at the end of a round.
- Cheek pads, muzzle, belly panel, and inner-ear patches are knitted flat in stockinette. RS rows are knit; WS rows are purled unless shaping is stated.
- For the head and body, place the BOR marker at CB. The point directly opposite the BOR is CF.
- Right and left are described from the finished item's point of view. When the hamster faces you, the item's right side appears on your left.
- The BOR marker stays at the same round boundary. Slip it as you come to it; do not deliberately move it around the piece.
- Keep all sewn-on panels relaxed while pinning. Do not stretch a flat panel to force it into a larger area.

Persistent orientation marks

Alongside the needle BOR marker, maintain a removable CB reference on the head and body as you work. Mark CF on the head at Rnds 19, 23, 27 and 31, and on the body at Rnds 16, 22 and 28. Use the CF markers while pinning the face and belly pieces. Before sewing over any CF marker, transfer CF to an exposed marker on top of the pinned panel or immediately outside its edge, then remove the marker that would be covered. Never sew over a locking marker or contrast-yarn reference. Keep an exposed CF reference and the CB reference until final alignment is complete.

Construction Overview

1 head	Tan; knitted in the round, eyes inserted before lower shaping is completed, firmly stuffed and gathered closed
2 cheek pads	Cream; knitted flat, sewn to the finished head with a very thin layer of stuffing beneath
1 muzzle	Cream; knitted flat, lightly padded, then nose and mouth embroidered
2 ears	Tan tubes knitted in the round; each receives 1 Peach inner-ear patch; lightly stuffed and attached by the open base
1 body	Tan; knitted in the round from base to upper neck, stuffed and gathered closed
1 belly panel	Cream; knitted flat and sewn to the body before the limbs are attached
2 arms	Peach paw tips changing to Tan; knitted in the round, lightly stuffed, top openings flattened for attachment
2 feet	Peach; knitted in the round, lightly stuffed and shaped into low ovals

1 tail

Peach; knitted in the round, lightly stuffed and sewn at CB

Suggested Making Order

1. Knit the head, install the eyes, stuff, and close it.
2. Knit the cheek pads, muzzle, ears, and inner-ear patches. Complete the head assembly and facial embroidery.
3. Knit, stuff, and close the body while preserving the CF and CB markers.
4. Knit and sew on the belly panel.
5. Knit the arms, feet, and tail.
6. Attach tail, feet, and arms to the body.
7. Join the completed head to the body and make the final alignment checks.

4. Head - Make 1 in Tan

Work from the crown toward the lower pole. CO 8 sts in Tan, distribute across DPNs or arrange for Magic Loop, join to work in the round without twisting, and place the BOR marker at CB.

Eye placement pause

After Rnd 31, install the safety eyes before continuing the decreases. With 80 sts on the needle, CF is the gap between sts 40 and 41. Put the item's right eye in the gap after st 33 and the item's left eye in the gap after st 47, both between Rnds 23 and 24. Check from the front that the eyes are level before securing the washers.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	Knit all stitches.	8
2	Kfb in every stitch around.	16
3	Knit all stitches.	16
4	*(K1, kfb); repeat from * around.	24
5	Knit all stitches.	24
6	*(K2, kfb); repeat from * around.	32
7	Knit all stitches.	32
8	*(K3, kfb); repeat from * around.	40
9	Knit all stitches.	40
10	*(K4, kfb); repeat from * around.	48
11	Knit all stitches.	48
12	*(K5, kfb); repeat from * around.	56
13	Knit all stitches.	56
14	*(K6, kfb); repeat from * around.	64
15	Knit all stitches.	64
16	*(K7, kfb); repeat from * around.	72
17	Knit all stitches.	72
18	*(K8, kfb); repeat from * around.	80
19	Knit all stitches.	80
20	Knit all stitches.	80
21	Knit all stitches.	80
22	Knit all stitches.	80
23	Knit all stitches.	80
24	Knit all stitches.	80
25	Knit all stitches.	80
26	Knit all stitches.	80
27	Knit all stitches.	80

