



MABEL THE MAGIC BROOM

FREE KNITTING PATTERN

A cheerful plush broom with a soft handle, layered bristles, tiny feet and a knitted-look bow tie



Skill level: Confident Beginner / Intermediate

Worked flat on straight needles and seamed

1. About This Pattern

Mabel is a soft knitted broom character with a tall brown handle, a rounded mustard body, ten layered bristle blades, two little brown feet and a purple tie. Every knitted piece is worked flat on two straight needles. The shaping uses stockinette stitch, simple increases and decreases, while the collar is finished in 1 x 1 rib. The pieces are seamed, stuffed and assembled in a clear order so the broom stands neatly and the bristles overlap into a full skirt.

For the cleanest shape, use a firm toy-knitting tension. The fabric should be dense enough that stuffing does not show between stitches.



Front, three-quarter, side and back views of the finished broom.

2. Finished Size

Measurement	Approximate size
Overall height, including feet	26-28 cm / 10.25-11 in
Broom body from gathered base to top of collar	12-12.5 cm / 4.75-5 in
Overall broom-head width across bristles	11-12 cm / 4.25-4.75 in
Body width before bristles	7.5-8 cm / 3-3.15 in
Visible handle length above collar	12.5-13.5 cm / 5-5.25 in
Handle diameter	2.8-3 cm / 1.1-1.2 in
Bristle blade length	6.5-7 cm / 2.5-2.75 in
Foot length	2.8-3.2 cm / 1.1-1.25 in

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



Approximate finished dimensions

3. Materials and Tools

Item	Suggested amount / size
Yarn A - mustard/golden yellow, medium #4 smooth yarn	90-110 g / 160-200 m
Yarn B - warm brown, medium #4 smooth yarn	45-55 g / 80-100 m
Yarn C - plum purple, medium #4 smooth yarn	10-15 g / 18-28 m
Yarn D - blush pink, medium #4 smooth yarn	about 2 g / 4 m
Yarn E - black, medium #4 smooth yarn or embroidery yarn	about 2 g / 4 m
Straight knitting needles	3.25 mm / US 3, or size needed for gauge
Safety eyes	2 x 6 mm black
Polyester stuffing	about 70-90 g
Tapestry needle	for seaming and embroidery
Long doll needle	helpful for anchoring the handle
Stitch markers or removable yarn markers	4-6
Pins, scissors and measuring tape	1 set
Optional soft handle core	a felt or batting roll trimmed to approximately 14.5-15 cm / 5.75-6 in long

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.

4. Gauge and Tension

24 sts x 34 rows = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in in stockinette stitch using 3.25 mm needles.

Measure the knitted fabric without stretching it. The gauge is intentionally firm for stuffed knitting. If you have fewer stitches per 10 cm / 4 in, use smaller needles; if you have more stitches, use larger needles. Keep the same firm density for the mustard and brown structural pieces so the handle and body remain in proportion.

5. 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 it through the back loop
M1R	make 1 right: lift the strand between stitches from back to front and knit it through the front loop
RS	right side of the knitted fabric
ssk	slip 2 stitches knitwise one at a time, then knit them together through the back loops; 1 stitch decreased
st / sts	stitch / stitches
WS	wrong side of the knitted fabric

6. Method and Orientation

- All knitted pieces are worked flat on two straight needles and turned after every row.
- Stockinette stitch is worked by knitting every RS row and purling every WS row.
- The knit side of stockinette is the RS and faces outward after seaming.
- Right and left are described from the finished broom's point of view.
- The long seam of the body is center back (CB). Center front (CF) is directly opposite that seam.
- Mattress stitch is used for long stockinette seams. Work into the horizontal bars just inside each edge stitch so the seam closes neatly without a bulky ridge.
- For flattened attachments, pass each sewing stitch through both knitted layers of the flattened piece before entering the body.

7. Construction Overview

Piece	Quantity	Stuffing / finishing
Body and head	1	Stuff firmly through the collar opening; keep a central channel under the collar for the handle.
Handle	1	Seam into a tube, stuff firmly, close both ends, then insert into the body.
Bristle blade	10	Seam into narrow tubes, add only a light wisp of stuffing, and flatten the open top for attachment.
Foot	2	Stuff moderately into small rounded capsules.
Purple tie	1	Make as a twisted yarn cord; do not stuff.

