



## Teacup rabbit

This tiny rabbit, bathing in a teacup, is small enough to sit neatly on your palm.

This pattern doesn't have any particularly tricky techniques but, because it is so small, this is a fiddly little knit.

It's knitted in the round on double pointed needles, with increases and decreases to create shape. Legs and ears are knitted on as i-cord or flat knitted.

You need to use a feltable yarn- 100% wool and not superwash treated (the yarn care instructions should say handwash only). The teacup is sad and floppy until felted.



### You will need:

- about 17m (18 yards) of feltable 4-ply/fingering weight teacup-coloured yarn (3.9g of Jamieson's Spindrift in teacup colour)
- about 7m (7 yards) of feltable 4-ply/fingering weight rabbit-coloured yarn (1.5g of Jamieson's Spindrift in rabbit colour)
- about 1.3m (1.4 yards) of 4-ply yarn for the hat pom-pom (optional, 0.3g of Jamieson's Spindrift)
- 3mm (UK 11, US 2.5) double pointed needles
- Crochet hook (3mm or less, optional)
- Tiny amount of stuffing
- Tiny amount of embroidery thread (I used one strand of stranded embroidery cotton)
- 2 tiny black beads (optional, preferably between 1.0mm and 2.5mm diameter)
- Tiny amount of tea-coloured roving (optional)

### Stitch abbreviations:

**k:** knit

**p:** purl

**kf&b:** Knit into the front of the stitch (without slipping the old stitch off the needle), then knit into the back of the same old stitch- this makes an extra stitch

**K2tog:** Knit two stitches together, this decreases by one stitch

**sl1, k2tog, pss0:** Slip one stitch, knitwise, from the left to the right needle. Knit the next two stitches together. Using the left needle, lift the slipped stitch up and over the just knitted stitch, and let it fall off the right needle.



### Making i-cord for the first time?

It's very easy and there are lots of Youtubes out there showing you how to knit it but here are some quick instructions: Have all your stitches on one double pointed needle. Push all the stitches to the 'wrong' end of the needle (the end furthest from where the working yarn is attached to your stitches). Knit the row, pulling the working yarn from the far end of the stitches to the first stitch of this new row a little tighter than usual; this will pull the sides of the knitting together to start to form a little tube. When you've knit all the stitches in the row, push them all to the 'wrong' end of the needle again and knit them all as above. Repeat.





**Making the teacup and saucer.** First the saucer is made, including a purl round. The purl round makes a ring of purl bumps that are picked up to begin the teacup. The initial joining in the round and the first increase round are the fiddliest bit of both the saucer and rabbit- just get through these bits and it gets much easier!

### Saucer

Using the teacup-coloured yarn, cast on 8 stitches. Divide between three double pointed needles and join in the round.

- Round 1: kf&b all round, 16 stitches
- Round 2: k all round, 16 stitches
- Round 3: (kf&b, k1) all round, 24 stitches
- Round 4: p all round, 24 stitches
- Round 5: (kf&b, k2) all round, 32 stitches
- Round 6: k all round, 32 stitches
- Round 7: (kf&b, k3) all round, 40 stitches
- Round 8: k all round, 40 stitches
- Round 9: (kf&b, k4) all round, 48 stitches
- Round 10: k all round, 48 stitches
- Round 11: p all round, 48 stitches
- Cast off (=bind off) knitwise

### Teacup

Pick up 24 stitches from the outer purl bumps of the purl ring on saucer, putting 8 stitches onto each of three double pointed needles. (To keep things simple, I just pick up the purl bumps and treat them as stitches- I don't try to pick up and knit them properly). When you start knitting these stitches, make sure that the stocking stitch (=stockinette) side is the outside of the teacup as this makes the purl ridge near the cast off (=bind off) form a lip on the outside of the teacup (though, if you don't get this right, it will probably be barely noticeable after felting).

