

Skywhale Mama

Knitting pattern

Measurements

Skywhale Mama is approximately 35cm from her nose to her tail.

Materials

Skywhale Mama is made using the following:

- 1 pair of 3mm/US3 knitting needles
- 1 pair of 3.75mm/US5 needles
- 2 x double pointed needles OR 2 cable needles (entirely optional – See Belly section)
- 1 x 100 gram ball of 8 ply dark blue yarn
- 1 x 100 gram ball of 8 ply flesh-coloured yarn
- A small amount of 8 ply light brown yarn (5 grams)
- A tiny amount of a bright yarn in a contrasting to be used as marker
- Stuffing
- A doll-making needle
- A sewing needle
- A few pins to hold things in place while you sew
- 2 x 15mm safety eyes in gold or brown
- 6 triangular or oval-shaped beads (the ones in this pattern were from Spotlight)
- Some dark sewing thread



For additional questions and pattern clarity don't hesitate to contact me on skywhale.knits@gmail.com

Happy knitting!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katy".

Knitting techniques, stitches and abbreviations

Turning and short rows

A Short Row is just that: a row that you don't knit to the end of the row. Instead, you work part of the way across the row and then do a "turn"; literally flipping your work over in the middle of the row, and then work back the other way. Essentially it means you may not knit all stitches in every row. It's a lovely effective way to make curves and shapes in your knitting.

Stocking stitch (st-st)

Stocking stitch is a basic knitting stitch. To knit stocking stitch, you alternate a knit row with a purl row.

Increases (inc1)

This pattern uses increases marked by "Inc1" (sometimes referred to as KFB in online tutorials). This technique creates an increase by working into the front and back of the stitch, resulting in two stitches and limiting holes. **Inc1 is different to M1.** It's important you do Inc1, as using M1 will throw out your stitch count. If in doubt, there's plenty of good tutorials on YouTube.

SSK – the left-leaning decrease

SSK (short for slip, slip, knit) is a technique used to decrease the number of stitches you have, resulting in a left-leaning stitch. To knit SSK, slip the next two stitches from the left needle to the right, without knitting them. Put your left needle into the front of the two slipped stitches from left to right. Wrap the yarn around the right needle, and knit as though it was an ordinary stitch. There's plenty of good tutorials on YouTube that can help you get the hang of this stitch.

Just between you and me, the use of SSK in this pattern is purely for aesthetics. They can easily be replaced by 2tog method if that's more comfortable for you; and it will still achieve beautiful results.

2tog – the right-leaning decreases

This pattern uses decreases marked by "K2tog" or "P2tog" depending on the row. This technique decreases work by knitting two stitches from the left needle together as if they were one, thus reducing the number of stitches by one.

3tog decrease

This pattern uses decreases marked by "K3tog" or "P3tog" depending on the row. This technique decreases work by knitting three stitches from the left needle together as if they were one, thus reducing the number of stitches by two.

Casting on

All casting on in this pattern uses the traditional two-needle method. Unless otherwise stated, the first row following a cast on is K.

Casting off

I tend to cast off P-wise, as I find this gives a nicer finish to the edges. However this is not a hard and fast rule; you're welcome to use the cast off method you're comfortable with, and it will still give you great results.

Break and threat through (B&T)

This pattern uses the B&T technique in place of casting off to make certain shapes. It's performed by cutting your working yarn from the ball, leaving a long length. The tail is then threaded through the stitches on your knitting needle, and pulled to draw the stitches in to the centre.

Repeats

To make things a little easier, anything in brackets means it's repeated. Following all brackets, you'll see an underlined number, which indicates how many times the bracketed sequence needs to be repeated.

For example: K1 (K2tog)x3, K1

This indicates you would K1 stitch, K2tog three times, then K1 stitch. The repeats are underlined to differentiate them from the stitch counts.

Cable

Skywhale Mama has a beautiful cable pattern on her belly. You'll need either two double-pointed needles or two cable needles. The cable is marked in the pattern as [cable], and is knitted as follows:

- Slip 4 to spare needle A, and hold in front of your work
- Slip 2 to spare needle B, and hold behind your work
- K4 from the left needle of your main work
- P2 from needle B
- K4 from needle A

New to cables? Don't be afraid! This cable is relatively simple and a good introduction for first timers. If you are new to cables, I'd recommend knitting a sample of the cable first, so you can get a feel for how it happens in the pattern – trust me when I tell you that trying it by itself first will save a lot of tears and frustration-based hair pulling.

Don't want to do cables? The good news is if cables aren't your thing, this pattern contains instructions to make her belly in st-st instead.

Needle sizes

If you looked at the needle size and thought "wow, they seem small for 8 ply yarn", don't fret! I prefer to knit on smaller needles for toys to make sure the stitches remain tight once stuffing is added. For Skywhale Mama this is important because her body's darker in colour. Smaller needles makes for tighter knitting, and will stop the stuffing from poking out between stitches later.