Assembly order: place the eyes, seam and stuff the body, embroider the face, insert and anchor the handle, attach the feet, attach the ten bristles, then tie on the purple cord.

8. Complete Knitting Pattern

8A. Body and Head - make 1

CO 18 sts with Yarn A, leaving a 25 cm / 10 in tail for gathering the lower edge. Row 1 is an RS row.

With Yarn A. CO edge is the lower underside. Keep the first and last stitch of each row tidy because these edges form the center-back seam.

Row	Instruction	Count
1	K all sts.	18 sts
2	P all sts.	18 sts
3	K2, M1L, k2, M1L, k to last 4 sts, M1R, k2, M1R, k2.	22 sts
4	P all sts.	22 sts
5	K2, M1L, k2, M1L, k to last 4 sts, M1R, k2, M1R, k2.	26 sts
6	P all sts.	26 sts
7	K2, M1L, k2, M1L, k to last 4 sts, M1R, k2, M1R, k2.	30 sts
8	P all sts.	30 sts
9	K2, M1L, k2, M1L, k to last 4 sts, M1R, k2, M1R, k2.	34 sts
10	P all sts.	34 sts
11	K2, M1L, k2, M1L, k to last 4 sts, M1R, k2, M1R, k2.	38 sts
12	P all sts.	38 sts
13	K2, M1L, k2, M1L, k to last 4 sts, M1R, k2, M1R, k2.	42 sts
14	P all sts.	42 sts
15	K2, M1L, k2, M1L, k to last 4 sts, M1R, k2, M1R, k2.	46 sts
16	P all sts.	46 sts
17	K2, M1L, k2, M1L, k to last 4 sts, M1R, k2, M1R, k2.	50 sts
18	P all sts.	50 sts
19	K2, M1L, k2, M1L, k to last 4 sts, M1R, k2, M1R, k2.	54 sts
20	P all sts.	54 sts
21	K1, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	56 sts
22	P all sts.	56 sts
23	K2, ssk, k2, ssk, k to last 8 sts, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k2.	52 sts
24	P all sts.	52 sts
25	K2, ssk, k2, ssk, k to last 8 sts, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k2.	48 sts
26	P all sts.	48 sts
27	K2, ssk, k2, ssk, k to last 8 sts, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k2.	44 sts
28	P all sts.	44 sts
29	K2, ssk, k2, ssk, k to last 8 sts, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k2.	40 sts
30	P all sts.	40 sts
31	K2, ssk, k2, ssk, k to last 8 sts, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k2.	36 sts
32	P all sts.	36 sts
33	K2, ssk, k2, ssk, k to last 8 sts, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k2.	32 sts
34	P all sts.	32 sts
35	K2, ssk, k2, ssk, k to last 8 sts, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k2.	28 sts
36	P all sts.	28 sts
37-42	(K1, p1) across every row.	28 sts

After Row 42, BO all 28 sts loosely in rib. Leave a long tail for the center-back seam. Do not stuff yet.

