



MILO THE LITTLE MOUSE

Free Knitting Pattern

A softly stuffed gray mouse with round pink-lined ears, simple embroidered whiskers, oval feet, and a long i-cord tail.



Skill level: Confident Beginner

Approx. 25-26 cm / 9.75-10.25 in tall to the ear tips

Pattern Overview

This pattern makes a rounded knitted mouse with a pear-shaped body, oversized layered ears, gently tapered limbs, small forward-facing feet, and a flexible i-cord tail. The head, body, arms, feet, and ear discs are worked in the round. The ears are assembled from layered knitted circles, and the finished pieces are sewn together with simple edge-to-edge joins.

Skills used

Small-circumference knitting in the round, kfb increases, k2tog decreases, simple i-cord, mattress-style and whip-stitch sewing, stuffing, and basic facial embroidery.

Finished Size

Overall height to ear tips	Approx. 25-26 cm / 9.75-10.25 in
Height to crown of head	Approx. 23-24 cm / 9-9.5 in
Head width	Approx. 10-10.5 cm / 4-4.25 in
Body width	Approx. 10-10.5 cm / 4-4.25 in
Arm length	Approx. 6 cm / 2.5 in
Foot length	Approx. 3 cm / 1.25 in
Outer ear diameter	Approx. 5-5.5 cm / 2-2.25 in
Tail length	Approx. 12 cm / 4.75 in

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

Materials and Tools

- DK weight yarn in Mouse Gray: about 125 g / 310 m.
- DK weight yarn in Blush Pink: about 10 g / 25 m.
- Black embroidery floss or thin black yarn: about 3 m / 3.25 yd.
- 3.25 mm / US 3 DPNs, or an 80 cm / 32 in circular needle for magic loop, or size needed to obtain gauge.
- Two 9-10 mm black safety eyes, or black yarn for embroidered eyes.
- Polyester fiberfill stuffing, about 80-100 g.
- Tapestry needle, 1 BOR stitch marker, at least 8 locking stitch 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, Method and Construction

Gauge and Tension

24 sts x 32 rnds = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in in stockinette stitch worked in the round on 3.25 mm needles, measured unstretched.

Use a firm, dense fabric so the stuffing does not show between stitches. If your fabric is loose, use a smaller needle. If it is very stiff and difficult to knit, use the next larger needle while keeping the fabric dense.

Abbreviations

BO	bind off
BOR	beginning of round
CO	cast on
DPN/DPNs	double-pointed needle / double-pointed needles
k	knit
k2tog	knit 2 stitches together; 1 stitch decreased
kfb	knit into the front and back of the same stitch; 1 stitch increased
rnd/rnds	round / rounds
st/sts	stitch / stitches

Method and Orientation

- All circular pieces are worked with the knit side facing outward. In stockinette worked in the round, knit every rnd unless another instruction is given.
- Place the BOR marker at centre back on the head and body and slip it at the end of each rnd. The marker remains on the centre-back line throughout shaping.
- Right and left are described from the finished mouse's point of view unless stated otherwise.
- A placement written as "gap after st N" means the space between st N and the following stitch on that rnd. Count from BOR in the direction of knitting.
- When a tubular opening is flattened for attachment, place the front and back layers together. Every sewing stitch must pass through both layers before entering the body.

Construction Overview

Piece	Construction and finishing
Body	Make 1. Stuff firmly but keep the neck edge slightly soft. Bottom opening is gathered closed; neck remains open for the head.
Head	Make 1. Install eyes before crown closure. Stuff firmly. Crown is gathered closed; lower CO edge remains open for the neck join.
Outer ear discs	Make 4 in Mouse Gray. Keep unstuffed. Pair 2 discs per ear.
Inner ear discs	Make 2 in Blush Pink. Sew one to the front of each assembled outer ear.
Arms	Make 2. Lightly stuff. Tip is gathered closed; shoulder opening remains open and is flattened for attachment.
Feet	Make 2. Lightly stuff. Toe is gathered closed; heel opening remains open and is flattened for attachment.
Tail	Make 1 as 4-st i-cord. Keep unstuffed.