Body (make 1)

Skywhale Mama's body is knitted on 3mm needles, using dark blue yarn.

Cast on 40 stitches for the neck edge

St-st 2 rows (**start with P row**)

P35, turn

K30, turn

P to end of row

Inc1, K34, Inc1, turn (42 sts)

P33, turn

Inc1, K30, Inc1, turn (44 sts)

P to end of row

St-st 2 rows

K6, inc1, K30, Inc1, turn (46 sts)

P to end of row

K7, inc1, K30, Inc1, turn (48 sts)

P to end of row

K8, inc1, K30, Inc1, turn (50 sts)

P37, turn

K34, turn

P31, turn

K29, turn

P27, turn

K26, turn

P to end of row

St-st 4 rows

K9, inc1, K15, Inc1, K14, Inc1 K9 (53 sts)

St-st 3 rows

K9, inc1, K16, inc1, K16, inc1, K9 (56 sts)

St-st 3 rows

K9, inc1, K36, inc1, K9 (58 sts)

St-st 5 rows

K9, K2tog, K36, K2tog, K9 (56 sts)

St-st 3 rows

K9, K2tog, K16 sts, K2tog, K16, K2tog, K9 (53 sts)

St-st 3 rows

K9, K2tog, K15, K2tog, K14, K2tog, K9 (50 sts)

P row

K8, K2tog, K30, K2tog, turn (48 sts)

P32, turn

K30, turn

P28, turn

K26, turn

P24, turn

K22, turn

P to end of row

K7, K2tog, K30, K2tog, K7 (46 sts)

P row

K6, K2tog, K30, K2tog, K6 (44 sts)

P row

K7, K2tog, (K1, K2tog)x9, K2tog, K6 (33 sts)

P row

K6, K2tog (K1, K2tog)x6, K2tog, K5 (25 sts)

P row

(K2, K2tog, K1)x5 (20 sts)

(P2tog)x10 (10 sts)

K row

B&T

Back strap (make 1)

Skywhale Mama's back strap is knitted on 3mm needles, using dark blue yarn.

Cast on 8 stitches for the neck edge

St-st 2 rows (**starting with a K row**)

Inc1, K6, Inc1 (10 sts)

P row

Inc1, K8, Inc1 (12 sts)

P row

Inc1, K10, inc1 (14 sts)

St-st 7 rows

Inc1, K12, inc1 (16 sts)

St-st 7 rows

K2tog, K12, SSK (14 sts)

St-st 7 rows

K2tog, K10, SSK (12 sts)

P row

K2tog, K8, SSK (10 sts)

P row

K2tog, K6, SSK (8 sts)

P row

K2tog, K4, SSK (6 sts)

P row

K2tog, K2, SSK (4 sts)

P row

Cast off

Head (make 1)

Skywhale Mama's head is knitted on 3mm needles, using dark blue yarn.

Cast on 40 stitches for the neck edge

St-st 2 rows (**starting with a K row**)

K13, (inc1, K1)x7, K13 (47 sts)

St-st 3 rows

Increase for eye mounts

K8, (inc)x7, K17, (inc1)x7, K8 (61 sts)

St-st 5 rows

K8, (K2tog)x7, K17, (SSK)x7, K8 (47 sts)

St-st 3 rows

Decrease for eye mounts

K9, (K2tog)x3, K8, K2tog, K7, (SSK)x3, K9 (40 sts)

St-st 3 rows

Narrowing for snout

K10, K2tog, K16, SSK, K10 (38 sts)

St-st 3 rows

K2, (K2tog, K2) to end of row (29 sts)

St-st 3 rows

K2, (K2tog, K1) to end of row (20 sts)

St-st 3 row

(K2tog) to end of row (10 sts)

P row

B&T

Breastplate (make 1)

Skywhale Mama's breastplate is knitted on 3mm needles, using dark blue yarn.

Cast on 32 stitches

K row*

P2tog, P28, P2tog (30 sts)

K2tog, K26, SSK (28 sts)

P2tog, 24, P2tog (26 sts)

K2tog, K22, SSK (24 sts)

St-st 3 rows

Inc1, K22, Inc1 (26 sts)

Inc1, P24, Inc1 (28 sts)

Inc1, K26, Inc1 (30 sts)

Inc1, P28, Inc1 (32 sts)

Repeat

Repeat previous 12 rows another 2 times.

K2, (K2tog)x2, K20, (SSK)x2, K2 (28 sts)

P row

K2, (K2tog)x2, K16, (SSK)x2, K2 (24 sts)

P row

K2, (K2tog)x2, K12, (SSK)x2, K2 (20 sts)

P row

K2, (K2tog)x2, K8, (SSK)x2, K2 (16 sts)

P row

K2, (K2tog)x2, K4, (SSK)x2, K2 (12 sts)

P row

(K2tog)x3, (SSK)x3 (6 sts)

P row

(K2tog)x3 (3 sts)

P row

K3tog (1 st)

B&T

Small breast (make 4)

Skywhale Mama's breasts are knitted on 3mm needles, starting with flesh-coloured yarn.

