



# MORTA THE COFFIN PLUSH

## FREE KNITTING PATTERN

*Flat-knit Halloween soft toy with a shaped coffin body, tiny limbs, stitched border and embroidered details*



**Skill level**  
Intermediate

**Method**  
Knitted flat

**Main stitch**  
Stockinette

**Finished height**  
about 22 cm / 8.75 in

The pattern uses smooth worsted/aran-weight yarn and is constructed from two shaped panels, four gusset strips, two arms and two feet.  
The body is seamed and stuffed after the face and arm placement are complete.

## 1. Introduction

This pattern makes a softly stuffed coffin-shaped character with a broad upper body, tapered base, tiny side arms, rounded feet, safety-eye face, curved smile and simple cross embroidery. The main pieces are knitted flat in stockinette stitch and assembled with mattress stitch. Decorative chain embroidery is worked over the finished front and back seams for the raised border.

The shaping is symmetrical, and the gusset is divided into four rectangular strips so the coffin corners stay easy to align. The project is suitable for knitters who are comfortable with knit and purl stitches, simple increases and decreases, mattress stitch, stuffing and basic embroidery.

## 2. Finished Size

| Measurement                    | Metric               | Imperial    |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Overall height, including feet | Approx. 21.5-22.5 cm | 8.5-8.9 in  |
| Coffin body height             | Approx. 20 cm        | 7.9 in      |
| Maximum body width             | Approx. 14 cm        | 5.5 in      |
| Top width                      | Approx. 9 cm         | 3.5 in      |
| Bottom width                   | Approx. 9 cm         | 3.5 in      |
| Body depth                     | Approx. 4.5-5 cm     | 1.75-2 in   |
| Overall width with arms        | Approx. 19-21 cm     | 7.5-8.25 in |
| Arm length                     | Approx. 4.5-5 cm     | 1.75-2 in   |
| Foot length                    | Approx. 3.5-4 cm     | 1.4-1.6 in  |

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

## 3. Materials and Tools

- Worsted/aran-weight smooth yarn (Category 4), approximately 170-190 g / 300-340 m / 330-370 yd in deep burgundy or plum.
- A small amount of black yarn or pearl cotton for the smile and cross, approximately 3-5 g.
- 3.5 mm (US 4) knitting needles, or the size needed to obtain gauge. Straight needles are suitable for every piece.
- Two 8 mm black safety eyes, or black yarn for embroidered eyes.
- Polyester fiberfill, approximately 90-120 g.
- Tapestry needle, removable stitch markers or contrasting scrap yarn, pins, scissors and measuring tape.

## 4. Safety Note

### SMALL COMPONENTS

Safety eyes and other small or rigid components may not be suitable for projects intended for children under three years. For a soft alternative, embroider the eyes securely with black yarn.

## 5. Gauge and Tension

20 sts x 30 rows = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in in stockinette stitch using 3.5 mm (US 4) needles, measured flat and unstretched.

Use a firm, even fabric that does not show stuffing through the stitches. If the fabric is loose, move down a needle size. If it is very stiff and difficult to sew, move up a needle size while keeping the finished proportions in mind.

## 6. Abbreviations

| Abbreviation | Meaning                                                                                                                        |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BO           | bind off                                                                                                                       |
| CO           | cast on                                                                                                                        |
| k            | knit                                                                                                                           |
| p            | purl                                                                                                                           |
| k2tog        | knit 2 stitches together; 1 stitch decreased                                                                                   |
| M1L          | make 1 left: lift the strand between stitches from front to back and knit through the back loop                                |
| M1R          | make 1 right: lift the strand between stitches from back to front and knit through the front loop                              |
| RS           | right side                                                                                                                     |
| ssk          | slip 1 knitwise, slip 1 knitwise, return both to left needle and knit them together through the back loops; 1 stitch decreased |
| st / sts     | stitch / stitches                                                                                                              |
| WS           | wrong side                                                                                                                     |

## 7. Method and Orientation

- All knitted pieces are worked flat. Odd-numbered panel rows are RS rows; even-numbered panel rows are WS rows.
- Stockinette stitch means knit all stitches on RS rows and purl all stitches on WS rows unless a shaping instruction says otherwise.
- Right and left are described from the finished item's point of view. When you look directly at the face, the item's right is on your left.
- The front and back panels are worked from the narrow bottom edge upward. The CO edge is the bottom; the BO edge is the top.
- Centre front (CF) is the vertical line exactly between the middle two stitch columns. Because all panel shaping is mirrored, CF stays fixed throughout the piece.
- The two side gusset strips are worked from bottom to top so the stockinette stitch columns run vertically in the finished side view. For each side strip, the CO edge is the bottom end and the BO edge is the top end. The two long selvages become the Back Panel edge and Front Panel edge. Make the two strips as mirror images when positioning the arms so both arm tips angle toward the front.

