Cheddar's Ruff

by Heather Anne Ordover

CraftLit's Cheddar needed clothes—or so I was told by my kids.

Therefore, instead of leaving Cheddar in his altogether for too much longer, here is a little pattern for a mousie-sized ruff.

For an adventurous beginner or intermediate knitter.

Skills
- knit and purl stitches
- knitting backwards helps but is not necessary

Size
- Variable depending upon your Cheddar's size; sample approx 7in circumference, ruffle stand out 1.25in (3cm) from collar.

Gauge
- 7 sts/10 rows = 1" in stockinette

Yarn
- any fingering yarn; less than 40 yds used; sample knit in ancient Bucilla Flame color:19 [60% acrylic, 25% wool; 1oz/approx 90yds ball; 18WPI]

Needles
- US 0 (2.0 mm) dpns (could be done on two circs)

Notions
- tapestry needle

Pattern Notes
[*Cheddar the CraftLit Critter*](#) is designed from the nose down to the (hidden) toes—giving you some freedom in how big he gets. His **ruff** will need to be built to fit *your* Cheddar's neck. As such, you may need to tweak the attachment points of the ruffles, but that shouldn't be too difficult. The building of this ruff is *not* an exact science.

Links
As per the [*What Would Madame Defarge Knit?*](#) books, links in this document are live, allowing you to find linked-to tutorials and move easily within the electronic version of the pattern, jumping to the top of the document from the text instructions and back again, as needed, while knitting.

Pattern Begins

Cast on Cast on 9 sts over 1 dpn.

Begin Rows **Row 1:** Knit across, turn. (9)
Row 2: Purl across, turn. (9)

Slipping the first stitch is optional but does give a lovely edge to the top and bottom of the neck band

Repeat rows 1–2 until band wraps completely around Cheddars neck with a little room to spare (for ease of dressing).

End Band **Join** band without twisting using either a 3-needle bind off, (break yarn, weave in ends with tapestry needle) or:
break yarn, thread tapestry needle, and Kitchener the edges together. If you choose the second method, it's best to pick up cast on sts through the back loop.
DO NOT worry about this step, though. No one will be able to see it. You could even whipstitch the thing closed.

Begin Ruff Cast on 7 sts over 1 dpn.

Knitting backwards might sound terrifying at first, but if you use a mirror while you're knitting forwards, you can see what it should look like when you knit backwards. And once you figure this out, you deserve a hot fudge sunday or something really nummy.

Row 1: (RS) Knit across to last st, slip st to right needle, pick up a stitch from the collar at the lower edge, K2tog. (7)

Row 2: Turn and purl across **or** don't turn and knit backwards across.

Row 3: (RS) K to end.

Repeat rows 2–3 until the ruffle panel is as tall as the collar, held loosely. End on a WS row.(7)
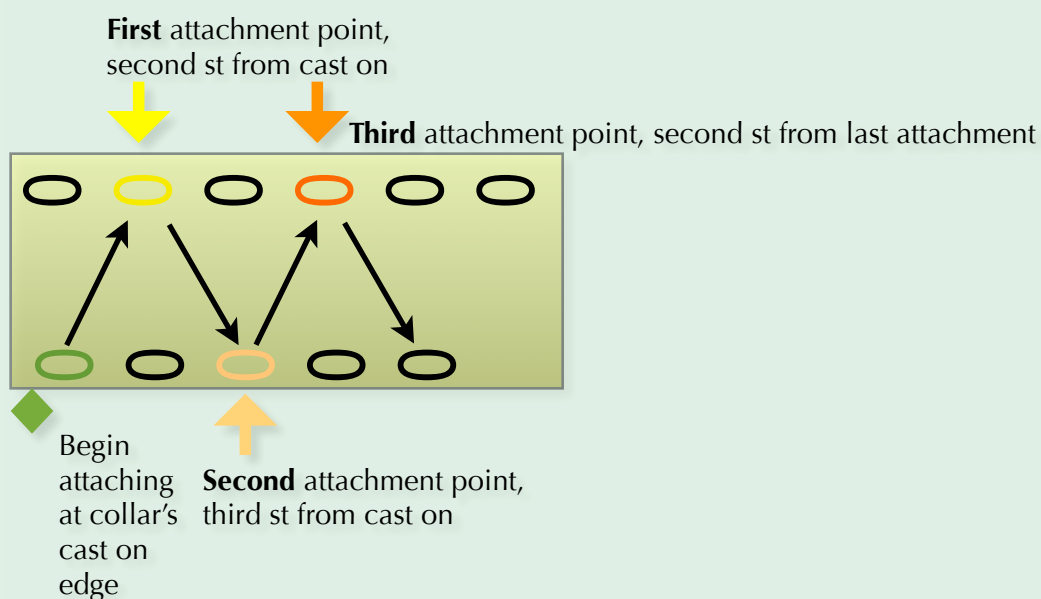
Joining row: (RS) purl across to last st, slip st to right needle, pick up a stitch from the collar at the upper edge, K2tog. (7)

Attaching Ruff

This process—knitting a section of the ruff that is as tall as the collar, then attaching to the upper or lower edge of the collar on a RS purl row—will continue throughout.

The sample was attached at two-stitch intervals around the collar as shown in the diagram below.

First attachment point, second st from cast on

Third attachment point, second st from last attachment

Begin attaching at collar's cast on edge

Second attachment point, third st from cast on

Once you have attached the ruff around and are two inches or so away from the beginning of the ruff panels, you may need to plan to adjust your attachment points. At this point I used split ring markers (and paper clips) to mark the places on the collar where I planned to attach, making it easier to see if I would need to fudge an attachment point.
I did.
I had to attach a little closer on my last two panels so I could end with a panel which attached in the same space as my beginning (the green diamond above). I used a modified three-needle-bind-off, picking up sts from the first panel. Break yarn. Weave in ends.

ABOUT THE DESIGNER

Heather Ordover—Host of *CraftLit* and *Just the Books* podcasts, editor of the *What Would Madame Defarge Knit?* series, mother of boys, teacher of things.
For pattern support, more patterns, and inspiration please visit http://www.crafting-a-life.com/patterns.php

Many thanks to Eleanor Dixon (EleDixon) for her skills as tech editor and co-conspirator and Penny Shima-Glanz for her testing skillz.

jump to top