Rnd	Instruction	Count
28	Knit all stitches.	80
29	Knit all stitches.	80
30	Knit all stitches.	80
31	Knit all stitches.	80
32	*(K8, k2tog); repeat from * around.	72
33	Knit all stitches.	72
34	*(K7, k2tog); repeat from * around.	64
35	Knit all stitches.	64
36	*(K6, k2tog); repeat from * around.	56
37	Knit all stitches.	56
38	*(K5, k2tog); repeat from * around.	48
39	Knit all stitches.	48
40	*(K4, k2tog); repeat from * around.	40
41	Knit all stitches.	40
42	*(K3, k2tog); repeat from * around.	32
43	Knit all stitches.	32
44	*(K2, k2tog); repeat from * around.	24
45	*(K1, k2tog); repeat from * around.	16
46	K2tog around.	8

Stuffing and Closure

- Begin adding stuffing after Rnd 38. Fill the crown and sides first so the fabric stays smoothly rounded.
- After Rnd 44, stuff the head firmly without stretching the stitches. Keep the final lower 2 cm / 0.75 in slightly softer so the head can settle onto the body.
- After Rnd 46, cut yarn leaving a 20 cm / 8 in tail. Thread the tail through the remaining 8 sts, remove the needles, pull closed, secure, and bury the yarn tail inside the head.

5. Cheek Pads and Muzzle

Cheek Pad - Make 2 in Cream

CO 5 sts. Work flat in stockinette, beginning with an RS row.

Row	Instruction	Count
1	RS: Kfb, k3, kfb.	7
2	WS: Pfb, p5, pfb.	9
3	RS: Kfb, k7, kfb.	11
4	WS: Pfb, p9, pfb.	13
5	RS: Kfb, k11, kfb.	15
6	WS: Purl all stitches.	15
7	RS: Knit all stitches.	15
8	WS: Purl all stitches.	15
9	RS: Ssk, k11, k2tog.	13
10	WS: P2tog, p9, p2tog.	11
11	RS: Ssk, k7, k2tog.	9
12	WS: P2tog, p5, p2tog.	7
13	RS: Ssk, k3, k2tog.	5
14	WS: Purl all stitches.	5
15	RS: BO all stitches knitwise.	0

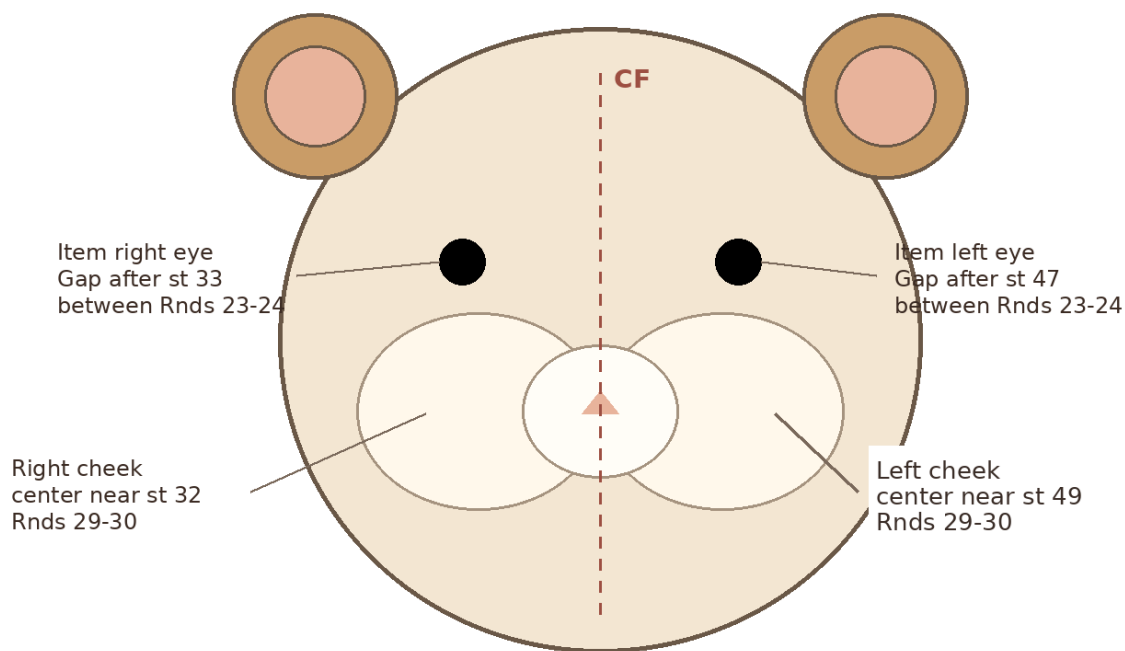
Leave a 45 cm / 18 in sewing tail. Do not stuff the cheek pad as a separate pouch; it will be lightly padded while being sewn to the head.

