

It's the 2023 Inspire  
Charity Knitting Challenge

# Brave Bears



Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries, the Miner2Major Landscape Partnership Scheme, Nottinghamshire Police, Newark and Sherwood District Council and Creative Lives are supporting Nottinghamshire crafters to make Brave Bears for charities working with children in times of need.

Textile designer **Megan Crook** has designed Brave Bear knitting and crochet patterns, decorated with a special Sherwood Forest acorn motif.

[inspireculture.org.uk/knit](https://inspireculture.org.uk/knit)



Working with



# Brave Bear Knitting Pattern

**Yarn** Stylecraft Special Chunky

**Needle Size** 5mm

Darning needle and/or latch tool for finishing

## Stitch Guide and Index

**Garter** – Knit every row

**Stockinette** – Knit every right-side row.

Purl every wrong side row.

**1x1 rib** – Knit 1 stitch, purl 1 stitch to end of row.

**K** – Knit

**P** – Purl

**Yarn 1** – Main colour, paws & head (approx. 35g)

**Yarn 2** – Trousers colour (approx. 25g)

**Yarn 3** – Jumper colour (approx. 25g)

**Yarn 4** – Bear face detail 1m

**Yarn 5** – Jumper motif 1m



## Method:

The bear is made in one long section that is folded at the head.

## Legs (Front)

Cast on 8 stitches in yarn 1.

Work 8 rows of garter stitch. Change to yarn 2 and work 14 rows of 1x1 rib. Leave on spare needle and make a second piece using the same method. On the next row, work across both pieces continuing 1x1 rib for a further 10 rows.

## Body (Front)

Change to yarn 3 and work 4 rows in garter stitch then a following 18 rows in stockinette stitch.

## Head (Front and Back)

Change to yarn 1 and work 48 rows in garter stitch.

## Body (Back)

Change to yarn 3 and work 18 rows in stockinette stitch followed by 4 rows of garter stitch.

## Legs (Back)

Change to yarn 2 and work 10 rows of 1x1 rib. On the next row K1 P1 4 times (8 st total) then turn the knitting to continue working on one leg separately for a further 13 rows. Change to yarn 1 and work 8 rows of garter stitch before casting off. The 8 remaining stitches in yarn 2 can now be worked to finish the other leg. Continue in 1x1 rib for 14 rows. Change to yarn 1 and work 8 rows of garter stitch before casting off.

## Arms

To start the arms, fold the knit piece in half from the large section of garter stitch in yarn 1. Stitch the seam on both sides to create the bear's head.

Open the bear at the shoulder point and using yarn 3 with right side facing pick up 8 stitches on either side of the head along the yarn 3 stockinette section (16 stitches in total). Purl 1 row and work a further 8 rows of stockinette stitch and 4 rows of garter stitch. Change to yarn 1 and knit 8 rows of garter stitch. Repeat this method on the other side to make the bear's second arm.

## Finishing:

Stitch all seams securely leaving an opening between the legs. Stuff using EN71-3 certified toy filling and sew remaining hole. Weave in all ends securely.

Using a 50cm piece of yarn colour 3, sew around the bear's neck along the last row of knitting of yarn 3. Weave the piece of yarn in and out of every other stitch. Once the round is complete pull the yarn to gather the neck very slightly. Tie securely, trim the ends to 8 cm and weave in neatly.

Using yarn 4 stitch a friendly face on the bear starting with the nose.

Using some leftover yarn 1 colour, stitch diagonally across the corners of the bear's head to accentuate the ears.

Using yarn 1 and 5 stitch an acorn on the bear's chest using Swiss darning. Securely weave in all ends.

The bear is complete, thank you for taking part.

# Brave Bear Crochet Pattern

**Yarn** Stylecraft Special Chunky

**Hook Size** 6mm

Darning needle and/or latch tool for finishing

## Stitch Guide and Index

**Double Crochet (DC)** with loop on hook, yarn over and pull loop through stitch (2 loops on hook). Yarn over and pull through all loops on hook. You now have a single loop on your hook and the DC is complete. \* Indicates repeated rows.

**Yarn 1** – Main colour, paws & head (approx. 35g)

**Yarn 2** – Trousers colour (approx. 35g)

**Yarn 3** – Jumper colour (approx. 35g)

**Yarn 4** – Bear face detail 1m

**Yarn 5** – Jumper motif 2m

## Method:

### Legs (Front)

Using yarn 1 chain 7 stitches.

**Row 1** - DC 6, chain 1. Repeat 3 times. Fasten off and change to yarn 2.

**Row 5** - Chain 2 in first DC on row 4 then DC 5 into the previous row, chain 1.

**Row 6\*** - DC 6, chain 1. \*Repeat row 7 times. Fasten off.

Begin second foot and leg up to row 13.

