



CELESTE THE SLEEPY CRESCENT MOON

Free Knitting Pattern

Soft stuffed moon with a sleepy embroidered face and dangling knitted star



Skill level: Intermediate

Pattern at a glance The moon is knitted flat as two mirrored stockinette panels, embroidered before assembly, then joined with a visible whip-stitch edge. The star begins in the round, its five points are worked flat, and a 3-stitch I-cord suspends it from the upper inner curve.

About this pattern

This pattern makes a softly stuffed crescent moon with a calm sleepy face and a small knitted star hanging inside the upper curve. The shaping is created entirely with increases and decreases, so the crescent grows from the lower point to the upper point without short rows. The main moon pieces are worked flat; the star center is worked in the round and each star point is finished flat.

Finished size

Moon height	Approximately 27-29 cm / 10.5-11.5 in
Moon width	Approximately 22-24 cm / 8.75-9.5 in at the widest point
Stuffed depth	Approximately 4-5 cm / 1.5-2 in
Star	Approximately 6-6.5 cm / 2.4-2.6 in across
I-cord	Approximately 2.2-2.5 cm / 0.9-1 in long

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

Finished project views



Front, side, back, and three-quarter views show the crescent depth, visible edge seam, and star position.

Materials and tools

DK / light-worsted yarn (#3), warm golden yellow:
about 120 g / 270 m / 295 yd

3.5 mm straight needles for the moon panels

Small amount of soft pink yarn or embroidery floss for
cheeks

3.25 mm DPNs or a long circular needle for the star
and I-cord

Small amount of black yarn or embroidery floss for
face

Tapestry needle, scissors, pins, row counter

Polyester fiberfill: about 60-90 g

Two removable stitch markers for identifying panel
edges

Small amount of smooth waste yarn, optional, for
holding unworked star-point stitches

Gauge and tension

Moon fabric	22 sts x 30 rows = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in in stockinette on 3.5 mm needles, measured flat
Star fabric	About 24 sts x 32 rows = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in in stockinette on 3.25 mm needles

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

Abbreviations

BO - bind off

M1L - make 1 left

CO - cast on

M1R - make 1 right

k - knit

ssk - slip, slip, knit the 2 slipped stitches together

p - purl

RS - right side

k2tog - knit 2 stitches together

WS - wrong side

kfb - knit into front and back of the same stitch

st / sts - stitch / stitches

Increase details M1L: lift the strand between stitches from front to back and knit it through the back loop. M1R: lift the strand from back to front and knit it through the front loop. Work these increases firmly so the fabric stays dense.

Method and orientation

The moon panels are knitted flat in stockinette. Row 1 is an RS row; every even-numbered row is a WS row. Rows are numbered from the lower point upward to the upper point.

Front panel: with the RS facing, the left edge is the OUTER curve and the right edge is the INNER curve.

Back panel: with the RS facing, the right edge is the OUTER curve and the left edge is the INNER curve. This mirrors the shaping so both pieces align when their wrong sides are placed together.

Unless a panel edge is specifically named, left and right refer to the viewer's left and right when looking at the finished moon from the front.

The 1-stitch edge at each side becomes the visible seaming edge. Keep edge stitches neat and do not slip them.

Construction overview

Knit 1 front moon panel and 1 mirrored back moon panel.

Embroider the closed eyes, eyelashes, mouth, and blush on the front panel before seaming.