Cast on 4 stitches

St-st 2 rows (**starting with a K row**)

Inc1, K2, Inc1 (6 sts)

P row

Inc1, K4, inc1 (8 sts)

P row

Inc1, K6, inc1 (10 sts)

St-st 3 rows

(Inc)x2, K6, (inc)x2 (14 sts)

P row

Cast on 2 stitches and knit the row (16 sts)

Cast on 2 stitches and purl the row (18 sts)

St-st 10 rows

Change to light brown yarn

Hot tip!

When you change colours, make sure you leave a long length of the flesh-coloured yarn, as this will be used to sew up and attach the breast later.

(K2tog, K1)x6 (12 sts)

K row (yep, on the wrong side)

(K2tog)x6 (6 sts)

P row

(K2tog, K1)x2 (4 sts)

B&T

Large breast (make 6)

Skywhale Mama's breasts are knitted on 3mm needles, starting with flesh-coloured yarn.

Cast on 4 stitches

St-st 2 rows (**starting with a K row**)

Inc1 into all stitches (8 sts)

P row

Inc1, K6, inc1 (10 sts)

P row

Inc1, K8, inc1 (12 sts)

St-st 3 rows

(Inc1)x2, K8, (inc1)x2 (16 sts)

P row

Cast on 3 stitches and knit the row (19 sts)

Cast on 3 stitches and purl the row (22 sts)

St-st 12 rows

K2tog (K1, K2tog, K1)x5 (16 sts)

P row

Change to light brown yarn

Hot tip!

When you change colours, make sure you leave a long length of the flesh-coloured yarn, as this will be used to sew up and attach the breast later.

K1, (K2tog, K1)x5 (11 sts)

K row (yep, on the wrong side)

K1, (K2tog)x5 (6 sts)

P row

(K2tog, K1)x2 (4 sts)

B&T

Small tail fin (make 2)

Skywhale Mama's tail fins are knitted on 3mm needles, using dark blue yarn.

Cast on 5 stitches

St-st 2 rows (**starting with a K row**)

Inc1, K3, Inc1 (7 sts)

P row

Cast on 3 stitches and knit the row (10 sts)

Cast on 3 stitches and purl the row (13 sts)

St-st 4 rows

K1 (K2tog, K1)x4 (9sts)

P row

(Ktog)x2, K1, (K2tog)x2 (5 sts)

Soft B&T

To finish off the tail fin, you'll be doing something similar to B&T. For now, just thread the yarn back through the stitches on your knitting needle, but don't pull them tightly just yet.



Large tail fin (make 4)

Skywhale Mama's tail fins are knitted on 3mm needles, using dark blue yarn.

Cast on 5 stitches

St-st 2 rows (**starting with a K row**)

Inc1, K3, Inc1 (7 sts)

P row

(inc1)x2, K3 (inc1)x2 (11 sts)

P row

Cast on 3 stitches and knit the row (14 sts)

Cast on 3 stitches and purl the row (17 sts)

St-st 12 rows

K2 (K2tog, K1)x5 (12 sts)

P row

(K2tog)x6 (6 sts)

P row

K2tog, K2, SSK (5 sts)

Soft B&T

To finish off the tail fin, you'll be doing something similar to B&T. For now, just thread the yarn back through the stitches on your knitting needle, but don't pull them tightly just yet.

See the image in the *Small Tail Fin* section for reference.

Chose your own adventure

There's three options for knitting Skywhale Mama's belly:

Option 1: Includes cables

Option 2: No cables, but ribs

Option 3: Pure st-st

You only need one belly for your finished product, so pick the option that you're most comfortable.

Option 1 belly (Cables)

Skywhale Mama's belly is knitted on 3.75mm needles in flesh-coloured yarn.

What the R?

For the cabled belly, the rows have been numbered to make it easier to keep track of. The row numbers are identified as a bold letter R followed by a number.

Cast on 3 stitches for snout edge

R1: P row

R2: Inc1 into all stitches (6 sts)

R3: P row

R4: Inc1 into all sts (12 sts)

R5: P row

R6: (Inc1, K1) to end (18 sts)

R7: P row

R8: (inc1, K1) to end (27 sts)

R9: P row

R10: K1, (Inc)x2, K1, (inc1, K1)x9, K2, (Inc1)x2, K1 (40 sts)

Increasing for eye mounts

R11: Cast on 3 stitches and purl row (43 sts)

R12: Cast on 3 stitches and knit row (46 sts)

R13: P row

R14: Inc1 at beginning and end of row (48sts)

R15: P row

R16: K2tog, K4, K2tog, K32, SSK, K4, SSK (44 sts)

R17: P2tog, P40, P2tog (42 sts)

Narrowing for the neck

R18: (K2, K2tog, K3)x6 (36 sts)

R19: K2, P32, K2

R20: K1, P2, K30, P2, K1

R21: P2, K2, P28, K2, P2

R22: K3, P2, K26, P2, K3

R23: P4, K2, P24, K2, P4

R24: (inc1)x2, K3, P2, K22, P2, K3 (inc1)x2
(40 sts)

R25: P8, K2, P20, K2, P8

R26: (inc1)x2, K7, P2, K18, P2, K7, (inc1)x2
(44 sts)

R27: P12, K2, P18, K2, P12

R28: Inc1, K12, P2, K14, P2, K12, inc1 (46 sts)

R29: P15, K16, P15

Setting up for the cable

Bracketed stitches

The following rows contain stitches in square brackets. The brackets here are identifying the section in which the cable is performed. Where **cable** appears in the brackets, perform the cable outlined in the Techniques section.