Muzzle - Make 1 in Cream

CO 3 sts. Work flat in stockinette, beginning with an RS row.

Row	Instruction	Count
1	RS: Kfb, k1, kfb.	5
2	WS: Pfb, p3, pfb.	7
3	RS: Kfb, k5, kfb.	9
4	WS: Purl all stitches.	9
5	RS: Knit all stitches.	9
6	WS: Purl all stitches.	9
7	RS: Ssk, k5, k2tog.	7
8	WS: P2tog, p3, p2tog.	5
9	RS: Ssk, k1, k2tog.	3
10	WS: Purl all stitches.	3
11	RS: BO all stitches knitwise.	0

Leave a 40 cm / 16 in sewing tail. The muzzle is lightly padded during attachment.



Front placement map - pin all soft pieces before sewing

Face Placement

- Keep the temporary CF markers visible. Lay the head with CF facing you and the crown at the top.
- Pin the item's right cheek with its centre near stitch column 32 and its vertical centre around Head Rnds 29-30. Pin the item's left cheek as an exact mirror near stitch column 49 at the same height.
- Angle the cheek pads very slightly upward toward the centre. Their inner edges may touch beneath the muzzle; their outer upper edges should sit below the eyes rather than covering them.
- Pin the muzzle directly over CF, centred around Head Rnds 29-31. Let it overlap the inner edges of the cheek pads slightly.
- Check from the front, both sides, and top. Adjust until the cream face area is level and symmetrical before sewing.
- Once the face pieces are pinned and centred, retain the exposed Head Rnd 19 CF reference and remove or transfer any lower CF markers that would be covered by the cheek pads or muzzle before sewing.

Sewing the Face Pieces

Use small whip stitches through the outer edge of each flat panel and a shallow bite of head fabric. Before the last 2-3 cm / 0.75-1.25 in of each cheek seam, tuck in a very thin layer of stuffing so the pad is softly rounded rather than puffy. Close the seam and bury the tail. Attach the muzzle the same way with only a small pinch of stuffing beneath the centre.

6. Ears - Make 2 in Tan

Leave a 45 cm / 18 in Tan tail at the cast-on for later attachment. CO 20 sts in Tan, join to work in the round, and place the BOR marker at the underside/back of the ear. The CO edge remains open for later attachment.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	Knit all stitches.	20
2	Knit all stitches.	20
3	Knit all stitches.	20
4	Knit all stitches.	20
5	*(K3, k2tog); repeat from * around.	16
6	Knit all stitches.	16
7	*(K2, k2tog); repeat from * around.	12
8	Knit all stitches.	12
9	K2tog around.	6

After Rnd 9, cut yarn leaving a 15 cm / 6 in tail. Thread through the remaining 6 sts and gather the tip closed. Bury the tail inside the ear. Leave the CO edge open.

Inner-Ear Patch - Make 2 in Peach

CO 3 sts. Work flat in stockinette.

Row	Instruction	Count
1	RS: Kfb, k1, kfb.	5
2	WS: Pfb, p3, pfb.	7
3	RS: Knit all stitches.	7
4	WS: Purl all stitches.	7
5	RS: Ssk, k3, k2tog.	5
6	WS: P2tog, p1, p2tog.	3
7	RS: BO all stitches knitwise.	0

After binding off, leave a 25 cm / 10 in Peach tail for sewing the patch to the ear.