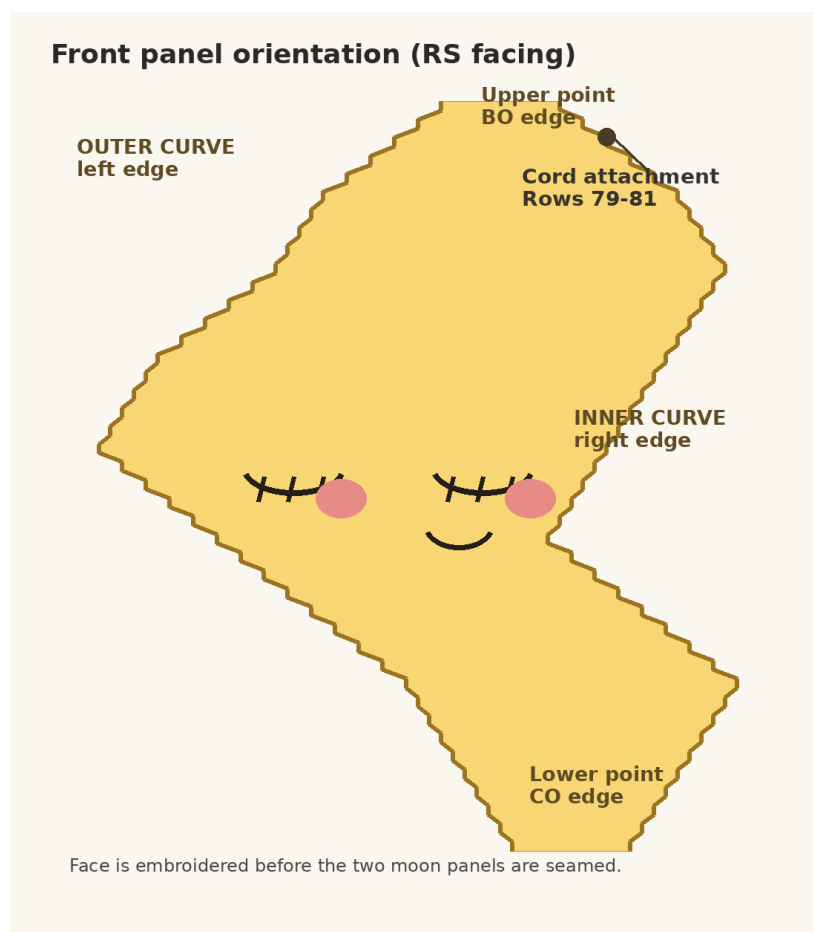
Place the moon panels wrong sides together and join them with an even whip stitch, leaving a lower outer-edge opening for stuffing.

Stuff the points lightly and the central body moderately firmly, then close the final moon opening.

Knit 2 star panels. Place them wrong sides together, seam most of the outline, lightly stuff the star, then close the remaining opening.

Knit 1 three-stitch I-cord and secure it between the upper inner curve of the moon and the top point of the star.

Shape the crescent by hand, check the face and star from the front and both sides, then bury all yarn tails.



Moon front panel

With 3.5 mm needles and golden-yellow yarn, CO 10 sts. Place a removable marker on the left edge to identify the outer curve. Begin with an RS row. Work Rows 1-42 below.

Row	Instruction	Count
1	Knit all sts.	10
2	Purl all sts.	10
3	k1, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	12
4	Purl all sts.	12
5	k1, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	14
6	Purl all sts.	14
7	k1, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	16
8	Purl all sts.	16
9	k1, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	18
10	Purl all sts.	18
11	k1, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	20
12	Purl all sts.	20
13	k1, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	22
14	Purl all sts.	22
15	k1, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	24
16	Purl all sts.	24
17	k1, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	26
18	Purl all sts.	26
19	k1, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	28
20	Purl all sts.	28
21	k1, M1L, k2, M1L, k to last 5 sts, k2tog, k2tog, k1.	28
22	Purl all sts.	28
23	k1, M1L, k2, M1L, k to last 5 sts, k2tog, k2tog, k1.	28
24	Purl all sts.	28
25	k1, M1L, k2, M1L, k to last 5 sts, k2tog, k2tog, k1.	28
26	Purl all sts.	28
27	k1, M1L, k2, M1L, k to last 5 sts, k2tog, k2tog, k1.	28
28	Purl all sts.	28
29	k1, M1L, k2, M1L, k to last 5 sts, k2tog, k2tog, k1.	28
30	Purl all sts.	28
31	k1, M1L, k2, M1L, k to last 5 sts, k2tog, k2tog, k1.	28
32	Purl all sts.	28
33	k1, M1L, k2, M1L, k to last 5 sts, k2tog, k2tog, k1.	28
34	Purl all sts.	28
35	k1, M1L, k2, M1L, k to last 5 sts, k2tog, k2tog, k1.	28
36	Purl all sts.	28
37	k1, M1L, k2, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	31
38	Purl all sts.	31
39	k1, M1L, k2, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	34
40	Purl all sts.	34
41	k1, M1L, k2, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	37
42	Purl all sts.	37

Moon front panel - continued

Continue directly from Row 42. Keep the left edge as the outer curve and the right edge as the inner curve.

