RUDY THE FESTIVE REINDEER

Complete Digital Knitting Pattern

Worsted/Aran Yarn | Worked Mainly in the Round | Beginner-Intermediate



DIGITAL DOWNLOAD ONLY - NO PHYSICAL ITEM WILL BE SHIPPED

Pattern for the knitted plushie design shown above.

1. Digital Download Notice

This file is a digital knitting pattern for making a reindeer plushie. It is not a finished plushie, and no physical item will be shipped.

All dimensions in this pattern are calculated design targets. Your finished measurements may vary with yarn thickness, needle size, knitting tension, stuffing density and blocking.

Important: For makers who need an alternative without detachable safety-eye components, use the embroidered-eye option. Always follow local safety requirements for the intended recipient.

2. Finished Measurements

Feature	Design target
Overall height, including antlers	31-33 cm / 12.2-13.0 in
Height to top of head	24-25 cm / 9.4-9.8 in
Head	about 10-11 cm wide; 9.5-10.5 cm deep
Body	about 10-11 cm high; 9-10 cm wide
Arm, each	about 7 cm long
Leg, each	about 5.5-6 cm long
Ear, each	about 5.5-6 cm long x 3.5-4.5 cm wide
Antler, each	about 7-8 cm from head to tip
Muzzle	about 6-6.5 cm wide x 4.5-5 cm high after shaping
Scarf	about 25-27 cm long x 4 cm wide, plus fringe
Overall front-to-back depth	about 9.5-10.5 cm / 3.7-4.1 in, set primarily by the head

The plushie is designed to stand with both feet flat. A light backward body lean is acceptable, but the head should remain visually centred over the body.

3. Materials and Tools

Item	Specification / amount
Main yarn - tan	Worsted/Aran (#4), smooth wool/acrylic blend; approx. 100 g / 180 m
Dark brown yarn	Worsted/Aran (#4); approx. 35 g / 65 m
Cream yarn	Worsted/Aran (#4); approx. 20 g / 35 m
Red yarn	Worsted/Aran (#4); approx. 30 g / 55 m
Face embroidery yarn	Small amount of dark brown or black
Needles	4.0 mm DPNs or long circular needle for magic loop; 4.0 mm needles for flat pieces
Eyes	Recommended reference match: embroidered eyes; optional pair of 10 mm brown/black safety eyes
Stuffing	Polyester fibre fill, approx. 80-120 g
Notions	Tapestry needle, stitch markers, locking markers, pins, scissors, measuring tape

4. Gauge

20 sts x 28 rounds = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in in stockinette worked in the round with 4.0 mm needles. For flat stockinette, aim for approximately 20 sts x 28 rows over 10 cm.

Exact gauge is less important than a firm fabric that does not show stuffing. If your fabric is loose, use a smaller needle. If it is very stiff and difficult to work, use a slightly larger needle.

5. Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
BO	bind off
BOR	beginning of round
CB	centre back
CF	centre front
CO	cast on
DPN	double-pointed needle
inc / kfb	increase by knitting into front and back of the same stitch
k	knit
k2tog	knit 2 stitches together; 1 stitch decreased
k3tog	knit 3 stitches together; 2 stitches decreased
p	purl
RS	right side
ssk	slip 1 knitwise, slip 1 knitwise, knit the 2 slipped stitches together through back loops; 1 stitch decreased
st(s)	stitch(es)
WS	wrong side

6. Construction Overview and Orientation

Rudy is made from separately knitted pieces. The head, body, arms, legs, muzzle and nose are worked in the round. The ears and scarf are worked flat. Each antler is assembled from firm i-cord sections.

Assembly order: prepare ears and antlers -> knit the head, installing safety eyes before Head Rnd 21 if used -> stuff and close the head -> attach muzzle and nose -> embroider the mouth and, if selected, the embroidered eyes -> stuff the body -> attach legs and arms -> sew head to body -> attach ears and antlers -> add scarf -> add the subtle centre seam detail -> final symmetry check.

