



£5.99 ISSUE 93
DECEMBER 2013



Knit Day

The UK's best knitting magazine

Celebrate *in style*

New looks and great
ideas for Christmas!

IMMEDIATE
MEDIA



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winter
warmers**

Cute makes

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Welcome

One of the many things that I love about being a knitter is that when winter sets in and the days start to darken I know it's time to cosy up with my yarn and needles and get started on some of the gorgeous winter patterns on offer.

Here at *Knit Today*, we believe that winter is a good time to make the most of sparkly, bright shades. With that in mind, our designer Sian Brown has created a vibrant matching **hat, scarf and mitts set** in a festive shade of crimson. Turn to page 19 to find this pretty eyelet pattern in cosy Debbie Bliss Cashmerino Aran.

If you're looking for a new technique this winter, why not give loop stitch a try? This idiosyncratic technique is making a comeback, both in fashion and homeware. Aneeta Patel will show you how to get it right on page 32 then turn to page 34 for our sumptuous **loop stitch collar** from Sarah Heys. Guaranteed to transform your winter coat into something altogether more glamorous!

Christmas is nearly here and we've got an issue packed with great ideas for gifts and decorations. You'll have noticed that we've given you two free balls of yarn this issue. Turn to page 57 to find out how to make a hanging **robin, Rudolph** and the sweetest pair of **baby elf booties** with your red and brown wool. And if you're looking for ideas for the office party, our **knitted photobooth props** on page 68 will add a dash of fun to any gathering this Christmas. Enjoy!

Rosee Woodland, *Editor*



Subscribe today!

to save money and get **British yarns** and a **pattern book** for **FREE!**

Turn to p12 for details



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Win!

£900 of
patterns, yarn and
other knitting
goodies



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Enter now for a chance to win

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Meet the designers

It's getting nippy outside, so our designers have been busy creating gorgeous winter knits to keep you warm and cosy

Our cover project

By Sian Brown

Turn heads with Sian's vibrant, crimson-coloured hat, gloves and scarf. A pretty eyelet pattern lends this warm winter set a lovely feminine touch.

I designed this month's cover project...

...to brighten up cold winter days for every *Knit Today* reader! Debbie Bliss Cashmerino Aran is the perfect choice for a hat and scarf set – I love knitting with this yarn as it feels so soft and luxurious, plus it really does keep you snug and warm.

To add a bit of visual interest to the knit, I have used a decorative eyelet pattern that's really easy to create – beginners can easily master this technique with a bit of practise. If red's not your colour, try one of the other fab shades available. I love the warming winter feel of red, but lime green or jade would also look very striking.



Our designers this month



Sarah Heys Goes loopy!

Practise your loop stitch and add a chic touch to any outfit, with my textured grey collar on page 34.



Susanne Frank Tries felting

Colour-blocking is a hot trend right now, so turn to page 36 to knit my bright and stylish felted clutch bags.



Tina Barrett Says it with spots

My cardigan for little girls features cute heart buttons and polka-dot elbow patches on page 45.



Rita Taylor Trims the tree

Make my last-minute decorations for your Christmas tree – they're really fun and quick to knit on page 53.



Val Pierce Knits for toddlers

Little ones will look so cute in my snugly duckling dressing gown! You can find it over on page 61.

Sign up for the
KnitToday
newsletter!

- Find **FREE** patterns to knit
- £££s of prizes to win!



This month's top three stories...

1



Designer Kate Davies' blog is inspired by the glorious Shetland Isles

2



New Zealand-based Skeinz raises money for penguin rescue charity

3



Sign up online and learn to knit with the experts!

Knittingnews

Take some time out to read all the latest news and gossip from the wonderful world of knitting...

It's Christmas!

Knit Today readers love to knit Christmas jumpers but if you need a little extra inspiration this year, why not get involved in Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day? A host of celebrities, from Myleene Klass to Bruno Tonioli, have put their backing behind this fun-filled campaign. Taking place on Friday 13 December, Save the Children are asking knitters and non-knitters to wear a kitsch Christmas woolly to work in exchange for a £1 donation to raise money for its life-saving work with children all over the world.

This year, Save the Children have collaborated with the British Fashion Council who have commissioned designers, including American knitting brand Wool and the Gang, to come up with original designs that will be up for auction in December. John Lewis is also on board with some **great festive knits on sale for £49.99, and £25 from every purchase goes directly to Save the Children.**

Also this year, the campaign will be launching Children's Woolly Wonderland at Westfield Stratford City in December. Head down with your old unwanted woollies and you can have them transformed by high-profile designers, urban knitters and a host of famous faces. Knitters will also be very pleased to hear that Deramores (www.deramores.com) is the official knitting partner this year and will donate 50p to Save the Children from each order placed that contains any ball of wool from the Sirdar range.

For more details and to sign up visit www.christmasjumperday.org and [facebook.com/ChristmasJumperDay](https://www.facebook.com/ChristmasJumperDay), and follow #xmasjumpers on Twitter.

Visit www.christmasjumperday.org to get involved with this appeal



Celebrity spot



Found celebs in knitwear? Tell us on facebook

Best known for her portrayal of writer and fashionista Carrie in the long-running US TV series *Sex and the City*, Sarah Jessica Parker is also a mum of three, including adorable four-year-old twin daughters, Marion and Tabitha. Here she's ditched the skyscraper heels and couture gowns in favour of a cosy cable knit grey cardigan and knitted beanie as she takes a stroll around the streets of New York. Who says dressing down can't be classy?

Editor's favourite

We can always rely on Bergère to provide us with a satisfying helping of beautiful knits in their monthly magazine, but even we were blown away by the delectable selection of makes for kids in their recent issue, *Mag* 168. From a houndstooth dress to a stylish boy's cabled sweater and cute-as-a-button hats, Bergère's scrumptious yarns and stylish designs just get better!

Head to www.bergerefrance.co.uk for info.



Top of the shops



Prick your Finger

Welcome to Prick Your Finger where all the yarns are from the UK...

When did you open Prick your Finger?
We opened in the summer of 2007.

What knitting products do you sell?
All the yarns are from the UK, and they all have a story. We sell all the usual items but handmade ones too, made out of wood and bone, and again all UK-made. We have a rolling programme of textile artist exhibitions and they also provide workshops and unique items to buy.

Do you run knitting/crochet workshops?
Yes, and darning and tatting and spinning...

Describe the atmosphere in the shop
I built the shop from recycled wood, so its atmosphere is very organic – hopefully nothing looks too modern, apart from the computers and lights. The shop's design aims to give permission for creativity.

What kind of customers do you get?
All sorts. We're based in London's East End and the locals are very creative, and then we get a lot of out-of-town visitors too, because we are so specialist.

What's your biggest yarn seller?
Well, interestingly, it's neck and neck between grey-hued yarns, and our rich multi-coloured hand-dyed yarns. A lot of people buy grey because they wear it to work, or there's a common theme of the difficult boyfriend who will only wear grey!

What makes your shop unique?
All we do is about how we evolve through the world of textiles. A deep meditation between head, heart and hand is so valuable, and we celebrate that in our shop.

260 Globe Road
London
E2 0JD
020 89812560
www.prickyourfinger.com

Pick up a penguin

Last year we told you how a New Zealand-based shop, Skeinz, was running a campaign to raise money for penguins affected in the Bay of Plenty after the stranding of the Rena container ship in October 2011. The shop were asking knitters to make tiny sweaters for the penguins, to keep them warm while they were being treated by clean-up workers. Having been overwhelmed by the kind response from knitters, Skeinz are now selling penguin mascots on their website and all proceeds go the Penguin Rescue Fund.

Head to www.skeinz.com for more details.



Knit Camp 2014

Knitwear designers Libby Summers, Kat Goldin and Joanne Scrace have announced the launch of Knit Camp 2014. The three designers have created an online course for all those who are keen to learn how to knit. Step-by-step tutorials, free patterns and materials will be available to members who sign up. The free course will cover knit and purl, casting on and off, simple shaping techniques, adding texture and colour,

finishing techniques and more. Members can join a Facebook group to chat to other knitting rookies and there will be a forum to discuss ideas and for advice from the designers. Buy the complete materials pack for £35 as the perfect Christmas present for a wannabe knitter.

More details are available from www.libbysummers.co.uk, slugsontherefrigerator.com and notsogranny.blogspot.co.uk

Blog we love!

Kate Davies

Ever been inspired to head to the Highlands?

A quick glance at Scottish knitwear designer Kate Davies' blog is all you need to convince you that the beautiful landscape of the Shetland Isles will provide more than enough creative inspiration. As well as tempting images of wild Scottish moors, Kate's blog reveals interesting patterns from yesteryear in addition to her own gorgeous creations.

Take a look at
wordpress.com/tag/kate-davies





KnitToday
Club of the
month!

Blossoms Knitty Night

Congratulations to Blossoms Knitty Night who have won our Club of the Month!

After convincing her local landlord a knitting club would benefit his business, Jude Beckett launched Blossoms Knitty Night last September and it now boasts 12 members aged from 16 to 60-odd. Club members take over the back room of the Blossoms Pub in Stockport and the sound of laughter spilling out into the bar always draws in the regulars. Blossoms Knitty Night meets every other Monday from 7-10pm at Blossoms Pub on the corner of Wellington Road South (A6) and Bramhall Lane South, Heaviley, Stockport SK2 6NB.

You can keep up to date with the club's meetings and events by checking out its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/Blossoms-Knitty-Night, or you can email Jude at ajlbeckett@tesco.net.

A collection of books from Search Press will be winging its way to Julie and the Blossoms Knitty Night members. Well done!

Write in to win!

To enter our Club of the Month competition, send your club details and photos to:

knittoday@immediatemediaco.uk (or the address on page 15) to win a super prize!

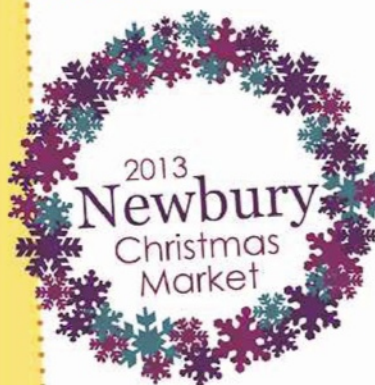
Prizes include *Knitted Fairies* (£9.99); *Knitted Baby Booties* (£4.99); *Knitted Egg Cosies* (£4.99); *75 Birds, Butterflies and Beautiful Beasts to Knit & Crochet* (£10.99) and *Norwegian Knitting Designs* (£14.99) from www.searchpress.com or call 01892 510850.

Win!

Fantastic prizes

Diary dates

With Christmas creeping up, here are just a few of the many Christmas fairs taking place across the country. For a full list of events, head to www.ukcraftfairs.com



30 November – 22 December

NEWBURY CHRISTMAS MARKET

Inspired by the markets of Germany and Austria, this mega-event is host to hundreds of exhibitors, food stalls, a Santa's grotto as well as live performances. Visit www.newburychristmasmarket.co.uk

28 November – 15 December

BATH CHRISTMAS MARKET

One of the best (and prettiest) festive events in Britain, Bath's annual Christmas market takes place around the Roman baths and abbey. With over 150 stalls in wooden chalets, there's plenty of opportunity to get your hands on unique handmade gifts. Visit www.bathchristmasmarket.co.uk



York Christmas Market

YORK CHRISTMAS MARKET

Yorkshire's Winter Wonderland covers several streets around the old centre, with Barley Hall, a Medieval townhouse, presenting a special market with live crafting, mulled wine and costumed traders and St William's College housing a fantastic handmade arts and crafts market. For more info, go to www.yorkfestivals.com/st-nicholas-fayre1



A big knit for working animals

Cast on to help SPANA vets treat working animals across the world.

Gary Baker tells us how...



When it comes to knitting for charity, helping animals in need is always big news. One charity that has been working tirelessly for the welfare of animals for 90 years is SPANA – the Society for the Protection of Animals

Abroad. Looking out for working animals of the world, particularly across Africa and the Middle East, SPANA clinics treat thousands of donkeys, horses, camels and livestock every year. Now you can help by getting out your needles for their newly-launched Big Knit for Vet campaign.

Just go online to www.spana.org/knit, and you can download free patterns to help you knit your very own Duncan the donkey, Hattie the horse or, for a little variation, crochet Clarence the camel. The target SPANA would like everyone taking part to reach is £20 for every animal made, whether that's through sponsorship, donations or by selling the animals at your local craft fair. The proceeds will go towards helping SPANA's highly-trained vets to treat sick or injured animals at one of their clinics.

Everyone interested in taking part in the campaign will receive a free Big Knit for Vet fundraising pack, either by post or by downloading it from the website. Inside you'll find all three of the knitted animal patterns, a sponsorship form as well as a donation envelope. All you have to do is get out your needles and yarn. Why not hook in some of your friends to join you too?

Model, designer and actress Twiggy Lawson is supporting the campaign. She says: "Everyone will have so much fun knitting their very own gorgeous camels, horses and donkeys. It's a privilege to be supporting this campaign as SPANA continues to ensure working animals are well looked after and given the care they deserve."



Twiggy is putting her celebrity weight behind the SPANA campaign



A great deal of SPANA's work is in communities in Africa and the Middle East and the charity pride themselves on educating children and owners about respect and compassion for their animals. They also work hard during conflict, drought and natural disasters to implement the charity's emergency programme to get help to animals and the communities who depend on them, whenever and wherever it's needed.