Row	Instruction	Count
43	k1, M1L, k2, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	40
44	Purl all sts.	40
45	k1, M1L, k2, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	43
46	Purl all sts.	43
47	k1, ssk, k to last st, M1R, k1.	43
48	Purl all sts.	43
49	k1, ssk, k to last st, M1R, k1.	43
50	Purl all sts.	43
51	k1, ssk, k to last st, M1R, k1.	43
52	Purl all sts.	43
53	k1, ssk, k to last st, M1R, k1.	43
54	Purl all sts.	43
55	k1, ssk, k to last st, M1R, k1.	43
56	Purl all sts.	43
57	k1, ssk, ssk, k to last st, M1R, k1.	42
58	Purl all sts.	42
59	k1, ssk, ssk, k to last st, M1R, k1.	41
60	Purl all sts.	41
61	k1, ssk, ssk, k to last st, M1R, k1.	40
62	Purl all sts.	40
63	k1, ssk, ssk, k to last st, M1R, k1.	39
64	Purl all sts.	39
65	k1, ssk, ssk, k to last st, M1R, k1.	38
66	Purl all sts.	38
67	k1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1.	36
68	Purl all sts.	36
69	k1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1.	34
70	Purl all sts.	34
71	k1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1.	32
72	Purl all sts.	32
73	k1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1.	30
74	Purl all sts.	30
75	k1, ssk, ssk, k to last 5 sts, k2tog, k2tog, k1.	26
76	Purl all sts.	26
77	k1, ssk, ssk, k to last 5 sts, k2tog, k2tog, k1.	22
78	Purl all sts.	22
79	k1, ssk, ssk, k to last 5 sts, k2tog, k2tog, k1.	18
80	Purl all sts.	18
81	k1, ssk, ssk, k to last 5 sts, k2tog, k2tog, k1.	14
82	Purl all sts.	14
83	k1, ssk, ssk, k to last 5 sts, k2tog, k2tog, k1.	10
84	Purl all sts.	10

After Row 84, BO all 10 sts knitwise on the next RS row. Cut yarn, leaving a 30 cm / 12 in tail. Do not stuff yet.

Moon back panel

With 3.5 mm needles and golden-yellow yarn, CO 10 sts. Place a removable marker on the RIGHT edge to identify the outer curve. Begin with an RS row. Work Rows 1-42 below. These rows mirror the front shaping.

Row	Instruction	Count
1	Knit all sts.	10
2	Purl all sts.	10
3	k1, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	12
4	Purl all sts.	12
5	k1, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	14
6	Purl all sts.	14
7	k1, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	16
8	Purl all sts.	16
9	k1, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	18
10	Purl all sts.	18
11	k1, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	20
12	Purl all sts.	20
13	k1, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	22
14	Purl all sts.	22
15	k1, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	24
16	Purl all sts.	24
17	k1, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	26
18	Purl all sts.	26
19	k1, M1L, k to last st, M1R, k1.	28
20	Purl all sts.	28
21	k1, ssk, ssk, k to last 3 sts, M1R, k2, M1R, k1.	28
22	Purl all sts.	28
23	k1, ssk, ssk, k to last 3 sts, M1R, k2, M1R, k1.	28
24	Purl all sts.	28
25	k1, ssk, ssk, k to last 3 sts, M1R, k2, M1R, k1.	28
26	Purl all sts.	28
27	k1, ssk, ssk, k to last 3 sts, M1R, k2, M1R, k1.	28
28	Purl all sts.	28
29	k1, ssk, ssk, k to last 3 sts, M1R, k2, M1R, k1.	28
30	Purl all sts.	28
31	k1, ssk, ssk, k to last 3 sts, M1R, k2, M1R, k1.	28
32	Purl all sts.	28
33	k1, ssk, ssk, k to last 3 sts, M1R, k2, M1R, k1.	28
34	Purl all sts.	28
35	k1, ssk, ssk, k to last 3 sts, M1R, k2, M1R, k1.	28
36	Purl all sts.	28
37	k1, M1L, k to last 3 sts, M1R, k2, M1R, k1.	31
38	Purl all sts.	31
39	k1, M1L, k to last 3 sts, M1R, k2, M1R, k1.	34
40	Purl all sts.	34
41	k1, M1L, k to last 3 sts, M1R, k2, M1R, k1.	37
42	Purl all sts.	37

Moon back panel - continued

Continue directly from Row 42. Keep the right edge as the outer curve and the left edge as the inner curve.

