
Knitted Fox with Megan Kreiner

Chapter 1 - Knitted Fox

Overview

- Hi, my name is Megan Kreiner. I'm the author of Crochet a Zoo and Bathtime Buddies and I thoroughly enjoy creating little critters out of yarn. Today, we'll be creating this adorable little knitted fox. For this pattern, we'll be working in a magic loop. Working with waste yarn to create the shaping of the front of the face, and then we'll work on stitching the whole thing together. This little guys is made mostly in stockinette stitch, which is fairly simple. And we'll spend a good deal of time going over the assembly so that you can also make an adorable little fox, just like this one.

Materials

- To make your fox you will need the following materials. Worsted weight yarn. We'll be using Berroco Comfort in spice, chalk, and licorice. You'll need about 70 yards of spice, 40 yards of chalk, and 30 yards of licorice. You also need polyester stuffing as well as a set of circular needles, or double pointed needles. We'll be using a size six, four millimeter long set of circular needles as well as a size six four millimeter set of straight needles. If you don't have a pair of straight needles handy you can use just the circular needles to knit your rows. If you don't have circular needles handy you can also use a set of double pointed needles. We'll also be utilizing a tapestry needle, scissors. I also recommend picking up a set of slip ring stitch markers. I find these are really helpful for holding pieces of your knitting pattern together while you sew it as well as marking certain points of interest while you're knitting. For the eyes we'll be using a nine millimeter plastic safety eye. These are good for children that are three, and older. If you're going to be making the toy for a child that's younger than three I recommend you using your black yarn, and just making french knots instead of using the plastic safety eyes.

Fox Head

Starting the head

- Since we'll be working on the front and the back of the head in rows, I'm gonna go ahead and use my straight needles for this part. We'll be starting with our white yarn and for the front of the head, we'll actually be working in a row with some waste yarn in it, which we'll then utilize later on to shape the muzzle. Finally, we'll change the color to orange and work the rest of the head. We'll begin with a slipknot and then cast on four. Our slipknot counts as the first stitch. So here are our four stitches on our needle. For row one, we'll be doing a knit front back, followed by two knit, and then another knit front back. Turn in pearl. You'll have six stitches on your needle. For round three, we're gonna start working in some make one rights and make one lefts. So knit one. For our make one right, slip this strand of yarn that's in between the stitches over your needle and we'll be inserting your right hand needle through the back and this will give you a right slant for your make one. Repeat and it can get a little tight at times but just be patient, work your needle in. We do actually want the stitches to be relatively tight on our toys because we don't want the stuffing to show through. For our make one left, we'll be bringing the left hand needle behind the strand that we pick up and then we'll insert our right hand needle through the front and knit. Do this one more

time. Make one left and knit. We'll follow each of these knit rows with a pearl. See we're starting to get a little bit of a triangle shape going. Continue increasing this matter on both ends of your rows until you reach row 11. We'll then incorporate our waste yarn. For row 11, you'll want to have a piece of contrasting color yarn handy. I'm gonna use black because our head is white and orange. So begin row 11 with our increases as we've been increasing for the past couple of rows. We'll do our increases, then we'll knit five. Next, we'll be knitting on to our waste yarn for eight stitches. So to do this, bring your waste yarn in. Let one of the tails hang in the front and pick up your waste yarn instead of your working yarn for eight stitches. Then go ahead and move that other tail to the front. Transfer those stitches back onto your left hand needle. Now we're gonna work on those waste yarn stitches and continue to knit. In this case, though, for these eight stitches we've slipped back on, we're actually gonna work these in orange. So now we're gonna bring our orange in because the top of the muzzle is going to be orange. So we can actually go ahead, bring in our orange and knit eight onto our waste yarn stitches. Then we're gonna go ahead and in this case, just to keep things nice and clean, I'm gonna go ahead and cut my white yarn, leaving nice long tail and then rejoin it on the other side of the muzzle. I'll work that for five stitches and then I'll work my increases. My first increase and my second increase. Now that we've worked in our waste yarn and we've gone to the end of the row, we can continue working the pattern as written and later on when we work our muzzle, we're actually gonna be removing the waste yarn and picking up the live stitches above and below. For row 12, be pearling four in white and then we'll be switching over to our orange color. And if you like, you can just go ahead and cut the white at this point. I like to tie the ends together, just to make things a little cleaner in the back and since it's gonna be on the inside, we won't see it. If you like as well, we can go ahead and cut the orange from the last row and just rejoin it at this point. And don't worry about the gap again, we can go ahead and just tie those together since it'll be on the wrong side of the work. So we'll be pearling 18 with the orange and again, these gaps will get cleaned up when we tie our loose ends together so let's do that when we're finished with this row. We'll work until we have four stitches remaining. Here's our last four stitches and at this point, we can reintroduce our white yarn for those remaining four stitches. Trim the white and just to keep things clean, feel free to trim the orange and just reintroduce a fresh piece at the beginning of this row. You might find the back of your work is getting a little, a little fuzzy with all these extra yarn tails back there. I like to at this point tie them off and give them a quick trim. It's gonna be on the wrong side of your work so you won't actually see it but it will help you pull all those little holes together in between the color changes. So go ahead and clean that up and then continue knitting until you reach the end of the front of your head. With the front of the head complete, we're now ready to pick up the live stitches above and below the waste yarn and then remove the waste yarn. You can use either double pointed needles or what I'll be using, a long set of circular needles. If you would like to use circular needles, then you get to incorporate the magic loop technique, which I will demonstrate. First, turn your work over so that both the needle points will end up in this direction in the end. I'm going to pick up eight stitches below and try to pick up the same side of the stitch each time. So that's one, two, three, four, five, six, seven and eight. Now I'll do the same for the stitches above. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, and eight. Once your stitches are loaded onto your needles, you can go ahead and remove the waste yarn. I suggest using a tapestry needle instead of using scissors to cut it out because you run the risk of course of cutting your live stitches in the process. So go ahead and remove the waste yarn so we can open up that space where our muzzle will go. All right and there we go. Our muzzle's now open and ready to go. So the first thing we're going to do is start working on our orange stitches and for the magic loop technique we will start

