

RED SQUIRREL

knitting pattern by Claire Garland
aka Dot Pebbles©



FINISHED SIZE 17cm/ 6.5in tall

NEEDLES Pair 3.75mm/ size 5 needles plus one spare

YARN Sport-weight or 4-ply and mohair knitted together to create the multi-layering of colour, for exact colour blends please see pattern

My yarn choices, you'll need no more than a ball of each:
Yarns

A: Drops Alpaca shade 2915 orange

B: Rico Super Kid Mohair Loves Silk shade 008 silver

C: Drops Alpaca shade 2925 rust

D: Drops Kid-silk shade 15 dark brown

E: Drops Kid-silk shade 01 off-white

F: Drops Alpaca shade white 1101

G: James C. Brett Faux Fur shade H2 grey/white

EYES Pair 9mm oval shaped toy eyes either with metal or plastic backs

EXTRAS Regular fibre-fill or heavy-weight toy filling (also known as Polyflock) and length dark brown and baby pink 4-ply yarn for the nose detailing

- You will also require stitch markers plus stitch holders; or a circular needle; or spare yarn, for holding stitches when not in use (if you're choosing the circular needle then it's best to have a 3.75mm, short one)

Pattern notes:

Use Cable Cast-on throughout

Abbreviations can be found at the end of the pattern

Special instructions:

W+Tk bring working yarn to the front of the work, slip next st purl-wise onto the RH needle, take working yarn to the back, slip the slipped stitch back onto the LH needle, turn the knitting = W+Tk (wrap and turn knit)

W+Tp take working yarn to the back of the work, slip next st purl-wise onto the RH needle, bring working yarn to the front, slip the slipped stitch back onto the LH needle, turn the knitting = W+Tp (wrap and turn purl)

HEAD

As mentioned in the contents, unless stated in the pattern, I have used two or three strands of yarn held together throughout and mostly with two or three different shades at once - in which case, with 2 strands yarn - yarns A & B (orange 4-ply and silver mohair) cast on 9 sts

... short rows to shape the squirrel's left muzzle

Short row 1 K3, W+Tk

Short row 2 P3

Short row 3 K2, W+Tk

Short row 4 P2

Short row 5 K1, W+Tk

Short row 6 P1

Row 1 K all 9 sts

... short rows to shape the squirrel's right muzzle

Short row 1 P3, W+Tp

Short row 2 K3

Short row 3 P2, W+Tp

Short row 4 K2

Short row 5 P1, W+Tp

Short row 6 K1

Row 2 P all 9 sts

Cut yarns A & B, join on yarns C & D (Rust 4-ply and dark brown mohair), cont. with two strands as foll:

Row 3 inc) [Kfb, k1] four times, kfb – 14sts

Row 4 P

FOREHEAD

Row 5 inc) [K4, kfb] twice, TURN so p-side faces

Row 6 P8, TURN so k-side face and cont. to work on just forehead sts as foll (the two sets 4 cheek sts you leave on the needle as you work in between them):

Row 7 inc) Kfb, k6, kfb, TURN so p-side faces

Row 8 P10

Join on yarn B (silver mohair), cont. to work with 3 strands as foll:

Row 9 inc) Kfb, k8, kfb, TURN so p-side faces

Rows 10-12 Beg. with a p row work 3 rows st on just these 12 forehead sts

Cut all yarns and leave all 12 Forehead sts on a safety pin.

SQUIRREL'S RIGHT CHEEK

RS facing, rejoin yarns B, C & D (silver mohair, rust 4-ply and dark brown mohair) to 4 sts for squirrel's right cheek

Row 1 K across all 4 sts

Row 2 inc) P3, pfb – 5 right cheek sts. **PM** (place marker) at beg. of row for

Left Chin marker

Rows 3-4 Work 2 rows st st

Cut yarns and leave all 5 Right Cheek sts on a safety pin.

SQUIRREL'S LEFT CHEEK

WS facing, rejoin yarns B, C & D to 4 sts for squirrel's Left Cheek

Row 1 inc) Pfb, p to end - 5 left cheek sts. **PM** at end of row for **Left Chin marker**

Rows 2-3 Work 2 rows st st

... join cheeks to forehead

Row 4 K5 left cheek sts, rejoin forehead sts to a knitting needle ready to k across, k across 12 forehead sts, rejoin right cheek sts to a knitting needle ready to k across, k across 5 right cheek sts – 22 Head Back sts

Row 5 P, pulling tension taut as you purl across the joins

... work short rows to shape the back of the head

Short row 1 K15, W+Tk

Short row 2 P8, W+Tp

Short row 3 K7, W+Tk

Short row 4 P6, W+Tp

Short row 5 K5, W+Tk

Short row 6 P4, W+Tp

Short row 7 K13 sts across to the end of the row

Row 6 P

... divide for ear spaces

Row 7 dec) K3, cast off next 4 sts for squirrel's Left Ear Space, skpo, k2, k2 tog, k1, cast off next 4 sts for squirrel's Right Ear Space, k to end – 12sts

Row 8 inc) P3, TURN so k-side faces cast on 3 sts, TURN so p-side faces, p2 tog, p2, p2 tog, TURN so k-side faces cast on 3 sts, TURN so p-side faces, p3 to end – 16sts

Row 9 K

Row 10 dec) P1, p2 tog, p to last 3 sts, p2 tog, p1 – 14sts

Cast off all sts for Neck Back.

