SPIP

A Purple Flying Squirrel

SPIP is my favourite CMS and its mascot is a flying squirrel. It also is the name of the squirrel of the French comics Spirou, Dupuis publisher.

It is knitted flat and the knitting is easy, but the finishing, as usual with the toys might be a bit tedious. The head and the tail can be knitted in the round.

The "fur look" is given by brushing the knitted pieces before to attach them together.

MATERIAL

Any yarn and needles will do the job. The size of the toy will vary: bigger or smaller within the yarn you choose. You may need a bit more yarn if you choose bigger yarn and needles.

I knitted it with a fingering yarn and 3 mm needles.

- about 10 g of purple yarn;
- about 5 g of cream yarn;
- 3 mm needles (or the convenient size for your yarn);
- two 10 mm safety eyes for toys (if you knit the squirrel with 3 mm needles), you can also embroider the eyes with black yarn or thread;
- black yarn to embroider the claws;
- fibrefill;
- hard-bristled brush;
- tapestry needle.

STITCHES AND ABBREVIATIONS

- Stocking stitch (st st): *knit 1 row, purl 1 row*
- **inc.:** knit twice the same stitch.
- **k2tog**: knit 2 stitches together.
- **p2tog**: purl 2 stitches together.
- **psso**: slip one, knit 1, pass the slip stitch over the knit stitch.
- **st, sts**: stitch, stitches.

REALISATION

Back, Purple, One Piece, Purple

We begin by the bottom.

Cast on 30 sts. Make 2 rows beginning with a knit row.

Row 3: cast off the 3 first sts, k6, inc1, k3, inc1, k2, inc1, k3, inc1, k9 (31 sts).

Row 4: cast off the 3 first sts, purl to the end (30 sts).

Row 5: k7, inc1, k2, inc1, k2, inc1, k2, inc1, k2, inc1, k7 (32 sts).

Row 7: k1, psso, k5, inc1, 3 sts, inc1, k3, k2, inc1, k3, inc1, k3, inc1, k5, inc1, k5, k2tog, k1 (39 sts).
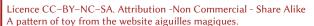
Row 9: k13, inc1, k3, inc1, k4, inc1, k3, inc1, k13 (44 sts).

Row 11: k14, inc1, k4, k1, k4, inc1, k4, inc1, k14 (48 sts).

Row 13: k1, psso, k42, k2tog, k1 (42 sts).

Row 17: k1, psso, k40, k2tog, k1 (40 sts).

Row 25: k1, inc1, k40, inc1, k1 (46 sts).

Row 29: k1, inc1, k42, inc1, k1 (48 sts).

Row 31: k14, k2tog, k4, k2tog, k4, k2tog, k4, k2tog, k14 (44 sts).

Row 33: k13, k2tog, k3, k2tog, k2tog, k4, k2tog, k3, k2tog, k13 (41 sts).

Row 35: k1, inc1, k11, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k11, inc. 1 (34 sts).

Row 37: k13, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k13 (34 sts).

Row 38 (purl): cast on 3 sts at the end of the row (37 sts).

Row 39: k9, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k2, k2tog, 6 sts, cast on 3 sts (37 sts).

Row 41: cast off.

Belly, One Piece, Cream

We begin by the bottom.

Cast on 30 sts. Make 2 rows beginning with a knit row.

Row 3: cast off the 3 first sts sts, knit to the end (27 sts).

Row 4: cast off the 3 first sts sts, knit to the end (24 sts).

Row 7: k1, psso, k16, k2tog, k1 (20 sts).

Row 13: k1, psso, k14, k2tog, k1 (18 sts).

Row 17: 1 sts psso, k12, k2tog, k1 (16 sts).

Row 29: k1, inc1, k14, inc1, k1 (20 sts).

Row 33: k1, inc1, k16, inc1, k1 (22 sts).

Row 35: k1, inc1, k18, inc1, k1 (24 sts).

Row 38 (purl): cast on 3 sts at the end of the row (27 sts).

Row 39: cast on 3 sts at the end of the row (30 sts).

Row 41: cast off.

Head, One Piece, Purple

We begin by the back of the head.

Cast on 4 sts

Row 1: inc1 in every st (8 sts).

Row 3:*1 sts inc. 1* 4 times (12 sts).

Row 5: *2 sts inc. 1* 4 times (16 sts).
3 rows.
Row 9: k1, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k1 (12 sts).
Make 3 rows in st st.
Row 13: k1, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k1 (9 sts).
Row 15: k1, k2tog, k3, k2tog, k1 (7 sts).
Row 16: p1, p2tog, p1, p2tog, p1 (5 sts).
Break the yarn, keeping a long tail for the sewing and draw it in the 5 stitches.

Back of the head

Ears, Two Pieces, Purple

We begin by the bottom of the ears.

Cast on 3 sts, make 2 rows. Next row: slip one, knit 2 together, pass the slip stitch over the knit stitch. (1 sts). Break the yarn and draw it in the 5 stitches.

Make a second ear.

Tail, One Piece, Purple

We begin by the end of the tail.

Cast on 3 sts **begin with a purl row**.

Row 2: k2, inc1, k2, inc1, k2 (10 sts).

Row 4: k3, inc1, k2, inc1, k3 (12 sts).

Make 7 rows.

Row 12: k2, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k1 (9 sts).

Make 7 rows.

Row 20: k2, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k2 (7 sts).

Make 7 rows. Cast off the stitches.

FINISHING

Brush all the pieces to have the "fur look". If necessary mark the bottom of the body[1]. We will weave the ends while sewing the pieces of the squirrel.

Body

Pin the back of the squirrel on the belly, wrong side on the side. Using the **purple** yarn, attach the two pieces with a mattress stitch seaming. Don't close it, you will have to stuff it after.

Pin the two sides as you can see on the photo.

Using the **cream** yarn, make a seaming to "close" the sides and keep them flat. It should be invisible on the purple side.

Stuff the body, not overstuff it (less is better that more).

Using the purple yarn, close the still open side with a with a mattress stitch seaming.

Head

Fold the head. Attach the ears on each side of the fold. Add (or embroider) the eyes under the ears.

Close the head with a mattress stitch seaming. Stuff it on the go. Attach it to the body.

Tail and Claws

Fold the tail and close it with a mattress stitch seaming. Attach the smaller end on the body, the seaming must on the belly side.

Embroider the claw with the black yarn: make several stitches, one over the other.

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It's done!

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1   It is where we made the decreases of the sides.