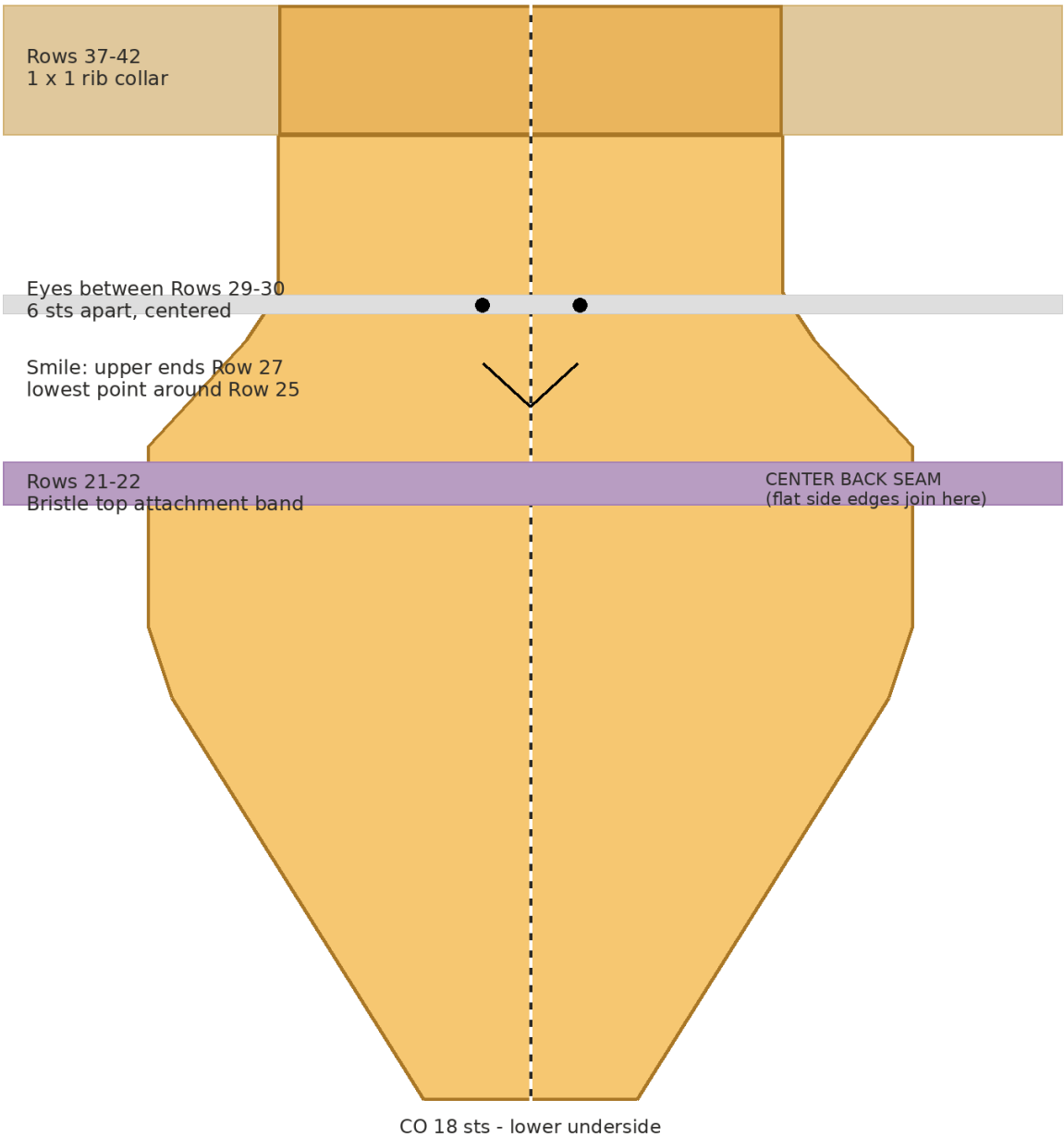
Body Row Landmarks

Rows	Use later
1-12	Lower underside shaping; foot attachments are centered approximately around Rows 9-12.
21-22	Widest 56-st section and bristle attachment band.
29-30	Eye placement band.
37-42	1 x 1 rib collar around the handle.

8B. Body Placement Before Seaming

Lay the body flat with the RS facing you and the CO edge at the bottom. The two long side edges will later meet at center back. The vertical midpoint of the flat piece is center front.

BODY / HEAD PLACEMENT MAP
CENTER FRONT FOLD



Safety-eye placement: use the 40-st fabric between Rows 29 and 30. Center front lies between stitches 20 and 21. Insert one 6 mm safety eye between stitches 17 and 18 and the other between stitches 23 and 24, giving 6 stitches between the eye centers. Fit the backs securely before seaming.

For embroidered eyes, skip the safety-eye step and embroider two small black ovals approximately 6 mm wide in the same positions between Rows 29 and 30 after the body is stuffed.

8C. Handle - make 1

CO 24 sts with Yarn B. Row 1 is an RS row.

With Yarn B. The CO edge becomes the lower end that is inserted into the broom body.

Row	Instruction	Count
1-52	Work in stockinette: knit odd-numbered RS rows and purl even-numbered WS rows.	24 sts
53	(K2, k2tog) 6 times.	18 sts
54	P all sts.	18 sts
55	(K1, k2tog) 6 times.	12 sts
56	P all sts.	12 sts
57	K2tog 6 times.	6 sts

After Row 57, cut Yarn B leaving a 25 cm / 10 in tail. Thread the tail through the 6 remaining sts, pull firmly and secure. Use a separate length of Yarn B for the long mattress-stitch seam. Stuff firmly as you seam. Gather the CO edge closed and secure.