NECK

RS facing, beg. at squirrel's left chin marker and with yarns A, B & D (orange 4-ply, silver and dark brown mohair) so three strands yarn at once, pick up and knit 7 sts across to cast-off edge at left side of neck (**A TO B DOTTED LINE, FIG 1**), cast on 5 sts for Neck Back (backward loop cast-on is fine here), pick up 7 sts from corner of cast-off edge from right side of neck (**C, FIG 2**) along to right chin marker – 19sts



FIG. 1

Row 1 P

Row 2 inc) Kfb, k to last st, kfb – 21sts

Row 3 dec) P9, p3 tog, p to end – 19sts

Row 4 inc) Kfb, k to last st, kfb – 21sts

Row 5 P

Cut yarn A, join on yarn C (rust 4-ply), cont. with 3 strands as foll:

Row 6 inc) Kfb, k8, kfb, k1, kfb, k to last st, kfb – 25sts

Row 7 P

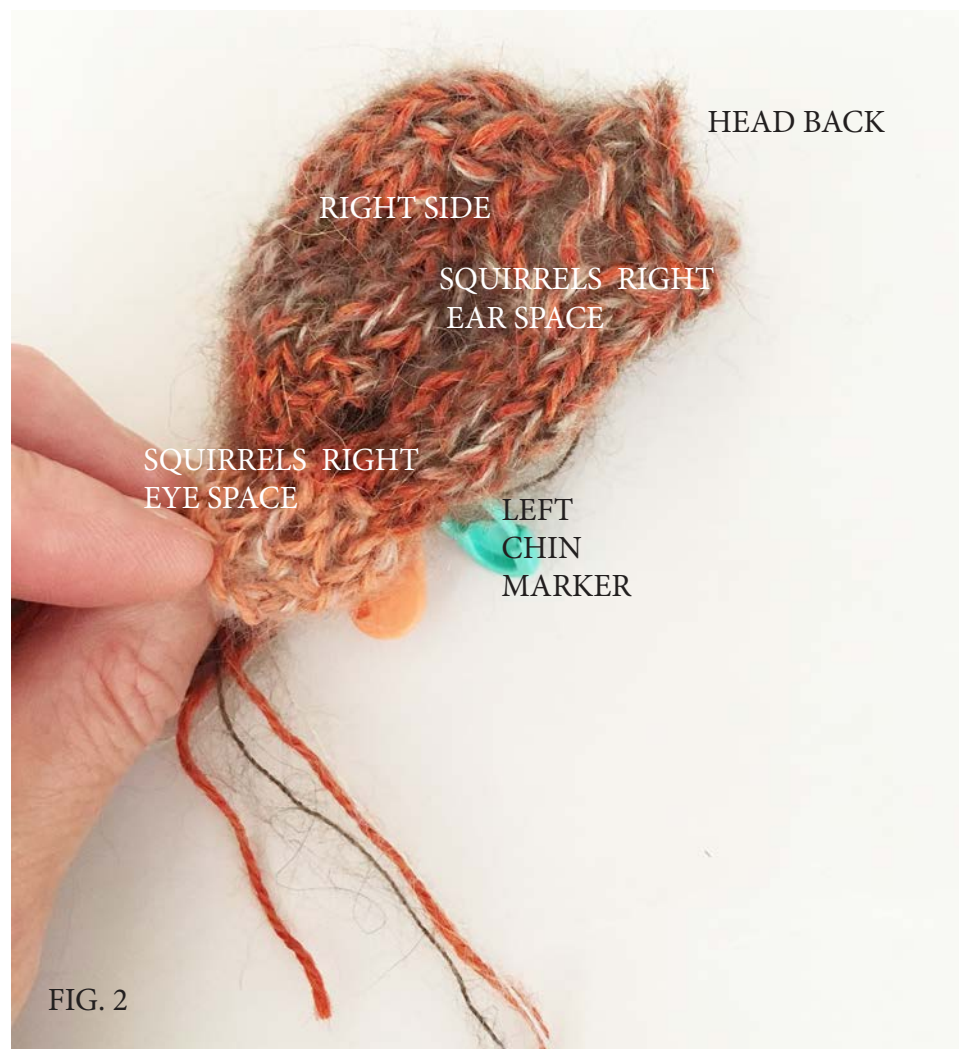


FIG. 2

LEFT FORELEG

Row 8 inc) Cast on 7 sts for Squirrel's Left Foreleg, k18, kfb, k1, kfb, k to end – 34sts

