

# Muddles the Penguin

A knitting pattern by Christine Michelle

When the Calgary Zoo was looking for ways to advertise their penguin exhibit, they contacted [Make One Yarn Studio](#) to ask about knitting penguins. We began with the Pasha pattern from the Winter 2004 issue of [knitty.com](#). Several changes later, we settled on a redesigned “Muddles”. He was a smash hit, and a cadre of 20 different knitters made 37 copies of him to feature in the ads as well as being provided as gifts for the media. Have fun making your own Muddles!



## Finished size:

- ❖ Approx. 5.5”

## Materials:

- ❖ (MC) Cascade 220 Superwash Sport. Black (815) – approx. 60 yds.
- ❖ (CC1) Cascade 220 Superwash Sport. Cream (817) – approx. 30 yds.
- ❖ (CC2) Cascade 220 Superwash Sport. Yellow-orange (821) – approx. 30 yds.
- ❖ 1 set 3.5mm (US#4) straight needles
- ❖ 1 set 3.5mm (US#4) double pointed needles or circular needles if knitting feet in the round
- ❖ Two beads or buttons for eyes
- ❖ Stuffing
- ❖ Yarn needle
- ❖ Stitch marker

## Gauge:

- ❖ 24 sts/32 rows = 4” in stockinette stitch

## Pattern notes:

w&t (wrap and turn):

- ❖ On a knit row: slip the next stitch purlwise. Bring yarn to front of work, and slip the same stitch back to the left needle without twisting it. Carry yarn to the back of work, turn work around and continue with the next pattern row.

- ❖ On a purl row: slip the next stitch purlwise. Carry yarn to back of work, and slip the same stitch back to the left needles without twisting it. Bring yarn to front of work, turn work around and continue with the next pattern row.
- ❖ When picking up wrapped stitches, ensure that both the wrap and the stitch are worked together as one.

Alternate method of working feet:

- ❖ The pattern as written calls for the feet to be worked flat as 4 separate pieces and sewn together. You may choose to work each foot in the round to avoid this sewing. Use either your favourite toe-up sock cast on, or cast on as follows for a distinct ridge.

- ❖ Using a long-tail cast on, cast on 18 stitches to one DPN. Hold this needle in one hand, with the tails towards your palm



- ❖ Holding 2 DPNs or the tips of your circular needles in your other hand, slip the stitches alternately onto one needle, then the other (stitches 1, 3, 5... will be on one needle and 2, 4, 6... will be on the other)



- ❖ You will finish with every other stitch on opposite needles and each side ready to knit as a “single” foot. If knitting the feet this way, make sure to knit each “p to end” row to finish with a stockinette fabric. A 3-needle bind-off is recommended at the end of working the feet this way.



Eyes may be buttons, safety eyes or embroidered on.

### Directions:

*Back* (worked from the bottom, around the head to the tip of the beak)

Cast on 28 sts using MC

Row 1 (RS): k14, pm, k14

Work in stockinette stitch for 7 more rows

Row 9 (Decrease row): k to within 3 sts of marker, ssk, k2, k2tog, k to end

Work in stockinette stitch for 11 more rows

Row 21: work decrease row

Work in stockinette stitch for 9 more rows

Row 31: work decrease row (22 sts remain)

Work 3 rows in stockinette stitch, removing marker.

{The following 8 rows are the short rows to create the head shaping}

\*k19, w&t

p16, w&t

k14, w&t

p12, w&t

k10, w&t

p8, w&t

k to the end, picking up wraps and working them with the respective stitches

p to the end, picking up wraps and working them with the respective stitches\*

Repeat from \* to \* once more.

Row 51: Using backwards loop method, cast on 4 stitches, k to end

Row 52: Using backwards loop method, cast on 4 stitches, p to end (30 sts.)

Row 53: k5, [k2tog, k4] to last 7 sts, k2tog, k5 (26 sts.)