off by having the needles pointing to the right and what we're going to do is, we're actually going to pull the top needle out, leaving the stitches on the wire and we'll be working in these bottom stitches first. Since we'll be working a color change as we work in the round, I recommend just leaving a very long tail at the beginning of the yarn we introduce because we're going to go ahead and cut the yarn when we're done utilizing it and then using that left over tail to do a second row. To start, we'll be doing a slip slit knit first. So let's do our slip slit. Then bring in your orange yarn, leaving a nice long tail. Then we'll knit four and then we'll knit these two together. Go ahead and cut the orange yarn, leaving a four inch tail and we're gonna tuck these into the muzzle as we work so things won't get too tangled up. Go ahead and tuck that tail in. Turn your work, push the bottom needle back onto the white stitches and pull the top needle out of the orange ones. To begin, we'll be picking up two stitches of white from the side of the muzzle and don't forget to leave a nice long tail 'cause we'll be using that tail to knit the next row. One, two, and then we'll be knitting eight. And then pick up two more stitches along the edge. Just go ahead and pick those up wherever you think they best fit. There's one, and two, and then go ahead and cut that white yarn and then tuck it into the muzzle. Turn your work. Just make sure you tuck all those little extra ends in there. So we'll now have this leftover tail from the white row that we just worked and a leftover tail from the orange row that we worked and we'll be utilizing these to do our next row and don't worry too much about the holes that are kinda forming between the white and red sides because we can go ahead and tie those yarn tails together on the inside before we finish to close those holes up. So let's go ahead and continue onto the next round. To begin, push your needle back onto the orange stitches and pull the top needle off of the white ones. Before we begin working these orange stitches with the left over yarn tail, just to make sure that we're closing up as many holes as possible, go ahead and take that leftover white yarn tail from the last row and cross it over the orange one. Now when we work this first orange stitch, it will help pull the white stitches close to the orange stitches and reduce that hole that's going to form otherwise. Go ahead and tuck that tail back in, we won't need that tail again. Go ahead and work those six stitches. All right, turn your work. Now we're ready to work in our 12 white stitches. So go ahead and push that needle back onto the white stitches and we'll be pulling the needle off of the orange ones to free it up so we can work and again to help alleviate that hole that might form, you can go ahead and cross your orange tail over the white one before we do that first stitch to help pull the stitches closer together. So we're using that leftover white yarn tail that we left at the beginning of the row and we'll knit 12. Turn your work, bring the red stitches back onto the needle in the front and bring the needle on the top through the white stitches and you'll be ready to go. Go and tuck any extra little yarn tails in at this point because we'll be incorporating some new yarn. Bringing in your orange yarn, we'll do another slip slit knit and don't forget to leave a nice long tail at the beginning of the orange to use when we come around again for our second row and with our working yarn, we'll go ahead and do those next two stitches and do a knit two together and go ahead and cut a four inch tail. Go ahead and turn. Push your needle back through the white stitches and draw the yarn out through the red ones. Now, we can incorporate a new piece of white with a long tail and this time we're going to be slip stitching doing the slip slit knit three times. That'll be one, make sure you're grabbing your working yarn and not the yarn tail. Two, three. Then knit two together three times. We'll end up with six white stitches. As you can see as we reduce the number of stitches, we're bringing out muzzle to a nice little point. So let's go ahead and turn. You only have two more rounds to go. Go ahead and bring your needle back onto your orange stitches and pull your needle from your white ones. We'll be utilizing that left over yarn tail from the beginning of the orange round. And again, if you like, you can go ahead and cross