RIGHT FORELEG

Row 9 inc) Cast on 7 sts for Right Foreleg, p to end – 41sts

Row 10 inc) K19, kfb, k1, kfb, k to end – 43sts

Rows 11, 13 & 15 P

Row 12 inc) K20, kfb, k1, kfb, k to end – 45sts

Row 14 inc) K21, kfb, k1, kfb, k to end – 47sts

Row 16 dec) Cast off 7 sts for Squirrel's Left Foreleg, k next 14sts, kfb, k1, kfb, k to end – 42sts

Row 17 dec) Cast off 7 sts p-wise for Right Foreleg, p to end – 35sts

Row 18 dec) Skpo, k to last 2 sts, k2 tog – 33sts

Row 19 P

Rows 20-21 dec) Rep. last 2 rows once – 31sts

Foreleg seams

Row 22 dec) Cast off 6 sts for squirrel's Left Foreleg Seam, k next 18 sts, cast off last 6 sts for Right Foreleg Seam - 19sts

WS facing rejoin yarns B, C & D to 19sts, cont. as foll:

Row 23 inc) Working into the first st on LH needle cast on 5 sts for squirrel's Right Foreleg Seam, p to end – 24sts

Row 24 inc) Working into the first st on LH needle cast on 5 sts for Left Foreleg Seam, k to end – 29sts

Rows 25-31 Beg. with a p row work 7 rows st st

... work short rows to shape the rump

Short row 2 P27, W+Tp

Short row 3 K26, W+Tk

Short row 4 P25, W+Tp

Short row 5 K24, W+Tk

Short row 6 P23, W+Tp

Short row 7 dec) K8, skpo, k1, k2 tog, k9, W+Tk

Short row 8 P19, W+Tp

Short row 9 K18, W+Tk

Short row 10 P17, W+Tp

Short row 11 dec) K5, skpo, k1, k2 tog, k6, W+Tk

Short row 12 P13, W+Tp

Short row 13 K12, W+Tp

Short row 14 P11, W+Tk

Short row 15 K18 sts to end of the row

Row 32 P all 25 sts. **PM** at each end of row for **Hind Leg markers**

Row 33 dec) Cast off 6 sts for Squirrel's Left Hind Leg Thigh, k next 12 sts, cast off last 6 sts for Right Hind Leg Thigh – 13sts

WS facing rejoin yarns B, C & D to 13sts, cont. as foll:

Row 34 P2 tog, p to last 2 sts, p2 tog – 11sts.

Row 35 dec) K1, skpo, k to last 3 sts, k2 tog, k1 – 9sts

Row 36 P

Rows 37-38 dec) Rep. last two rows once – 7sts.

Cut yarns and leave all 7 Tail sts on a safety pin.

Return to the neck back, with RS (k) together align the neck back cast-off stitches with the neck back cast on sts easing together (the cast-off edge is longer than the cast on edge so a lot of easing to fit), working back stitch to join.

(See Head Back and Neck Seam DOTTED LINES, FIG 3)

Return to the foreleg seams – Working on one side at a time, RS (k-side) facing, ease the cast-off edge with the cast on edge for foreleg seam and back-sew to join A to B/ dotted line to dotted line (See. Fig 3 below)

Turn out to RS.



HIND LEGS

Squirrel's Left Hind Leg

RS facing, starting at the left hind leg marker, with yarns B, C & D, pick up and knit 10 sts along cast-off sts and row end to the tail sts that are held on the safety pin. (See arrow, Fig. 3)

Row 1 P

Row 2 inc) Kfb, k to end – 11sts

Rows 3-6 inc) Rep last 2 rows twice 13sts

Row 7 P

... work short rows to shape the haunches

Short row 1 inc) Kfb, k11, W+Tk

Short row 2 P13

Short row 3 inc) Kfb, k11, W+Tk

Short row 4 P13

Short row 5 K12, W+Tk

Short row 6 P12

Short row 7 K11, W+Tk

Short row 8 P11

Cut yarns C & D (rust 4-ply and brown mohair), join on yarns A & E (orange 4-ply and off-white mohair) cont. with 3 strands as foll:

Row 8 dec) Skpo, k to end – 14sts

Row 9 P

Row 10 dec) Skpo, k to end – 13sts

Cast off p-wise for the front of the left hind leg.

Squirrel's Right Hind Leg

RS facing, starting at the tail stitches that are held on the safety pin, with yarns B, C & D, pick up and knit 10 sts along to the right hind leg marker. (See arrow, Fig. 3)

Row 1 P

Row 2 inc) K to last st, kfb – 11sts

Rows 3-6 inc) Rep last 2 rows twice 13sts

... work short rows to shape the haunches

Short row 1 inc) Pfb, k11, W+Tp

Short row 2 K13

Short row 3 inc) Pfb, k11, W+Tp

Short row 4 K13

Short row 5 P12, W+Tp

Short row 6 K12

Short row 7 P11, W+Tp

Short row 8 K11

Row 7 P

Cut yarns C & D (rust 4-ply and dark brown mohair), join on yarns A & E (orange 4-ply and off-white mohair) cont. with 3 strands as foll:

Row 8 dec) K to last 2 sts, k2 tog – 14sts

Row 9 P

Row 10 dec) K to last 2 sts, k2 tog– 13sts

Cast off p-wise for the front of the right hind leg.

