

Super Simple Buddy Balls Bear Sweater

all content by Jinger Roy (<http://jingersnaps.wordpress.com>)



I was given the task of making a label for this adorable stuffed bear for a coworker's Christmas present to commemorate a baby's first Christmas. I went ahead and said, how about I make it a lot harder and make a whole sweater for the bear? No one who reads my blog regularly is at all surprised, I'm sure.

The only issue was, with this particular bear, the incredibly cute Buddy Balls plushie, the bear itself “unzips” up the back and flips inside out to fold into a plush ball. Yes, this is really, really cool, but makes it so that the sweater had to be able to come off easily in order to make this feature work, so I couldn't go with any easily obtained existing teddy bear sweater patterns. This super-simple pattern has a very wide, boat-like neckline to allow for the sweater to be removed by tiny hands, plus close-fitting sleeves to help this particular bear's strangely proportioned arms look more traditional.

Want to go buy a Buddy Balls plushie? Go check them out here: <http://www.buddyballs.com/>

Yarn:

Naturally Merino Fine 10 ply (100% pure NZ merino wool, 109 yds. per skein), 2 skeins of color 232

Supplies:

US size 7 (4.5mm) needles
locking stitch markers
tapestry or yarn needle
US size 6 (4.0mm) or slightly smaller crochet hook
small piece of white felt
embroidery floss
scissors

Gauge:

approximately 5.5 sts per inch on US 7 (4.5mm) needles, gauge isn't terribly important here

Pattern:

Front & Back (make 2 of these!):

CO 45 sts.

Knit 3 rows.

Then, starting on a RS (knit) row, knit in st st for 36 rows. Bind off all sts knit-wise.

Sleeves (again, make 2! unless your bear has more or less arms than 2...):

CO 25 sts.

Knit 2 rows.

Then, starting on a RS (knit row), knit in st st for 16 rows.

Bind off all sts knit-wise.

Finishing:

Using your locking stitch markers, pin all pieces together.

To do this properly, lay the front and back pieces next to each other, right sides up, so that the neckline sides (the ones without the garter stripes) are touching. Then, center the tops of the sleeves on either side of the neckline. Seam everything together using mattress stitch, leaving the neckline completely open.

Using your crochet hook, complete a round of single crochet around the neckline.

Weave in all ends and block.



Appliqué:



Cut out your felt into the shape of a heart and embellish with an embroidered message, if you'd like. Then, either whipstitch or blanket stitch (which is a lot harder to see on knitted fabric) the appliqué in place. Be careful not to stretch the knitted fabric underneath while sewing so that the front of the sweater doesn't warp. Then pop that sweater on that Buddy Balls Bear and enjoy!