Orientation rule: Right and left always mean the plushie's own right and left. On the head and body, place the BOR marker at the physical centre back (CB) when joining the first round. Keep that marker in the same column. The centre front (CF) is directly opposite the BOR.

The supplied design shows a smooth back with no visible tail, so this pattern intentionally does not add a tail.

Design reference views (digital concept art)



Piece Inventory

Piece	Qty	Colour / method
Head	1	Tan, in the round
Body	1	Tan, in the round
Arms	2	Dark brown tips + tan, in the round
Legs	2	Dark brown feet + tan, in the round
Outer ears	2	Tan, flat
Inner ears	2	Cream, flat
Muzzle	1	Cream, in the round
Nose	1	Red, in the round
Antler main stems	2	Dark brown held double, i-cord
Lower antler branches	2	Dark brown held double, i-cord
Upper antler branches	2	Dark brown held double, i-cord
Scarf	1	Red, flat

7. Complete Written Pattern

7.1 Head - make 1

Use tan yarn and 4.0 mm DPNs or magic loop. CO 8 sts. Join to work in the round, taking care not to twist. Place BOR marker and treat it as CB.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
1	Knit.	8
2	Kfb in every st.	16
3	(K1, kfb) x 8.	24
4	(K2, kfb) x 8.	32
5	(K3, kfb) x 8.	40
6	(K4, kfb) x 8.	48
7	(K5, kfb) x 8.	56
8	(K6, kfb) x 8.	64
9-17	Knit each round.	64 each rnd
18	Knit. This is the lower eye-reference round.	64
19-20	Knit each round.	64 each rnd
21	(K6, k2tog) x 8.	56
22	(K5, k2tog) x 8.	48
23	(K4, k2tog) x 8.	40
24	(K3, k2tog) x 8.	32
25	(K2, k2tog) x 8.	24
26	(K1, k2tog) x 8.	16
27	K2tog x 8.	8

If using safety eyes: before working Rnd 21, place the posts between Head Rnds 18 and 19. On the 64-st section, CF lies opposite the BOR between sts 32 and 33. Place the eye posts 5 sts to each side of CF - approximately in the gaps after st 27 and after st 37 - giving 10 sts centre-to-centre. Install washers securely from inside.

After Rnd 25, stuff the head firmly but evenly, filling the lower cheek area first. Add more stuffing after Rnd 26 if needed. After Rnd 27, cut yarn leaving a 20 cm tail, thread through the remaining 8 sts, pull closed and secure inside.

Embroidered-eye option: Skip the safety-eye step. Complete and stuff the head first. Embroider two compact dark-brown satin-stitch ovals at the same eye positions, about 9-10 mm tall. Keep both eyes level before securing the yarn tails.

7.2 Body - make 1

Use tan yarn. CO 8 sts. Join in the round. Place BOR marker at CB.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
1	Knit.	8
2	Kfb in every st.	16
3	(K1, kfb) x 8.	24
4	(K2, kfb) x 8.	32
5	(K3, kfb) x 8.	40
6	(K4, kfb) x 8.	48
7	(K5, kfb) x 8.	56
8-18	Knit each round.	56 each rnd
19	(K5, k2tog) x 8.	48
20-22	Knit each round.	48 each rnd
23	(K4, k2tog) x 8.	40
24-26	Knit each round.	40 each rnd
27	(K3, k2tog) x 8.	32
28-29	Knit each round.	32 each rnd
30	(K2, k2tog) x 8.	24
31	Knit.	24

Before stuffing, thread the cast-on tail through the 8-st cast-on edge at the lower body pole, pull the centre opening fully closed, and secure the tail inside. Stuff the body firmly at the lower half and moderately at the upper half. Keep the 24-st neck edge round. BO all 24 sts loosely. Do not cinch the neck closed; this bound-off edge is the attachment rim for the head.

