FREE PATTERN

Bilby Bunting Motif

A complete free knitting pattern from AlandTina



From Aussie Bunting Vol 1

One of 12 Aussie bunting motif knitting patterns

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Materials

DK weight (8-ply) yarn in the colours given per pattern (about 20–30 g of the main colour per motif); 3.25 mm (US 3) double-pointed needles (set of 4) or an 80 cm circular needle for magic loop; polyester fiberfill stuffing; 6 mm black safety eyes (or black embroidery thread); tapestry needle; stitch markers; scissors; small amounts of black and brown embroidery thread for noses and mouths. For the garland: 3 m (10 ft) of 3–4 mm braided cotton cord, a large-eye tapestry needle, and optional wooden beads.

Gauge

22 sts × 28 rows = 10 cm / 4 in in stockinette stitch. Exact gauge is not critical for these motifs — knit tightly enough that the stuffing does not show through.

Abbreviations

CO	cast on
k	knit
p	purl
k2tog	knit 2 together
kfb	knit front and back
st(s)	stitch(es)
rnd	round
rep	repeat
*** ***	repeat instructions between asterisks
BO	bind off
dpn	double-pointed needle(s)
pm	place marker
MB	make bobble (see Techniques)

Techniques

All round pieces are knitted in the round on dpns or a long circular needle (magic loop). Join CO sts carefully without twisting. Stuff pieces firmly before the final decrease rounds — each pattern tells you exactly when. Sew pieces together with mattress stitch using a tapestry needle and the long yarn tails you left.

Make bobble (MB): (k1, p1, k1, p1, k1) all into the next st, turn, p5, turn, k5, turn, p2tog, p1, p2tog, turn, k3tog — one bobble made, back to 1 st.

Reading these patterns

- Every round states its stitch count in **parentheses** — check yours matches before moving on.
- Work all pieces in stockinette stitch (knit every round) unless told otherwise.
- Leave a 15 cm (6 in) tail when fastening off each piece for sewing up later.

A note on safety eyes

Safety eyes give the sweetest finish, but they are not safe for children under 3. For motifs that small children may handle, embroider the eyes instead with black yarn or thread (French knots or satin-stitch ovals), following the same placement given in each pattern.

Garland Assembly Guide

String all twelve motifs into one finished garland about 2.5–3 m (8–10 ft) long. The same method works for every volume in this series.

What you need for the garland

- **Cotton cord** — 3 m (10 ft) of 3–4 mm braided cotton cord or macramé cord in a colour that suits your décor (natural, cream, red or green for Christmas).
- **Tapestry needle** with a large eye to thread the cord.
- Sharp **scissors** and a tape measure or ruler.
- **Optional:** wooden beads to space the motifs, and two small adhesive hooks or nails for hanging.

Hanging loop — knit one per motif

Cut a 30 cm (12 in) strand of matching yarn and double it. Hold the looped end while a friend (or a doorknob) holds the two cut ends — or anchor one end under something heavy. Twist the doubled strand until it kinks back on itself, then fold it in half and let the two halves twist together into a cord about 8 cm (3 in) long. Knot the ends together. Sew the knotted end very securely to the top of each motif's head with the tapestry needle, weaving the end well inside.

Stringing your garland

1. Lay the twelve finished motifs out in the order you like (see **Layout ideas** below).
2. Cut your cord to 3 m (10 ft) — this leaves generous 25–30 cm (10–12 in) tails at each end for the hanging loops.
3. Thread the tapestry needle with the cord and pass it through each motif's hanging loop in turn, **or** tie each loop to the cord with a small overhand knot if you want the motifs fixed in place.
4. Space the motifs **15–20 cm (6–8 in) apart**, starting 30 cm (12 in) in from each end. Slide knotted motifs along the cord until the spacing looks even.
5. Tie a 10 cm (4 in) loop at each end of the cord for hanging over hooks or nails.

Layout ideas

- **Vol 1 (animals):** alternate dark and light motifs — e.g. koala, kangaroo, wombat, quokka — so no two neighbours blend together.
- **Vol 2 (babies):** group the tiniest motifs toward the centre so the garland swags gently, or arrange in a soft rainbow of your yarn colours.
- **Vol 3 (Christmas):** put the gold star in the centre, the tree and stocking at the two ends, and the Santa-hat animals between.

Finishing & care

• Steam flat pieces (ears, wings, tails) lightly under a damp cloth so they lie neatly — never press 3D pieces flat.

• If a motif spins on the cord, add a tiny stitch through the cord into the back of the motif to hold it facing forward.

• Store the garland loosely coiled in tissue paper. Spot-clean motifs with a damp cloth; do not machine wash.

