

Big Al the Elephant

by Deborah V. Gardner

Materials

Cascade 220, 100% Peruvian Highland Wool, 1 skein each #8509 Grey (MC), Red #8414 (CC1), White #8505 (CC2)
1 foot pink yarn, worsted weight
US 6 (4 mm) double pointed needles or size to obtain correct gauge
A second set of US 6 (4mm), smaller dpns or circular needle (optional)
Small pieces of felt in pink and grey
tapestry needle
6 stitch holders
US 5 (3.75mm) or 4 (3.5mm) crochet hook (optional)
small piece of cardboard or plastic needlepoint canvas cut to fit the pads
size 5 or 8 perle cotton thread (optional)
1 dowel, 1/4" x 12", cut in half (to prevent head from wobbling)
2 safety eyes, 12mm (6060eyes.com for special colors). This uses eyes with red pupils and black irises.



Gauge

5.5 sts per inch in stockinette stitch in the round.

Notes

- KSP is a replacement for K2tog. Use the latter if desired.
- Because the elephant will be stuffed, it is important to have a dense fabric.
- Instead of using stitch holders, use a thin smooth yarn or size 5 or 8 perle cotton thread. It will make duplicate stitching a letter easier than if you leave the work on the needles.
- When fusing the ribbing to the sweater, you will need to have the ribbing on needles.
- The dowels are used to keep the head from flopping around. As you begin stuff the head, insert about 3" of the dowels into the body. Stuff around the dowels.
- The crochet hook is used to pick up sts around the pads.
- Each toenail is comprised of 3 small sts, the middle sts being a bit longer.

Abbreviations

dpn	double-pointed needles
inc	Lifted increase: knit in the st below the next st; knit in the st, take off of left needle.
k2tog	knit 2 stitches together
kf&b	Knit in the front of the stitch; keep the stitch on the lefthand needle; knit in the back of the same stitch; slip the stitches on to the right-hand needle.
ksp:	Knit the stitch and return it to the left needle knitwise (to ensure the stitch is correctly mounted.). Pass the next stitch on the left needle over the stitch you just knit. Return the knit stitch to the right needle and continuing knitting.
M1L	With left-hand needle, pick up the strand between the needles from front to back. Knit in back loop. This produces a left-leaning stitch.

M1R	With left-hand needle, pick up the strand between the needles from back to front. Knit in front loop. This produces a right-leaning stitch.
ssk	Slip stitch as to knit; slip next stitch as to purl; put back on left needle and knit in backs of stitches.
st(s):	Stitch(es)
w&t	Slip the next st; bring the yarn forward, slip the st back to the left-hand needle; turn.

Tail

With MC cast on 4 sts. Work in I-cord for 1½".
 Next rnd: KSP. Continue in I-cord until cord measures 2¼".
 Next rnd: KSP. Continue in I-cord until cord measures 3".
 Bind off leaving a 1" tail. Separate the plies of the yarn tail.

Lip

With MC, cast on 10 sts leaving a 12" tail (to be used to sew the lip on to the head).
 Row 1: K.
 Row 2 and all even rows: P.
 Row 3: K1, ssk, k4, ksp, k1. (8 sts)
 Row 5: K1, ssk, k2, ksp, k1. (6 sts)
 Row 7: K1, ssk, ksp, k1. (4 sts)
 Pull yarn through stitches tightly, fasten off and weave in end.
 Cut a piece of pink felt a little smaller than the lip and sew to purl side of lip.

Tusks (make 2)

With CC2, cast on 12 stitches, leaving a 12" yarn tail. and distribute over 3 needles. Join being careful not to twist. K 3 rnds.
 Rnd 4: (K2, k2tog) 3 times. (9 sts)
 Rnds 5 – 10: K.
 Rnd 11: (K1, k2tog) 3 times. (6 sts)
 Knit 3 rnds. Cut yarn, pull through sts, fasten off and weave ends.



Ears (make 2 reversing shaping)

Right Ear

With MC, cast on 15 sts leaving a 12" tail.

Row 1: K.

Row 2 and all even rows: P.

Row 3: K1, M1R, k13, M1L, k1. (17 sts)

Row 5: K1, M1R, k to last 2 sts, (M1L, k1) twice. (20 sts)

Row 7: K.

Row 9: K1, M1R, k18, M1L, k1. (22 sts)

Row 11: K.

