

How to...

KNIT AN AFGHAN HOUND

Between them, Joanna Osborne and Sally Muir, authors of *Best in Show*, have owned eight Poodles, two Afghan Hounds, two mongrels, two Lurchers, one Dalmatian, one Whippet, one Spaniel and one Greyhound. None were as easy to care for as one of their knitted versions...

Their book features 25 different breeds, each designed to take anyone with basic knitting skills just a few evenings to complete. Hugely popular in the 1970s and now rarely seen, the ridiculously beautiful and ornamental looking Afghan Hound is a large game hunting dog and one of the oldest of the sighthounds; they were reputed to have had a berth on Noah's Ark.

Afghans Hounds can gallop at up to 40 miles (64km) an hour and can leap 7 feet (over 2 metres) into the air from a standing position. One of the earliest Afghan Hound breeders was Zeppo Marx and an Afghan was the hero of the 'What-a-Mess' series of children's books by Frank Muir. A festival of loopy stitch, the coat of this woolley Cruft's contender is knitted in variegated-colour yarn to give a variety of tones.

Best in Show, Sally Muir & Joanna Osborne, Collins & Brown, ISBN-10: 1843405733, £12.99





Measurements
Length: 20cm (8in), Height
to top of head: 17cm (6.34in)

Front and Back Leg (make 4 the same)

With 234mm (US 2) knitting needles and tf, cast on 8 sts.

Beg with a k row, work 2 rows st st.

Row 3: Inc, k1, k2tog, k2tog, k1, inc. (8 sts)

Row 4: Purl.

Row 5: Inc, k6, inc. (10 sts)

Row 6: Purl.

Row 7: Inc, k8, inc. (12 sts)

Row 8: Purl.

Row 9: Knit.

Row 10: Purl.

Row 11: Inc, k10, inc. (14 sts)

Row 12: Purl.

Row 13: Inc, k12, inc. (16 sts)

Row 14: Purl.

Row 15: Knit.

Row 16: Join in co, p2, *k12, p2.

With tf, work 7 rows st st.

(Work st st rows in tf only and loopy st rows in co and tf).

Row 24: With co and tf, p2, *k12, p2.

With tf, work 7 rows st st.

Row 32: With co and tf, p2, *k12, p2.

Row 33: With tf, knit.

Cast (bind) off.

Right Side of Body and Head

With 234mm (US 2) knitting needles and tf, cast on 18 sts.

Beg with a k row, work 2 rows st st.

Row 3: Inc, k17, cast on 4 sts. (23 sts)

Row 4: Purl.

Row 5: Inc, k22, cast on 4 sts. (28 sts)

Row 6: Join in co, *k loopy st to end.

Row 7: With tf, inc, k27, cast on 4 sts. (33 sts)

Row 8: Purl. (33 sts)

Row 9: Inc, k32, cast on 6 sts. (40 sts)

Row 10: Purl.

Row 11: Inc, k39. (41 sts)

Row 12: With co and tf, *k loopy st to end.

Row 13: With tf, inc, k40. (42 sts)

Row 14: Purl.

Row 15: Inc, k41. (43 sts)

Row 16: P2tog, p40, inc. (43 sts)

Row 17: K41, k2tog. (42 sts)

Row 18: With co and tf, *k loopy st to end.

Row 19: With tf, k40, k2tog. (41 sts)

Row 20: P2tog, p38, inc. (41 sts)

Row 21: Knit.

Row 22: With tf, cast (bind) off 12 sts, with co and tf, *k29 icos. (29 sts)

Row 23: With tf, k2tog, k27. (28 sts)

Row 24: With tf, cast (bind) off 8 sts, with

co and tf, *k18 icos, p2tog. (19 sts)

Row 25: With tf, k2tog, k15, k2tog. (17 sts)

Row 26: With tf, cast (bind) off 8 sts, with co and tf, *k7, p2tog. (8 sts)

With tf, work 3 rows st st.

Row 30: Join in ba, p8, cast on 13 sts. (21 sts)

Cont in ba.

Row 31: K21.

Work 2 rows st st.

Row 34: P2tog, p19. (20 sts)

Row 35: Cast (bind) off 6 sts, k to end. (14 sts)

Row 36: P12, p2tog. (13 sts)

Row 37: Cast (bind) off 4 sts, k7 icos, k2tog. (8 sts)

Cast (bind) off.

Left Side of Body and Head

With 234mm (US 2) knitting needles and tf, cast on 18 sts.