Cable

The cable is as follows:

- Slip 4 to spare needle A, and hold in front of your work
- Slip 2 to spare needle B, and hold behind your work
- K4 from the left needle of your main work
- P2 from needle B
- K4 from needle A

R30: K15, P3 [K4, P2, K4] P3, K15

R31: P15, K3 [P4, K2, P4] K3, P15

Repeat Rows 30 and 31 three more times

R38: K15, P3 [**cable**] P3, K15

R39: P15, K3 [P4, K2, P4] K3, P15

Repeat Rows 30 and 31 five more times

R50: K15, P3 [**cable**] P3, K15

R51: P15, K3 [P4, K2, P4] K3, P15

Repeat Rows 30 and 31 five more times

R62: K15, P3 [**cable**] P3, K15

R63: P15, K3 [P4, K2, P4] K3, P15

Repeat Rows 30 and 31 five more times

R74: K2tog, K13, P3 [**cable**] P3, K13, SSK (44 sts)

R75: P14, K3 [P4, K2, P4] K3, P14

R76: K14, P3 [K4, P3, K4] P3, K14

R77: P14, K3 [P4, K2, P4] K3, P14

R78: K14, P3 [K4, P3, K4] P3, K14

R79: P14, K3 [P4, K2, P4] K3, P14

R80: K2, (K2tog, K1)x4, P3 [K4, P3, K4] P3, (K1, SSK)x4, K2 (36 sts)

R81: P10, K3 [P4, K2, P4] K3, P10

R82: K1, (K2tog, K1)x3, P3 [K4, P3, K4] P3, (K1, SSK)x3, K1 (30 sts)

R83: P7, K3 [P4, K2, P4] K3, P7

R84: K1, (K2tog)x3, P3 [K4, P3, K4] P3, (SSK)x3, K1 (24 sts)

R85: P4, K3 [P4, K2, P4] K3, P4

R86: (K2tog)x2, P3 [**cable**] P3, (SSK)x2 (20 sts)

R87: P2tog, K3 [P4, K2, P4] K3, P2tog (18 sts)

R88: (P2tog)x2, (K2tog)x2, P2, (SSK)x2, (P2tog)x2 (10 sts)

Cast off

Option 2 belly (with ribs)

Follow the pattern for *Option 1 Belly (Cables)*, but on rows with the notation **cable**, knit as [K4, P2, K4] instead.

Option 3 belly (st-st)

Skywhale Mama's belly is knitted on 3.75mm needles in flesh-coloured yarn.

What the R?

For the belly rows have been numbered to make it easier to keep track of. The row numbers are identified as a bold letter R followed by a number.

Cast on 3 stitches for snout edge

R1: P row

R2: Inc1 into all sts (6 sts)

R3: P row

R4: Inc1 into all sts (12 sts)

R5: P row

R6: (Inc1, K1)x6 (18 sts)

R7: P row

R8: (inc1, K1)x9 (27 sts)

R9: P row

Increasing for eye mounts

R10: K1, (Inc1)x2, K1, (inc1, K1)x9, K2, (Inc1)x2, K1 (40 sts)

R11: Cast on 3 stitches and purl row (43 sts)

R12: Cast on 3 stitches and knit row (46 sts)

R13: P row

R14: Inc1 at beginning and end of row (48 sts)

R15-17: St-st 3 rows

R18: K2tog, K4, K2tog, K32, SSK, K4, SSK (44 sts)

R19: P2tog, P40, P2tog (42 sts)

R20: (K2, K2tog, K2)x7 (35 sts)

R21: P row

Narrowing for the neck

R22: (K2, K2tog, K3)x5 (30 sts)

R23-29: St-st 7 rows

R30: Inc1 at beg and end of row (32 sts)

R31-61: St-st 31 rows

R62: Decrease at beginning and end of row (30 sts)

R63-73: St-st 11 rows

R74: (K2tog)x3, K18, (SSK)x3 (24 sts)

R75: P row

R76: (K2tog)x2, K16, (SSK)x2 (20sts)

R77: P row

R78: (K2tog)x2, K12, (SSK)x2 (16 sts)

R79: P row

R80: (K2tog)x2, K8, (SSK)x2 (12 sts)

R81: P row

R82: (K2tog)x2, K4, (SSK)x2 (8 sts)

R83: P row

R84: K2tog, K4, SSK (6 sts)

Cast off

Putting Skywhale Mama together

You've got all the pieces and are ready to bring them all together. It's highly recommended you put Skywhale Mama together in the same order as shown below, as some sections are designed to build on one another.

