



MIDNIGHT THE BLACK CAT PLUSHIE

Free Knitting Pattern

A soft seated black cat with mauve inner ears, peach embroidery and a curled tail



SKILL LEVEL

Intermediate

METHOD

Mostly knitted in the round

FINISHED HEIGHT

Approx. 27-29 cm / 10.5-11.5 in

1. About This Pattern

Midnight is a softly rounded seated cat with an oversized head, compact pear-shaped body, long tapered forelegs, large oval feet, pointed ears and a lightly curved tail. The head, body, limbs and tail are knitted in the round for a smooth stockinette surface. The ear panels are knitted flat, layered and sewn before being attached to the head. Facial details are added after the head is shaped so the expression can be centred accurately.

Finished Size

Measurement	Approximate size
Overall seated height	27-29 cm / 10.5-11.5 in
Head	14 cm / 5.5 in high; 13.5-14.5 cm / 5.25-5.75 in wide
Body	12.5-13.5 cm / 5-5.25 in high; 10-11 cm / 4-4.25 in wide
Arm length	10-11 cm / 4-4.25 in
Foot length	6-7 cm / 2.4-2.75 in
Ear height	5.5-6 cm / 2.2-2.4 in
Tail length	18-20 cm / 7-8 in

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

Materials and Tools

- DK / light worsted yarn: black, approximately 125-145 g / 280-325 yd / 255-300 m.
- DK yarn: dusty mauve, approximately 8-12 g / 18-27 yd / 16-25 m for inner ears.
- Peach embroidery yarn or stranded cotton for nose, mouth and whiskers.
- 3.5 mm knitting needles suitable for small-circumference knitting: DPNs, two circulars or a long circular for magic loop.
- 3.5 mm straight needles or the same circular needle used flat for ear panels.
- Two 12 mm black safety eyes. Embroidered eyes may be used instead.
- Polyester stuffing, approximately 100-140 g.
- Tapestry needle, locking stitch markers, removable contrast marker, pins, scissors and measuring tape.

Safety eyes and other small rigid components may not be suitable for projects intended for children under three years.

Embroidered eyes can be used instead.

Gauge and Tension

22 sts x 30 rnds = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in in stockinette worked in the round on 3.5 mm needles. The fabric should be firm enough that stuffing does not show between stitches. If your fabric is loose, move down a needle size; if it is very stiff and difficult to knit, move up slightly while maintaining dense coverage.

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
BO	bind off
BOR	beginning of round
CO	cast on
k	knit
k2tog	knit 2 stitches together
kfb	knit into the front and back of the same stitch
p	purl
rnd / rnds	round / rounds
RS	right side

Abbreviation	Meaning
ssk	slip 1 knitwise, slip 1 knitwise, knit the slipped stitches together through the back loops
st / sts	stitch / stitches
WS	wrong side

2. Method, Orientation and Construction

The head, body, arms, feet and tail are knitted in continuous rounds. Place a marker at the BOR and move it after each completed round. The BOR sits at the centre back of the head and body. On the head, centre front is directly opposite the BOR. Right and left are described from the finished cat's point of view unless stated otherwise.

Construction Overview

- Head: knit from crown to lower head, add eyes before the lower decreases, stuff firmly and gather closed.
- Body: cast on at the neck, shape downward to a rounded base, stuff and gather the base closed. The neck cast-on edge remains open for head attachment.
- Ears: make four black outer panels and two smaller mauve inner panels. Layer two black panels per ear, sew the outer edges, add the mauve inset, then attach the completed ears to the head.
- Arms: make two tapered tubes, lightly to moderately stuff, keep the top 2 cm / 0.75 in softer, flatten the top openings and attach at the shoulders.
- Feet: make two oval tubes, stuff moderately, flatten the attachment openings and sew low on the body with the toes angled slightly outward.
- Tail: knit from tip to base, stuff lightly, shape a gentle curve with an internal running stitch, and sew to the lower back-left side.
- Face: position safety eyes first, then embroider the nose, mouth and whiskers after the head has been fully stuffed so the stitches sit neatly on the final shape.

