



Bear Pattern: Gorgeous Greengrass

Designed by April Dobson, this cute little ted is certain to make your heart beat

Greengrass is an endearing standing bear with a whimsical smile. Standing 24cm (9 1/2") tall his distressed mohair gives him a burly appearance. His large pronounced nose and inset eyes all add to his appeal. Whether you choose to leave him undressed or give him a cosy pullover he'll make a stunning new recruit to any collection. This pattern is simple enough for a beginner to follow so waste no time, hit your haberdashery today.



YOU WILL NEED

- 1/4m of sparse or short straight mohair
- Three pairs of 25mm cotter pin joints (two for the legs and one for the head)
- Two pairs of 15mm cotter pin joints for the arms
- One pair of 5mm glass eyes
- Sewing thread to match the colour of the backing fabric
- Strong thread for attaching the ears and eyes and hand finishing seams
- Nose thread
- Polyester filler
- Small quantity of glass beads or lead shot
- Material for paw pads. The reverse side of the mohair was used in this pattern but you may prefer to use ultrasuede or felt.

STEP BY STEP

1. Trace all the pattern pieces and transfer them onto thin card, remembering to mark the points indicated for the joints and openings. A 3mm (1/4") seam allowance is included on all the pattern pieces. Identify the direction of the pile of the mohair you have chosen and place the pattern pieces on the material, following the direction of the arrows. Draw round all the pattern pieces on the reverse side of the mohair using a pencil or pen remembering to mark the joint positions. Repeat this method for the paw pads.
2. Cut out the pads and paws, then cut out the rest of the pattern pieces using sharp, pointed scissors. Cut the backing carefully avoiding the pile by using the points of the scissors. Next cut out two card footpad inserts. Don't worry if these are smaller than the footpads, as they are designed to fit inside the foot once it has been sewn.
3. Trim away 0.5cm (1/4") of mohair around all the edges of the pattern pieces. With right sides together, stitch the side head pieces from the tip of the nose to the neck. Pin the head gusset in place and stitch. With right sides together pin and sew around the ear, leaving open where indicated. Next pin and sew the paw pads to the inner arms, then attach the inner arm to the outer arm, leaving a gap as shown for jointing and filling.
4. With right sides together, pin and sew the legs together leaving a gap as shown for filling. Leave the feet open in order to attach the foot pads. Line up the centre front and back markings on the pads with the front and back leg seams and pin. Pin all the way round the foot pad. Place the leg pad downwards (as though the bear is standing up) on the sewing machine plate and sew around the foot. Pin together and sew darts A to B, and C to D on each of the body pieces. With right sides together pin and sew the body pieces together, leaving a gap as shown for stuffing and an opening at the neck for jointing.
5. Comb out all the seams of each of the parts from the wrong side first of all. This ensures that no unnecessary tufts of hair poke through to the right side. Turn all the pieces the right side out and comb the seams again. Using

polyester and a stuffing tool, fill the head firmly. Begin with the nose area first using small amounts at a time. Assemble one half of the cotter pin and place in the neck with the pin sticking out. Sew a running stitch around the bottom of the neck edge using doubled strong thread. Pull up tightly to encompass the joint. Make several tight back stitches around the gathered area and fasten off.

6. Using two glass headed pins, experiment with different eye positions. Once you have decided on the look you want, make two holes with an awl and attach the eyes. Pin the ears on at a variety of different angles. Once you're happy with their position, attach them using ladder stitch. Work along the inside of the ear first and then down the outside. Once in place release any trapped fur with your needle and comb.

7. Neaten up the muzzle area by trimming away the fur around the nose and mouth. Many different looks can be achieved by trimming either more or less hair away. Using the nose thread, mark out the position of the nose with a few horizontal and vertical stitches to give yourself a guide. Work from top to bottom, finishing with the mouth.

8. Sew a running stitch around the neck, pull up tightly and fasten off. Make a hole in the middle of the gathered area with the awl. Pass the cotterpin from the head through the hole in the neck and secure the joint from the inside of the neck with long nose pliers. Make small holes in the points you marked on the inside of the legs and arms and insert one half of the cotter pin joint from the inside of each of the four limbs. Make four holes on the points you marked on the body and attach the limbs. Secure the joints from the inside of the body using long nose pliers.

9. Place the card inserts into the feet, these form the base for the foot which will help Greengrass to stand upright. Sew together two small squares of cotton, leaving a gap along one of the seams. Stuff the square with your choice of filling then secure the seam firmly. Fill the toe with a small amount of polyester filler then push the cotton square as far as it will go into the toe area. Fill the rest of the foot and leg firmly with polyester and ladder stitch close. Using strong thread ladder stitch the gaps closed. Next stuff the arms with polyester but not quite as firmly as the legs. Now fill the body beginning with the bottom and neck area. You could place pellets or beads in the base of his tummy and then top up with polyester filling and ladder stitch closed.

10. To complete Greengrass you could dress him in a cosy knitted jumper or jacket. If you're not handy with knitting needles you could probably find a natty outfit at a bear fair. Alternatively many companies provide wonderful clothing by mail order.

HINTS AND TIPS

- The size, shape and positioning of the nose can completely change the face of your bear. The easiest way to try out various looks is to cut a template of felt into a shield or rectangle shape and place it in position on the face. This way you will be able to decide whether it is too big or small and the correct colour. Once you are satisfied with its style you can glue it into position, leave it to dry and then embroider over it. This process creates a more prominent snout with a strong outline.
- Another way to change the appearance of your bear is to trim the fur around its muzzle. I tend to cut away a small amount of fur from the edges of the head pieces prior to sewing them together to make the seams look as neat as possible. Once the head is completed you should trim away very small amounts of fur at a time, hair by hair if necessary. The tips of some sharp pointed scissors are ideal for this job and often leave a slightly bristly surface. For a smoother look you could try plucking the hair out with tweezers. Tip the head upside down regularly to check that you have trimmed an even amount of fur from both sides.

BEAR FACTS

For more information on April Bears call 01525 210 200.

Your templates
Enlarge pattern
pieces by 110%

Top Tip

Lengthen the leg at the
ankle using the pattern
piece to make longer legs
for a "sitting" bear.

**INSERT
FOR
FOOT-
PAD**

Cut 2 in card

PAW PAD

Cut 2
(1 reverse)

**JOINT
POSITION**

INNER ARM

Cut 2
(1 reverse)



