GINGER THE FESTIVE GINGERBREAD MAN

Complete Digital Knitting Pattern

Worked mainly in the round | Confident beginner / intermediate

DIGITAL DOWNLOAD ONLY — NO PHYSICAL ITEM WILL BE SHIPPED



Illustrative design reference: a soft knitted gingerbread character with white icing trim, red bow tie, green buttons, pink cheeks and a smiling face.

1. Digital Download Notice

IMPORTANT
This file is a digital knitting pattern for making the plushie shown by the design reference. It is not a finished plushie, and no physical item will be shipped. Measurements below are calculated design targets and may vary with yarn, tension, stuffing and finishing. No physical prototype or physical testing is claimed.

Finished Measurements - Design Targets

Feature	Target size
Overall height	30-32 cm / 11.8-12.6 in
Head diameter	11.5-12.5 cm / 4.5-4.9 in
Torso width	9-10 cm / 3.5-3.9 in
Body depth	8.5-9.5 cm / 3.3-3.7 in
Arm span	25-27 cm / 9.8-10.6 in
Foot width	about 5 cm / 2 in
Bow tie width	approximately 6-7 cm / 2.4-2.8 in
Buttons	about 2.0-2.4 cm / 0.8-0.9 in each
Cheeks	about 1.8-2.2 cm / 0.7-0.9 in each

The finished size is most sensitive to yarn thickness and gauge. A firmer stuffed fabric gives the cleanest gingerbread silhouette and keeps stuffing from showing through the stitches.

2. Materials, Tools and Gauge

Yarn

- Worsted / Aran weight (#4) smooth yarn, preferably acrylic, wool or a blend with good stitch definition.
- Gingerbread brown: approximately 160-190 g.
- White icing: approximately 18-22 g.
- Red bow tie: approximately 12-15 g.
- Green buttons: approximately 8-10 g.
- Pink cheeks: approximately 4-6 g.
- Black facial embroidery: approximately 3-5 g. Optional tiny amount of white for embroidered eye highlights.

Tools and Notions

- 4.0 mm needles for the main pieces: DPNs or a long circular needle for magic loop.
- 3.25 mm needles for bow tie, small appliques and icing i-cord.
- Polyester toy stuffing, approximately 120-160 g.
- Two 12 mm black safety eyes, or black yarn for embroidered eyes.
- Tapestry needle, locking stitch markers, waste yarn or stitch holders, pins, scissors and measuring tape.

Safety-eye note

If the finished plushie may be used by a child under 3, use an embroidered-eye option instead of detachable safety-eye components and follow local toy-safety requirements.

Gauge

Main fabric: 19 sts and 27 rnds = 10 cm / 4 in in stockinette stitch worked in the round on 4.0 mm needles, measured without stretching. The fabric should be firm enough that stuffing does not show through when the piece is lightly stretched.

Small flat pieces: aim for a similarly firm fabric on 3.25 mm needles. Exact gauge is less important for the bow and appliques, but it changes their finished size.

3. Abbreviations and Construction Overview

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
BOR	beginning of round
BO	bind off
CB	centre back
CF	centre front
CO	cast on
DPN	double-pointed needle
k	knit
k2tog	knit 2 stitches together - 1 stitch decreased
kfb	knit into front and back of the same stitch - 1 stitch increased
p	purl
p2tog	purl 2 stitches together - 1 stitch decreased
rnd(s)	round(s)
RS	right side
ssk	slip 1 knitwise, slip 1 knitwise, knit those 2 stitches together through back loops - 1 stitch decreased
st(s)	stitch(es)
WS	wrong side

Construction Overview

- The two legs are worked separately from the foot upward, then joined to form the torso.
- The head is worked separately in the round from crown to neck and sewn to the 48-st neck opening.
- The arms are worked separately from hand tip to shoulder and sewn to the body.
- The bow tie is made from two shaped flat wings plus one centre band.
- Two green buttons and two pink cheeks are small knitted appliques.
- Five white 3-stitch i-cords create the raised icing: one around the head, one on each arm and one on each leg.
- Right and left always mean the plushie’s own right and left.