Finish Each Ear

1. Place one Peach inner-ear patch on the front of a Tan ear, with the wider part toward the open base and a narrow Tan border showing all around.
2. Whip stitch the patch down with tiny shallow stitches. Bury the yarn tail inside the ear.
3. Add only a small pinch of stuffing through the open base. Flatten the ear gently so it remains soft and slightly cupped rather than spherical.
4. Keep the open base available for the final head attachment.

Ear Placement

Pin the ears symmetrically on the upper sides of the head. Each base should lie on a short, slightly diagonal line spanning about Head Rnds 11-15, with the lower outer corner sitting slightly farther back than the inner corner. From the front, keep the inner edges of the ears approximately 5.5-6.5 cm / 2.25-2.5 in apart. Angle the ears outward by about 15-20 degrees.

Sew each open base to the head with small whip stitches. Every stitch should catch both layers of the flattened ear base before entering the head fabric. Check the front and back views before securing the final stitches.

7. Facial Embroidery

Nose

With Peach yarn or embroidery floss, make a small inverted triangle at the upper centre of the muzzle. Aim for about 10-12 mm / 0.4-0.5 in across and 7-8 mm / 0.25-0.3 in high. Work several close horizontal or slightly diagonal satin stitches until the fabric beneath is covered.

Mouth

With dark brown or black embroidery thread, bring the needle out directly below the nose. Make one straight vertical stitch about 7-9 mm / 0.25-0.35 in long. From its lower point, stitch one shallow curve toward the item's right and a matching shallow curve toward the item's left, forming a small rounded "w" smile. Keep the two sides the same length.

Embroidered Eye Option

If you are not using safety eyes, embroider each eye at the same positions given in the head instructions. Build a compact oval approximately 12 mm / 0.5 in high using repeated satin stitches. Add a tiny cream highlight stitch near the upper outer area if desired, keeping both highlights matched.

Face check

Set the head upright on a folded towel. Confirm that the eyes are level, the cream cheeks rise to the same height, the muzzle sits on CF, and the nose and mouth remain centred. Correct any face-panel placement before moving on to the body.

8. Body - Make 1 in Tan

Work from the lower base toward the upper neck. CO 8 sts in Tan, distribute across DPNs or arrange for Magic Loop, join to work in the round without twisting, and place the BOR marker at CB.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	Knit all stitches.	8
2	Kfb in every stitch around.	16
3	Knit all stitches.	16
4	*(K1, kfb); repeat from * around.	24
5	Knit all stitches.	24
6	*(K2, kfb); repeat from * around.	32
7	Knit all stitches.	32
8	*(K3, kfb); repeat from * around.	40
9	Knit all stitches.	40
10	*(K4, kfb); repeat from * around.	48
11	Knit all stitches.	48
12	*(K5, kfb); repeat from * around.	56
13	Knit all stitches.	56
14	*(K6, kfb); repeat from * around.	64
15	Knit all stitches.	64
16	Knit all stitches.	64
17	Knit all stitches.	64
18	Knit all stitches.	64
19	Knit all stitches.	64
20	Knit all stitches.	64
21	Knit all stitches.	64
22	Knit all stitches.	64

Rnd	Instruction	Count
23	Knit all stitches.	64
24	Knit all stitches.	64
25	Knit all stitches.	64
26	Knit all stitches.	64
27	Knit all stitches.	64
28	Knit all stitches.	64
29	*(K6, k2tog); repeat from * around.	56
30	Knit all stitches.	56
31	Knit all stitches.	56
32	*(K5, k2tog); repeat from * around.	48
33	Knit all stitches.	48
34	Knit all stitches.	48
35	*(K4, k2tog); repeat from * around.	40
36	Knit all stitches.	40
37	*(K3, k2tog); repeat from * around.	32
38	Knit all stitches.	32
39	*(K2, k2tog); repeat from * around.	24
40	*(K1, k2tog); repeat from * around.	16
41	K2tog around.	8

Stuffing and Closure

- Begin stuffing after Rnd 35. Keep the lower half firmly filled so the base stays broad and stable.
- Add stuffing in small amounts around the sides so the body remains rounded rather than lumpy. Keep the upper 2-3 cm / 0.75-1.25 in moderately stuffed so the neck area can compress under the head.
- After Rnd 41, cut yarn leaving a 20 cm / 8 in tail. Thread through the remaining 8 sts, pull closed, secure, and bury the tail inside the body.

