ALAN DART *designer of knitted & fabric toys*

Haitian Ada

This pattern has been designed to raise funds to aid the victims of the Haitian earthquakes of 2010 and 2021.

Ada is a Hispaniolan solenodon, a shrew-like creature that is unique to Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and is wearing a dress inspired by the Haitian national flag. Please either make a donation for this pattern, and/or knit the toy to sell, donating the money received to the fund. In the UK you can donate online by going to the Disasters Emergency Committee's website at www.dec.org.uk, or Shelter Box at www.shelterbox.org, or you can make a donation to a similar organisation in your country.

MEASUREMENTS

7in/18cm tall.

MATERIALS

Of Sirdar Click DK, 50g balls: 18g in Cobble 129; of Sirdar Snuggly DK, 50g balls: 8g in Engine Red and 2g in Soldier Blue; of Hayfield Bonus DK, 100g balls: 6g in Stone 889; oddments of black and white DK yarns; 20g of washable toy stuffing; long tweezers; thin white card and white twine for label.

TENSION

26 sts and 36 rows to 10cm square, measured over stocking stitch worked with DK on 3mm needles.

ABBREVIATIONS

beg = beginning; dec = decrease (by working 2 stitches together); inc = increase (by working into front and back of stitch); K = knit; P = purl; PSSO = pass slipped stitch over; sl = slip; ss = stocking stitch; st(s) = stitch(es); SKPO = slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over; tog = together.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Use 3mm needles throughout and cast on by using the cable (two-needle) method, beginning all pieces with a K row.
Please also take time to make sure that you are familiar with the correct method of increasing before commencing, otherwise you will find that the number of stitches on your needle will not match those stated in the pattern. 'Inc 1' means to increase by working into the front and back of the next stitch, thus making two stitches from one without leaving a hole in the knitting. This technique is sometimes referred to as KFB and is the only form of increasing that I use, so once you have mastered this you will be able to knit any of my patterns with compete confidence.

BODY make 1 piece

With Cobble cast on 13 sts for base edge and ss 2 rows.

1st inc row: Inc into every st to end [26 sts].

P 1 row.

2nd inc row: (Inc 1, K1) to end [39 sts].

Ss 3 rows.

3rd inc row: (K1, inc 1, K1) to end [52 sts].

Ss 19 rows.

1st dec row: (K1, K 2 tog, K1) to end [39 sts].

Ss 3 rows.

2nd dec row: (K1, K 2 tog) to end [26 sts].

P 1 row.

Change to Soldier Blue for bodice and ss 8 rows.

Shape sides, 3rd dec row: (K4, SKPO, K2, K 2 tog, K2) twice, K2 [22 sts].

P 1 row.

4th dec row: (K4, SKPO, K 2 tog, K2) twice, K2 [18 sts].

P 1 row.

Cast off for shoulder edge.

HEAD make 1 piece

With Cobble cast on 12 sts for back edge and ss 2 rows.

1st inc row: Inc into every st to end [24 sts].

P 1 row.

2nd inc row: (Inc 1, K1) to end [36 sts].

Ss 9 rows.

1st dec row: (K2, K 2 tog, K2) to end [30 sts].

Ss 3 rows.

2nd dec row: (K2, K 2 tog, K1) to end [24 sts].

P 1 row.

Change to Stone and ss 2 rows.

3rd dec row: (K1, K 2 tog, K1) to end [18 sts].

Ss 3 rows.

4th dec row: (K1, K 2 tog) to end [12 sts].

Ss 5 rows.

5th dec row: (K 2 tog) to end [6 sts].

Ss 5 rows.

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

EARS make 2 pieces

With Cobble cast on 14 sts for front edge and ss 2 rows.

Dec row: K1, (sl 1, K 2 tog, PSSO) four times, K1 [6 sts].
Cast off for back edge.

ARMS make 2 pieces

With Soldier Blue cast on 6 sts for top edge and ss 2 rows.
Inc 1 st at beg of next 2 rows [8 sts].
Cast on 2 sts at beg of next 2 rows for underarm [12 sts].
K 2 rows for sleeve cuff.
Change to Cobble and ss 2 rows, beg with a K row.
Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row [10 sts].
P 1 row.
Change to Stone and ss 2 rows.
Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row [8 sts].
Ss 3 rows.
Inc row: (Inc 1, K2, inc 1) twice [12 sts].
Ss 3 rows.
Dec row: (K 2 tog, K2, SKPO) twice [8 sts].
P 1 row.
Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

FEET make 2 pieces

With Stone cast on 8 sts for back edge and ss 10 rows.
Inc row: (Inc 1, K2, inc 1) twice [12 sts].