that white tail over before you begin knitting, just to help lock in the tail and help reduce that hole between the orange and the white rounds. All right. So we'll knit four, turn the work, bring the needle through the yarn. Pick up those stitches. Draw the top needle out and with the leftover yarn tail from the beginning of the white side, put your needle through and then again, if you'd like, you can utilize the leftover orange yarn tail from the orange side. Just go ahead and cross that over and begin knitting, that'll help lock in it. Reduce that hole between the two colors. All right. Then turn your work, we have one round to go. Draw the needle back through the orange side. We'll begin our last round with a slip slit knit and if you like, you can reach in and grab that white leftover tail from the last row, cross it over so that you can pick it up and lock it in. Then we'll do a knit two together and since this is the last round, we don't really need to worry about making sure that we have a long tail at the beginning. Go and turn your work. Go ahead and trim that orange. Now we can finish up our round. We'll start off with the white yarn and doing the slip slit knit. We can go ahead and cross over the orange yarn, just to lock it in place. And if you're like me, after a while it even gets a little confusing where we're supposed to lock those yarns in so, I'm just gonna pick it up and do the second stitch and that should be just fine and we'll do knit two together and we've made it and it's a mess, I know, but we're gonna clean this up and it's gonna look awesome when it's done. So let's go ahead and we can straighten out our needles. Trim the yarn and then we're just going to tuck all these in there. To finish the muzzle, we'll be weaving the remaining white yarn tail through the remaining six stitches. Load up the remaining yarn tail on your tapestry needle and then weave through the remaining stitches on the two circular needles. Once you have them all loaded up, go ahead and weave through one more time and then we're gonna turn the front of our head inside out just to tighten everything up from the back. All right. If you do notice any sort of loose bits here, don't worry so much about that, we're actually gonna be covering up this front part with the nose as well. So let's go ahead and just fasten off and then we'll bring that yarn tail onto the back and then tie a few of those pesky yarn tails together. As you can see, we have some spaces here but we're gonna clean those up. All right, well flipping it over, we can see that things are a little on the messy side but nothing too awful. Simply go and find pieces of yarn that are fairly close together and just start tying them together. As you tie, feel free to trim the ends a little shorter just to make things a little more manageable. Once we've cleaned up the back of our head and tied all those loose, pesky ends together, if you turn it over, you'll see that all those holes are now magically closed up. Now that we've gotten through the front of the end, we can go ahead and work the back of the head, which I promise is a lot easier. It's worked in a similar manner to the front of the head but without the waste yarn and the muzzle.

Eyes, nose and eyebrows

- Now that I've completed both the back and front of the head for the fox, I went ahead and sewed them together using a basic mattress stitch, and when you sew your two pieces together, just make sure you're matching up where the color change rows happen on the sides of the head, and that way, you make sure there's no sort of weird jump in the color. Go ahead and sew the seam all the way around, but leave about one or two inches free at the very end so that we're able to put in the stuffing. After sewing the seam and leaving a one-inch hole at the very end, go ahead and add some of your polyester stuffing just so we can start getting a better sense of the shape of the head. I like to stuff the heads of my critters before I add the eyes because it gives me a better sense of where the eyes should actually go than if the piece was flat. Once you put the eye posts in, if you feel you're having some difficulty getting the backing in, you can always pull some stuffing out, but if