Shape check: The lower body should be slightly fuller than the shoulder area. If the upper body looks barrel-shaped, remove a small amount of stuffing from Body Rnds 23-31 and redistribute it lower down.

7.3 Legs - make 2

Begin with dark brown yarn. CO 8 sts and join in the round.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
1	Knit.	8
2	Kfb in every st.	16
3	(K1, kfb) x 8.	24
4-6	Knit each round in dark brown.	24 each rnd
7	Change to tan. (K4, k2tog) x 4.	20
8-16	Knit each round in tan.	20 each rnd

BO all 20 sts. For each leg, thread the cast-on tail through the 8-st cast-on edge at the centre of the dark-brown sole, pull the centre opening fully closed, and secure the tail inside. Stuff the dark-brown foot firmly and the tan leg moderately. Keep the bound-off top opening round until attachment.

7.4 Arms - make 2

Begin with dark brown yarn. CO 8 sts and join in the round.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
1	Knit.	8
2	Kfb in every st.	16
3	(K1, kfb) x 8.	24
4-5	Knit each round in dark brown.	24 each rnd
6	Change to tan. (K4, k2tog) x 4.	20
7-17	Knit each round in tan.	20 each rnd
18	(K3, k2tog) x 4.	16
19-20	Knit each round.	16 each rnd

BO all 16 sts. For each arm, thread the cast-on tail through the 8-st cast-on edge at the centre of the dark-brown tip, pull the centre opening fully closed, and secure the tail inside. Stuff the dark-brown tip firmly and the tan arm lightly to moderately so the arm can angle downward naturally. Keep the top opening round.

7.5 Outer Ears - make 2

Use tan yarn and work flat in stockinette. CO 5 sts. The first row is RS.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
1 (RS)	K5.	5
2 (WS)	P5.	5
3	K1, kfb, K1, kfb, K1.	7
4	P7.	7
5	K1, kfb, K3, kfb, K1.	9
6	P9.	9
7	K9.	9
8	P9.	9
9	K9.	9
10	P9.	9
11	K1, ssk, K3, k2tog, K1.	7
12	P7.	7
13	K1, ssk, K1, k2tog, K1.	5
14	P5.	5
15	K1, k3tog, K1.	3
16	P3.	3

BO the remaining 3 sts. Leave a 30 cm tail for attachment.

7.6 Inner Ears - make 2

Use cream yarn and work flat. CO 3 sts.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
1 (RS)	K3.	3
2 (WS)	P3.	3
3	Kfb, K1, kfb.	5
4	P5.	5
5	K1, kfb, K1, kfb, K1.	7
6	P7.	7
7	K7.	7
8	P7.	7
9	K1, ssk, K1, k2tog, K1.	5
10	P5.	5
11	K1, k3tog, K1.	3
12	P3.	3

BO 3 sts. Centre each cream inner ear on one tan outer ear with the RS of both pieces facing outward. Leave an even tan border. Sew around the cream piece with small whip stitches. Do not sew the tan outer ear to itself.

7.7 Cream Muzzle - make 1

Use cream yarn. CO 8 sts and join in the round.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
1	Knit.	8
2	Kfb in every st.	16
3	(K1, kfb) x 8.	24
4	(K2, kfb) x 8.	32
5	(K3, kfb) x 8.	40
6	Knit.	40

BO all 40 sts very loosely. Draw the cast-on tail through the centre opening if needed to close it neatly. When pinning to the head, gently shape the disc into a horizontal oval about 6-6.5 cm wide and 4.5-5 cm high.

7.8 Red Nose - make 1

Use red yarn. CO 6 sts and join in the round.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
1	Knit.	6
2	Kfb in every st.	12
3-4	Knit each round.	12 each rnd
5	K2tog x 6.	6

Stuff very lightly before Rnd 5. Cut yarn, draw through the remaining 6 sts and close. When sewing to the muzzle, compress the nose slightly so it reads as a rounded horizontal oval rather than a tall ball.