## 8. Construction Overview

- Knit 2 identical coffin panels. Designate one Front and one Back.
- Add the eyes, smile and cross to the Front Panel before closing the body.
- Knit 1 bottom gusset strip, 1 top gusset strip and 2 side gusset strips. Attach one arm to each side strip while the strips are still flat.
- Join the four gusset strips at their short ends to form a continuous coffin-shaped ring.
- Sew the gusset ring to the Back Panel first, then to the Front Panel, leaving a small opening at the lower front for stuffing.
- Stuff the body evenly, close the remaining opening, then work the raised chain embroidery over the front and back perimeter seams.
- Knit, seam and lightly stuff 2 feet. Attach them last so their rounded ends project forward from the lower front.



Finished shape from front, three-quarter, side and back views.

## 9. Complete Written Pattern

### A. Front and Back Panels - make 2

Use burgundy yarn. Work one panel for the Front and one for the Back. CO 18 sts. Work the 60 rows below, then BO the final 18 sts knitwise on the next RS row. Keep the BO edge firm but not tight.

| Row | Instruction                     | Count  |
|-----|---------------------------------|--------|
| 1   | K all sts.                      | 18 sts |
| 2   | P all sts.                      | 18 sts |
| 3   | K all sts.                      | 18 sts |
| 4   | P all sts.                      | 18 sts |
| 5   | K all sts.                      | 18 sts |
| 6   | P all sts.                      | 18 sts |
| 7   | K1, M1R, k to last st, M1L, k1. | 20 sts |
| 8   | P all sts.                      | 20 sts |
| 9   | K all sts.                      | 20 sts |
| 10  | P all sts.                      | 20 sts |
| 11  | K all sts.                      | 20 sts |
| 12  | P all sts.                      | 20 sts |
| 13  | K1, M1R, k to last st, M1L, k1. | 22 sts |
| 14  | P all sts.                      | 22 sts |
| 15  | K all sts.                      | 22 sts |
| 16  | P all sts.                      | 22 sts |
| 17  | K all sts.                      | 22 sts |
| 18  | P all sts.                      | 22 sts |
| 19  | K1, M1R, k to last st, M1L, k1. | 24 sts |
| 20  | P all sts.                      | 24 sts |
| 21  | K all sts.                      | 24 sts |
| 22  | P all sts.                      | 24 sts |
| 23  | K all sts.                      | 24 sts |
| 24  | P all sts.                      | 24 sts |
| 25  | K1, M1R, k to last st, M1L, k1. | 26 sts |
| 26  | P all sts.                      | 26 sts |
| 27  | K all sts.                      | 26 sts |
| 28  | P all sts.                      | 26 sts |

| Row | Instruction                          | Count  |
|-----|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 29  | K all sts.                           | 26 sts |
| 30  | P all sts.                           | 26 sts |
| 31  | K1, M1R, k to last st, M1L, k1.      | 28 sts |
| 32  | P all sts.                           | 28 sts |
| 33  | K all sts.                           | 28 sts |
| 34  | P all sts.                           | 28 sts |
| 35  | K all sts.                           | 28 sts |
| 36  | P all sts.                           | 28 sts |
| 37  | K all sts.                           | 28 sts |
| 38  | P all sts.                           | 28 sts |
| 39  | K all sts.                           | 28 sts |
| 40  | P all sts.                           | 28 sts |
| 41  | K1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. | 26 sts |
| 42  | P all sts.                           | 26 sts |
| 43  | K all sts.                           | 26 sts |
| 44  | P all sts.                           | 26 sts |
| 45  | K1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. | 24 sts |
| 46  | P all sts.                           | 24 sts |
| 47  | K all sts.                           | 24 sts |
| 48  | P all sts.                           | 24 sts |
| 49  | K1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. | 22 sts |
| 50  | P all sts.                           | 22 sts |
| 51  | K all sts.                           | 22 sts |
| 52  | P all sts.                           | 22 sts |
| 53  | K1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. | 20 sts |
| 54  | P all sts.                           | 20 sts |
| 55  | K all sts.                           | 20 sts |
| 56  | P all sts.                           | 20 sts |
| 57  | K1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. | 18 sts |
| 58  | P all sts.                           | 18 sts |
| 59  | K all sts.                           | 18 sts |
| 60  | P all sts.                           | 18 sts |