Placement Landmarks

Landmark	Definition
Head BOR	centre back seam line, between the last and first stitch of each head round
Head centre front	directly opposite the BOR; on 96-st rounds this is between sts 48 and 49
Body BOR	centre back
Body centre front	directly opposite the BOR; on 72-st rounds this is between sts 36 and 37
Crown / top	uppermost point of the head
Base / underside	gathered lower body area that rests on the surface

Stuffing Notes

Add stuffing in small pieces. The head should be firmly stuffed without stretching the stitches. The body should be firm through the chest and belly but slightly flatter across the base. Arms and feet should be moderately stuffed, with the attachment ends left softer so they can sit flush against the body. The tail should be lightly stuffed so it bends easily.

3. Head

With black yarn and 3.5 mm needles, leave a 20 cm / 8 in cast-on tail and CO 8 sts. Join to work in the round, taking care not to twist. Place BOR marker at centre back.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 1	Knit around.	8
Rnd 2	Kfb in every st around.	16
Rnd 3	(K1, kfb) 8 times.	24
Rnd 4	(K2, kfb) 8 times.	32
Rnd 5	(K3, kfb) 8 times.	40
Rnd 6	(K4, kfb) 8 times.	48
Rnd 7	(K5, kfb) 8 times.	56
Rnd 8	(K6, kfb) 8 times.	64
Rnd 9	(K7, kfb) 8 times.	72
Rnd 10	(K8, kfb) 8 times.	80
Rnd 11	(K9, kfb) 8 times.	88
Rnd 12	(K10, kfb) 8 times.	96
Rnd 13	Knit around.	96
Rnd 14	Knit around.	96
Rnd 15	Knit around.	96
Rnd 16	Knit around.	96
Rnd 17	Knit around.	96
Rnd 18	Knit around.	96
Rnd 19	Knit around.	96
Rnd 20	Knit around.	96
Rnd 21	Knit around.	96
Rnd 22	Knit around.	96
Rnd 23	Knit around.	96
Rnd 24	Knit around.	96
Rnd 25	Knit around.	96
Rnd 26	Knit around.	96
Rnd 27	Knit around.	96
Rnd 28	Knit around.	96
Rnd 29	Knit around.	96
Rnd 30	Knit around.	96
Rnd 31	Knit around.	96
Rnd 32	(K10, k2tog) 8 times.	88
Rnd 33	(K9, k2tog) 8 times.	80
Rnd 34	(K8, k2tog) 8 times.	72
Rnd 35	(K7, k2tog) 8 times.	64
Rnd 36	(K6, k2tog) 8 times.	56

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 37	(K5, k2tog) 8 times.	48
Rnd 38	(K4, k2tog) 8 times.	40
Rnd 39	(K3, k2tog) 8 times.	32
Rnd 40	(K2, k2tog) 8 times.	24
Rnd 41	(K1, k2tog) 8 times.	16
Rnd 42	K2tog 8 times.	8

Eye Placement - Before Rnd 32

On Rnd 23, place the right eye between sts 40 and 41 and the left eye between sts 56 and 57. Both positions are 8 sts from centre front, giving 16 sts between the eye centres. Check from the front that the eyes are level before securing the washers. For embroidered eyes, mark these positions with removable yarn and embroider after stuffing.

Begin stuffing after Rnd 35. Continue adding small amounts through the remaining opening, concentrating stuffing around the cheeks and lower sides. After Rnd 41, add the final stuffing. After Rnd 42, cut yarn leaving a 20 cm / 8 in tail, thread through the remaining 8 sts twice, draw the lower head closed, secure and bury the yarn tail. Return to the original cast-on tail at the crown, pass it through one leg of each of the 8 cast-on sts, draw the tiny crown opening closed, secure and bury the tail.