Body - Make 1 in Mouse Gray

Work from the lower centre upward to the neck. CO 8 sts, leaving a 20 cm / 8 in tail at the CO edge. Distribute over DPNs and join to work in the round without twisting. Place BOR at centre back.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Count
1	Knit.	8
2	kfb in each st around.	16
3	*K1, kfb; repeat from * around.	24
4	Knit.	24
5	*K2, kfb; repeat from * around.	32
6	Knit. Pause and use the CO tail to thread through the 8 cast-on edge loops. Pull the lower opening fully closed, secure the tail inside, then continue.	32
7	*K3, kfb; repeat from * around.	40
8	Knit.	40
9	*K4, kfb; repeat from * around.	48
10	Knit. Clip locking markers through the fabric at the CF gap after st 24 and at foot-centre gaps after sts 18 and 30. These remain as placement guides.	48
11	*K5, kfb; repeat from * around.	56
12	Knit.	56
13	*K6, kfb; repeat from * around.	64
14	Knit.	64
15	*K7, kfb; repeat from * around.	72
16-24	Knit each rnd.	72 each rnd
25	*K7, k2tog; repeat from * around.	64
26	Knit.	64
27	*K6, k2tog; repeat from * around.	56
28	Knit. Clip locking markers through the fabric at the side-axis gaps after sts 14 and 42. These mark the arm centres.	56
29	*K5, k2tog; repeat from * around.	48
30	Knit.	48
31	*K4, k2tog; repeat from * around.	40
32	Knit.	40
33	*K3, k2tog; repeat from * around.	32
34	Knit.	32
35	*K2, k2tog; repeat from * around.	24
36	Knit.	24
Finish	BO all 24 sts loosely. Leave a 75 cm / 30 in tail at the neck edge for joining the head.	0 live

Stuffing the body

Stuff from the neck opening. Fill the lower half firmly enough to hold a rounded pear shape, but avoid stretching the stitches. Keep the bottom centre slightly flatter so the mouse can sit. Add final stuffing to the shoulders after the head is pinned in place; keep the top 2-3 rnds a little softer for a smooth neck join.

Head - Make 1 in Mouse Gray

Work from the neck upward to the crown. CO 24 sts. Distribute over DPNs and join to work in the round without twisting. Place BOR at centre back. Leave the CO edge open for the neck join.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Count
1	Knit.	24
2	*K2, kfb; repeat from * around.	32
3	Knit.	32
4	*K3, kfb; repeat from * around.	40
5	Knit.	40
6	*K4, kfb; repeat from * around.	48
7	Knit.	48
8	*K5, kfb; repeat from * around.	56
9	Knit.	56
10	*K6, kfb; repeat from * around.	64
11	Knit.	64
12	*K7, kfb; repeat from * around.	72
13-24	Knit each rnd.	72 each rnd
Placement	After Rnd 24, mark CF at the gap after st 36 and side axes at gaps after sts 18 and 54. Place safety-eye posts between Rnds 17 and 18 at gaps after sts 30 and 42; check the front view before locking the washers. For embroidered eyes, use the same positions after stuffing.	72
25	*K7, k2tog; repeat from * around.	64
26	Knit.	64
27	*K6, k2tog; repeat from * around.	56
28	Knit.	56
29	*K5, k2tog; repeat from * around.	48
30	Knit.	48
31	*K4, k2tog; repeat from * around.	40
32	*K3, k2tog; repeat from * around.	32
33	*K2, k2tog; repeat from * around.	24
Stuff	Stuff firmly and evenly through the crown opening. Keep the lower neck edge slightly soft and shape the cheeks as you add small amounts of stuffing.	24
34	*K1, k2tog; repeat from * around.	16
35	k2tog around.	8
Finish	Cut yarn leaving a 25 cm / 10 in tail. Thread through the remaining 8 sts, add final stuffing if needed, pull fully closed, secure, and bury the tail inside.	0 live

Layered Ears

Each ear uses two Mouse Gray outer discs sewn back-to-back, with one smaller Blush Pink disc sewn to the front. The layered construction gives the ears enough body to stand upright without stuffing.

Outer Ear Disc - Make 4 in Mouse Gray

CO 8 sts, leaving a 20 cm / 8 in tail. Distribute over DPNs and join to work in the round.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Count
1	kfb in each st around. Use the CO tail to thread through the 8 cast-on edge loops and pull the centre opening closed. Secure the tail on the wrong side.	16
2	Knit.	16
3	*K1, kfb; repeat from * around.	24
4	Knit.	24
5	*K2, kfb; repeat from * around.	32
6	Knit.	32
7	*K3, kfb; repeat from * around.	40
8	Knit.	40
Finish	BO all 40 sts loosely. On two of the four discs, leave a 40 cm / 16 in BO tail for assembling each gray ear pair.	0 live