HIND LEG FEET**Squirrel's Left Hind Foot**

RS facing, starting at the corner of the cast-off edge from left hind leg, with yarns B, C & D, pick up and knit 6 sts evenly along row ends to the tail sts that are held on the safety pin (See Fig 4, dotted line from A to B)

Rows 1 & 3 P

Row 2 inc) Cast on 6 sts for Left Foot, k – 12sts

Row 4 inc) Kfb, k to end – 13sts

Rows 5-6 inc) Rep last 2 rows once – 14sts

Rows 7-8 Beg. with a p row work 2 rows st st

Row 9 dec) P to last 2 sts, p2 tog – 13sts

Row 10 K

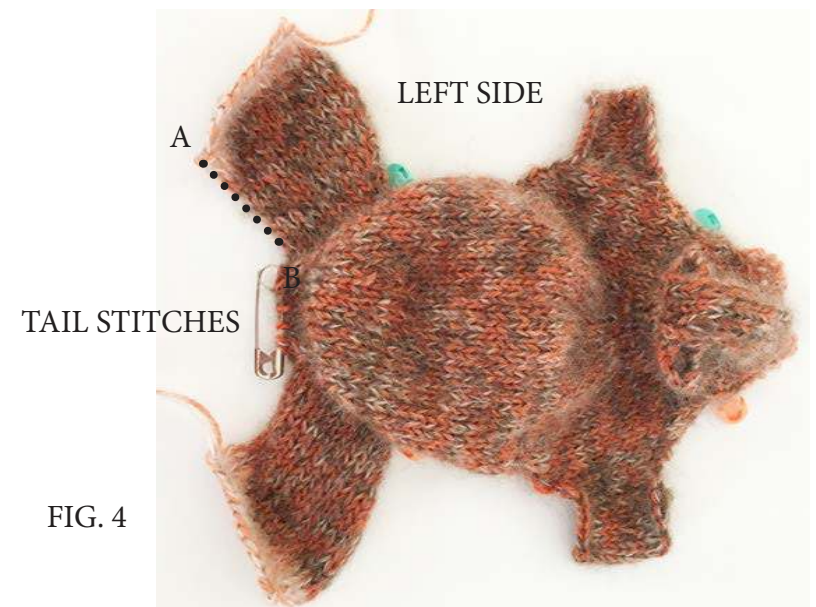
Rows 11-12 inc) Rep last 2 rows once – 12sts

Row 13 dec) P to last 2 sts, p2 tog – 11sts

Row 14 dec) Cast off 5 sts for Top of Foot, k to end – 6 sts

Rows 15-16 Beg. with a p row work 2 rows st st

Cast off p-wise all 6 sts for Inner Leg.



Squirrel's Right Hind Foot

RS facing, starting at the tail sts that are held on the safety pin, with yarns B, C & D, pick up and knit 6 sts evenly spaced along row ends to the corner of the cast-off edge from right hind leg

Row 1 P

Row 2 K

Row 3 inc) Cast on 6 sts for Left Foot, p – 12sts

Row 4 inc) K to last st, kfb – 13sts

Row 5 P

Rows 6-7 inc) Rep last 2 rows once – 14sts

Rows 8-9 Work 2 rows st st

Row 10 dec) K to last 2 sts k2 tog – 13sts

Row 11 P

Rows 12-13 inc) Rep last 2 rows once – 12sts

Row 14 dec) K to last 2 sts k2 tog – 11sts

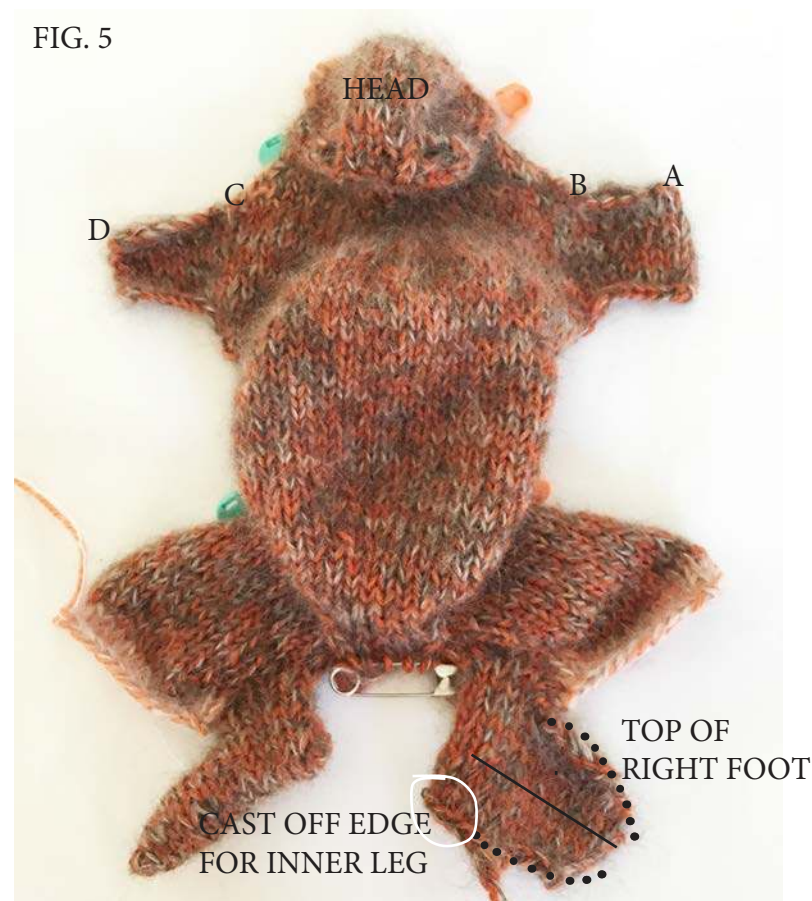
Row 15 dec) Cast off 5 sts p-wise for Top of Foot, p to end – 6 sts