9. Belly Panel - Make 1 in Cream

CO 5 sts. Work flat in stockinette, beginning with an RS row.

Row	Instruction	Count
1	RS: Kfb, k3, kfb.	7
2	WS: Pfb, p5, pfb.	9
3	RS: Kfb, k7, kfb.	11
4	WS: Pfb, p9, pfb.	13
5	RS: Kfb, k11, kfb.	15
6	WS: Pfb, p13, pfb.	17
7	RS: Knit all stitches.	17
8	WS: Purl all stitches.	17
9	RS: Knit all stitches.	17
10	WS: Purl all stitches.	17
11	RS: Knit all stitches.	17
12	WS: Purl all stitches.	17
13	RS: Knit all stitches.	17
14	WS: Purl all stitches.	17
15	RS: Knit all stitches.	17
16	WS: Purl all stitches.	17
17	RS: Knit all stitches.	17

Row	Instruction	Count
18	WS: Purl all stitches.	17
19	RS: Knit all stitches.	17
20	WS: Purl all stitches.	17
21	RS: Knit all stitches.	17
22	WS: Purl all stitches.	17
23	RS: Ssk, k13, k2tog.	15
24	WS: P2tog, p11, p2tog.	13
25	RS: Ssk, k9, k2tog.	11
26	WS: P2tog, p7, p2tog.	9
27	RS: Ssk, k5, k2tog.	7
28	WS: P2tog, p3, p2tog.	5
29	RS: Knit all stitches.	5
30	WS: BO all stitches purlwise.	0

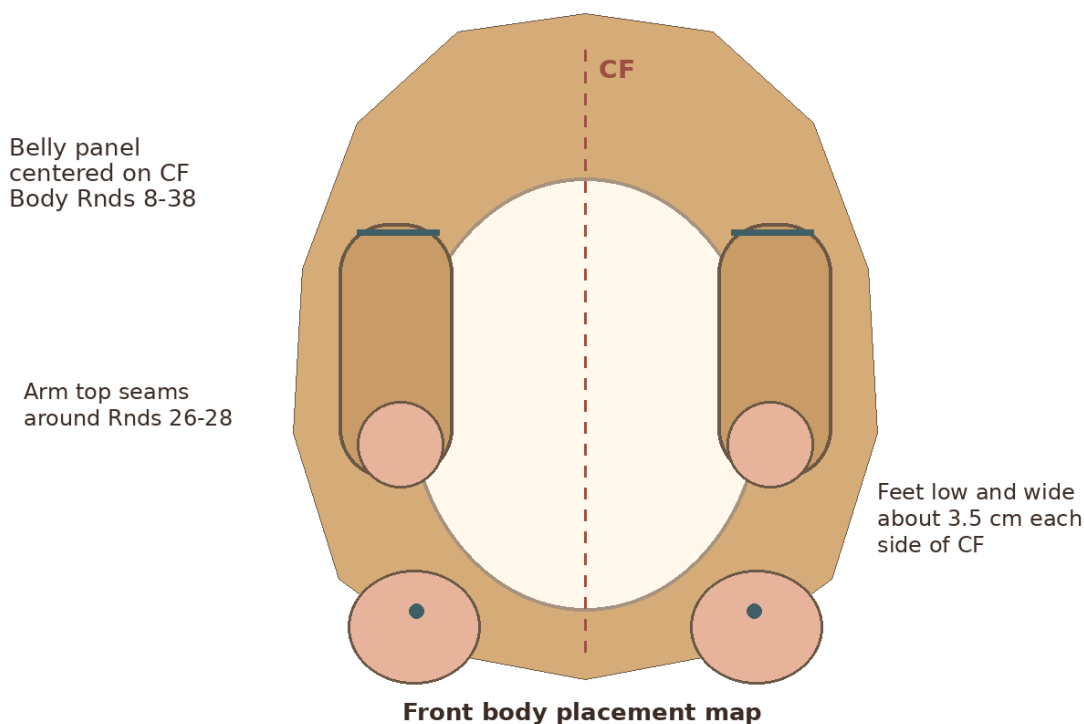
After binding off, leave a 70 cm / 28 in Cream tail for sewing the panel to the body.

