

Teddy Einstein Sweater - Knit

Do you have a bear to dress that is not the size for the pattern you have? Or have you ever wanted to make a sweater and never quite knew how to start? Here you are! (The process is the same for knit or crochet, so some of the photos may show a crochet version)

Start by choosing a yarn and needle size you are familiar with, and is in a scale for the bear (or doll) you are dressing.

Cast on stitches for the length of the body, from the bear's underarm to the length you want - is it a short bolero jacket, a hip length, or a long duster?

Slip the first stitch of every row as if to purl, knit rest of each row. This makes a nice edge and makes picking up the yoke stitches much easier.

After a row or 3, check to see if the length is right - if not, rip out and start over with more or fewer stitches. Once you are sure of your length, work until the body piece reaches around your bear. **NO STRETCHING!** (you want it to fit right)

Bind off, keeping last stitch on needle, don't cut yarn.

Carefully fold in half, mark the center back with a marker or safety pin. Unfold, bring ends to center marker, mark the sides. These will be the underarm of the sweater.

Turn your work 90 degrees. The loop or last stitch is now the first for the front. Pick up and knit into the slipped stitches of the body until you reach the side marker. Turn, continue working rows until the piece reaches comfortably from the bear's underarm to shoulder. Continue to slip the first stitch of each knit row as if to purl. Bind off. Pick up or work the other front in the same way, as the first front, beginning at the side marker and working towards the center front, making sure the number of rows is the same. Bind or fasten off, and pick up the stitches between the markers for the back, working to match the height of the fronts. Bind off, keeping the last stitch on the needle or loop on the hook.

Now for the sleeves, which are the "Einstein" bit of the sweater.

Before you begin, you need to decide how your seams will look. You can continue to slip the first stitch of each row purl wise and knit the remainder of each row. This will make a decorative seam, matching the front border and flow into the shoulder seam. OR, you can take advantage of the garter stitch's nearly invisible seam and simply knit each row without slipping. It's up to you.



Starting at the top of the shoulder, pick up into the side of each row, going down to the bottom of the underarm and back up to the top to the front shoulder. Work back and forth until the sleeve is the right length....is this a cap sleeve? or a 3/4 one? or a long one? It's up to you - or your bear. (Your bear may have a strong opinion on the matter)

Bind off, leaving a long tail to sew the sleeve and shoulder seam. Attach to the top of the other shoulder, and work to match the first sleeve. Try the sweater on the bear, and mark each side of the neck. You don't want to sew all the way! Sew the seam from the wrist (or end of the sleeve) to the neck mark. Fasten off and secure the yarn and sew the other sleeve. You could slip stitch or single crochet the seams if you like, or whipstitch them from the inside, or as a decorative seam on the outside.

And there you are! Your sweater is done!

Variations -

- work the last row or 2 in a contrasting color, and work the sleeve/shoulder seam in that color as well
- work each section in a different color
- skip the sleeves entirely and make it an open vest
- work a ruffle instead of a sleeve, or work a short sleeve and add a ruffle. If you've wanted to try a fancy decorative bind off, give that a try for the end of the sleeve
- make the body a little bit longer to make it looser, then when finished, sew up the front seam as well to make a pullover sweater. Try it on the bear as you sew to see if you need to leave it open a little.
- add a button loop and a button, if the bear is not going to a small child
- add a ribbon tie
- what can you think of?