Row 16 K

Cast off p-wise all 6 sts for Inner Leg.

WS facing, fold foot in half (See. Fig 5, straight line) matching the decreases and increases (See Fig 5, dotted line to dotted line) for the top of the foot and mattress-sew all around the top of the foot and along the back of the foot at the ankle. Stuff the foot through the un-sewn 6 'inner leg' cast-off edge sts (as circled, See Fig. 5).

FIG. 5



FRONT & BELLY

RS facing, starting at the corner of squirrel's right foreleg (A, Fig 5), with yarns E (off-white mohair doubled, so use the other end of the ball) & F (white 4-ply), pick up and knit 8 sts across cast on edge ending at point where you casted on for right foreleg (B, Fig 5), backward loop cast on 8 sts, then from where you casted on for left foreleg (C, Fig 5) pick up and knit 8 sts along cast on edge to corner (D, Fig 5) – 24sts

Row 1 P

Row 2 dec) K8, skpo, k4, k2 tog, k to end – 22sts

Row 3 P**Row 4** dec) K8, skpo, k2, k2 tog, k to end – 20sts**Rows 5-7** Beg. with a p row work 3 rows st st**Row 8** dec) Cast off 4 sts for Right Foreleg Inner, k11, cast off last 4 sts for Left Foreleg Inner – 12sts Rejoin yarns E, E & F**Row 9 P****Row 10** inc) Kfb, k to last st, kfb – 14sts**Rows 11-12** Rep. last 2 rows once – 16sts**Rows 13-15** Beg. with a p row work 3 rows st st.**PM** at end of last (p) row for **Foreleg Seam markers****Row 16** inc) Kfb, k to last st, kfb – 18sts**Rows 17-21** Beg. with a p row work 5 rows st st**Row 22** inc) Kfb 6 times, k6, kfb 6 times – 30sts.**PM** at end of row for **Inner Hind Leg markers****Row 23 P****Row 24** inc) Cast off 12 sts for Top of Haunches (right side), kfb, k2, kfb, k1, cast off last 12 sts for Top of Haunches (left side) – 8sts**BELLY**

Rejoin yarns E, E & F to 8 sts for Belly

Rows 25-37 Beg. with a p row work 13 rows st st.

Cut both white mohair and join on yarns D & E (brown and grey mohair)

PM at end of last (p) row for **End of Belly markers****Rows 38-43** Work 6 rows st st

Cut yarns. Join on yarns C, D & H (rust 4-ply, dark brown mohair and faux fur) for underneath the tail/ Tail Back

TAIL BACK**Rows 44-79** Work 36 rows st st**Rows 80** dec) K2 tog all across – 4sts . Cast off.**TAIL TOP**

Slip 7 tail sts off the safety pin and onto a knitting needle ready to k across. Rejoin yarns C, D & H (rust 4-ply, dark brown mohair and faux fur) – because the faux fur yarn has a better fluffier effect on the purl side you'll now work rev. st st as foll:

Rows 1 RS) - 7 Beg with a p row work 7 rows st st**Rows 8** inc) K1, kfb k3, kfb, k1– 9 sts**Rows 9-15** Beg with a p row work 7 rows st st**Rows 16** inc) K1, kfb k5, kfb, k1– 11 sts**Rows 17+**Beg with a p row work st st until the length of the tail matches the tail back**Next row** dec) [K2tog, k1] three times, k2tog – 7sts**Next row** dec) P2tog, p3 tog, p2tog – 3sts

Cut yarns, thread end through 3 sts – pull up and secure the end.

WS facing, join the top of the tail with the bottom of the tail – due to the fur I found working over-sew stitches easier than trying to work mattress stitch.

**EYE SOCKETS** Make 2 alike

With yarns A & E (orange 4-ply and off-white mohair) cast on 2 sts

Row 1 inc) Kfb twice – 4sts

Rows 2, 4 & 6 P

Row 3 inc) Kfb, k2, kfb– 6sts

Row 5 dec) Skpo, k to last 2 sts, k2 tog– 4sts

Row 7 dec) Skpo, k2 tog – 2sts

Row 8 dec) P2 tog

Fasten off.