Orientation system

For the head, BOR is treated as centre back. At the 72-st face section, CF lies 36 stitches from BOR. For the body, after the legs are joined, mark the midpoint of one 4-st crotch bridge as CB and the midpoint of the opposite bridge as CF. Keep those locking markers in the fabric until assembly is complete.

4. Complete Written Pattern

4.1 Legs - Make 2

Using brown yarn and 4.0 mm needles, CO 8 sts. Divide evenly for working in the round, join without twisting, and place BOR marker. Use a closed-centre cast-on if comfortable; otherwise cinch the cast-on centre firmly with the yarn tail after several rounds.

Round/Row	Instruction	Stitches
Rnd 1	k all sts.	8
Rnd 2	kfb in every st around.	16
Rnd 3	k all sts.	16
Rnd 4	[k1, kfb] 8 times.	24
Rnd 5	[k5, kfb] 4 times.	28
Rnd 6	k all sts.	28
Rnd 7	k all sts.	28
Rnd 8	k all sts.	28
Rnd 9	k all sts.	28
Rnd 10	k all sts.	28
Rnd 11	[k5, k2tog] 4 times.	24
Rnd 12	k all sts.	24
Rnd 13	k all sts.	24
Rnd 14	k all sts.	24
Rnd 15	k all sts.	24
Rnd 16	k all sts.	24
Rnd 17	k all sts.	24
Rnd 18	k all sts.	24
Rnd 19	k all sts.	24
Rnd 20	k all sts.	24

Cut yarn leaving a 20 cm tail and place all 24 live sts on waste yarn or a holder. Do not bind off. Make a second leg the same way. The white ankle icing is applied later over approximately Leg Rnds 9-10.

Leg stuffing timing

After both legs are complete, stuff each lower foot and leg to approximately Rnd 15. Keep the top 5 rounds only lightly filled so the crotch join remains flexible.

4.2 Join Legs and Knit the Body

Place the two legs side by side with the rounded feet pointing the same direction. Because the legs are plain cylinders at this stage, you may rotate them so the join looks neat. Using brown yarn and 4.0 mm needles:

Round/Row	Instruction	Stitches
Rnd 1	Knit all 24 sts of first leg; cable CO 4 sts; knit all 24 sts of second leg; cable CO 4 sts; place BOR marker. This joins the legs into one round.	56
Rnd 2	k all sts.	56
Rnd 3	k all sts.	56
Rnd 4	k all sts.	56
Rnd 5	k all sts.	56
Rnd 6	k all sts.	56
Rnd 7	k all sts.	56
Rnd 8	k all sts.	56
Rnd 9	k all sts.	56
Rnd 10	k all sts.	56
Rnd 11	k all sts.	56
Rnd 12	k all sts.	56
Rnd 13	k all sts.	56
Rnd 14	k all sts.	56
Rnd 15	k all sts.	56
Rnd 16	k all sts.	56
Rnd 17	k all sts.	56
Rnd 18	k all sts.	56
Rnd 19	k all sts.	56
Rnd 20	k all sts.	56
Rnd 21	k all sts.	56
Rnd 22	k all sts.	56
Rnd 23	k all sts.	56
Rnd 24	k all sts.	56
Rnd 25	k all sts.	56
Rnd 26	[k12, k2tog] 4 times.	52
Rnd 27	k all sts.	52
Rnd 28	[k11, k2tog] 4 times.	48
Rnd 29	k all sts.	48
Rnd 30	k all sts.	48
Rnd 31	k all sts.	48
Rnd 32	k all sts.	48
Rnd 33	k all sts.	48
Rnd 34	k all sts.	48

After Rnd 1, arrange the joined legs so one 4-st bridge lies at the front crotch and the opposite 4-st bridge lies at the back crotch. Place a locking CF marker at the midpoint of the front bridge and a locking CB marker at the midpoint of the back bridge. These are physical reference markers; do not move them to follow shaping.

