

Porcupine



Notions

Yarn:

Upper Body (A): Nature Spun, worsted, Toffee Bar (or Stone). 3.5 oz (100 gram) ball – 245 yards (224 meters)

Lower body (B): Nature Spun, worsted, Roasted Coffee. 3.5 oz (100 gram) ball – 245 yards (224 meters)

Snout (C): Nature Spun, worsted, Pepper. 3.5 oz (100 gram) ball – 245 yards (224 meters)

Quills: No set brand. I used a couple colors of various DK and sport weight 100% wool yarns from my stash.

Super wash is not recommended. "Sticky"/"itchy" yarns work best.

Needles:

US 4 (3.5mm) straight, or one 24in circular needle

US 4 (3.5mm) Double point needles, or 2 16in circular needles

Other:

Safety eyes

tapestry needle

Tweezers, scissor-type

White glue (e.g. Elmer's school glue or similar clear drying glue).

Upper Body

With A, CO 15 sts

Row 1 (and every odd-numbered row unless stated): purl

Row 2: k1, kfb, k5, M1, k1, M1, k5, kfb, k1 (19 sts)

Row 4: k1, kfb, k6, M1, k3, M1, k6, kfb, k1 (23 sts)

Row 6: k1, kfb, k7, M1, k5, M1, k7, kfb, k1 (27 sts)

Row 8: k1, kfb, k8, M1, k7, M1, k8, kfb, k1 (31 sts)

Row 10: k1, kfb, k9, M1, k9, M1, k9, kfb, k1 (35 sts)

Row 12: k1, kfb, k10, M1, k11, M1, k10, kfb, k1 (39 sts)

Row 14: k1, kfb, k11, M1, k13, M1, k11, kfb, k1 (43 sts)

Row 16: k1, kfb, k12, M1, k15, M1, k12, kfb, k1 (47 sts)

Row 18: k1, kfb, k13, M1, k17, M1, k13, kfb, k1 (51 sts)

Row 20: k1, kfb, k14, M1, k18, M1, k14, kfb, k1 (55 sts)

Row 22: k1, kfb, k15, M1, k21, M1, k15, kfb, k1 (59 sts)

Row 24: k1, kfb, k16, M1, k23, M1, k16, kfb, k1 (63 sts)

Row 26: k60, turn

Row 27: p57, turn

Row 28: k55, turn

Row 29: p53, turn

Row 30: k51, turn

Row 31: p49, turn

Row 32: k47, turn

Row 33: p45, turn

Row 34: k43, turn

Row 35: p41, turn

Row 36: k39, turn

Row 37: p37, turn

Row 38: k35, turn

Row 39: p33, turn

Row 40: k31, turn

Row 41: p29, turn

Row 42: k27, turn

Row 43: p25, turn

Row 44: k23, turn

Row 45: p21, turn

Row 46: k19, turn

Row 47: p17, turn

Row 48: k16, turn

Row 49: p15, turn

Row 50: knit to end

Rows 51-71: work in st st

Row 72: k24, sl1, k1, pssso, k11, k2tog, k24 (61 sts)

Row 73: purl

Row 74: k23, sl1, k1, pssso, k11, k2tog, k23 (59 sts)