Visit www.spana.org/knit to find out how to get involved and to order your free pack. Alternatively, you can call 020 7831 3999. Once you've completed your animals, SPANA would love for you to send in any donations you've received as well as some fab photos of your finished four-legged friends!



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KnitToday

Dear editor

Write in and show us what you've been working on.
Every photo printed will win a prize!



Newborn knits

Since I found out I was pregnant I have had great fun expanding my knitting skills, and every mum I know says cardigans are invaluable. Most recently, I knitted the baby cardigan from issue 83 and here it is. OK, I got stuck with the collar and forgot a couple of the buttonholes, but I am still really pleased with the result. The buttons that came free with *Knit Today* were a perfect addition! With four months still to go, I am flicking through all my back issues of your magazine to see what other patterns catch my eye.

Michelle Harris, Bristol

Editor says: You've done a brilliant job, Michelle. The little imperfections are what make it your own, and it all comes with practice! Don't miss our sister title, *Love Knitting for Babies*, for more gorgeous makes for little ones. Have any other readers been knitting items for babies recently?



Win!
Gorgeous yarn,
patterns and
knitting
books



Next month, our lucky star letter writer will win a fab Artesano pattern and yarn, worth £30. For more information and to find a stockist, visit www.artesanoyarns.co.uk To stand a chance of winning our Star Letter prize, write to the address on page 15 or email knittoday@immediate.co.uk

Toy story

This is my Mary Poppins doll (it's my own design, which can be found on Ravelry), and the E.T. is crocheted using a pattern from Etsy. I made this for a friend whose brother had passed away and was a great fan of E.T. She wanted to put it on his grave for the anniversary of his birthday.

I am disabled with kyphoscoliosis, so I don't go out much, but I love making toys, both knitted and crocheted. I run a Facebook toy page called Craftyknits Handknitting Toys, where I post pictures of what I've made and then knit them for people, just for the cost of materials involved. I find it so therapeutic.

Lynne Price-Haskins, Cardiff

Editor says:

I like them both very much, Lynne. I think it's fantastic that you're so generous with your knitting and that you sell the items for cost price. You're not the first person to tell me they find knitting therapeutic and I don't think you'll be the last, either. Keep up the good work!



Send
in your
photos and
letters and you
could win a
prize!

Designed by you!

Scottish Santa

Here is a picture of my latest knit. It was a joy to make as I designed the pattern myself – I wanted something Scottish and Christmassy, and am planning to give it as a present.

Lauraine Wishart, Banffshire

Editor says: I'm really impressed. It's so satisfying to design something yourself – especially when it turns out this well!

This month, our winner receives a HobbyGift knitting bag and a pair of Pony Rosewood 4mm knitting needles.



Your say

This month we asked our Facebook followers: What are you knitting to make you feel suitably festive?

I've started knitting mug cosies – for myself and as presents for friends and family. And I'm going to knit the Christmas tree bunting from your issue last year to decorate my home!

Lisa Mullineaux, Ripon



Like us on Facebook!

Here's what you've been sharing on Facebook this month...

Shrink-wrapped yarn with my magazine today.
How cool!
Alison Spurrell



Here's my very own version of Gandalf the Grey. He is about 20in high and dressed in shades of grey. You can take the robe and hat off, and he has a long staff made from a plant stick and i-cord. He's even got a little satchel to put his maps and food in. Hope you like him!

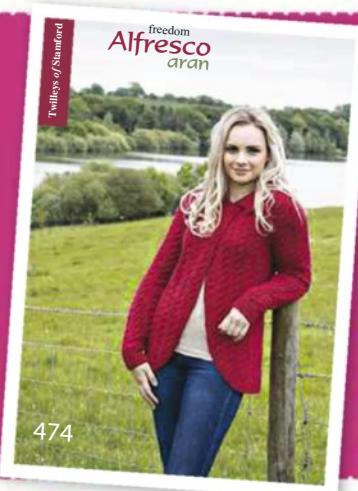
Jacky Thornton



Write in and win!

Got a knitting story or tip to share? Write in to get your hands on a fabulous pattern book. This month's winners will receive *Freedom Alfresco Aran Pattern Book 474* from Twilleys of Stamford, featuring 11 fabulous patterns for men and women.

Write to us at: Dear Editor, *Knit Today*, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN, or alternatively drop us a line at knittoday@immediate.co.uk. For more information about Twilleys of Stamford, as well as Wendy, Peter Pan and Robin, visit www.tbramsden.co.uk or call 01943 872264.



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Knit the look

Roll with it: **polo and turtlenecks** are an essential for your new-season wardrobe

Once the uniform of teachers, geeks and librarians, turtlenecks and polo necks have never enjoyed a great deal of street cred, but they made a rather stylish return to the catwalk for Autumn/Winter 2013. Victoria Beckham paired a slim black polo neck with a sporty, loose-fitting shell top in bright purple, allowing the jewel tone to stand out. Marc Jacobs, Issa and Gucci used them to layer under jackets and dresses while Ports 1961 paired a tight charcoal grey polo neck with an electric blue satin gown and elbow-length leather gloves.

The polo neck is a staple that's perfect for trans-seasonal wear – knit yours in a block colour and wear under a summer dress to update it for the new season, or go for a chunkier yarn and make a knit to see you through the winter in style – see Rowan's rib and cable sweater below. Debbie Bliss's wine-red cabled polo neck is a versatile take on the trend, whether you layer it or make it the focal point of your outfit.



Dangly earrings, Konplott, £82



Eye quartet mineral palette, 02 Nudes, £31, Clarins



Fit & flare dress, £50, Oliver Bonas

Embroidered coat, £250, East

Maggie Ring Keeper Belt, £22, John Lewis



Pattern from Rowan Knitting & Crochet Magazine 52, £11.95

Grey Mary Janes, £95, John Lewis

Cocoon yarn in Shale, £8.50 per 100g ball, Rowan



On the catwalk: Ports 1961 A/W 2013

Poppy Red varnish £750 at John Lewis

Laser-cut brown doctor's bag, £45, Oliver Bonas

3 ways to wear

1 Wear your polo neck with skinny jeans and ballet shoe flats for Audrey Hepburn-style chic.

2 Layer a fine-knit polo neck jumper under a shift dress to create the classic Sixties look – just add Jackie Os.

3 Since your neck is covered up, accessorise with statement earrings or a jewelled cuff, or add vintage buttons at the sleeves.



Sweater pattern from Debbie Bliss Weekenders, £5.95



Winter *warmth*

Add a dash of colour to a dull day with this pretty set by **SIAN BROWN**

A matching set of warmers is a must for keeping cosy during the cold winter months. There may be countless hats, scarves and gloves vying for your attention on the high street this season, but it's so much nicer to show off your knitting skills with a set that you've made yourself. With that in mind, we've designed this show-stopping set in a gorgeous crimson shade. The pretty eyelet pattern is simple to create using yarn overs – an easy technique to master, making this the perfect project for a beginner who wants to try something new. As you're sure to wear this set all winter, we've used Debbie Bliss Cashmerino Aran, a luxurious merino blend with cashmere for added softness and warmth. Don't forget to take a look at the rest of the shades on offer – from lemon yellow and mint green to royal blue and forest green, there are 32 to choose from!

Hat, scarf & mitts

Pattern details

You will need...

For the scarf:

Yarn

4 x 50g balls of Debbie Bliss Cashmerino Aran in Ruby (shade 610)

Needles

5mm (UK size 6) knitting needles

Tension

Yarn used knits as aran – 19sts and 22 rows to 10cm or 4in over st st using 5mm (UK size 6) knitting needles

Finished sizes

20x150cm or 8x59in

For the hat:

Yarn

1 x 50g ball of Debbie Bliss Cashmerino Aran in Ruby (shade 610)

Needles

5mm (UK size 6) knitting needles

Tension

Yarn used knits as aran – 18sts and 24 rows to 10cm or 4in over st st using 5mm (UK size 6) knitting needles

Finished sizes

One size fits all

For the mittens:

Yarn

1 x 50g ball of Debbie Bliss Cashmerino Aran in Ruby (shade 610)

Needles

5mm (UK size 6) knitting needles

Tension

Yarn used knits as aran – 18sts and 24 rows to 10cm or 4in over st st using 5mm (UK size 6) knitting needles

Finished sizes

One size fits all

Start here!

Scarf

Cast on 38sts.

Work three rows garter st.

Starting with a knit row, work four rows st st.

Start pattern.

Row 1: K1 (K12, k2tog, y2on, ssk) x 2, K5.

Row 2 and every following alternate row: K2, P to last 2sts, knitting the first loop of the yon and purling the second loop, K2.

Row 3: K3, *K8, (k2tog, y2on, ssk) x 2, rep from * once more, K3.

Rows 5 and 9: As row 1.

Row 7: As row 3.

Row 11: K5, (k2tog, y2on, ssk, K12) x 2, K1.

Row 13: K3, *(k2tog, y2on, ssk) x 2, K8; rep from * once more, K3.

Rows 15 and 19: As row 11.

Row 17: As row 13.

Row 20: As row 2.

Repeat these 20 rows until work measures 148cm or 58½in from cast on edge, ending with a P row.

Work three rows st st.

Work three rows garter st.

Cast off.

Tassels

Cut 50cm or 19½in lengths of yarn and make tassels on the short edges. Press according to yarn band instructions.

Hat

Cast on 84sts.

Work three rows garter st.

Starting with a K row,

work four rows st st.

Start pattern.

Row 1: K8 (k2tog, y2on, ssk, K12) x 4, k2tog, y2on, ssk, K8.

Row 2 and every following alternate row: P, knitting first loop of yon and purling the second loop.

Row 3: K6, ((K2tog, y2on, ssk) x 2, K8) x 4, (K2tog, y2on, ssk) x 2, K6.

Rows 5 and 9: as row 1.

Row 7: As row 3.

Row 10: As row 2.

Starting with a K row, continue in st st until work measures 13cm or 5in from cast on edge.

Shape crown

Row 1: (K5, k2tog) x 12. 72sts.

Work three rows st st.

Row 5: (K4, k2tog) x 12. 60sts.

Work three rows st st.

Row 9: (K3, k2tog) x 12. 48sts.

Purl one row.

Row 11: (K2, k2tog) x 12. 36sts.

Purl one row.

Row 13: (K1, k2tog) x 12. 24sts.

Purl one row.

Row 15: (K2tog) x 12. 12sts.

Break off yarn and thread through remaining sts.

Pull tightly and fasten off.

Join the back seam.

Fingerless mittens

Right mitten

*Cast on 34sts.

Work five rows garter st.

Starting with a knit row, work eight rows st st.

Shape thumb gusset

Row 1: K17, M1, K3, M1, K14. 36sts.

Rows 2-4: St st.

Row 5: K17, M1, K5, M1, K14. 38sts.

Rows 6-8: St st.

Row 9: K17, M1, K7, M1, K14. 40sts.

Row 10: Purl.

Row 11: K7, k2tog, y2on, ssk, K to the end.

Row 12: P, knitting first loop from yon and purling second loop.

Row 13: K5, (k2tog, y2on, ssk) x 2, K4, M1, K9, M1, K to end. 42sts.

Row 14: as row 12.

Divide for thumb

Row 15: K7, k2tog, y2on, ssk, K17, turn, **cast on** 1st, P 12, turn, cast on 1st. 13sts.

Work three rows st st on 13sts.

Work two rows garter st.

Cast off. Join seam.

With RS facing, pick up 3sts at the base of the thumb, knit to the end of the row. 34sts.

Row 16 and two following alternate rows: As row 12.

Row 17: K5, (k2tog, y2on, ssk) x 2, K

to the end.

Row 19: K7, k2tog, y2on, ssk, K to the end.

*With RS facing, work six rows st st.

First finger

K22, turn, **cast on** 1st, P11, turn, **cast on** one stitch. 12sts.

Work three rows st st.

Yarn detail

Debbie Bliss
Cashmerino Aran

www.designeryarns.uk.com
01535 664222

Content 55% extra fine merino, 33% microfibre, 12% cashmere

Weight/length 50g/90m

Wash Machine wash 30°C

RRP £4.95



Work two rows garter st.
Cast off.
Join the seam.

Second finger

Pick up 2sts from the base of the first finger, K4, turn, **cast on** 1st, P11, turn, **cast on** 1st. 12sts.
Complete as for first finger.

Third finger

Pick up 2sts from the base of the second finger and complete as for first finger.

Fourth finger

Pick up 2sts from the base of the third finger, and K to the end. 10sts.
Starting with a P row, work two rows st st.
Work two rows garter st.
Cast off.
Join side seam.**

Left mitt

Cast on 34 stitches and then work the left mitt as for the right mitt from * to *.

Shape thumb gusset

Row 1: K14, M1, K3, M1, K17. 36sts.

Rows 2-4: Stocking stitch.

Row 5: K14, M1, K5, M1, K17. 38sts.

Rows 6-8: St st.

Row 9: K14, M1, K7, M1, K17. 40sts.

Row 10: Purl.

Row 11: K29, k2tog, y2on, ssk, K to the end.

Row 12: P, knitting first loop of yon and purling second loop.

Row 13: K14, M1, K9, M1, K4 (k2tog, yon2, ssk) x 2, K to the end. 42sts.

Row 14: As row 12.

Divide for the thumb.

