

TARRAGON

THE GENTLE DRAGON

by Knitazoo



Mythology or reality?

The reality is that Tarragon is a dragon with a tender heart and an obscure predilection for French cuisine. He will only blow fire for bbq-ing some sausages - to eat with lots of onions and garlic sauce!

one day to knit, one second to love!

(but beware of his breath!!)

Tarragon is stiched on the round using double-pointed needles from bottom to head and is about 20 cm high.

I used Titan Wool "Zaffiro" 80% wool 20% acrylic in violet and dark blue, but you can use whatever yarn, in two matching colours for body, spines and wings.

Don't worry about the gauge, the thicker the yarn, the bigger the dragon! Always use a needle that is one size smaller than the one recommended for the yarn, so that the stuffing will not come out.

Tarragon:

One skein main colour (50 gr) is largely sufficient to knit Tarragon. Plus you will need about a quarter of a skein to knit wings and spines.

Violet and dark blue: Titan Wool "Zaffiro" (made in Italy), 80% wool, 20% acrylic, 50 gr 125 m/136 yds.

Safety eyes: 0,75 mm with this yarn. Adapt the size of the eyes to the yarn you choose. You can also embroider eyes, or use buttons.

Stuffing - Double-pointed needles 3.5 (US 4) - Tapestry needle - Stitch marker



ABBREVIATIONS:

CO: cast on

BO: bind off

PU: pick up

k: knit

p: purl

yo: yarn over

sl: slip stitch

kf&b: knit one st front and back

k2tog: knit two sts together (a right-slanting decrease)

ssk: slip, slip, knit (a left-slanting decrease)

ssk-ssso: slip two as if to knit, k1, pass over two sts together

[] x times: means you have to repeat what is between parenthesis for given number of times

(): the number in parenthesis is the number of stitches after completing the round.

I-cord: work on two double-pointed needles. Put all your sts on one needle and work with a free needle. When you reach the end, do not turn but slide the sts back to the beginning of the needle. Pass the needle to the left hand, pull yarn tight and knit. You will obtain a cord.

NOTES:

Unless otherwise specified, you always use 3 double-pointed needles. I suggest to always leave a tail of yarn when you cast on, you will use it to sew easily the different parts to the body!

Body

CO 6 sts on 3 double-pointed needles

R1: kf&b all (12)

R2: knit all

R3: kf&b all (24)

R4-5: knit all

R6: [kf&b k1] around (36)

R7-9: knit all

R10: [kf&b k2] around (48)

R11: knit all

R12: k19, kf&b, k3, [kf&b] 2 times, k3, kf&b, k19 (52)

R13: k19, p14, k19

R14-15: knit all

R16: k19, p14, k19

R17-18: knit all

R19: k19, p14, k19

R20: knit all

R21: k2, ssk, k8, k2tog, k4, ssk, k12, k2tog, k4, ssk, k8, k2tog, k2 (46)

R22: k17, p12, k17

R23-24: knit all

R25: k17, p12, k17

R26: knit all

R27: k2, ssk, k6, k2tog, k4, ssk, k10, k2tog, k4, ssk, k6, k2tog, k2 (40)

R28: k15, p10, k15

R29: knit all

R30: k2, ssk, k4, k2tog, k4, ssk, k8, k2tog, k4, ssk, k4, k2tog, **k2** (34)

R31: k13, p8, k13

R32: knit all

R33: k2, ssk, k2, k2tog, k4, ssk, k6, k2tog, k4, ssk, k2, k2tog, **k2** (28)

R34: knit all

R35: k10, ssk, k4, k2tog, k10 (26)

R36: knit all

R37: k10, ssk, k2, k2tog, k10 (24)

Stuff body

Neck and head

slip two sts from the end of needle 1 to needle 2, and from beginning of needle 3 to needle 2 (6 sts on needle 1, 12 on needle 2, 6 on needle 3)

R1: k6, [k2tog] 6 times, k6 (**18**)

R2-19: knit all

R20: k6, [k2tog] 3 times, k6

Stuff neck

put sts from needle 2 on a spare yarn. With needle 3, knit stitches that are on needle 1. From now you continue back and forth on two needles. Start with a WS row.

R1-12: stockinette stitch slipping the first st on each row

R13: p7, p2tog, p1, turn

R14: sl1, k3, ssk, k1, turn

R15: sl1, p4, p2tog, p1, turn

R16: sl1, k5, ssk, k1, turn

R17: sl1, p5, p2tog, turn

R18: sl1, k4, ssk (6 sts)

share these 6 sts on two needles (1 and 3). Put back sts from spare yarn to needle 2. Now work again on the round on 3 double-pointed needles.
R1: Needle 1: PU 8 sts from the side of the neck
Needle 2: kf&b all
Needle 3: with a working needle, PU 8 sts from the side of the neck (fig. 1), then knit sts from needle 3.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

(11 sts on needle 1, 6 sts on needle 2, 11 sts on needle 3, fig. 2)

R2: Needle 1: knit to last 3 sts on needle, k2tog k1

Needle 2: k2, kf&b, kf&b, k2

Needle 3: k1, ssk, k to end

R3: Needle 1: knit to last 3 sts on needle, k2tog k1

Needle 2: knit all

Needle 3: k1, ssk, k to end

Repeat R3 until there are 4 sts on needle 1 and 4 sts on needle 3.