BO all 48 sts loosely after Rnd 34. Keep the neck opening round. Finish stuffing the legs, close any tiny crotch-corner holes with the joining tails, then stuff the torso through the neck opening. Use medium-firm stuffing and keep the uppermost 2 cm slightly softer for the head seam.

4.3 Head - Make 1

Using brown yarn and 4.0 mm needles, CO 8 sts. Join in the round and place BOR marker. BOR is the head’s centre-back reference. Cinch the crown cast-on closed with the tail after several rounds if needed.

Round/Row	Instruction	Stitches
Rnd 1	k all sts.	8
Rnd 2	kfb in every st around.	16
Rnd 3	k all sts.	16
Rnd 4	[k1, kfb] 8 times.	24
Rnd 5	k all sts.	24
Rnd 6	[k2, kfb] 8 times.	32
Rnd 7	k all sts.	32
Rnd 8	[k3, kfb] 8 times.	40
Rnd 9	k all sts.	40
Rnd 10	[k4, kfb] 8 times.	48
Rnd 11	k all sts.	48
Rnd 12	[k5, kfb] 8 times.	56
Rnd 13	k all sts.	56
Rnd 14	[k6, kfb] 8 times.	64
Rnd 15	k all sts.	64
Rnd 16	[k7, kfb] 8 times.	72
Rnd 17	k all sts.	72
Rnd 18	k all sts.	72
Rnd 19	k all sts.	72
Rnd 20	k all sts.	72
Rnd 21	k all sts.	72
Rnd 22	k all sts.	72
Rnd 23	k all sts.	72
Rnd 24	k all sts.	72
Rnd 25	k all sts.	72
Rnd 26	k all sts.	72
Rnd 27	[k7, k2tog] 8 times.	64
Rnd 28	k all sts.	64
Rnd 29	[k6, k2tog] 8 times.	56
Rnd 30	k all sts.	56
Rnd 31	[k5, k2tog] 8 times.	48
Rnd 32	k all sts.	48
Rnd 33	k all sts.	48
Rnd 34	k all sts.	48

Install eyes before closing access

When Rnd 28 is complete, pause before the final neck shaping. At the 72-st section, CF is 36 stitches from BOR. Place the two 12 mm safety eyes between Head Rnds 20 and 21, with centres approximately 5 stitches to either side of CF - about 10 stitches centre-to-centre. Check from the front before fitting the washers. If using embroidered eyes, skip the safety eyes and embroider after the head is stuffed.

After Rnd 34, BO all 48 sts loosely. Stuff the head through the neck opening, distributing stuffing evenly so the crown is round and the lower head remains softly curved rather than flat. The 48-st neck edge will be sewn to the 48-st body neck edge.

4.4 Arms - Make 2

Using brown yarn and 4.0 mm needles, CO 8 sts. Join in the round and place BOR marker. Cinch the small hand-tip opening with the cast-on tail after several rounds if necessary.

Round/Row	Instruction	Stitches
Rnd 1	k all sts.	8
Rnd 2	kfb in every st around.	16
Rnd 3	k all sts.	16
Rnd 4	[k1, kfb] 8 times.	24
Rnd 5	k all sts.	24
Rnd 6	k all sts.	24
Rnd 7	k all sts.	24
Rnd 8	k all sts.	24
Rnd 9	k all sts.	24
Rnd 10	k all sts.	24
Rnd 11	k all sts.	24
Rnd 12	k all sts.	24
Rnd 13	[k4, k2tog] 4 times.	20
Rnd 14	k all sts.	20
Rnd 15	k all sts.	20
Rnd 16	k all sts.	20
Rnd 17	k all sts.	20
Rnd 18	k all sts.	20
Rnd 19	k all sts.	20
Rnd 20	k all sts.	20
Rnd 21	k all sts.	20
Rnd 22	k all sts.	20

BO all 20 sts. Stuff the rounded hand and lower arm moderately firmly; use lighter stuffing in the final 2-3 cm near the shoulder so the arm can lie smoothly against the body. The white wrist icing is applied later over approximately Arm Rnds 7-8.