Rows 75-81: work in st st

Row 82: k24, turn

Row 83: purl to end

Row 84: k22, turn

Row 85: purl to end

Row 86: k20, turn

Row 87: purl to end

Row 88: k18, turn

Row 89: purl to end

Row 90: knit

Row 91: p24, turn

Row 92: knit to end

Row 93: p22, turn

Row 94: knit to end

Row 95: p20, turn

Row 96: knit to end

Row 97: p18, turn

Row 98: knit to end

Row 99: purl

Row 100: k1, sl1, k1, pssso, k19, sl1, k1, pssso, k11, k2tog, k19, k2tog, k1 (55 sts)
Rows 101-103: work st st
Row 104: k1m sl1, k1, pssso, k17, sl1, k1, pssso, k11, k2tog, k17, k2tog, k1 (51 sts)
Rows 105-107: work st st
Row 108: k1, sl1, k1, pssso, k15, sl1, k1, pssso, k11, k2tog, k15, k2tog, k1 (47 sts)
Row 109: purl
Row 110: k1, sl1, k1, pssso, k13, sl1, k1, pssso, k11, k2tog, k13, k2tog, k1 (43 sts)
Row 111: purl
Row 112: k1, (sl1, k1, pssso, k11) twice, k2tog, k11, k2tog, k1 (39 sts)
Row 113: purl
Row 114: k1, sl1, k1, pssso, k9, sl1, k1, pssso, k11, k2tog, k9, k2tog, k1 (35 sts)
Row 115: purl
Row 116: k1, sl1, k1, pssso, k7, sl1, k1, pssso, k11, k2tog, k7, k2tog, k1 (31 sts)
Row 117: purl
 Place marker at each end of this row

Shape Head

Row 1: k10, M1, k11, M1, k10 (33 sts)
 Rows 2-12: work in st st
Row 13: (k11, M1) twice, k11 (35 sts)
Row 14: purl
Row 15: k12, M1, k11, M1, k12 (37 sts)
Row 16: purl
Row 17: k13, M1, k11, M1, k13 (39 sts)
Row 18: purl
Row 19: k14, M1, k11, M1, k14 (41 sts)
Row 20: purl
Row 21: k1, sl1, k1, pssso, k11, sl1, k1, pssso, k9, k2tog, k11, k2tog, k1 (37 sts)
Row 22: purl
Row 23: k1, (sl1, k1, pssso, k9) twice, k2tog, k9, k2tog, k1 (33 sts)
Row 24: p1, sl1, p1, pssso, p7, sl1, p1, pssso, p9, p2tog, p7, p2tog, p1 (29 sts)
Row 25: k1, sl1, k1, pssso, k5, sl1, k1, pssso, k9, k2tog, k7, k2tog, k1 (25 sts)
Row 26: p1, sl1, p1, pssso, p3, sl1, p1, pssso, p9, p2tog, p3, p2tog, p1 (21 sts)
Row 27: (k1, sl1, k1, pssso) 3 times, k3, (k2tog, k1) 3 times (15 sts)

Row 28: purl
Row 29: k1, (sl1, k1, pssso) 3 times, k1, (k2tog) 3 times, k1 (9 sts)
Row 30: purl
Row 31: knit
Row 32: (p3tog) 3 times
 Cut yarn, thread through 3 remaining sts

Lower Body

With B, SO 15 sts
Row 1: purl
Row 2: knit
Row 3: purl
Row 4: k1, kfb, k to last 2 sts, kfb, k1
 Repeat rows 1-4 three times (23 sts)
 Rows 17-81: work st st
Row 82: k1, sl1, k1, pssso, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1 (21 sts)
Row 83: purl
Row 84: k1, sl1, k1, pssso, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1 (19 sts)
Row 85: purl
 Place marker at each end of this row.
 Rows 86-97: work st st
Row 98: k1, sl1, k1, pssso, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1 (17 sts)
Row 99: purl
Row 100: k1, sl1, k1, pssso, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1 (15 sts)
Row 101: purl
Row 102: k1, sl1, k1, pssso, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1 (13 sts)
Row 103: purl
Row 104: k1, sl1, k1, pssso, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1 (11 sts)
Row 105: purl
Row 106: k1, sl1, k1, pssso, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1 (9 sts)
Row 107: (p3tog) 3 times
 Cut yarn and thread through remaining 3 sts

Legs

CO 6, divide between needles
Round 1: Join, k6
Round 2: *k1, kfb, repeat from * to end. (9 sts)
Round 3: k4, k4 turn, p3 turn, knit to end of round