Row 13: Rep Row 5. (25 sts)

Row 15: K.

Row 17: K1, ssk, k to end of row. (24 sts)

Row 19: K1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, ksp, k1. (22 sts)

Row 21: K1, ssk twice, K to last 5 sts, ksp twice, k1. (18 sts)

Row 23: Ssk 4 times, ksp 5 times. (9 sts)

Bind off in purl. Weave in only this tail.

Left Ear

With MC, cast on 15 sts leaving a 12" tail.

Row 1: K.

Row 2 and all even rows: P.

Row 3: K1, M1R, k13, M1L, k1. (17 sts)

Row 5: (K1, M1R) twice, k to last 2 sts, M1L, k1. (20 sts)

Row 7: K.

Row 9: K1, M1R, k18, M1L, k1. (22 sts)

Row 11: K.

Row 13: Rep Row 5. (25 sts)

Row 15: K.

Row 17: K to last 3 sts, ksp, k1. (24 sts)

Row 19: K1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, ksp, k1. (22 sts)

Row 21: K1, ssk twice, k to last 5 sts, ksp twice, k1. (18 sts)

Row 23: Ssk 5 times, ksp 4 times. (9 sts)

Bind off in purl. Weave in only this tail

Make the second ear reversing all shaping. Cut grey felt slightly smaller than the ear and sew to the purl side of the ears.

Elephant pads for arms (make 2)

Using the Disappearing Loop Cast-on, cast on 4 sts.

Rnd 1: Kf&b in each st. (8 sts)

Rnd 2: Kf&b in each st. (16 sts)

Rnd 3: K.

Rnd 4: *Kf&b, K1* repeat from * to end of rnd. (24 sts)

Rnd 5: K.

Bind off, cut yarn leaving a 6" tail.

Finishing the pad

This is necessary so that you have 24 sts to pick up.

Thread a yarn needle with the tail.

Step 1: Pull the yarn under the "V" of the first stitch.

Step 2: Pull the yarn through the middle of the "V" on the last stitch.

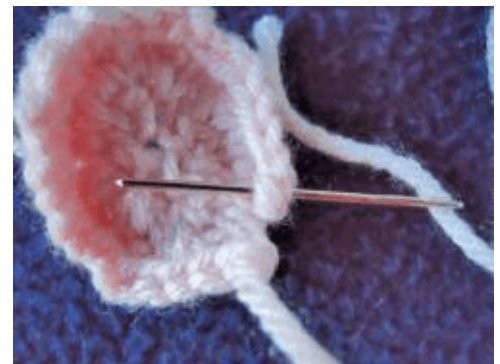
Weave in both ends.

Arms

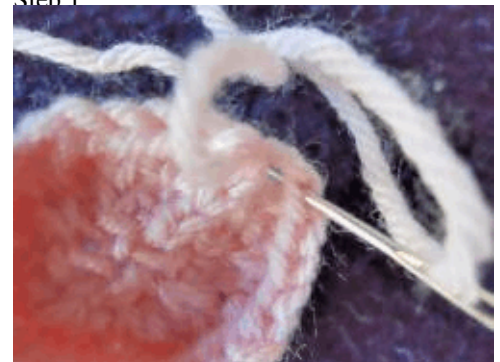
With grey, pick up and knit 1 st in each of the back loops of the bound off edge of the pad. (24 sts)

Knit 27 rnds. Cut yarn.

Note: After knitting 10 rounds, embroider toe nails. Fold the arms at the beginning of the round to help with placement of the nails.



Step 1



Step 2

Sweater ribbing for the arms

With CC1, cast on 24 sts.

Work in 2 x 2 ribbing for 4 rnds.

Fuse the ribbing to the arm

With CC1, (K1 st from ribbing together with 1 st from MC) 24 times.

(24 sts)

K 12 rnds.

Bind off, leaving a 12" tail. Weave in all other ends.

Sweater ribbing for the body

With CC1, cast on 76 sts. Join, being careful not to twist.

Work in 2 x 2 ribbing for 4 rnds. Place on another set of dpns or circular needle. Do *not* cut yarn.



Fusing the ribbing

Elephant pads for legs (make 2)

Work as for pads for arms through Rnd 5.

Bind off Rnd 6 (Increase 4 stitches while binding off): Kf&b; bind off the first stitch; bind off 5 more stitches in the usual manner. You will have 19 stitches left.