If using the optional soft handle core, trim the felt or batting roll to approximately 14.5-15 cm / 5.75-6 in long and keep its upper end below the Row 53 crown shaping so the rounded top remains softly stuffed.

8D. Bristle Blade - make 10

CO 6 sts with Yarn A. Row 1 is an RS row.

With Yarn A. Knit all ten blades to the same row count. Small differences in stuffing create a natural broom texture, but the knitted lengths should match.

Row	Instruction	Count
1	K all sts.	6 sts
2	P all sts.	6 sts
3	K1, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	8 sts
4	P all sts.	8 sts
5	K1, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	10 sts
6	P all sts.	10 sts
7	K1, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	12 sts
8	P all sts.	12 sts
9-22	Continue in stockinette stitch, knitting odd-numbered RS rows and purling even-numbered WS rows.	12 sts

After Row 22, BO all 12 sts. Leave a 30 cm / 12 in tail. Using the CO tail, gather the 6-st cast-on edge into a rounded tip and secure. Using the BO tail, mattress-stitch the long edges together from the BO edge down to the gathered CO edge. Add only a light wisp of stuffing as you seam, leaving the uppermost 1 cm / 3/8 in lightly filled so the top can flatten easily. Flatten the open tube mouth formed by the BO edge with the long seam centered at the back; the 12 BO stitches now form two layers of 6 stitches each. Leave only this flattened BO opening unclosed for attachment.

8E. Foot - make 2

CO 14 sts with Yarn B. Row 1 is an RS row.

With Yarn B. Each foot forms a small rounded capsule.

Row	Instruction	Count
1	K all sts.	14 sts
2	P all sts.	14 sts
3	K1, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	16 sts
4	P all sts.	16 sts
5	K all sts.	16 sts
6	P all sts.	16 sts
7	K all sts.	16 sts
8	P all sts.	16 sts
9	K all sts.	16 sts
10	P all sts.	16 sts
11	K1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1.	14 sts
12	P all sts.	14 sts
13	K2tog 7 times.	7 sts

After Row 13, cut Yarn B leaving a 25 cm / 10 in tail. Thread through the 7 remaining sts, pull closed and secure. Mattress-stitch the long edges. Stuff moderately, keeping the foot rounded rather than hard. Gather the CO edge closed and secure. Leave a separate 30 cm / 12 in tail for attachment.

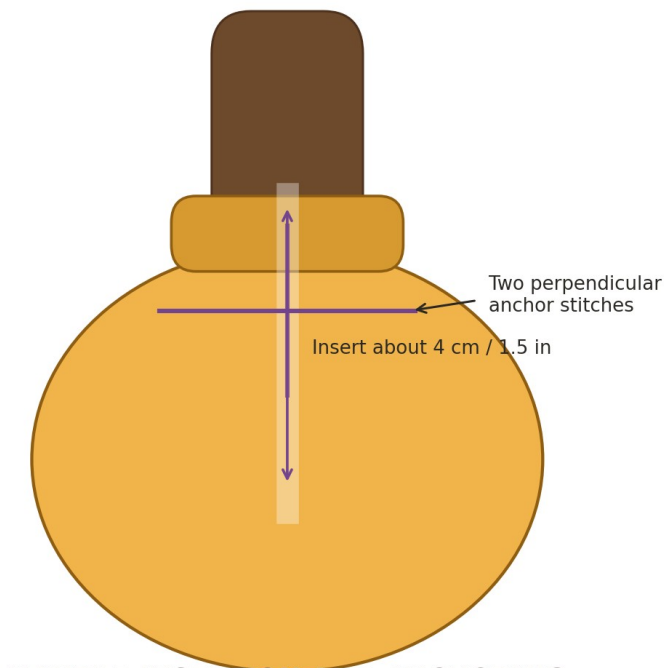
8F. Purple Tie - make 1

Cut 3 lengths of Yarn C, each about 150 cm / 59 in. Hold the strands together, secure one end, and twist them firmly in the same direction until they begin to kink. Fold the twisted bundle in half and allow the two halves to twist around each other. Knot the free end and trim. The finished cord should be about 65-70 cm / 25.5-27.5 in long. If it is longer, trim after the broom is assembled.