Inner Ear Disc - Make 2 in Blush Pink

CO 8 sts, leaving a 15 cm / 6 in tail. Distribute over DPNs and join to work in the round.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Count
1	kfb in each st around. Use the CO tail to close the centre opening and secure the tail on the wrong side.	16
2	Knit.	16
3	*K1, kfb; repeat from * around.	24
4	Knit.	24
5	*K2, kfb; repeat from * around.	32
6	Knit.	32
Finish	BO all 32 sts loosely, leaving a 35 cm / 14 in tail for sewing the pink disc to the ear front.	0 live

Assemble Each Ear

1. Place two Mouse Gray outer discs wrong sides together so the knit sides face outward. Match the BO edges stitch for stitch.
2. Using the reserved gray BO tail, whip stitch around the full 40-st perimeter through corresponding edge loops, working just inside the bound-off chain. Keep the seam even so it forms a neat gray rim. Do not stuff.
3. Centre one Blush Pink disc on the front of the gray ear, leaving an even gray border of about 5-7 mm / 1/4 in. Pin it in place.
4. Use the pink BO tail to make small whip stitches around the 32-st edge of the inner disc. Ease the pink edge evenly rather than stretching it. Secure and bury the tail between the gray layers.

Arms, Feet and Tail

Arms - Make 2 in Mouse Gray

CO 8 sts, leaving a 20 cm / 8 in tail. Join to work in the round.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Count
1	Knit.	8
2	kfb in each st around.	16
3-20	Knit each rnd. After Rnd 4, use the CO tail to gather the 8 cast-on edge loops fully closed at the fingertip end and secure the tail inside.	16 each rnd
Finish	BO all 16 sts. Leave a 35 cm / 14 in tail for attachment.	0 live

Stuff each arm lightly from the BO opening, concentrating the stuffing in the lower two-thirds. Keep the upper 2-3 rnds soft. Flatten the 16-st BO opening into 8 paired attachment points; every sewing stitch will capture both layers.

Feet - Make 2 in Mouse Gray

CO 8 sts, leaving a 20 cm / 8 in tail. Join to work in the round.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Count
1	Knit.	8
2	kfb in each st around.	16
3-7	Knit each rnd. After Rnd 4, use the CO tail to gather the 8 cast-on edge loops fully closed at the toe and secure the tail inside.	16 each rnd
8	*K2, k2tog; repeat from * around.	12
9-10	Knit each rnd.	12 each rnd
Finish	BO all 12 sts. Leave a 30 cm / 12 in tail for attachment.	0 live

Lightly stuff each foot, keeping the toe softly rounded and the heel opening flexible. Flatten the 12-st BO edge into 6 paired attachment points.

Tail - Make 1 in Mouse Gray

Using two DPNs, CO 4 sts, leaving a 25 cm / 10 in tail at the CO edge for attachment.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Count
Setup Row	K4. Do not turn. Slide the 4 sts to the opposite end of the DPN.	4
I-cord Row	Bring the working yarn firmly across the back and K4. Do not turn. Slide the 4 sts back to the working end of the DPN.	4
Repeat	Repeat the I-cord Row until the cord measures about 12 cm / 4.75 in.	4
Taper 1	k2tog twice.	2
Taper 2	k2tog.	1
Finish	Cut yarn, pull through the final st, and bury the tip tail inside the i-cord. Leave the CO tail free for body attachment.	0 live