Round 4: (k1, kfb) 4 times, k1 (13 sts)
Round 5: knit
Round 6: knit
Round 7: Work 6 sts back and forth in stockinette for 4 rows, k6, pick up 3 sts, k7, pick up 3 sts (19 sts)
Round 8: k6, k2tog, k9, k2tog (17 sts)
Round 9: k6, k2tog, k7, k2tog (15 sts)
Round 10: k5, k2tog, k6, k2tog (13 sts)
Round 11: k4, k2tog, k5, k2tog (11 sts)
Round 12: knit
Round 13: knit
Round 14: k1, kfb, k1, kfb, k7 (13 sts)
Round 15: knit
Round 16: k1, kfb, k3, kfb, k7 (15 sts)
Round 17: knit
Round 18: knit
Round 19: knit
Round 20: k10 turn, p11 turn, k9 turn, p7 turn, k5 turn, p4 turn, knit to end of round
Round 21: knit
Round 22: knit
Round 23: (k1, kfb) 7 times, k1 (22 sts)
Round 24-26: knit
 Bind off 22 sts

Snout

With C, CO 6, divide between needles
Round 1: (k1, kfb) 3 times (9 sts)
Round 2: (k2, kfb) 3 times (12 sts)
Round 3: (k3, kfb) 3 times (15 sts)
Round 4: (k4, kfb) 3 times (18 sts), join B work in double strands
Round 5: (k2, kfb) 6 times (24 sts)
Round 6: knit
Round 7: (k3, kfb) 6 times (30 sts)
Round 8: knit
Round 9: (k4, kfb) 6 times (36 sts), cut C

Making the Quills

Quills are made by felting 2 or more strands of different colors. None of this is written in stone and feel free to improvise. I usually worked with strands of about 24-36in (60-90cm).

Stiffening

Prepare the work area. You will need some counter space to lay the yarn out to dry and harden. I used aluminum foil as the drying surface to prevent messing up my counters.

Round 10: Working with B only, work next 18 sts in stockinette for 6 rows. Bind off those 18 sts. Work remaining 18 sts in stockinette for 3 rows, Bind off.

Tail (top)

With A, CO 15 sts
Row 1: purl
Row 2: k13, turn
Row 3: p11, turn
Row 4: k9, turn
Row 5: p7, turn
Row 6: k5, turn
Row 7: purl to end
Row 8: k1, sl1, k1, pssso, k9, k2tog, k1 (13 sts)
Row 9: purl
Row 10: knit
Row 11: purl
Row 12: k5, sl1, k2tog, pssso, k5 (11 sts)
Row 13: purl
Row 14: knit
Row 15: purl
Row 16: knit
Row 17: purl
Row 18: k4, sl1, k2tog, pssso, k4 (9 sts)
Row 19: purl
Row 20: k1, sl1, k1, pssso, sl1, k2tog, pssso, k2tog, k1 (5 sts)
Row 21: purl
Row 22: k1, sl1, k2tog, pssso, k1 (3 sts)
Row 23: purl 3tog, cut yarn and fasten off

Tail (bottom)

With B, CO 15 sts
 Starting with purl row, work 7 rows of st st
 Rows 8-23: work as top of tail above.

Fill a small bowl with warm water. Optional: I also added a drop or two of dish detergent and stirred it up.

Place the two strands in the bowl to wet the yarn. As you pull the yarn out of the water, use your thumb and forefinger to squeeze out the excess water.

With the two strands together and starting at one end rub the strands between the palms of your hands (just like if it were cold out and you wanted to warm your hands), working your way towards the other end of the strands. You want the strands to be felted together, but you don't have to be too particular about it. Just so they kind of stay together. I usually worked about 4-8 pairs at a time. The amount of counter space you have will dictate what you do.

In a small bowl combine $\frac{1}{4}$ cup glue with $\frac{1}{8}$ cup warm water, stir.

Working with one of the felted strands at a time, coil the strand into the glue mixture and saturate. Grab on end of the strand and pull out the yarn slowly, using the thumb and forefinger of the other hand as a squeegee to extract the excess glue. Lay the strand on the tinfoil in a straight line. Repeat with remaining strands.

Allow the strands to dry overnight, or for at least eight hours. They should be stiff, but not rock hard. If you feel they are too stiff or too flimsy, adjust the glue-to-water ratio accordingly for future strands.