

Knitted Neuron

by Gabrielle Theriault. Adapted by Pat Pillai

Materials

- 8 ply or double knitting yarn, use any bright colour except red
- (sample used less than ½ ball of 100% acrylic knitting yarn)
- size 9 (3.75mm) needles, double pointed if you have them
- Tapestry needle
- Small amount of stuffing & a few pipe cleaners
- Safety pin or spare yarn

Finished size

Body approximately 7.5cm. Example: Dendrites 30cm, Axon 30cm, make longer or shorter as you wish.

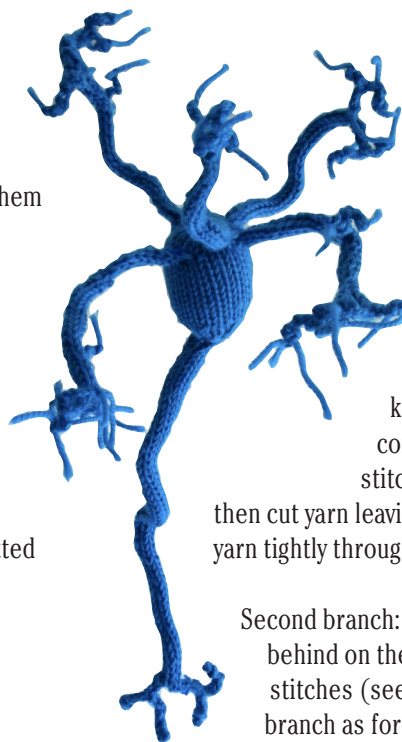
Gauge

5cm = 10 sts and 14 rows in stocking stitch. Like most knitted toys, gauge isn't super important. Just make sure that the stuffing doesn't show between the stitches.

Soma (cell body)

Cast on 6 stitches

1. [kfb] 6 times (12 sts)
 2. Purl all
 3. [kfb, k1] 6 times (18 sts)
 4. Purl all
 5. [kfb, k2] 6 times (24 sts).
- Tie a spare piece of yarn to mark the beginning of the round.
6. Purl all
 7. [kfb, k3] 6 times (30 sts)
 8. Purl all
 9. Knit all
 - 10 - 16. Repeat row 8 & 9 three times then row 8 once
 17. [k2tog, k3] 6 times (24 sts)
 18. Purl all
 19. [k2tog, k2] 6 times (18 sts)
 20. Purl all
 21. [k2tog, k1] 6 times (12 sts)
 22. Purl all
 23. [k2tog, k2] 3 times (9 sts)
 24. Purl all
 25. [k2tog, k1] 3 times (6 sts)
 26. Purl all
 27. [k2tog, k1] 2 times (4 sts)



Axon

Using these 4 stitches, continue in stocking stitch for 10 inches (or as long as you like).

Axon terminal branches

Place one stitch on a safety pin or spare piece of yarn.

First branch: Continue with the 3 other stitches in stocking stitch for a few inches, then

knit the first 2 stitches together and continue in stocking stitch on 2 stitches for a few more rows, K2tog,

then cut yarn leaving 10cm to work with, and pull the yarn tightly through the remaining stitches.

Second branch: Pick up the stitch that was left behind on the safety pin, the pick up two more stitches (see glossary p5) and knit the axon branch as for the first one, making it longer or shorter as you like.

Third branch: Pick up three stitches from the base of the first 2 branches, two from one row and two from the row above. Knit in stocking stitch for about 1 inch, then knit the first 2 stitches together and continue as for other branches.

Minor branches: To make more small branches on your axon (or dendrite), pick up two or three stitches on a branch and work in stocking stitch for as long as you wish. Make short ones, long ones, have fun! To finish, tuck in the loose yarn from the end of each branch. To make a terminal button, tie a knot, repeating the knot several times so that the yarn forms a small hard ball, then tuck the end in. If you are not giving the neuron to a small child, you may wish to sew on a bead or small button instead. 🧶