- Rounds 1 & 2: k all round, 24 stitches
- Round 3: (kf&b, k2) all round, 32 stitches
- Rounds 4 & 5: k all round, 32 stitches
- Round 6: (kf&b, k3) all round, 40 stitches
- Rounds 7-14: k all round, 40 stitches
- Round 15: p all round, 40 stitches
- Cast off (=bind off) knitwise

**Teacup handle:** Using the teacup-coloured yarn, pick up and knit 4 stitches on the outside of the teacup, near the rim (I use a crochet hook for this and then knit the first row from the non-hooky end of it before switching to just double pointed needles, but it also works well using just double ended needles for the pick up). I try to pick up the stitches in a very rough square shape as this makes a neat start to the tube-shaped i-cord.

Knit 18 rows of i-cord, fasten off by sewing the yarn end through the 4 stitches and sew on near the bottom of the teacup.

### Rabbit in a hat

First you knit the body and head, from the bottom up.

Cast on 8 stitches in the rabbit-coloured yarn. Divide them between three double pointed needles and join in the round.

- Round 1: kf&b all round (16 stitches)
- Rounds 2-10: k all round
- Round 11: k2tog all round (8 stitches)
- Round 12: k2, kf&b x 4, k2 (12 stitches)
- Round 13: k4, kf&b, k2, kf&b, k4 (14 stitches)
- Round 14: k all round
- Round 15: k4, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k4 (12 stitches)
- Round 16, 17 & 18: k all round (12 stitches)
- Round 19: switch to hat colour, k all round. Reef or granny knot the cast off rabbit and cast on hat yarn ends together on the inside of the rabbit (12 stitches)
- Round 20: purl all round (12 stitches)
- Round 21: knit all round (12 stitches)
- Put in some stuffing, using a pencil or similar to pushing it down past the neck to fill the body section, as well as the head. Your rabbit will shrink when felted so it doesn't need hard stuffing now.
- Round 22: k2, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k2, k2tog (9 stitches)
- Round 23: k2tog, k3, k2tog, k2 (7 stitches)
- Round 24: k2, k2tog, k1, k2tog. I accumulate all the stitches from this round on one needle, ready for the next row of i-cord, (5 stitches)
- Row 25: i-cord, k2tog, k3 (4 stitches)
- Row 26: i-cord, k2tog, k2 (3 stitches)
- Row 27: i-cord, k2tog, k1 (2 stitches)
- Use wool needle to sew the yarn tail through final two stitches. Pull closed and fasten off.

### Front legs

Each front leg is knitted as a 4 stitch i-cord, one made on either side of the body, just beneath the narrowing for the rabbit's neck. Pick up and knit 4 stitches as for the teacup handle. Knit 6 rows of i-cord before sewing the yarn end through the 4 stitches. Pull closed and sew down through the inside of the leg, coming out by the cast on yarn tail at the base of the leg. Reef or granny knot the two yarn ends together, taking care not to shorten the leg too much by pulling it too tight and sew both yarn ends inside the rabbit's body to lose them.

### Rabbit without a hat

First you knit the body and head, from the bottom up.

Cast on 8 stitches in the rabbit-coloured yarn. Divide them between three double pointed needles and join in the round.

- Round 1: kf&b all round (16 stitches)
- Rounds 2-10: k all round (16 stitches)
- Round 11: k2tog all round (8 stitches)
- Round 12: k2, kf&b x 4, k2 (12 stitches)
- Round 13: k4, kf&b, k2, kf&b, k4 (14 stitches)
- Round 14: k all round
- Round 15: k4, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k4 (12 stitches)
- Round 16-19: k all round (12 stitches)
- Put in some stuffing, using a pencil or similar to pushing it down past the neck to fill the body section, as well as the head. Your rabbit will shrink when felted so it doesn't need hard stuffing now.
- Round 20: k2tog all round (6 stitches)
- Use a wool needle to sew through final six stitches. Pull closed and fasten off.





### Ears

Both ears are knitted in exactly the same way. If your rabbit has a hat, make the ears immediately beneath where the hat meets the head. If your rabbit is hatless, make the ears start a couple of rows down from the very top of the head.