Getting stuffed!

When stuffing your Skywhale Mama, stuff her so she's firm. I know it's very tempting to stuff toys so they're cuddly, but hear me out: A stuffed toy hugged often will cause the stuffing to compact over time, and can lead to saggy bits. No one wants saggy bits!

Making up her body

What you'll need:

- ✓ Body piece
- ✓ Back strap piece
- ✓ Doll-making needle
- ✓ Some dark blue yarn to sew pieces together
- ✓ Stuffing

Before you get started, it's important to know that the backstrap doesn't run the full length of the body. So don't worry if the backstrap looks significantly shorter than the body. On the image below, the yellow shows how the backstrap fits over her body, with about 2cm from the base of her backstrap to her tail.

Line up the cast on edges of the body and backstrap. Sew down the row edges on both sides to join the pieces together, then use blue yarn to sew row edges of her tail end together.



Stuff the body, making sure the stuffing filling out the tail end is tightly packed in.

Hot tips!

Don't stuff all the way to the neck edge just yet. There are two really good reasons for this:

1. You won't be trying to fight against stuffing when you sew the head on.
2. Skywhale Mama's body is a dark colour. If you sew through the stuffing, some of it will catch on the yarn, which won't leave as nice a finish to your work.

Adding her head

What you'll need:

- ✓ Partially completed body (eg. Backstrap and body pieces sewn together)
- ✓ Head piece
- ✓ Doll-making needle
- ✓ Some dark blue yarn to sew pieces together
- ✓ Stuffing

Begin by folding the head in half length-ways and sewing the row edges together, down to the neck edge.

Add stuffing, making sure to manipulate the stuffing to make the eye mounds stand out.

Hot tip!

Don't worry about stuffing all the way to the neck edge just yet. There are two really good reasons for this:

1. You won't be trying to fight against stuffing as you sew.
2. Skywhale Mama's body is a dark colour. If you sew through the stuffing, some of it will catch on the yarn, which won't leave as nice a finish to your work.

Pin the head to the body to make sure it doesn't shift alignment while you're sewing it in to place. Once you've got it pinned, sew the neck opening of the head to the opening on the body about 80% of the way around. Before you sew that final 20%, this is your chance to add extra stuffing to fill out the body, head and neck. Once you're happy with the stuffing situation, continue to sew that last 20%, tie off your yarn and sew in any loose ends.

Adding her breastplate

What you'll need:

- ✓ Completed body, including head attached
- ✓ Breastplate piece
- ✓ Doll-making needle
- ✓ Some yarn of a contrasting colour
- ✓ Pins to hold things in place
- ✓ Some dark blue yarn to sew the breastplate in place
- ✓ 4 knitting needles. While size of the needles isn't important (as you won't be knitting with them), however I'd recommend no more than 4mm/US6. Chopsticks and skewers will also do in a pinch
- ✓ Stuffing

Marking the centre

To make sure you get the breastplate centred, take a bit of contrasting yarn and your doll-making needle and run some large basic stitches from the tip of the snout to the tail edge. Your stitches should be about 2cm in length each. **Do not use a backstitch to do this.** The contrasting yarn is being used to mark the centre, and will be pulled out later. You won't be able to pull it out if you've anchored it in with backstitches.



Adding the breastplate



Fold the breastplate in half length-ways with the wrong side facing outwards. On the neck edge, align the folded breastplate with the centre marker and pin in place. Stretch the breastplate down to the tail tip and pin into place.

Pin the points of the breastplate on one side in place.

Unfold the breastplate over the centre marker and pin the remaining points in place.



Now you've got the neck and tail centred, you'll want to make sure the points on the sides to line up symmetrically too.

Grab your spare knitting needles/chopsticks/skewers and insert them through the body, so they come out just below each point. The knitting needles shouldn't be through the breastplate piece at all; just the body. Look at your Skywhale from one end and judge if the points on each side line up with each other. Reposition and repin the points on the breastplate if required. Once they're in the right spot, you can remove the needles.

With the breastplate sitting in place, start sewing around the edges. Once you've got the points sewn in place on one side, start stuffing that side. The stuffing needs to be pushed down into the points. I highly recommend using the non-pointy-end of the knitting needle to manipulate the stuffing into the points. Continue to add stuffing as you sew the breastplate to the body.

Hot tip!

Sewing the breastplate into place can be a little bit tricky and you may notice a hole of two once you've added stuffing. You can spot-fix these by using some yarn to sew the gap closed, and sew the row ends in.

Once the breastplate is sewn into place, remove the yarn marking the centre.