After Row 60: BO all 18 sts knitwise on the next RS row. Do not stretch the BO edge.

## Panel checkpoints

- After Row 31 the panel has 28 sts and has reached its maximum width.
- Rows 32-40 form the broad shoulder section.
- Rows 41-57 shape the sloping upper sides.
- Rows 58-60 keep the short top section straight at 18 sts.
- At gauge, the finished panel is about 20 cm / 7.9 in high, 14 cm / 5.5 in wide at its broadest point, 9 cm / 3.5 in across the top and 9 cm / 3.5 in across the bottom.

## B. Gusset Strips

Use burgundy yarn. The Bottom and Top gusset strips are worked for 14 rows as written below. The two Side gusset strips are worked separately from bottom to top so their stockinette columns run vertically in the finished side view.

For the Bottom and Top strips, the CO long edge attaches to the Back Panel and the BO long edge attaches to the Front Panel.

### Bottom gusset strip - make 1

CO 18 sts. Finished long-edge length at gauge: approximately 9 cm / 3.5 in.

| Row | Instruction | Count  |
|-----|-------------|--------|
| 1   | K all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 2   | P all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 3   | K all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 4   | P all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 5   | K all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 6   | P all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 7   | K all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 8   | P all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 9   | K all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 10  | P all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 11  | K all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 12  | P all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 13  | K all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 14  | P all sts.  | 18 sts |

After Row 14: BO all 18 sts knitwise on the next RS row.

### Top gusset strip - make 1

CO 18 sts. Finished long-edge length at gauge: approximately 9 cm / 3.5 in.

| Row | Instruction | Count  |
|-----|-------------|--------|
| 1   | K all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 2   | P all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 3   | K all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 4   | P all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 5   | K all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 6   | P all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 7   | K all sts.  | 18 sts |

| Row | Instruction | Count  |
|-----|-------------|--------|
| 8   | P all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 9   | K all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 10  | P all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 11  | K all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 12  | P all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 13  | K all sts.  | 18 sts |
| 14  | P all sts.  | 18 sts |

After Row 14: BO all 18 sts knitwise on the next RS row.

### Side gusset strips - make 2

CO 9 sts.

Rows 1-60: Work in stockinette stitch, knitting RS rows and purling WS rows. (9 sts)

| Row | Instruction | Count |
|-----|-------------|-------|
| 1   | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 2   | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 3   | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 4   | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 5   | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 6   | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 7   | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 8   | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 9   | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 10  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 11  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 12  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 13  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 14  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 15  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 16  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 17  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 18  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 19  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 20  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |

| Row | Instruction | Count |
|-----|-------------|-------|
| 21  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 22  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 23  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 24  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 25  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 26  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 27  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 28  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 29  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 30  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 31  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 32  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 33  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 34  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 35  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 36  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 37  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 38  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 39  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 40  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 41  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 42  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 43  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 44  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 45  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 46  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 47  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 48  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 49  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 50  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 51  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 52  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |

| Row | Instruction | Count |
|-----|-------------|-------|
| 53  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 54  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 55  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 56  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 57  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 58  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 59  | K all sts.  | 9 sts |
| 60  | P all sts.  | 9 sts |

After Row 60: BO all 9 sts knitwise on the next RS row.

Finished size at gauge: approximately 20 cm / 7.9 in high x 4.5 cm / 1.75 in deep.

Mark the CO edge as Bottom and the BO edge as Top. The two long selvages become the Back Edge and Front Edge during assembly.

### C. Arms - make 2

Work each arm from the open shoulder toward the rounded tip. Before casting on, leave a 30 cm / 12 in starting yarn tail; keep this tail at the shoulder for attachment later.

