



FERN THE GENTLE DIPLODOCUS

Free Knitting Pattern

A soft long-neck dinosaur with a cream belly, rounded feet and tiny brown claws



SKILL LEVEL
Intermediate

METHOD
Knitted in the round + flat panels

FINISHED HEIGHT
Approx. 31-34 cm / 12.25-13.5 in

1. Introduction

This pattern makes a friendly stuffed diplodocus with an upright neck, rounded body, gently tapered tail, cream throat and belly panels, and four broad feet. The main pieces are knitted in stockinette stitch in the round; the cream panels and tiny claws are knitted flat. The shaping uses simple increases and decreases, while the assembly relies on careful pinning and neat mattress or ladder stitching.

The pattern is best suited to knitters who are comfortable working small circumferences on double-pointed needles or with the magic-loop method, reading round-by-round instructions, and sewing stuffed pieces together.

2. Finished Size

Feature	Approximate metric	Approximate imperial
Overall standing height	31-34 cm	12.25-13.5 in
Nose to tail tip	39-43 cm	15.25-17 in
Body length	16-18 cm	6.25-7 in
Body width at fullest point	10-12 cm	4-4.75 in
Head length	11-13 cm	4.25-5 in
Neck, shoulder to jaw	13-15 cm	5-6 in
Tail length	12-14 cm	4.75-5.5 in
Upper leg length	7-8 cm	2.75-3.25 in
Foot length	5.5-6.5 cm	2.25-2.5 in

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

3. Materials and Tools

Item	Suggested amount / specification
Fern Green yarn	Worsted / aran weight (CYC 4), smooth plied yarn; approx. 320-360 m / 350-395 yd
Warm Cream yarn	Same weight; approx. 80-100 m / 88-110 yd
Cocoa Brown yarn	Same weight or slightly finer; approx. 20-25 m / 22-27 yd
Needles	3.75 mm (US 5) DPNs, or a circular needle long enough for magic loop
Safety eyes	2 black safety eyes, 12 mm; embroidered eyes may be used instead
Stuffing	Polyester fibre filling, approx. 180-230 g
Notions	Tapestry needle, stitch marker, locking markers or scrap yarn, pins, scissors, measuring tape

4. Safety Note

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. Check every sewn attachment and buried yarn tail before the dinosaur is handled.

5. Gauge and Tension

Main pieces, stockinette in the round: 22 sts × 30 rnds = 10 × 10 cm / 4 × 4 in on 3.75 mm (US 5) needles, measured before stuffing.

Flat Cream panels, stockinette centre: aim for 22 sts × 30 rows = 10 × 10 cm / 4 × 4 in. Check both stitch and row gauge because the panel lengths are determined by their written row counts. Do not stretch a short panel to make it reach its attachment points.

Use a firm, dense fabric so stuffing does not show between stitches. If the main fabric is loose, move down one needle size; if it is very stiff and difficult to knit, move up one needle size and recheck gauge.

6. Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
BO	bind off
BOR	beginning of round
CO	cast on
k	knit
k2tog	knit 2 stitches together; decreases 1 stitch
kfb	knit into the front and back of the same stitch; increases 1 stitch
p	purl
RS	right side
st / sts	stitch / stitches
WS	wrong side
rnd / rnds	round / rounds
row / rows	row / rows

7. Method and Orientation

- Main green pieces are worked in stockinette stitch in continuous, unturned rounds. Knit every stitch unless the instruction states otherwise.
- Flat cream panels and brown claws are worked back and forth. Odd-numbered panel rows are RS rows and even-numbered panel rows are WS rows.
- Place the BOR marker before the first stitch of each round and move it up as you work. On the body, legs, feet, tail and neck, BOR is treated as the centre underside or inner line unless another position is stated.
- Right and left are described from the finished dinosaur's point of view.
- When sewing an open knitted tube to another piece, pass the needle through one edge stitch of the tube and only the outer fabric layer of the receiving piece unless the instruction tells you to capture both layers.
- Use small amounts of stuffing at a time. Firm stuffing gives the neck support, but the feet and tail tip should remain slightly softer.

8. Construction Overview

Piece	Quantity	Construction and finishing
Body	1	Knitted from chest to rump in the round; stuffed firmly and fully closed.
Belly panel	1	Warm Cream; knitted flat; sewn to underside of body, with front edge left loose until neck is attached.
Head	1	Knitted from rear crown toward snout; eyes placed before closing; stuffed firmly; snout gathered closed.
Neck	1	Open tube, narrower at head and slightly wider at body; throat panel sewn on before final assembly.
Throat panel	1	Warm Cream; knitted flat; top edge is tucked into the head/neck seam and lower edge into the neck/body seam.
Upper legs	4	Knitted in the round from open top to closed ankle; moderately stuffed.
Feet	4	Knitted from open heel to closed toe; lightly stuffed; sewn to lower front of each upper leg.
Claws	12	Three Cocoa Brown knitted nubs for each foot.
Tail	1	Knitted from open base to closed tip; lightly to moderately stuffed; sewn to rear body.

