FREE PATTERN

Kookaburra Tea Cosy

A complete free knitting pattern from AlandTina



From Aussie Tea Cozies Vol 1

One of 12 Aussie tea cosy knitting patterns

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Materials

Worsted weight (#4 / 10-ply) yarn in the colours given per pattern (about 120–150 g / 4–5 oz of the main colour per cozy, plus small amounts of contrast colours for the 3D details); US 8 (5 mm) straight needles or a 24 in (60 cm) circular needle for the two body panels; US 7 (4.5 mm) double-pointed needles (set of 4) for ears, beaks, tails and other small 3D parts; polyester fiberfill stuffing for the 3D pieces; tapestry needle; stitch markers; scissors; black and brown embroidery thread (or fine yarn) for faces.

Gauge

18 sts x 24 rows = 4 in (10 cm) in stockinette stitch on US 8 (5 mm) needles. Check your gauge: at this gauge each 54-stitch panel measures 12 in (30 cm) wide, giving a finished cozy of about 24 in (61 cm) around — a relaxed fit over a standard 6-cup teapot. If your knitting is much tighter or looser, change needle size to match.

Abbreviations

CO	cast on
k	knit
p	purl
k2tog	knit 2 together (decrease 1 st)
kfb	knit front and back (increase 1 st)
st(s)	stitch(es)
rep	repeat
*** ***	repeat instructions between asterisks
RS / WS	right side / wrong side
pm	place marker
dpn	double-pointed needle(s)

3D Shaping Technique Notes

Working small pieces in the round

Ears, beaks, tails and other 3D details are knitted in the round on double-pointed needles. Divide the cast-on stitches over 3 needles, join carefully without twisting, and place a marker for the start of the round. Knit every round for stockinette. Small circumferences feel fiddly for the first round or two — that is normal.

Bobbles (for spines and texture)

Work (k1, p1, k1) all into the next stitch — 3 sts made from 1 — then on the following row or round, k3tog over those 3 sts to return to 1 st. Each bobble pops out as one soft nub on the right side of the work.

Stuffing and sewing 3D parts

Stuff each closed piece firmly before its final decrease rounds — each pattern tells you exactly when. Add stuffing in small pinches and use the blunt end of a dpn to push it into beaks and snouts. Close pieces by threading the tail through the remaining stitches and pulling tight. Sew pieces on with mattress stitch using the long tails left on each piece, pinning with safety pins first to check placement.

Face embroidery

Work faces with 2 strands of embroidery thread (or 1 strand of DK yarn). Eyes: French knots or small satin-stitch ovals. Noses: satin stitch — lay flat parallel stitches until the shape is filled. Mouths and smiles: backstitch in small even stitches, curving as directed. Sleepy or closed eyes: two short downward curves.

Teapot Sizing Guide

These cozies are sized for a **standard 6-cup teapot**: about 22–24 in (56–61 cm) around the belly and up to about 7.5 in (19 cm) of body height below the lid. The finished cozy measures about 24 in (61 cm) around and 8.5 in (21.5 cm) tall — a relaxed, insulating fit that still lets the lid sit properly.

- **Smaller (4-cup) pot:** cast on 48 sts per panel and work the dome as *k6, k2tog* (42), *k5, k2tog* (36), *k4, k2tog* (30), *k3, k2tog* (24), *k2, k2tog* (18), *k1, k2tog* (12), *k2tog* (6).
- **Larger (8-cup) pot:** cast on 60 sts per panel and work the dome as *k8, k2tog* (54), then continue the standard decreases from 54 sts.
- When sewing the side seams, always leave one 2 in (5 cm) opening on each side — one for the spout, one for the handle.

Reading these patterns

- Every row and round states its stitch count in **parentheses** — check yours matches before moving on.
- The two body panels are worked flat (back and forth). Small 3D details are worked in the round unless the pattern says ‘worked flat’.
- Leave a 20 cm (8 in) tail when fastening off each 3D piece for sewing up later.

General assembly order

1. Knit the **two body panels** and seam them (see each pattern's ‘Cozy body’ section), leaving the spout and handle openings.
2. Knit **all 3D pieces**, stuffing where the pattern indicates.
3. Sew on **ears, tails, feet, wings and accessories** first, pinning to check placement.
4. Do the **face last** — eyes, nose and mouth — so the expression sits straight.
5. Try the cozy on your teapot and adjust the side-seam openings if needed.

Pattern 1: Kookaburra

The laughing bush icon

Pattern at a glance

Skill level	Confident beginner
Fits	Standard 6-cup teapot (belly 22–24 in / 56–61 cm, body up to about 7.5 in / 19 cm tall)
Yarn	Cream worsted, approx 110 g; chocolate brown worsted, approx 40 g; orange-brown worsted, small amount (beak); black embroidery thread.
Needles	US 8 (5 mm) straight needles or 24 in circular for panels; US 7 (4.5 mm) dpns for small 3D parts

A cheerful kookaburra cozy with a long rust-coloured beak, perky head tuft and brown-tipped tail feathers. The panels are plain cream so the face and beak do all the talking.