CO 12 sts.

| Row | Instruction   | Count  |
|-----|---------------|--------|
| 1   | K all sts.    | 12 sts |
| 2   | P all sts.    | 12 sts |
| 3   | K all sts.    | 12 sts |
| 4   | P all sts.    | 12 sts |
| 5   | K all sts.    | 12 sts |
| 6   | P all sts.    | 12 sts |
| 7   | K all sts.    | 12 sts |
| 8   | P all sts.    | 12 sts |
| 9   | K all sts.    | 12 sts |
| 10  | P all sts.    | 12 sts |
| 11  | K all sts.    | 12 sts |
| 12  | P all sts.    | 12 sts |
| 13  | K all sts.    | 12 sts |
| 14  | P all sts.    | 12 sts |
| 15  | K2tog across. | 6 sts  |
| 16  | P all sts.    | 6 sts  |

- Cut the working yarn, leaving about 35 cm / 14 in. Thread it through the 6 remaining sts and pull the tip closed.
- Use the same working tail to mattress-stitch the long edges together from the rounded tip toward the shoulder. Secure and bury that tail inside.
- Lightly stuff the arm, keeping the shoulder end soft. Flatten the 12-st CO opening so 6 paired loops lie together.
- Keep the original 30 cm / 12 in starting tail available for attachment.

### D. Feet - make 2

Work each foot from the open heel toward the rounded toe. Before casting on, leave a 35 cm / 14 in starting yarn tail for attachment.

CO 14 sts.

| Row | Instruction   | Count  |
|-----|---------------|--------|
| 1   | K all sts.    | 14 sts |
| 2   | P all sts.    | 14 sts |
| 3   | K all sts.    | 14 sts |
| 4   | P all sts.    | 14 sts |
| 5   | K all sts.    | 14 sts |
| 6   | P all sts.    | 14 sts |
| 7   | K all sts.    | 14 sts |
| 8   | P all sts.    | 14 sts |
| 9   | K all sts.    | 14 sts |
| 10  | P all sts.    | 14 sts |
| 11  | K2tog across. | 7 sts  |
| 12  | P all sts.    | 7 sts  |

- Cut the working yarn, leaving about 35 cm / 14 in. Thread it through the 7 remaining sts and pull the toe closed.
- Use the same working tail to mattress-stitch the long edges together from toe to heel. Secure and bury that tail inside.
- Stuff lightly to make a small rounded oval. Do not pack the heel firmly.
- Flatten the 14-st CO opening so 7 paired loops lie together. Keep the original starting tail for attachment.

## 10. Face and Decorative Details

### Eye placement

Lay the Front Panel flat with the RS facing and the CO edge at the bottom. On Row 37 the panel has 28 stitch columns. Mark CF between columns 14 and 15. Count columns from the finished item's right edge toward its left edge.

- Place the eye centres between Rows 37 and 38, in approximately columns 10 and 19. This gives about 4.5 cm / 1.75 in centre-to-centre spacing at gauge.
- Check that both eyes are the same distance from CF and the same height from the bottom edge before fitting the washers.
- If using embroidered eyes, work two compact black circles at the same positions, about 8-9 mm / 0.3-0.35 in across.

### Smile

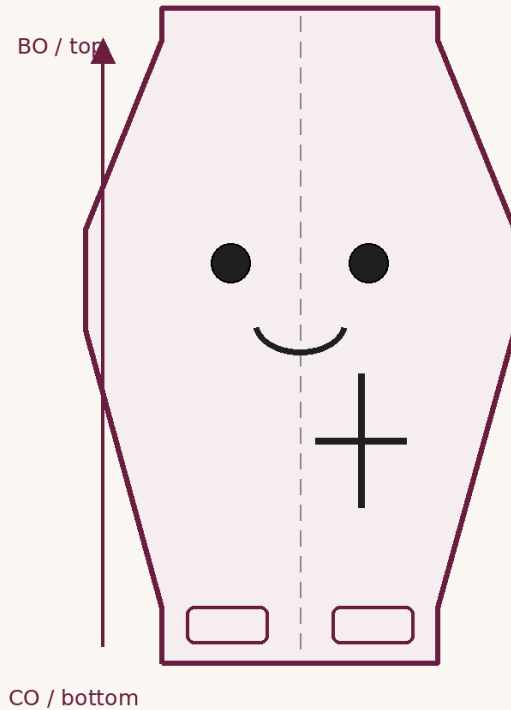
With black yarn, embroider a shallow upward-curving smile centred on CF. Begin near Row 34 and column 12, dip gently toward Row 32 at CF, and finish near Row 34 and column 17. Use 4-6 small backstitches so the curve remains smooth. Secure the ends on the WS without pulling the knit fabric inward.

