

Catnip Squishypuffs



Any ply yarn will work. For this project, perhaps start with 8 ply on 4.0mm circular needles.

CO 24sts (12 on each needle tip), using the sock toe cast on method (so no seams). <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkyd3nq3Yn8>

Knit stocking stitch in the round for about 20 rows or desired length. The toy works out to be about 6.5cm - 7.0cm long using this yarn.

Readjust the stitches so that the casting off edge will be at a north-south edge, rather than an east-west cast on (can't for the life of me think how to explain this better). This makes for a bit of a triangular, pyramidish, squishy toy rather than a plain rectangular pillow.



Adjust stitches on needles so they're at right angle direction from the cast on edge - this makes a more pyramid-ish shape

Before closing, stuff with polyester fibre filling, then a layer of dried catnip and finish with top layer of fibre filling so the catnip is encased in the middle of it.



Use a three needle bind off to close and cast off the toy. Weave in yarn end along the cast off edge.

Add a triple-stranded fringe tail on one corner by taking yarn, wrapping it around hand three times and cutting ends to make three pieces about 15cm long each. Use crochet hook to insert into one corner of the cast off edge, and pull through the triple strands of yarn. Loop it as you would in making a fringe piece. This makes a bit of a tail for the catnip toy.

Squish the toy in your hand to release the catnip scent, and the cats will be running to you and pawing at it before you can put it down. Even after a few months you can still give the toy a squish to release more catnip scent. The ones I first made six months ago are a bit tattered now, depending on the yarn I used at the time, but they still get the cats going!

