# Honey (a Free Bee)







## **Materials**

Bee (amounts given are for 1 Bee)

- Worsted, 12 yards Main Color (MC)
- Worsted, 18 yards Contrast Color (CC) Pictured Bees are made with KnitPicks Simply Cotton in Marshmallow, Ginger, Toffee and Malted Milk.
- -Set of 4 double pointed needles, US size 3 OR THE SIZE YOU NEED TO GET GAUGE
- -stuffing material

#### Hive

- -50 Yards Worsted weight yarn in one color. Pictured hive is in KnitPicks Simply Cotton, Toffee
- -Scrap yarn
- -Straight needles, US size 4 (A circular needle used as a straight needle is great.)
- -Set of 5 double pointed needles, US size 4

## **Abbreviations**

PSSO - pass slipped stitch over the last knit stitch and drop off of the needle

S - slip one stitch purlwise

LH - left hand

M1 -lift the strand between the stitches from back to front with the LH needle and knit sts - stitches

All other abbreviations are standard.

## Gauge

5 sts to an inch with worsted weight yarn yields a 3.5" long Bee and a 5" tall hive.

Gauge doesn't really matter as long as the fabric is not too loose (you don't want the stuffing to show or worse: seep out). If in doubt, stretch the fabric slightly to check for holes.

#### **Notes**

-All increases (M1) unless otherwise noted in the pattern are the increase where you lift the strand between the stitches with the LH needle and knit.

-There are two wing styles included. Each Bee only needs one set of wings so take your pick.

-Instructions the knit cast-on, i-cord and other unfamiliar techniques can be found at <a href="http://yarnmiracle.com/techniques">http://yarnmiracle.com/techniques</a>

-Stitch counts for dividing stitches on DPNs are given as "2-3-2". That is, 2 sts on needle #1, 3 on needle #2 and 2 on needle #3.

-The directions call for long yarn tails at cast on and bind off. The tails are used to attach all the Bee Bits and Pieces to each other. Four inches will be plenty.

-The Hive starts out knit flat and then is joined together later to finish in the round.

-Three bees can fit into the hive at once.

# Bee Body (Make 1 per Bee)

\*To embroider the Bee's face before it's stuffed (it's easier to hide the yarn tails), cut pieces of MC now. I cut two 4" pieces for the eyes and one 6" piece for the mouth.

Using two DPNs as straight needles and CC, cast on 3 leaving a long tail.

Next: Make three stitches out of each stitch by knitting into the front, back and front again of each stitch. (9 sts)

Divide the stitches evenly onto three double pointed needles and get ready to work in the round.

Round 1: K

Round 2: \*K1, M1 repeat from \* to end of round (18 sts arranged 6-6-6)

Rounds 3-4: Knit (2 rounds)

Join MC

Rounds 5-6: K in MC (2 rounds)

Round 7: \*K1, M1, K1 repeat from \* to end of round (27 sts arranged 9-9-9)

Use cast on tail to close up hole made by cast on and hide tail inside. Embroider his little face now - center on needle #2.

Rounds 8-9: K in CC (2 rounds)

Rounds 10-12: K in MC (3 rounds)

Rounds 13-14: K in CC (2 rounds)

Rounds 15-16: K in MC (2 rounds)

Round 17: \*K1, K2TOG repeat from \* to end of round using MC (18 sts arranged 6-6-6) Break MC and work the rest of the Bee in CC.

Rounds 18-19: K (2 rounds)

Round 20: K2TOG to end (9 sts)

Round 21: K Stuff!

Round 22: K3TOG to end and place 3 remaining stitches on one needle Work three rows of i-cord on the remaining stitches. Break yarn, draw through the live stitches, secure and hide the tail inside the Bee's body.



**Legs** (Make 6 in MC or CC, whichever you prefer) Use the picture and contrasting stripes to guide leg placement.

For each leg:

Pick up and knit one stitch through the Bee's body leaving a long tail.

Using a knit cast on, cast on 4 more stitches.

Bind off 5 leaving a long tail.

Use both tails to secure. Hide the ends.

**Wings** (Choose either i-cord or petal version and make 1 per Bee in MC) *i-Cord* 

Cast on 2 stitches leaving a cast on tail.

Work i-cord on these stitches for 12 inches. Break yarn leaving a 8" tail and draw it through the live stitches.

Join ends using one of the yarn tails.

Using the pictures as a guide, form four equal-sized loops and tack them securely together using one of the yarn tails. Use the other tail to attach the wings to the Bee's back.









# Petal (Make 1 in MC)

Using 2 double pointed needles as straight needles and CC, cast on 62.

Row 1: K2, \*K1 and return it to LH needle. Pass the next 12 stitches over this on and off of the needle. Yarn over twice (making 2 stitches), knit the first stitch again, then K 2. Repeat from \* to end of row.

Row 2: P1 \*P2tog, P the first YO, P through the back loop of next YO, P1 repeat form \* to end of row. (18 sts)

Break with a long tail, draw yarn through the live stitches and pull together to close. Knot the two tails together to close up the wings and attach to the Bee's back. Hide the ends.





## Hive

Using a length of scrap yarn and straight needles, cast on 24. Join the Hive yarn and continue in that color.

Row 1 (RS): K

Row 2: K2, P20, K2

Row 3: K2, Knit into the front, back and front again of the next 20 stitches making 3 stitches out of each, K2 (64 sts)

Row 4 - 16: Maintaining the established garter edging (that is, K the first two and last two stitches on WS rows), work in stockinette. (13 rows)

Row 17 (RS): Using the knit cast on, cast on 5 stitches at the beginning of this row (top of the door). Then, K all stitches.

When you reach the end of this row, transfer the stitches to double pointed needles (19-16-16-18) and join to work in the round. Rounds begin and end to the right of the door.

Round 1: P7, K60, P2

Round 2: K2TOG, K1, and then K2TOG to end of round (35 sts)

Round 3: (K2TOG twice, K1) 3 times, K2TOG, K1, K2TOG (K1, K2TOG twice) 3 times

Round 4: K (21 sts)

Round 5: K in to the front and back of each stitch. (42 sts)

Rounds 6 - 13: K (8 rounds)

Round 14: K3TOG to end (14 sts)

Round 15: Knit

Round 16: K in to the front and back of each stitch. (28 sts)

Rounds 17-20: Knit (4 rounds) Round 21: K2TOG to end (14)

Round 22: K2tog to last stitch, K1 (8 sts)

Break yarn leaving a long tail, run tail through live stitches, pull tight and secure.

## Base

Carefully pick out the scrap yarn you used for the cast on, placing the live stitches on double pointed needles (6 - 6 - 6 - 6).

Using the knit cast on, cast on an additional three stitches on the first needle (threshold). Rounds begin and end to the door's right.

Round 1: K

Round 2: S1, K2TOG, PSSO \*SSK, K2, K2tog repeat from \* to end of round (17 sts)

Round 3: K

Round 4: K1 \*SSK, K2tog repeat from \* to end of round (9 sts) Break yarn, draw tail through live stitches, pull tight to close and secure. Weave in all tails. Stuff hive with bees.



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