

Foxtato

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June 4, 2016

This pattern make a tiny foxtato, who believes in you.

The foxtato comes from this meme, and is used here with kind permission from Emily's Diary. You can read Emily's Diary [here](#) and also on Facebook, it's extremely cute!

It is possible with some harsh treatment to pull strands out of the Foxtato's tail - if you're making it for a child, please make sure you're happy with this before you give it to them.



Materials and techniques

The main body and tail are made with DK yarn on 4mm needles. You'll need reddish brown (I'll refer to this as 'red' for brevity) and white yarn, and a small amount of black for the highlights. You'll also need some toy stuffing.

The colourwork is done using intarsia. The tail uses some knitting in the round, and a bit of pom-pom making.

Body

The body is a fairly straightforward cylinder, with a seam along the back.

The colourwork is all done with intarsia, so each time the colours switch, make sure to twist the two threads together.

Take two strands of the red yarn, each a couple of yards long. Begin using the white yarn.



Using a purl cast on, cast on 9 stitches, leaving a tail of a few inches to sew the seam up along the base	(9)
K, Kfb 8 times	(17)
P 17	(17)
K, (Kfb, K) 8 times	(25)

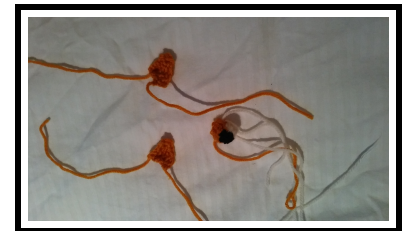
Join in the first strand of red yarn (red 1), P4, switch to white, P17, join the second red yarn (red 2), P4	(25)
(red 2) K, Kfb, K5, (white) Kfb, K5, Kfb, K3, Kfb, (red 1) K7	(29)
(red 1) P8, (white) P12, (red 2) P9	(29)
(red 2) K10, (white) K10, (red 1) K9	(29)
(red 1) P9, (white) P10, (red 2) P10	(29)
Repeat these last two rows for about two inches	(29)
(red 2) K11, (white) K8, (red 1) K10	(29)
(red 1) P11, (white) P6, (red 2) P12	(29)
Break off the "red 1" and white strands, and continue with the "red 2" strand, knit 4 rows of stocking stitch.	(29)
K, *K2tog, K5* 4 times	(25)
P 25	(25)
K, *K2tog, K* 8 times	(17)
P 17	(17)
K, K2tog 8	(9)

Break off the yarn and draw the remaining stitches together, leaving a tail to sew the back seam with. Stuff and sew up the back seam using mattress stitch.

Ears and nose

The ears and nose are small and straightforward, but it's worth taking care about sewing them on, since they make a big difference to the finished Foxtato's expression.

Using the red yarn, make two ears as follows:



Using a knit cast on, cast on 8	(8)
P 8	(8)
K, K2tog, K2, SSK, K	(6)
P 6	(6)
K, K2tog, SSK, K	(4)
P 4	(4)
K2tog, SSK	

Pass the first stitch over the second, cut the yarn and tie the last stitch off - this gives a nice sharp point to the ear.

The nose is a small piece, but has some fiddly colourwork, and the different colours makes the seams a little complicated. As with the body, we'll use two white threads and one red.

Using a knit cast on, cast on 3 stitches using the white yarn, then a further 5 using red yarn, and a further 3 using the second white thread	(11)
(white 2) P 3, (red) P5, (white 1) P 3	(11)
(white 1) K, SSK, (red) K3, SSK, (white 2) K 3	(9)
(white 2) P3, (red) P3, (white 1) P 2	(9)
(white 1) K 2, (red) K2tog, K, (white 2) K2tog, K	(7)
Cut all 3 threads, leaving enough tail from the "white 2" thread to sew up the side seam. Continue with black yarn. P 7	(7)
SSK, K, SSK, K 2	(5)
Cut the yarn, and draw the remaining stitches together, leaving a few inches of tail to sew the nose tip together.	

Sew up the side seam using the black and white threads.

Tail

The tail is the most exciting part of the foxtato - it's made up of 7 small pom-poms, wrapped up in an i-cord core.

First make 6 red pom-poms, and 1 white. To make a pom-pom, wrap about 10 loops of yarn around the four fingers of your hand, giving loops of about 4 inches, cut another length of the same yarn and tie it firmly around their middle. Then cut through the ends of the loops to leave the ends loose. If you want your foxtato to have a denser tail, you could use more loops for each.

I'm knitting in the round using two circular needles - this isn't strictly necessary, but some of the distribution of stitches will make more sense that way.

It's important to make sure the strands are firmly attached, to make sure they aren't accidentally pulled out later.



Cast on 6, divide between the two needles and join in the round	(6)
Knit 4 rounds	(6)
Knit 1, then place the first pom-pom in the centre of the round. Place about a sixth of its strands across the next stitch, and knit the next stitch, so these strands are held in place. Place the next sixth of the strands across the next stitch, and knit the next stitch, and continue in this way to the end of the round.	(6)
Repeat these 5 rounds another 5 times with the remaining 5 red pom-poms. Switch to white yarn, and repeat again with the white pom-pom	(6)
Knit another round, then cut yarn and draw the remaining stitches together.	



Making up

Sew on the nose and ears, then add eyes. Sew on the base of the tail, then sew it in raised position. First, sew the nose in place at the top of the white section. Next add the ears - these should curve round the side of the head. I'd suggest experimenting a bit with the placement, since this makes a big difference to the fox's expression. Finally add a couple of black stitches for the eyes.

Finally, sew the base of the tail to the body. To hold the tail in a raised position, sew a loop two-thirds of the way up, attaching the core of the tail to the back of the body.

The strands in the Foxtato's tail should be fairly solidly attached, but can be pulled out if you try. Please make sure you're happy that this isn't a safety hazard if you're planning to give your Foxtato to a child.



Hugh is a knitting mathematician and software developer, and is interested in ways to use technology to develop, share and modify knitting patterns more easily.

(And I believe in you).