Piece	Quantity	Construction and finishing
Decorative seam lines	As shown	Centre-back line from rear crown to tail tip; Cream outline at neck/body seam; rings around all four leg/body seams and tail base.

Recommended Assembly Order

1. Finish the head: install safety eyes or retain eye markers for embroidery, stuff, close the snout, and add the face.
2. Finish the body and sew on the cream belly panel, leaving only the front 2-3 panel rows temporarily loose.
3. Sew the cream throat panel to the neck, leaving its top 2 rows and lower 2 rows temporarily loose.
4. Attach the neck to the head, stuff the neck firmly, then attach the neck to the body. Secure the loose cream panel edges into these seams.
5. Finish and attach the tail.
6. Assemble each foot to an upper leg, add three claws to each foot, then attach all four legs to the body.
7. Add the cream decorative running stitches, check alignment from all sides, secure every yarn tail, and remove markers.

9. Finished-View Guide

Use these views while pinning the neck, legs and tail. The dinosaur should stand with the head centred over the chest, the front and rear legs mirrored from side to side, and the tail leaving the body on the centre-back line.



Front, side, three-quarter and rear checks for overall balance and placement.

10. Body - Make 1 in Fern Green

The body is worked from the chest end toward the rump. After Rnd 3, use the starting tail to run through the cast-on edge and pull the centre closed; secure the tail on the inside. Keep the BOR at centre underside. Begin stuffing once the body is more than half complete, keeping the chest rounded and the underside slightly flatter than the back.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
CO	Cast on 6 sts in Fern Green. Distribute for knitting in the round, join without twisting, and place the BOR marker. Leave a 20 cm / 8 in tail for closing the cast-on centre.	6
1	Kfb in each st around.	12 sts
2	(K1, kfb) 6 times.	18 sts
3	(K2, kfb) 6 times.	24 sts
4	K all sts.	24 sts
5	(K3, kfb) 6 times.	30 sts
6	K all sts.	30 sts
7	(K4, kfb) 6 times.	36 sts
8	K all sts.	36 sts
9	(K5, kfb) 6 times.	42 sts
10	K all sts.	42 sts
11	(K6, kfb) 6 times.	48 sts
12	K all sts.	48 sts
13	(K7, kfb) 6 times.	54 sts
14	K all sts.	54 sts
15	(K8, kfb) 6 times.	60 sts
16	K all sts.	60 sts
17	(K9, kfb) 6 times.	66 sts
18	K all sts.	66 sts
19	(K10, kfb) 6 times.	72 sts
20	K all sts.	72 sts
21	K all sts.	72 sts
22	K all sts.	72 sts
23	K all sts.	72 sts
24	K all sts.	72 sts
25	K all sts.	72 sts
26	K all sts.	72 sts
27	K all sts.	72 sts
28	K all sts.	72 sts
29	K all sts.	72 sts
30	K all sts.	72 sts
31	K all sts.	72 sts
32	K all sts.	72 sts
33	K all sts.	72 sts
34	K all sts.	72 sts
35	K all sts.	72 sts
36	(K10, k2tog) 6 times.	66 sts
37	K all sts.	66 sts
38	(K9, k2tog) 6 times.	60 sts
39	K all sts.	60 sts
40	(K8, k2tog) 6 times.	54 sts
41	K all sts.	54 sts
42	(K7, k2tog) 6 times.	48 sts
43	K all sts.	48 sts
44	(K6, k2tog) 6 times.	42 sts
45	K all sts.	42 sts
46	(K5, k2tog) 6 times.	36 sts

Rnd	Instruction	Count
47	(K4, k2tog) 6 times.	30 sts
48	(K3, k2tog) 6 times.	24 sts
49	(K2, k2tog) 6 times.	18 sts
50	(K1, k2tog) 6 times.	12 sts
51	K2tog 6 times.	6 sts

After Rnd 45, add most of the stuffing. After Rnd 50, add the final small amounts through the remaining opening. Cut the yarn leaving a 25 cm / 10 in tail, thread it through the 6 remaining sts, pull firmly closed, secure, and bury the tail inside the body.

11. Belly Panel - Make 1 in Warm Cream

The first and last stitch of every WS row is knitted to form a neat edge for sewing. Do not stretch the panel while measuring or pinning.

