

The Lion King of Texas



A last minute decision to be a lion at a Halloween party yielded this quick and easy knit.

Materials

- * 1 skein Worsted Weight yarn (Yarn A)
- * 1 skein Bulky yarn (Yarn B)
- * 1 skein Bulky Furry yarn (Yarn C)
- * 1 pair size 8 DPN
- * 1 tapestry needle

For this model, I used: Yarn A = Red Heart Super Saver in Warm Brown; Yarn B = Lion Brand Homespun in Rococo; Yarn C = Yarn Bee Haute Fur in Golden Lash. I probably had at least half a skein of each yarn left over at the end.

Making the Hat:

With Yarn B, cast on 90 stitches & divide across 3 needles.

K1, P1 for 3 rows

Knit for 2 rows

Switch to Yarn A and knit for 10-15 more rows.

Decrease Row: (K4, K2tog) repeat to end of row.

Knit for 2 rows

Decrease Row: (K3, K2tog) repeat to end of row.

Knit for 2 rows

Decrease Row: (K2, K2tog) repeat to end of row.

Knit for 2 rows

Decrease Row: (K1, K2tog) repeat to end of row.

Knit for 2 rows

Decrease Row: (K2tog) repeat to end of row.

Cut 8" tail on yarn and thread through remaining stitches. Pull tight to close gap. Weave in the ends.

Making the Ears:

(Make 2)

Cast on 15 stitches of Yarn A, held double.

Row 1 (RS): Knit

Row 2 (WS) & all even rows: Purl

Row 3: SSK, Knit 11, K2tog

Row 5: SSK, Knit 9, K2tog

Row 7: SSK, Knit 7, K2tog

Row 9: SSK, Knit 5, K2tog

Row 11: SSK, Knit 3, K2tog

Row 13: SSK, Knit 1, K2tog

Row 15: K3tog

Cut 8" tail & weave through remaining stitch. Weave in the ends.

Sew each ear to the top of the hat – placing the cast on row against the hat and the RS facing forward.

Making the Mane:

With the Yarn A, Yarn B & Yarn C held together, create loops of assorted lengths. Tie the loop in the center with a 6" length of Yarn A. Attach to the hat by whip stitching through the center of the loop twice onto the hat (use Yarn A). Knot the ends of the stitch yarn inside the hat.

I used a magazine and a paper back book for creating the loops. For best results, the loops should only circle the book/magazine 3-4 times. (Too much yarn in a loop & it doesn't lay right on the hat.) Attach shorter loopings to the front of the hat & longer loopings to the back & sides. Cut some loop ends so edges are exposed & leave some as loops. Fill the hat to the desired mane fullness. Once all loopings are attached and coiffed, shake the hat to fluff out the mane.

Complete the costume with a fur boa for a tail, fur "scrunchies" for the wrist cuffs & draw a nose & whiskers.

Practice roaring and delight children with a fun & simple costume!