7.9 Antlers - make a mirrored pair

For firmer antlers, hold two strands of dark brown yarn together and use 4.0 mm DPNs. I-cord is worked by knitting the stitches, sliding them to the opposite end of the DPN without turning, pulling the working yarn firmly across the back, and knitting again.

Main stems - make 2

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
1-22	Work 6-st i-cord: K6, slide sts to other end without turning, pull yarn across back; repeat for a total of 22 rows.	6 each row

BO 6 sts at the base end. Use the cast-on tail to gather the cast-on edge into a rounded tip.

Lower branches - make 2

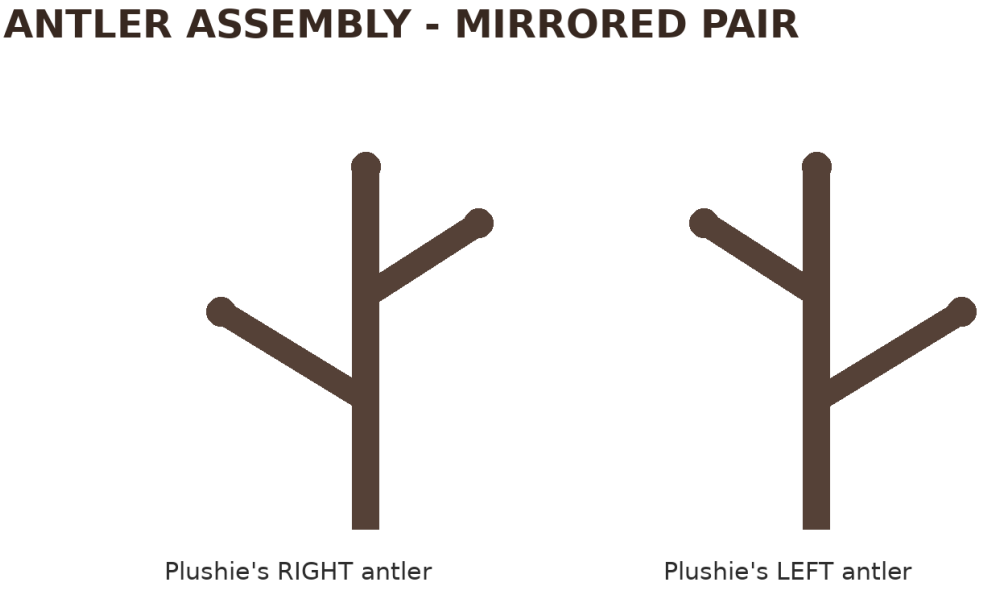
Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
1-9	Work 5-st i-cord for a total of 9 rows.	5 each row

BO 5 sts. Gather the cast-on edge into a rounded tip. Leave a long BO tail for sewing.

Upper branches - make 2

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
1-8	Work 5-st i-cord for a total of 8 rows.	5 each row

BO 5 sts. Gather the cast-on edge into a rounded tip. Leave a long BO tail for sewing.



Lower branch points outward. Upper branch points slightly inward. Mirror the second antler.

Build the plushie's RIGHT antler first: sew one lower branch to the outer side of the main stem around Stem Rows 13-16, angled outward about 40-45 degrees. Sew one upper branch to the inner side around Stem Rows 7-10, angled upward and slightly inward. Build the plushie's LEFT antler as the mirror image. Sew through multiple i-cord columns at each junction so the branches do not rotate.

Antler firmness: The i-cord should be compact rather than soft. Do not stuff the antlers with loose fibre fill. If needed, run an extra doubled dark-brown yarn strand through the centre of each i-cord and anchor it at both ends for additional textile-only support.

7.10 Red Scarf - make 1

Use red yarn and work flat. CO 8 sts.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
1 (RS)	K8.	8
2 (WS)	K2, P4, K2.	8
3-72	Repeat Rows 1-2 thirty-five more times. Every row remains 8 sts.	8 each row

BO all 8 sts. The knit edge stitches create a stable border while the centre remains smooth.