Face Embroidery

- Nose: using peach yarn, centre a small inverted triangle approximately 1.5 cm / 0.6 in wide between Rnds 27 and 29. Build 5-7 horizontal satin stitches, then add one short vertical stitch from the point downward.
- Mouth: from the lower nose point, make a 5-6 mm / 0.2 in vertical stitch downward. Add one shallow curved stitch to each side to form a small W-shaped cat mouth.
- Whiskers: embroider two short straight stitches on each cheek, beginning about 2 cm / 0.75 in from the mouth centre. Keep the upper whisker nearly horizontal and angle the lower whisker slightly downward. Each whisker should be approximately 1.5-2 cm / 0.6-0.8 in long.
- After embroidering, carry the yarn ends through the stuffed head and bring them out at the back. Pull only enough to settle the stitches into the knitted surface; do not pucker the face.

4. Ears

Black Outer Ear Panels - Make 4

Work flat in stockinette. CO 16 sts with black yarn.

Row	Instruction	Count
Row 1 (RS)	K16.	16
Row 2 (WS)	P16.	16
Row 3	K1, ssk, k10, k2tog, k1.	14
Row 4	P14.	14
Row 5	K1, ssk, k8, k2tog, k1.	12
Row 6	P12.	12
Row 7	K1, ssk, k6, k2tog, k1.	10
Row 8	P10.	10
Row 9	K1, ssk, k4, k2tog, k1.	8
Row 10	P8.	8
Row 11	K1, ssk, k2, k2tog, k1.	6
Row 12	P6.	6
Row 13	K1, ssk, k2tog, k1.	4
Row 14	P4.	4
Row 15	Ssk, k2tog.	2
Row 16	P2.	2
Row 17	K2tog. Cut yarn and pull through final st.	1

Mauve Inner Ear Panels - Make 2

Work flat in stockinette. CO 10 sts with dusty mauve yarn.

Row	Instruction	Count
Row 1 (RS)	K10.	10
Row 2 (WS)	P10.	10
Row 3	K1, ssk, k4, k2tog, k1.	8
Row 4	P8.	8
Row 5	K1, ssk, k2, k2tog, k1.	6
Row 6	P6.	6
Row 7	K1, ssk, k2tog, k1.	4
Row 8	P4.	4
Row 9	Ssk, k2tog.	2
Row 10	P2.	2
Row 11	K2tog. Cut yarn and pull through final st.	1

Assemble Each Ear

1. Place two black outer panels together with WS facing inward. Pin the side edges and tip; leave the cast-on edge open.

2. Using black yarn and mattress stitch or a small whip stitch, sew from one lower corner to the tip and down the opposite side. Do not seam the base.
3. Turn the ear so the seam rolls neatly to the edge. Add only a wisp of stuffing near the lower half if a slightly fuller ear is preferred; otherwise leave unstuffed.
4. Centre one mauve inner panel on the front of the ear, leaving an even black border of approximately 6-8 mm / 0.25-0.3 in around the sides and tip. Sew it down with small invisible stitches, keeping the mauve fabric flat.
5. Flatten the open base so front and back layers lie together. The finished base should be approximately 6.5-7 cm / 2.5-2.75 in wide.

Ear Placement

Pin the ears with their inner base corners near Head Rnd 7 and their outer base corners near Head Rnd 12. From the front, each ear base should sit about 8-10 sts to either side of centre front, and the tips should angle slightly outward. Check the front, side and back views before sewing. Attach through both layers of each flattened ear base with small horizontal whip stitches, then take a second pass along the rear edge of the base for stability.