### Cross

The cross sits on the item's left, which appears on the viewer's right when looking at the face. Keep the vertical line 4 stitch columns toward the item's left from CF, rather than measuring from the changing side edge. With the revised panel shaping, work the vertical line approximately: between columns 15 and 16 across Rows 15-18; between columns 16 and 17 across Rows 19-24; and between columns 17 and 18 across Rows 25-27. These changing column numbers follow the increases at the side edge and keep the finished embroidered line physically straight and parallel to CF. Add the horizontal bar near Row 21, spanning approximately columns 14-19. Build each line with two passes of backstitch if a slightly raised look is desired.

### Raised border embroidery

The raised burgundy border is added only after the body is fully stuffed and closed. Thread a tapestry needle with a long doubled strand of burgundy yarn. Bring the needle up just inside the front perimeter seam. Make a surface chain stitch by forming a small loop, inserting the needle back near the exit point, bringing it up 4-5 mm / about 3/16 in farther along the seam, and passing the needle through the loop before tightening gently. Continue around the entire front seam. Repeat around the back seam. Keep every chain the same size and do not cinch the body edge.



### FRONT PLACEMENT MAP

#### CF

Centre front stays on the vertical midpoint.

#### Eyes

Between Rows 37-38; centres about 4.5 cm / 1.75 in apart.

#### Smile

Centred about Rows 32-34.

#### Cross

On the item's left; vertical Rows 15-27, kept 4 stitch columns to the item's left of CF; crossbar near Row 21.

#### Feet

Heel seams sit low and horizontal across the front panel.

## 11. Stuffing and Shaping

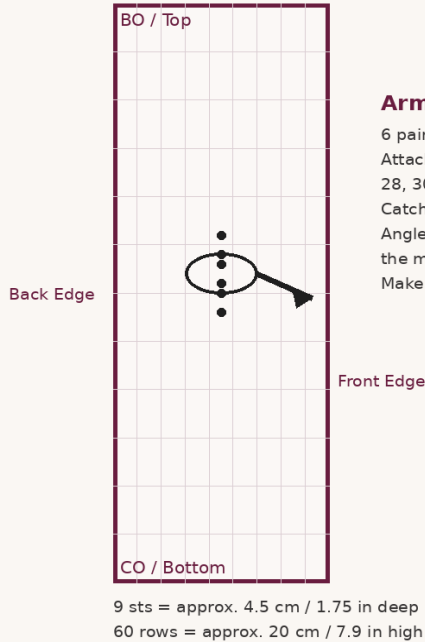
- Arms and feet are only lightly stuffed. Keep their attachment openings soft so the flattened edges sit neatly against the body.
- Stuff the coffin body gradually through the lower-front opening. Begin with small amounts at the top corners and along the side gusset, then fill the centre.
- Use moderate, even stuffing. The front and back panels should stay mostly flat rather than becoming dome-shaped.
- Keep the lower edge broad enough to support the feet. Add a little extra stuffing behind the shoulders so the upper coffin shape remains defined.
- Before closing the stuffing opening, compare the front, side, top and back. Massage the filling away from any over-rounded area and fill any hollow corner.

## 12. Placement Maps

The diagrams below use the same right/left convention as the written pattern. Pin all paired pieces before sewing so their heights and angles can be compared together.

### GUSSET STRIPS AND ARM POSITION

#### SIDE STRIP - make 2



#### Arm shoulder seam:

6 paired loops centred on stitch column 5.  
Attachment stitches at approx. Rows 28, 30, 31, 33, 34 and 36.  
Catch both layers of the arm opening.  
Angle tip 15-25 degrees down and toward the marked Front Edge.  
Make the second side strip as a mirror image.