9. Face and Main-Body Assembly

1. With the safety eyes already fitted, fold the body RS outward so the long side edges meet at center back. Using the long BO tail, mattress-stitch the center-back seam from the top of the rib collar down to the CO edge, keeping the rib columns aligned. Leave the CO tail free.
2. Use the CO tail to gather the 18-st lower edge closed. Pull snugly, secure, and bury the tail inside.
3. Stuff the body firmly but evenly through the collar opening. Keep the lower body broad and the face area smoothly rounded. Under the collar, leave a vertical channel about 3.2-3.5 cm / 1.25-1.4 in wide and 4 cm / 1.5 in deep for the handle. Do not pack this channel with firm stuffing.
4. Check the eyes from the front. They should be level and equally spaced from center front. Adjust the stuffing around them before adding the mouth.
5. **With Yarn E, embroider a small U-shaped smile centered on CF. Place the two upper ends around Row 27, about 2 stitches to either side of CF, and place the lowest point around Row 25. Use two or three neat passes so the line is visible without pulling the knitted fabric inward.**
6. **With Yarn D, embroider one small blush mark on each cheek around Rows 27-29, about 2 stitches outside the eye centers. Two short horizontal stitches per cheek are enough.**

10. Insert and Secure the Handle



1. Insert the gathered lower end of the finished handle through the rib collar and into the soft channel inside the body. Push it in about 4 cm / 1.5 in.
2. Pin the handle upright. Check from the front, side and back. The center line of the handle should sit directly above the center of the gathered body base.
3. **Thread a long doll needle with doubled Yarn A. At about Rows 33-34, make one anchoring pass from center back through the body and the stuffed handle to center front, then return through a nearby stitch to center back. Make a second anchoring pass from the finished right side to the finished left side. These two perpendicular anchors stop the handle from pivoting.**
4. Before closing the collar-to-handle join, make any final stuffing adjustment through the remaining opening around the handle. Keep the handle pinned upright and add or redistribute stuffing beneath the collar as needed.
5. Using small whip stitches, sew the BO edge of the rib collar to the brown handle around the full circumference. Catch only a shallow bite of brown fabric and do not pull tightly enough to flare or pucker the rib. Once this seam is closed, bury the yarn tails.