Fringe: cut 10 strands of red yarn, each about 12 cm long. Pair the strands into 5 two-strand bundles. Fold each bundle in half, pull the folded loop through one short scarf end, pass the cut ends through the loop and tighten. Space the 5 fringe bundles evenly, then trim to about 4.5-5 cm.

7.11 Reference-Matching Centre Seam Detail

The design reference shows a subtle vertical chain-like line at the centre front and centre back. After all major assembly is complete, thread a tapestry needle with tan yarn and work a loose chain stitch embroidery line along CF and CB, one small chain approximately every 1-2 knitted rounds. Keep the tension relaxed so the fabric does not pucker.

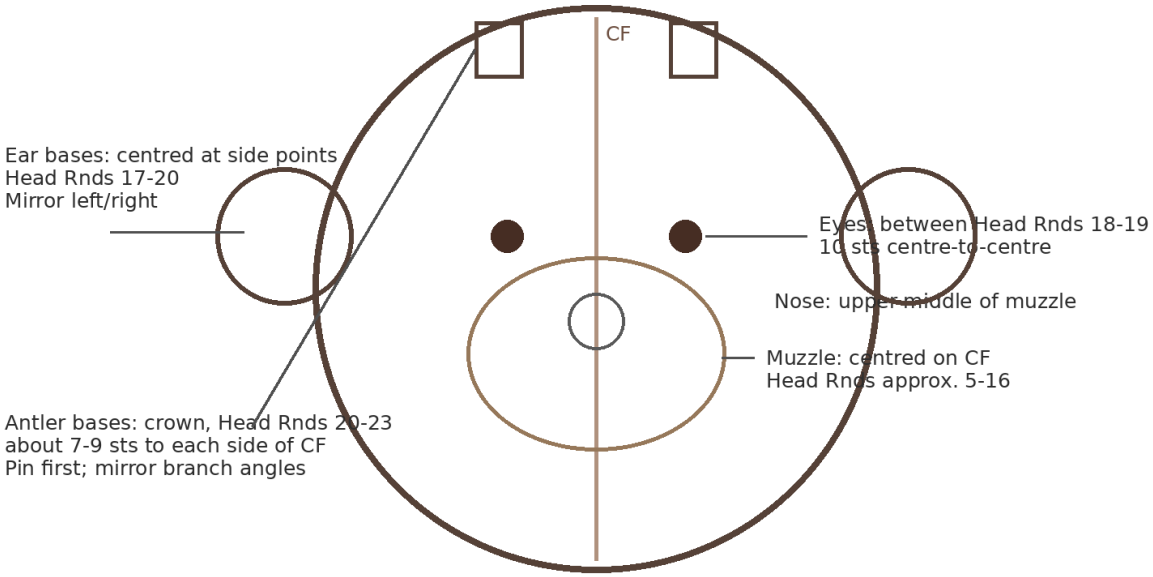
- Head front: work from crown down to the upper edge of the cream muzzle; do not embroider across the muzzle.
- Head back: work from crown toward the lower neck area.
- Body front: work from just below the neck to the lower belly.
- Body back: work from the neck to the lower back.

This detail should remain subtle and use the same tan yarn as the main fabric.

8. Placement Maps

Use the following maps when positioning the features. Sew-on pieces may be pinned after the head and body are stuffed. If using safety eyes, use the eye coordinates before Head Rnd 21 and before stuffing; embroidered eyes may be added after the head is stuffed and closed. Pin every sew-on piece first and compare both sides before sewing. All right/left directions are from the plushie's point of view.