5. Body

With black yarn, CO 48 sts. Join to work in the round. Place BOR marker at centre back. The cast-on edge forms the open neck and is left open for head attachment.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 1	Knit around.	48
Rnd 2	(K5, kfb) 8 times.	56
Rnd 3	Knit around.	56
Rnd 4	(K6, kfb) 8 times.	64
Rnd 5	Knit around.	64
Rnd 6	(K7, kfb) 8 times.	72
Rnd 7	Knit around.	72
Rnd 8	Knit around.	72
Rnd 9	Knit around.	72
Rnd 10	Knit around.	72
Rnd 11	Knit around.	72
Rnd 12	Knit around.	72
Rnd 13	Knit around.	72
Rnd 14	Knit around.	72
Rnd 15	Knit around.	72
Rnd 16	Knit around.	72
Rnd 17	Knit around.	72
Rnd 18	Knit around.	72
Rnd 19	Knit around.	72
Rnd 20	Knit around.	72
Rnd 21	Knit around.	72
Rnd 22	Knit around.	72
Rnd 23	Knit around.	72
Rnd 24	Knit around.	72
Rnd 25	Knit around.	72
Rnd 26	Knit around.	72
Rnd 27	Knit around.	72
Rnd 28	Knit around.	72
Rnd 29	Knit around.	72
Rnd 30	Knit around.	72
Rnd 31	(K7, k2tog) 8 times.	64
Rnd 32	Knit around.	64
Rnd 33	(K6, k2tog) 8 times.	56
Rnd 34	Knit around.	56
Rnd 35	(K5, k2tog) 8 times.	48
Rnd 36	(K4, k2tog) 8 times.	40

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 37	(K3, k2tog) 8 times.	32
Rnd 38	(K2, k2tog) 8 times.	24
Rnd 39	(K1, k2tog) 8 times.	16
Rnd 40	K2tog 8 times.	8

Begin stuffing after Rnd 34. Keep the upper 2-3 cm / 0.75-1.25 in slightly softer so the neck edge can be sewn cleanly to the head. Firm the lower belly but press the base gently against a flat surface while stuffing so the cat sits steadily. After Rnd 40, cut yarn leaving a 20 cm / 8 in tail, thread through the final 8 sts twice, draw closed, secure and bury the yarn tail.

6. Arms - Make 2

With black yarn, leave a 25 cm / 10 in cast-on tail and CO 12 sts. Join in the round and place BOR marker along the inner arm.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 1	Knit around.	12
Rnd 2	(K1, kfb) 6 times.	18
Rnd 3	Knit around.	18
Rnd 4	(K2, kfb) 6 times.	24
Rnd 5	Knit around.	24
Rnd 6	Knit around.	24
Rnd 7	Knit around.	24
Rnd 8	Knit around.	24
Rnd 9	Knit around.	24
Rnd 10	Knit around.	24
Rnd 11	Knit around.	24
Rnd 12	Knit around.	24
Rnd 13	Knit around.	24
Rnd 14	Knit around.	24
Rnd 15	Knit around.	24
Rnd 16	Knit around.	24
Rnd 17	Knit around.	24
Rnd 18	Knit around.	24
Rnd 19	Knit around.	24
Rnd 20	Knit around.	24
Rnd 21	Knit around.	24
Rnd 22	Knit around.	24
Rnd 23	Knit around.	24
Rnd 24	Knit around.	24
Rnd 25	Knit around.	24
Rnd 26	Knit around.	24
Rnd 27	(K2, k2tog) 6 times.	18
Rnd 28	Knit around.	18
Rnd 29	Knit around.	18
Rnd 30	Knit around.	18
Rnd 31	Knit around.	18
Rnd 32	Knit around.	18

BO loosely, leaving a 35 cm / 14 in sewing tail. With the cast-on tail, pass the needle through one leg of each of the 12 cast-on sts, draw the lower paw end closed, secure and bury the tail. Stuff from the rounded lower end upward. Keep the upper 2 cm / 0.75 in soft. Flatten the bound-off opening so 9 sts lie on the front and 9 sts on the back. Do not seam this upper opening closed before attachment.

Arm Placement

On the 72-st section of the body, centre front is between sts 36 and 37. Pin the right arm with its upper flattened edge spanning approximately Body Rnds 9-11 and centred near st 25. Pin the left arm symmetrically near st 48. Let the arms angle gently inward so their lower ends rest near Body Rnds 26-28. When satisfied, sew each flattened top edge to the body along a short horizontal shoulder line, passing through both arm layers before entering the body. Add two or three small anchoring stitches along the inner side of each arm around Body Rnds 24-26 so the arms stay close to the belly without being rigid.