Finished flat measurement before sewing: approximately 12 cm / 4.75 in long, approximately 6.4 cm / 2.5 in at the 14-st widest section.

Row	Instruction	Count
CO	Cast on 8 sts in Warm Cream. Work back and forth, turning after every row.	8 sts
1	K1, kfb, k4, kfb, k1.	10 sts
2	K1, p8, k1.	10 sts
3	K1, kfb, k6, kfb, k1.	12 sts
4	K1, p10, k1.	12 sts
5	K1, kfb, k8, kfb, k1.	14 sts
6	K1, p12, k1.	14 sts
7	K all 14 sts.	14 sts
8	K1, p12, k1.	14 sts
9	K all 14 sts.	14 sts
10	K1, p12, k1.	14 sts
11	K all 14 sts.	14 sts
12	K1, p12, k1.	14 sts
13	K all 14 sts.	14 sts
14	K1, p12, k1.	14 sts
15	K all 14 sts.	14 sts
16	K1, p12, k1.	14 sts
17	K all 14 sts.	14 sts
18	K1, p12, k1.	14 sts
19	K all 14 sts.	14 sts
20	K1, p12, k1.	14 sts
21	K all 14 sts.	14 sts
22	K1, p12, k1.	14 sts
23	K all 14 sts.	14 sts
24	K1, p12, k1.	14 sts
25	K all 14 sts.	14 sts
26	K1, p12, k1.	14 sts
27	K all 14 sts.	14 sts
28	K1, p12, k1.	14 sts
29	K1, k2tog, k8, k2tog, k1.	12 sts
30	K1, p10, k1.	12 sts
31	K1, k2tog, k6, k2tog, k1.	10 sts
32	K1, p8, k1.	10 sts
33	K1, k2tog, k4, k2tog, k1.	8 sts
34	K1, p6, k1.	8 sts
35	K all 8 sts.	8 sts
36	K1, p6, k1.	8 sts
BO	Bind off all 8 sts loosely. Leave a 70 cm / 28 in tail for sewing the panel to the body.	8 sts

12. Head - Make 1 in Fern Green

The head is worked from the rounded rear crown toward the snout. After Rnd 3, use the starting tail to gather the cast-on centre closed and secure it on the inside. Treat the BOR as the centre underside of the head.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
CO	Cast on 6 sts in Fern Green. Distribute for knitting in the round, join without twisting, and place the BOR marker. Leave a 20 cm / 8 in tail to close the rear crown centre.	6
1	Kfb in each st around.	12 sts
2	(K1, kfb) 6 times.	18 sts
3	(K2, kfb) 6 times.	24 sts
4	(K3, kfb) 6 times.	30 sts
5	(K4, kfb) 6 times.	36 sts
6	(K5, kfb) 6 times.	42 sts
7	(K6, kfb) 6 times.	48 sts
8	K all sts.	48 sts
9	K all sts.	48 sts
10	K all sts.	48 sts
11	K all sts.	48 sts
12	K all sts.	48 sts
13	K all sts.	48 sts
14	K all sts.	48 sts
15	K all sts.	48 sts
16	(K6, k2tog) 6 times.	42 sts
17	K all sts.	42 sts
18	(K5, k2tog) 6 times.	36 sts
19	K all sts.	36 sts
20	K all sts.	36 sts
21	K all sts.	36 sts
22	(K4, k2tog) 6 times.	30 sts
23	K all sts.	30 sts
24	K all sts.	30 sts
25	K all sts.	30 sts
26	K all sts.	30 sts
27	(K3, k2tog) 6 times.	24 sts
28	K all sts.	24 sts
29	K all sts.	24 sts
30	K all sts.	24 sts
31	K all sts.	24 sts
32	(K2, k2tog) 6 times.	18 sts
33	K all sts.	18 sts
34	K all sts.	18 sts
35	K all sts.	18 sts
36	K all sts.	18 sts
37	(K1, k2tog) 6 times.	12 sts
38	K2tog 6 times.	6 sts

Eye Placement - Before Head Rnd 22

After Rnd 21, lightly stuff the rear half of the head so the shape is visible. Lay the head with the BOR at centre underside and the cinched cast-on centre at the rear. Place the eye stems between Head Rnds 13 and 14, one at each side midline. On the 48-st section, each eye sits approximately one quarter of the way around the round from the BOR in opposite directions. Check from the front of the snout and from the top before attaching the washers.

For embroidered eyes, place removable yarn markers at the same positions and leave them in place until the head is stuffed and closed. Embroider each eye later as a compact vertical black oval about 1.0-1.2 cm / 3/8-1/2 in tall.