Row 15: K25, turn, cast on 1st, P12, turn, **cast on** 1st. 13sts.

Work three rows st st.

Work two rows garter st.

Cast off. Join seam.

Row 16 and 2 foll alternate rows: As row 12.

Row 17: K21 (k2tog, y2on, ssk) x 2, K to the end.

Row 19: K23, k2tog, y2on, ssk, K to the end.

Work as for right mitt from ** to **. ■

Abbreviations

cm	centimetre(s)
foll	following
in	inch(es)
K	knit
k2tog	knit 2sts together
M1	make 1st
P	purl
rep	repeat
RS	right side
st st	stocking stitch
st(s)	stitch(es)
st st	stocking stitch
ssk	slip next 2sts to right needle knitwise, insert tip of left needle through front loop of both sts and knit together
y2on	yarn around needle twice

Bestbuys

From stylish wraps, pretty buttons and cosy knit kits to vintage brooches, you'll love our choices this month

Paper perfection

When you've knitted a gorgeous gift that took time and care, a piece of regular wrapping paper just won't do it justice – so treat your loved ones to these funky designs from knitter and designer, Donna Wilson. Squirrel, Bear and Vegetables all feature Donna's quirky drawings in bright, eye-catching colours. You can buy a pack of five sheets (50x70cm per sheet) for £9.50.

Visit www.donnawilson.com or call 0207 7490768



Exotic stripes

Create captivating stripes and patterns in your next knitted piece, using hand-spun Obi – a chunky new blend of wool, silk and mohair from Noro. Inspired by the beautiful and exotic fabrics used for traditional Japanese sashes (obi), this yarn features the stunning colours we've come to expect from Noro. You can find pattern support in Claudia Wersing's Sweet Winter, which includes patterns for a jacket, hat, wristlets and waistcoat, to name a few. Or why not knit a beautiful, snuggly blanket to cuddle up under this winter? A 100g skein costs £17.95.

Visit www.designeryarns.uk.com or call 01535 664222 to find a stockist



It's a wrap

Effortlessly stylish, this wrap from Blue Sky Alpacas has a beautiful drape and is the ultimate accessory for cold days. Beginners, take note – it's easy to knit and requires minimal making up, with just a simple button at the shoulder. What's more, the pattern uses four to five hanks of Techno, which is a featherweight yarn made from baby alpaca that is blown into a mesh tube of silk, resulting in really fast knitting with no splitting. Clever, eh? Buy the pattern for just \$9 (£5.60).

Visit www.blueskyalpacos.com for more information

£5.60





£22

Delicate damask

If you're confident knitting in the round, reading charts, stranding your knitting and working simple increases, you're sure to enjoy this pretty kit from BomBella. Ella Austin's Leighton House Handwarmers are knitted in Fiberspates Scrumptious Lace (45% silk, 55% superwash merino) so they're lightweight and gorgeously soft against your skin – you'll want to wear them all year round, not just in winter! The kit costs £22.

Visit www.etsy.com/uk/shop/BomBella to buy



£25.70

Cosy toes

Charm someone's socks off this Christmas, with a knitting kit from Gomitoli's! Perfect for the cold winter evenings, these gorgeous top-down patterned socks were created exclusively by Anna Wilkinson, using luxurious cashmere yarn. The kit is available with either 100% cashmere for €30 (£25.70), or a cashmere/lambswool blend for €19 (£16.27). We love the cheery colours, and so does Anna, as she explains, "Gomitoli's yarns are a dream to work with and the colours are gorgeous. I had a lot of fun sampling with the yarns."

Visit www.gomitoli.it to buy

That's Amore

As the name suggests, you'll love snuggling up in the eight designs from Rowan's Amore Collection, which include wraps, tunics, scarves and slouchy hats. Autumn/winter knits don't come much cosier than these – it's the blend of mohair and silk that makes them so soft and fluffy. Lisa Richardson's designs are suitable for beginners and intermediate knitters, using 10-15mm needles for a chunky finish, and each pattern uses either Kidsilk Amore or Amore Shimmer. Both have a luxury feel like Kidsilk Haze, but with a heavier weight, while Shimmer has the added benefit of a subtle sparkle – just perfect for brightening up winter.

Visit www.knitrowan.com or call 01484 681881 for stockists.



£5.95

Pin it!

Pinned to a delicate crocheted wrap or shawl, these little beauties will instantly add a vintage feel to your outfit. They're made from resin in a range of bright colours and muted shades, making an affordable alternative to bejewelled brooches – but we think they're just as gorgeous! The simple Heidi Dove Brooch costs just £3.75, while the Louis Outdoors Bird Brooch features additional floral detail and costs £4.

Visit www.acornandwill.co.uk to browse the other sweet designs, or call 07921 261194



£3.75

Aqua blooms

Ceramic buttons are a wonderful way to add a special finish to your knitted garment or bag, and we've fallen head-over-heels for Kate Holliday's fab designs. These Aqua Flowers buttons feature a bright blue pattern on a pale aqua background – the large ones would look so delicate and pretty on a chunky-knit cardi. Luckily they're machine-washable on a gentle cycle – simply turn the knitted garment inside out and pop it in a pillowcase to prevent knocks and bumps. Prices range from £1.50 for the small size to £2.25 for a medium button and £4 for the large.

Visit www.kateholliday.co.uk for more details

£1.50 – £4



Skill level



Intermediate

Down on the ranch

This cosy textured sweater from Rowan is perfect for the beginner knitter. By **MARTIN STOREY**

Sizing Guide		S	M	L	XL	XXL
To fit bust	cm	81-86	91-97	102-107	112-117	122-127
	in	32-34	36-38	40-42	44-46	48-50
Length to shoulder	cm	58	61	63	64	67
	in	23	24	25	25	26½
Sleeve length	cm	45	46	47	47	47
	in	17½	18	18½	18½	18½
Width	cm	45.5	50	56.5	63.5	70
	in	18	19½	22	25	27½

Back

Using 8mm needles, **cast on** 41 (45: 51: 57: 63) sts.

Row 1 (RS): (K1, P1) to last st, K1.

Row 2: (P1, K1) to last st, P1.

These two rows form the rib.

Work in rib for a further six rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

Change to 10mm needles.

Row 1 (RS): (K1, P1) to last st, K1.

Row 2: As row 1.

These two rows form moss st.

Cont in moss st, dec 1st at each end of 5th (7th: 9th: 11th: 13th) row, then on foll 6th row. 37 (41: 47: 53: 59)sts.

Work five rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

Inc 1st at each end of next and foll 6th row. 41 (45: 51: 57: 63)sts.

Cont straight until back measures 35 (36: 37: 38: 39)cm or 13¾ (14¼: 14½: 15: 15¼)in, ending with RS facing for next row.

Shape raglan armholes

Keeping moss st correct, cast off 2sts at beg of next two rows. 37 (41: 47: 53: 59)sts.

For sizes S, M and L only

Dec 1st at each end of next row.

Work three rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

Work last four rows 3 (2: 1: 0: 0) times more. 29 (35: 43: 53: 59)sts.

For all sizes

Dec 1st at each end of next 1 (1: 1: 3: 7) rows, then on every foll alt row until 17 (17: 19: 19: 19) sts rem.

Work one row, ending with RS facing for next row.

Cast off rem 17 (17: 19: 19: 19)sts.

Front

Work as given for back until 27 (27: 31: 31: 31)sts rem in raglan.

Work one row, ending with RS facing for next row.

Shape neck

Next row (RS): K2tog, moss st 6 (6: 8: 8: 8) and turn, leaving rem sts on a holder.

Work each side of neck separately.

Dec 1st at beg of next row. 6 (6: 8: 8: 8)sts.

Dec 1st at each end of next row, then on foll 1 (1: 2: 2: 2) alt rows. 2sts.

Work one row.

Next row: K2tog. Fasten off.

With RS facing, rejoin yarn to rem sts left on holder, cast off centre 11sts, moss st to end.

Complete to match first side, reversing shapings.

Sleeves

Using 8mm needles, **cast on** 21 (21: 23: 23: 23)sts.

Work eight rows in rib as given for back, ending with RS facing for next row.

Change to 10mm needles.

Work in moss st as given for back, shaping sides by inc 1st at each end of fifth row, then on every foll 6th (6th: 6th: 6th: 4th) row to 25 (31: 31: 39: 29) sts, then on every foll 8th (8th: 8th: 8th: 6th) row until there are 35 (37: 39: 41: 43)sts, working inc sts in moss st.

Cont straight until sleeve measures 45 (46: 47: 47: 47)cm or 17¾ (18: 18½: 18½: 18½)in, ending with RS facing for next row.

Shape raglan

Keeping moss st correct, cast off 2sts at beg of next two rows. 31 (33: 35: 37: 39) sts.

Dec 1st at each end of next 1 (1: 1: 3: 3) rows, then every foll alt row until 7sts rem.

Work one row, ending with RS facing for next row.

Left sleeve only

Dec 1st at beg of next row and cast off 2sts at beg of foll row. 4sts.

Dec 1st at beg of next row and 1st at beg of foll row. 2sts. Cast off.

Right sleeve only

Cast off 2sts at beg and dec 1st at end of next

Pattern details

You will need...

Yarn

8 (9: 10: 11: 12) x 100g balls of Rowan Big Wool In Deer (shade 070)

Needles

8mm (UK size 0) and 10mm (UK size 000) knitting needles

Tension

Yarn used knits as super chunky

– 9sts and 14½ rows to 10cm or 4in over moss st using 10mm (UK size 000) knitting needles

Abbreviations

alt	alternate
beg	beginning
cm	centimetre(s)
cont	continue
dec	decrease(ing)
foll	following
in	inch(es)
inc	increase(ing)
K	knit
k2tog	knit 2sts together
P	purl
RS	right side
rem st(s)	remain(ing) stitch(es)

Yarn detail

Rowan Big Wool

www.knitrowan.com
01484 681881

Content 100% merino wool

Weight/length 100g/80m

Wash Hand wash

RRP £8.95



row. 4sts.
Work one row.
Dec 1st at end of next row and 1st at beg of foll
row. 2sts. Cast off.

Making up

Block out each piece of knitting and, following the instructions on the ball band, press the garment pieces, omitting the ribs. Tip: Take special care to press the edges, as this will make sewing up both easier and neater. Darn in all ends neatly along the selva edge. Join raglan seams, leaving left back raglan open, using backstitch or mattress stitch if preferred.

Neckband

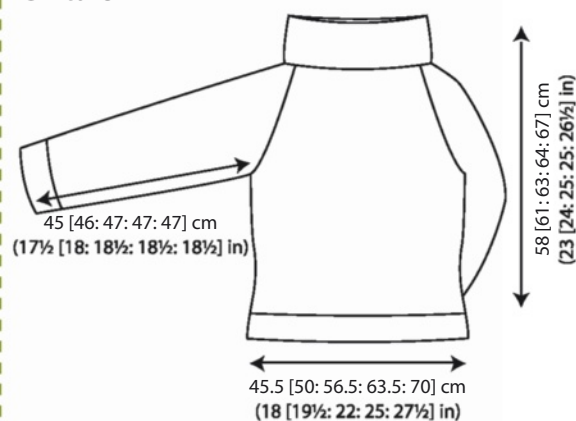
With RS facing and using 8mm needles, pick up and knit 9sts from left sleeve, 6 (6: 8: 8: 10)sts down left side of neck, 12sts from front, 6 (6: 8: 8: 10)sts up right side of neck, 9sts from top of right sleeve and 19 (19: 21: 21: 21)sts from back. 61 (61: 67: 67: 71)sts.

Work in moss st as given for back for 20cm or 8in, ending with RS facing for next row.

Cast off in moss st.

Join collar seam, reversing for last 12cm or 5in for turn-back. ■

Chart



Reader offer!

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Let it snow

It wouldn't be Christmas without a new jumper! He'll love this chunky knit by **VAL PIERCE**



Start
here!

Back

Using 5.5mm needles and Adriatique, **cast on** 86sts.

Work in twisted 2 x 2 rib as follows:

Row 1: (K2 tbl, P2) to end.

Repeat row 1 another 17 times, inc 1st at centre of last row. 87sts.

Change to 6mm needles and work in st st for two rows.

Now work from Chart 1, joining in Calot and using the stranding method when working Fair Isle patterns. When Chart 1 is complete, break Adriatique and continue for six rows in Calot.

Now work from Chart 2, joining in Avalanche. Carry yarn not in use carefully up side of work.

Continue working from Chart 2 until you have seven rows of small snowflakes in all.

Work five rows st st in Calot.

Join in Adriatique and work from Chart 3.

Continue in Calot for seven rows st st.

Wind three balls of Avalanche and use a separate ball for each of the large snowflakes.

Work from Chart 4 and place snowflakes as follows:

Row 1: K5, work across 23sts from chart, K4, work across 23sts from chart, K4, work across 23sts from chart, K5.

This now sets the placing of the charts. Continue working until all rows are complete.

Work three rows in Calot. ****

Now work from Chart 2.

Shape shoulders

Cast off 9sts at beg of next six rows.

Leave remaining sts on a holder.

Front

Work as for back until ****.

Shape neck

Keeping continuity of the pattern, work across next 32sts, put remaining sts onto a stitch holder and work this side first.

Dec 1st at neck edge on the next three rows, then dec 1st at the same edge on next and every foll alt row until 27sts remain, ending on a purl row.