you do it this way, at least you'll have a much better sense of where the eyes will fit and where they'll look most appealing. So, this is a pretty good point. Now, I'm actually gonna put this head aside and work up the nose so that it'll be ready to go after I've added the eyes. Using my straight needles, I'm gonna cast-on five with black, so we'll slipknot. That's our first stitch. One, two, three, four. So, that gives us five. And then go ahead, cut that yarn. We'll place the yarn onto a tapestry needle, and then we'll go ahead and just slip those stitches onto the tapestry needle. Gently pull through. And then I like to kind of double back and do it one more time just to make sure everything is nice and tight. And we have a little nose all ready to go. Let's go ahead and apply the eyes first. For the eye placement, I like working the eye post on either side of the muzzle in the first round of orange. And since we have some stuffing, feel free to adjust the placement of your eyes until they're in a spot that you like. Alright. I think I like that placement. So, I'm ready to add my posts. I like to turn my work inside out and go ahead and push the safety backing onto the posts. And again, if you're gonna make this toy for a child that's three or under, I would recommend using black yarn and making French knots instead of using the safety eyes. They will be a bit more secure and a little safer for little ones. Okay. Now that our eyes are in place, we can go ahead and add our nose. If you notice with the nose, where we fastened off is a little more pointed than the top of the nose, and when we place the nose on, we're actually going to keep the rounded edge facing up and the slightly pointed edge facing down. To secure the placement of the nose, I like to thread the yarn from the beginning of the cast-on row onto the needle and then just pull that through the head just to kind of hold the nose in place while we sew around. And to attach the nose, a simple whip stitch should do the trick. If you like, you can go through the bottom and then work right onto the top just to make sure your nose is going to be nice and centered, and then work around the rest of the edge, just picking up the edge of the nose as you work. There we go. Okay, once your nose is secured, I like to use the leftover yarn to add a couple of eyebrows above the eyes before I fasten off. And this can be as simple as just adding a straight stitch above each eye. That looks pretty good. So, let's go ahead and draw the yarn out where the other yarn tail is. We'll tie them together and then draw them back through the head to secure. Just give it enough of a tug so that knot goes back into the head so we don't see it. You can trim those tails. Feel free to add a little more stuffing at this point if you want to firm up the head just a bit more, and then we'll go ahead and sew up the rest of that seam. Once the seam is all sewn up, go ahead and fasten off, draw the yarn through, and then give it a trim. Sometimes I also like to just kind of roll the head around in my hands just to kind of distribute the stuffing a little more evenly. And there you go. Now that we have the features on our little fox's face, we can go ahead and make some ears.

Ears

- Our little fox is missing his ears, so let's go ahead and make him a pair. Start by putting six stitches on your knitting needle. For our first row, we'll do a slight increase by knitting in the front and the back of our first stitch. Knitting four ... and doing a second knit-front-back increase to our last stitch. Proceed to purl. This is supposed to be a slip, slip, knit, but we've already oriented our loops correctly, so we can go ahead and just knit through both for our decrease. And then go ahead and knit two together for the last two. And purl. Continue workin' the pattern, and once the ear is complete, we'll be picking up some stitches around the edge of the ear to give it a nice little bit of black detail. Okay. Once your ear is complete, go ahead and fasten off. Put that thread through and give it a tug to secure it in place. I'll be adding a small line of black stitches to the outside edge of our ear, using my circular needles. But if you don't have a set of circular needles, double-pointed

needles will work well for this part as well. To start, we're putting 12 stitches total around the outside of the ear. So go ahead with the right side of the ear facing out and evenly pick up six stitches around the outer edge of the ear, using black yarn. Since we're using our circular needles, go ahead and draw the needle through. So these six stitches will sit on the wire. It should make it a little easier to pick up the next six stitches. Go ahead and work around that yarn tail as well. We can always tuck that in later. And six, so here's our six. So now we're gonna go ahead and bind off those stitches purlwise, all 12 stitches. And then we'll have our little black detail. These bind-off stitches, since they're a little tighter than the edge, will also create a nice curl for the ear of your fox. So go ahead and bind off that last stitch. We can trim our black yarn. Tie those two tails together once you've fastened off that black yarn. And we can go ahead once we've sewn the ears on and tuck this into the head of the fox. So there you are, a little ear with a nice little bit of black detailing around the edge. Now that you've completed an ear, you'll wanna go ahead and make another one. I've gone ahead and made a second, so I'm ready to attach these to my fox. To add our ears to our fox, we'll be utilizing the leftover orange yarn tail at the bottom of the ear. The ears are gonna be placed on the seam at the top of the fox's head right above the eyes, so you can use that as a guide. Go ahead and load up that yarn tail. And what I like to do since this yarn tail is actually on one corner, I like to sew down the corners of the ear first just to make sure everything is gonna be nice and even. So I'm going to insert my needle where I think one corner should sit. And then I'll just go ahead and grab the other corner. And then I can check my placement. If I'm happy with that, then I'll just go ahead and sew down the rest of the ear using a web stitch. Since we've added that bind-off edge to the top of the ear, go ahead and help that along and shape the ear so we have that natural curve. I'll go ahead and attach the second ear the same way, and then I'm going to go ahead and just weave in all those ends. (scissors snipping) Our little fox head is all done, and he's so cute. Well, now that we've gotten through this part of the project, we're ready to start on the body. And when we start on the body, we'll be starting on the legs first.