Belly Placement and Sewing

Place the body upright with CF facing you. Pin the panel vertically on CF, with the lower edge near Body Rnd 8 and the upper edge near Body Rnd 38. The widest part should cover the centre-front area of the 64-st section. Keep the panel relaxed; do not stretch it from top to bottom.

Before sewing, transfer CF to a removable marker through the centre line of the pinned belly panel, then remove the Body Rnd 16, 22 and 28 CF markers that will be covered.

Whip stitch around the full edge using Cream yarn, taking a small bite of the Tan body fabric with each stitch. The panel stays flat and is not stuffed. Smooth the panel with your fingers as you sew so no puckers form.



10. Arms - Make 2

CO 8 sts in Peach. Join to work in the round and place a BOR marker. The first five rounds form the paw tip; the remaining section forms the Tan arm.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	With Peach, knit all stitches.	8
2	Kfb in every stitch around.	16
3	Knit all stitches.	16
4	Knit all stitches.	16
5	Knit all stitches.	16
6	Cut Peach leaving a 10 cm / 4 in tail. Join Tan at BOR and knit all stitches.	16
7	Knit all stitches.	16
8	Knit all stitches.	16
9	Knit all stitches.	16
10	Knit all stitches.	16
11	Knit all stitches.	16
12	Knit all stitches.	16
13	Knit all stitches.	16
14	Knit all stitches.	16
15	Knit all stitches.	16
16	Knit all stitches.	16
17	*(K2, k2tog); repeat from * around.	12
18	Knit all stitches.	12
19	Knit all stitches.	12
20	Knit all stitches.	12
21	BO all stitches loosely.	0

Arm Stuffing and Top Edge

Stuff the Peach paw tip moderately and the Tan arm lightly. Leave the top 1-1.5 cm / 0.4-0.6 in unstuffed. When binding off, leave a 45 cm / 18 in Tan sewing tail. Flatten the BO opening so the front and back layers lie together. The flattened top is the shoulder attachment edge.

11. Feet - Make 2 in Peach

CO 8 sts, join to work in the round, and place a BOR marker.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	Knit all stitches.	8
2	Kfb in every stitch around.	16
3	*(K1, kfb); repeat from * around.	24
4	Knit all stitches.	24
5	Knit all stitches.	24
6	Knit all stitches.	24
7	*(K1, k2tog); repeat from * around.	16
8	K2tog around.	8

Before the final gather, add a small amount of stuffing. After Rnd 8, cut yarn leaving a 35 cm / 14 in sewing tail, thread through the remaining 8 sts, gather closed, and secure without cutting the tail. Roll each foot gently between your fingers, then flatten slightly into a low horizontal oval.

12. Tail - Make 1 in Peach

CO 6 sts, join to work in the round, and place a BOR marker.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	Knit all stitches.	6
2	Kfb in every stitch around.	12
3	*(K1, kfb); repeat from * around.	18
4	Knit all stitches.	18
5	Knit all stitches.	18
6	*(K1, k2tog); repeat from * around.	12
7	K2tog around.	6

Before closing, add only enough stuffing to make a small rounded nub. After Rnd 7, cut yarn leaving a 25 cm / 10 in sewing tail, thread through the remaining 6 sts, gather closed, and secure. Keep the sewing tail for attachment.