#### BOTTOM STRIP

CO 18 sts      14 rows deep

#### TOP STRIP

CO 18 sts      14 rows deep

#### SIDE STRIPS x2

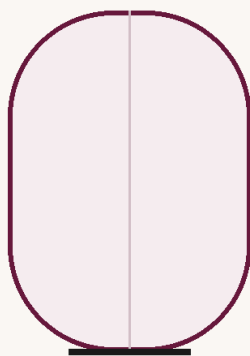
CO 9 sts      60 rows high - approx. 4.5 cm / 1.75 in deep

#### GUSSET CORNERS

Join each 9-st Side Strip CO/BO edge to the 14 row-edge positions of the Top or Bottom strip using: 1, 2, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 2, 1.

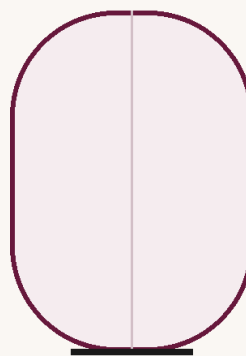
### LIMB FINISHING

#### ARM



Flatten opening into 6 paired loops.  
Each attachment stitch catches both layers.  
Closed rounded end points away from body.

#### FOOT



Flatten opening into 7 paired loops.  
Each attachment stitch catches both layers.  
Closed rounded end points away from body.

## 13. Assembly Instructions

1. Finish both coffin panels and all four gusset strips. Weave in ordinary yarn ends, but keep the long reserved starting tails on the arms and feet. Add the eyes, smile and cross to the Front Panel before body seaming.

2. Attach the arms to the two side gusset strips while the strips are flat. With the side strip RS facing and the CO edge at the bottom, centre the flattened 6-paired-loop shoulder opening on stitch column 5. Space the six attachment stitches vertically at approximately Side Strip Rows 28, 30, 31, 33, 34 and 36. Each attachment stitch must catch both layers of the flattened arm opening. Angle the closed arm tip about 15-25 degrees downward and toward the Front Edge. Make the second side strip as a mirror image. Secure each tail on the WS of the gusset.
3. Join the four gusset pieces into one ring with RS facing outward. In order around the body: Bottom Strip -> item-right Side Strip -> Top Strip -> item-left Side Strip -> back to Bottom Strip. At each corner, distribute the 9 side-strip edge stitches evenly over the 14 row-edge positions of the Top or Bottom strip. Use the following row-edge catch distribution across the 9 side stitches: 1, 2, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 2, 1. This uses all 9 side-strip stitches and all 14 Top/Bottom strip row edges. Keep the Back selvages aligned with the Top/Bottom CO edges and the Front selvages aligned with the Top/Bottom BO edges.
4. Pin the Back Panel inside the gusset ring with RS facing outward. Match the 18-st bottom edge 1:1 to the Bottom Strip CO edge and the 18-st top edge 1:1 to the Top Strip CO edge. Match each 60-row Side Strip Back Edge to the corresponding 60-row Back Panel side edge, row-for-row 1:1.
5. Seam each back side row-for-row 1:1, matching each of the 60 Side Strip row-edge positions to the corresponding 60 Back Panel rows. Keep the seam tension even and do not skip or double panel rows. Complete the top and bottom seams 1:1.
6. Pin the Front Panel to the front edges of the gusset ring. Match each 60-row Side Strip Front Edge to the corresponding 60-row Front Panel side edge, again row-for-row 1:1. Match the 18-st bottom and 18-st top edges to the Bottom and Top Strip BO edges 1:1. Check that the eyes are level, the cross is on the item's left, and both arms sit at the same height.
7. Seam the Front Panel to both side strips and the top strip. On the bottom strip, seam 5 stitches from the item-right corner and 5 stitches from the item-left corner, leaving the centre 8 bottom stitches open for stuffing.
8. Stuff the body gradually. Keep the front and back broad and the corners defined. When the shape is even, close the remaining 8-st lower-front opening with mattress stitch, matching one front-panel stitch to one gusset stitch. Secure and bury the yarn tail inside.
9. Work the doubled-yarn surface chain embroidery around the complete front perimeter seam, then around the complete back perimeter seam. Keep the chain relaxed enough that the corners do not pucker.
10. Position both feet on the lower front. Their heel seams should be horizontal and their rounded toes should project forward. On the 18-st lower section, place the item-right foot over approximately columns 2-8 and the item-left foot over approximately columns 11-17, centred across Front Panel Rows 4-5. Pin both feet before sewing so their toe ends sit level.
11. Using each reserved foot starting tail, whip stitch the 7 paired heel loops to the Front Panel along the horizontal attachment line. Every stitch must catch both layers of the flattened heel opening before entering the body fabric. Keep the seam firm without compressing the foot. Secure and bury the tails inside the body.
12. Check the project from the front, both sides, top and back. Adjust the feet gently so the body sits evenly. Remove all temporary markers and pins.