Fox Body

Legs

- The fox's body is made of three separate pieces: the left and right side, and the belly. We're gonna start with the legs, and then we'll work up the sides, and then we'll make the belly, and then put everything together. We'll start with the right legs first. To begin, I'll be casting on to my circular needles, and put four stitches on them. And then, I'll be working them in the round. And to do this, I'm going to split my stitches between the two needles. And we'll work them in a magic loop. If you don't wanna work with circular needles, you can use double-pointed needles, and just make sure that the stitches are distributed evenly. We're gonna go ahead and join. To do this, pull your top needle out of the stitches. Insert to the first stitch on the bottom needle. And for round one, we're going to be knitting front-back in each stitch around. Go ahead and turn your work. And then we can draw the needle out from the top, and we'll work in the second two stitches, it front-back. And this gives us eight. Turn your work again. Bring your needle back into the stitches. Let's orient them so that our needles are facing to the right. Draw your top needle out of the stitches. For round two, we'll just be knitting. And make sure as you work to, after doing that first stitch, give your yarn a bit of a tug, and that'll keep a gap from happening where you're connecting your rounds. Turn your work, draw the needle in, draw this needle out. To four. We've now completed round two. And you'll

be repeating this process to do the magic loop. Drawing your needles in and out of your stitches so you're able to work on both sides of your round. If you find it's tricky, keeping track of where your rounds begin and end, you can also insert a slip ring to help indicate when your next round begins. For round three, we'll be knitting two. And we'll do a make one. Knit one. Make one. Knit one. Slip ring back in there. Turn your work. Continuing to the other side. Knit one. Make one to the left. Knit one, make one to the left again. And knit two. What we're doing right now is shaping the paw. For rounds four through six, we'll knit. Now that we've completed our paw-shaping, we're gonna go ahead and do a decrease, feeding the slip, slip knit. So slip your two stitches to orient them correctly, and then insert your needle through both of them. You'll be slipping them off the left needle, knit-wise, and then putting them back on, and then inserting the needle through the back and bringing your stitch count down to three. On the opposite side, we'll be doing a knit two together. For the knit two together, you'll be inserting your needle through two stitches at once, which now gives us a total of six. Continue working in black until round 13. Then we're gonna switch over to orange, and finish out our leg. Once we've gotten to round 13, we're done working with our black and we can trim. Go ahead and pick up your orange yarn, and start working orange stitches. We'll start by knitting two. And if you like, you can take your black yarn and fold it over the orange yarn, just to help close up that hole just a bit. Let's do a make one right. Knit six. Make one left. And knit two. We can now knit straight for rounds 15 through 17. And on round 18, we'll be finishing up our leg. Once we're done with round 17, depending on if you're making a left or right leg, we'll be binding off about six stitches per the pattern instructions. So we'll just wanna make sure you're paying attention to which leg you're making. But you'll definitely wanna make two of each. Two left, and two right. So, for our right leg, we'll be binding off six stitches, and then knitting the remaining ones. So we'll have to knit two first, and this will be bind off one. Bind off two. Bind off three. Bind off four. Five, and we'll actually have to give our work a turn to get that last one. Here's bind off six. And then go ahead and knit the remaining stitches. For our legs, we'll actually be utilizing these stitches when we create our side piece. So if you like, and have your straight needle handy, for example, you can transfer the remaining stitches over to an empty knitting needle, or a stitch-holder if you have one. We have one leg done. Go ahead and cut the yarn. Now that we've made one leg, you'll wanna go ahead and make a second one. I've gone ahead and made my second leg, and I've attached it to the stitch holder. But now I'm getting ready to do the side, so I'll be transferring this leg on to a set of straight needles. We'll need to have both legs on one needle, so that we can begin working on the sides.

Side

- Now that we have both of our legs on our needle, we'll be able to start bricking the side. Since these are right legs, we're actually gonna be working the front leg first and then we'll work on three cast-on stitches and then we'll work the back leg and then we'll be working in rows to create the side. For our left side, we'd be working the opposite way, starting with the back leg, then working our cast-on stitches and then the front leg and then working the shaping as per the pattern. With orange, we'll start picking up the stitches on our front leg first. Knit one. Make one. Knit four. Make one. This one will be to the left. And knit one. We're now ready to cast on. But to do this, we're gonna actually have to turn our yarn around... And work... With the wrong side facing us. We'll be casting on three. One. Two. Three. Then turn your work... And continue working into the stitches of the back leg. Begin by knitting one. Make one right. Knit four. If you find that your cast-on stitch looks a little on the loose side, you can also go back and give your loops a little bit of a tug. This is