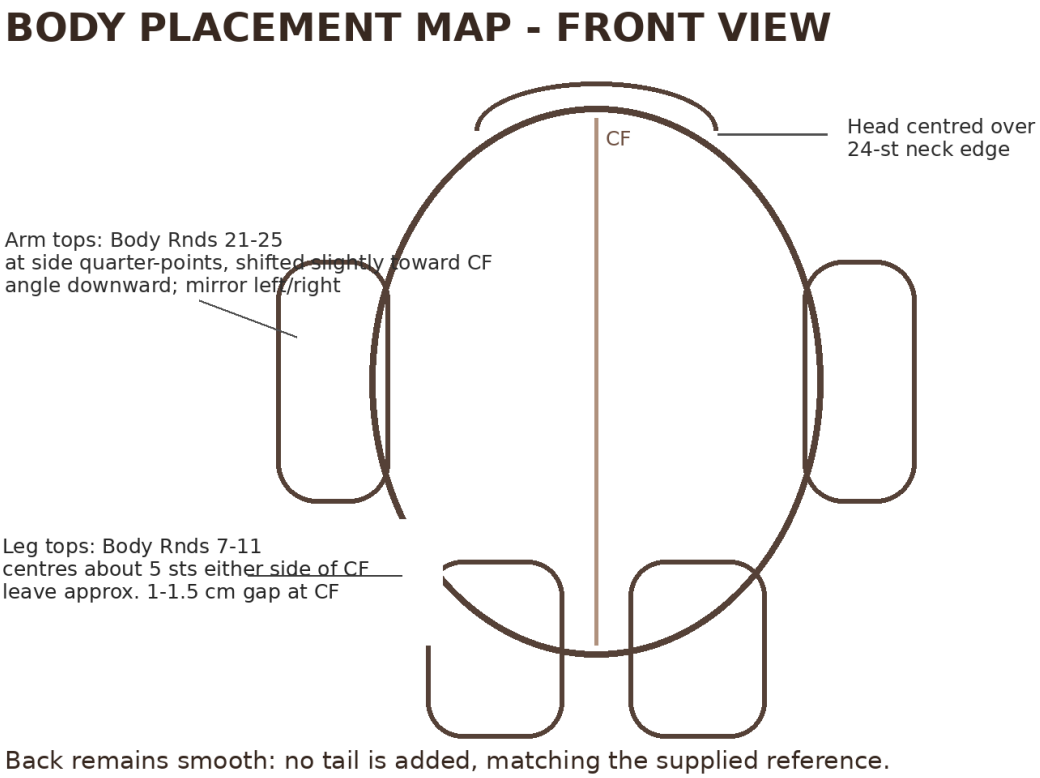
HEAD PLACEMENT MAP - FRONT VIEW



Orientation: BOR is centre back (CB). CF is directly opposite BOR.

Feature	Placement
Eyes	Between Head Rnds 18-19; 10 sts centre-to-centre, centred on CF.
Muzzle	Centre on CF over approximately Head Rnds 5-16; shape to a horizontal oval. Upper edge sits just below the eye line.
Nose	Centre on the upper-middle of the muzzle.
Mouth	Vertical stem begins directly below nose; smile curve sits in lower half of muzzle.
Ears	Bases centred on the side points over Head Rnds 17-20; angle slightly upward and outward.
Antlers	Bases on crown over about Head Rnds 20-23; place symmetrically about 7-9 sts to each side of CF.

8.1 Body Placement



Feature	Placement
Legs	Sew open tops over Body Rnds 7-11. Centre each leg about 5 sts to either side of CF; leave a small gap of approximately 1-1.5 cm between the inner leg edges after pinning.
Arms	Sew open tops over Body Rnds 21-25 at the side quarter-points, shifted slightly toward CF. Angle both arms down 15-20 degrees.
Head	Centre the head over the 24-st neck edge. Keep head CF aligned with body CF and head CB aligned with body BOR/CB.
Scarf	Wrap once around neck. Let the fringed tail hang down the plushie's LEFT front, matching the reference.
Back	Leave smooth with no tail.

Symmetry check: When viewed from the front, the inner edges of the legs should be equally distant from CF, the arm angles should match, and the ear and antler heights should mirror one another.