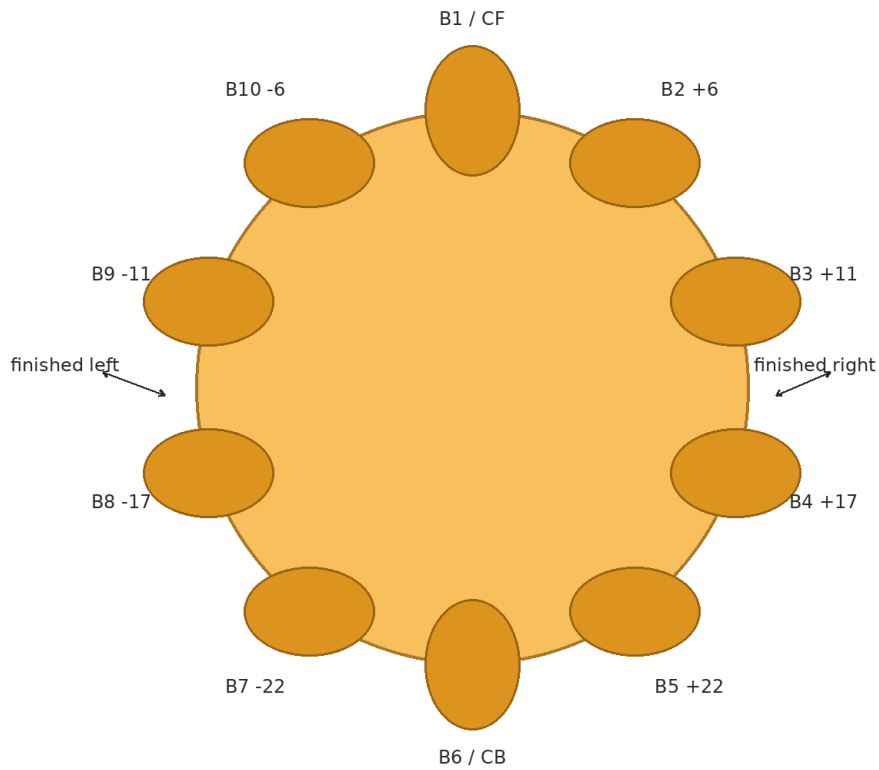
11. Feet Placement

1. Place the broom upright on a flat surface. Mark CF on the gathered base.
2. Pin one foot on each side of CF. Center the upper attachment area of each foot around Rows 9-12, with the finished foot centers approximately 4.6-4.8 cm / 1.8-1.9 in apart - about 2.3-2.4 cm / 0.9-0.95 in to either side of CF. Keep both feet pointing slightly forward so they remain clearly visible beneath the front bristles.
3. Check that both feet touch the surface at the same height. If one sits higher, move the attachment patch rather than overstuffing the foot.
4. Using Yarn B, ladder-stitch around the upper attachment area of each foot. Take small bites of body fabric and small bites of foot fabric, alternating sides. Tighten only enough to close the join neatly.

12. Bristle Placement

Use the 56-st section at Rows 21-22 as the attachment band. The flattened top of each bristle is approximately 6 stitches wide. Pin all ten bristles before sewing any one of them permanently.

TOP VIEW - 10 BRISTLE CENTERS



Center every flattened bristle top across Rows 21-22.
Let neighboring tops meet or overlap slightly rather than leaving gaps.

12A. Bristle Center Positions

Bristle	Center position on the 56-st attachment band
B1	Center front (CF).
B2	6 stitches toward the finished right from CF.
B3	11 stitches toward the finished right from CF.
B4	17 stitches toward the finished right from CF.
B5	22 stitches toward the finished right from CF.
B6	Center back (CB), directly over the body seam - 28 stitches from CF.
B7	22 stitches toward the finished left from CF.
B8	17 stitches toward the finished left from CF.
B9	11 stitches toward the finished left from CF.
B10	6 stitches toward the finished left from CF.

- 1. Place each flattened bristle top across Rows 21-22, centered on its marked position. The bristle seam faces the body and the smooth stockinette side faces outward.**
- With the listed center positions, neighboring flattened tops will either meet edge-to-edge at the 6-stitch intervals or overlap by about 1 stitch at the 5-stitch intervals. Pin the tops so no mustard body fabric is visible between them.
- Angle the lower halves slightly outward. B1 hangs at center front; B6 hangs at center back. The side bristles should fan gradually around the body rather than all pointing straight forward.
- Starting with B1 and B6, sew the flattened top edge of each bristle to the body. Every attachment stitch must pass through both layers of the flattened bristle top before entering the body fabric. Use small whip stitches with Yarn A.
- After B1 and B6 are secure, attach the paired positions symmetrically: B2 with B10, B3 with B9, B4 with B8, then B5 with B7. Recheck the broom on a flat surface after every pair.

13. Purple Tie and Final Finishing

- 1. Wrap the purple twisted cord around the broom at approximately Rows 22-24, directly over the upper bristle attachment area. Bring both ends to CF.**
- Tie a secure single knot, then form two rounded loops, each projecting approximately 3-3.25 cm / 1.2-1.3 in from the center knot, for an overall bow width of approximately 6-6.5 cm / 2.4-2.6 in. Let the two tails hang approximately 3-3.5 cm / 1.2-1.4 in below the knot. Trim excess cord after the bow is adjusted.
- If the bow slips, tack the center knot to the mustard body with two small Yarn C stitches. Do not sew down the loops unless you prefer a fixed shape.
- Shape each bristle with your fingers. The front blades should hang evenly, the side blades should fan slightly, and the back blades should cover the body seam area.
- Gently massage and redistribute the existing stuffing if the handle needs a small alignment adjustment. If additional stuffing is required, reopen 2-3 cm / 3/4-1 1/4 in of the collar-to-handle seam on the low side, add the stuffing, then re sew the opening.
- Bury all remaining yarn tails inside nearby stuffed pieces. Remove every temporary marker and pin.

14. Sewing Methods

Join	Method	Needle path
Body and handle long seams	Mattress stitch	Work under the horizontal bar just inside each edge stitch, alternating from one side to the other.