easier, of course, if you have fingernails (laughs). There we go. Knit one left. Knit your last stitch. Our legs are now connected with our cast-on stitches in the center. And in total, you should have 19 stitches. Two, four, six, eight, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 19. Great, so we're good to go. Turn your work. We'll be purling all the even rows. For the cast-on stitches, just be careful not to get them all twisted up. They sometimes will overlap each other slightly. So just be mindful as you work through them. Just double checking my stitch count to make sure I still have 19 and I do. For row three, we're gonna have a slight increase at the beginning and end of the row. Let's work that last increase into row three. Working. Make one to the left. We'll purl our even rows. Once we've hit row seven, we're gonna start working some decreases. To start, we'll knit 19 and then we'll knit the last two stitches together. We're gonna continue decreasing at the end of our knit rows, up to row 11. At row 13 we're gonna start shaping the back of our fox. For our right side, since we're starting in the front, we're actually going to do the neck first and then we'll bind off the back. For the neck, we'll knit eight. And then we'll go ahead and bind off the remaining stitches. So we'll need to knit two and then start binding off, so that we leave the remaining eight stitches on the needle. Two, four six, eight. Once we're done binding off, we'll fasten off our yarn, cut it and then we'll reattach for our purl row as we work the rest of the neck. You can go ahead and cut. (scissors snipping) Use you needle to coax that little bit of yarn through. And fasten off. Go ahead and turn your work. For row 14, we'll reattach our yarn and continue working in purl. For the last row of our right side... Knit six... And then knit two together. For row 16, go ahead and bind off purl wise. Once you're done with the bind-off row of your right side, go ahead and leave a pretty long tail when you fasten off because then you can use that tail to help with the assembly process later on. When making your left side, you'll find that in the pattern, you'll actually be working from the back to the front, so the neck will actually be on the other side of the piece that you're working. So when everything goes together, you'll find that you'll have two sides that are mirror images of each other. Let's go ahead and start on the belly stripe.

Belly

- The belly stripe for our fox is pretty simple. It's just stockinette stitch being worked back and forth in rows. You'll wanna keep a couple of your stitch markers or safety pins handy so you can mark off rows 20 and 34. These points will be lining up with the inside of the legs, so having some stitch markers handy just makes it a little easier to line everything up as you're assembling. So let's go ahead and get started on the belly. We'll be placing four stitches on our needle to start. And this cast on edge will actually be where our neck begins. So this edge will end up underneath the chin of our fox when we're ready to put him together. So go ahead, and starting with a knit row, work stockinette stitch for rows one through 10. At round 11 we'll start doing a little bit of an increase for the lower half of the chest. Go ahead and do a make one right. A knit two. Make one left. And knit. For rows 12 through 16, we're gonna continue working in stockinette stitch. I just finished row 12, so I'll continue on to 13, up until row 16. At round 17 we'll actually start decreasing again. Initially it'll be that slip slip knit, but, as you can see, we're already twisted in the right direction so we can just go ahead and insert our needle and knit those two together. And then do a knit two together For our other two stitches. For row 19 we're going to go down to two stitches. And then just purl those two. And this will be a good point to tack on a couple of slip rings, 'cause this will help us later on when we are getting ready to assemble our little fox. Continue working your belly stripe in stockinette stitch up until row 46. Then you'll go ahead and bind off. When you reach row 34, you'll be placing two more slip markers on either side of the row to mark where your back legs are going to match

up with your belly stripe. When your belly stripe is all finished, it'll look something like this. Now that our belly stripe is all done, we just have to make the tail and we can put our fox together.