Shape shoulders

Cast off 9sts at beg of next three rows. Fasten off.

Slip next 23sts onto holder for centre of neck, rejoin yarn to last set of stitches and work to end of row. Now complete to match first side.

Sleeves (make two)

Using 5.5mm needles and Adriatic, **cast on** 40sts. Work in twisted 2 x 2 rib for 14 rows as follows:

Row 1: K2 tbl, P2.

Repeat row 1 another 13 times, inc 1st in centre of last row. 41sts.

Change to 6mm needles and work two rows in stocking stitch.

Join in Calot and work from Chart 5.

Use the stranding method when working the Fair Isle pattern. Continue from the chart, adding increased stitches into the pattern as you do, inc 1st at each end on every fourth row to 67sts.

Continue working in pattern until work measures 54cm or 21in (or desired length), ending on a purl row. Adjust length here as desired.

Cast off.

Neckband and making up

Join left shoulder seam.

Using 5.5mm needles and Adriatique, with right side facing, pick up and knit 17sts down left side of neck, 23sts from holder on front neck, 17sts up right front, 32sts from back neck. Now proceed in (K2 tbl, P2) rib for 20 rows.

Do not cast off. Run a contrast yarn through the stitches on the needle and slip them off.

Join the other shoulder seam.

Working from the inside of the sweater, fold the neck band in half onto the wrong side. Now catch down each stitch, matching it stitch for stitch from the top and bottom. Don't pull the yarn too tightly, as you need to retain enough stretch in the neckband to allow it to pull easily over the head. Join seam of neckband.

Work in all the ends. Fold the sleeve in half and then mark the centre point of the top. With right sides together, pin

the sleeve in place on back and front of sweater, making sure that it is equal on both sides. Stitch carefully in place. Do the same with the other sleeve on the opposite side of the sweater.

Now join the side and sleeve seams. Press lightly under a damp cloth with a warm iron, to flatten out the patterning. ■

Yarn
detail

Bergère de France Magic+
www.bergeredefrance.co.uk

Content 50% acrylic, 50% wool

Weight/length 50g/80m

Wash Machine wash 30°C

RRP £4

Pattern
details

You will need...

□ Yarn

● 11 x 50g balls of Bergère de France Magic + Chunky in Calot (shade 29040)

● 2 x 50g balls of Bergère de France Magic + Chunky in both Avalanche (shade 20739) and Adriatique (shade 21817)

□ Needles

5.5mm (UK size 5) and 6mm (UK size 4) knitting needles

Tension

Yarn used knits as chunky – 16sts and 20 rows to 10cm or 4in over st st using 6mm (UK size 4) needles

Finished sizes

Chest to fit: 102/107cm or 40/42in

Length: 74cm or 29in

Sleeve: 54cm or 21in

Abbreviations

alt	alternate
beg	beginning
cm	centimetre(s)
dec	decrease(ing)
foll	following
in	inch(es)
inc	increase(ing)
K	knit
P	purl
st(s)	stitch(es)
st st	stocking stitch
tbl	through the back loop





Chart 1



Chart 2 and 5

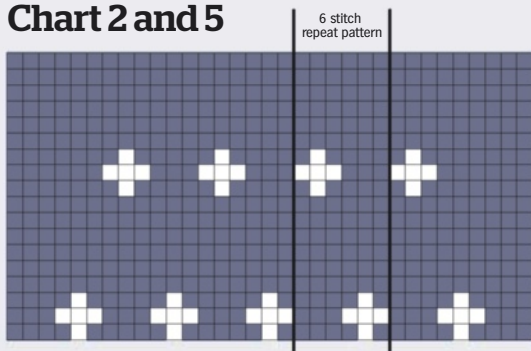


Chart 3

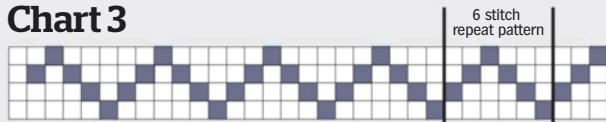
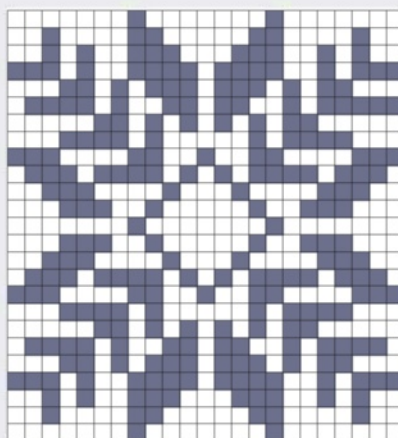


Chart 4



Need help?
 Having trouble with any of
 our knitting patterns?
 Just email us on
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 /forum](http://www.knit-today.com/forum)

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Loop stitch

Knit up a border with a difference or give a garment contrast detail with loop stitch. By **Aneeta Patel**

Loop knitting has taken a back seat with knitters in recent years, making just the occasional appearance on patterns. However, as with all knitting stitch trends, it seems the time for loop stitch is back and there's been a flurry of designs of late featuring this quirky, idiosyncratic technique. Loop stitch has so much character you'd definitely stand out from the crowd if you tried to wear a jumper entirely knitted in loop, however, as an accent stitch or an embellishment it can really add something special to accessories such as gloves or a scarf and it can work beautifully as a border to your knitting. Loop stitch also works well on homeware and looks fantastic on bathmats and rugs. We're so delighted loop stitch is back on the high street that we asked one of our designers to make a gorgeous loop collar that is guaranteed give a boost to any winter outfit. Turn to page 34 to find the pattern for our glamorous collar but before you do, take a peek below to find out how to get this stitch looking luscious and loopy!

Photos by Peter Schiazza

How to knit a practice square of loop stitch

Cast on any number of stitches (for example, 12 stitches would be a good number for a practice square).

Row 1 (WS): Knit 1 row.

Row 2 (RS): ML, repeat to end, making a loop in every stitch. Repeat last 2 rows until the piece is as long as you want it. Cast off on the wrong side.



How to make a loop:



Knit the stitch but DO NOT release it from the left hand needle.



Bring the yarn to the front of your work in between the needles (YF).



Wrap the yarn clockwise around your thumb (as you look at it from the top) and take it to the back of the work in between the needles.



"This stitch requires a bit of manual dexterity so try working a practice piece first"



Now knit into the same stitch again and release it from the left needle. You'll be left with two stitches on the right needle.



Lift the first (lower) stitch over the second stitch (as if you were casting it off). This holds the loop securely in place.

Repeat this process for every stitch. When you get to the end of the row, give a quick tug to every loop to straighten them out.



Loopy collar

Transform your outfit with this elegant textured accessory, made using loop stitch. By **SARAH HEYS**

Pattern details

You will need...

- ☐ Yarn
 - 2 x 100g hanks of Erika Knight Maxi Wool in Storm (shade 04)
- ☐ Needles
 - 9mm (UK size 00) knitting needles
- ☐ Other
 - Yarn needle

Finished size

54cm or 21½in around the neck

Abbreviations

cm	centimetre(s)
in	inch(es)
K	knit
k2tog	knit 2sts together
kfb	knit into the front and back of the stitch
P	purl
sl1	slip 1st
st(s)	stitch(es)
st st	stocking stitch
tbl	through the back loop

Yarn detail

Erika Knight Maxi Wool

www.erikaknight.co.uk
0333 666 5333

Content 100% wool
Weight/length 100g/80m
Wash Hand wash
RRP £8.95

Start here!

Loopy collar

Cast on 22sts.

Row 1: Sl1 purlwise, loop stitch to last stitch, K1.

Row 2: Sl1 purlwise, K to the end of the row.

Row 3: *Sl1 purlwise, loop stitch to last stitch, K1.

Row 4: Slip 1 purlwise, kfb, knit to last 3sts, k2tog, K1.*

Repeat row 3-4 nine times.

Row 23: Sl1 purlwise, loop stitch to last stitch, K1.

Row 24: Sl1 purlwise, K to the end of the row.

Row 25: Sl1 purlwise, loop stitch to last stitch, K1.

Row 26: Sl1 purlwise, kfb, knit to last 3sts, k2tog, K1.

Row 27: Sl1 purlwise, loop stitch to last stitch, K1.

Row 28: Sl1 purlwise, knit to the end of the row.

Row 29: Sl1 purlwise, loop stitch to last stitch, K1.

Row 30: Sl1 purlwise, kfb, K to last 3sts, k2tog, K1. Repeat rows 1-2 eight times.

Row 47: Sl1 purlwise, loop stitch to the last stitch, K1.

Row 48: Sl1 purlwise, k2tog, knit to the last 3sts, kfb, K1.

Row 49: Sl1 purlwise, loop stitch to the last stitch, K1.

Row 50: Sl1 purlwise, K to the end of the row.

Row 51: Sl1 purlwise, loop stitch to the last stitch, K1.

Row 52: Sl1 purlwise, k2tog, knit to the last 3sts, kfb, K1.

Row 53: Sl1 purlwise, loop stitch to last stitch, K1.

Row 54: Sl1 purlwise, K to the end of the row. Repeat rows 51-52 nine times.

Row 73: Sl1 purlwise, loop stitch to last stitch, K1.

Row 74: Slip 1 purlwise, k2tog, knit to the last three stitches, kfb, K1.

Row 75: Sl1 purlwise, loop stitch to last stitch, K1.

Row 76: Sl1 purlwise, knit to the end of the row.

Row 77: Sl1 purlwise, loop stitch to last stitch, K1.

Making up

Cast off. Sew in the ends. ■



*Learn
how to do
loop stitch on
page 32!*

Hold on tight

SUSANNE FRANK's

block colour clutch makes a stylish evening accessory



Abbreviations

cm	centimetre(s)
in	inch(es)
K	knit
k2tog	knit 2sts together
k3tog	knit 3sts together
P	purl
p3tog	purl 2sts together
psso	pass slipped st over
rep	repeat
sl1	slip 1st
st(s)	stitch(es)

Start here!

Clutch bag

Using Lapis **cast on** 136sts on the circular needle. In stocking stitch, knit 30 rows in Lapis, then 45 rows in Natural. Knit the last four rows in K1, P1 rib to stop the edge from curling. Cast off. Turn inside out and close the bottom seam. Darn in the loose ends. Turn the right way round again.

Felting & adding zip

Put your knitted bag into a mesh lingerie bag or a zip-up pillow case. Wash in the washing machine with other clothing at 40° with detergent. The friction and temperature will help with the felting

process. Take the knitted bag out of the mesh bag and pull into shape. The inside of the bag might be stuck together in places, so make sure you pull it apart. Put some scrunched-up newspaper pieces inside the bag and dry thoroughly (for example, in an airing cupboard). Sew the zip into place.

Variation 1

Use a button instead of a zip. You'll need a popper and a big button. Sew the popper into place inside the bag, then attach the big button on the outside.

Yarn detail

Rowan Creative
Focus Worsted

www.knitrowan.com
01484 681881

Content 75% wool, 25% alpaca

Weight/length 100g/200m

Wash Hand wash 30°C

RRP £8.25

Variation 2

Add asymmetrical edge. For this version, you'll knit two separate pieces in each

Finishing and felting

With right sides facing, close side seam and bottom seam. Turn right side out. Crochet a row of single crochet along the asymmetrical top edge to stop it from curling. Felt as before. Add a popper and button, to finish. ■

Felting in the washing machine

Felting or fulling?

The process of knitting a spun yarn and then fusing the fibres by washing the finished piece is actually called fulling. Felting uses unspun wool. We are using the term felting here simply because it's better known.

How does it work?

It only works with yarn with 100% wool content. By washing it at a minimum of 40° plus agitation, the fibres expand, then shrink and fuse together. You can repeat the process to make it shrink more and make the fabric denser.

The wash load

Make sure the garments you wash with your knitted piece are colourfast and don't pill, or the fibres that come off them could wind up in your felt.

Relax...

Uneven stitches won't show so much afterwards.

Aftercare

You should wash your finished piece with a wool detergent in cold water if it needs a clean.

Pattern details

You will need...

For the clutch bag:

Yarn

- 1 x 100g ball of Rowan Creative Focus Worsted in Natural (shade 100)
- 1 x 100g ball of Rowan Creative Focus Worsted in Lapis (shade 007)

Needles

6mm (UK size 4) circular needle, 80cm long

Other

One zip 36cm or 14in long, with closed end OR button

Tension

17sts and 22 rows to 10cm or 4in over st st using 6mm (UK size 4) knitting needles

Finished sizes

Knitted size: 33cm or 13in high, 40cm or 16in wide

Felted size: 20cm or 8in high, 30cm or 12in wide

Top tip!

To stop the edges from curling during felting, secure at two points with safety pins. After felting, take out the pins and make sure you pull the bag apart while it's still wet.

colour and sew them together afterwards.

Knitted size: Long side 56cm (22in), shorter side 40cm (16in), width 40cm (16in).

Felted size: Long side 35cm (14in), shorter side 25cm (10in), width 30cm (12in).

For the turquoise half:

Using Lapis, **cast on** 68sts. Knit 88 rows in stocking stitch. Start shaping the top edge. Decrease 2sts in each row as follows: S11, k2tog, pss0 at the beginning of each row and p3tog at the end of the next row. Continue to the last 2sts, cut strand and pull sts together.