Working on one eye at a time slip the eye socket into the eye space – then work small neat stitches all around the eye space joining the eye socket to the eye space. (See fig. 6)

Push the eyes into the centre of each eye socket, make sure you are happy with the placement before attaching the backing to secure the eyes for good! (See fig. 7)



BREAST & NECK

RS facing, return to the 8 Neck cast on sts from between the forelegs, with yarns E (off-white mohair doubled, so use the other end of the ball) & F (white 4-ply) pick up and knit 10 sts across that cast on edge from your right to left

Row 1 P

Row 2 dec) Skpo, k to last 2 sts, k2 tog – 8sts

Row 3 P

PM at each end of last p row for **White Chin marker**

Row 4 dec) K2, skpo, k2 tog, k2 - 6sts

Row 5 P

Row 6 dec) K1, skpo, k2 tog, k1 - 4sts

Row 7 P

... work short rows to shape the tiny chin

Short row 1 K3, W+Tk

Short row 2 P2, W+Tp

Short row 4 K1, W+Tk

Short row 4 P2 to end

Cut yarns and thread end through all 4 sts, pull up and secure the end.

NOSE

RS facing, with yarns A & E (orange 4-ply and off-white mohair) pick up and knit 6 sts across the cast on edge from the beg. of the pattern.

Row 1 dec) P2 tog, p2, p2 tog – 4sts

Row 2 dec) Skpo, k2 tog – 2 sts

Row 3 dec) P2 tog. Fasten off.

EARS

Each ear is picked up and knitted inside the ear gaps as foll:

Squirrel's Left Ear Back

RS facing, with yarns A, B & C (orange 4-ply, dark brown mohair and rust 4-ply), pick up and knit 7 sts from the edge of the cast-off edge and across the back of the ear (cast on edge) all from squirrel's Left Ear Space (See Fig. 8, A to B) – 7sts

Rows 1-3 Beg. with a p row work 3 rows st st

Row 4 dec) K to last 2 sts, k2 tog - 6sts

Row 5 P2 tog, p to end – 5 sts

Cut yarns A & C and join on a second strand yarn B

Row 6 dec) K to last 2 sts, k2 tog - 4sts

Row 7 dec) P2 tog twice – 2 sts

Row 8 dec) K2 tog.

Fasten off

Squirrel's Left Ear inner

RS facing, with yarns B & D (dark brown and silver mohair), pick up and knit 5 sts across the cast-off edge from squirrel's Left Ear Space (See Fig. 8, C to D)

Row 1 dec) P2 tog, p to end – 4sts

Row 2 K

Row 3 dec) P2 tog, p to end – 3sts

Rows 4-7 Work 4 rows st st

Row 8 K3 tog

Fasten off.

Squirrel's Right Ear Back

RS facing, with yarns A, B & C (orange 4-ply, dark brown mohair and rust 4-ply), pick up and knit 7 sts from the edge of the cast-off edge and across the back of the ear (cast on edge) all from squirrel's Right Ear Space (See Fig 8, dotted line, A to B)

– 7sts

Rows 1-3 Beg. with a p row work 3 rows st st

Row 4 dec) Skpo, k to end - 6sts

Row 5 P to last 2 sts, p2 tog – 5 sts

Cut yarns A & C and join on a second strand yarn B

Row 6 dec) Skpo, k to end - 4sts

Row 7 dec) P2 tog twice – 2 sts

Row 8 dec) K2 tog.

Fasten off.

Squirrel's Right Ear inner

RS facing, with yarns B & D (dark brown and silver mohair), pick up and knit 5 sts across the cast-off edge from squirrel's Right Ear Space