4.5 Red Bow Tie

Use red yarn and 3.25 mm needles. The bow is made from two identical shaped wings and one centre band.

Bow Wing - Make 2

Round/Row	Instruction	Stitches
CO	CO 5 sts.	5
Row 1 (RS)	k all sts.	5
Row 2 (WS)	p all sts.	5
Row 3	kfb, k3, kfb.	7
Row 4	p all sts.	7
Row 5	kfb, k5, kfb.	9
Row 6	p all sts.	9
Row 7	k2tog, k5, ssk.	7
Row 8	p all sts.	7
Row 9	k2tog, k3, ssk.	5
Row 10	p all sts.	5
BO	BO 5 sts.	0 live

Centre Band - Make 1

Round/Row	Instruction	Stitches
CO	CO 5 sts.	5
Row 1 (RS)	k all sts.	5
Row 2 (WS)	p all sts.	5
Row 3 (RS)	k all sts.	5
Row 4 (WS)	p all sts.	5
Row 5 (RS)	k all sts.	5
Row 6 (WS)	p all sts.	5
Row 7 (RS)	k all sts.	5
Row 8 (WS)	p all sts.	5
BO	BO 5 sts.	0 live

Lay the narrow ends of the two wings together at the centre and secure with several stitches. Wrap the centre band around the join, overlap the band ends at the back, and sew them together. Do not stuff the bow.

4.6 Small Knitted Appliques

Use 3.25 mm needles. Work the following tiny flat cup, then flatten it into a rounded applique when sewing. Make 2 in pink for cheeks and 2 in green for buttons.

Round/Row	Instruction	Stitches
CO	CO 3 sts.	3
Row 1 (RS)	kfb in each st.	6
Row 2 (WS)	p all sts.	6
Row 3	kfb in each st.	12
Row 4	p all sts.	12
Row 5	[k2tog] 6 times.	6
Row 6	[p2tog] 3 times.	3

Cut yarn leaving a 20 cm tail. Draw the tail through the remaining 3 sts and tighten. Bring the short side edges together with 1-2 small stitches so the piece forms a tiny rounded disc, then flatten it. Do not add stuffing.

On each green button, embroider a small black X through the centre after the button is sewn to the body.

4.7 White Icing I-Cords - Make 5

Use white yarn and 3.25 mm DPNs or a short circular needle. For each cord, CO 3 sts.

Round/Row	Instruction	Stitches
Every i-cord row	k3; do not turn. Slide the 3 sts back to the opposite needle tip, pull the working yarn snugly across the back, and k3 again.	3 after every row

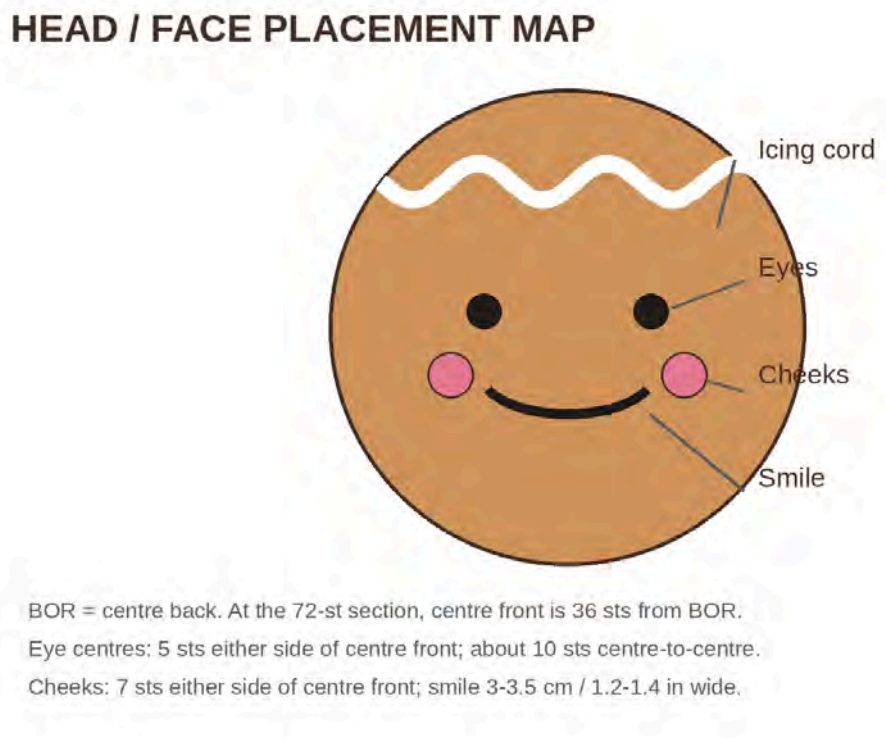
Continue the same 3-stitch row until the cord reaches the target length below, then BO all 3 sts. Because i-cord row gauge varies, use the finished length rather than a fixed row count.

