

BEST OF FRIENDS

Send baby off to sleep under the close watch of Kelly Browning's crochet animal comforters



WARNING - THESE ITEMS ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 36 MONTHS DUE TO SMALL PARTS AND POSSIBLE CHOKING HAZARD. ADULT SUPERVISION RECOMMENDED. PLEASE TAKE CARE TO ENSURE THAT ALL SMALL OBJECTS HAVE BEEN FIXED ON SECURELY AND STUFFING AND OTHER LOOSE PARTS ARE NOT EASILY DETACHABLE.

HOW TO MAKE CROCHET COMFORTERS

MATERIALS

- Sublime Extra Fine Merino DK, 100% Wool, 50g/116m per ball, one ball each in Sunday (349) (Yarn A), Flounce (485) (Yarn B), Alabaster (003) (Yarn C) and Dusted Grey (018) (Yarn D)
- King Cole Bamboozle, 44% Wool/48% Bamboo/ 8% Acrylic, 100g/140m per skein, one in Neopolitan (135) (Yarn E)
- 3mm (UK 10, US D/3) crochet hook
- 4mm (UK 8, US G/6) crochet hook
- Four 6mm black safety eyes
- Yarn needle
- Sewing needle
- Black embroidery floss or cotton
- Scissors
- Stitch marker
- Stuffing

ABBREVIATIONS (UK)

- st(s) stitch(es)
- ch chain
- sp space
- ch-sp chain space
- dc double crochet
- ss slip stitch
- rr treble
- Magic ring** hold thread in your hand and wrap working yarn around forefinger twice to create ring, slip ring off your

finger and insert hook to pick up first st, ch1, then work the necessary sts for round 1 and close the ring tightly by pulling the loose end

yrh yarn round hook

puff st(s) puff stitch(es) – (yrh, insert hook in st, yrh, pull loop through st) 4 times. 9 loops on hook (make sure you pull the loops up so they are about 1-2cm long). Yrh, pull through all loops on hook, ch1 to lock the st in place

inc increase by working 2dc in next st

d2tog double crochet 2 together – (insert hook in next st, yrh and draw loop through) twice, yrh and draw through all 3 loops on hook

FINISHED SIZE

The Zebra comforter measures approx. 25cm (10") across, the Lion comforter is approx. 28cm (11") across.

TENSION

Tension isn't important for this project; just make sure your stitches are tight enough to ensure stuffing is not visible on the heads, and aim for a neat finish on the blanket.

These adorable comforters – perfect for tiny hands – are just the thing for helping baby drift off to sleep. Luxury merino yarn and bright colours make for a lovely sensory experience, and with the puff stitches and pretty borders in contrast shades, we're sure they'll become much-loved toys.

If you'd like to make a girly zebra, just move the bow tie onto the head to create a headband.

The head, arms and ears of these patterns are worked in continuous spiral rounds, so do not join at the end of each round. Use a stitch marker to keep track of the beginning of the round. 2dc means make 1dc in each the next 2 sts, 3dc means make 1dc in each of the next 3 sts and so on. The blanket part of this pattern should be joined at the end of each round with a ss.

Head

For the Lion, use 3mm crochet hook and Yarn A.

For the Zebra, use 3mm crochet hook and Yarn C for most rounds but work Rounds 4, 7, 10, 15 and 18-23 in Yarn D.

To change colour, on the last dc st of the round, hook through st, yrh, pull loop through st (2 loops on hook), switch to new colour, yrh, pull loop through both loops on hook, continue onto next round in the new colour. You can switch colours back and forth for the Zebra's stripes without cutting the yarn.

Round 1 6dc in a magic ring, pull ring tight [6 sts]

Round 2 inc in each st around [12sts]

Round 3 (1dc in next st, inc) 6 times [18sts]

Round 4 (2dc, inc) 6 times [24sts]

Round 5 (3dc, inc) 6 times [30sts]

Round 6 (4dc, inc) 6 times [36sts]

Rounds 7-12 1dc in each st around [36sts]

Round 13 (4dc, dc2tog) 6 times [30sts]

Insert the eyes securely into the 13th round from the beginning, about 4cm (1½") apart and begin stuffing firmly.

Rounds 14-19 1dc in each st around [30sts]

Round 20 (3dc, dc2tog) 6 times [24sts]

Round 21 (2dc, dc2tog) 6 times [18sts]

Round 22 (1dc in next st, dc2tog) 6 times [12sts]

Finish stuffing the head firmly. For the Lion, using a sewing needle and black embroidery floss or cotton, stitch a simple 'Y' shape for the nose.