Row 54: p to end

Row 55: k2, [k2tog, k1] to end (18 sts)

Work 2 rows in stockinette stitch

{Change yarn to CC2 to begin beak}

Work 3 rows in stockinette stitch

Row 61: [k2tog, k1] to end (12 sts.)

Work 3 rows in stockinette stitch

Row 65: k2tog to end (6 sts.)

Cut yarn & use a yarn needle to thread tail through remaining stitches. Pull snug and fasten off.

*Front* (worked from the back, across the bottom, then up the front)

Cast on 10 sts using CC1

Row 1 (WS): p to end

Row 2 (Increase row): k1, m1, k to within 1 st of end, m1, k1

Row 3: p to end

Row 4: work increase row

Row 5: p to end

Row 6: work increase row

Row 7: p to end

Row 8: work increase row (18 sts)

Work 3 rows in stockinette stitch

Row 12: work increase row (20 sts)

Rows 13 – 15: p to end (this produces a single purl row ridge on the right side of the work)

Row 16: k to end

Row 17: p to end

Row 18: [k4, m1] to the last 4 stitches, k4 (24 sts.)

Row 19: p to end

{The following 10 rows are the short rows to create the belly shaping}

\*k20, w&t

p16, w&t

k14, w&t

p12, w&t

k10, w&t

p8, w&t

k to the end, picking up wraps and working them with the respective stitches

p to the end, picking up wraps and working them with the respective stitches

k to end

p to end\*

Repeat from \* to \* once more.

Row 40: k12, pm, k to end

Row 41: p to end

Row 42: k to within 3 sts of marker, ssk, k2, k2tog, k to end

Row 43: p to end

Row 44: k to within 3 sts of marker, ssk, k2, k2tog, k to end

{Change yarn to CC2}

Row 45: p to end, removing marker

Row 46: k1, [k2tog, k2] to last 3 sts., k2tog, k1 (15 sts.)

Work 5 rows in stockinette stitch

Bind off all stitches.

### *Wings (make 2)*

Cast on 15 sts using MC

Work in stockinette stitch for 20 rows

\*Row 21 (decrease row): k1, ssk, k to within 3 sts of end, k2tog, k1

Row 22: p to end\*

Repeat from \* to \* until 5 sts remain.

Bind off all stitches

*Feet* (make 4 – see pattern notes)

Cast on 9 sts with CC2

Row 1: k to end

Row 2: p to end

Row 3: k1, ssk, k3, k2tog, k1

Row 4: p to end

Row 5: k1, ssk, k1, k2tog, k1

Row 6: p to end

Row 7: k1, ssk, k2 (4 sts.)

Work 2 rows in stockinette stitch

Bind off remaining stitches

**Finishing:**

- ❖ With yellow yarn, sew beak edges together from the tip toward the chest. Use the black tail from the yarn change to finish this seam to the top of the chest.
- ❖ If adding button or safety eyes, do so at this stage, before stuffing.
- ❖ With right sides facing, in the front to the back, matching the top corners of the front to the inside corners below the head, and the bottom corners of the back to the purl row on the front piece. The head tucks in behind the yellow of the chest during this part.



- ❖ The back is longer than the front, so ease is required when sewing up the sides. Blue pins were used first, then the yellow pin in the center of each piece to match up. Finally the purple pins were used to reduce puckering further.



- ❖ Sew from one bottom corner, up around the chin (yellow chest to underside of head), and down the other side to the corner
- ❖ Stuff with your preferred material.
- ❖ Sew bottom semi-circle of the front piece to the bottom edge of the back piece.
- ❖ Fold wings in half length-wise and whip stitch up the edge. Sew onto body approximately even with the colour change on the chest.
- ❖ If feet were worked flat, hold two foot pieces wrong sides together and whip stitch them together.
- ❖ Sew feet onto the bottom of the body using a whip stitch.
- ❖ If you've chosen to embroider eyes, complete your penguin with your choice of eye.



Christine Michelle is a geologist, cat lover and generally crafty person. She is MusketeersPlus2 on Ravelry.