Face and Placement Guide

Facial Embroidery

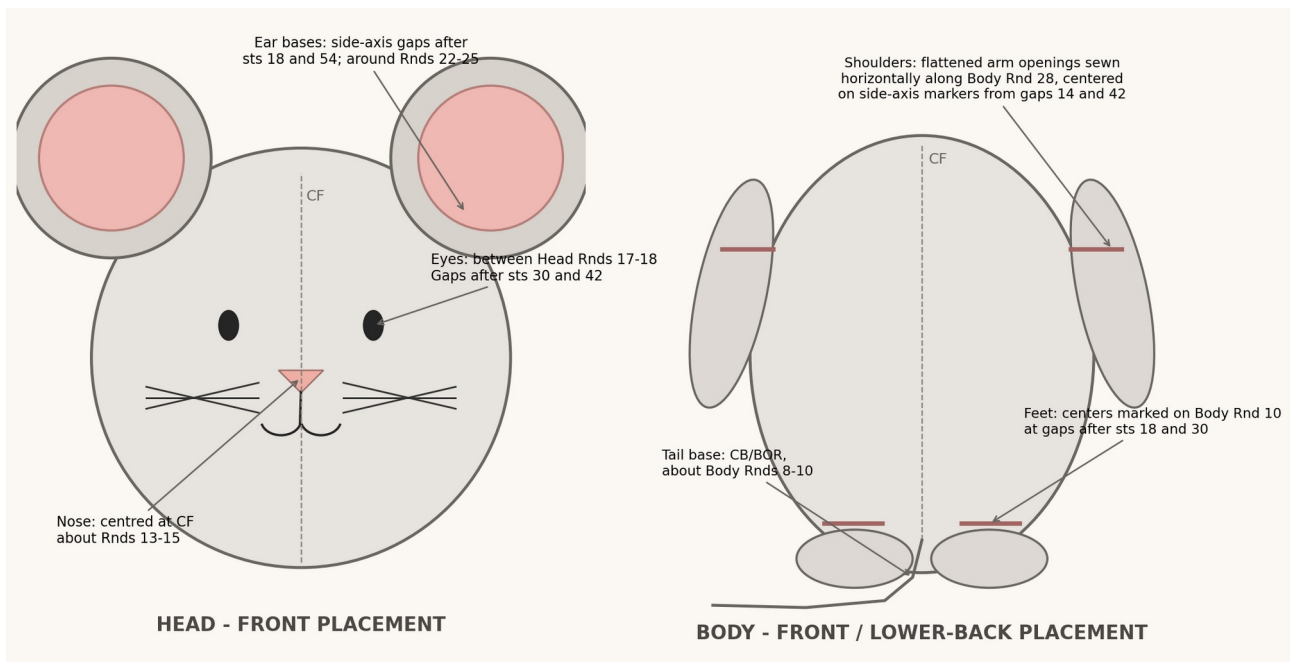
Work the facial embroidery after the head is fully stuffed and the crown is closed, but before the head is sewn to the body. Keep the CF marker in place while positioning the features.

1. **Nose:** Using Blush Pink, embroider a small horizontal triangle centred on the CF gap after st 36. Place the upper edge around Head Rnd 15 and the point around Head Rnd 13. Aim for a finished nose about 1.2-1.4 cm / 1/2 in wide.
2. **Mouth centre line:** With black embroidery floss, bring the needle out at the lower point of the nose and work a straight vertical stitch down to about Head Rnd 11.
3. **Mouth curves:** From the lower end of the centre line, make one shallow curved stitch to each side, ending about 2 stitch columns from CF. Keep both sides the same length and height.
4. **Whiskers:** Work three straight black stitches on each cheek. Begin each set about 4-5 stitch columns from CF and extend about 6-7 stitch columns toward the side. Arrange the three whiskers on approximately Head Rnds 12, 13, and 14, angling the upper whisker slightly upward and the lower whisker slightly downward.

Ear Placement

With the mouse facing you, pin one ear on each side of the head. Centre the lower attachment arc at the side-axis markers placed in the gaps after Head sts 18 and 54. Position the base around Head Rnds 22-25. Use about 12 outer-edge stitches of each gray ear as the attachment arc. Angle the ear tops slightly outward while keeping both ears at equal height.

Before sewing, check the ears from the front, both sides, and the top. The pink discs face forward. Sew through both gray ear layers and the head fabric with firm, small whip stitches. Add one or two hidden anchoring stitches slightly above each base if extra upright support is needed.



Placement map - keep the written round and stitch positions as the primary guide.

Assembly - Part 1

Pin every piece before sewing. Check the front view first, then both side views and the top or back view as appropriate. Small placement adjustments of a few millimetres are normal when shaping a stuffed piece.

1. Prepare the body. Make sure the lower CO opening is fully closed. Shape the stuffing so the bottom is gently flattened and the shoulders are evenly filled. Keep the 24-st neck BO edge open.
2. Prepare the head. Confirm that the crown is completely gathered closed, the eyes are level, and the face is centred on the CF marker. Finish the nose, mouth, and whiskers before the neck seam.
3. Attach the ears. Follow the ear placement section on the previous page. Sew the full lower attachment arc of each ear securely through both ear layers and the head fabric. Bury all ear tails inside the head.
4. Pin the head to the body. Match the head CO edge and body BO edge, both 24 sts. Align BOR/centre back with BOR/centre back, then align centre front opposite the BOR. Pin at front, back, and both sides before adding more pins around the circle.
5. Join the neck. Using the long Mouse Gray tail from the body BO edge, sew one body BO edge loop to one head CO edge loop at a time. Use a neat edge-to-edge whip stitch or mattress-style join. Keep the seam snug but do not cinch it smaller than the 24-st opening. Pause halfway to adjust stuffing in the shoulders and lower head, then complete the circle and secure the yarn inside.

Neck alignment check

The head should sit upright with the nose directly above the body CF line. If the head leans, loosen the seam before securing it, redistribute the stuffing, and re-pin the neck evenly.

