



THE THEATRE CHIPPING NORTON

Knitting Gangster Rats Pattern Dick Whittington Pantomime

Dear Knitter,

Thank you so much for helping to make a Gangster Rat to decorate the town in the run up to our Panto Dick Whittington! We are very grateful for your help and hope you have fun in the process too.

Please drop off all completed rats to the Box Office **BEFORE** the **24th of October 2022**.





Important notes:

- Please use acrylic wool in 'ratty' colours (e.g. brown, grey, black).
- Please do not use natural fibres as they won't last outdoors as well.
- Have fun - Make accessories if you'd like to give your rat some personality!

Materials Required

Worsted weight yarn in the following amounts:

- Color A (head and body) – about 80 yards
- Color B (tail) – 5 yards
- Color C (inner ears, nose, and feet) – 5 yards
- Color D (eyes) – 1 yard

Size 4 double pointed needles
Darning needle
Stuffing
White thread (whiskers)

Abbreviations

CO	cast on
dpn	double pointed needle
K	knit
P	purl
st	stitch
sts	stitches
M1	make one stitch (see special note below)
K2tog	knit two stitches together
SSK	slip 2 sts K-wise, place them back onto left dpn, then K them tog through the back loop
PU	pick up (create) a new stitch from existing work
WT	wrap and turn (see special note below)
X	number of times to repeat

Special Notes

- M1 = make one stitch: Lift the right "leg" of the next stitch (the right side of the stitch directly below the next stitch on your left needle), place it on the left needle, then knit it as you would any other stitch.
- WT = wrap and turn: After knitting the specified number of stitches, bring yarn to the front of work, slip the next st on the left dpn to the right one, move yarn to the back of your work, and slip the stitch back to the left needle. This "wraps" the stitch. Turn your work and purl the number of stitches indicated. Bring yarn to the back of work, slip the next st on the left dpn to the right one, move yarn to the front of your work, and slip the stitch back to the left needle. This wraps the second stitch. Turn your work and knit the number of stitches indicated. Note: The wraps in this pattern are not knitted – work the wrapped stitch as any other.

Body and Tail

Work begins at neckline. With color A, CO 21 sts onto 3 dpns and work rounds below:

- 1) K all sts
- 2) M1, K to last st, M1, K1 (23 sts)
- 3-5) K all sts
- 6) M1, K to last st, M1, K1 (25 sts)
- 7-9) K all sts
- 10) M1, K to last st, M1, K1 (27 sts)
- 11-13) K all sts
- 14) M1, K to last st, M1, K1 (29 sts)
- 15-17) K all sts
- 18) M1, K1, M1, K to last 2 sts, M1, K1, M1, K1 (33 sts)
- 19-21) K all sts
- 22) M1, K1, M1, K to last 2 sts, M1, K1, M1, K1 (37 sts)
- 23-25) K all sts
- 26) M1, K1, M1, K to last 2 sts, M1, K1, M1, K1 (41 sts)
- 27-29) K all sts
- 30) (K4, K2tog) 3X, K5, (SSK, K4) 3X (35 sts)
- 31-32) K all sts
- 33) (K3, K2tog) 3X, K5, (SSK, K3) 3X (29 sts)
- 34-35) K all sts
- 36) (K2, K2tog) 3X, K5, (SSK, K2) 3X (23 sts)
- 37-38) K all sts
- 39) (K1, K2tog) 3X, K5, (SSK, K1) 3X (17 sts)
- 40-41) K all sts
- 42) (K2tog) 3X, K5, (SSK) 3X (11 sts)
- 43-44) K all sts
- 45) (K2tog) 2X, K3, (SSK) 2X (7 sts)
- 46) K2tog, K3, SSK (5 sts)

K2, then cut color A. Move the 2 sts just worked down to the opposite side of the dpn, then slip the 3 remaining sts (beginning with the last st in the round) onto this working dpn. All 5 sts should now be on the same dpn with the cut piece of color A coming from the bottom stitch.

An i-cord is now worked to make the tail. Join color B on row 1, then work rows 2-42 as an i-cord, pulling the working yarn up from the bottom stitch:

- 1) K all sts
- 2-7) work 5 stitch i-cord
- 8) K2tog, K3
- 9-28) work 4 stitch i-cord
- 29) K2tog, K2
- 30-35) work 3 stitch i-cord
- 36) K2tog, K1
- 37-42) work 2 stitch i-cord

Cut yarn, thread through 2 remaining sts, pull tightly closed. Stuff body, accentuating the curve of his back and flattening the underside. Weave in all loose ends.

Head

Sts are now picked up in the original CO sts to begin the head. With color A, and beginning in the very first CO st (center of your little guy's back), PU 21 sts (1 in each CO st), then work the rounds below:

- 1) K all sts
- 2) K5, WT, P10, WT, K5
- 3) K6, WT, P12, WT, K6
- 4) K7, WT, P14, WT, K7
- 5) K all sts
- 6) K1, K2tog, K5, SSK, K1, K2tog, K5, SSK, K1
- 7) K all sts
- 8) K1, K2tog, K3, SSK, K1, K2tog, K3, SSK, K1
- 9) K all sts
- 10) K4, SSK, K1, K2tog, K4
- 11-12) K all sts
- 13) K3, SSK, K1, K2tog, K3 (9 sts)
- 14) K all sts

Cut yarn. Stuff head, adding more stuffing to body if needed. Thread end of yarn through remaining live sts, pull tightly closed. Weave in all loose ends.

Ears (make 2)

With color A, CO 3 sts onto 1 dpn and work the rounds below back and forth (not in the round):

- 1) P all sts
- 2) (K1, M1,) 2X, K1
- 3) P all sts
- 4) K all sts
- 5) P all sts

Cast off all sts. Repeat all rounds a second time with color C. Place knit sides of the two pieces together and whip stitch around all edges except for the cast off edge, which is left open. Turn right-side out. Ear can be pressed with a hot iron at this time, if desired. It will make them flatter, but is not necessary. Fold in half lengthwise (pink side in), and take a stitch or two at bottom to hold closed. Make another ear exactly the same and sew to your little guy's head.

Legs (make 4)

With color A, CO 15 sts onto 3 dpns, and work the following rounds:

- 1) K all sts
- 2) (K2tog, K3) 3X
- 3) K all sts
- 4) (K2tog, K2) 3X
- 5) K all sts
- 6) (K2tog, K1) 3X

Cut color A; join color C. The remainder of the leg/foot is made with color C.

- 7) K all sts
- 8) (K2tog) 3X – placing all sts on the same dpn

Work 3 rows of an i-cord, then cut yarn. Thread through live sts, pull tightly closed. Weave in all loose ends.

Do not stuff legs. Seam them to your rat's body as pictured below. The large part of the front legs are opened slightly and project from the body to support him when standing. The large part of the back legs are flattened against the body, and point outward slightly.

Embroider eyes and nose; add whiskers.