Row	Instruction	Count
43	k1, M1L, k to last 3 sts, M1R, k2, M1R, k1.	40
44	Purl all sts.	40
45	k1, M1L, k to last 3 sts, M1R, k2, M1R, k1.	43
46	Purl all sts.	43
47	k1, M1L, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1.	43
48	Purl all sts.	43
49	k1, M1L, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1.	43
50	Purl all sts.	43
51	k1, M1L, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1.	43
52	Purl all sts.	43
53	k1, M1L, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1.	43
54	Purl all sts.	43
55	k1, M1L, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1.	43
56	Purl all sts.	43
57	k1, M1L, k to last 5 sts, k2tog, k2tog, k1.	42
58	Purl all sts.	42
59	k1, M1L, k to last 5 sts, k2tog, k2tog, k1.	41
60	Purl all sts.	41
61	k1, M1L, k to last 5 sts, k2tog, k2tog, k1.	40
62	Purl all sts.	40
63	k1, M1L, k to last 5 sts, k2tog, k2tog, k1.	39
64	Purl all sts.	39
65	k1, M1L, k to last 5 sts, k2tog, k2tog, k1.	38
66	Purl all sts.	38
67	k1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1.	36
68	Purl all sts.	36
69	k1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1.	34
70	Purl all sts.	34
71	k1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1.	32
72	Purl all sts.	32
73	k1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1.	30
74	Purl all sts.	30
75	k1, ssk, ssk, k to last 5 sts, k2tog, k2tog, k1.	26
76	Purl all sts.	26
77	k1, ssk, ssk, k to last 5 sts, k2tog, k2tog, k1.	22
78	Purl all sts.	22
79	k1, ssk, ssk, k to last 5 sts, k2tog, k2tog, k1.	18
80	Purl all sts.	18
81	k1, ssk, ssk, k to last 5 sts, k2tog, k2tog, k1.	14
82	Purl all sts.	14
83	k1, ssk, ssk, k to last 5 sts, k2tog, k2tog, k1.	10
84	Purl all sts.	10

After Row 84, BO all 10 sts knitwise on the next RS row. Cut yarn, leaving a 30 cm / 12 in tail. Do not stuff yet.

Sleepy face embroidery

Work all facial details on the FRONT panel with the RS facing. Count stitches from the front panel's outer (left) edge. Count rows upward from the CO edge. Use the stockinette columns as a guide and keep the embroidery relaxed so the fabric does not pucker.

Closed eyes and eyelashes

Left eye: make a shallow curved black line from the gap after st 11 on Row 45 to the gap after st 19 on Row 45, dipping to the gap after st 15 on Row 43.

Right eye: mirror the first eye from the gap after st 27 on Row 45 to the gap after st 35 on Row 45, dipping to the gap after st 31 on Row 43.

Add three short lashes below each eye. Place them approximately at sts 12, 15, and 18 for the left eye and sts 28, 31, and 34 for the right eye. Each lash should extend about 1-2 rows downward.

Mouth and blush

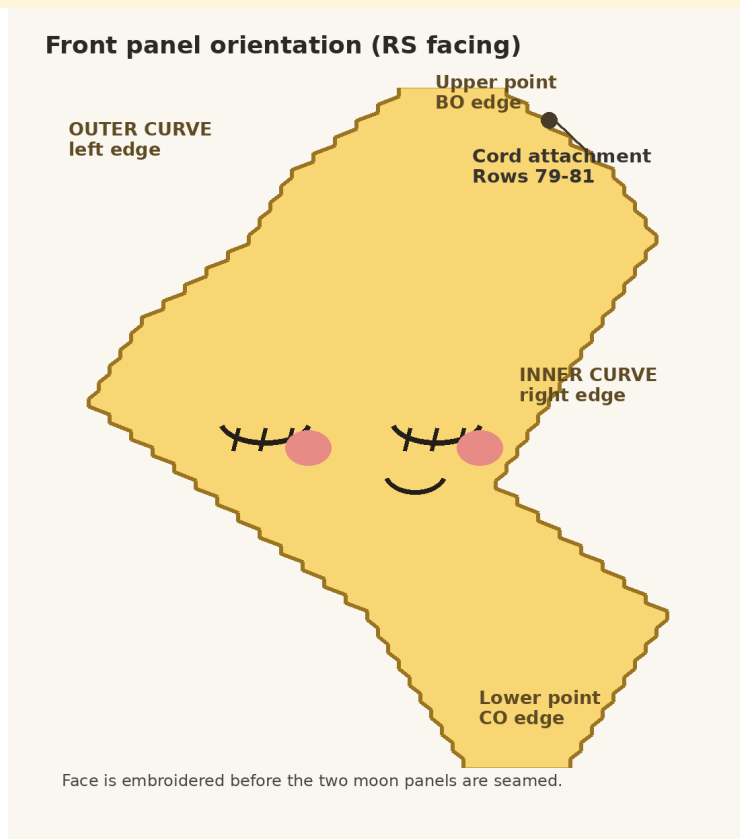
Mouth: make a small U-shaped black line with endpoints near the gaps after sts 21 and 25 on Row 39, dipping to about Row 37 at the center.