To make an ear, pick up 3 stitches. Like picking up the teacup stitches from the saucer, I find it easier here not to pick and knit properly; instead I just stick the double pointed needle under the knitting to pick up bars from three successive rows and treat these as stitches. Holding the rabbit so that it faces away from you:

- Row 1: p1, kf&b, p1, 4 stitches
- Rows 2, 4 & 6: k1, p2, k1, 4 stitches
- Rows 3 & 5: p1, k2, p1, 4 stitches
- Row 7: p1, k2tog, p1, 3 stitches
- Row 8: sl1, K2tog, pss0, 1 stitch

Sew the yarn end through the last stitch, sew it though the outside of the ear to its base, reef or granny knot to the cast on tail you'll find there and then sew both of them inside the rabbit's body to lose them.



### Finishing

Sew in the remaining yarn ends and lose them inside the rabbit.

### Felting

Hand felt the teacup and rabbit to a nice dense, mouldable fabric, Hand felting is easy- just roughly hand wash them in the hottest water you can bear, with a little laundry detergent or liquid hand soap, alternating with cold water- keep going until the fabric is very, very dense- it takes me about 6 minutes of pummelling and hot and cold shocking. As rough guide, my teacups felted from 4.1cm high, with saucer diameter of 5.9cm to 3.2cm high and 4.9cm diameter. Different colours of the same yarn felt at different speeds, so adjust how long you felt each piece, depending on how it is going. Although pale colours usually felt more easily than dark colours, my rabbits were the right size and texture a minute or two before the teacup was dense enough. Squidge out the water, shape and dry. It's worth spending a little time on the shaping to get just the teacup and rabbit shape that you like. You can be fairly brutal with the shaping, pulling out the rabbit's nose and pulling or squashing the rabbit to a good height for your teacup. You may have to peel the ears open a little if they have felted into a solid tube.

### Making the face

Sew on 2 tiny bead eyes and embroider a nose using one strand of strand of embroidery thread. You could replace the bead eyes with embroidered french knots. The placement of the facial features makes a surprisingly big difference here- moving the eyes a millimetre or two can turn the rabbit from sweet to sinister. It can be helpful to experiment first by sticking in pins with coloured heads to stand in for the nose and eyes before you choose their final positions.



Sweet or sinister?

Experimenting with the position of eyes and nose using pins with coloured heads

### Hat pompom

If you want, make a little fork pompom for the hat (there are lots of YouTubes showing you how to do this- you just wrap yarn around the prongs of fork about 15 times, tie it off around the middle between the prongs and trim it down to size- about 13mm diameter looks good- don't trim off the strand you tied the pompom off with, as you'll use this to sew it onto the rabbit). Sew the pompom to the top of the hat, using one of the long strand ends, reef or granny knot this with the other long yarn strand and sew them both inside the rabbit to lose them.



### Options

- ✂ I sewed my rabbits into the base of the teacups. You could instead allow the rabbit to free range, in which case you might like to add i-cord back legs (knitted as for the front legs) and a pompom tail (see instructions for the hat pompom).
- ✂ To turn the rabbit into a hanging decoration, you could sew a loop of fine ribbon, embroidery floss or baker's twine to the top of its head or hat.
- ✂ If this project isn't fiddly enough for you already, you could use two different yarn colours to stripe the teacup and/or saucer.
- ✂ You can give the teacup spots by sewing on sequins, topped with tiny beads.
- ✂ You can wind a swirl of tea-coloured roving around the rabbit for it to bathe in.



This isn't a suitable toy for a small child or baby. Even unembellished, neither the teacup nor rabbit would meet EN71 European toy safety standards (it presents a choke risk as it couldn't pass the small parts or torque & tension tests and, unless your yarn is EN71-3 certified, there is a possibility of toxic chemical ingestion when sucked). Soft toys are all considered to be attractive to small children and so must pass all the EN71 tests; it would not be legal to sell these teacup rabbits in European/UK jurisdictions.

You are very welcome to this pattern for personal use but please remember that it is not suitable for little ones- please credit Woollen Wave

