

Tiny Bunny Couple

by Kathy Lewinski

These bunnies can be knit up in any weight yarn, the bigger the yarn, the bigger the bunnies. Just make sure to use the same weight yarn throughout the project. My girl bunny in lace weight is 1 ¾" tall and 2.5" tall in fingering.

Supplies:

- 6g/52yds cream (MC), 1.6g/14yds dress, 2g/16yds blue (CC), 1g/8yrd grey (I used Knit Picks Gloss Lace Weight in bare natural, marina, fiesta and sterling)
- Scrap yarn the same weight in various colors or more cream yarn and acrylic paints
- Four double-pointed needles in the appropriate weight for your yarn (I used 000 for lace weight and 1 for fingering.)
- Four double-pointed needles, two sizes bigger than the ones you are using for the rest of the project (Only needed if you are knitting up the basket.)
- Stitch marker
- Tapestry needle
- Stuffing
- Black and pink embroidery thread
- Hand sewing needle
- Small paintbrush (optional)

Gauge: Gauge is not important for this project. Just make sure you are knitting a tight fabric so the stuffing doesn't show through. (My gauge was 14 stitches and 16 rows per inch in lace and 10 stitches and 12 rows per inch in fingering.)

Abbreviations:

K – knit

P – purl

Kfb – knit front and back

M1 – make one, direction doesn't matter

K2tog – knit two together

Sl – slip one stitch (I slipped purl-wise on the purl side and knit-wise on the knit side.)

Ssk – slip two stitches and knit them together

A note about dealing with your yarn tails: When I work on a stuffed project like this I basically make a duplicate stitch or two with the tails and then pull it through the stuffing and cut off any extra. This does a pretty good job of securing it.

With the bunnies, I also used the MC tails to make the bunny tail. After doing the duplicate stitches, I pulled the yarn through to the bunny's butt. You can knot one or two if you are worried about them pulling in or even add a dot of glue. When I was finished, I trimmed and fluffed the ends.

GIRL

Head and body:

Cast on 6 stitches. Divide between three needles and join together to knit in the round. Place a marker between the first and last stitch to mark rows.

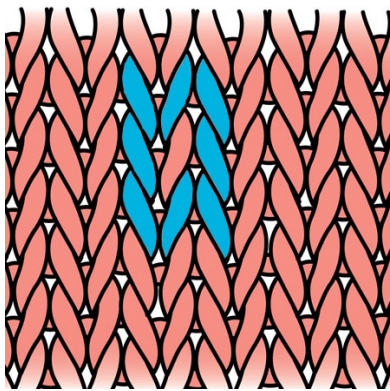
Row 1: (kfb)6x (12 stitches)

Row 2: k
 Row 3: (k2, m1)6x (18 stitches)
 Row 4: k
 Row 5: (k3, m1)6x (24 stitches)
 Row 6 – 10: k
 Bring cast on tail inside and weave in. Use it to close any hole you might have at the top.
 Row 11: (k2tog)12x (12 stitches)
 Row 12: k
 Stuff the head.
 Row 13: (k1, m1)12x (24 stitches)
 Row 14 – 24: k
 Row 25: k5, bind off the next two stitches, k9, bind off the next two stitches, k4 (20 stitches)
 Stuff the body. Put the 10 stitches between the bind offs on a piece of scrap yarn.

Legs:

Leg 1:

Row 1: k5, pick up two stitches, one from the first bind off and one from the second, and knit them together, k5 (11 stitches)



Row 2 – 7: k
 Row 8: k2, m1, k2, m1, k7 (13 stitches)
 Row 9: k3, k2tog, k8 (12 stitches)
 Stuff leg.
 Row 10: (k2tog)6x (6 stitches)
 Cut the yarn leaving a tail. Weave the tail through the remaining 6 stitches and pull tight. Pull the tail inside and out through the back of the bunny to start the tail.

Leg 2:

Put the 10 stitches on the waste yarn on three needles. Place a stitch marker between stitches 5 and 6 on the outside of the leg.

Row 1: k5, pick up two stitches, one from the first bind off and one from the second, and knit them together, k5 (11 stitches)
 Row 2 – 7: k
 Row 8: k7, m1, k2, m1, k2 (13 stitches)
 Row 9: k8, k2tog, k3 (12 stitches)
 Stuff leg.
 Row 10: (k2tog)6x (6 stitches)

Cut the yarn leaving a tail. Weave the tail through the remaining 6 stitches and pull tight. Pull the tail inside and out through the back of the bunny to start the tail. Use the yarn tail where you started knitting to close any hole in between the legs. Pull inside and out through the back to the bunny tail.