Tail

- We only have one more piece to make before we can put our fox together. We'll be working on the tail now, starting at the base and working to the tip. We'll begin our tail by putting four stitches on our needle. I'll be working these on the circular needle and utilizing the magic loop technique. So, we'll be moving our stitches to the middle of the needle and pulling the wire out through our four stitches so that we can break them up evenly. We'll have two stitches on one needle and two stitches on the other. With the tail and the working yarn on the needle above, we'll go ahead and pull that needle through and begin knitting. For round one and two, we'll be knitting the four stitches. Make sure you hold onto your stitches as you're moving the needles around. A lot of time when there's only a few number of stitches on the needles, they sometimes have a tendency to fly off if the needles are being jogged around as you turn your work. So, there's round one. Holding onto my stitches, I'm gonna pull that needle back through and pull the other needle out. Beginning round two. We'll work these two stitches first, holding onto my stitches. Work stitches three and four. Round three will be our first increase in which we'll be working. Knit one, make one. This will be a make one, make one left. Knit one, and then we'll repeat that on the other side for a total of six stitches. Knit one, make one left, and knit one. We'll now knit these six stitches for rounds four through six. For round seven, we'll be doing knit one, make one, knit one, make one. And finally, knit one. Repeat this pattern on your other needle. This will bring our stitch total up to 10. Continue working in orange on your tail following the pattern until round 26. Then, you'll switch over to white, continuing the pattern until round 34, and then we'll be able to stuff the tail. I've worked up to round 34, so let's go ahead and take care of that step. When you've reached round 34, go ahead and stop, grab a little bit of stuffing, and work it into your tail. For the tail, we don't want too much because we want the tail to hang. So, about that much should do it. Once your tail has some stuffing, go ahead and finish the last few rounds of the tail. For round 35, we'll go ahead and knit two together six times. And again, make sure you give that first stitch a bit of a tug to make sure everything is nice and close. A bit of a tug, continue knitting your stitches together. For round 36, go ahead and knit all six stitches, and then we'll break the yarn and weave the tail through the remaining stitches. And there we have it. Let's go ahead and trim that yarn tail. Grab our tapestry needle. Bring this knitting needle back so we can more easily thread that tapestry needle onto those remaining stitches. We'll go ahead and pull that circular needle all the way through those last three stitches so that the point of this needle is lining up with our tapestry needle, and we'll be able to pick those stitches up. So, there you go. You can also gently weave that needle through those stitches one more time if you haven't pulled them shut. These remaining three. Alright, let's go ahead and close them up. If you notice that sometimes the loops are still sticking out, you can always weave the needle and yarn through those a few more times. It's not an exact science, and feel free to keep drawing that needle in and out until you get the shaping that you want. Once everything looks good, go ahead and fasten off the yarn and then go ahead and draw it through your finished tail. Go ahead and trim that, and then we have a nice, fluffy little tail to attach to our fox.

Assembling the Fox

Stitching everything together

- Now that all of our pieces are done, we're ready to assemble our fox. We'll begin assembling by utilizing our slip rings to hold all our pieces together before we start stitching. If you don't have slip rings handy, safety pins or even straight pins will do the trick. To begin, locate the top of your belly stripe, that'll be the cast on edge, and this will be at the top of the neck. So this is going to match up at the top corner of your neck. And I like to use these little slip rings. So we'll match up that top corner. The next point we're gonna match up will actually be the middle of the leg, of the underside of the leg. And we've marked that row off already with one of our slip rings when we were making the belly stripe. It'll make it a lot easier to evenly distribute all the stitches if we have a good sense of where the major matching points are located. So go ahead and do the same for your back leg. Matching up that slip ring with the back leg. And then finally, go ahead and match up the back of your corner of the body with the back of the belly stripe. And this will go right under the tail. So that's looking pretty good. If you like, you can go back and add a few more slip rings just to make sure that everything is nice and evenly distributed. I like to usually put one right in the middle of the stomach as well. The slip rings are nice because it's easy to take them in and out. And unlike safety pins and straight pins, there's very little chance that you'll injure yourself on them. So let's go ahead and we'll match up our other side in the same way. Go ahead and tuck all those tails into the body. That way you won't even have to worry about tying them off. They'll just be sewn right in. Match up that back leg. Belly stripe. And match up the back of the body, back edge of the belly stripe. Grab that one back. There we go. Alright. You can kinda see how everything is going to fit together. So at this point we can thread our orange yarn onto our tapestry needle. Gonna go ahead and actually remove this slip ring so I can get started stitching the upper corner. And what I'll do is I'll actually work a fairly generic mattress stitch all the way down the seam to the back of the body. And then down the other side and up the neck again. So let's go ahead and get started. Once you've reached the legs, go ahead and work right around those bind off stitches. So the slip rings will help keep the belly stripe pretty evenly distributed along the underside of the leg. Go ahead and remove that as you come to it. Our goal here is to center the skinniest part of the belly at the middle part of the underside of the leg. So that when our fox is soft and standing, his legs won't have any trouble going straight up and down. Continue stitching around the seam in this manner until you've reached the end of the body and then go back towards the head working through the other two legs. Once you've finished sewing the belly stripe to the left and right sides of the body, we'll be ready to put a little bit of stuffing inside the legs before we sew the back seam together. And for all this extra yarn, just go ahead and stuff it right into the body. You won't really need to worry about it once all the seams are closed up. So your little body should look like this. So go ahead and get a little more stuffing and let's get these legs stuffed. To stuff the legs, simply take a little bit of your stuffing and with your finger, go ahead and push it down into the leg. You wanna stuff the legs fairly firmly so that your fox will be able to stand up easily, but don't stuff it so tightly that the stuffing starts pushing the stitches apart and you'll be able to see it. If you have trouble reaching the bottom of the foot, you can also use either the back of your knitting needle, or if you have a pencil handy, you can use that as well. Alright. Once all our little legs are stuffed we'll go ahead and dew up this back seam. I think we'll go ahead and actually sew it from the back of the tail to the back of the neck. So for this, we'll just take a little bit of extra yarn, load it up on our tapestry needle, and secure the yarn before we start sewing those edges together. We'll be working back and forth across the back seam. So catch the yarn under your stitches as you go. And pull gently to close the seam. You won't have to worry too much about the back part of the fox looking too pretty, simply because we'll br

