Captain Cat-Battler the Catnip Mouse

The notorious **Captain Cat-Battler** is a veteran of cat vs mouse conflict. Since the dawn of time, rodents and their feline foe have pitted their wits against one another. Captain Cat-Battler is a handmade hero of mousekind, keeping the cats of the world on their furry toes with his cunning and his defiant squeak.

Captain Cat-Battler was designed specially for **Battersea Dogs & Cats Home**. If you use this pattern, please donate to the Home, send a mouse to befriend lonely cats waiting for new owners, or even better, adopt a cat to go with your mouse.

www.battersea.org.uk

Gubbins

- 3.5mm knitting needles
- 15g White Acrylic DK (body)
- 15g Black Acrylic DK (body, eye and eyepatch)
- 5g Pink Acrylic DK (ears, nose and tail)
- Stuffing (innards)
- Small squeaker (optional)
- Catnip pouch (optional)
- Fierce feline-fighting detemination (essential)

Size

10cm (4") approx. from nosetip to start of tail
Gauge: Not important. No one will be wearing him.

Skills you'll need

Knitting. Purling. Increasing (make 1). Basic sewing up. Very basic embroidery. Mouse making.

Abbreviations

K = knit   **P** = purl   **M1** = make one (make stitch from yarn between stitches)

Pattern

Body

Cast on 2 stitches in White
Row 1. K across
Row 2. P across
Row 3. K, m1, k (3sts)
Row 4. P across
Row 5. K, m1, k, m1, k (5 sts)
Row 6. P across
Row 7. K, m1, k3, m1, k (7 sts)
Row 8. P across
Row 9. K, m1, k5, m1, k (9 sts)
Row 10. P across
Row 11. K, m1, k7, m1, k (11 sts)
Row 12. P across
Row 13. K, m1, k9, m1, k (13 sts)
Row 14. P across
Row 15. K, m1, k11, m1, k (15 sts)
Row 16. P across

Row 17. K, m1, k13, m1, k (17 sts)
Row 18. P across
Change to Black
Row 19. K, m1, k15, m1, k (19 sts)
Row 20. P across
Change to White
Row 21. K, m1, k17, m1, k (21 sts)
Row 22. P across
Change to Black
Row 23. K, m1, k19, m1, k (23 sts)
Row 24. P across
Change to White
Row 25. K, m1, k21, m1, k (25 sts)

Row 26. P across
Change to Black
Row 27. K across
Row 28. P across
Change to White
Row 29- 35. Repeat rows 27 and 28 changing from White to Black every two rows ending in a White knit row
Row 36. P across in White
Cut about 15cm of yarn
Thread yarn through remaining stitches and draw tight to make round 'tail end' of mouse.

Ears x 2

Cast on 5 sts in Pink
Row 1. K across
Row 2. P across
Row 3. K across
Row 4. P across
Row 5 K across
Cut about 10 cm of yarn

Thread yarn through stitches and draw tight to make round part of ear.
Darn in yarn end.
Sew cast on yarn through bottom stitches and draw tight to make lower part of ear.

Finishing

1. Sew two sides of mouse body together from 'tail end' to 'nose end' (making sure your stripes match up) leaving a hole for stuffing
2. Insert stuffing (and optional squeaker and catnip) into mouse body.
3. Finish sewing body right up to the tip of the nose.
4. Sew on ears using cast on yarn ends.
5. Embroider nose with pink yarn, running end of yarn through body and out of 'tail end' to form tail.
6. Tie knot at end of tail.
7. Embroider eye and square eyepatch with band. Eyepatch band should run from left ear, across his face to first black stripe under his chin.
8. Greet your new roguish rodent with a cheery "Yaaaaaaaaaarn, me hearty!" and then launch him at the nearest cat.

> Wrap squeaker and catnip in stuffing before inserting to make sure they're squidgy and don't make your mouse lumpy.

Useful Pirate Mouse-keeping Tips

Keep watch: Be sure to keep an eye on the Captain when there be precious cheeses or gold doubloons about. He'll plunder unguarded booty afore ye know it.

Catnip cologne: Wild cat off the port bow! Captain Cat-Battler is oft spied asportin' a catnip pouch about his scurvy person. The catnip stink be havin' a strange effect on his foes, like a tot o' good rum. Makes 'em easier for him t' conquer 'em!

Cat-battling: Captain Cat-Battler won't be harmin' your cat. He'll just keep 'em amused. Every cat be needin' a bit o' swashbuckling to keep 'em happy.

www.whodunnknit.com