For the cream half:

Using Natural, **cast on** 68sts. Knit 88 rows in stocking stitch. Start shaping the top edge. Decrease 2sts in each row as follows: K3tog at the end of each row and cast off 2sts at the beginning of the next row. Continue to the last two stitches, cut the strand and pull the stitches together.





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Queen of cool

Cinch in this stylish knit with a wide belt for smart-casual confidence.

By **BERGERE DE FRANCE**



Yarn detail

Bergère de France
Duvetine

www.bergeredefrance.co.uk

Content 73% acrylic, 19%
polyamide, 8% polyester

Weight/length 50g/70m

Wash Machine wash 30°C

RRP £3.55

Start
here!

Tunic

Back

Using 6.5mm needles, **cast on** 77sts.
Work for 5cm or 2in (10 rows) in moss st.
Continue working as follows:
Moss 7sts, st st 63sts, moss 7sts.

Shoulder and neck edge

When work measures 67cm or 26½in (116 rows)
total, cast off at beg of every row as follows:
3sts 14 times, 4sts twice.
At the same time as 6th shoulder decrease,
cast off the 23 central sts, cont on both sides
separately, casting off at neck edge 2sts once.

Front

Start as for back.

Shoulders and neck edge

Cast off at same length as for back, but at the
same time as the second shoulder decrease,
cast off the 17 central sts, cont on each side
separately, casting off at neck edge 2sts on foll
two alt rows and one st on next alt row.

Collar

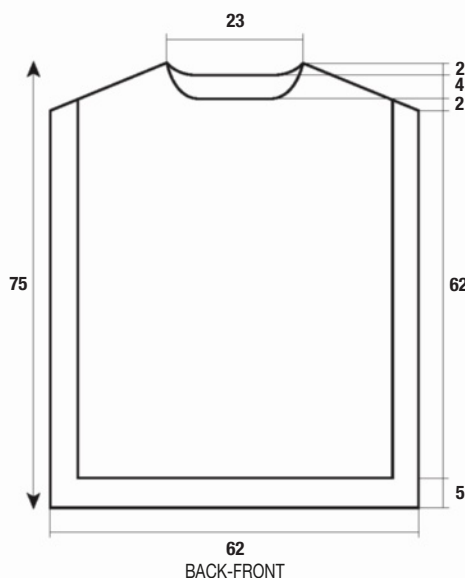
Cast on 67sts. Work for 20cm or 8in (40 rows) in
moss st and leave the sts on a spare needle.

Making up

Join shoulder seams. Graft collar to neck edge.
Join the sides of the collar, allowing for a 12cm or
(4¾in) turn-up. ■

Chart

Measurements in cm



Pattern details

You will need...

Yarn

12 x 50g balls of Bergère de France Duvetine in Grege (shade 291.011)

Needles

6.5mm (UK size 3) knitting needles

Tension

Yarn used knits as chunky – 12sts
and 17 rows to 10cm or 4in over st
st using 6.5mm (UK size 3) knitting
needles

Abbreviations

alt	alternate
beg	beginning
cm	centimetre(s)
cont	continue(ing)
foll	following
in	inch(es)
K	knit
moss st	moss stitch: K1, P1 to last st, K1.
P	purl
st(s)	stitch(es)
st st	stocking stitch: knit one row, purl one row

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our knitting patterns?

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media.co.uk or check for any

pattern corrections on

www.knit-today.com
/forum

Beanie hat

Pattern details

You will need...

Yarn

3 x 50g balls of Schachenmayr Original Lova in Beige-Orange Spot (shade 00087)

Needles

8mm (UK size 0) and 9mm (UK size 00) circular needles, 40cm or 16in long
9mm (UK size 00) double-pointed needles

Other

One fake fur Schachenmayr Pompon in Neon Orange

Finished sizes

Head circumference approx.
50-54cm or 19¾-21¼in
(55-58cm or 21¾-23in)

Tension

Yarn used knits as super-chunky – 11sts and 19 rounds to 10cm or 4in over fisherman's rib using 9mm (UK size 00) knitting needles

Abbreviations

cm	centimetre(s)
cont	continue
dec(s)	decrease(s)
dpns	double-pointed needles
inc	increase(ing)
K	knit
k2tog	knit 2sts together
P	purl
p2tog	purl 2sts together
patt	pattern
rem	remaining
rep	repeat
st(s)	stitch(es)
tbl	through the back loop



Rib beanie

Skill level



Intermediate

Yarn detail

Schachenmayr
Original Lova

www.coatscrafts.co.uk

Content 67% acrylic, 30% wool, 3% polyamide

Weight/length 50g/50m

Wash Machine wash 30°C

RRP £3.50

Rib beanie

1x1 rib pattern

K1, P1.

Fisherman's rib

For the fisherman's rib st, insert needle one round deeper, in the st of the preceding round, and K1 – the higher st will come undone.

Round 1: *P3, 1 fisherman's rib st, P1, 1 fisherman's rib st; rep from * to end.

Round 2: Purl.

Rep rounds 1 and 2.

Start here!

Depending on the number of sts, work with the circular needle or with dpns.

Using 8mm circular needle, **cast on** 52 (56) sts and place marker at beg of round. Work in 1x1 rib patt.

When work measures 4cm or 1½in from cast-on, knit one round, inc 14 (16) sts, evenly spaced across round, for each inc, K1 in

horizontal thread tbl. 66 (72) sts.

Change to 9mm needles and purl one round, then cont in fisherman's rib.

When work measures 18 (19)cm or 7 (7½)in from cast-on, in round 1 of the fisherman's rib, beg with decs:

Round 1: *P2tog, P1, 1 fisherman's rib st, P1, 1 fisherman's rib st; rep from * to end. 55 (60) sts.

Round 2: Purl.

Round 3: *P2tog, 1 fisherman's rib st, P1, 1 fisherman's rib st; rep from * to end. 44 (48) sts.

Round 4: P1, K1.

Round 5: K2tog to end. 22 (24) sts.

Round 6: Knit.

Round 7: K2tog to end. 11 (12) sts.

Round 8: K2tog five (six) times, K1 (0). 6 sts.

Cut yarn, run it through rem sts and pull closed. Hide yarn end.

Sew pom-pom to top of hat. ■

Skill level

Easy

Chunky throw

Add rustic charm to your home with this seed stitch throw by **SARAH HEYS**

Pattern details

You will need...

Yarn

7 x 100g balls of Rowan Drift in China Clay (shade 911)

Needles

15mm knitting needles

Other

Yarn needle for sewing in ends

Yarn detail

Rowan Drift

www.knitrowan.com
01484 681881

Content 100% merino wool

Weight/length 100g/80m

Wash Handwash

RRP £8.95

Abbreviations

cm	centimetre(s)
in	inch(es)
K	knit
P	purl
st(s)	stitch(es)

Start here!

Chunky throw

Cast on 50sts.

Row 1: *K1, P1.

Row 2: P1, K1.*

Repeat from * for 130 rows (or until you have just over half a ball of wool left).

Cast off.

Sew in the ends.

Make tassels

Fold a long length of doubled yarn in half and twist tightly from the middle. Insert this through an edge stitch on the blanket and fold yarn in half again. This will twist up (like when making cord) to give you a chunky tassel. Tie at end. ■

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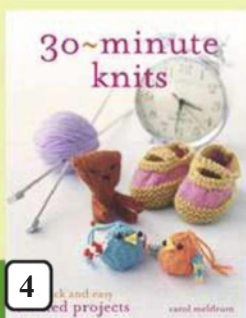


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Dotty darling

This cute cardi by **TINA BARRETT**
will be loved by little girls everywhere!

Pattern details

You will need...

Yarn

● Milla Mia Naturally Soft Merino: 3 (3: 4) x 50g balls in Midnight (shade 101)
● 2 (2: 2) x 50g balls in Scarlet (shade 140)
● 1 (1: 1) x 50g ball in Snow (shade 124)

Needles

3.25mm (UK size 10) and 2.75mm (UK size 12) knitting needles
3mm (UK size 11) crochet hook

Other

5 (5: 6) heart-shaped red buttons
Stitch holders

Tension

Yarn used knits as 4ply – 25sts and 34 rows to 10cm or 4in over st st using 3.25mm (UK size 10) knitting needles



Sizing Guide		1-2 years	3-4 years	5-6 years
Actual chest	cm	56	66	76
	in	22	26	30
Length from shoulder	cm	30	36	41
	in	12	14	16
Sleeve length	cm	25	30	33
	in	10	12	13
Armhole depth	cm	13	14	15
	in	5	5½	6

Start here!

Elbow patches (make 2)

Using 3.25mm needles and Scarlet, **cast on** 3sts. Working in stocking stitch, inc each end of every foll row until 21sts rem. Work even for 16 rows. Knit 10, turn and work on these 10sts only. Dec each end of every foll row until 4sts rem. Cast off. With RS facing, rejoin yarn to rem 11sts. K2tog, knit to end. 10sts. Dec each end of next and every foll row until 4sts rem. Cast off. Using elbow patch chart and Snow, swiss-darn the polka dots to front of elbow patches.

Back

Using 2.75mm needles and Midnight, **cast on** 70 (81: 94)sts.

Work in moss stitch for 14 rows. Change to 3.25mm needles and Scarlet.

Work two rows in st st.

Row 1: K5 (5: 5), begin working row 1 of chart pattern and continue to end, K5 (4: 5).

Row 2: P5 (4: 5), work row 2 of chart to end, P5 (5: 5). Continue working as set, repeating all 12 rows of the chart pattern until back measures 18 (22: 25)cm or 7 (8½: 10)in, ending on a WS row.

Shape armholes

Cast off 5 (6: 7)sts at beg of next two rows. 60 (69: 80)sts.

Keeping to chart pattern, dec 1st at each end of next and every foll alt row

0 (0: three) times. 60 (69: 74)sts. Continue in chart pattern until back meas 30 (36: 41)cm or 12 (14: 16)in, ending on a WS row.

Shape shoulders

Cast off 7 (8: 8)sts at beg of next two rows. 46 (53: 58)sts.

Next row: K13 (15: 16), turn and work on these sts only. Leave rem sts on holder.

Next row: Purl.

Next row: Cast off 7 (8: 8)sts and K to end.

Cast off rem 6 (7: 8)sts.

With RS facing, slip centre 20 (23: 26)sts onto holder.

Rejoin yarn to rem 13 (15: 16)sts, K to end of row.

Next row: Cast off 7 (8: 8)sts and P to end.

Next row: Knit.

Cast off rem 6 (7: 8)sts.

Left front

*Using 2.75mm needles and Midnight, **cast on** 42 (47: 54)sts.

Work 14 rows in moss stitch.

Change to 3.25mm needles and work as folls:**

Next row: Knit to last 7sts, slip these 7sts onto a holder, turn and purl to end.

Work on these 35 (40: 47)sts until front meas 18 (22: 25)cm or 7 (8½: 10)in, ending on a WS row.

Shape armhole

Cast off 5 (6: 7)sts at beg of next row.

30 (34: 40)sts.

Dec 1st at beg of armhole row 0 (0: three) times.

30 (34: 37)sts.

Work even until front meas 27 (32: 36)cm or 10½ (12½: 14), ending on a RS row.

Shape neck

Cast off 7 (8: 8)sts at beg of next row, P to end. 23 (26: 29)sts.

Dec 1st at neck edge on every P row until 20 (23: 24)sts.

Work even until front meas 30 (36: 41)cm or 12 (14: 16)in, ending on a WS row.

Shape shoulders

Cast off 7 (8: 8)sts at beg of next row. 13 (15: 16)sts.



Yarn detail

Milla Mia Naturally
Soft Merino
www.millamia.com

Content 100% merino wool
Weight/length 50g/125m
Wash Machine wash 30°C
RRP £5.50

Purl one row.
Cast off 7 (8: 8)sts at beg of next row.
Cast off rem 6 (7: 8)sts.

Right front

Work as for left front from * to **.
Next row: Knit 7sts, slip these stitches onto a holder and knit to end.
Complete as for left front, reversing all shapings.

Sleeves (make 2)

Using 2.75mm needles and Midnight, **cast on** 40 (43: 44)sts.
Work 10 rows in moss stitch.
Change to 3.25mm needles and work in st st.
At same time, inc each end of next and every foll 6th (8th: 10th) row until 60 (62: 64)sts.
Work even until sleeve meas 25 (30: 33)cm or 10 (12: 13)in, ending on a WS row.

Shape armholes & sleeve cap

Cast off 5 (6: 7)sts at beg of next two rows. 50sts.
Dec each end of next and every foll alt row to 24sts.
Cast off.

Making up

Press all pieces lightly into shape and darn in loose yarn ends.

Elbow patches

Using a 3mm crochet hook and Scarlet, join yarn anywhere around the edge and work a round of double crochet. Finish off and darn in loose ends.
Work second elbow patch to match. Position elbow patch onto RS of first sleeve, approximately 14cm or 5½in up from the cuff edge. Pin in place, then sew using small backstitches and matching yarn.
Repeat for second sleeve.

Left front band

With RS facing, using 2.75mm needles and Midnight, rejoin yarn and work in moss stitch across the 7sts from holder.
Cont in moss stitch until front band reaches to neck with a slight stretch. Break yarn and leave sts on a holder. Slip-stitch band to left front. Mark the position of 4 (4: 5) of the 5 (5: 6) buttons. The last button will sit on the neckband.