## 14. Sewing Methods

| Join                             | Method                          | How to work it                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Panel to gusset - top and bottom | Mattress stitch                 | Work through the edge loops of the panel stitch and the matching gusset stitch, 1:1. Tighten every few stitches just enough to close the gap.                 |
| Panel to side gusset             | Row-for-row mattress stitch     | Match each of the 60 Side Strip row-edge positions to the corresponding 60 panel rows 1:1.                                                                    |
| Gusset corners                   | Gauge-matched mattress stitch   | Join each 9-st Side Strip CO/BO edge to the 14 row-edge positions of the Top or Bottom strip using the 1, 2, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 2, 1 distribution.                |
| Arm to gusset                    | Flattened two-layer whip stitch | Centre the shoulder on stitch column 5 and space the 6 attachment stitches over approximately Side Strip Rows 28-36, catching both layers of the arm opening. |
| Foot to front panel              | Flattened two-layer whip stitch | Pass through both layers of each paired heel loop, then through the front panel. Use 7 attachment stitches along a horizontal line.                           |
| Surface border                   | Chain embroidery                | Form linked loops over the finished seam using doubled burgundy yarn. Do not pull tightly enough to shorten the perimeter.                                    |

## 15. Final Visual Checklist

- Front panel is centred and not bulging.
- Eyes are level and equally spaced from CF.
- Smile is centred and curves evenly upward.
- Cross is on the item's left and sits straight.
- Upper coffin sides mirror one another.
- Arms sit at the same height and angle slightly downward.
- Feet sit level, point forward and do not overlap heavily.
- Front and back border chains are even and do not pucker the seams.
- Top and bottom edges remain straight.
- Body sits without leaning to one side.
- No stuffing is visible through the fabric or seams.
- No opening, loose tail, exposed knot, pin or marker remains.

## 16. Troubleshooting

| Problem                            | Practical correction                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fabric shows stuffing              | The tension is too loose. Move down a needle size and recheck the 20-st x 30-row gauge before continuing.        |
| Finished body is too wide          | Check stitch gauge. More than 20 sts per 10 cm / 4 in makes the piece smaller; fewer than 20 sts makes it wider. |
| Finished body is too tall or short | Check row gauge. The panel is 60 rows high before BO, so row gauge strongly controls height.                     |
| Side seams pucker                  | Match the 60-row Side Strip edge to the 60-row panel side edge 1:1. Do not stretch either piece while seaming.   |

| Problem                                   | Practical correction                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Top or bottom edge ripples                | Match the 18-st bottom and 18-st top edges to their gusset strips 1:1 and keep mattress-stitch tension moderate.                             |
| Body looks round instead of coffin-shaped | Remove a little central stuffing and move it toward the upper corners and side gusset. Keep the front and back panels broad and fairly flat. |
| One arm sits higher                       | Undo only that arm seam and repin both arms over approximately Side Strip Rows 28-36, centred on stitch column 5.                            |
| Arms point backward                       | Keep each shoulder seam centred on stitch column 5 and angle the closed tip toward the marked Front Edge before sewing.                      |
| Feet rotate sideways                      | Keep each 7-loop heel seam horizontal and make sure both layers of the flattened heel are captured evenly across all 7 attachment stitches.  |
| Eyes pull into the knit fabric            | Do not overtighten the safety-eye washers. If the knit fabric stretches, use embroidered eyes instead.                                       |
| Border chain looks uneven                 | Use the same 4-5 mm spacing for each chain loop and loosen any stitch that visibly draws the seam inward.                                    |
| A seam gap opens after stuffing           | Add a few small mattress stitches across the gap, catching intact edge loops on both sides, then bury the tail inside the body.              |

## 17. Quick Finish Check

Set the finished plush upright on a flat surface. The feet should support the lower front, the upper body should remain symmetrical, and the front face should read straight from eye line to bottom edge. Gently reshape the stuffing with your hands, then make one final check that every seam and embroidery end is secure.