

## Kuschelmonster



You can make the Kuschelmonster (cuddly monster) out of any fun fur, plush or pompon yarn. You can make any size you like. I knitted the fun yarn with a much smaller needle to get a compact and windtight fur.

To make the Kuschelmonster hat fit properly, it is important to make a swatch to get a gauge for the yarn with this needle size.



Kuschelmonster is knitted in stockinette stitch in rounds. The neck part is longer than the front, so the hat won't slip over the eyes. This is done by short rows. The "ears" are shaped by crochet cords that are pulled through the hat sides. This enables you to fit the hat exactly to the length of the head. Next year if the child has grown, you can reposition the cords, the Kuschelmonster will be his or her favorite hat for another year.

The eyes and the nose of Kuschelmonster are crocheted. They are done in parts and sewn to the hat. The lower edge of the hat is also finished with single crochet.

Knitting techniques that maybe are not known, like provisional cast-on or German short rows, are explained in the attachment.

You should have basic crocheting knowledge.

## Material:

Ca. 100 g of main yarn: any fun fur, plush or pompon yarn you like  
 Ca. 50 g of soft bulky smooth solid yarn for the lower edge, the eyes and the nose  
 Ca. 10 g of thinner yarn for the inner eyes  
 2 small black buttons with holes  
 A bit of white yarn to sew on the eye buttons  
 1 stitch marker  
 Circular needle or double points 2 to 4 needle sizes below the size recommended for the main yarn  
 Knitting needle in the same size as additional needle for 3-needle-bind-off  
 Crochet hooks matching the size of the yarns for the eyes  
 Tapestry needle

My Kuschelmonster is made of Bernat Tizzy (100% Polyester, 47m/100g) knitted with 5.00 mm needles, I used up 100g. The blue yarn is 100% alpaca with 100m/100g, I used a 5 mm crochet hook. The green yarn is a leftover of Zitron Unisono (300m, 100g), I used a 3.5 mm crochet hook.

## Construction:



Kuschelmonster is started with a provisional cast-on (see attachment). It is knitted in stockinette stitch in the round. The longer back part is shaped by short rows (see attachment). The hat is knitted straight up. The upper edge is closed by 3-needle-bind-off (see attachment).

The eye parts and nose are crocheted and sewn to the body. The "ears" are shaped by crochet cords that are pulled through the hat sides. The provisional cast-on of the lower edge is cast off by crocheting rounds of single crochet.

## Gauge and size:

Make a swatch with the main yarn and the needle size you'll use. You can count how many stitches make 10 cm. You cannot use the gauge that is printed on the ball's label – you knit the yarn a lot tighter!

The table gives you average hat sizes:

Age	Head circumference in cm	Hat length in cm
<b>Babies</b>		
Newborns	35 – 37	12,5
3 – 6 months	38 – 44	13 – 14
6 – 12 months	44 - 46	15 – 16
12 – 24 months	46 – 50	15 – 17
<b>Children</b>		
2 – 3 years	48 - 54	17 - 18

3 – 6 years	51 - 54	17 - 18
6 – 10 years	53 - 55	17 - 19
10 – 14 years	53 - 57	17 - 19
<b>Women</b>	53 - 59	17 - 21
<b>Men</b>	56 - 63	19 - 22

The neck part of the Kuschelmonster is longer than the front part. The average length is the front length. When you shape the “ears“, you can vary the head length of the hat for 1 to 2 cms.

Please take care that the hat circumference is not too large, or the hat will fall of the head! I knit hats 2 to 4 cm smaller than the head circumference, then it is slightly stretched and stays in place.

How do you calculate the number of stitches you need?

Step	My example	Your calculation
1. Which hat size do you want to knit?	2 – 3 years, exact head circumference 53 cm	
2. Calculate hat circumference	$53 - 3 = 50$ cm hat circumference	
3. Count gauge	9 stitches = 10 cm	
4. Hat circumference / 10 =	$50 / 10 = 5$	
5. Result <b>4</b> x number of stitches for 10 cm	$5 \times 9 = 45$	
6. Number of stitches must be divisible by 2	46 stitches	