Right front buttonhole band

With WS facing, using 2.75mm needles and Midnight, rejoin yarn and work in moss stitch across the 7sts from holder.
Work in moss stitch, matching button marking on opposite band and making a buttonhole in this row as folls:
Buttonhole row (RS): Moss 3sts, k2tog, yo, moss 2sts.
Continue in this way until right front buttonhole band is complete and reaches to the neck with a slight stretch. Break yarn and leave sts on a holder. Slip-stitch band to right front.

Neckband

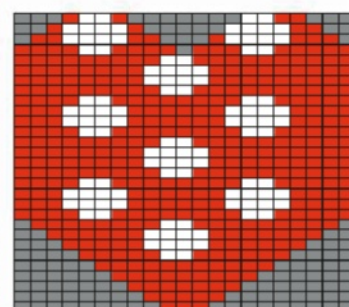
Sew left and right front pieces to the back, at the shoulders.
With RS facing, using 2.75mm needles and Midnight yarn, knit across 7sts from holder on right front band, PUK 13 (15: 17)sts up right front neck, 20 (23: 26)sts from back holder, PUK 13 (15: 17)sts down left front neck and 7sts from holder on left front band. 60 (67: 74)sts.
Work three rows in moss stitch.
Buttonhole row: Patt 2sts, k2tog, yo, patt to end. Work three more rows in moss stitch.
Cast off in pattern.
Sew on the heart buttons to left front band. ■

Abbreviations

alt	alternate
beg	beginning
cm	centimetre(s)
cont	continue
dec	decrease(ing)
foll(s)	following (follows)
in	inch(es)
inc	increase(ing)
K	knit
k2tog	knit 2sts together
meas	measures
P	purl
PUK	pick up and knit
patt	pattern
RS	right side
rem	remain(ing)
st(s)	stitch(es)
st st	stocking stitch
WS	wrong side
yo	yarn over

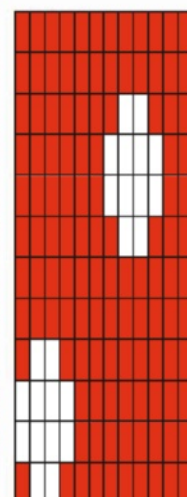
Elbow patch chart

21sts x 30 rows



Back of cardigan chart

12sts x 12 rows



Key
■ Scarlet
 Snow
 No stitches

Diary of a *knitting group*

Every month, **Aneeta Patel** hosts a gathering called Knitting SOS where members can learn, chat and drink plenty of tea...

As well as working as a knitting teacher and author of two knitting books, *Knitty Gritty* and *Knitty Gritty the Next Steps*, I also run a monthly knitting group called Knitting SOS. This is a service knitters can use for their knitting questions by email (or text in an emergency), but I also wanted to have a real live group so that people could come together with their crafting queries. I'm a firm believer in the joy of crafting with others and the monthly, free drop-in Knitting SOS group is one of my favourite activities.

Our main meeting place is Look Mum No Hands in East London. This is a bicycle-themed cafe with tasty cakes and snacks, good sunny light and plenty of comfy tables we can push together when there are lots of us. Here's a little glimpse to what we get up to every month. For more information, visit www.knittingsos.co.uk

October 2013

On a rainy Sunday in October I expected a very quiet SOS gathering but it turned out to be perfect weather for knitting and eight of us created a great deal of energy and enthusiasm – along with a few knitting problems to get my brain whirling. The group was a mixture of experienced knitters, regulars and newbies looking for a bit of advice. I find that I'm mostly there for the gossip and a good old snoop at everyone's knitting, with a bit of SOS thrown in every now and again.

Crafting in a group is always inspiring, for me as much as anyone, and I find that I take away fresh enthusiasm for knitting from every SOS session. For newcomers to the craft, meeting other knitters is a great way of seeing what can be achieved at different levels and it can be a real boost towards trying more complex ideas and projects for themselves.

Inspiring knitters

Carrie's one of my most advanced regulars. I've been known to learn a thing or two from her myself as she's always experimenting with yarns and patterns. This time she's working on a delicate mohair cowl, and making up the pattern as she goes along by the looks of it!

Summer, another Knitting SOS devotee, is making Cora, a cabled cardi designed by Martin Storey. She's wearing a pretty pink version of the women's 4-ply cardigan from my second book, *Knitty Gritty the Next Steps*. All the patterns in the book were test-knitted by my students and I think Summer did a brilliant job for me. It was lovely to see her wearing it.



One of my knitters with her 'bible' to hand



Working in good light is essential to achieving knitting success

Jennifer is a Knitting SOS-er visiting London from Cheshire, and she's getting a headstart on the festive season preparations by knitting some splendid Christmas bunting. I'm very impressed by her forward thinking! To prove just how international we are at Knitting SOS, this month Pepa is visiting the UK from Tenerife and she's taken time to drop in to say hello and show off her latest project, a very stylish cardigan.

At the other end of the spectrum, we had a newbie looking for advice with pick up and knit for her first baby vest and Francine modelling her very first jumper (find the pattern in *Knitty Gritty the Next Steps*) – a gold star to Francine for her first 'big' garment!

It's not just about the knitting!

Gather together any group of crafty, creative people and the conversation will never run dry. As well as discussions about yarns, slipper patterns and sparkly Fair Isle, we covered a hilarious range of topics from weddings, wills and bicycles to property and face lifts! I love my Knitting SOS-ers and I never know what fascinating stories I'll come away with. Now, who's for more tea?



Jennifer is one step ahead with her Christmas bunting



SOS member Pepa visits all the way from Tenerife



Francine models her first jumper, taken from *Knitty Gritty the Next Steps*

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Festive fun

Brighten up your Christmas tree with these mini knitted decorations by **RITA TAYLOR**



9cm or 3½in long

Abbreviations

alt	alternate
beg	beginning
cm	centimetres(s)
cont	continue
in	inch(es)
K	knit
k2tog	knit 2sts together
P	purl
patt	pattern
p2tog	purl 2sts together
rep	repeat
st(s)	stitch(es)
tbl	through the back loop

Start here!

Mini stocking

Knit 12 rounds.

Make a cord approximately 10cm or 4in long, form a loop and sew to top of leg.

Start here!

Mini mittens

Make twisted or crochet cord and use to fasten mitts together.

Mittens chart

Key

- Cream
- Red
- RS: Knit
- WS: Purl



Pattern details

You will need...

Jumper on two needles:

Yarn

- 1 x 50g ball patons Diploma Gold 4ply in Denim
- 1 x 10g Knitting Goddess Mini Skein in Double Dipped Red and Blue

Needles

3.25mm (UK size 10) knitting needles

Finished sizes

12.5cm or 5in across, 15cm or 6in long

Jumper in the round:

Yarn

- 1 x 50g ball of Patons Diploma Gold 4ply in Cherry
- 1 x 10g Mini Skein of Knitting Goddess Multicoloured 4ply in Paintbox

Needles

Set of five 3.25mm (UK size 10) dpns

Finished sizes

10cm or 4in across, 12.5cm or 5in long

Start here!

Jumper on two needles

Front

Using Denim, **cast on** 32sts and work six rows K1, P1 rib.

Next row: Knit, increasing in every sixth st to 36sts. Work in st st and stripes of Denim and Multicoloured.

Two rows Denim.

Six rows Multicoloured.

Six rows Denim.

Six rows Multicoloured.

Four rows Denim.

Continuing in Multicoloured.

Shape raglan

Cast off 2sts at beginning of the next two rows. Decrease 1st at each end of every alternate row to 14sts.

Shape neck

P4, turn, k2tog, K2, P1, p2tog. K2tog and fasten off.

Slip 6sts at the centre onto safety pin.

P4, K2, k2tog, P2togp1.

K2tog and fasten off.

Back

As for front until there are 10sts left. Fasten off.

Sleeves

Using Denim, **cast on** 18sts and work six rows rib. Change to st st and increase at each end of the fifth and every following sixth row to 28sts.

Four rows Denim, six rows Multicoloured, six rows Denim, six rows Multicoloured, four rows blue.

Shape raglan

Cast off 2sts at beginning of the next two rows. Six rows Multicoloured, decreasing as for front on alternate rows.

Continue in Denim, decreasing to 6sts.

Neckband

Join raglan seams leaving the back left seam open. Knit across 6sts of the left sleeve, pick up and knit 4sts down the left front, 6sts from the safety pin, 4sts up right front, K10 from the back, and 6sts of right sleeve. Work four rows K1, P1 rib and cast off.

Join remaining seams. Darn in all the ends.

Start here!

Jumper in the round

Worked from the top down

Using Cherry, **cast on** 36sts and work four rounds K1, P1 rib.

Arrange sts on five needles – 6, 12, 6, 12.

Round 1: Multi, knit

Round 2: Inc in 1st and last st of each needle

Repeat these two rounds

to 116sts. Knit 26 of

sleeve and leave

on holder, K32 of

front, knit 26 of

second sleeve

and leave on

holder, knit

32sts of back.

Divide 64sts

of front and

back over 3 or

4 needles. Work

two rounds multi,

10 rounds Cherry. Six

rounds Multicoloured.

Rejoin the Cherry yarn and

then rib eight rounds. Cast off.

Sleeves

Using Multicoloured, K26, pick up and knit 2sts from the underarm, slip the last st to the beg of the first needle and work two rounds. Change to Cherry.

K1, ssk, knit to the last 3sts, k2tog, K1.

Knit four rounds.

Rep these five rounds to 22sts.

Change to Multicoloured, decrease

as before in next round, work six

rounds, change to Cherry and rib

eight rounds. Cast off. Darn in the

ends. ■

Yarn detail

Patons Diploma Gold 4ply

www.coatscrafts.co.uk
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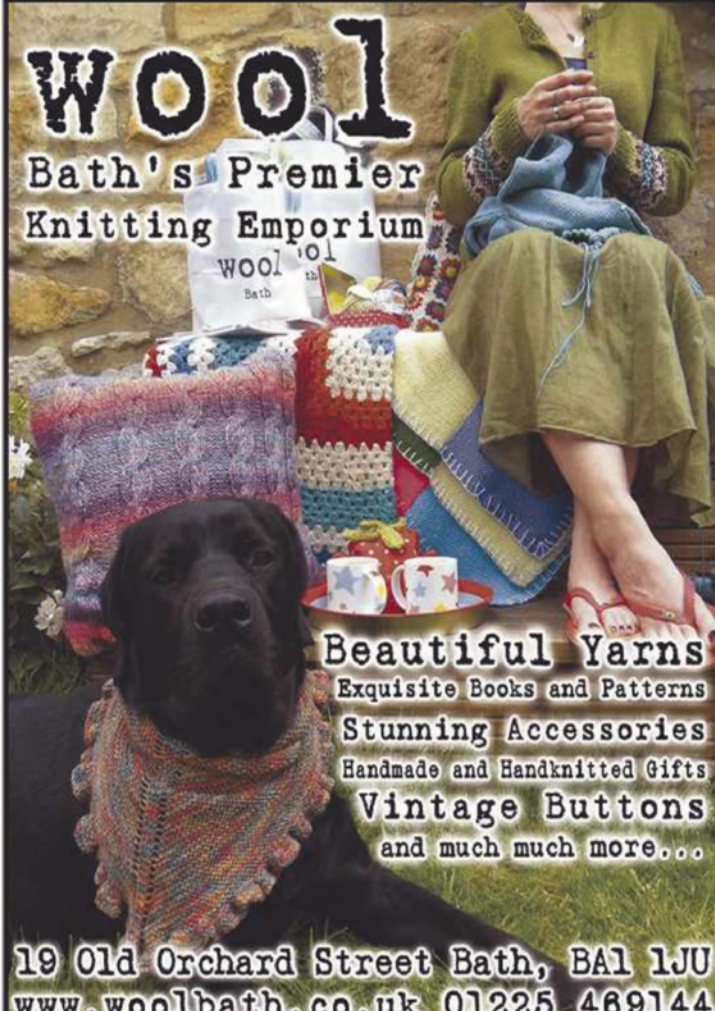
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Baubles & booties

Start here!

Rudolph bauble

Head and nose

Using 3.25mm needles and Christmas Pudding yarn, **cast on** 10sts.

Row 1: (Kfb) to the end of the row. 20sts.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: (K1, kfb) to the end of the row. 30sts.
Beginning purl, st st three rows.

Row 7: (K2, kfb) to the end of the row. 40sts.
Beginning purl, st st three rows.

Row 11: (K3, kfb) to the end of the row. 50sts.
Beginning purl, st st three rows.

Row 15: (K3, k2tog) to the end of the row. 40sts.
Beginning purl, st st three rows.

Row 19: (K2, k2tog) to the end of the row. 30sts.
Beginning purl, st st three rows.

Row 23: (K1, k2tog) to the end of the row. 20sts.
Break off Christmas Pudding and join in Robin Red Breast.

Row 24: Purl.

Row 25: (K1, kfb) to the end of the row. 30sts.

Row 26: Purl.

Row 27: (K1, k2tog) to the end of the row. 20sts.

Row 28: Purl.

Row 29: (K2tog) to the end of the row. 10sts.
B&T.

Antlers main piece (make 2)

Using 3.25mm needles and Christmas Pudding yarn, **cast on** 8sts.

St st 12 rows.

B&T.

Smaller antler piece (make 2)

Using 3.25mm needles and Christmas Pudding yarn, **cast on** 8sts.