Adding her belly

What you'll need:

- ✓ Completed body, including head and breastplate sewn in place
- ✓ Belly piece
- ✓ Doll-making needle
- ✓ Some yarn of a contrasting colour
- ✓ Pins to hold things in place
- ✓ Some flesh-coloured yarn to sew the piece in place
- ✓ 2x15mm safety eyes

Marking the centre

As with the breastplate, use the contrasting yarn and your doll-making needle to run some large basic stitches from the tip of the snout to the tail edge. Your stitches should be about 2cm in length each. **Do not use a backstitch to do this.** The contrasting yarn is being used to mark the centre, and will be pulled out later. You won't be able to pull it out if you've anchored it in with backstitches.

Pin the snout edge of the belly to the snout of the body. Stretch the body all the way down the body and pin into place, leaving the eye mounts loose for the moment. To get the bottom end centre, fold the belly in half so you know where the middle is and align the fold to centre marker.



Grab a knitting needle/chopstick/skewer and push it through the head, making sure both it passes through the eye mounts on both sides. Adjust the mounts until they're symmetrical. Pin them in place, and remove the needle.

Hot tip!

Wiggle the needle around so it makes a noticeable 'hole' between the stitches. You'll use this hole later to position the safety eyes.

Pull the sides of the belly as close as you can get them to the breastplate. When the breasts are added later, they should sit over the edge of the belly sides.

Hot tip!

If you've made the belly with the cables, keep an eye on the cables as you adjust the sides. You may need to adjust the cable a few times to get it sitting evenly without putting too much stress on the stitches.



To knit the belly in place, start from the snout end. As you get top of the eye mount (marked on the image with a cross), press one of the safety eyes into the 'hole' you made when aligning on the previous page. Lock the eye in place, and press it into the body as much as you can. Continue on sewing the eye mount, which will keep the eye in place.

Fun fact

One of the first draft knits I made for Patricia during our collaboration, she remarked that she loved the way the leadup to the eye mounts made Skywhale Mama look like she's smiling.



When you get towards her tail end, stop stitching in line with the last point on, indicated in the image to the left by the blue line. Her belly will overlap parts of her tail fins, and her belly will be sewn into place once the tail fins are in place.

Adding her breasts

What you'll need:

- ✓ Completed body, including head, breastplate and belly sewn in place – noting there's part of her belly yet to be sewn in place.
- ✓ All 10 breast pieces (4 small size, 6 large size)
- ✓ Doll-making needle
- ✓ Pins to hold things in place
- ✓ Some flesh-coloured yarn to sew the pieces into place

Fold each breast in half, and starting at her nipple, sew along the row edges indicated by the blue line on the image to the right.



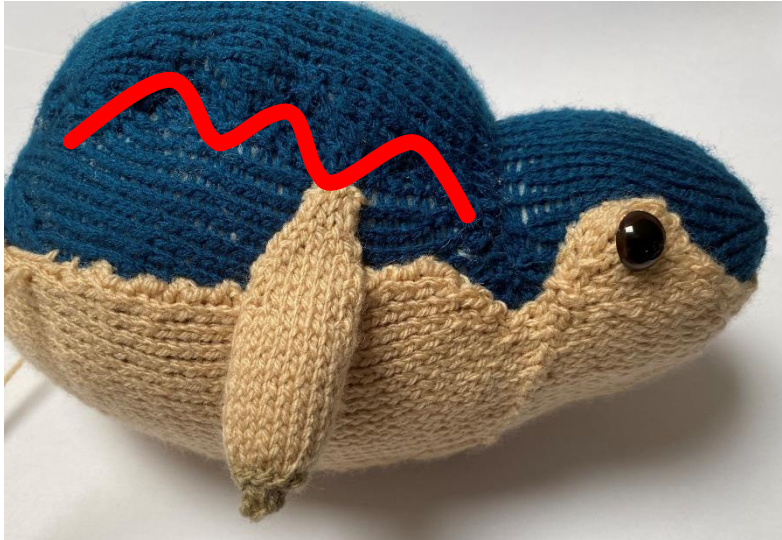
Leave the top edge open. See the image below, which shows a slightly different angle of how the seamed piece should look. The blue line in the picture below reflects the seam once sewn together.