Left cheek: duplicate stitch a soft pink block approximately 3 sts wide x 3 rows high over sts 14-16 and Rows 39-41.

Right cheek: mirror the blush over sts 30-32 and Rows 39-41.

Secure all embroidery tails on the WS. Keep knots small and away from the outermost edge stitches so the joining seam remains smooth.

Placement check Lay the front panel flat and view it from arm's length before assembly. Both eyes should sit level, the mouth should be centered between them, and the cheeks should be balanced without touching the inner curve.



Knitted star - make 2 panels

Use 3.25 mm DPNs or a long circular needle and golden-yellow yarn. The center is worked in the round; the five points are then worked flat one at a time.

Star center

CO	CO 5 sts, distribute as evenly as possible over 3 needles, and join to work in the round without twisting.
Rnd 1	Knit all 5 sts. (5 sts)
Rnd 2	kfb in each st around. (10 sts)
Rnd 3	kfb in each st around. (20 sts)

Snug the center opening gently with the CO tail. Do not pull hard enough to distort the center. Divide the 20 sts into five consecutive groups of 4 sts. Keep unworked groups on the needle cable or waste yarn while each point is made.

Each star point - work 5 times

Row 1 (RS)	k4. (4 sts)
Row 2 (WS)	p4. (4 sts)
Row 3 (RS)	ssk, k2tog. (2 sts)
Row 4 (WS)	p2. (2 sts)
Row 5 (RS)	k2tog. (1 st)

Cut yarn leaving a 12 cm / 5 in tail and pull it through the final st. Rejoin yarn to the next group of 4 held sts with the RS facing and work Rows 1-5 again. Continue until all five points are complete. Weave point tails toward the center. Make a second star panel in the same way.

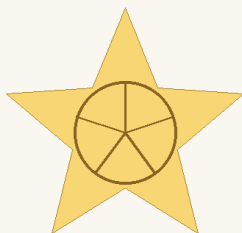
Three-stitch I-cord

With 3.25 mm DPNs or a long circular needle, CO 3 sts, leaving a 20 cm / 8 in cast-on tail for attachment. Do not turn the work.

Rows 1-7	k3. After Rows 1-6, without turning, slide the 3 sts back to the opposite needle tip and pull the working yarn firmly across the back, ready to knit the next row. (3 sts)
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After Row 7, cut yarn leaving a 20 cm / 8 in tail. Draw the tail through all 3 sts and pull snug. The cord should measure approximately 2.2-2.5 cm / 0.9-1 in. If necessary, adjust by no more than 1 row so the star hangs in the upper part of the crescent as shown. Do not weave in either I-cord tail before assembly.

Star construction map



Center:

Work 3 rounds to 20 sts.

Points 1-5:

Each point uses the next 4 sts and is worked flat to 1 st.

Make 2 star panels, seam them wrong sides together, lightly stuff, then close the final gap.

Assembly

1. Prepare the moon panels

Lay both moon panels flat with their wrong sides touching and right sides facing outward. Match the CO edges, BO edges, outer curve, and inner curve. The mirrored shaping should align without stretching. Pin every 4-5 cm / 1.5-2 in around the perimeter.

2. Join with a visible whip stitch

Thread a tapestry needle with a comfortable length of golden-yellow yarn. Starting near the lower point, pass the needle through one edge loop from the front panel and the matching edge loop from the back panel. Wrap the yarn over the edge and repeat at the next pair of loops. Work one joining stitch for approximately every knitted row, easing gently around the shaping rows. Keep the seam visible but not tight enough to curl the edge.

Continue around the upper point and inner curve, then around the outer curve. Leave a 7-8 cm / 2.75-3.1 in opening along the lower outer curve, approximately over Rows 10-24, for stuffing.

Visible whip-stitch edge

Front panel edge



Back panel edge

Pass the tapestry needle through one edge loop from each panel, then wrap over the edge to the next matching pair. Keep the tension even

3. Stuff and close the moon

Insert small pieces of fiberfill into the upper and lower points first. Keep the tips lightly filled so they remain tapered.