**Row 14** - DC 6 across leg one, DC 6 across leg two.

**Row 15\*** - Chain 1, DC 12. \*Repeat row 5 times. Fasten off and change to yarn 3.

### Body (Front)

**Row 21** - Chain 2 in first double crochet on row 20, DC 11 into previous row.

**Row 22\*** - Chain 1, DC 12 \*Repeat row 12 times. Fasten off and change to yarn 1.

## Head (Front and Back)

**Row 35** - Chain 2 in first double crochet on row 34, DC 11 into previous row.

**Row 36\*** - Chain 1, DC 12. \*Repeat row 23 times. Fasten off and change to yarn 3.

## Body (Back)

**Row 59** - Chain 2 in first double crochet on row 58, DC 11 into previous row.

**Row 60\*** - Chain 1, DC 12. \*Repeat row 12 times. Fasten off and change to yarn 2.

## Legs (Back)

**Row 73** - Chain 2 in first double crochet on row 72, DC 11 into previous row.

**Row 74\*** - Chain 1, DC 12. \*Repeat row 5 times.

**Row 80** - Chain 1, DC 6. Turn.

**Row 81\*** - Chain 1, DC 6. \*Repeat row 7 times. Fasten off and change to yarn 1.

**Row 89** - Chain 2 in first double crochet on row 88, DC 5 into previous row.

**Row 90\*** - Chain 1, DC 6. \*Repeat row 2 times. Fasten off.  
Repeat method from row 80 for the second leg.  
Using a mattress stitch sew the head side seams together.

## Arms

Using yarn 3.

**Row 1** - Chain 2, DC 13 starting 7 rows from head.

**Row 2\*** - Chain 1, DC 14. \*Repeat row 6 times. Fasten off and change to yarn 1.

**Row 9** - Chain 2 in first double crochet on row 8, DC 13 into previous row.

**Row 10\*** - Chain 1, DC 14. \*Repeat row 2 times. Fasten off.

Repeat this method on the other side to make the bear's second arm.



## Finishing:

Stitch all seams securely with a mattress stitch leaving an opening between the legs. Stuff using EN71-3 certified toy filling and sew remaining hole. Weave in all ends securely.

Using a 50cm piece of yarn colour 3 sew around the bear's neck along the last row of crochet of yarn 3. Weave the piece of yarn in and out of every other stitch. Once the round is complete pull the yarn to gather the neck very slightly. Tie securely, trim the ends to 8 cm and weave in neatly.

Using yarn 4 stitch a friendly face on the bear starting with the nose.

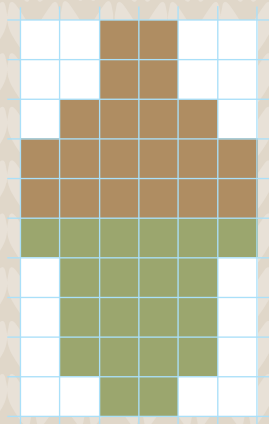
Using yarn 1 and 5 stitch an acorn on the bear's chest using seed or cross stitch. Securely weave in all ends.

The bear is complete, thank you for taking part.

# Project Guidelines for Brave Bears

- Donations must be handmade and meet the Brave Bears pattern specifications.
- Brave Bears must be made from Stylecraft Special Chunky yarn and only stuffed with EN71-3 fire retardant toy filling.
- Brave Bears must not include buttons, beads or zip attachments, which could be accidentally or forcibly removed or chewed.
- Seams must be securely fastened. Should access be gained to any fibrous filling material within the teddy through a seam, this may present a choking risk if swallowed.
- Seams should be tension tested to ensure they are as secure as possible. All yarn ends must be woven in to finish securely.

# Acorn Motif







Find Megan's helpful 'How to' videos online at  
[inspireculture.org.uk/knit](https://inspireculture.org.uk/knit)

Inspire Libraries will be delighted to receive your Brave Bears

**Brave Bears donated by 1 August 2023 will take part in the  
Teddy Bears Picnic Exhibition**

### Picnic time for teddy bears!

The Brave Bears will gather for a celebratory exhibition at Mansfield Central Library Gallery from Tuesday 15 August to Wednesday 27 September.

For your name to appear on the list of makers please fill in the returns label below and attach to your work before handing in at your nearest Inspire Library.

For information about Miner2Major visit  
[miner2major.org.uk](https://miner2major.org.uk)

Megan Crook is a self-taught textile guru, visit [megancrook.com](https://megancrook.com) to find out about Megan Crook Textiles

Our thanks to project partners:

Nottinghamshire Police  
[nottinghamshire.police.uk](https://nottinghamshire.police.uk)

Newark and Sherwood District Council  
[newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk](https://newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk)

Creative Lives  
[creative-lives.org](https://creative-lives.org)



# Brave Bears



Your Brave Bears will be part of the Teddy Bears Picnic Exhibition. They will be distributed to charities working with children in times of need by Nottinghamshire police.

From

.....  
(name of individual or group)

at

.....  
(name of library or place)