COZY BODY — FRONT PANEL (worked flat)

CO: Cast on 54 sts with cream. **(54 sts)**

Rows 1–4: Knit 4 rows (garter stitch — keeps the base from curling). **(54 sts)**

Row 5 (WS): Purl across. **(54 sts)**

Rows 6–35: Work in stockinette stitch (knit RS rows, purl WS rows) — 30 rows. **(54 sts)**

Row 36 (RS): *K7, k2tog* — repeat to end of row. **(48 sts)**

Row 37 (WS): Purl across. **(48 sts)**

Row 38 (RS): *K6, k2tog* — repeat to end of row. **(42 sts)**

Row 39 (WS): Purl across. **(42 sts)**

Row 40 (RS): *K5, k2tog* — repeat to end of row. **(36 sts)**

Row 41 (WS): Purl across. **(36 sts)**

Row 42 (RS): *K4, k2tog* — repeat to end of row. **(30 sts)**

Row 43 (WS): Purl across. **(30 sts)**

Row 44 (RS): *K3, k2tog* — repeat to end of row. **(24 sts)**

Row 45 (WS): Purl across. **(24 sts)**

Row 46 (RS): *K2, k2tog* — repeat to end of row. **(18 sts)**

Row 47 (WS): Purl across. **(18 sts)**

Row 48 (RS): *K1, k2tog* — repeat to end of row. **(12 sts)**

Row 49 (WS): Purl across. **(12 sts)**

Row 50 (RS): *K2tog* across the row. **(6 sts)**

Finish: Cut yarn, thread tail through remaining 6 sts, pull tight and fasten off. Weave in the cast-on tail. **(6 sts)**

COZY BODY — BACK PANEL (worked flat)

Note: Work exactly as the front panel. **(54 sts)**

SEAMING THE PANELS

Seam: Place the two panels with right sides together. Using mattress stitch and matching yarn, sew 3.5 in (9 cm) up from the base on each side, leave a 2 in (5 cm) opening on each side for the spout and handle, then sew the remaining top section closed on each side. Weave in all ends. **(54 sts)**

BEAK (orange-brown)

CO: Cast on 6 sts with orange-brown; join to work in the round, pm. **(6 sts)**

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

Rnds 2–7: Knit 6 rounds. **(12 sts)**

Stuff: Stuff lightly with fiberfill now. **(12 sts)**

Rnd 4: *K2tog* around. **(6 sts)**

Rnd 5: *K2tog* around. **(3 sts)**

Finish: Cut yarn, thread tail through remaining sts, pull tight and fasten off. Leave a 20 cm (8 in) tail for sewing. **(3 sts)**

HEAD TUFTS (cream) — make 3

CO: Cast on 4 sts with cream; join to work in the round, pm. **(4 sts)**

Rnds 1–3: Knit 3 rounds. **(4 sts)**

Finish: Cut yarn, thread tail through remaining sts, pull tight and fasten off. Leave a 20 cm (8 in) tail for sewing. **(4 sts)**

WINGS (chocolate brown, worked flat) — make 2

CO: Cast on 10 sts with chocolate brown. **(10 sts)**

Rows 1–6: Work in stockinette stitch (knit RS rows, purl WS rows) — 6 rows. **(10 sts)**

Row 7 (RS): K2tog, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog. **(8 sts)**

Row 8 (WS): Purl across. **(8 sts)**

Row 9 (RS): K2tog, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog. **(6 sts)**

Row 10 (WS): Purl across. **(6 sts)**

Row 11 (RS): K2tog, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog. **(4 sts)**

Row 12 (WS): Purl across. **(4 sts)**

Row 13 (RS): K2tog, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog. **(2 sts)**

Row 14 (WS): Purl across. **(2 sts)**

Finish: Cut yarn, thread tail through remaining sts, pull tight and fasten off. Leave a 20 cm (8 in) tail for sewing. **(2 sts)**

TAIL FEATHERS (chocolate brown, worked flat)

CO: Cast on 12 sts with chocolate brown. **(12 sts)**

Rows 1–8: Work in stockinette stitch (knit RS rows, purl WS rows) — 8 rows. **(12 sts)**

Row 9 (RS): K2tog, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog. **(10 sts)**

Row 10 (WS): Purl across. **(10 sts)**

Row 11 (RS): K2tog, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog. **(8 sts)**

Row 12 (WS): Purl across. **(8 sts)**

Row 13 (RS): K2tog, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog. **(6 sts)**

Row 14 (WS): Purl across. **(6 sts)**

Row 15 (RS): K2tog, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog. **(4 sts)**

Row 16 (WS): Purl across. **(4 sts)**

Row 17 (RS): K2tog, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog. **(2 sts)**

Row 18 (WS): Purl across. **(2 sts)**

Finish: Cut yarn, thread tail through remaining sts, pull tight and fasten off. Leave a 20 cm (8 in) tail for sewing. **(2 sts)**

Assembly

1. Sew the beak to the upper front of the finished cozy, pointing forward and very slightly down, centred.

2. Face: embroider two French-knot eyes (or small satin-stitch ovals) above the beak, about 8 sts apart. Add a short curved brow line above each eye in brown.

3. Sew the three head tufts to the top of the cozy in a little row, just behind where the lid knob will sit.

4. Sew a wing to each side panel, angled slightly downward; sew the tail feathers to the back panel near the base, fanning outward.

5. Try the cozy on your teapot and check the beak clears the lid.

One down, 11 to go!

This free pattern is one of 12 in
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