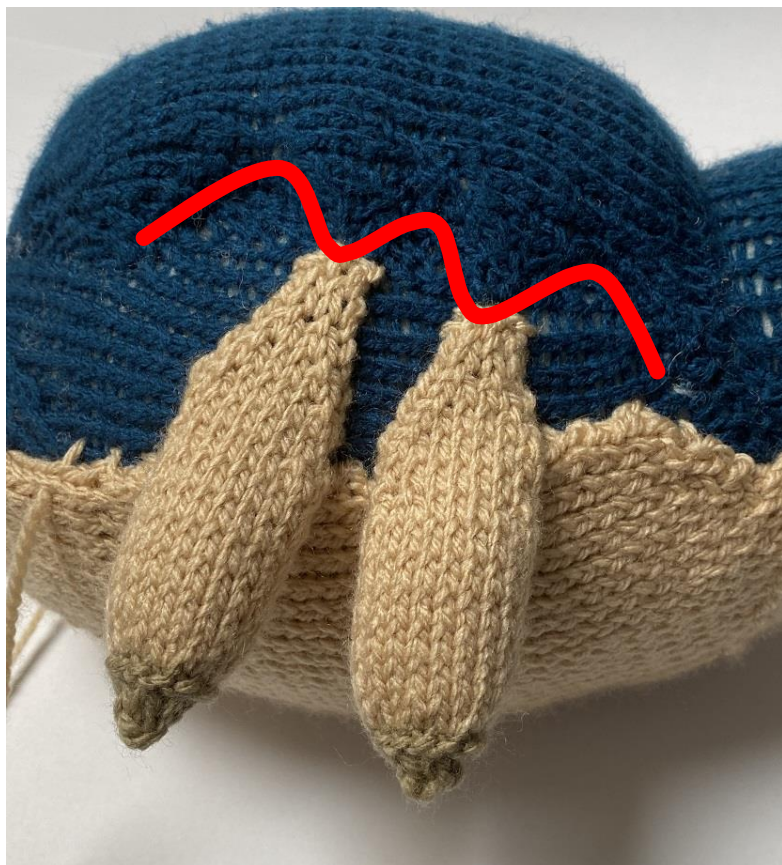
Small breasts

Take one of the small breasts and add a very small bit of stuffing. The larger breasts will sit over the top of the smaller ones, so it's important the smaller breasts aren't over-stuffed.

Line the tip of the breast up with one of the points on the breastplate. The red line on the image below is to emphasise the shape of the breastplate and help you align the breast properly. Sew into place by sewing the open edges of the breast to her body.



Add the second small breast, aligning the top edge with the next breast point. See the image below for reference. The red line in the image is to help identify where the points on the breastplate are. Repeat this process on the other side.



Large breasts

With the small breasts in place, the top breasts can be layered over the top. The larger breasts can be stuffed more amply than the smaller ones.



Align the top of the large breast with the curves (as opposed to the points) on the breastplate. It's perfectly okay to sew her larger breasts into smaller breasts below. I highly recommend once you've got about 80% of the breast sewn into place, take the opportunity to add more stuffing, especially near the top edge.

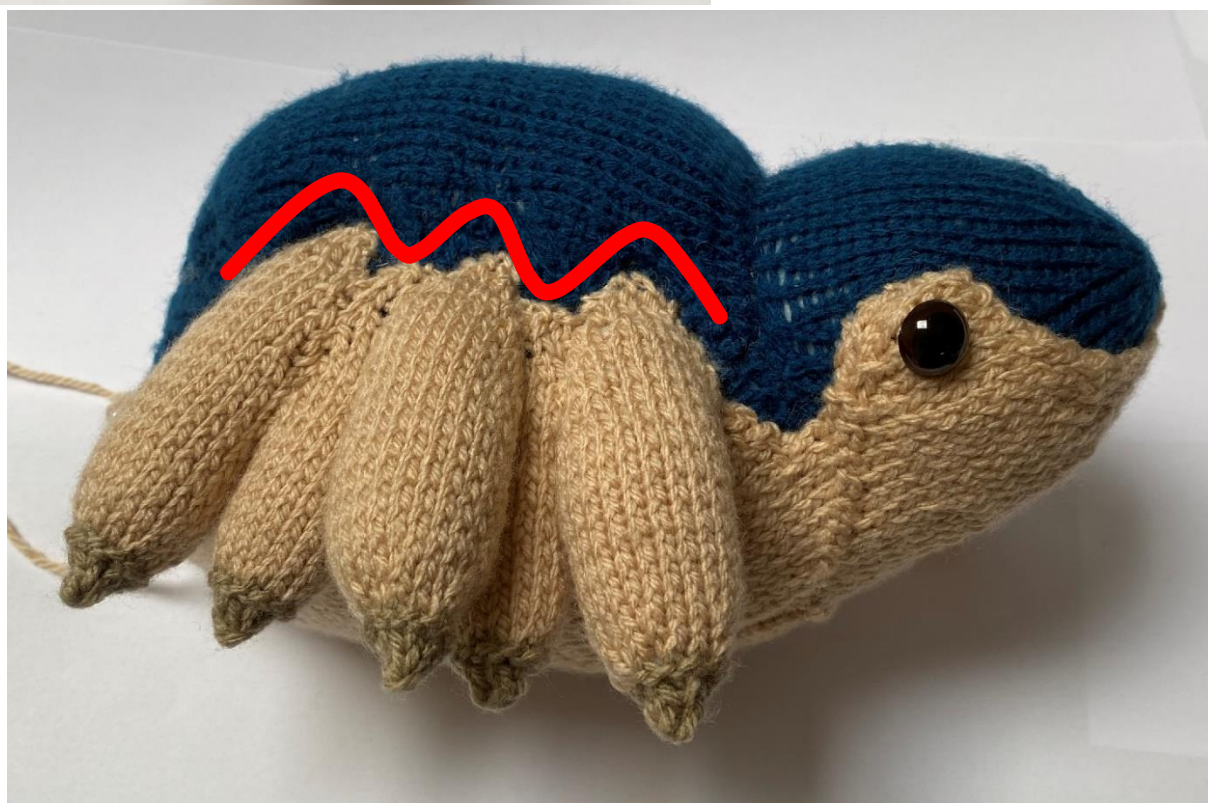
Hot tip!