Head Stuffing and Closure

Begin firm stuffing after Rnd 26, pushing filling into the rear crown and around the eye area without distorting the eye positions. Keep the last 8-10 snout rounds moderately stuffed so the muzzle remains softly rounded rather than hard. After Rnd 38, cut the yarn leaving a 25 cm / 10 in tail, thread it through the 6 remaining sts, pull closed at the nose tip, secure, and bury the tail.

Facial Embroidery

- Nostrils: with Cocoa Brown, make two small oval satin-stitch marks across Head Rnds 34-35 on the upper snout. Keep them level and about 3-4 sts apart.
- Mouth: With Cocoa Brown, backstitch one continuous shallow U-shaped smile. Place the two side endpoints around Head Rnds 23–25, mirrored on the lower sides of the head approximately 5–6 sts to either side of BOR. Carry each side forward toward the muzzle so the lowest/front portion of the smile passes through approximately Head Rnds 34–36 near the centre underside. Keep both sides equal in length and keep the centre dip shallow.
- If using embroidered eyes, work them now at the retained markers. Check that both eyes are level before securing the yarn inside the head.

13. Neck - Make 1 in Fern Green

The neck is an open tube at both ends. The narrower cast-on edge attaches to the head and the wider bound-off edge attaches to the body. Do not stuff the neck until the throat panel has been sewn on and the upper edge has been attached to the head.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
CO	Cast on 36 sts in Fern Green. Join in the round without twisting and place the BOR marker at the centre-front/underside line. Leave a 35 cm / 14 in tail for the head seam.	36
1	K all sts.	36 sts
2	K all sts.	36 sts
3	K all sts.	36 sts
4	K all sts.	36 sts
5	K all sts.	36 sts
6	K all sts.	36 sts
7	K all sts.	36 sts
8	K all sts.	36 sts
9	K all sts.	36 sts
10	K all sts.	36 sts
11	K all sts.	36 sts
12	K all sts.	36 sts
13	K all sts.	36 sts
14	K all sts.	36 sts
15	K all sts.	36 sts
16	K all sts.	36 sts
17	K all sts.	36 sts
18	K all sts.	36 sts
19	(K5, kfb) 6 times.	42 sts
20	K all sts.	42 sts
21	K all sts.	42 sts
22	K all sts.	42 sts
23	K all sts.	42 sts
24	K all sts.	42 sts
25	K all sts.	42 sts
26	K all sts.	42 sts
27	K all sts.	42 sts
28	K all sts.	42 sts
29	K all sts.	42 sts
30	K all sts.	42 sts
31	K all sts.	42 sts
32	K all sts.	42 sts
33	K all sts.	42 sts
34	K all sts.	42 sts
35	K all sts.	42 sts
36	K all sts.	42 sts
37	K all sts.	42 sts
38	K all sts.	42 sts
39	K all sts.	42 sts
40	K all sts.	42 sts
41	K all sts.	42 sts
42	K all sts.	42 sts
43	K all sts.	42 sts
44	K all sts.	42 sts
BO	Bind off all sts loosely in knit. Leave a 60 cm / 24 in tail for the body seam.	42 sts

14. Throat Panel - Make 1 in Warm Cream

The panel widens gradually toward the body. The knitted edge stitches form a stable sewing line. Keep the panel flat and do not block it wider than the neck front.

Finished flat measurement before sewing: approximately 14 cm / 5.5 in long, approximately 4.5 cm / 1.8 in wide at the 10-st head end, widening to approximately 6.4 cm / 2.5 in at the 14-st body end.

Row	Instruction	Count
CO	Cast on 10 sts in Warm Cream. Work back and forth, turning after every row.	10 sts
1	K all 10 sts.	10 sts
2	K1, p8, k1.	10 sts
3	K all 10 sts.	10 sts
4	K1, p8, k1.	10 sts
5	K all 10 sts.	10 sts
6	K1, p8, k1.	10 sts
7	K all 10 sts.	10 sts
8	K1, p8, k1.	10 sts
9	K all 10 sts.	10 sts
10	K1, p8, k1.	10 sts
11	K all 10 sts.	10 sts
12	K1, p8, k1.	10 sts
13	K1, kfb, k6, kfb, k1.	12 sts
14	K1, p10, k1.	12 sts
15	K all 12 sts.	12 sts
16	K1, p10, k1.	12 sts
17	K all 12 sts.	12 sts
18	K1, p10, k1.	12 sts
19	K all 12 sts.	12 sts
20	K1, p10, k1.	12 sts
21	K all 12 sts.	12 sts
22	K1, p10, k1.	12 sts
23	K all 12 sts.	12 sts
24	K1, p10, k1.	12 sts
25	K all 12 sts.	12 sts
26	K1, p10, k1.	12 sts
27	K1, kfb, k8, kfb, k1.	14 sts
28	K1, p12, k1.	14 sts
29	K all 14 sts.	14 sts
30	K1, p12, k1.	14 sts
31	K all 14 sts.	14 sts
32	K1, p12, k1.	14 sts
33	K all 14 sts.	14 sts
34	K1, p12, k1.	14 sts
35	K all 14 sts.	14 sts
36	K1, p12, k1.	14 sts
37	K all 14 sts.	14 sts
38	K1, p12, k1.	14 sts
39	K all 14 sts.	14 sts
40	K1, p12, k1.	14 sts
41	K all 14 sts.	14 sts
42	K1, p12, k1.	14 sts
BO	Bind off all 14 sts loosely. Leave a 70 cm / 28 in tail for sewing the panel along the neck and into the head/body seams.	14 sts