Your finished garland should look something like this:





Pattern 10

Bilby

Blue-grey, with very long pink-lined ears

Yarn	Blue-grey DK, approx 25 g; pink DK, small amount (inner ears); white DK, small amount (tail tip); black embroidery thread.
Pieces	Body, head, 2 flat outer ears, 2 pink inner ears, 2 arms, 2 legs, two-colour tail.
Finished size	About 4 in (10 cm) tall including ears
Difficulty	Intermediate

The bilby's ears are its glory — knit the long outer ears flat, then the smaller pink linings, and sew the pink just inside the blue-grey. Worth every stitch.

BODY (blue-grey)

CO 6 sts, join in the round, pm (6 sts)

Rnd 1: Kfb in each st **(12 sts)**

Rnd 2: *K1, kfb* rep 6 times **(18 sts)**

Rnd 3: K **(18 sts)**

Rnd 4: *K5, kfb* rep 3 times **(21 sts)**

Rnds 5-6: K 2 rnds **(21 sts)**

Rnd 7: *K5, k2tog* rep 3 times **(18 sts)**

Rnd 8: *K1, k2tog* rep 6 times — stuff firmly now **(12 sts)**

Rnd 9: *K2tog* rep 6 times **(6 sts)**

Cut yarn, thread tail through rem 6 sts, pull tight; weave end inside (6 sts)

HEAD (blue-grey)

CO 6 sts, join in the round, pm (6 sts)

Rnd 1: Kfb in each st **(12 sts)**

Rnd 2: *K2, kfb* rep 4 times **(16 sts)**

Rnd 3: K **(16 sts)**

Rnd 4: *K7, kfb* rep 2 times **(18 sts)**

Rnds 5-6: K 2 rnds **(18 sts)**

Rnd 7: *K7, k2tog* rep 2 times **(16 sts)**

Rnd 8: *K2, k2tog* rep 4 times — stuff firmly now **(12 sts)**

Rnd 9: *K2tog* rep 6 times **(6 sts)**

Cut yarn, thread tail through rem 6 sts, pull tight; weave end inside (6 sts)

OUTER EARS — make 2 (blue-grey, worked flat)

CO 7 sts (7 sts)

Row 1: K **(7 sts)**

Row 2: P **(7 sts)**

Row 3: Kfb, k5, kfb **(9 sts)**

Row 4: P **(9 sts)**

Rows 5-10: Work in stockinette st (k odd rows, p even rows) **(9 sts)**

Row 11: K2tog, k5, k2tog **(7 sts)**

Row 12: P **(7 sts)**

Row 13: K2tog, k3, k2tog **(5 sts)**

BO loosely (5 sts)

INNER EARS — make 2 (pink, worked flat)

CO 5 sts (5 sts)

Rows 1-6: Work in stockinette st (k odd rows, p even rows) **(5 sts)**

Row 7: K2tog, k1, k2tog **(3 sts)**

BO loosely (3 sts)

ARMS — make 2 (blue-grey)

CO 6 sts, join in the round, pm (6 sts)

Rnds 1-3: K 3 rnds **(6 sts)**

Cut yarn, thread tail through rem 6 sts, pull tight (6 sts)

LEGS — make 2 (blue-grey)

CO 6 sts, join in the round, pm (6 sts)

Rnd 1: *K2, kfb* rep 2 times **(8 sts)**

Rnd 2: K **(8 sts)**

Rnd 3: *K2, k2tog* rep 2 times **(6 sts)**

Cut yarn, thread tail through rem 6 sts, pull tight (6 sts)

TAIL (blue-grey with white tip)

With blue-grey, CO 6 sts, join in the round, pm (6 sts)

Rnd 1: *K2, kfb* rep 2 times **(8 sts)**

Rnds 2-4: K 3 rnds **(8 sts)**

Rnds 5-7: With white, K 3 rnds **(8 sts)**

Rnd 8: *K2, k2tog* rep 2 times **(6 sts)**

Cut yarn, thread tail through rem 6 sts, pull tight (6 sts)

Assembly

1. Sew the head to the top of the body. Sew a pink inner ear to the front of each outer ear, then sew the ears upright to the top of the head.
2. Face: place safety eyes (or French knots) 5 sts apart. Embroider a tiny pink nose with a short mouth line beneath.
3. Sew the arms to the sides, the legs to the lower front, and the tail to the lower back with the white tip showing.
4. Knit a hanging loop (Garland Assembly Guide, page 3) and sew it between the ears.

On the garland

Those long ears need headroom — hang the bilby where nothing crowds it from above, and give it 20 cm (8 in) of cord on each side.

One down, 11 to go!

This free pattern is one of 12 in
Aussie Bunting Vol 1

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