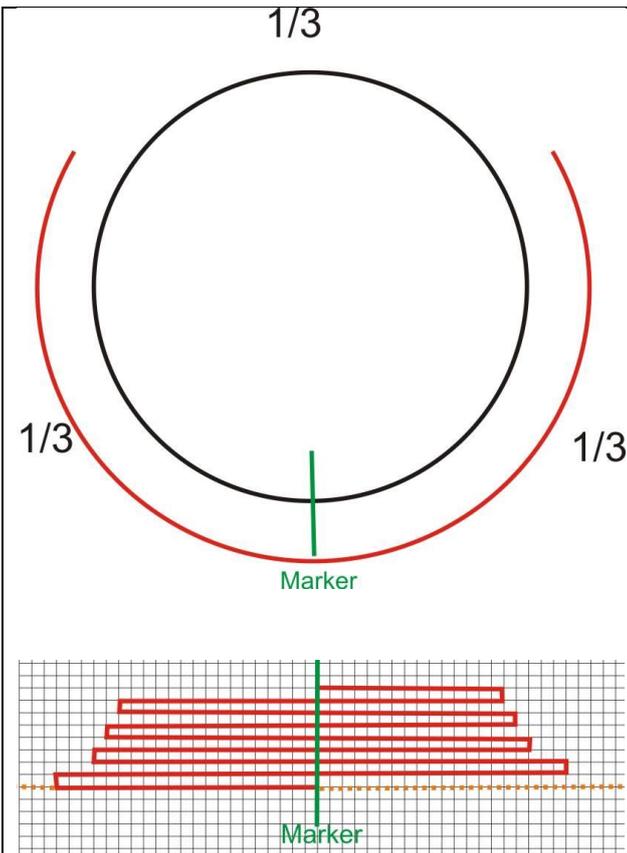
## Instructions:

Make a provisional cast-on of your number of stitches.

Take the main yarn and knit all stitches. Close the round, take care not to twist the stitches. Place a marker at the beginning of the round, it marks the middle of the back. The marker stays in the knitting to the end, slip it every round.

Knit stockinette stitch for 3 cm. Stop at the marker.

Now the longer back part of the hat is worked with short rows.



The short rows start with 2/3 of the hat stitches. They are knitted in stockinette stitch in rows (knit right side row, purl wrong side row).

1<sup>st</sup> double row: Start at the marker and knit 1/3 of the hat stitches. Turn, make the first stitch a double stitch, then purl to the marker and another third part of the hat stitches. Turn.

2<sup>nd</sup> double row: Double stitch and knit up to 3 stitches before the end of the last short row (= leave the old double stitch and 2 more stitches unknitted), turn. Double stitch and purl up to 3 stitches before the end of the last short row (= leave the old double stitch and 2 more stitches unknitted), turn.

3<sup>rd</sup> double row: Double stitch and knit up to 1 stitch before the end of the last short row (= leave the old double stitch unknitted), turn. Double stitch and purl up to 1 stitches before the end of the last short row (= leave the old double stitch unknitted), turn.

With bulky yarn the back extension is possibly long enough. If you knit thinner yarn, repeat the 3<sup>rd</sup> double row 1 or 2 more times.

Last row: Double stitch and knit to the marker.

Continue knitting in the round over all stitches. With the first round, all double stitches are knitted – please take care to catch both “legs” of the double stitches!

#### My calculations:

46 stitches / 3 = 15 stitches

That means: Starting at the marker, knit 15 stitches, turn. Double stitch and purl 14 more stitches to the marker, purl 15 more stitches after the marker. Turn.

Double stitch and knit 26 more stitches, turn. Double stitch and purl 23 stitches, turn.

Double stitch and knit 22 more stitches, turn. Double stitch and purl 21 stitches, turn.

Double stitch and knit 20 more stitches, turn. Double stitch and purl 19 stitches, turn.

Double stitch and knit up to the marker.

Knit on in rounds over all 46 stitches.

#### Your calculations:

\_\_\_\_\_ stitches / 3 = \_\_\_\_\_ stitches

When the hat is long enough, stop at the marker. If you can try it on, the knitting should close on top of the head without being stretched.

Knit another  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the hat stitches up to an (imagined) side seam.

With my 46 stitches, that makes another  $46/4=12$  stitches to knit.

With your \_\_\_\_\_ stitches, knit another \_\_\_\_\_ stitches.

Casting off with 3-needle-bind-off (see attachment):

The bind-off seam goes across the head from ear to ear. Devide the stitches equally onto 2 needles, one half of the stitches for the front, the other half of the stitches for the back of the hat. You can as well use both ends of a circular needle.

Knit 1 stitch of the front and 1 stitch of the back together and cast off loosely in one step.

Cut yarn and sew the end in.