Add more stuffing to the broad center of the moon, working in small amounts. Aim for a softly rounded surface without stretching the stitches.

Keep the inner concave edge slightly softer than the outer curve so the crescent opening remains clear and smooth.

Check the front and both sides. Redistribute stuffing until the moon sits evenly without a hard ridge.

Close the stuffing opening with the same visible whip stitch, matching the spacing already used around the edge. Secure and bury the yarn tail inside the moon.

Assembly - continued

4. Assemble the star

Place the two star panels wrong sides together. Starting at the valley between two points, whip stitch around the outline through matching edge loops. Leave a 2 cm / 0.75 in gap on one side of a lower point. Add a small amount of fiberfill, concentrating it in the center and using only tiny amounts in the points. Close the final gap and bury the tail.

5. Attach the cord and star

Use one I-cord tail to sew the cord securely to the moon at the inner-edge seam over Rows 79-81. Pass the needle through both moon panel layers for 3-4 small stitches so the attachment is reinforced.

Position the star so one point faces upward. Sew the opposite I-cord end to the seam at that top point, again taking several small stitches through both star layers.

Hold the moon upright. The star should hang inside the crescent, clear of the embroidered face. Rotate the star slightly if needed before making the final securing stitch.

Bury both cord tails inside the stuffed pieces.

Finishing and shaping

Gently roll the outer curve between your palms to smooth any uneven stuffing.

Pinch and smooth the upper and lower points so they taper cleanly without becoming flat.

Massage the inner curve inward with your fingertips to emphasize the crescent opening.

Straighten the visible whip-stitch ridge with the tapestry needle tip if any joining stitches have twisted.

Remove all temporary markers and pins. Check that every yarn tail has been secured and buried.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Practical correction
Panels do not line up	Confirm that the back panel was worked with mirrored left/right shaping. Match row numbers rather than stretching one edge to fit the other.
Crescent opening looks too narrow	Remove a little stuffing from the inner curve and move it toward the outer curve. Smooth the inner seam inward with your fingers.
Moon looks flat	If the stuffing opening has already been closed, reopen approximately 2-3 cm / 0.75-1.25 in of the lower outer-curve seam. Add small amounts of fiberfill to the broad center, then re sew the opening with matching whip stitches. Do not overfill the points.
Stuffing shows through stitches	Use smaller pieces of fiberfill and a denser fabric. If needed for a future moon, move down one needle size while keeping gauge close.
Face looks off-center after stuffing	Massage the stuffing behind the face away from the inner curve. The embroidery should lie on the flattest central area.
Whip-stitch edge puckers	Loosen the joining yarn a few stitches at a time. Each seam stitch should bridge the edge rather than pull the two panels tightly together.
Star twists on the cord	Using a short new length of golden-yellow yarn, add one extra securing stitch from the I-cord into the star seam at the back of the top point. Secure and bury the new yarn ends.
One star point looks bulky	Move stuffing back toward the star center. The points need only a trace of filling.

Problem	Practical correction
Finished size is too large or small	Check the moon gauge first, then the star gauge. Adjust needle size before changing the written stitch counts.

Final visual checklist

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|--|---|
| ☐ Crescent has a clear inner opening | ☐ Whip-stitch edge is even |
| ☐ Upper and lower points taper smoothly | ☐ No stuffing is visible |
| ☐ Face sits level and centered | ☐ Star is lightly filled and symmetrical |
| ☐ Eyes are balanced and eyelashes match | ☐ Star hangs clear of the face |
| ☐ Mouth is centered beneath the eyes | ☐ No open seams or trapped markers |
| ☐ Cheeks are even | ☐ All yarn tails are secured and buried |

Quick reference

Moon panels	Front and mirrored back: CO 10 sts, work Rows 1-84, then BO 10 sts.
Face placement	Eyes around Rows 43-45; mouth around Rows 37-39; cheeks over Rows 39-41.
Stuffing opening	Leave the lower outer curve open approximately over Rows 10-24, then close after stuffing.
Cord attachment	Secure the I-cord through both moon layers at the inner-edge seam over Rows 79-81.
Star and cord	Star center: 20 sts divided into 5 groups of 4. I-cord: 3 sts for 7 rows.
Edge finish	Whip stitch through matching front/back edge loops, using about one joining stitch per knitted row.