

Loopy Leg Technique for Knitted Peeps

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Starting at the nose, I knit the peep in the round, all in one piece, from nose to tail, including the tail, legs, ears and nose.

For example, for an elephant, I would knit a tube for the trunk in the round, and then increase evenly around for the face, till I have the diameter that I want the head to be.

For a piggy, I would knit a rectangle, and then pick up stitches around it, and then knit in the round (see pattern for Petunia), increasing in the same way as for the elephant's face.

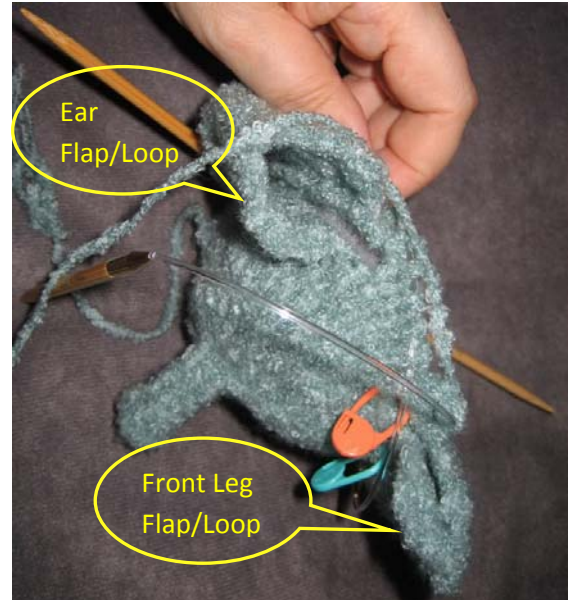
When I get to where I want his ears, I decide on the number of stitches I want the ear to be attached by, and knit back and forth on that number of stitches (instead of



continuing the round), making a flap the size and shape of the ear that I want, by using increases and decreases, in

the same way as you would knit one side of an ear that is made in two pieces.

When I reach the top of the ear, I don't end off, I continue making the back of the ear, reversing the steps that I took to shape the front.



Then I fold the ear down to the rest of the body into a loop, and continue in the round, stopping to make another ear flap (or loop) for the second ear at the desired location.

I continue knitting in the round for the rest of his head/neck, and when I reach the point where I want his front legs, I make a flap in the same way that I make the ear flaps, on the number of stitches required to make the leg the width desired, increasing and decreasing as necessary, to make the shape desired. First knitting the front side, then making any adjustments necessary for a foot shape, then knit the back side of the leg, in the reverse shaping of the front side.

At this point I fold the leg flap over into a loop from front to back, and then continue knitting in the round till I get to where I want the second leg (it may be just one or two stitches before starting the 2nd leg flap, or however many needed to make the desired space between the legs). Then do the same thing for the second leg. After folding the 2nd leg flap into a loop, I continue in the round till I get to the start of the first leg flap again. Then continue to knit the stitches across the end of the first flap, and the rest of the round, connecting the legs to this round of the body.



I've done this several times with knitted peeps, and also with a crocheted one, and it still seems like magic that the legs are round and 3D, instead of flat pancakes!! I don't get how it works, but it does!

Continue knitting in rounds till you get to the point where you want to add the hind legs, and then repeat the loop making process, making them the same way you made the front legs, and making sure that you line them up with the front legs, and then continue knitting in rounds for a few rounds.

You are connecting the flaps to just 2 rounds of knitting, but the legs are still nice and rounded. Their diameter seems dependent on how many stitches you go across (including any increasing you do for shaping, etc.), rather than the fact that you are only doing this across 2 rounds. (See my knitted versions Petunia and Elvin, and crocheted version, Abraham at www.flickr.com/knittycat, or www.knittycat.vox.com to see that the legs can be thicker or narrower, and the ears can be as wide as you like.)



At this point, I cut a length of yarn from the other end of the skein and stitch the sides of the legs and ears closed. You could wait till you are nearly done to stitch them - till he is nearly finished being stuffed, but before you close up. You could wait till he's all stuffed and closed, but you need to add stuffing to the legs after they're stitched, so I think it's better to do the stitching before you close up his bum. But it's your preference

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our sites:

www.theknittycat.com

Peeps knitting tips Blog

www.knittycat.net

Peeps pics on Flickr

www.flickr.com/anthor

Duncan (and Pudgie's!) photos on Flickr

www.esunbeams.com

our joint site - poems, affirmations, etc.

Continue knitting in rounds till you get a bum the size you want, decreasing as desired, down to the size of tail you want, and knit the tail in the round, or as an I-cord, or whatever is appropriate for the tail you are making