Round 23 dc2tog 6 times [6sts] Break yarn, fasten off and sew in the ends.

Ears (make 2)

For the Lion, use 3mm hook and Yarn A.

Round 1 6dc in magic ring, pull ring tight [6sts]

Round 2 inc in each st around [12sts]

Round 3 1dc in each st around [12sts]

Round 4 (1dc in next st, inc) 6 times [18sts]

Rounds 5-6 1dc in each st around [18sts]

Break yarn and fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing onto the head.

For the Zebra, use 3mm hook and Yarn D.

Round 1 4dc in magic ring, pull ring tight [4sts]

Round 2 (1dc in next st, inc) twice [6sts]

Round 3 (1dc in next st, inc) 3 times [9sts]

Round 4 (2dc, inc) 3 times [12sts]

Round 5 (3dc, inc) 3 times [15sts]

Rounds 6-7 1dc in each st around [15sts]

Round 8 (1dc in next st, dc2tog) 5 times [10sts]

Round 9 dc2tog 5 times [5sts]



MEET THE MAKER

KELLY BROWNING

Kelly lives in Wiltshire with her husband, three daughters, and labrador. She's incapable of doing nothing, so when she isn't crocheting, she spins and dyes her own yarns and creates knitting and crochet accessories.

www.themerinomermaid.com



Break yarn and fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing onto the head.

Arms
(make two)

For the Lion, use 3mm hook and Yarn A.

For the Zebra, use 3mm hook and Yarn C for some rounds and work Rounds 1-6, 10, 13-14, 17, 19, and 23 in Yarn D.

Round 1 6dc in magic ring, pull ring tight [6sts]

Round 2 inc in each st around [12sts]

Round 3 (1dc in next st, inc) 6 times [18sts]

Rounds 4-6 1dc in each st around [18sts]

Round 7 (4dc, dc2tog) 3 times [15sts]

Rounds 8-10 1dc in each st around [15sts]

Round 11 (3dc, dc2tog) 3 times [12sts]

Rounds 12-14 1dc in each st around [12sts]

Round 15 (2dc, dc2tog) 3 times [9sts]

Stuff this part lightly. The rest of the arm will be left unstuffed to keep it soft and floppy.

Rounds 16-25 1dc in each st around [9sts]

Break yarn and fasten off, and use the tail to sew hole closed; leave a long tail of yarn to sew on to the head later.

Blanket

For the Lion, use 4mm crochet hook and start with Yarn A; change to Yarn B when instructed to.

Foundation ch4, join into a ring with a ss in first ch made

Round 1 ch5 (counts as 1tr, ch2), (3tr into ring, ch2) 3 times, 2tr into the ring, ss into 3rd of the ch5 at beginning [12tr]

Round 2 ss in 2ch-sp, ch7 (counts as 1tr, ch4), 2tr into same 2ch-sp, *1tr in each of the tr in previous round, (2tr, ch4, 2tr) in corner 2ch-sp; repeat from * twice more, 1tr in each of next 3tr, 1tr in 2ch-sp before the beginning ch7, ss in 3rd ch of beginning ch7 [28tr]

Round 3 ss in 4ch-sp, ch7 (counts as 1tr, ch4), 2tr in same 4ch-sp, *1tr in each tr to next 4ch-sp, (2tr, ch4, 2tr) in 4ch-sp; repeat from * twice more, 1tr in each tr along 4th side, 1tr in first 4ch-sp before the ch7 at beginning, ss in 3rd of ch7 [11tr along each side]

Rounds 4-5 repeat Round 3 twice more, each round should increase by 4tr on each side. Break yarn and fasten off [19tr along each side]

Round 6 join Yarn B into a corner 4ch-sp, ch6, 1puff st in the same 4ch-sp, miss 1tr, *(1puff st into next tr, miss 1 tr) repeated until next 4ch-sp, (1puff st, ch4, 1puff st) into the 4ch-sp, miss 1tr; repeat from * twice more, (1puff st into next tr, miss 1 tr) repeated until 1tr 4ch-sp,

1puff st into 1st 4ch-sp, but before locking the puff st with a ch, ss into the 3rd of ch6 and pull it through the puff st to lock it in place. Break yarn and fasten off [11 puff sts along each side]

Round 7 rejoin Yarn A in a 4ch-sp. Repeat Round 3 making the tr sts in the top locking st of the puff stitches and in between the puff stitches. Break yarn and fasten off [25tr along each side]