K in the front of the next stitch and do not slip off the LH needle; b/o 1 stitch; k in back of the same stitch; bind off 6 more stitches in the usual manner. You will have 13 stitches left. Repeat between ** 2 more times. Slip the tail through the last stitch and cut the yarn. Finish the pad as you did for the arms.

Legs

Pick up and knit 1 st in each of the back loops of the bound off edge of the pad. (28 sts)

Knit 20 rnds.

Note: After knitting 10 rounds, embroider toe nails. The center toenail should be embroidered over the center of the leg sts between the 14th and 15th sts.

Place the first leg on stitch holders while completing the second leg.

Join for body

Knit the 28 sts of the first leg; k the 28 sts of the second leg, distributing the needles evenly over 3 or 4 dpns. (56 sts)

K 2 rnds.

Body

Hint: After working a few rows of the body, weave in yarn tails and embroider toenails.

Cut 2 circles approximately 1¼" of cardboard or canvas and insert at the bottom of each leg.

(K6, increase in next stitch) 8 times. (64 sts)

K10 rnds.

(K7, increase in next stitch) 8 times. (72 sts)

Cut yarn.

Fuse the ribbing to the sweater

With CC1, *(K1 st from ribbing together with 1 st from MC) 17 times, (K2 st from ribbing together with 1 st from MC) once. Repeat from * 3 times. (72 sts)

You have successfully knitted together the 76 sts of ribbing to the 72 sts of the body.

Knit 31 rnds.

Note: Duplicate stitch the letter (graph on last page of pattern), sew on tail and stuff legs and lower body.

Next Rnd: (K6, ksp) 9 times. (63 sts)

K 2 rnds.

Next Rnd: (K7, ksp) 7 times. (56 sts)

K 2 rnds.

Next Rnd: (K2, ksp) 14 times. (42 sts)

Neck Ribbing

Next Rnd: (K2, p2) 2 times, k2, p2tog, p1, (k2, p2) 4 times, k2, p2tog, p1, (k2, p2) 4 times. (40 sts)

Next 2 Rnds: Work in 2 x 2 ribbing as established.

Bind off in ribbing.

Head

With MC and right side facing, pick up and knit 40 sts on the inside of last round of the body. You will use the purl bumps.

Rnds 2 and 3: K.

Rnd 4: K 1, (ksp) 10 times; k1, (ksp) 9 times. (21 sts)

Rnds 5 and 6: K.

Stuff and sew on arms.

Rnd 7: *Inc in next st, k2, rep from * to end of rnd. (28 sts)

Rnds 8 and 9: K.

Rnd 10: *Inc in next st, k1, rep from * to end of rnd. (42 sts)

Rnds 11 and 12: K.

Rnd 13: Rep rnd 10. (63 sts)

Rnds 14 and 15: K.

Rnd 16: *Inc in next st, k6, rep from * to end of rnd. (72 sts)

Rnds 17 – 21: K.

Rnds 21 – 23 are the set up for placing the trunk

Rnd 21: K 46 sts; weave a life line through the last 20 sts just knit and tie the ends in a knot; knit to end of rnd.

Rnd 22: K.

Rnd 23: Rep Rnd 21.

If you have not sewn on arms, do so now.

Rnds 24 – 26: K.

Rnd 27: K28, (K2tog, k3) 3 times, k2tog, k27 to end of rnd. (68 sts)

Rnds 28 – 32: K.

Rnd 33: K27, (k2tog, k2) 3 times, k2tog, k27 to end of rnd. (64 sts)

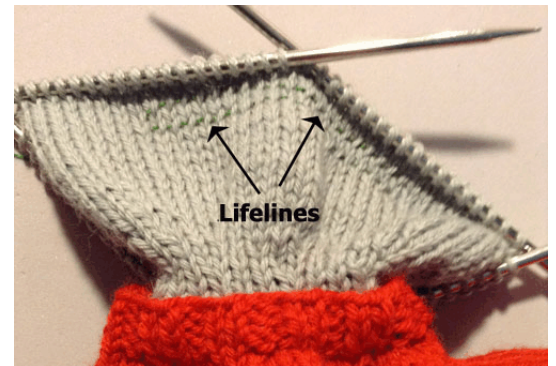
Rnds 34 – 41: K.

Complete Trunk at this point.