Row 1 dec) P to last 2 sts, p2 tog – 4sts

Row 2 K

Row 3 dec) P to last 2 sts, p2 tog – 3sts

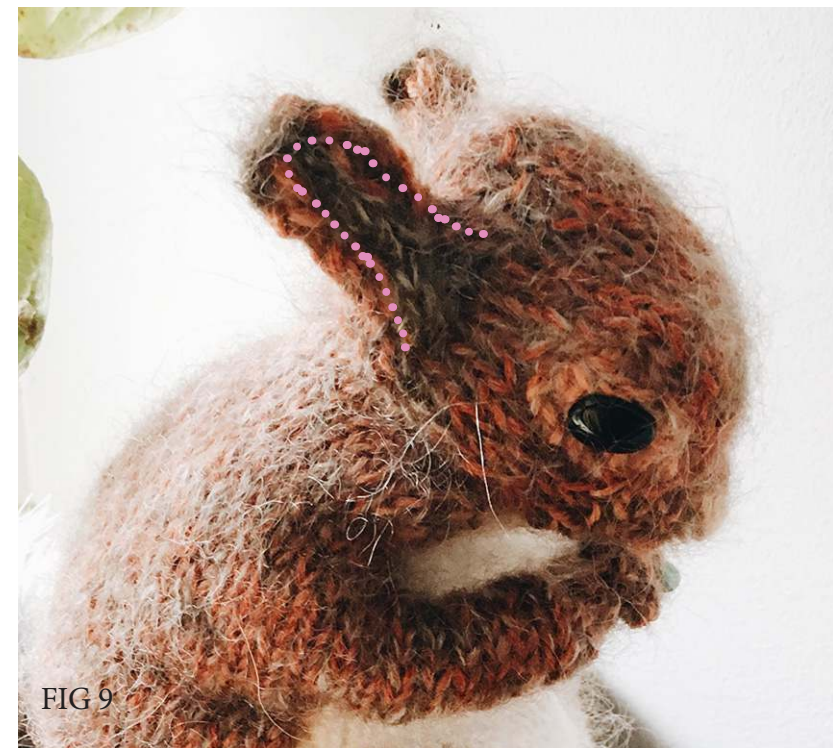
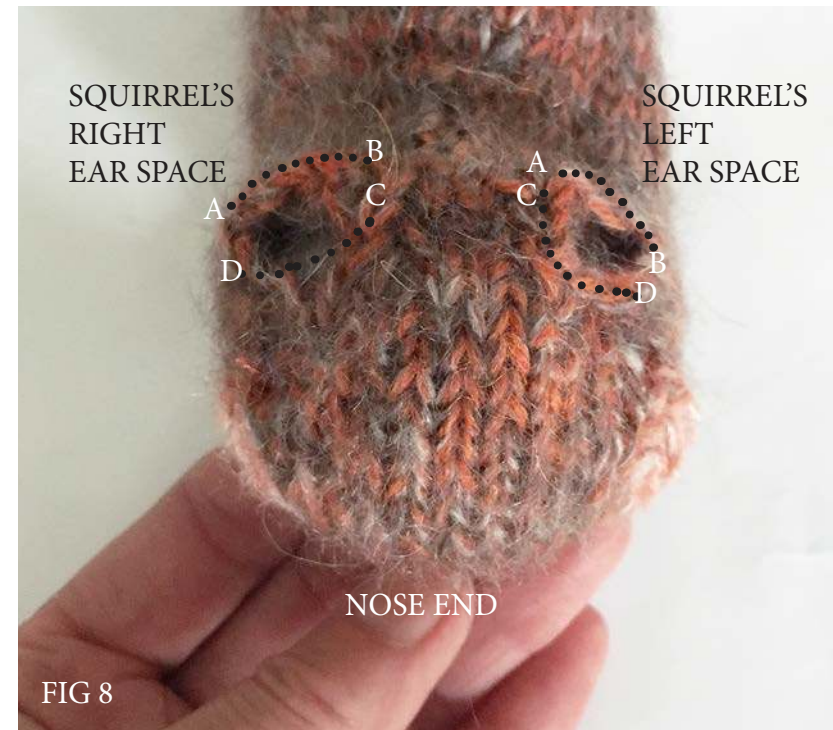
Rows 4-7 Work 4 rows st st

Row 8 K3 tog

Fasten off.

Working on one ear at a time join the fastened-off point from ear inner to the top of the ear back then work small neat sewing stitches all around the inner so joining it to the inside (purl-side) of the ear back.

(See Fig. 9, pink dotted line)



FORELEG FEET

Squirrel's Left Foot

Return to the row ends at the end of squirrel's left foreleg, RS facing, with yarns A & B, pick up and knit 7 sts evenly across from the white of the inner leg to the red of the outer leg/ from A to B (See fig. 10)

