



Bumble Bee



I always look forward to the arrival of these industrious little creatures, ushering in all the sweetness of spring. The Bumble Bee is a fast knit that uses oddments of yarn. Make a whole buzzy swarm of these cute creatures as stocking stuffers, ornaments, or toys. This pattern also includes directions and template for making a bee with felt wings.

- Yarn:**
- Worsted weight or aran weight in yellow, white, and black
 - Tiny bit of yarn in brown (embroidery floss or DK weight yarn) for the eyes (16 inches)

Materials

- U.S. size 4 set of four double-pointed needles (or two sizes smaller than what is suggested on the yarn label)
- U.S. size 3 straight needles (or 2 double-pointed needles)
- Scissors
- Yarn needle
- Tape measure or ruler
- Stuffing (There are many choices these days: polyester fiberfill, wool roving, cotton, bamboo. In my toys, I typically use either wool roving or a bamboo / poly blend)
- Pins (optional, but very helpful)

Gauge

This is not really important in this type of project. You will want to create a tight, dense fabric so that the toy has form and structure. Knit a small swatch - if you can easily see through the stitches, you probably need to use smaller needles. By knitting a tighter fabric, you will keep the stuffing from showing or popping through the stitches.

Techniques / Abbreviations Used in this Pattern:

k - Knit

p - Purl

kfb (knit front and
back)

k2tog (knit two
stitches together)

ssk (slip stitch, slip
stitch, knit 2
stitches together
through the back
loops)

sts (stitches)

Helpful Hints:

If you find using double-pointed needles fiddly, don't despair. Try casting –on your stitches onto one needle, then sliding half onto a second needle. I usually knit the first row using three needles, then incorporate the fourth needle as I knit the second row.

Bumble Bee

Body

(Finished measurements: 2" length approx.)

With yellow worsted-weight yarn and four (size 4) double-pointed needles:

Cast on: 6 stitches, leaving a 10-inch tail

Round 1: k all stitches (2 sts per needle / 6 total)

Round 2: kfb all stitches
(4 sts per needle / 12 total)

Round 3: k all sts

Round 4: k, kfb, k2 all (5 sts per needle / 15 total)

Round 5: k all sts

Round 6: (Attach **black** yarn, leaving a 6-inch tail. Do not cut yellow yarn.)
Using the **black** yarn, knit all sts.



When knitting with more than one strand of yarn, twist the strands together at the beginning of each round, keeping the working yarn on top. It's also helpful to snug the yarn strands after knitting a few stitches, taking care to not pull too tightly or the stitches will bunch. This will help prevent gaps forming where the color switches.

Round 7: (Twist black and yellow yarn, with the black yarn on top ready to work another round.)

Using **black** yarn, k2, kfb, k2
(6 sts per needle / 18 total).

Round 8: (Twist yarn, with the yellow yarn on top).

Using **yellow** knit all sts.

Rounds 9 - 10: Using **yellow**, k all sts.

Round 11: Twist yarn. Using **black**, k all sts.

Round 12: Using **black**, k all sts.

Round 13: Twist yarn. Using **yellow**, knit all sts.

(After you complete Round 13, cut the black yarn, leaving a 5-inch tail. Weave to secure.)

You may want to start stuffing the bee, at this point. I like to use a clean paintbrush to help me maneuver the stuffing.

Bee's Body ... continuation

Decreasing Rounds

Round 1: (k2, k2tog, k2)
on each needle
(5 sts per needle)



Round 2: knit

Round 3: (k2tog, k, k2tog) on each needle (3 sts
per needle, 9 total)

Round 4: knit

Cut the yarn leaving a 6 - 7 inch tail and pull the end through the remaining stitches. Do not close the hole yet, finish stuffing the bee. When your bee has the right amount of squish, pull tight and gather the remaining stitches. Weave the end to the inside of the bee and trim any excess. This section creates the bee's rump. For the bottom hole, thread your yarn needle with the cast-on yarn tail and pick-up every other stitch; pull tight to close the hole. Weave in the yarn through any gaps, then trim excess yarn.



Eyes (make 2)

Cut two 8-inch pieces of dk or light worsted weight yarn. Each piece makes one eye.

To create the eye, take one 8-inch segment and tie it loosely (See pictures - red yarn used in picture for better visibility). Do not pull tight yet. Then tie it two additional times (for a total of 3). Pull the knot tight—this forms the eye.



You may want to place two pins to mark where the bee's eyes should go. Once this is determined, insert yarn needle threaded with "eye" yarn into the bee, positioning the knot as the eye. Do not fully weave in yarn until you are satisfied with how your bee looks.



Wings (make 2)

(Finished measurements: roughly 1/2" length x 1" wide)

With white yarn and two (size 3) needles:

Cast on: 2 stitches, leaving a 6-inch tail

Needle 1

Row 1: kfb, k (3 sts total)

Row 2: knit. Cut yarn, leaving a 5-inch tail.

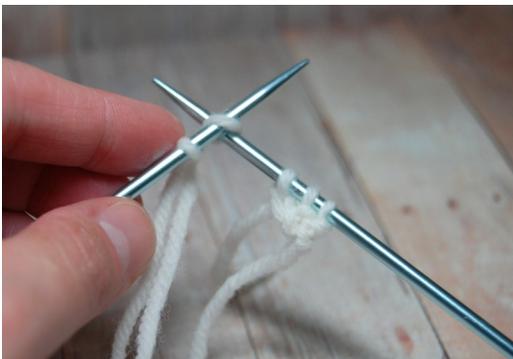


Needle 2

Cast on: 2 stitches with the same white yarn, leaving a 6-inch tail

Row 1: Using the other needle (needle 1) as your working needle,

kfb, k (6 sts on needle 1)



Row 2: knit all stitches (You will now be connecting the two segments together. Gently pull yarn tail to tighten the stitches.)



Row 3: knit all stitches.

Row 4: k2, k2tog, k2 (5 sts total)

Row 5: ssk, k, k2tog (3 sts)

Row 6: k, k2tog, slip 1st stitch over 2nd stitch to bind-off. (1 stitch) Cut yarn, leaving 6-inch tail, and pull through remaining stitch to secure.

When you are finished knitting the wing, weave the yarn tails from the top of the wing (you will have three) down to the bound-off point. These tails will be used to attach the wing to the body or just woven into the bee's body to hide them away. Wait until you have finished the bees eyes to attach wings onto the body.



If you find the wings too fiddly, cut wings out of felt and attach with sewing thread. See wing template on page 5.

Finishing your Bumble Bee

Attaching the Wings

Using the bee's eyes as a guide, pin the wings to the top of the bee's body. I position the wings slightly closer than the eye spacing. See picture for reference.



Once you've determined the correct spacing, thread yarn needle with a wing yarn tail and secure wing to the body. I stitch in both the front and back of the wing for added security. Once the wing is attached, weave all other yarn tails to the inside of the bee's body and trim excess.



If this is a toy for a small child, make sure to weave in excess yarn several times to fully secure each object.

Template for Felt Wings

If you would prefer to skip knitting the little wings, just cut some simple wings out of felt, using the actual-size template below. Stitch the wings on with a regular sewing needle and thread following the same placement as for the knitted wings (on page 4). I like to stitch on both sides of the wing for added security.