9. Stuffing and Shaping

Piece	Stuffing level	Shaping goal
Head	Firm	Round, smooth sphere with no hard lumps; cheeks slightly full.
Body	Firm lower half; moderate upper half	Stable base with gently tapered shoulders.
Legs	Firm feet; moderate legs	Flat, weight-bearing feet; legs remain cylindrical.
Arms	Firm tips; light-moderate arms	Dark tips stay rounded; tan sections remain flexible.
Muzzle	Very light	Soft shallow dome; do not overstuff.
Nose	Very light	Rounded oval without becoming a hard ball.
Ears	None	Flat layers; slight cup at base only.
Antlers	No loose fibre fill	Compact i-cord should stand from firm knitting and secure sewing.

For the head and body, add stuffing in small tufts. Push stuffing into the outer edges first, then fill the centre. This reduces hard lumps and visible gaps.

To flatten the feet slightly, press the dark-brown foot section against a flat surface while adjusting stuffing. Do not overfill the ankles; they need a little flexibility during attachment.

If the muzzle looks too round after sewing, gently massage the stuffing outward to the left and right and add two tiny hidden tacking stitches at the lower left and lower right edges to preserve the horizontal oval.

10. Assembly Instructions

Use matching yarn and a tapestry needle. Pin pieces before sewing. Take small bites of the knitted fabric so the seam stays neat and does not distort the surface.

1. Prepare both ears: sew each cream inner ear to one tan outer ear. At the base of each completed ear, pinch the lower 1-1.5 cm slightly so the cream side cups forward; tack the pinch with 2-3 stitches.

2. Build both antlers from their i-cord sections. Complete the right antler first, then mirror the branch directions for the left antler. Check both antlers are the same finished height before attaching them to the head.

3. Complete the head. If using safety eyes, install them before Head Rnd 21. Stuff and close the head as written.

4. Pin the cream muzzle on CF over approximately Head Rnds 5-16. Check that its top edge is below the eye line and that equal tan fabric is visible on both sides. Sew around about three-quarters of the edge, add a very small amount of stuffing, then close the remaining seam.

5. Sew the red nose to the upper-middle of the muzzle. Keep it horizontally centred on CF. Use enough stitches to prevent rotation but do not flatten it completely.

6. Embroider the mouth with dark brown yarn: make a straight 1.5-2 cm vertical line from the underside of the nose. From its lower end, embroider a shallow smile curve extending about 1.5 cm to each side. If using embroidered eyes, add them now at the mapped positions.

7. Stuff the body and BO the neck edge as written. Place it upright and redistribute stuffing until the lower body is stable and both leg attachment zones are equally shaped.

8. Stuff both legs. Pin their open top edges over Body Rnds 7-11 with centres about 5 sts to either side of CF. Aim for approximately 1-1.5 cm between the inner leg edges. Stand the body on the pinned legs. Adjust until both feet contact the surface evenly, then sew around each circular top opening. Do not flatten the leg tube.

9. Stuff both arms. Pin the top openings over Body Rnds 21-25, slightly forward of the side quarter-points. Mirror the angles. Sew around each open top, keeping the arm tube round.

10. Place the head over the 24-st body neck. Align head CF with body CF and head CB with body CB. Pin at front, back and both sides first, then add more pins. Sew the body neck edge to the lower head using small ladder stitches. Add a little extra stuffing through the last 2-3 cm of the seam if the neck feels hollow, then close fully.

11. Attach the ears at the side points over Head Rnds 17-20. Keep cream inner ears facing mostly forward. Check both ear tips are level before securing.

12. Attach the antlers on the crown over about Head Rnds 20-23, one on each side of CF. Sew each 6-st i-cord base down through multiple head stitches. Add 2-3 anchoring stitches farther up the stem if needed, hiding them in the dark-brown yarn. The two antlers must mirror each other.