15. Upper Legs - Make 4 in Fern Green

All four upper legs are worked the same way. The cast-on edge remains open for body attachment. Keep the BOR on the inner/back side so it is less visible after assembly.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
CO	Cast on 26 sts in Fern Green. Join in the round without twisting and place the BOR marker at the inner/back side of the leg. Leave a 45 cm / 18 in tail at the cast-on edge for attaching the leg to the body.	26
1	K all sts.	26 sts
2	K all sts.	26 sts
3	K all sts.	26 sts
4	K all sts.	26 sts
5	K all sts.	26 sts
6	K all sts.	26 sts
7	K all sts.	26 sts
8	K all sts.	26 sts
9	K all sts.	26 sts
10	K all sts.	26 sts
11	K all sts.	26 sts
12	K all sts.	26 sts
13	K all sts.	26 sts
14	K all sts.	26 sts
15	K all sts.	26 sts
16	K all sts.	26 sts
17	(K11, k2tog) 2 times.	24 sts
18	K all sts.	24 sts
19	(K10, k2tog) 2 times.	22 sts
20	K all sts.	22 sts
21	(K9, k2tog) 2 times.	20 sts
22	K all sts.	20 sts
23	K2tog 10 times.	10 sts
24	K2tog 5 times.	5 sts

After Rnd 22, stuff the leg moderately, leaving the top 2-3 rnds softer so the open edge can spread smoothly against the body. After Rnd 24, cut the yarn leaving 20 cm / 8 in, draw the tail through the 5 remaining sts, close the ankle end, secure, and bury the tail.

16. Feet - Make 4 in Fern Green

The foot is worked from an open heel toward a rounded closed toe. The heel opening will be sewn to the lower front of the upper leg.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
CO	Cast on 12 sts in Fern Green. Join in the round without twisting and place the BOR marker at the centre underside. The cast-on edge remains open as the heel opening. Leave a 35 cm / 14 in tail for sewing the foot to the leg.	12
1	K all sts.	12 sts
2	(K1, kfb) 6 times.	18 sts
3	K all sts.	18 sts
4	(K2, kfb) 6 times.	24 sts
5	K all sts.	24 sts
6	(K3, kfb) 6 times.	30 sts
7	K all sts.	30 sts
8	K all sts.	30 sts
9	K all sts.	30 sts
10	K all sts.	30 sts
11	K all sts.	30 sts
12	K all sts.	30 sts
13	K all sts.	30 sts
14	(K3, k2tog) 6 times.	24 sts

Rnd	Instruction	Count
15	K all sts.	24 sts
16	(K2, k2tog) 6 times.	18 sts
17	K all sts.	18 sts
18	(K1, k2tog) 6 times.	12 sts
19	K2tog 6 times.	6 sts

After Rnd 19, cut the yarn leaving 20 cm / 8 in, draw it through the 6 remaining sts and close the toe. Stuff the foot lightly through the open heel, keeping the sole broad and the top softly rounded. Do not overstuff.

17. Claws - Make 12 in Cocoa Brown

Make three claws for each foot. Each claw is a tiny knitted nub; no separate stuffing is needed.

Row	Instruction	Count
CO	Cast on 5 sts in Cocoa Brown. Work back and forth. Leave a 20 cm / 8 in starting tail.	5 sts
1	K all sts.	5 sts
2	P all sts.	5 sts
3	K all sts. Do not bind off. Cut yarn leaving a 20 cm / 8 in tail, thread the tail through all 5 live sts, and pull snug.	5 sts

Use the finishing tail to close the short side seam and make a tiny rounded nub. Use the starting tail to anchor the base of the nub to the toe. Shape each claw between your fingers before sewing it in place.