13. Body Placement Map

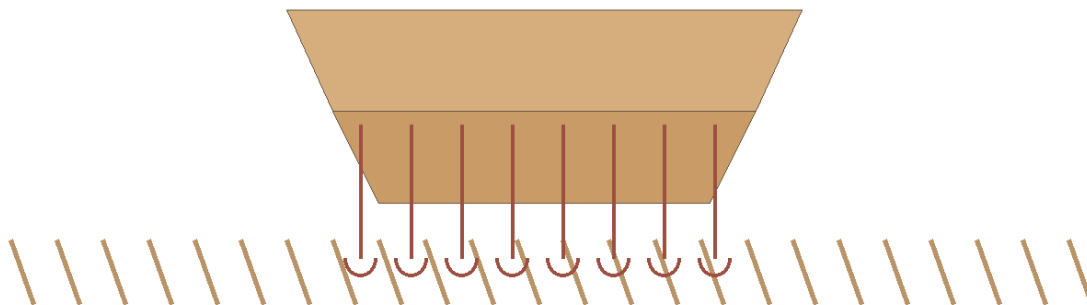
Belly panel	Centred on CF; lower edge near Body Rnd 8; upper edge near Rnd 38.
Item right arm	Flattened shoulder seam centred near stitch 24 on the 64-st section, around Body Rnds 26-28
Item left arm	Mirror the right arm, centred near stitch 41 on the 64-st section, around Body Rnds 26-28
Feet	Low on the front, centres about 3.5 cm / 1.4 in to each side of CF and about 1-1.5 cm / 0.4-0.6 in above the lowest point of the body
Tail	Centred on CB around Body Rnds 8-11, with its lower edge about 1.5 cm / 0.6 in above the base

Arm Orientation

Pin each flattened arm opening along a short, approximately horizontal shoulder line. The arms should hang downward and slightly inward so the Peach paw tips rest near the upper belly. Avoid a long vertical seam, which would rotate the arms sideways.

Flattened two-layer attachment

Each sewing stitch catches the front layer, back layer, and body fabric.



Keep the seam short and approximately horizontal so the arm hangs downward.

Feet Orientation

Pin each foot as a low horizontal oval with the long axis running left-to-right. From the front, both feet should touch or nearly touch the table surface at the same height. From the side, the front half of each foot may project slightly beyond the body.

Tail Orientation

Place the tail at CB so it sits as a small rounded button on the lower back. Keep it centred and level. Sew around the tail base with small whip stitches, taking shallow bites of the body fabric so the stitches disappear between knit columns.

14. Complete Assembly

1. Head orientation: confirm that the retained exposed head CF reference and the CB reference are still visible and that the eyes are level. Remove any other temporary head markers that are no longer needed.
2. Body orientation: place the body upright and confirm the belly panel is centred. Keep the transferred CF reference on the belly panel and the retained CB reference until the arms, feet and tail are sewn.
3. Tail: pin the tail at CB around Body Rnds 8-11. Check from the back that it is centred, then whip stitch around the full tail base. Secure and bury the yarn tail.
4. Feet: pin both feet low on the front, about 3.5 cm / 1.4 in to either side of CF. Check the front and side views. Sew each foot around its contact area with small whip stitches. Do not pull so tightly that the foot becomes puckered.
5. Arms: flatten each arm opening. On the 64-st body section, centre the item's right shoulder near stitch 24 and the item's left shoulder near stitch 41, around Body Rnds 26-28. Sew through both layers of the flattened arm opening and then through the body with every stitch. Keep the seam short and approximately horizontal.
6. Arm angle check: before completing the last quarter of each seam, set the body upright. Make sure the arms hang downward and slightly inward, with the paw tips at similar heights. Adjust if necessary, then finish the seams and bury the tails.
7. Head position: place the finished head on top of the body. Align head CF with body CF and head CB with body CB. The lower pole of the head should settle into the softly stuffed upper body.
8. Pin the head in four places - front, back, item right, and item left. Check the hamster from the front, both sides, top, and back. The head should sit level without twisting.
9. Join the head: align Head Rnd 44 (24 sts) with Body Rnd 39 (24 sts), keeping head CF aligned with body CF and head CB aligned with body CB. Using Tan yarn and mattress stitch or small ladder-style stitches, match the 24 stitch columns approximately one-for-one around the contact ring. Tighten evenly only enough to close the gap without gathering either piece.
10. Reinforce if needed: if the head wobbles, work a second ring of small stitches just inside the first join, especially at the back and sides. Do not cinch the front so tightly that the cream face tilts downward.
11. Final marker removal: remove all remaining contrast yarn and locking markers. Check all seams for loose gaps and bury every yarn tail inside the nearest stuffed piece.