Cord	Quantity	Target length
Head icing	1	approximately 31-32 cm / 12.2-12.6 in
Arm cuff icing	2	about 13 cm / 5.1 in each
Leg ankle icing	2	about 15 cm / 5.9 in each

Leave 20-25 cm sewing tails on both ends of each cord. The cords are sewn on after the main pieces are stuffed so the waves can be pinned and adjusted to match the rounded surfaces.

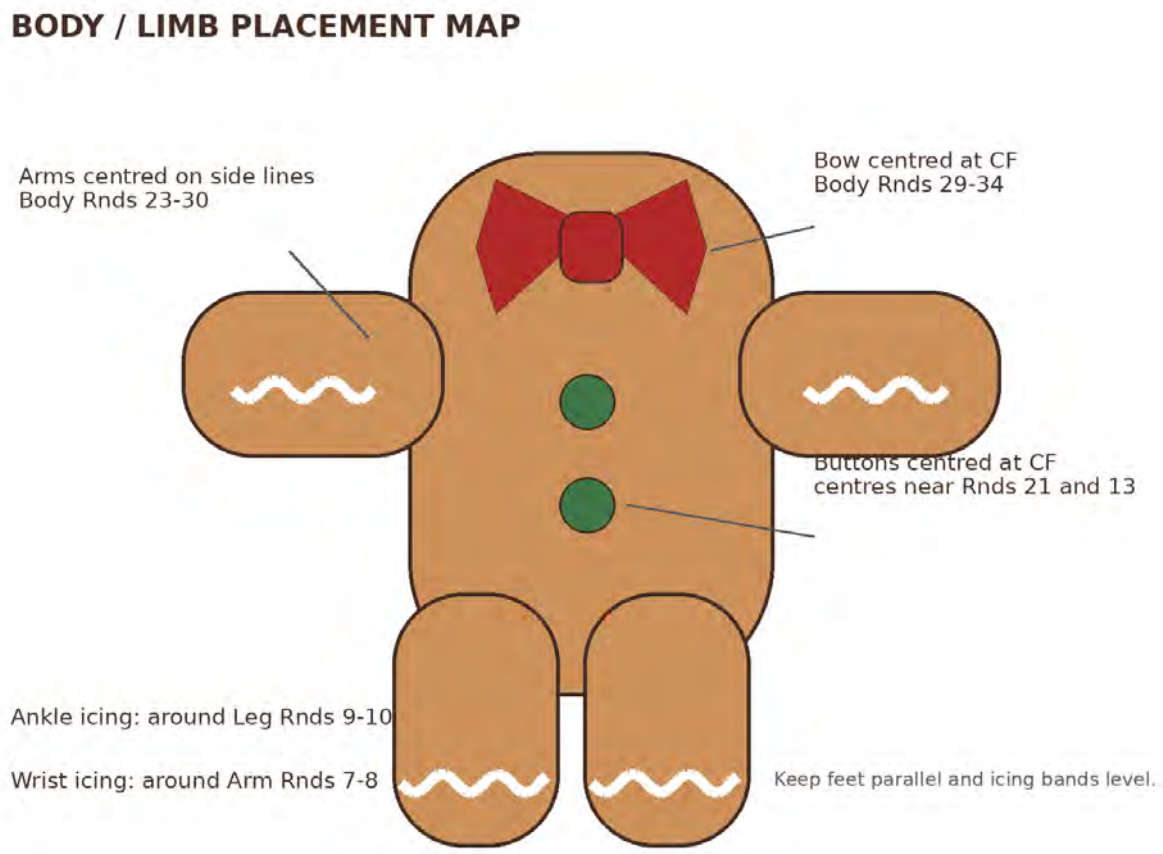
5. Placement Maps

5.1 Head and Face



Feature	Placement
Head icing	Centre the cord around Head Rnd 13. Pin 12 anchor points evenly around the head using the stitch-gap sequence [5 sts, 5 sts, 4 sts] repeated 4 times. Alternate the anchors near Head Rnds 12 and 14 to form 6 gentle waves. Keep all white icing above the eyes.
Eyes	Between Head Rnds 20 and 21. Centres approximately 5 sts to each side of CF; about 10 sts centre-to-centre.
Cheeks	Sew the two pink discs with centres near Head Rnd 23, approximately 7 sts to each side of CF. Keep them level and slightly outside the eyes.
Smile	With black yarn, embroider a shallow upward-curved smile centred on CF, approximately 3-3.5 cm / 1.2-1.4 in wide, spanning about Head Rnds 22-25.
Embroidered eye option	At the same eye positions, embroider compact black vertical ovals about 1 cm tall. Add one tiny white stitch at the upper outer edge of each oval for the highlight if desired.

5.2 Body, Arms, Bow, Buttons and Leg Icing



Feature	Placement
Arms	Pin one arm on each physical side line, with the shoulder opening spanning approximately Body Rnds 23-30. Angle each arm slightly downward, about 10-15 degrees from horizontal. Mirror the angles.