Ss 5 rows.
Dec row: (K 2 tog, K2, SKPO) twice [8 sts].
P 1 row.
Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

TAIL make 1 piece

With Cobble cast on 7 sts for base edge and ss 10 rows.
1st dec row: K3, K 2 tog, K2 [6 sts].
Ss 13 rows.
2nd dec row: K2, K 2 tog, K2 [5 sts].
Ss 13 rows.
3rd dec row: K2, K 2 tog, K1 [4 sts].
Ss 13 rows.
4th dec row: K1, K 2 tog, K1 [3 sts].
Ss 13 rows.
Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

Ss 2 rows.

Cast off K wise for waist edge.

BOW make 1 piece

With white cast on 20 sts for base edge and K 1 row.

Cast off K wise for top edge.

TO MAKE UP

Unless otherwise specified, sew seams and join pieces using mattress stitch, working with right side of knitting uppermost. A one-stitch knitted seam turning has been allowed on most pieces to accommodate this method.

Work a gathering thread through every stitch along base edge of body, draw up tightly and fasten off, then join body seam. Stuff firmly, then, with seam running down centre back, fold shoulder edge flat and sew across.

Following instructions on ball band, press skirt lightly on wrong side. Join skirt seam, then fit over top of body and, with seam at centre back, pin waist edge to first knitted row of bodice. Sew in place by working backstitch over every stitch along waist edge, and remove pins.

Starting at gathered front edge, join head seam, stopping 12mm/1in away from back edge. Using tweezers to stuff snout, stuff head firmly, then join remainder or seam.

SKIRT make 1 piece

With Engine Red cast on 128 sts for base edge and ss 2 rows.

1st dec row: (K3, K 2 tog, K3) to end [112 sts].

P 1 row.

2nd dec row: (K3, K 2 tog, K2) to end [96 sts].

P 1 row.

3rd dec row: (K2, K 2 tog, K2) to end [80 sts].

P 1 row.

4th dec row: (K2, K 2 tog, K1) to end [64 sts].

P 1 row.

5th dec row: (K1, K 2 tog, K1) to end [48 sts].

P 1 row.

6th dec row: (K1, K 2 tog) to end [32 sts].

Work a gathering thread through every stitch along back edge of head, draw up tightly and fasten off. With seam running along underside, position and sew head to top of body.

Mark eye positions with pins, placing on second row knitted in Stone at front of head and spacing 3 knitted stitches apart. Draw out a single strand from a length of black yarn and use to embroider a circle of 4 tiny chain stitches for each eye.

Using a length of Cobble yarn, work mouth with a single straight stitch, drawing up slightly to indent and securing at each end with a tiny stitch.

Fold back edge of each ear in half and oversew, then oversew side edges together to form base of ear. Position and sew ears to head, placing back seam on third row knitted after 2nd increase row on head, and spacing 7 knitted stitches apart.

Starting at gathered paw edge, join each arm seam, stopping at underarm. Leaving paw unstuffed, use tweezers to stuff arm lightly, then position and sew to side of body.

Starting at gathered front edge, join each foot seam, then, leaving larger front section unstuffed, use tweezers to stuff back section lightly. Work a gathering thread through every stitch along back edge, draw up tightly and fasten off. Pin feet to base of body and check that Ada stands correctly, then sew in place and remove pins.

Starting at gathered tip, oversew side edges of tail together, then position and sew base edge to body, placing on 3rd increase row on body. Wrap tip of tail over right arm and hold in place with a few stitches.

Tie a tight knot in centre of bow piece, then fold ends in half to form loops and sew to sides of knot. Position and sew bow to centre front of skirt waist.

To make label, print next page on to thin card, cut out label and fold in half. Make a hole where indicated, using a hole punch or a large needle, then fold a 20cm/8in length of twine in half and thread the folded end through hole. Pass the two cut ends through this loop and draw up, then tie label to Ada's left arm and trim away excess twine.

Print this page on to thin card to make your labels

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