The main part of the hat is finished. Now crochet the applications:



#### **Eyes (2 x 2 parts):**

Both parts of each eye are crocheted in the round. One is made with thick yarn, one with thinner yarn.

Make 3 chain stitches and close to a round with a slip stitch.

Make 6 single crochet stitches (sc) into the round. Close round.

Make 2 single crochet stitches (sc) into each stitch. Close round.

Make alternately 1 single crochet and 2 single crochets into each stitch. Close round.

Cut yarn with a long tail. The tail will be used to sew the eye to the body.

#### **Nose: crochet in rows**

Make 1 chain stitch.

Make a single crochet into the chain stitch.

Make 3 single crochets into the stitch.

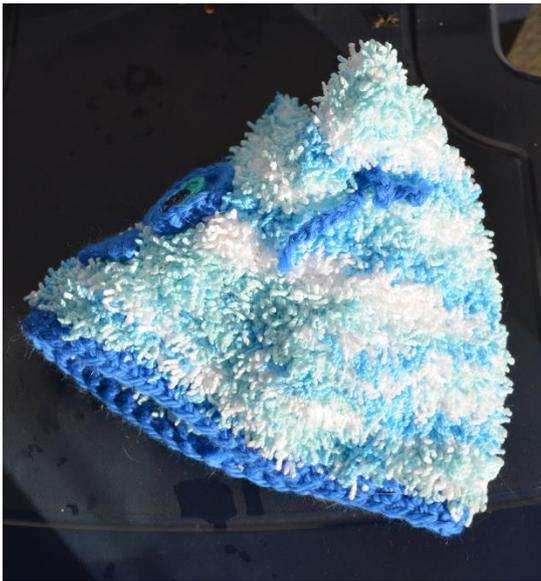
From now on every row up to the desired length:

Make 2 sc into the first stitch, make 1 sc into each stitch up to the end of the row.

If the nose is long enough, cut yarn with a long tail. The tail will be used to sew the nose to the body.

#### **Ear cords: make 2**

Crochet chain stitch for about 20 cm, cut yarn and pull through.

**Finishing:****Shaping the "ears":**

Lay down the hat in a way that the imagined side seam is up. Shape a pocket of about 1/3 of the upper edge. Take the crochet cord and pull it from the outside ("side seam") through the pocket, about 5 to 7 cm from the top. Stich about 1 cm sideways and pull the cord back to the outside.

Pull the cord tight and make a knot.

Make the second "ear" on the other side of the hat.

If you move the cords towards the upper end of the hat, the hat will become longer. If you move the cords towards the lower end of the hat, it will become shorter. Please take care not to draw the knots too tight or you won't be able to change the position of the cords.

**Sew the eyes to the body:**

Pin the eyes into position and take care that they are even.

With the long yarn tail, first sew the outer eye to the body. Sew the smaller circle as inner eye onto the first circle.

Position the button to the corner of the eye and sew it to the eye with white yarn. The white yarn is relevant, without the little white light the eye will look dead.

**Sew the nose to the body:**

Pin the nose into position and sew it with the long yarn end.

Sew in all yarn ends on the wrong side of the hat.

**Lower edge of the hat:**

Pick up the provisional cast-on (see attachment) and put all live stitches onto a circular needle.

Crochet a single crochet stitch (sc) into each live stitch with the soft thick yarn. This way all stitches are cast off.

Crochet another round of single crochet stitches around the hat. With this round you can pull the edge a bit tighter if needed. Close the round with a slip stitch. Cut yarn and pull through.

Sew in all remaining yarn ends.

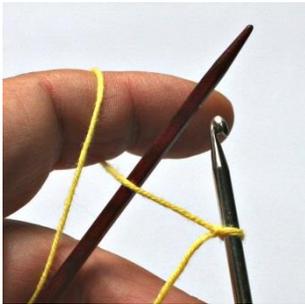
## Attachment: Knitting Technique

### Provisional cast-on

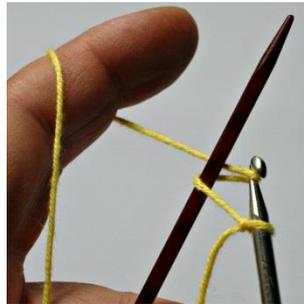
If you like to have seamless knits, you can use a provisional cast-on.

If you undo the provisional cast-on later, you get live stitches. With those live stitches you can knit in the other direction or you can close a seam between two parts invisibly with the Kitchener stitch.