Of her large breasts, it's much easier to sew the middle one in place first.

Repeat the process to add the remaining breasts.

Hot tip!

When adding her other breasts, if you're finding they're sticking out too far, you can add an extra stitch or two near the nipple end to anchor them closer to her body.



Adding her tail fins

What you'll need:

- ✓ Her body, belly, breastplate and all 10 breasts sewn into place
- ✓ 6 beads
- ✓ Dark coloured sewing thread
- ✓ Sewing needle
- ✓ Doll-making needle
- ✓ Pins to hold things in place
- ✓ Some dark blue yarn to finish the tail fin and sew it to her body

Adding the beads and finishing the tail fin



When knitting the piece, the end should be in a loose B&T. If using oval-shaped beads, place one end about 3 rows down into the B&T end of the fin. Use sewing thread to sew the bead in place, and fasten it off, sewing the extra thread in.

Past the leftover yarn from the B&T over the bead, and pull tightly so the yarn encloses around the bead. Sew down the row ends, leaving an opening at the end.



Attaching her tail fins

Start with one of the large tailfins and stuff it firmly. With the longer lip facing downwards, pin her tail fin in place. The right-edge should be butting up against the B&T of her body. Angle this fin so it leans to the left. Once you're happy with the position and angle, sew into place with dark blue yarn.



Grab another large tail fin, and sit it snugly next to the first tailfin.

Hot tip!

Once the base of the tail is sewn to the body, use additional yarn to sew the long edge (marked by a line in the image to the left to sew the fins to one another. This will create a more seamless look and stop individual fins from sticking out in weird directions.

Nestle one of the small tailfins between her large fin and the edge of her breast, and sew into place. The image on the left below is a top-down view. The image on the right is looking from her belly upwards so you can see how the small tailfin tucks snugly into place.



Repeat the process on the other side, ensuring her fins lean out to the right.



Once all her tailfins are in place, flip her over so you can see her belly. Pull the base edge of her belly up so it overlaps where the tailfins join the body, and sew them into place.



You're done!

You've got a finished Skywhale Mama, ready to be cuddled and proudly displayed. Patricia and I would love to see your finished products, so please tag them with #skywhales on your favourite social media platform.

Skywhale Mama

Knitting pattern

Errata

Some lovely knitters have identified a few bugs in the original pattern. A big thank you to Sally Knyvett, Kelly Nealon and Ruth Oldfield picking them up!

Please found below a few tweaks to the pattern if you downloaded it earlier than 20 April.

For additional questions and pattern clarity don't hesitate to contact me on skywhale.knits@gmail.com

Happy knitting!



Where the error is	The problem	Correction
Body	3 rd row reads as: K30, w&t	Correction as follows: K30, turn
Back strap	Three rows before cast-off reads as: K2tog, SSK, K1 (4 sts) P row Cast off	Correction as follows: K2tog, K2, SSK (4 sts) P row Cast off
Breastplate	9 th row after repeat reads as: K2, (K2tog) <u>x2</u> , K4, (SSK) <u>x2</u> , K2 (12 sts) (K2tog) <u>x3</u> , (SSK) <u>x3</u> (6 sts)	Correction as follows: K2, (K2tog) <u>x2</u> , K4, (SSK) <u>x2</u> , K2 (12 sts) P row (K2tog) <u>x3</u> , (SSK) <u>x3</u> (6 sts)
Small breast	3 rd row after change to brown yarn reads as: (K2tog) <u>x2</u> (6 sts)	Correction as follows: (K2tog) <u>x6</u> (6 sts)
Large Tail Fin	Last two rows read as: (K2tog) <u>x6</u> (6 sts) K2tog, K2, SSK (5 sts)	Correction as follows: (K2tog) <u>x6</u> (6 sts) P row K2tog, K2, SSK (5 sts)
Belly (cabled)	Row 31 reads as: R31: P15, K3 [P4, K2, P4] P3, K15	Correction as follows: R31: P15, K3 [P4, K2, P4] K3, P15

Where the error is	The problem	How it should read
Belly (cabled)	Row 39 reads as: R39: P15, K3 [P4, K2, P4] P3, K15	Correction as follows: R39: P15, K3 [P4, K2, P4] K3, P15
Belly (cabled)	Row 51 reads as: R51: P15, K3 [P4, K2, P4] P3, K15	Correction as follows: R51: P15, K3 [P4, K2, P4] K3, P15
Belly (cabled)	Row 63 reads as: R63: P15, K3 [P4, K2, P4] P3, K15	Correction as follows: R63: P15, K3 [P4, K2, P4] K3, P15