Skill level



St st four rows.
B&T.

Inner ears (make 2)

Using 3.25mm needles and Robin Red Breast yarn, **cast on** 8sts.

Knit one row.

B&T.

Outer ears (make 2)

Using 3.25mm needles and Christmas Pudding yarn, **cast on** 12sts.

Knit two rows.

B&T.

Making up

Head & nose: Sew a running thread through the cast-on stitches and pull up tightly to close the stitches. Join the main seam, leaving a small gap for turning. Turn to the right side and stuff firmly. Close the gap. Using Robin Red Breast yarn, sew a running stitch along the colour change row of the nose and pull up to shape the nose.

Pattern details

You will need...

For the Rudolph bauble:

☐ Yarn

● 1 x 25g ball of your free yarn in Robin Red Breast or 1 x 25g ball of red yarn from your stash

● 1 x 25g ball of your free yarn in Christmas Pudding or 1 x 25g ball of brown yarn from your stash

☐ Needles

3.25mm (UK size 10) knitting needles

☐ Other

Small amount of stuffing
Two small black buttons for eyes

Baubles & booties

Pattern details

You will need...

For the Elf booties:

Yarn

● 1 x 25g ball of your free yarn in Robin Red Breast or 1 x 25g ball of red yarn from your stash

● 1 x 25g ball of your free yarn in Christmas Pudding or 1 x 25g ball of brown yarn from your stash

Needles

4mm (UK size 8) knitting needles

Tension

Yarn used knits as DK – 22sts and 24 rows to 10cm or 4in over st st using 4mm (UK size 8) knitting needles

Finished size

To fit age 0-3 months

For the Robin bauble:

● 1 x 25g ball of your free yarn in Robin Red Breast or 1 x 25g ball of red yarn from your stash

● 1 x 25g ball of your free yarn in Christmas Pudding or 1 x 25g ball of brown yarn from your stash

Needles

3.25mm (UK size 10) knitting needles

Other

Small amount of stuffing
Yellow felt for beak
Two black beads for eyes
Small bell for hat
Narrow red ribbon

Designers

Ann Franklin: Elf booties and Rudolph bauble

Val Pierce: Robin bauble



Face: Using Robin Red Breast yarn, sew a long stitch for the smile, catching the centre below the nose. Sew the buttons on either side of the head, a few rows above the nose.

Ears: Catch the inner ear to the inside of the outer ear. Sew the ears onto either side of the head, a few rows behind the eyes and slightly further apart.

Antlers: Sew the main seam of all the pieces, leaving the cast-on edges open. Turn and stuff all the pieces. Sew one small piece to the side of each main piece, about halfway up one side. Bend the main piece slightly to the opposite side. Sew the antlers in place, next to the ears.

Hanging cord: Using a length of Robin Red Breast yarn make a single twisted cord, approximately 25cm or 10in long. Using a large-holed sewing needle, thread the two ends of the cord through the head so that the cord forms a long loop at the top of the head. Pull the cord through so that the ends do not show. Using Christmas Pudding yarn, sew through the cord to fasten it securely to the head.

Elf booties

Boot toppers (make 4)

Using 4mm needles and Robin Red Breast yarn, **cast on** 2sts.

Row 1: Kfb, K1. 3sts.

Row 2: Kfb, K2. 4sts.

Rows 3-4: Knit.

Rows 5-6: Kfb, knit to the end of the row. 6sts.

Rows 7-8: Knit.

Repeat rows 5-8 once. 8sts.

Break off the yarn and leave the topper to one side. (Do not break the yarn after working the fourth topper).

Make leg

Knit across the topper still on the needle, then across the other three toppers. 32sts for leg. Knit two rows.

Break off Robin Red Breast yarn and join in Christmas Pudding.



Row 4: Knit.

Row 5: Purl.

Beginning purl, st st nine rows.

Eyelet row: K2, (K2, yf, k2tog) to the last 2sts, K2.

Next row: Purl.

Shape instep

Row 1: K21, turn.

Row 2: P10, turn.

Working on these 10sts only, st st 12 rows.

Shape toe

Row 1: K3, k2tog tbl, k2tog, K3. 8sts.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: K2, k2tog tbl, k2tog, K2. 6sts.

Row 4: Purl.

Row 5: K1, k2tog tbl, k2tog, K1. 4sts.

Row 6: Purl.

Row 7: K2tog tbl, k2tog. 2sts.

Row 8: P2tog to cast off.

Shape first half of foot

Using Christmas Pudding yarn, and with right side facing, rejoin the yarn to the instep end of the first 11sts that were left on the needle when knitting the instep.

Row 1: Pick up and knit 16sts along the first side of the instep and toe stitches between the joining point and the p2tog cast-off. (11sts + 16sts = 27sts).

Row 2: Purl.

Break off Christmas Pudding yarn and rejoin Robin Red Breast yarn.

Row 3: K18, (kfb) three times, K4, k2tog. 29sts.

Row 4: P2tog, purl to the end of the row. 28sts.

Row 5: Knit to the last 2sts, k2tog. 27sts.

Row 6: P2tog, purl to the end of the row. 26sts.

Row 7: Knit to the last 2sts, k2tog. 25sts.

Row 8: P2tog, purl to the end of the row. 24sts.

Row 9: K1, k2tog tbl, knit to the end of the row. 23sts.

Row 10: Purl.

Row 11: K1, k2tog tbl, knit to the last 2sts, k2tog. 21sts.

Row 12: Purl.

Cast off.

Shape second half of foot

Using Christmas Pudding yarn, and with right side facing, rejoin the yarn to the instep at the toe (p2tog cast-off end).

Row 1: Pick up and knit 16sts along the second

side of the instep and toe stitches between the toe end and the 11sts left on the needle from the leg. (16sts + 11sts = 27sts).

Row 2: Purl.

Break off Christmas Pudding yarn and rejoin Robin Red Breast yarn.

Row 3: K2tog tbl, K4, (kfb) three times, K18. 29sts.

Row 4: Purl to the last 2sts, p2tog tbl. 28sts.

Row 5: K2tog tbl, knit to the end of the row. 27sts.

Row 6: Purl to the last 2sts, p2tog tbl. 26sts.

Row 7: K2tog tbl, knit to the end of the row. 25sts.

Row 8: Purl to the last 2sts, p2tog tbl. 24sts.

Row 9: Knit to the last 3sts, k2tog, K1. 23sts.

Row 10: Purl.

Row 11: K2tog tbl, K to last 3sts, k2tog, K1. 21sts.

Row 12: Purl.

Cast off.

Making up

Fold bootee in half and join the back, foot and toe seams, matching shaping and colour changes. Neaten all endings. Turn to the right side and turn the toppings down over the top of the bootee. Cut a 2m or 79in length of Robin Red Breast yarn and use doubled to make a 30cm or 12in twisted cord. Thread the cord through the eyelet row and tie in a bow at the front of the bootee.

Robin bauble

Body

Using 3.25mm needles and Christmas Pudding yarn, **cast on** 4sts.

Purl one row.

Row 1: (Kfb) to the end of the row. 8sts.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: (Kfb) to the end of the row. 16sts.

Row 4: Purl.

Row 5: (K1, kfb) to the end of the row. 24sts.

Row 6: Purl.

Row 7: K1, (kfb, K2) to last 2sts, kfb, K1. 32sts.

Row 8: Purl.

Row 9: K2, (kfb, K3) to last 2sts, kfb, K1. 40sts.

Row 10: Purl.

Row 11: K2, (kfb, K4) to last 3sts, kfb, K2. 48sts.

Row 12: Purl.

Work eight rows in st st.

Shape end

Row 1: K2, (skpo, K4) four times, (k2tog, K4) three times, k2tog, K2. 40sts.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: K2, (skpo, K3) four times, (k2tog, K3) three times, k2tog, K1. 32sts.

Row 4: Purl.

Row 5: K1, (skpo, K2) four times, (k2tog, K2) three times, k2tog, K1. 24sts.

Row 6: Purl.

Row 7: (K1, skpo) four times, (k2tog, K1) four times, 16sts.

Row 8: Purl.

Row 9: (K2tog) to the end of the row. 8sts.

Row 10: Purl.

Row 11: (K2tog) to the end of the row. 4sts.

Row 12: Knit.

Cast off.

Red breast

Worked all in garter stitch.

Using 3.25mm needles and Robin Red Breast yarn, **cast on** 5sts.

Knit two rows.

Now (kfb) once in each of the next and foll alt rows to 11sts.

Knit four rows.

Now (k2tog) once in each of the next and foll alt rows until 5sts remain.

Cast off.

Wings (make 2)

Using 3.25mm needles and Christmas Pudding yarn, **cast on** 4sts.

Next row: Purl.

Now (kfb) once in each of the next and foll alt rows to 10sts.

Purl one row.

Next row: K1, (yf, k2tog) to last st, K1.

Next row: Purl.

Now (k2tog) once in each of the next and foll alt rows until 4sts remain.

Next row: Purl.

Cast off.

Hat

Using 3.25mm needles and Robin Red Breast yarn, **cast on** 20sts.

Knit four rows in garter stitch.

Change to st st and work four rows.

Next row: (K2tog) to the end of the row. 10sts. St st three rows.

Next row: (K2tog) to the end of the row. 5sts. St st three rows.

Next row: (K2tog) twice, K1. 3sts.

St st three rows.

Next row: K3tog to cast off.

Making up

Body: Sew side seam of main body piece. Before closing, stuff firmly to form a nice round ball shape. Take the breast piece and sew in place on the front of the robin. Cut a triangle of yellow of felt, and fold in half to form the beak. Sew beak in place just above the centre of the red breast piece. Sew a black bead on either side of the beak to form the eyes.

Wings: Fold the wings in half and sew the side seams. Attach a wing to either side of the body.

Hat: Sew the back seam. Attach a tiny bell to the top of the hat. Sew the hat onto the robin's head. Thread some narrow red ribbon through the hat to form a hanging loop. ■



Abbreviations

alt	alternate
B&T	Break off the yarn and thread the end through the remaining stitches. Pull up the thread to tighten the stitches
foll	following
K	knit
kfb	knit into the front and back of the stitch to increase
k2tog	knit next 2sts together
k3tog	knit next 3sts together
P	purl
p2tog	purl next 2sts together
skpo	slip 1st, knit 1st, pass slipped stitch over
st(s)	stitch(es)
st st	stocking stitch (one row knit, one row purl)
tbl	through the back of the loops
yf	yarn forward

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Skill level



Intermediate

Pattern details

You will need...

Yarn

9 x 50g balls of Sirdar Snowflake Chunky in Lemon (shade 647)

1 x 50 g ball of Sirdar Snowflake Chunky in Tigger (shade 706)

Oddments of black and white yarn for eyes

Needles

5.5mm (UK size 5) knitting needles

Tension

14sts and 19 rows to 10cm or 4in over st st using 5.5mm (UK size 5) knitting needles

Finished sizes

To fit: age 12-18 months old

Chest: 56-61cm or 22-24in

Actual chest: 71cm or 28in

Length: 58cm or 23in

Abbreviations

cm	centimetre(s)
in	inch(es)
K	knit
k2tog	knit 2sts together
k3tog	knit 3sts together
st(s)	stitch(es)
st st	stocking stitch

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Start here!

Back

Using 5.5mm needles and Lemon **cast on** 46sts fairly loosely.

Knit four rows in garter stitch.

Change to st st and work 84 rows.

Shape armholes

Cast off 3sts at the beginning of the next two rows.

Work two rows in st st.

Next row: K2tog at each end of the row.

Next row: Purl.

Repeat last two rows until 16sts remain.

Cast off.

Left front

Using 5.5mm needles and Lemon **cast on** 27sts.

Knit four rows in garter stitch.

Change to st st with garter stitch border.

Next row: Knit.

Next row: K5, purl to the end of the row.

Repeat last two rows, 41 times more or until front measures the same as back, ending on a wrong side row.

Shape armhole

Cast off 3sts, knit to the end.

Next row: K5, purl.

Next row: Knit.

Next row: K5, purl to the end.

Next row: K2tog, knit to the end.

Next row: K5, purl to the end.

Continue shaping as on the last two rows until you have 15sts ending on a right side row (wrong side row for right front).

Shape neck

Next row: Cast off 8sts, purl to the end.

Now decrease 1st at each end of next and following alternate row.

Next row: K3tog, fasten off.

Right front

Using 5.5mm needles and Lemon **cast on** 27sts.

Knit four rows in garter stitch.

Change to st st with garter stitch border.

Next row: Knit.

Next row: Purl to last 5sts, K5.

Repeat last two rows 40 times more.

Next row: Knit to the end of the row.

Shape armhole

Cast off 3sts, purl to the last 5sts K5.

Next row: Knit.

Next row: Purl to last 5sts, K5.

Next row: Knit to last 2sts, k2tog.

Next row: Purl to last 5sts, K5.

Continue shaping as on the last two rows until you have 15sts ending on a wrong side row.

Shape neck

Next row: Cast off 8sts, knit to the end.

Now decrease 1st at each end of the next and following alternate row.

Next row: K3tog, fasten off.

Sleeves

Work two alike.

Using 5mm needles and Lemon **cast on** 30sts.

Knit 10 rows in garter stitch.

Change to st st and increase 1st at each end of the third row and on following eighth rows until you have 36sts.

Continue on these sts until the sleeve measures 24cm or 9½in ending on a purl row.