Fix eyes and stuff head

R4-8: knit all (16 st)

R9: k4.

stuff firmly, close with kitchener stitches.

Tail

CO25 stitches leaving 15-20 cm yarn to sew the tail in place once it is finished. Share sts: 5 sts on needle 1 and 3, 15 sts on needle 2.

R1: knit all

R2: k11, ssk-psso, k11

R3: knit all (23 sts)

R4: k10, ssk-psso, k10

R5: knit all (21 sts)

R6: k9, ssk-psso, k9

R7: knit all (19)

R8: k8, ssk-psso, k8

R9: knit all (17)

R10: k7, ssk-psso, k7

R11-15: knit all (15)

R16: k5, ssk, k1, k2tog, k5

R17-21: knit all (13)

Rearrange sts: 2 sts on needle 1 and 3, 9 sts on needle 2.

R22: k4, ssk, k1, k2tog, k4

R23-27: knit all (11)

R28: k3, ssk, k1, k2tog, k3

R29-31: knit all (9)

R32: k2, ssk, k1, k2tog, k2

R33-35: knit all (7)

Rearrange sts: 3 stitch on needle 1 and 3, 1 st on needle 2

R36: k1, ssk, k1, k2tog, k1

R37-39: knit all (5)

R40: ssk, k1, k2tog

R41-49: knit all in I-cord (see instructions in Abbreviations) (3 sts)

Work back and forth.

R50: (wrong side) kf&b, k1, kf&b

R51-53: knit all

R54: (wrong side) ssk, k1, k2 tog

R55: (right side) slip 2 tog as if to knit, k1, psso

Break yarn and thread through

Stuff the tail down to the middle and sew to the lower part of the back.

Spines

Work back and forth in garter stitch on double-pointed needles. Needles should be one size smaller than the one you used until now. Be extremely careful not to twist! CO 4 sts leaving a long tail to sew in place.

R1: sl1, yo, k2tog, yo, k1

R2: sl1, k4 (5 sts)

R3: BO 3 sts (knit), k1

R4: sl1, k1

R5: sl1, yo, k1

R6: sl1, k2

R7: sl1, yo, k2

R8: sl1, k3

(repeat R1-R8 3 times)

R9: sl1, yo, k2tog, yo, k1

R10: sl1, k4

R11: sl1, yo, k2tog, yo, k2

R12: sl1, k5

R13: BO 4 sts, k1

R14: sl1, k1

R15: sl1, yo, k1

R16: sl1, k2

R17: sl1, yo, k2

R18: sl1, k3

(repeat R9-R18 9 times)



R19: sl1, yo, k2tog, yo, k1

R20: sl1, k4

R21: BO 3 sts, k1

R22: sl1, k1

R23: sl1, yo, k1

R24: sl1, k2

R25: sl1, yo, k2

R26: sl1, k3

(repeat R19-R26 3 times)

R27: BO2, k1

R28: sl1, k1

R29: sl1, yo, k1

R30: sl1, k2

R31: sl1, yo, k2

R32: sl1, k3
 R33: BO2, k1
 R34: sl1, k1
 R35: sl1, yo, k1
 R36: sl1, k2

Knit I-cord for 3 rounds, then ssk-psso. Thread yarn through. Iron the spines. Pin in place (I-cord part is to be attached to the end of the tail) and sew to head, back and tail. See picture for right positioning.

Wings (make 4)

Knit back and forth on two needles. CO 30 sts

R1: k8, ssk-psso, k8, ssk-psso, k8
 R2: purl all (26)
 R3: k7, ssk-psso, k6, ssk-psso k7
 R4: purl all (22)
 R5: k6, ssk-psso, k4, ssk-psso k6
 R6: purl all (18)
 R7: k5, ssk-psso, k2, ssk-psso, k5
 R8: purl all (14)
 R9: k2tog, k2, [ssk-psso] twice, k2, k2tog
 R10: purl all (8)
 R11: k2tog, k4, k2tog
 BO on WS (leave a long tail on two of the wings, for sewing).
 Pair two wings wrong sides together and sew on three sides, leaving the bottom open. Any technique is ok as long as the stitches are not much visible (see photo).



Sew the second wing as the first one. Hide tails inside the wing and sew in place, see Tarragon to know where to place the wings.

Back legs (make 2)

CO 6 sts leaving a tail of at least 15 cm.
 R1: kf&b all (12 sts)
 R2: [k1, kf&b] 6 times (18 sts)

R3-R7: knit all
 R8: k6, [k2tog] 3 times, k6 (15 sts) (put a marker in the first and last of k2tog, you will need it later)
 R9-23: knit all
 Stuff very well the foot at the tip, and stuff the leg more lightly.
 R24: [k2tog] 3 times, k3, [k2tog] 3 times
 R25: [k2tog] 2 times, k1, [k2tog] 2 times
 Thread yarn through rem sts. With the tail of the CO sts, sew the toes: insert needle in the right marker, then out from bottom, pull very tight, insert in the left marker and out from bottom again. Pull very tight and make a knot. Hide the knot inside the toe.



Attach the leg to the side of the body, see picture.

Front legs (make 2)

CO 8 sts leaving a tail of at least 15 cm.
 R1-12: knit all
 R13: k3, [kf&b] 2 times, k3
 R14-17: knit all
 R18: [k2tog] all
 Thread yarn through rem. sts. Stuff only the hand. Sew in place.

Sweet Tarragon is ready for a sausage...oops, I mean for a hug!