***Rows 1-3** Beg. with a p row work 3 rows st st

... work short rows to shape the paw

Short row 1 K5, W+Tk

Short row 2 P3, W+Tp

Short row 3 K2, W+Tk

Short row 4 P1, W+Tp

Short row 5 K4 to end

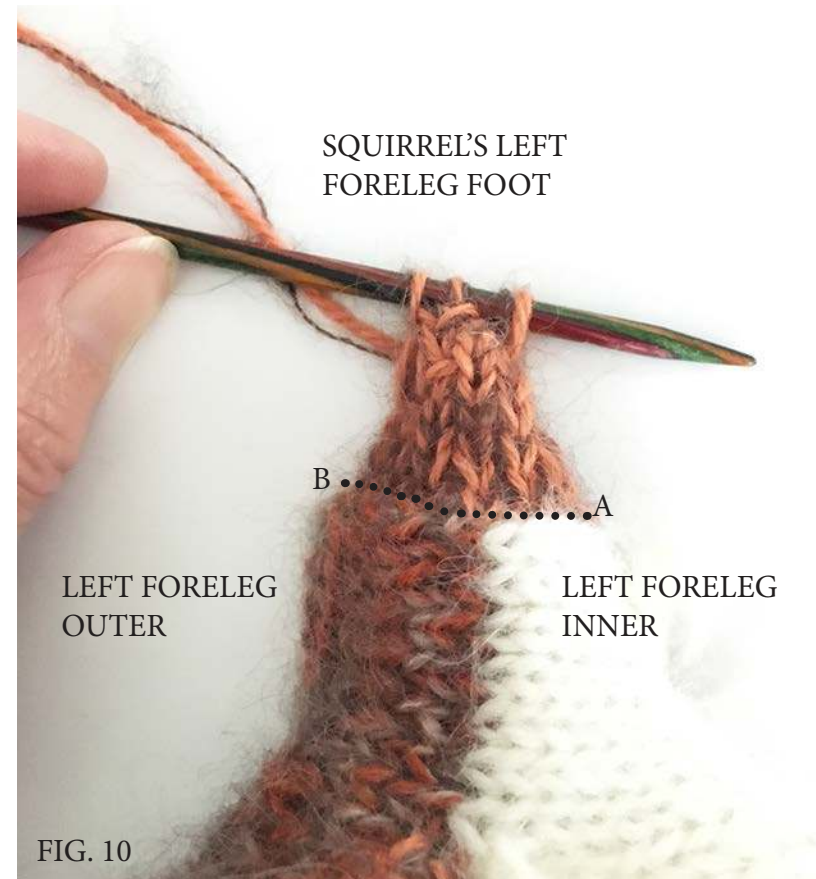
Rows 4 P2 tog, p3 tog, p2 tog – 3sts

Cut yarns, thread through 3 sts, pull up and secure end*.

Right Foot

Return to the row ends at the end of the right foreleg, RS facing, with yarns A & B, pick up and knit 7 sts evenly across from the red of the outer leg to the white of the inner leg

Cont. to work as left foot from * to **.



TO MAKE UP

Begin at the chin

Working on one side at a time, WS (p-side) facing, match chin marker to white chin marker and mattress-sew to join from marker around the cheek to the fastened-off tip from the chin (the fastened-off tip should join with the fastened-off tip from the nose) then from nose to cheek to marker on the other side - the fastened-off point should join with the fastened-off tip from the nose.

NOTE: You will have to ease a little here and there to make the chin fit around the cheeks so make sure this easing and fitting is symmetrical with both side of the chin.

Remove chin markers.

With a doubled-up strand brown mohair embroider a 'Y' either side of the nose for detail.



FIG. 11

Join front of hind legs

Working on one side at a time mattress-sew to join the straight edge from Belly with the cast-off edge from Hing Leg Front – this seam should fit right down to the beginning of the tail.

Ease the top of the hind leg/ the haunches, with the cast-off edge at the side of the belly.

NOTE: You will have to ease a little here and there to make the top of the hind leg fit with the cast-off edge – you want to create that curve at the haunches.



Join forelegs

Working on one side at a time match the foreleg seam marker to the foreleg seam from back and mattress-sew from the foreleg seam marker up to where you casted off from foreleg, then mattress-sew around foreleg joining inner foreleg to outer, joining all around the feet. (See Fig.13, dotted line).

Beginning at the belly change markers mattress sew to join the six rows with the foot top cast-off edge. (See Fig.13, dotted lines)

Join hind legs

Working on one side at a time mattress-sew to join belly to back from foreleg seam markers to hind leg markers – the hind leg markers matching with the seam at the haunches.

Stuff the squirrel before you complete your last seam.

Remove all remaining markers.

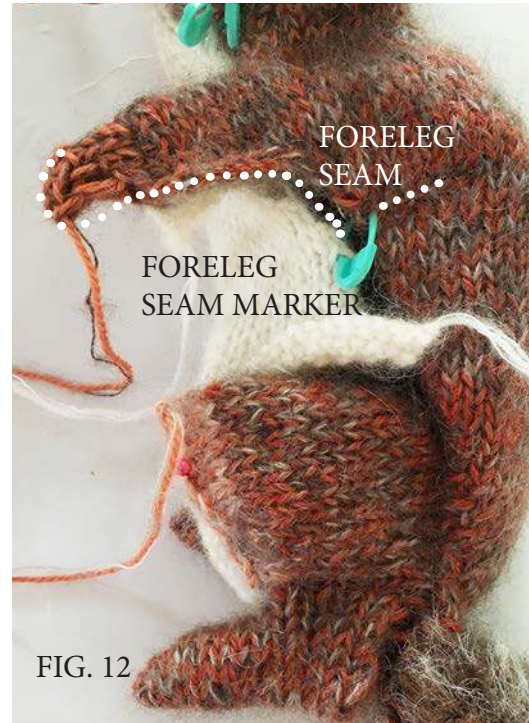


FIG. 12



FIG. 13



Abbreviations

K = knit; **P** = purl; **inc** = increase; **dec** = decrease;

M1 = make one; **foll** = follows; **K2 tog** = knit two together;

Rep = repeat; **RH/LH** = right hand/ left hand; **RS/WS** = right side/ wrong side; **st/**
sts = stitch/ stitches; **cont** = continue;

Skpo = slip one stitch, knit next stitch , pass slipped stitch over knit stitch; **Kfb** =
knit into front then into back of stitch to increase by one stitch; **Beg** = beginning;
rem = remaining



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