Rnd 42: *K6, k2tog, rep from * around. (56 sts)

Rnd 43: K.

Rnd 44: *K5, k2tog, rep from * around. (48 sts)



Lifelines

Rnd 45: K.

Insert eyes about 1½" above tusks.

Stuff, inserting dowels. Half of each dowel should be in the body. This prevents the head from wobbling.

Rnd 46: K2tog around. (24 sts)

Rnd 47: K2tog around. (12 sts)

Cut yarn, pull through sts twice tightly, weave in end.

Trunk:

Using the smaller dpns, place upper 20 stitches with the lifeline on one needle; the lower 20 sts on another needle.

Pull the yarn on the 10th or 11th stitch in the rnd between the lifelines and cut.

Pluck out the yarn, leaving the yarn in the final 2 sts on each end (a total of 4 sts each corner). Do not remove the yarn from those sts.

Remove the lifelines.

With bottom loops facing you, join MC. Distribute the 40 sts on to 3 dpns.

Rnd 1: K20, M1L, k20, M1R. (42 sts)

Rnd 2: K.

Rnd 3: *K3, k2tog, rep from * 3 times, k to end of rnd. (38 sts)

Rnds 4 – 7: K.

Rnd 8: *K2, k2tog, rep from * 3 times, k to end of rnd. (34 sts)

Rnd 9: K.

Short rows: W&T, with p side facing, p22, w&t, k22,

Rnd 10: *Lift wrap and k with wrapped st*, k10, rep between * *, k 22 to end of rnd..

Rnd 11: K12, ssk, k18, k2tog. (32 sts)

Rnd 12: K.

Rnd 13: (K2, k2tog) around. (24 sts)

Rnds 14 – 18: K.

Rnd 19: (K6, k2tog) around. (21 sts)

Rnds 20 – 24: K.

Rnd 25: (K5, k2tog) around. (18 sts)

Rnds 26 and 27: K.

Short rows: W&t, p11, w&t, k11.

Rnd 28: *Lift wrap and k with wrapped st*, k5, rep between * *, k 11 to end of rnd..

Rnds 29 – 30: K.

Rnd 31: (K4, k2tog) around. (15 sts)

Rnds 32 – 36: K.

Rnd 33: (K3, k2tog), around. (12 sts)

Rnds 34 – 48: K.

Next Rnd: Bind off 6 sts, k to end of rnd, turn work.

Next Row: Bind off 2 sts, p to end.

Next Row: Bind off 2 sts, k to end.

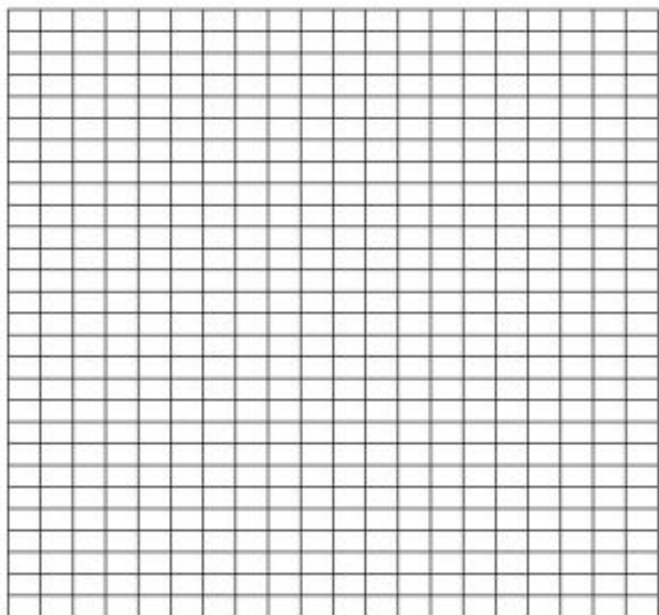
Next Rnd: Pick up 8 st through 8 of the 10 bound of sts.



Next Rnd: K2tog 4 times, k2. (6 sts)
Cut yarn leaving a 12" tail.
Kitchener stitch the tip of the trunk.
Using pink, make two small stitches for nostrils.

Sew lip to base of trunk. Stuff the tusks with a bit of stuffing and a chenille stick and sew to each side of trunk.

If you have not already done so, finish head. Sew the cast-on edges ears about 1¼" behind eyes. Weave in all ends.



Grid to graph your own initial