7. Feet - Make 2

With black yarn, leave a 25 cm / 10 in cast-on tail and CO 16 sts. Join in the round and place BOR marker along the underside.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 1	Knit around.	16
Rnd 2	(K1, kfb) 8 times.	24
Rnd 3	(K2, kfb) 8 times.	32
Rnd 4	Knit around.	32
Rnd 5	Knit around.	32
Rnd 6	Knit around.	32
Rnd 7	Knit around.	32
Rnd 8	Knit around.	32
Rnd 9	Knit around.	32
Rnd 10	Knit around.	32
Rnd 11	Knit around.	32
Rnd 12	Knit around.	32
Rnd 13	Knit around.	32
Rnd 14	Knit around.	32
Rnd 15	Knit around.	32
Rnd 16	Knit around.	32
Rnd 17	(K2, k2tog) 8 times.	24
Rnd 18	Knit around.	24
Rnd 19	(K1, k2tog) 8 times.	16
Rnd 20	Knit around.	16

BO loosely, leaving a 30 cm / 12 in sewing tail. With the cast-on tail, pass the needle through one leg of each of the 16 cast-on sts, draw the toe end closed, secure and bury the tail. Stuff moderately, keeping the final 2 rnds softer. Shape each foot into a short horizontal oval. Flatten the 16-st bound-off opening into two layers of 8 sts each.

Foot Placement

Pin the feet low on the front-sides of the body with the attachment edges around Body Rnds 31-35. The right foot should be centred about 13-15 sts to the right of body centre front and the left foot the same distance to the left. Angle the toes outward by about 15-20 degrees. The lower outer edges should rest on the same surface as the body base. Sew each flattened opening to the body, capturing both layers of the foot with every sewing stitch. Add 2-3 small stitches along the rear underside of each foot so it stays seated without pulling the toe upward.

8. Tail

With black yarn, leave a 25 cm / 10 in cast-on tail and CO 12 sts. Join in the round. Place BOR marker along the inner curve.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 1	Knit around.	12
Rnd 2	(K2, kfb) 4 times.	16
Rnd 3	Knit around.	16
Rnd 4	Knit around.	16
Rnd 5	Knit around.	16
Rnd 6	Knit around.	16
Rnd 7	Knit around.	16
Rnd 8	Knit around.	16
Rnd 9	Knit around.	16
Rnd 10	Knit around.	16
Rnd 11	Knit around.	16
Rnd 12	Knit around.	16
Rnd 13	Knit around.	16
Rnd 14	Knit around.	16
Rnd 15	Knit around.	16
Rnd 16	Knit around.	16
Rnd 17	Knit around.	16
Rnd 18	Knit around.	16
Rnd 19	Knit around.	16
Rnd 20	Knit around.	16
Rnd 21	Knit around.	16
Rnd 22	Knit around.	16
Rnd 23	Knit around.	16
Rnd 24	Knit around.	16
Rnd 25	Knit around.	16
Rnd 26	Knit around.	16
Rnd 27	Knit around.	16
Rnd 28	Knit around.	16
Rnd 29	Knit around.	16
Rnd 30	Knit around.	16
Rnd 31	Knit around.	16
Rnd 32	Knit around.	16
Rnd 33	Knit around.	16
Rnd 34	Knit around.	16
Rnd 35	Knit around.	16
Rnd 36	Knit around.	16

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 37	Knit around.	16
Rnd 38	Knit around.	16
Rnd 39	Knit around.	16
Rnd 40	Knit around.	16
Rnd 41	Knit around.	16
Rnd 42	Knit around.	16
Rnd 43	Knit around.	16
Rnd 44	Knit around.	16
Rnd 45	Knit around.	16
Rnd 46	Knit around.	16
Rnd 47	Knit around.	16
Rnd 48	Knit around.	16
Rnd 49	Knit around.	16
Rnd 50	Knit around.	16
Rnd 51	Knit around.	16
Rnd 52	Knit around.	16
Rnd 53	Knit around.	16
Rnd 54	Knit around.	16
Rnd 55	Knit around.	16
Rnd 56	Knit around.	16
Rnd 57	Knit around.	16
Rnd 58	Knit around.	16

BO loosely, leaving a 40 cm / 16 in sewing tail. With the cast-on tail, pass the needle through one leg of each of the 12 cast-on sts, draw the tail tip closed, secure and bury the tail. Lightly stuff the tail from tip to base. Keep it flexible and avoid packing the stuffing firmly.