Arms:

On the side of the torso pick up and knit 8 stitches. The blue in this image shows how I picked up the stitches, starting with the middle bottom one.

Divide between three needles. Place a stitch marker between the first and last stitches to mark rows.

Row 1 – 9: k
 Row 10: k2tog (4 stitches)

Cut yarn leaving a tail. Weave the tail through the remaining stitches and pull tight to close. Pull yarn inside and to the back where you are making the tail. Pull the yarn from where you started in the same way. (If you want the arms to not stick as straight out, use this tail to tack it down a little.)

Repeat on the other side of the torso.

Ears:

Pick up and knit 3 stitches on one side of the head, slightly towards the top.

Row 1: k

Row 2: p

Row 3: k

Row 4: p

Row 5: k

Row 6: p

Row 7: kfb, kfb, k1 (5 stitches)

Row 8: p

Row 9: k2tog, k1, k2tog (3 stitches)

Row 10: p

Row 11: k2tog, slide stitch back to left needle, k2tog (1 stitch)

Cut yarn leaving a tail and pull through last stitch to secure. Weave the two tails, beginning and end along the edges of the ear on the wrong side, this will help with the shaping. You can also use a tail to secure the ear down a little.

Repeat for second ear.

(I wet my ears down when they were done, then pressed them flat with my fingers and shaped them to face down.)

Trim and fluff yarn pulled through for tail.

Dress:

Cast on 40 stitches. Divide between three needles. Join together to knit in the round placing a stitch marker between the first and last stitch to mark rows.

Row 1: p

Row 2: k

Row 3: p

Row 4 - 8: k

Row 9: (k2tog)20x (20 stitches)

Row 10: p

Row 11: k

Now you will work the front and back 10 stitches separately. Turn to work the first side, 10 stitches. You will be facing the wrong side of your knitting.

Row 12: sl, p9, turn

Row 13: sl, k9, turn

Row 14: sl, P9, turn

Row 15: sl, k9, turn

Row 16: sl p9, turn

Row 17: k2, bind off next 6 stitches, k1

Cut yarn leaving a tail. Leave the 4 stitches on a needle.

Join yarn and repeat on the other 10 stitches the same way.

Seam the two sides of the dress together using Kitchener stitch. Weave in ends. The dress will have enough stretch to pull over the bunny's head and on.

Embroidering the face:

I did one stitch each with three strands of embroidery floss for the eyes and nose on the smallest size, you may want to more stitches for a bigger bunny or use the yarn. To secure the stitches, I knotted the thread and pulled it between two stitches into the stuffing. When I was done embroidering, I tied a knot in the thread near where it comes out of the bunny and pulled it between two stitches into the stuffing. Then just cut the thread close to the bunny and push it in.

BOY

Head and body:

Cast on 6 stitches. Divide between three needles and join together to knit in the round. Place a marker between the first and last stitch to mark rows.

Row 1: (kfb)6x (12 stitches)

Row 2: k

Row 3: (k2, m1)6x (18 stitches)

Row 4: k

Row 5: (k3, m1)6x (24 stitches)

Row 6 – 10: k

Bring cast on tail inside and weave in. Use it to close any hole you might have at the top.

Row 11: (k2tog)12x (12 stitches)

Row 12: k

Stuff the head.

Row 13: (k1, m1)12x (24 stitches)

Row 14 – 22: k

Switch to CC

Row 23 – 26: k

Row 27: k5, bind off the next two stitches, k9, bind off the next two stitches, k4 (20 stitches)

Stuff the body. Put the 10 stitches between the bind offs on a piece of scrap yarn.

Legs:

Leg 1:

Row 1: k5, pick up two stitches, one from the first bind off and one from the second, and knit them together, k5 (11 stitches)

Row 2 – 6: k

Change to MC

Row 7 – 9: k

Row 10: k2, m1, k2, m1, k7 (13 stitches)

Row 11: k3, k2tog, k8 (12 stitches)

Stuff leg.

Row 12: (k2tog)6x (6 stitches)

Cut the yarn leaving a tail. Weave the tail through the remaining 6 stitches and pull tight. Pull the tail inside and out through the back of the bunny to start the tail.

Leg 2:

Put the 10 stitches on the waste yarn on three needles. Place a stitch marker between stitches 5 and 6 on the outside of the leg.