Attach the Arms

Use the Body Rnd 28 side-axis markers as the centres of the shoulder joins. Flatten each 16-st arm BO opening into 8 paired points. Pin the flattened opening along an approximately horizontal line following Body Rnd 28, centred on the corresponding side marker. The arm should hang downward with only a slight outward angle.

Using the arm tail, whip stitch the 8 paired attachment points to the body. Each stitch must pass through both layers of the flattened arm opening before entering the body fabric. Sew from the front end of the shoulder line toward the back, then add one small return stitch at each end for security. Mirror the second arm at the opposite side-axis marker.

Assembly - Part 2

Attach the Feet

Use the foot-centre markers placed on Body Rnd 10 at the gaps after sts 18 and 30. These are equally spaced on either side of the CF gap after st 24.

6. Flatten each 12-st heel BO opening into 6 paired attachment points. Keep the toe rounded and pointing forward.
7. Pin one heel opening around each marked foot centre. Keep the 6-pair seam approximately horizontal so the tubular foot projects forward rather than hanging downward.
8. Check from the front that both toes sit at the same height and from the side that both feet project a similar distance.
9. Using the foot tail, whip stitch through both layers of the flattened heel opening and into the body. Secure the ends without pulling the foot flat against the body.

Attach the Tail

10. Turn the mouse so centre back faces you. Place the i-cord CO end directly on the BOR line around Body Rnds 8-10, low on the back but not under the body.
11. Use the CO tail to sew the first 1-1.5 cm / 3/8-5/8 in of i-cord securely to the body with small whip stitches. Angle the tail slightly downward as it leaves the body.
12. Let the remaining tail curve naturally to either side. If you want a fixed curve, make one or two loose hidden tacking stitches farther along the tail; do not pull them tight.

Final Shaping and Finishing

13. Remove all placement markers. Check that no marker is trapped beneath a seam.
14. Massage the stuffing gently to smooth the head and body. Keep the body bottom flat enough for a seated pose and the cheeks softly rounded.
15. Check the ears from the front and top. If one ear tilts differently, add a hidden anchoring stitch at the base rather than pulling the whole seam tighter.
16. Check the arms and feet from both sides. The shoulder seams should be short and approximately horizontal; the feet should point forward.
17. Secure and bury every yarn and embroidery tail inside the nearest stuffed section. Close any visible seam gap with matching Mouse Gray yarn.

Sewing tension

Use firm stitches that hold the pieces in place without denting the knitted fabric. Over-tight sewing can create ridges at the neck, shoulders, ears, and feet.

Troubleshooting and Final Checklist

Troubleshooting

Problem	Practical correction
Stuffing shows between stitches	Use a smaller needle or firmer tension, and add stuffing in smaller amounts rather than stretching the fabric.
Head leans after sewing	Open part of the neck seam before the yarn is fully secured. Redistribute shoulder and neck stuffing, re-pin the 24-st edges evenly, and re-sew without cinching.
Ears flop forward or backward	Confirm that each ear has two gray layers. Add one or two hidden anchoring stitches above the lower ear arc while keeping the visible base seam unchanged.
Arms rotate outward	Check that each flattened shoulder opening is attached along a short horizontal line on Body Rnd 28 and that both opening layers are captured in every stitch.
Feet point downward	Re-pin the flattened heel opening horizontally around the Body Rnd 10 foot-centre marker so the tube projects forward.
Body will not sit steadily	Reduce stuffing pressure at the bottom centre, massage the stuffing outward toward the lower sides, and flatten the base gently by hand.
Face looks off-centre	Use the CF gap after Head st 36 as the centre line. Compare eye spacing, nose width, and mouth endpoints from that line before adding more embroidery.
One ear or limb sits higher	Measure from the same rnd or fabric marker on both sides, re-pin the higher piece, and compare from the front before re-sewing.

Final Visual Checklist

- ☐ Head is centred over the body and sits straight.
- ☐ Eyes are level and equally spaced from centre front.
- ☐ Nose and mouth are centred; whiskers are balanced on both cheeks.
- ☐ Both ears are the same height, angle, and forward-facing orientation.
- ☐ Arm shoulder seams are short, horizontal, and aligned at the same body level.
- ☐ Feet are level, equally spaced, and point forward.
- ☐ Tail is securely attached at centre back and curves freely.
- ☐ Body bottom is gently flattened and the mouse sits without rolling.
- ☐ All gathered openings are completely closed.
- ☐ No stuffing is visible through seams or between stitches.
- ☐ No open seams, loose attachments, trapped markers, or unsecured yarn tails remain.

The mouse is complete when every opening, seam, placement marker, and yarn tail has been fully finished.