Shape the Curve

1. Thread a separate 50 cm / 20 in length of black yarn through a tapestry needle.
2. Beginning about 3 cm / 1.25 in from the tip, work a loose running stitch along the inner side of the tail for approximately 11-13 cm / 4.25-5 in. Pick up only small bites of the knitted fabric.
3. Gently pull the running stitch until the tail forms a smooth C-shaped curve. The tip should turn upward without forming a sharp kink.
4. Secure the shaping yarn inside the tail and bury both ends. Adjust the stuffing by rolling the tail between your palms.

Tail Placement

Place the tail on the cat's lower back-left side. Centre the base over Body Rnds 30-34, approximately 12-14 sts to the cat's left of the centre-back BOR. The first 3-4 cm / 1.25-1.5 in should travel outward and slightly backward before the tail curves upward. Pin and check from the side and back. Sew around the full circular base with small whip stitches. Add one hidden anchor stitch about 3 cm / 1.25 in from the base if needed to control the starting direction of the curve.

9. Assembly

Use strong matching yarn and a tapestry needle. Pin every major part before sewing. Check the cat from the front, both sides, the top and the back before making permanent joins.

1. Complete the head, including safety-eye installation, stuffing and facial embroidery.
2. Assemble both ears and sew the mauve inner panels in place. Pin the ears to the head, confirm equal height and outward angle, then sew the bases securely.
3. Finish stuffing the body and close the base. Leave the cast-on neck edge open.
4. Pin the head on the body so head centre front aligns with body centre front and both BOR lines align at the back. The neck opening should sit against the lower centre of the head without creating a visible gap.
5. Using black yarn, sew the body neck edge to the head with small ladder or whip stitches. Work around the entire neck. Take stitches through one body edge stitch and a small horizontal bar on the head surface. Add a little stuffing through the final 3-4 cm / 1.25-1.5 in of open seam if the neck looks hollow, then finish the seam.
6. Prepare and stuff both arms. Pin the arms at the shoulders with the same height and inward angle. Sew each flattened top edge through both arm layers, then add the lower inner anchor stitches.
7. Prepare and stuff both feet. Pin them low on the body, confirm the toe angles and seated balance, then sew through both layers of each flattened opening. Add underside stabilizing stitches.
8. Shape the tail curve. Pin the tail on the lower back-left side and verify that it does not force the body to tilt. Sew around the entire base and add the optional hidden direction anchor.
9. Place the finished cat on a flat surface. Adjust the lower-body stuffing by gently massaging it toward the side walls if the cat rocks. Recheck ear symmetry, eye level, limb alignment and tail angle.
10. Bury all yarn tails inside the nearest stuffed piece. Remove every marker and pin.

Sewing Guidance

Join	Recommended method	Where the needle passes
Ear base to head	small whip stitch	through both ear-base layers, then under one horizontal bar of the head fabric
Head to body	ladder stitch or small whip stitch	through one body neck edge stitch and a shallow bar of head fabric
Arm top to body	flattened two-layer attachment	through front and back layers of arm opening before entering body
Foot top to body	flattened two-layer attachment	through both foot layers before entering the lower body
Tail base to body	circular whip stitch	through one tail edge stitch and a shallow body bar around the full base

Keep attachment stitches snug enough to close gaps, but do not pull so tightly that the knitted fabric puckers. If a seam begins to sink into the stuffing, release a few stitches and re sew with lighter tension.

