

# Octopus for a preemie

*knitted version*



[prawełewe.pl](http://prawełewe.pl)

## Materials

- use 100% anti-allergenic cotton yarn only  
(you may use one or more colours for the body, bottom and tentacles (arms) in whatever combination you like)
- scrap yarn for eyes, lips and (optional) additional attributes, e.g. hat, flower, ribbon
- silicone ball or anti-allergenic pillow filling, washable at 60°C (make sure that the filling does not go through the stitches; if it is too fine, put it in a cotton baby sock first and then stuff the octopus' body with it)

## Tools

- needles 2,25 mm /US 1/ UK 13
- darning needle

## Size of the finished octopus

- head should be 6-9 cm/ 2.5-3.5 in from top to bottom
- arms should not be more than 22 cm/8.5 in when stretched

## Abbreviations

CO/ BO	cast on/ bind off
kfb	knit through the front loop and then through the back loop of the same stitch; increase
k2tg	knit two stitches together; decrease
sl1-k2tg-ssso	slip one stitch knitwise, knit two stitches together, pass the slipped stitch over the stitches knitted together; decrease
ssk	slip one stitch knitwise, slip another stitch knitwise, put those two stitches back on your left needle and knit them two together through their back loops; decrease
*...*(3)	work instructions given between the asterisks three times
R	row
[10 sts]	number of stitches after the certain round is finished

The knitted octopus has a crochet sister



## Before you knit

Make sure to read the whole pattern before you begin to knit.

This pattern includes tutorial photos for a one-colour (green) and two-colour (white and blue) octopus. You may want to knit your octopus in one colour first to familiarize yourself with the pattern and then... let your creativity guide you to make your own lovely cuddly colourful octos for preemies in your area.

## Body and tentacles (arms)

CO 22 sts.

R 1	k22, CO 40 sts, turn	[62 sts]
R 2	k60, turn	
R 3	k18, turn	
R 4	k16, turn	
R 5	k14, turn	
R 6	k13, turn	
R 7	k11, turn	
R 8	k9, turn	
R 9	k15, 40kfb	[102 sts]
R 10	BO80, k21, turn	
R 11	k22, CO 40sts	

Work R 2 – R 11 six times more, then R 2 – R 9 again, and finally, in R 10 bind off all stitches. Cut the remaining yarn leaving a tail long enough so you could join the CO and BO rows.

Here is how k22 in R 1 and R 11 looks like when done:



And here is how your work should look like when you CO 40 in R 1 and R 11:



## Two-colour tentacles

If you wish to make your octopus more cheerful, you can use different colours of yarn for tentacles. There is one-colour (at the bottom) and two-colours (at the top) tentacle example presented in the photo below.



Refer to a photo tutorial on the following page to get some guidance on how to work out the two-colour tentacle.





Work kfb with the second colour in R 9 (right side and wrong side shown below). Then continue with BO80 in R 10. Next, switch back to the first colour.



The colour change happens in R 9, just after k15. Put the working yarn in second colour on the left side of the work so it stays inside of the octo's body, when the body is sewn together.



## Bottom

CO 3 sts.

R 1	knit all stitches	
R 2	kfb, k1, kfb	[5 sts]
R 3	knit all stitches	
R 4	kfb, k3, kfb	[7 sts]
R 5	} knit all stitches	
R 8		
R 9	k1, k2tg, k1, ssk, k1	[5 sts]
R 10	knit all stitches	
R 11	k1, sl1-k2tg-ssso, k1	[3 sts]
R 12	knit all stitches	
R 13	BO	

## Assembling the body

When the body is ready, use the yarn tail to graft the cast-on row with the bind-off row.



To close the top of the body, weave in the yarn end around the edge of the top stitches to pull them together and close the top of the head.



Cut the remaining yarn leaving a tail long enough to join the bottom piece with the body. Put the filling inside the octo's body and using a darning needle fasten the bottom to the body.

Note that the octo's body and the bottom (the next two photos on the following page) need to be grafted together once the filling is already inside of the body.





### Finishing touches

Using scrap yarn, embroider eyes and mouth. Use your imagination for working out additional elements. For example, you can create a stripe (CO 3 sts, then work 70 rows of garter stitch, i.e. knit all stitches in every row, BO)...



...then using a darning needle and a tail of yarn left after the bind off, fasten the stripe to the octo's head.

This is how the bottom should look like when joined to the body:



### Preparation of the finished octopus

Every octopus you create should be washed and (optionally) packed so a child receiving it has a fresh, clean and beautiful octopus friend forever. Also, make sure to not use any hard or small elements that could cause skin irritation or be dangerous for a baby.

## Cooperation

This project originated in Denmark in 2013 (<https://www.spruttegruppen.dk/danish-octo-project-english/>). There is a Polish group on Facebook for everyone interested in supporting the octo project in Poland (<https://www.facebook.com/osmiorniczki dla wczesniakow/>).

If you would like to make some octopuses for premature babies in Wrocław, Poland or Ireland, please write through [prawelewe.pl](http://prawelewe.pl) or through [Ravelry](https://www.ravelry.com/). I will pass on your softies to project coordinators in Poland or will contact you with coordinators in Ireland.

## Copyright

This pattern was translated and edited by Cathliin from [prawelewe.pl](http://prawelewe.pl). Danish original is available at [www.spruttegruppen.dk](http://www.spruttegruppen.dk).

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Wrocław, Poland, June 2016



Voila! Your lovely octopus is ready. Please make sure to share photos of your finished work with us in [the prawelewe group on Ravelry](https://www.ravelry.com/groups/prawelewe/) and in [the thread dedicated to this project](#).