18. Tail - Make 1 in Fern Green

The tail is worked from the open base toward the tip. Keep the BOR at centre underside. Stuff as you go, using less filling toward the tip so the tail can curve gently upward.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
CO	Cast on 36 sts in Fern Green. Join in the round without twisting and place the BOR marker at the centre underside. Leave a 55 cm / 22 in tail at the cast-on edge for attaching the tail to the body.	36
1	K all sts.	36 sts
2	K all sts.	36 sts
3	K all sts.	36 sts
4	K all sts.	36 sts
5	K all sts.	36 sts
6	K all sts.	36 sts
7	K all sts.	36 sts
8	K all sts.	36 sts
9	(K4, k2tog) 6 times.	30 sts
10	K all sts.	30 sts
11	K all sts.	30 sts
12	K all sts.	30 sts
13	K all sts.	30 sts
14	K all sts.	30 sts
15	K all sts.	30 sts
16	K all sts.	30 sts
17	(K3, k2tog) 6 times.	24 sts
18	K all sts.	24 sts
19	K all sts.	24 sts
20	K all sts.	24 sts
21	K all sts.	24 sts
22	K all sts.	24 sts
23	K all sts.	24 sts
24	K all sts.	24 sts
25	K all sts.	24 sts
26	(K2, k2tog) 6 times.	18 sts
27	K all sts.	18 sts
28	K all sts.	18 sts
29	K all sts.	18 sts
30	K all sts.	18 sts
31	K all sts.	18 sts
32	K all sts.	18 sts
33	K all sts.	18 sts
34	(K1, k2tog) 6 times.	12 sts
35	K all sts.	12 sts
36	K all sts.	12 sts
37	K all sts.	12 sts
38	K all sts.	12 sts
39	K2tog 6 times.	6 sts

After Rnd 39, cut the yarn leaving 20 cm / 8 in, thread through the 6 remaining sts, pull closed, secure, and bury the tail inside. The cast-on edge stays open for body attachment.

19. Placement Map

Before sewing, pin every major piece and inspect the dinosaur from the front, both sides, the top and the rear. The stitch positions below are practical starting points; small adjustments of 1–2 sts or 1–2 rnds are fine when needed to keep the finished shape symmetrical. Use round-number adjustments for fore-and-aft position and stitch-column adjustments relative to BOR for vertical/lateral position.

Feature	Round / row position	Horizontal or directional placement	Check
Eyes	Head between Rnds 13-14	One at each side midline of the 48-st section; about a quarter-round from BOR in opposite directions	Level from front and top; equal distance from snout tip
Nostrils	Head Rnds 34-35	Two small marks centred on upper snout, about 3-4 sts apart	Level and centred
Mouth	Side endpoints: Head Rnds 23–25; front/centre dip: Head Rnds 34–36	Endpoints mirrored approximately 5–6 sts either side of BOR; curve both sides forward to the shallow centre dip.	Both sides equal in length; centre dip shallow
Head to neck	Head underside, approx. Rnds 6-24	Neck cast-on opening centred on BOR underside; front edge reaches under jaw, back edge sits toward rear crown	Head faces straight forward; no sideways twist
Throat panel	Neck front	Narrow end at head; wider end at body; centred directly opposite the neck back line	Panel lies flat without puckering
Neck to body	Body upper/front, approx. Rnds 6-21	Neck base centred on body top line opposite BOR; slight backward tilt only	Head centred over chest from front
Belly panel	Body underside, approx. Rnds 7-43	Centred on BOR; narrow end toward chest	Cream panel straight when viewed from front
Front legs	Centres near Body Rnds 19-21	One on each lower side, centred about 16 sts to either side of BOR on the full-width area	Feet point forward; tops level
Rear legs	Centres near Body Rnds 34-36	Mirror front pair on lower sides	Feet point forward; rear pair level
Tail	Rear body, approx. Rnds 40-48	Open base centred on body top/rear line opposite BOR	Tail points back and slightly upward
Decorative seam rings	Neck/body seam, four leg/body seams and tail base	Follow the structural seam on exposed Fern Green fabric; keep each ring evenly spaced and symmetrical.	Do not over-stitch across Cream panels
Claws	Foot toe	Three evenly spaced across each toe	Middle claw centred; outer claws mirrored

Pinning Checks

- Front view: the neck rises from the centre of the chest; front legs mirror one another; rear legs are visible evenly behind them.
- Side view: the neck is nearly vertical with a very slight backward sweep; the head projects forward; front and rear feet sit flat; the tail continues the back line.
- Top view: head, neck, body and tail share one centre line. Left and right legs project equally from the body.
- Rear view: tail is centred and the rear legs sit at matching heights.