Row 1: k5, pick up two stitches, one from the first bind off and one from the second, and knit them together, k5 (11 stitches)

Row 2 – 6: k
Change to MC
Row 7 – 9: k
Row 10: k7, m1, k2, m1, k2 (13 stitches)
Row 11: k8, k2tog, k3 (12 stitches)
Stuff leg.
Row 12: (k2tog)6x (6 stitches)

Cut the yarn leaving a tail. Weave the tail through the remaining 6 stitches and pull tight. Pull the tail inside and out through the back of the bunny to start the tail. Use the yarn tail where you started knitting to close any hole in between the legs. Pull inside and out through the back to the bunny tail.

Arms:

On the side of the torso pick up and knit 8 stitches as same as you did for the girl bunny with MC. Divide between three needles. Place a stitch marker between the first and last stitches to mark rows.

Row 1 – 11: k
Row 12: k2tog (4 stitches)
Cut yarn leaving a tail. Weave the tail through the remaining stitches and pull tight to close. Pull yarn inside and to the back where you are making the tail. Pull the yarn from where you started in the same way. (If you want the arms to not stick as straight out, use this tail to tack it down a little.)

Repeat on the other side of the torso.

Trim and fluff yarn pulled through for tail.

Embroider the face as you did for the girl bunny.

Vest:

Cast on 26 stitches. Work flat.
Row 1 -10: k, slipping the first stitch of every row.
Row 11: sl1, k6, place those 7 stitches on a stitch holder or spare needle, k12, place the next 7 stitches on a stitch holder or spare needle.

Just work the 12 center stitches
Row 12 – 17: k, slipping the first stitch of every row
Row 18: k3, bind off the next 6 stitches, k2
Leave those 6 stitches on a stitch holder or spare needle.

With the wrong side facing, join yarn and work the 7 stitches on the left side.
Row 12 – 14: k (continue to slip first stitch on the outer edge)
Row 15: bind off 3, k3
Row 16: k
Row 17: bind off 1, k2
Row 18: k
Leave those three stitches on a stitch holder or spare needle.

With the right side facing, join yarn and work the 7 stitches on the other side.
Row 11 – 14: Knit 3 rows (continue to slip first stitch on the outer edge)
Row 15: bind off 3, k3
Row 16: k
Row 17: bind off 1, k2
Row 18: k
Leave those three stitches on a stitch holder or spare needle.

Use Kitchener stitch to seam together the shoulders. Weave in the ends. Put the vest on the bunny and stitch shut at the middle.

Bow Tie:

This might look like it is uneven when you read it, but I found that that having five stitches on the bind off was wider than five stitches at the cast on.

Knit flat.

Cast on 5 stitches.

Row 1: k

Row 2: ssk, k, k2tog (3 stitches)

Row 3: k

Row 4: k2tog, k1 (2 stitches)

Row 5: kfb, kfb (4 stitches)

Bind off. Weave in ends. Sew into place on bunny.

ACCESSORIES

Carrot:

I made this in cream yarn then used a green Sharpie to color the greens and watered down acrylic paint for the orange.

Cast on 4. You will be working an i-cord.

Row 1 – 4: k

Row 5: k2tog, k2 (3 stitches)

Row 6: k

Row 7: k2tog, k1 (2 stitches)

Row 8: k

Row 9: k2tog (1 stitch)

Cut the yarn leaving a tail and pull through the last stitch to secure. Pull the tails and cast on tail to the top to use as the carrot greens.

Basket and Eggs:

I knit this all up in cream and then painted everything with slightly watered down acrylic paint. The paint also helps make the basket a little sturdier. While the basket is wet with the paint, you can shape it a little with your fingers.

Cast on 18 stitches with larger needles two sizes larger than you are using for the rest of the project. Join together to knit in the round placing a stitch maker between the first and last stitch to mark rows.

Switch to smaller needles as you knit the first row.

Row 1: p

Row 2: k

Row 3: p

Row 4: k

Row 5: p

Row 6: (k1, k2tog)6x (12 stitches)

Row 7: k

Row 8: (k2tog)6x (6 stitches)

Cut the yarn leaving a tail. Weave the tail through the remaining 6 stitches and pull tight to close. Weave in ends.

Work a 3 stitch i-cord for the handle any length you want. Use the tail to sew into place on the inside of the basket.

Eggs:

Cast on 3 stitches. Work i-cord.

Row 1 - 2:k

Row 3: k2tog, k1 (2 stitches)

Cut the yarn leaving a tail. Weave the tail through the remaining 2 stitches and pull tight to close. Weave in ends.

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