Round 8 rejoin Yarn B in a 4ch-sp. Repeat Round 6. Break yarn and fasten off [14puff sts along each side]

Round 9 rejoin Yarn A in a 4ch-sp. Now repeat Round 3, making the tr sts in the top locking stitch of the puff st and in between the puff sts [31tr along each side]

Round 10 repeat Round 3. Break yarn and fasten off [35tr along each side]

Round 11 rejoin Yarn B in a 4ch-sp. ch5 (counts as 1dc, ch4), 2dc in same 4ch-sp, *1dc in each tr along side, (2dc, ch4, 2dc) in 4ch-sp; repeat from * twice more, 1dc in each tr along 4th side, 1dc in first 4ch-sp ch5, ss in 1st of ch5 [39dc along each side]

Round 12 ss into 4ch-sp, ch5 (counts as 1dc, ch4), 1dc into same 4ch-sp, *1dc in each dc along the side, [1dc, ch4, 1dc] in 4ch-sp; repeat from * twice more, 1dc in each dc along 4th side, ss into 1st »

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of ch5 [41dc along each side]

Border ss into 4ch-sp, ch3 (counts as 1tr), 2tr in same 4ch-sp, ch3, ss into 1st of ch3, 3tr into same 4ch-sp, * 1dc in next dc, miss 1dc, (3tr into next dc, ch3, ss into 1st of ch3, 3tr in same dc), miss 1dc; repeat from * along the side, (3tr, ch3, ss into 1st of ch3, 3tr) in 4ch-sp; continue in this way forming 'fans' along each side and in each corner until you reach the first corner, ss into the top of the 1st tr. Break yarn and fasten off.

Weave in ends [44 'fans' in round]

For the Zebra, work as Lion with the following variations:

Rounds 1-2 Yarn C

Round 3 Yarn D

Round 4 Yarn C

Round 5 Yarn D

Round 6 Repeat Round 3 in Yarn C [23tr along each side]

Round 7 Work as Round 6 in Yarn A [13puff sts along each side]

Round 8 Work as Round 3 in Yarn C, making the tr sts in the top locking stitch of the puff st and in between the puff sts [29tr along each side]

Round 9 Repeat Round 3 in Yarn D [33tr along each side]

Round 10 Repeat Round 3 in Yarn C [37tr along each side]

Round 11 Repeat Round 3 in Yarn A, do not break yarn but continue to border in Yarn A [41dc along each side]

Border ss into 4ch-sp, ch3 (counts as 1tr), 2tr in same 4ch-sp, ch3, ss into 1st of ch3, 3tr into same 4ch-sp, * 1dc in next dc, miss 1dc, 5tr into next dc, miss 1dc; repeat from * along the side, (3tr, ch3, ss into 1st of ch3, 3tr) in 4ch-sp; continue in this way forming 'shells' along each side and in each corner until you reach the first corner, ss into the top of the 1st tr. Break yarn and fasten off. Weave in ends.

Zebra's bow tie

Use 3mm hook and Yarn A, ch24, join into first ch made with a ss creating a ch circle and make 1dc in each ch. Make 1dc in each dc for 5 rounds, ss in first dc. Break yarn and fasten off. Leave tail long and wrap it several times around the middle of the bow tie. Secure the end.

Assembling

Using the yarn still attached to the ears and the yarn needle, sew them on to the head, using images as a guide. Sew the arms to the underside of the head, slightly angled forwards. You may want to block the blanket before sewing on the head by rinsing it in warm water and pinning it out flat to dry. Sew the starting circle of the blanket to the underside of the head in between the arms. For the Zebra, sew the bow tie to the underside

of his chin, where the head meets the blanket.

Manes

Lion

Using Yarn E, cut some lengths of the thick and thin parts of the yarn to approximately 15cm (6") long. Fold the lengths in half, thread a small crochet hook through the stitch where you intend to create the mane, pull the loop through the stitch with the crochet hook, pull the two ends through the loop and pull tight. Repeat this all over the head, going behind the ears and under the chin until the whole head is covered. Trim the mane to neaten up.

Zebra

Using Yarn C and D, wrap the wool around the palm of your hand several times. Remove from your hand and snip the loops of yarn at the bottom. Thread each piece of yarn using the same technique as the lion. Make the mane an inch wide strip starting about three rounds before the ears, running all the way down the back of the head and finishing at the blanket. Switch between Yarn C and D so the stripes continue throughout the mane. Finish by trimming the mane to an inch long.

Your animal pals are now ready for little hands to cuddle.