Bow tie	Centre on the CF marker. Place the centre band over approximately Body Rnds 29-34, directly below the head seam. Keep the wings level.
Upper green button	Centre on CF near Body Rnd 21.
Lower green button	Centre on CF near Body Rnd 13.
Arm icing	Wrap one cord around each arm over approximately Arm Rnds 7-8. Pin 8 roughly even anchor points and alternate slightly forward/back by about 1 round to create 4 small waves.
Leg icing	Wrap one cord around each leg over approximately Leg Rnds 9-10. Pin 8 roughly even anchor points and alternate by about 1 round to create 4 small waves. Match the height on both legs.

Symmetry check

Before permanent sewing, set the plushie upright and view it from the front, back and both 3/4 angles. The bow, buttons, cheeks and eyes should sit on the same vertical/horizontal references shown above. The back remains plain brown except for the white head and limb icing continuing around the circumference.

6. Stuffing, Shaping and Assembly

Stuffing Guide

Piece	Stuffing level
Feet and lower legs	Firm. Shape the foot tips round and keep both feet equal.
Upper legs / crotch	Medium. Avoid a hard lump at the leg join.
Torso	Medium-firm. Keep the neck edge slightly softer for easier sewing.
Head	Firm and even. Add small amounts gradually; rotate the head while stuffing to keep it spherical.
Arms	Moderate in hand and lower arm, lighter near shoulder.
Bow / cheeks / buttons	No stuffing.