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: Inc, p17, cast on 4 sts. (23 sts)

Row 3: Knit.

Row 4: Inc, p22, cast on 4 sts. (28 sts)

Row 5: Knit.

Row 6: Join in co, inc, *k27, cast on 4 sts. (33 sts)

Row 7: With tf, knit.

Row 8: Inc, p32, cast on 6 sts. (40 sts)

Row 9: Knit.

Row 10: Inc, p39. (41 sts)

Row 11: Knit

Row 12: With co and tf, inc, *k40. (42 sts)

Row 13: With tf, knit.

Row 14: Inc, p41. (43 sts)

Row 15: K2tog, k40, inc. (43 sts)

Row 16: P41, p2tog. (42 sts)

Row 17: Knit.

Row 18: With co and tf, *k40, P2tog. (41 sts)

Row 19: With tf, k2tog, k38, inc. (41 sts)

Row 20: Purl.

Row 21: Knit.

Row 22: With co, p29, cast (bind) off

*12 sts in loopy st.

Row 23: With tf, k2tog, k27. (28 sts)

Row 24: With tf, p20, with co and tf, cast (bind) off *9 sts in loopy st. (19 sts)

Row 25: With tf, k2tog, k15, k2tog. (17 sts)

Row 26: With tf, p8, with co and tf, cast (bind) off *9 sts in loopy st.

With tf, work 2 rows st st.

Row 29: Join in ba, k8, cast on 13 sts. (21 sts)

Cont in ba.

Row 30: P21.

Work 2 rows st st.

Row 33: K2tog, k to end. (20 sts)

Row 34: Cast (bind) off 6 sts, p to end. (14 sts)

Row 35: K12, k2tog. (13 sts)

Row 36: Cast (bind) off 4 sts, p7 icos, p2tog. (8 sts)

Cast (bind) off.

Tail

With 234mm (US 2) double-pointed knitting needles and tf, cast on 2 sts.

Work in i-cord as follows:

Knit 2 rows.

Row 3: Inc into both sts. (4 sts)

Row 4: Knit

Row 5: Inc, k2, inc. (6 sts)

Row 6: Knit.

Row 7: Inc, k4, inc. (8 sts)

Row 8: Knit.

Knit 2 rows.

Row 11: K3, join in co and make *2-finger loopy st on 4th st only, k4 in tf.

Row 12: Knit in tf.

Rep last 2 rows 11 times more, working 2-finger loopy st on first 5 rows and 3-finger loopy st on next 6 rows.

Knit 2 rows in tf.

Cast (bind) off.

Ear

(make 2 the same)

With 234mm (US 2) knitting needles and tf, cast on 12 sts.

Row 1: Knit

Row 2: Join in co, *3-finger loopy st to end.

Row 3: With tf, knit.

Row 4: Purl.

Row 5: K2tog, k8, k2tog. (10 sts)

Row 6: Purl

Row 7: K2tog, k6, k2tog. (8 sts)

Row 8: Purl.

Row 9: K2tog, k4, k2tog. (6 sts)

Row 10: With co and tf, *3-finger loopy st

to end.

Row 11: With tf, knit.

Cast (bind) off.

Collar

With 234mm (US 2) knitting needles

and fr, cast on 26 sts.

Knit one row.

Cast (bind) off.

To Make Up

Sew in ends, leaving ends from cast on and cast (bound) off rows for sewing up. Using whip stitch, sew up legs starting at paw. Pipecleaners are useful for rigidity, as over-stuffing the legs makes them holey. Using whip stitch, sew along top of leg, leaving an end to sew leg to body.

Using whip stitch, sew down back and tummy and across head and nose, using tf for body and ba for head and nose. Leave a 2.5cm (1in) gap in tummy for stuffing. Stuff then sew up gap.

Using whip stitch, sew on front legs straight with seams at back; back legs are at a slight angle with seams at back. Sew tail to base of back with longest loops closest to body. Thread yarn from cast on end through tail to body and pull up slightly to make tail curve.

Sew ears to top of head as shown in photograph. Cut loops of loopy st on ears.

Using black yarn, embroider the nose using satin stitch and make two French knots for eyes.

Put collar around neck and join ends.

Coat

The loopy stitch technique makes evenly sized loops easy to produce. But don't worry if your loops are not all the same size, any small differences don't matter.

Tail

The Afghan's tail is worked as an i-cord on double-pointed needles. The loops are knitted in as the cord is worked and are deliberately made different sizes by winding the yarn around two or three fingers. ●●●