putting the tail over this spot. We're gonna continue working the seam all the way up to the back of the neck. But we're going to leave this opening at the top of the neck free to attach the head later on. Once the seam is all sewed up, we can insert a little bit more stuffing into the body to get everything nice and firm to add our head. Now that our back seam is all sewn up, let's go ahead and stuff the rest of the body. Stuff the body pretty firmly, since our fox has a pretty big head and we don't want him falling over. We can always add a little more stuffing while we sew up that next seam for the head. Before we attach the tail, we can even do a little bit of cleanup by loading up our tapestry needle with the yarn at the end of the legs. Just go ahead and run that yarn up through the foot. And then we'll take out our scissors and trim these short. Our fox body is now all put together and seamed and stuffed. So we're ready to add the tail and finally the head and you'll have a little fox to call your own. To start, let's go ahead and just tuck this extra yarn tail in before we add our tail. Go ahead and trim that. We can go ahead and utilize the leftover tail at the beginning of our tail pattern to attach it. And we'll attach the tail right above where the white belly stripe ends. So go ahead and whip stitch that tail right down to the back of your fox. Now, I like my tails to look a little droopy on my fox, but depending on how firmly you stuffed your tail and where you secure it down, your tail might stick straight up, depending on the look you're going for. But we'll have our little tail a bit droopy, 'cause I think it kinda looks cute like that. Once your tail is secure, go ahead and fasten off your yarn, and pull the yarn through the body, and trim. Let's go ahead and add our head. We have a leftover yarn tail from when we sewed up our seam, so let's go ahead and use that. Since we already know this is the back center of the body, we'll grab onto the orange at the back center of the head. Which is roughly around here. So let's go ahead and grab a stitch here. Since we have extra yarn, sometimes I like to take the opportunity to draw the yarn through and just put one stitch at the front of the body and match that up to the center of the chin. Just as a way to keep everything nice and even as I sew. So I'm gonna insert that back through to the back, give it a little bit of a tug, and then I'm gonna go ahead and start sewing my head down. I'll grab a bit of the orange in the back just so everything looks fairly seamless from the head to the back of the body. And then I'll start grabbing onto the white as I work towards the front of the head. I tend to eyeball my stitches as I work. But you might prefer to use your slip rings again to help evenly position the head before you begin sewing. As you sew, make sure to give the yarn a bit of a tug so it'll become fairly invisible, even on the white part. That's pretty even, so I'll keep going. Every once in a while, feel free to stop just to check where the various points line up. That way you can better prepare to insert your needles in the right spot at the right time, to keep everything fairly even. Such as the back of the head. We're about done. Give that yarn a pretty healthy tug, just to make sure all those stitches are well embedded. Let's go ahead and fasten off. Insert the needle through the body. Straighten out our legs. So our little fox is almost ready to go. There's one final detail that I do like to add to my fox, and that's a little white ear tuft right in the center of the ear, just to round him out. So let's go ahead and add that. To add ear tufts, go ahead and cut two pieces of white yarn, thread your yarn onto your tapestry needle, and go ahead and draw that through, and inner stitch inside the ear. Then bring the yarn back through, but this time hold on to that loop. With the loop in one hand, go ahead and pull both those yarn ends through, and give it a tug to lock it off. We're gonna repeat this in the other ear. Alright. I'm ready to give this guy a little bit of a haircut. So grab your scissors, and trim just below the black. And with your fingers, go ahead and just muss up those yarn fibers. And that'll give you a little white detail inside our fox's ears. Because if he wasn't cute before, he's certainly a lot cuter now. This is a great little project to give to that favorite little person in your life, three and over, of course, if you're using those plastic eyes. That's of course, if you are

interested in actually giving your little fox away once you're done making it.