The Abominable Snowman, or Yeti, is Bigfoot’s white-haired cousin. Roaming the chilly mountains of the Himalayas, this elusive creature leaves little evidence of its presence, except the odd huge footprint.

Interest in the Abominable Snowman peaked in the 1950s, when several Everest expedition parties reported seeing mysterious footprints high up on the mountain, bringing Yeti-hunting parties out in force. Definitive evidence was never presented, but to this day, determined Yeti hunters live in hope of proving the existence of this man–monster, once and for all.

Fur stitch, which is used for this particular monster, can be tricky to get to grips with at first, but you’ll soon be working loops like a pro. It’s a great stitch to learn and worth the effort! If you’re really baffled, look up an instructional video on the Internet or ask someone in the know to show you the ropes; it’s much easier once you’ve actually seen it. For a different effect, you can cut the loops to make the fur lie flatter, and even brush the yarn with a wire brush for an extra-furry effect.
You will need:
- 4mm (size 6) double-pointed bamboo needles (dpns)
- 3 balls DK yarn in ecru/natural (Sirdar Eco Wool in ecru is used here)
- White tooth-shaped beads (white turquoise chips are used here) or white DK yarn
- 7-count plastic canvas
- Polyester fibre toy stuffing
- 2 x 9mm (3/8in) black toy safety eyes
- Black felt
- Tapestry needle
- Ecru or white mohair (Debbie Bliss Angel in ecru used here)
- Black cotton thread

Bamboo needles

Attempting the fur stitch in the round (right), on slippery metal needles may prove difficult, so you could try using bamboo needles as the stitches slip off the needles much less readily.

Fur stitch

The legs and arms for the Abominable Snowman are worked in the fur stitch, which is worked over 4 rows. There are several variations on how to create the fur, or loop, stitch, and any one of them will work equally well here; however, the one used for this project is as follows:

1. Knit 1 row.
2. *K1, k1 but before completing new stitch (keeping stitch on left-hand needle) bring yarn forward, pass yarn around left thumb to make a loop, yb, and knit into the stitch again, slip it off the needle and pass the first stitch over. From here onwards, this will be referred to in the pattern as Make Loop (ML).* Repeat to end.
3. Knit 1 row.
4. *ML, k1* repeat.

These four rows equal one repeat fur stitch.

Legs (make 2):

On 4mm (size 6) needles, cast on 5 stitches in ecru DK and divide the stitches for knitting in the round.

1. Knit 1 round.
2. Kfb in every stitch (10 st).
3. Knit 1 round.
4. K1, kfb around (20 st).
5. Knit 1 round.
6. K2, kfb around (30 st).
7. Knit 1 round.
8. K2, kfb around (40 st).
9. Knit 1 round.

10. Work fur stitch for 4 repeats (16 rows).
11. Cut out a 2in (5cm) diameter circle of plastic canvas, turn leg inside out and sew securely to the inside base of the foot. Turn right-side out and lightly stuff the foot.
12. *K4, k2tog* 6 times, k4 (34 st).
15. Work 2nd, 3rd and 4th rounds of fur stitch.
17. *K2, k2tog* 6 times, k4 (22 st).
18. Work 2nd, 3rd and 4th rounds of fur stitch.
22. Work fur stitch for 2 repeats.

Body/head:

When both legs are made, take the 16 stitches of the first leg and divide them between two needles – 8 stitches front, 8 stitches back. Repeat for the second leg. Knit across the front 8 stitches of one leg, cast on 3 stitches using backward loop cast on (this creates a space between the legs to make it easier to sew them up later), then knit across the front 8 stitches of second leg.

1. *K4, k2tog* 4 times, k2 (32 st).
2. Knit 4 rounds.

The needles must now be repositioned so that the rows begin at centre back. To do this, slip the first 8 stitches onto a new needle, then the next 8 stitches onto another needle. The remaining stitches should go onto a third needle. Break the yarn and rejoin at the second set of 8 stitches to begin knitting in the round.

3. Kfb, k3, kfb, k3, kfb, k14, kfb, k3, kfb, k3, kfb (38 st).
4. Knit 1 round.
5. Kfb, k4, kfb, k4, kfb, k16, kfb, k4, kfb, k4, kfb (44 st).
6. Knit 1 round.
7. Kfb, k5, kfb, k5, kfb, k18, kfb, k5, kfb, k5, kfb (50 st).
8. Knit 1 round.
9. Kfb, k6, kfb, k6, kfb, k20, kfb, k6, kfb, k6 (56 st).
10. Knit 1 round.
11. Kfb, k7, kfb, k7, kfb, k22, kfb, k7, kfb, k7 (62 st).
12. Knit 1 round.
13. Kfb, k8, kfb, k8, kfb, k24, kfb, k8, kfb, k8 (68 st).
14. Knit 1 round.
15. Kfb, k9, kfb, k9, kfb, k26, kfb, k9, kfb, k9 (74 st).
16. Knit 1 round.
17. Kfb, k5, kfb, k10, kfb, k12, kfb, k10, kfb, k10 (80 st).
18. Knit 1 round.
19. Kfb, k11, kfb, k11, kfb, k30, kfb, k11, kfb, k11 (86 st).
20. Knit 1 round.
21. Kfb, k12, kfb, k12, kfb (90 st).
22. Knit 1 round.
23. K2tog around (40 st).
24. Knit 1 round.
25. K2tog around (20 st).
26. Position and affix the safety eyes.
27. Knit 1 round.
28. Cut yarn, leaving a long tail. Thread a tapestry needle and run it through the remaining stitches. Top up the head with stuffing before pulling firmly closed.
Arms (make 2)
Cast on 5 stitches in ecru DK and divide for knitting in the round.

1. Knit 1 round.
2. Kfb in every stitch (10 st).
3. Knit 1 round.
4. Kfb in every stitch (20 st).
5. Knit 1 round.
6. K1, kfb around (30 st).
7. Work fur stitch for 2 repeats.
8. K3, k2tog around (24 st).
10. K2, k2tog around (18 st).
12. K1, k2tog around (12 st).
15. Knit 3 rounds in stockinette stitch.

To assemble

Step 1
Stuff the hands lightly and sew the arms to the body.

Step 2
Cut out a piece of black felt for the mouth. Use six to eight white tooth-shaped beads for teeth – position them in the mouth and sew in place. Alternatively, use white yarn to embroider teeth onto the black felt. Attach the felt patch to the face and sew firmly in place with black cotton thread.

Step 3
Using mohair yarn, knot lengths of thread randomly all over head to make wispy hair. Trim to length, leaving some long pieces.

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