20. Assembly Instructions

1. Finish the Head

If using safety eyes, confirm both washers are secure before the snout is closed. If using embroidered eyes, keep the markers in place until after stuffing and closure. Finish the nostrils and mouth only after the head is fully stuffed so the embroidery sits on the final shape.

2. Sew the Belly Panel to the Body

Place the Warm Cream belly panel along the body underside with its narrow cast-on end toward the chest. Centre it directly over the BOR line. Pin the full length. Using the long Warm Cream tail at the bound-off/rump end and a small mattress-style surface seam, pass the needle through one edge bar of the panel and then under one or two horizontal bars of the green body surface. Do not push the needle through to the opposite wall of the body. Sew the first long edge from rump toward chest, stopping before the first 2–3 panel rows. Secure that yarn. With a fresh length of Warm Cream, sew the opposite long edge from chest toward rump, again leaving the first 2–3 chest rows loose. These loose rows will be tucked beneath the neck base later.

3. Sew the Throat Panel to the Neck

Lay the neck flat with BOR at centre front/underside. Centre the narrow end of the Cream throat panel over BOR at the cast-on end. Pin the panel straight down the neck, allowing the wider end to spread smoothly over the lower section. Sew both long edges with the same mattress-style surface seam. Leave the top 2 rows and bottom 2 rows of the Cream panel loose for the head and body joins.

4. Attach Head to Neck

Place the neck cast-on opening against the underside of the head. The front of the neck should reach under the jaw around Head Rnds 22-24, while the rear of the neck sits toward Head Rnds 6-8. Pin the 36-st opening into a smooth oval. Check that the head faces straight ahead and that the Cream throat panel is centred under the jaw. Using the Fern Green neck tail, sew around the opening with mattress or ladder stitch: take one stitch through the neck edge, then one shallow stitch through the head fabric, moving around the oval without pulling tight enough to dent the head. Before the final 3-4 cm / 1-1.5 in is closed, add a little stuffing beneath the jaw. Finish the seam, secure the yarn, then stitch the loose top edge of the throat panel neatly into the front portion of the seam with Warm Cream.

5. Stuff and Attach Neck to Body

Stuff the neck firmly from the head downward, using small pieces of filling. Pack the lower third most firmly for support, but do not stretch the stitches. Keep the front Cream panel smooth as you fill. Pin the wider bound-off opening to the upper/front body, approximately spanning Body Rnds 6-21 and centred on the top line opposite BOR. The neck should rise nearly vertically with only a slight backward lean. Sew around the full opening with the Fern Green tail using mattress or ladder stitch. Before closing the last section, add final stuffing to the base. Tuck the loose top of the belly panel under the front edge of the neck and stitch it down with Warm Cream. Stitch the loose lower edge of the throat panel into the same front seam.

6. Attach the Tail

Pin the open 36-st tail base to the rear body, centred on the body top line opposite BOR. The seam should sit approximately over Body Rnds 40-48. Angle the tail back and slightly upward. Using the Fern Green tail left at the tail base, mattress-stitch around the opening. Capture one tail-edge stitch at a time and a shallow body stitch. Before closing the last 2-3 cm / about 1 in, add enough stuffing to keep the tail base rounded, then finish and secure the seam.

7. Assemble Feet to Upper Legs

For each leg, orient the upper-leg BOR toward the inner/back side. Place the open heel of one foot against the lower front of the leg, centred across Upper Leg Rnds 17-23. The foot toe must point toward the dinosaur's front. Pin the 12-st heel opening so its upper half sits on the front of the leg and its lower half cups the closed ankle. Using the Fern Green foot tail, sew around the heel opening with mattress stitch. Each sewing stitch should capture one heel-edge stitch and one shallow leg stitch. Check that all four feet project at the same angle before securing the yarn.

8. Add the Claws

Pin three Cocoa Brown claw nubs across the rounded toe of each foot. Place the middle claw on the foot centre line and the outer two at equal distances. Use each claw starting tail to sew through the base of the nub and the outer layer of the foot fabric several times. Keep the nubs slightly raised rather than flattening them against the foot. Secure and bury all brown tails inside the feet.

9. Attach the Four Legs

Pin the front pair with centres near Body Rnds 19-21 and the rear pair near Body Rnds 34-36. On the 72-st full-width area, the centre of each leg opening should sit roughly 16 sts to the right or left of BOR, mirrored from side to side. The cast-on opening of each upper leg remains round, not flattened. Spread the 26-st edge into a small oval against the lower body side. Using the long Fern Green cast-on tail, sew completely around the opening with mattress or ladder stitch, alternating one leg-edge stitch and one shallow body stitch. Keep the top of the leg snug against the body but do not pull so tightly that the body dimples. Reinforce the inner upper corner of each leg with two extra hidden stitches. Check that every foot points forward before securing the seam.