Sewing Methods at a Glance

Cheeks and muzzle	Small whip stitch through panel edge and shallow head fabric; add a thin layer of stuffing before closing
Inner-ear patch	Tiny whip stitch through patch edge and front ear layer only
Ear base	Whip stitch through both flattened ear layers and the head
Belly panel	Flat whip stitch around full edge; no stuffing
Arms	Flattened two-layer attachment; every sewing stitch catches both arm layers before entering the body
Feet and tail	Small whip stitch around the contact perimeter
Head to body	Mattress stitch or small ladder-style stitches around the matching 24-st contact rings: Head Rnd 44 to Body Rnd 39.

15. Final Visual Checklist

- Face is centred on CF.
- Eyes are level and evenly spaced.
- Cheek pads rise to the same height and have matching fullness.
- Muzzle is centred and not tilted.
- Nose and mouth are centred beneath the eyes.
- Ears are the same height, angle, and distance from CF.
- Belly panel is centred and smooth with no stretched edges.
- Arms are attached at matching heights and hang downward rather than sideways.

- Feet sit at the same height and point forward.
- Tail is centred on CB and sits level.
- Head is straight when viewed from front, sides, top, and back.
- Body sits stably without rolling backward or to one side.
- No stuffing is visible through stitches or seam gaps.
- No open seams, loose attachment points, trapped markers, or unsecured yarn tails remain.

16. Troubleshooting

Problem	Practical correction
Stuffing shows between stitches	Use less stuffing in the affected area or remake that piece with firmer tension or a slightly smaller needle. Keep all three structural colours at a similar gauge.
Finished hamster is too large	Check both stitch and round gauge. If both are loose, move to a smaller needle. Using a heavier yarn will also increase the finished size.
Finished hamster is too small	Check gauge. If the fabric is much tighter than 23 sts x 32 rows or rounds per 10 cm / 4 in, use a slightly larger needle.
Head looks too tall or narrow	Redistribute stuffing toward the sides and cheeks and away from the crown. Gently compress the top and lower pole between both palms.
Body base is too rounded to sit	Massage stuffing upward from the base and flatten the lower body against a table. The feet should support the front without lifting the body.
One cheek is higher	Remove only the affected cheek seam if necessary, repin using the eye line and CF markers, then resew. Match the amount of padding under both cheeks.
Muzzle looks off-centre	Align the vertical centre of the muzzle with the CF marker rather than with the edge of either cheek pad.
Ears tilt differently	Check the base seams from the top. Repin so both bases span similar Head Rnds and the same outward angle before sewing.
Arms stick sideways	The shoulder seam is probably too vertical. Reattach along a short, approximately horizontal line around Body Rnds 26-28.
Feet point outward	Rotate each foot so its long axis runs left-to-right and the front half projects slightly forward before tightening the seam.
Head leans	Reopen part of the head-to-body seam on the low side, level the head, and resew. Add a second reinforcing ring at the back and sides if needed.
Seam gaps appear	Use smaller, more closely spaced sewing stitches and take consistent shallow bites of the knitted fabric. Avoid pulling hard enough to pucker the surface.
Flat panels curl while pinning	Lay the panel RS up and smooth it with your fingers. If appropriate for the yarn, lightly block the panel before sewing; do not stretch it to a new size.
Peach pieces look too large or small	Check the flat or circular gauge of the Peach yarn against the Tan yarn. Adjust needle size for Peach if its thickness differs noticeably.

17. Finishing

Gently shape the hamster with both hands, smoothing the stockinette columns and evening out the stuffing. Brush away loose fibres, trim only stray yarn fuzz that is not part of a stitch, and make one final check that every attachment is secure. Hazel is complete when the head sits straight, the cream face and belly are centred, the arms and feet are balanced, and the body rests steadily on a flat surface.