10. Placement Maps

Front View

Feature	Placement
Eyes	Head Rnd 23; right between sts 40-41, left between sts 56-57
Nose	centred between Head Rnds 27-29
Mouth	directly below nose, shallow W shape
Whiskers	two per cheek, beginning about 2 cm / 0.75 in from mouth centre
Ear bases	inner corners near Head Rnd 7, outer corners near Head Rnd 12; tips angle outward
Arms	upper edges around Body Rnds 9-11; lower ends rest near Rnds 26-28
Feet	attachment edges around Body Rnds 31-35; toes angle outward 15-20 degrees

Back and Side View

Feature	Placement
Head BOR	centre back
Body BOR	centre back and aligned with head BOR
Tail base	Body Rnds 30-34, about 12-14 sts to the cat's left of centre back
Tail direction	outward and slightly backward at base, then curving upward
Seated base	body gather centred underneath; both feet touch the same flat surface

Symmetry Checks

- Eye centres must be the same number of stitches from head centre front.
- Ear tips should reach the same height when viewed from the front.
- Arm shoulder seams should begin on the same body round and sit at mirrored stitch positions.
- Feet should sit at equal heights, with matching outward toe angles.
- The head should not rotate relative to the body; centre-front and centre-back lines must align.

11. Troubleshooting

Problem	Practical correction
Stuffing shows between stitches	Use smaller needles or firmer tension. Remove a little stuffing if the fabric is visibly stretched.
Head looks too tall or too short	Check round gauge. More rounds per 10 cm make the head shorter; fewer rounds make it taller. Match the stated gauge before changing round counts.
Head leans after sewing	Open 3-5 cm / 1.25-2 in of neck seam on the low side, redistribute stuffing, realign centre front and centre back, and resew.
Eyes look uneven	Before securing safety-eye washers, compare from the front and top. For embroidered eyes, remove the higher eye and restitch using the marked Rnd 23 line.
Ears point in different directions	Unpick the base seam of the ear with the incorrect angle, repin so inner and outer base corners match the opposite ear, then resew.

Problem	Practical correction
Arms stick outward	Reduce stuffing in the upper 2 cm / 0.75 in and add one or two hidden anchor stitches along the inner arm near Body Rnds 24-26.
Feet roll upward	Flatten the final foot rounds more firmly and add underside anchor stitches to the lower body so the rear of the foot stays down.
Cat rocks when seated	Massage body stuffing away from the exact centre of the base and toward the lower side walls. Make sure both feet and the body base contact the same surface.
Tail is too stiff to curve	Remove some stuffing through the base before attachment, then redo the inner running stitch with gentler tension.
Visible seam gaps	Add a second pass of small stitches through adjacent edge loops. Do not pull hard enough to form a ridge.
Project is much larger or smaller	Measure stitch gauge and round gauge. Adjust needle size first; changing yarn weight changes all proportions at once.

12. Final Visual Checklist

- Face is centred on the widest front of the head.
- Eyes are level and evenly spaced from centre front.
- Nose and mouth are centred between the eyes.
- Whiskers are balanced left and right.
- Ear tips are symmetrical and both ears angle slightly outward.
- Head centre front aligns with body centre front.
- Head sits straight without a visible neck gap.
- Arms begin at equal shoulder height and rest naturally against the belly.
- Feet sit at equal height, toes point slightly outward and both touch the surface.
- Tail base is secure and the curve rises smoothly without a hard kink.
- Body rests steadily on a flat surface.
- No stuffing is visible through the knitted fabric.
- No openings or loose seams remain.
- All yarn tails are buried securely.
- All stitch markers and pins have been removed.

Finished Shape

The completed cat should have a large round head, compact pear-shaped seated body, softly tapered arms, broad oval feet and a flexible curled tail. The face should sit slightly below the vertical centre of the head, leaving a generous forehead below the ear line. Gently roll and massage the stuffed pieces between your palms to smooth small lumps and refine the final curves.

Midnight the Black Cat Plushie

Free Knitting Pattern