10. Decorative Cream Seam Lines

Thread a tapestry needle with Warm Cream. Work a loose running stitch along the centre-back line, using stitches approximately 6–8 mm / 1/4 in long with similar gaps. Begin at the rear crown of the head, continue down the back of the neck, over the body centre line, and along the top of the tail to the closed tail tip. If one continuous path is awkward, work separate sections and bury the joins inside seams.

Add a matching running-stitch outline around the exposed Fern Green portion of the neck/body attachment seam, working from one edge of the Cream throat/belly junction around the back of the neck base to the opposite Cream edge. Do not over-stitch across the Cream panels. Add matching running-stitch rings around each of the four leg/body attachments and around the tail base. These stitches are decorative; the Fern Green structural seams underneath carry the load.

11. Final Seam Check

Gently flex the neck, legs and tail. If any seam opens enough to show stuffing, add a second pass of mattress or ladder stitch with Fern Green. Adjust stuffing through a seam only if necessary, then close the opening completely. Remove every marker and pin. Bury yarn tails by passing them through the stuffed piece for several centimetres before trimming.

21. Final Visual Checklist

Check	Complete
Head faces straight forward and is not twisted on the neck	☐
Eyes are level and equally placed	☐
Nostrils are centred and matched	☐
Mouth curve is centred	☐
Cream throat panel is straight and smooth	☐
Cream belly panel is centred on the underside	☐
Neck rises from the centre of the chest	☐
Front legs mirror one another	☐
Rear legs mirror one another	☐
All four feet point forward and rest evenly	☐
Each foot has three secure brown claws	☐
Tail is centred and angles slightly upward	☐
Decorative Cream centre-back line reaches the tail tip, and Cream seam outlines are present at the neck/body join, all four leg/body joins and the tail base.	☐
No stuffing is visible through seams or stitches	☐
No openings, loose yarn tails or trapped markers remain	☐

22. Troubleshooting

Problem	Practical correction
Neck leans too far forward	Open a short section at the body seam, add firm stuffing to the lower rear half of the neck, repin the angle, and resew. Also confirm the neck base is centred on the body top line.
Neck twists to one side	Check that the Cream throat panel is centred and that the head and body seams use the same front/back orientation. Reopen only the shorter seam needed to correct the twist.
Head looks too narrow or long	Redistribute stuffing into the rear crown and cheeks. Keep the final snout rounds only moderately stuffed.
Body is too round underneath	Massage stuffing upward toward the back and sides. The belly panel should lie on a slightly flatter underside.
One leg sits higher	Remove enough attachment stitches to repin the high leg. Keep its fore-and-aft centre at the same Body Rnds 19–21 for a front leg or 34–36 for a rear leg. Shift the centre of the high leg 1–2 body stitches around the circumference toward BOR (centre underside), then repin and resew. Compare with the opposite leg from the front and rear before securing the seam.
Feet turn outward or inward	Reopen the foot-to-leg seam only at the side that needs adjustment, rotate the foot so the toe points forward, and restitch.
Tail droops	Add a little more stuffing at the tail base and resew the upper half of the tail/body seam slightly higher on the rear body.
Stuffing shows between stitches	Use smaller pieces of filling and avoid forcing them against the fabric. If the entire fabric is open, use a smaller needle size for the main pieces.
Cream panel puckers	First confirm that the flat panel is close to 22 sts × 30 rows per 10 cm / 4 in and that its unstretched length matches the stated panel measurement. Remove the tightest stitches and resew with a looser surface seam. Match one panel edge bar to roughly one nearby body or neck bar without stretching either fabric.
Project is larger or smaller than expected	Recheck the 22-st x 30-rnd stockinette gauge. A larger gauge makes every major piece larger; a smaller gauge makes the project smaller.

Problem	Practical correction
Ladders appear between needles	Tighten the first two stitches after each needle change and occasionally shift the division points so the same columns are not always at the joins.
Decorative running stitch pulls the fabric	Remove that section and rework it loosely. The cream thread should rest on the surface rather than cinching the knitted columns together.

23. Finishing Notes

Shape the finished dinosaur with your hands after assembly: round the body, smooth the throat and belly panels, flatten the soles gently, and curve the tail upward. Small differences in stuffing placement can change the posture noticeably, so make final adjustments before trimming the last buried yarn tails.

Your Fern the Gentle Diplodocus is complete.