Assembly Order

1. Complete and stuff both legs, join them, knit the body, finish torso stuffing and keep the 48-st neck opening accessible.
2. Complete the head. Install safety eyes before the final neck shaping if using them. Stuff the head, but keep the 48-st neck edge accessible.
3. Align head BOR/CB with the body CB marker and align head CF with body CF. Pin the 48-st head edge evenly to the 48-st body edge. Sew with mattress stitch or small whipstitches, matching approximately one head stitch to one body stitch around the entire neck. Add a little stuffing before the final 3-4 cm if needed, then close the seam and bury the tail.
4. Pin the two arms using the side-line placement map. Confirm equal height and mirrored angles. Sew around each shoulder opening securely. Bury yarn tails inside the torso.
5. Sew the head icing cord in place, then the two arm cords and two leg cords. Use small couching stitches every 1-1.5 cm and at each wave peak/valley so the cord cannot lift away from the fabric.
6. Sew the two pink cheek discs in place with tiny edge stitches. If using embroidered eyes, embroider them now. Embroider the black smile.
7. Sew the bow tie at CF below the head seam. Secure the centre band first, then tack the outer wing tips lightly so the bow stays level without looking flattened.
8. Sew the two green buttons at CF. Add the small black X to each button after it is attached.
9. Remove all temporary CF/CB and placement markers. Check the neck seam, crotch corners and limb seams for gaps. Bury every remaining yarn tail inside the plushie.

7. Final Visual Checklist

- □Head is round, centred over the torso and not tilted.
- □Eyes are level and approximately 10 stitches centre-to-centre at the 72-st face section.
- □Pink cheeks are level and evenly spaced outside the eyes.
- □Smile is centred under the eyes and curves upward evenly.
- □Head icing forms an even wavy band and stays above the face.
- □Bow is centred and level directly below the head.
- □Exactly 2 green buttons are centred down the front, each with a black X.
- □Exactly 2 arms are attached at matching heights with mirrored angles.
- □Exactly 2 leg icing bands and 2 arm icing bands are present and level as pairs.
- □Feet are parallel and the plushie stands or poses evenly without one leg appearing shorter.
- □Back remains clean and free of unintended decorative pieces.
- □No visible holes, exposed stuffing, loose yarn tails or unsecured applique edges remain.

8. Troubleshooting

Issue	Practical fix
Stuffing shows through	Use smaller needles or remove a little stuffing and redistribute it. Avoid stretching the fabric while stuffing.
Head looks too tall or narrow	Redistribute stuffing sideways and check that your stitch gauge is close to 19 sts per 10 cm.
Eyes look uneven	Before washers are installed, recheck against CF and the same round. For embroidered eyes, unpick and rework the higher/lower eye.
Head twisted on body	Re-pin so head BOR/CB aligns with body CB and CF aligns with CF before completing the seam.
Arms are not symmetrical	Measure from the neck seam to each shoulder top and compare attachment angles before resewing.
Bow is off-centre	Align the centre band directly over the CF marker and tack both wing tips only after the centre is secure.
Icing waves look irregular	Remove a few couching stitches, re-pin equal anchor spacing, then resew from one anchor to the next.
Small crotch gap	Use the leg-join tail to close only the corner hole with 2-3 firm stitches; do not pull enough to distort the legs.
Visible neck seam	Use smaller mattress/whipstitches, match one stitch to one stitch around the 48-st edges and add stuffing only after most of the seam is closed.

9. Printing and Customer Notes

- This is a digital knitting pattern, not a finished plushie. No physical item will be shipped.
- Print at 100% / Actual Size if you want a paper copy. No template pieces require scaling.
- Yarn brand, fibre content, needle material, tension and stuffing density can change the finished measurements.
- Use the placement maps as practical guides. Pin all design-defining features before sewing permanently.
- The pattern is intended for personal handmade creation. Do not redistribute, share, upload or resell the digital pattern file.
- If adapting the plushie for a young child, use the embroidered-eye option instead of detachable safety-eye components and follow local safety requirements.

Quick feature count

1 head, 1 joined body with 2 legs, 2 arms, 1 red bow tie, 2 green buttons, 2 pink cheeks, 2 eyes, 1 black smile, and 5 white icing cords (head + 2 arms + 2 legs).

Design Match Notes

The pattern preserves the supplied reference silhouette: oversized round head, compact straight torso, short rounded arms, separate rounded feet, white wavy icing around the head/wrists/ankles, red bow tie, two green front buttons, pink cheeks and a simple smiling face. No decorative features are added to the plain back.

Happy knitting!