There are quite a number of possibilities to do a provisional cast-on. I'll show you this one: how to do a provisional cast-on by crocheting around the knitting needle with waste yarn.



① Take the crochet hook into your right hand and take the knitting needle into your left hand. Take a smooth waste yarn in contrasting color and make a slipknot. Put the yarn loop onto the crochet hook.



② Put the waste yarn over the knitting needle from front to back. Catch the waste yarn with the crochet hook behind the knitting needle.



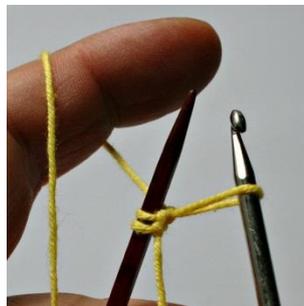
③ Pull yarn through the sling with the crochet hook = you have crocheted a chain stitch around the knitting needle. On the knitting needle you can see one stitch. The yarn loop stays on the crochet hook.



④ Put yarn over the knitting needle from front to back.



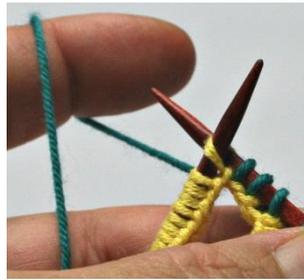
⑤ Catch yarn with the crochet hook and pull through.



⑥ On the knitting needle you can see the 2 stitches we made. The yarn loop stays on the crochet hook.



⑦ Repeat steps 4 to 6 until you have got the number of stitches you need on the knitting needle. Then make a few normal chain stitches, cut waste yarn and pull through.



1st row main yarn

⑧ You'll get twisted stitches by this method of casting on. In the first row, knit those stitches through the back loop.

### Picking up the provisional cast-on



① Open the waste yarn end and pull the chain stitches carefully. This works best from the wrong side of the knitting.



② Put the knitting needle into the first stitch, and then undo the chain stitch carefully.



③ The first live stitch is on the knitting needle.



④ Pick up the next stitch with the knitting needle.



⑤ Then carefully undo the waste yarn chain stitch.



⑥ Repeat steps 4 and 5 until the waste yarn is completely undone and all live stitches are on the knitting needle. Pick up the last (missing) stitch out of the edge.

## German short rows – turning with the double stitch

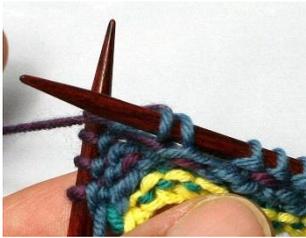
A short row is a row that is not knitted from edge to edge, you turn within the row. To prevent a hole at the turning point, the first stitch after turning within a row is ALWAYS a double stitch.



1. Put the yarn in front and put the needle in as if to purl.



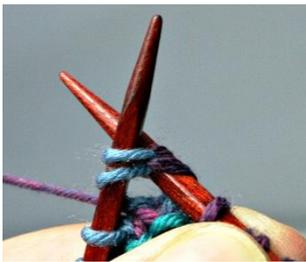
2. Slip the stitch to the right needle without knitting it.



3. Pull the yarn to the back over the right needle. Pull the yarn so that two “legs” appear on the needle. The legs are the strands of this stitch that we knitted in the last row.



4. Knit or purl the next stitch and pull again so that the double stitch is tight. Knit on as usual.



5. The double stitch counts as 1 stitch. It is knitted as 1 stitch. Please take care to catch both “legs” when knitting it.



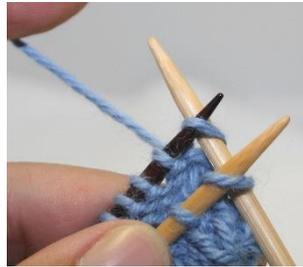
6. This is how the double stitch looks after you knitted over it.

### 3-needle-bind-off

The 3-needle-bind-off is a way of joining two knitted pieces and casting them off in one step.



① Put both parts on different needles and hold them parallelly.



② Take the third knitting needle and put it through the first stitch on the front needle, then put it through the first stitch on the back needle. Catch yarn and pull through = you have got 1 stitch on the right needle.



③ Knit together the next stitch on both left needles. You have got 2 stitches on the right needle.



④ Stick the left needle through the first stitch on the right needle.



⑤ Pull the first stitch over the second stitch = normal knitted cast-off.



⑥ Knit together each stitch of the front and back needle, casting them off at the same time.



Front side view



Back side view