13. Wrap the red scarf once around the neck. Overlap the non-fringed end beneath the scarf at the back-left or side and tack it with matching red yarn. Let the fringed end hang down the plushie's LEFT front. Add one hidden tack near the shoulder so the tail stays in place.

14. Add the subtle tan chain-stitch centre seam detail to the head and body. Keep it straight and loose enough that it does not gather the knitting.

15. Bury all yarn tails inside nearby stuffed sections. Remove all temporary pins and locking markers. Recheck that no marker or guide thread is trapped under a seam.

11. Final Visual Checklist

- Face is centred: eyes are level, muzzle is horizontal and nose sits on CF.
- Mouth stem is directly beneath the nose and smile is balanced left/right.
- Cream inner ears are centred and both ears sit at the same height.
- Antlers are a true mirrored pair: lower branches angle outward and upper branches angle slightly inward.
- Both arms hang at matching downward angles and dark-brown tips end at similar heights.
- Both feet sit flat; leg lengths and dark-brown foot heights match.
- Head CF aligns with body CF; the subtle tan centre seam detail remains straight.
- Scarf tail hangs down the plushie's LEFT front and the 5 fringe bundles are even.
- Back is smooth with no tail, matching the reference design.
- No visible holes, exposed stuffing, loose yarn tails, trapped markers or unsecured seams remain.

12. Troubleshooting

Issue	Practical fix
Loose or lumpy stuffing	Remove some stuffing and re-add it in small tufts around the outer edges first. Use a blunt tapestry needle to redistribute without opening a large seam.
Uneven eyes	Before securing embroidered eyes, compare from directly in front. For safety eyes, confirm both post gaps are on the same round before installing washers.
Twisted joined round	If noticed in the first 1-2 rounds, undo and rejoin. A twisted head/body foundation cannot be corrected cleanly later.
Uneven limbs	Re-pin both limbs using the CF line as the reference. Match attachment-round range and angle before resewing.
Muzzle off-centre	Remove only the affected side of the seam, re-pin the oval so CF passes through the nose centre, then resew.
Antler leaning	Add 2-3 hidden anchoring stitches from the lower stem into the head one round above the base seam. Match the anchor height on the opposite antler.
Ear not symmetrical	Check the base pinch and attachment height. Re-tack the base rather than pulling the ear tip.
Visible holes / stuffing	Use a smaller needle next time. For a finished piece, redistribute stuffing away from the hole and duplicate-stitch over the gap with matching yarn.
Scarf curls	Lightly steam from a distance or damp-block flat, avoiding direct high heat on acrylic yarn. The knit border should reduce curling.
Plushie will not stand	Flatten the dark-brown feet by redistributing stuffing, then adjust the leg attachment angle so both soles contact the surface at the same time.

13. Printing and Customer Notes

This is a digital knitting pattern only. No physical plushie will be shipped.

Print at 100% / Actual Size for the clearest diagrams and tables. The pattern can also be followed from a phone or tablet.

Yarn brands vary. Match yarn weight and gauge rather than relying on a brand name. If substituting yarn, keep all colours within the same general weight so the limbs and face pieces remain proportional.

This pattern is intended for personal handmade creation. Do not copy, redistribute, upload, resell or reproduce the digital pattern text or pages. If you intend to sell finished handmade items, confirm that your use complies with the pattern seller's terms and your local requirements.

Safety reminder: For recipients under age 3 or whenever detachable eye components are not appropriate, use the embroidered-eye option and secure all embroidery and seams carefully. Follow the safety requirements applicable in your location.

Quick Finishing Summary

Check	Target
Overall height	31-33 cm including antlers
Eyes	Level; 10 sts centre-to-centre
Muzzle	Centred on CF, horizontal oval
Antlers	Mirrored, secure, upright
Legs	Equal length; both feet flat
Scarf	5 fringe bundles; tail on plushie's left front
Back	Smooth; no tail
Final seams	No holes, loose tails or exposed stuffing

RUDY THE FESTIVE REINDEER

Complete Digital Knitting Pattern - End of Pattern