

Das Monster

-Hrönn Jónsdóttir

-In my experience, these will fit most children age 9-18 months, but of course, kids come in all different shapes and sizes, so I can't make any absolute promises...



The longies are knitted from the top down. Only the mouth is knitted in, the eyes are added after all the knitting is done.

To simplify things while writing down this pattern, I say nothing about color changes, apart from the instructions for the mouth. I feel completely confident about your ability to make up your own color arrangement.

The yarn I used was Trysil Garn Sportsgarn, with a gauge of 23 stitches in stockinette stitch for 10cm (4 inches) on 3,5mm needles.

My pair weighs 140 grams

Abbreviations used:

CO – Cast on

K - Knit

P - Purl

St. - Stitch

Inc. - Increase

W&t – Wrap & turn

M1R – lift the loop between stitches with left needle from the back and knit into the front of it.

M1L – lift the loop between stitches with left needle from the front and knit into the back of it.

K2tog – Knit two stitches together

Ssk – slip, slip, knit slipped stitches together. (Slip the stitches knitwise)

Well, let's start knitting!

CO 108sts on 3mm needles, join in the round and do a 2x2 ribbing (k2, p2) for 20 rounds.

Change to 3,5mm needles and knit one round, increasing 4st evenly across the row = 112 stitches on the needles.

(If you're making these for a more 'mobile' child, it's a good idea to throw in one round of yo, k2tog and thread in an i-cord string to keep the pants up. I haven't had any problems with mine sagging, but I can imagine it happening...)

Continue in stockinette for another 20 rounds (or approx. 6,5 cm, measured from the beginning of the stockinette section).

Now it's time to put in the monster's mouth!

The beginning of the round is the center front of the longies.

K30 in your main color, then slip one stitch knitwise before changing to your mouth color. Don't break off the main color, you'll get back to it later.

K50, w&t

Slip one purlwise, P44, w&t

K40, w&t

P35, w&t

K30, w&t

P27, w&t

K24, w&t

P21, w&t

K18, w&t

P15, w&t

K12, w&t

P9, w&t

K6, w&t

Purl the stitches until one stitch remains of the mouth color, picking up the wraps as you go and purling them together with the stitches, turn, **but don't wrap!**

Slip the first stitch purlwise, then knit until one stitch remains of the mouth color, picking up the wraps as you go and knitting them together with the stitches. Break off the mouth color and transfer the mouth colored stitches **back to the left needle**. The first stitch on the left needle is

your last mouth colored one, and the first stitch on the right needle is the last main colored one (the one you slipped knitwise before).

(The next section describes the method I found to be the best choice to close the gap short rows want to make when you're knitting in the round. It's derived from what is called Japanese short rows -in case you want to look it up for better clarity- and it's pretty tricky to explain in writing. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any suggestions on making it more understandable!

(When I get a decent video camera I'll make a video to demonstrate this, but in the meantime, please try and bear with me...)

Now, with the right side facing you, bring your right needle to the wrong side of the work and pick up the horizontal strand of yarn that lies between the next two (mouth colored) stitches and place it on the left needle.

Slip the main colored stitch purlwise to the left needle and knit it together with the new stitch, like you would a ssk.

Now, knit across the mouth colored stitches and pick up the last wrap (on the main colored stitch) and knit it together with the stitch.

Knit in stockinette until the piece measures approx. 15cm in the front (measured from the CO edge). Now it's time to do some increases:

Round A: K1, m1L, k until one stitch remains of the round, m1R, k1.

Round B: Knit all stitches.

Repeat rounds A and B eight more times =130 stitches on the needles. Knit around until 3 stitches remain of the round. Now place 6 stitches from the left needle on a piece of scrap yarn, place the next 59 stitches on another piece, and finally another 6. 59 stitches remain on the needle. Now you've split for the legs!

-You start with 59 stitches for each leg, and 6+6 stitches in the middle which you'll graft together later.



Legs:

Rounds 1-4: k all stitches

Round 5: k1, k2tog, k until 3 sts remain, ssk, k1

Repeat rounds 1-5 3 more times (51 stitches remain), then knit without decreasing for 30 rounds, and then change to moss stitch for 20 rounds. –Of course, here you can make the legs longer/shorter/wider/narrower at will.

Put the 59 stitches from the scrap yarn on the needle and knit the other leg the same way.

Finish by grafting the stitches between the legs and with duplicate stitch, sew in the eyes and teeth of the monster. By all means, be creative! ☺

That's that! I look forward to seeing more monsters around!

I hope that you enjoyed the pattern and that if you should find any flaws in it, you'll be kind enough to let me know: liliana.ranny@gmail.com