Join	Method	Needle path
Flattened bristle tops	Whip stitch through both layers	Pass through both layers of the flattened bristle top, then take a small bite of body fabric; repeat across the full top edge.
Feet	Ladder stitch	Alternate small bites of foot fabric and body fabric around the attachment patch; pull the seam closed gradually.
Collar to handle	Small whip stitches	Catch the collar BO edge and only a shallow bite of brown handle fabric.

15. Final Visual Checklist

- ☐ Face is centered beneath the handle.
- ☐ Eyes are level and evenly spaced.
- ☐ Smile is centered and not pulled too tight.
- ☐ Cheeks match in height and size.
- ☐ Handle is straight from front, side and back views.
- ☐ Rib collar sits evenly around the handle.
- ☐ Both feet touch the surface at the same height.
- ☐ Ten bristles are attached and distributed around the full circumference.
- ☐ Front bristles meet or overlap neatly without a center gap.
- ☐ Back bristles cover the center-back body seam.
- ☐ Bristle tips are at similar heights, with only slight natural variation.
- ☐ Purple bow is centered at CF.
- ☐ No stuffing is visible through stitches.
- ☐ No seam or stuffing opening remains unsecured.
- ☐ All yarn tails and temporary markers have been removed.

16. Troubleshooting

Problem	Practical correction
Stuffing shows between stitches	Use a smaller needle size or reduce stuffing density. The knitted fabric should remain firm without visibly stretching the stitch columns.
Finished broom is too large or too small	Recheck the 24-st x 34-row stockinette gauge. A different stitch gauge changes width; a different row gauge changes body, handle and bristle lengths.
Handle leans	Check that it is inserted about 4 cm / 1.5 in and that both perpendicular anchor stitches pass through the handle. Gently massage and redistribute the existing stuffing. If additional stuffing is required, reopen 2-3 cm / 3/4-1 1/4 in of the collar-to-handle seam on the low side, add the stuffing, then resew the opening.
Body base is too round to stand well	Redistribute stuffing upward and keep the gathered lower edge relatively flat. The feet should carry the front balance while the bristle skirt lightly touches the surface.
One foot sits higher	Move the attachment patch slightly lower rather than adding more stuffing to that foot.

Problem	Practical correction
Bristles leave visible gaps	Recheck the listed center positions. At the 6-stitch intervals, neighboring tops should meet edge-to-edge; at the 5-stitch intervals, they should overlap by about 1 stitch. Repin the tops so no mustard body fabric shows between them.
Bristle tips curl sideways	Make sure the long seam faces inward toward the body. Lightly finger-roll the blade and reduce stuffing if it has become too rigid.
Eyes look uneven after stuffing	Before attaching the bristles, adjust stuffing around the face. If embroidered, unpick the uneven eye and restitch it using the same row and stitch spacing as the other eye.
Rib collar is loose around the handle	Use a few extra discreet collar-to-handle whip stitches at CF, CB and both sides. Do not pull the rib itself into sharp gathers.
Center-back seam twists	Lay the piece flat before seaming and match row ends in pairs. Mattress stitch a few centimeters at a time, checking that the knit columns remain vertical.
Mustard and brown fabrics feel different in scale	Check the stockinette gauge for each structural yarn. Adjust needle size for the yarn that differs so the handle diameter and body proportions remain balanced.

17. Quick Assembly Summary

Step	Action
1	Knit the body, handle, 10 bristle blades and 2 feet. Make the purple twisted cord.
2	Place the eyes in the flat body between Rows 29 and 30.
3	Seam the body at center back, gather the base and stuff through the collar opening.
4	Embroider the smile and cheeks.
5	Insert the handle about 4 cm / 1.5 in, anchor it in two directions, make the final stuffing adjustment, then stitch the collar to the handle.
6	Attach the two feet to the lower front underside.
7	Pin all ten bristles around Rows 21-22 and sew them in mirrored pairs.
8	Tie on the purple cord at Rows 22-24 and tack the center knot if needed.
9	Complete the final visual checklist and bury all remaining yarn tails.

Mabel is complete when the handle stands straight, the face sits centered beneath the collar, the feet balance evenly, and the bristle skirt forms a full circle with no open seams or visible stuffing.

Happy knitting!