Yarn detail

Sirdar Snowflake Chunky

www.sirdar.co.uk
01924 371501

Content 100% polyester

Weight/length 25g/62m

Wash Machine wash 40°C

RRP £2.29

Shape armholes

Cast off 3sts at beg on next two rows.

Now decrease 1st at each of row on every fourth row until 22sts, then every other row until you have 12sts. Cast off.

Hood

Using 5mm needles and Lemon **cast on** 58sts,

Next row: Knit.

Next row: K4, purl to the last 4sts K4.

Repeat last two rows until work measures 19cm or 3½in, ending on a purl row.

Next row: K20, cast off 18, K20.

Next row: Rejoin yarn to centre 18sts, proceed in st st until the work measures 10cm or 4in.

Work eight rows in garter stitch and cast off.

Belt

Using 5.5mm needles and Lemon **cast on** 7sts.

Work in garter stitch until belt measures 95cm or 37½in. Cast off.

Belt loops (make two)

Leave a 10cm or 4in tail and then cast on 8sts, Knit one row and then cast off.

Leave a 10cm or 4in tail of yarn.

Beak

Using 5.5mm needles and Tigger **cast on** 18sts. Work in st st for 10 rows. Now decrease 1st at each of next and following alternate rows until you have 8sts. Cast off.

Eyes

Inner eyes (make two)

Using 5.5mm needles and black yarn, **cast on** 3sts.

Next row: Knit.

Next row: Increase in first and last stitch. 5sts.

Next row: Knit.

Next row: increase in first and last stitch. 7sts.

Work three rows garter stitch.

Now decrease 1st at each end of the next and following alt rows until you have 3sts. Cast off.

Outer eyes (make two)

Using 5.5mm needles and white yarn, **cast on** 3sts.

Next row: Knit.

Next row: Increase in first and last stitch. 5sts.

Next row: Knit.

Next row: increase in first and last stitch. 7sts.

Work five rows garter stitch.

Now decrease 1st at each end of the next and following alt rows until you have 3sts. Cast off.

Making up

Using a large-eyed blunt-ended needle, join raglan seams on sleeves to back and fronts. Sew side and sleeve seams. Take the hood and sew the top section in place to either sides. Flatten and take beak, pin in place onto front section of hood, overlap slightly at the front. Sew the beak in place. Place a black eye onto a white eye, shape to get a neat appearance, sew in place. Do the same with the other eye. Sew the eyes onto the top of the hood. Now pin hood in place all around the neck edge and front borders. Sew neatly in place, to finish. Take the belt loops and using the ends of yarn, sew in place on either side of the dressing gown. Thread the belt through the loops and tie in front. Fold sleeve cuffs onto right sides. ■



Top tip!

Use a plain DK yarn in matching colour to make up - fluffy yarn is difficult to sew with





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Rita Taylor

Rita is a *Knit Today* designer and a lifelong knitter who loves to pass on her tips and ideas to others.



Joanna Benner

Jo is a whizz with the knitting needles and is a crochet pro. She's also our technical editor.



Aneeta Patel

Aneeta, author of beginner's bible *Knitty Gritty*, also teaches knitting professionally.



Darning needles have a large eye and a blunt end

Make one stitch?

Q How do you work M1L and M1R? I'm assuming it means make one to the left and right, but when I do this my stitch looks nothing like the one in the pattern.

Fiona Carmichael, Oakham

A Rita says: These are invisible increases that are worked into the row below, rather than next to the stitch on the needle. When they are worked side by side they will form a line of two stitches running vertically, with a slanted stitch each side of them. To work M1L, knit the stitch but don't slip it off the needle, then knit into the stitch on the row below it. For M1R, knit into the stitch below, then knit the stitch on the needle.

Rib rows

Q If I start with an even number of stitches and K1, P1 (that is 1x1 rib), would I start my second row with a knit stitch and then a purl stitch as I did with my first row, or would I start my second row with a purl stitch and then a knit stitch and go forward alternating like that?

Kali Reed, Yate

A Aneeta says: To create 1x1 rib on an even number of stitches you'd start every row with a knit, and end with a purl. If you wanted 1x1 rib on an odd number of stitches you'd start and end row 1 with a knit, and start and end row 2 with a purl. Take care to count your stitches at the end of every row!



Count carefully when working rib

Darn it

Q I need to buy a needle (for sewing items together), but there seems to be lots of options in the shops. Can you please tell me exactly what I should be looking for?

Beth King, Tottenham

A Aneeta says: You need a darning needle to sew up your knitting. The names can be confusing as there are so many different types of sewing needles. Make sure you buy one with a big hole so the yarn can be threaded through it, and a blunt point as a sharp point is no good for sewing yarn.

Learn how to make invisible increases

Moss decreases

Q I have designed a raglan-sleeved cardigan in moss stitch, but the decreases throw the pattern out. Is there a secret to keeping it correct?

Nina Parkinson, Redcar

A Rita says: The secret is to work three stitches together instead of two, but remember that you will need to space out your rows differently when you do this. If your decreases were on every alternate row (losing two stitches per row), you will now be losing four stitches with each decrease, so work them on every fourth row instead. Sometimes you will work p3tog and sometimes k3tog depending on where you are in the row. You may want to work the stitches differently each time according to which end of the row you are at. P3tog at one end would be matched by p3tog tbl at the other end, for instance.

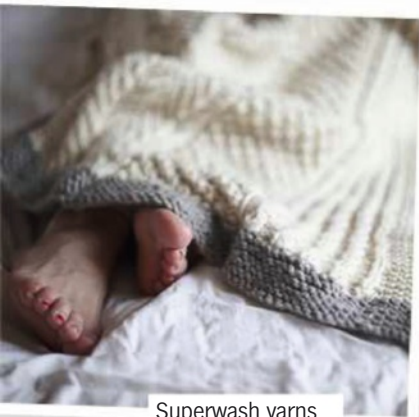
Decrease on moss stitch without losing the pattern

Washable wool

Q I am considering making a blanket – I've been researching on www.ravelry.com and I'm getting a little bit obsessed with the idea this winter. However, I don't want to make a 'stash blanket' as I think they can look really horrid – I fancy some mixed natural and man-made fibres, to make it both machine washable and, crucially, cheaper!

Jennifer, Cheshire

A **Aneeta says:** I would suggest you look for a mid-range baby yarn, they are always machine washable and you can get mixed fibre for extra durability and softness. Look out for 'superwash' yarns, too. There are many wools that are machine washable, now – a favourite of mine is Stylecraft Pure Luxury Merino, which is 100% wool. It knits up so neatly and is very soft.



Superwash yarns are ideal for winter blankets

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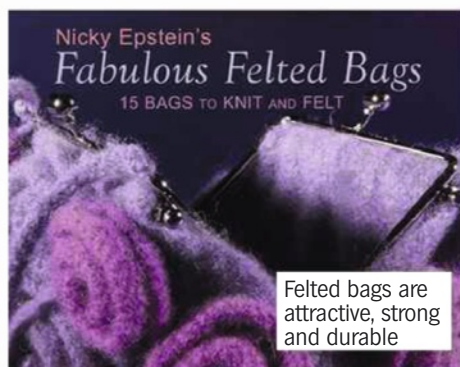
Felting

Felted bags

Q I would love to have a go at felting my knitting, but I'm worried that if I tried to make a hat it will shrink too much. What is the best project to start with?

Carole Moulton, Edinburgh

A **Jo says:** I think if you choose accessories that don't have to fit a form – like a bag or a scarf – you can't go wrong. It is daunting the first time you felt a piece of knitting – usually because you've had to knit a much bigger piece to enable it to be the right size after shrinking. *Fabulous Felted Bags* by Nicky Epstein contains patterns for 15 bags and masses of tips and hints to felt and make bags. To buy the book for £11.55, go to www.amazon.co.uk



Felted bags are attractive, strong and durable

Unshrinkable!

Q My knitting won't shrink! I can shrink my favourite jumper by mistake, but I've been trying to felt a toy I knitted and it just won't go! It's not written off because my daughter can still play with it, but I did want it to have a firmer finish. I used pure wool so I don't know where I'm going wrong.

Amy Lord, Margate

A **Jo says:** I think you may have knitted it in superwash wool, which has been specially treated so it won't shrink or felt. The type of wool you need is a pure wool, untreated yarn without any acrylic or man-made fibres included in the mix. If in doubt, ask at your local wool shop, but Inca wool by Hjertegarn would be a fabulous yarn to use next time. It can be used for garments that don't need felting (handwash only) or for felting (machine wash). There are 28 different plain colours and several multi-coloured shades. A 100g ball costs £6.25 from www.art yarn.co.uk



Always make sure yarn is pure wool when felting

3 top tips for felting

Tip 1

When felting in the washing machine, add a tennis ball or a pair of jeans plus detergent – extra agitation means better results.

Tip 2

If you're worried about over felting, then felt by hand. Plunge your felted knit into cold water as soon as you're happy you've finished.

Tip 3

Always shape, or block, felting before it dries. As the piece dries, it retains the shape you have given it and you won't be able to change your mind.

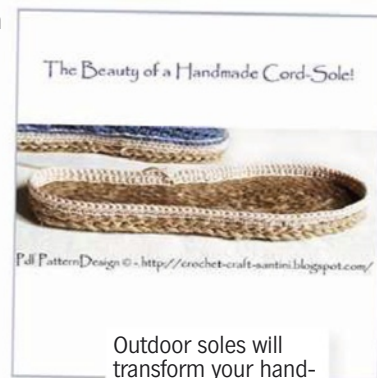
Most talked about subject

Sturdy soles

Q The felted slippers I've made are fantastic, but the soles keep wearing out. How do I make them last longer?

Sarah Gerrish, Wilts

A **Jo says:** The cheapest way to replace the soles of your slippers is to simply cut a new sole from a felted jumper – one bought from a shop is absolutely fine. However, if you would like a much sturdier sole you could try Ingunn Santini's rope sole. Ingunn has designed the sole so that you can add it to any fabric shoe to make it suitable to wear outside. The sole is similar to the sole that you would have on an espadrille. It's much safer to have a sole like this on a slipper, especially if the slippers are for elderly people. To buy the 11-page downloadable pattern for \$7 (around £4) go to www.etsy.com and search for Sophie and Me.



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6 quick knits for your party

Make these photobooth props for your festive shindig
Designed by **SIAN BROWN**

1. Bow tie

You will need...

Yarn

4g of Debbie Bliss Party Angel
in Claret/Silver (shade 05)

Needles

3.25mm (UK size 10) needles

Other

Length of black elastic

*Start
here!*

Main piece (make two)

Cast on 30sts.

Work 30 rows st st.

Cast off.

Middle piece

Cast on 10sts.

Work 25 rows st st.

Cast off.

Press the pieces.

Sew the main pieces
together with wrong sides
facing. Wrap the small piece
around the main pieces and
sew in place, pulling the
main piece to form the bow
tie. Attach a length of elastic
to fit around the neck to the
back of the bow tie and then
sew in place, to finish.

Top tip!

To make a necklace,
add a chain to the back
of the bow using a small
stitch to attach it on
each side



2. Cat ears

You will need...

Yarn

10g of Debbie Bliss Rialto DK in Black (shade 03), colour 1

2g of Debbie Bliss Rialto DK in Ecru (shade 02), colour 2

Needles

4mm (UK size 8) knitting needles

Other

Black plastic hair band

Start
here!

Back ears (make two)

With colour 1, **cast on** 7sts.

Next row: (K1, increase in the next st) x 3, K1. 10sts.

Purl one row.

Next row: K1, M1, K to last st, M1, K1. 12sts.

*Work three rows of st st.

Next row: K1, M1, K to the last st, M1, K1. 14sts.

Purl one row.

Next row: K1, skpo, K to the last 3sts, k2tog, K1. 12sts.

Purl one row.

Repeat the last two rows twice more. 8sts.

Next row: K1, skpo, (k2tog) x 2, K1. 5sts.

Purl one row.

Next row: K1, sl1, k2tog, pass slipped stitch over, K1. 3sts.

Purl one row.

Next row: Sl1, k2tog, psso.

Fasten off.

Front ears (make two)

Cast on 7sts.

Work as for the back ears from * to.

Purl one row.

Next row: K3 in colour 1, K6 colour 2, K3 colour 1.

Next row: P3 colour 1, P6 colour 2, P3 colour 1.

Next row: K1, M1, K1, K8 colour 2, K1, M1, K1 colour 1. 14sts.

Next row: P3 colour 1, P8 colour 2, P3 colour 1.

Next row: K1, skpo, K1 colour 1, K6 colour 2, K1, k2tog, K1 colour 1. 12sts.

Next row: P3 colour 1, P6 colour 2, P3 colour 1.

Next row: K1, skpo, K1 colour 1, K4 colour 2, K1, k2tog, K1 colour 1. 10sts.

Next row: Purl 3sts colour 1, purl 4sts

colour 2, purl 3sts colour 1.

Next row: K1, skpo, K1 colour 1, K2 colour 2, K1, **knit two stitches together**, K1 colour 1. 8sts.

Next row: P3 colour 1, P2 colour 2, P3 colour 1.

Next row: K1, **skpo colour 1, knit two stitches together** colour 2, k2tog, K1 colour 1. 5sts.

Next row: P colour 1 to end.

Next row: K1, sl1, k2tog, psso, K1. 3sts. Purl one row.

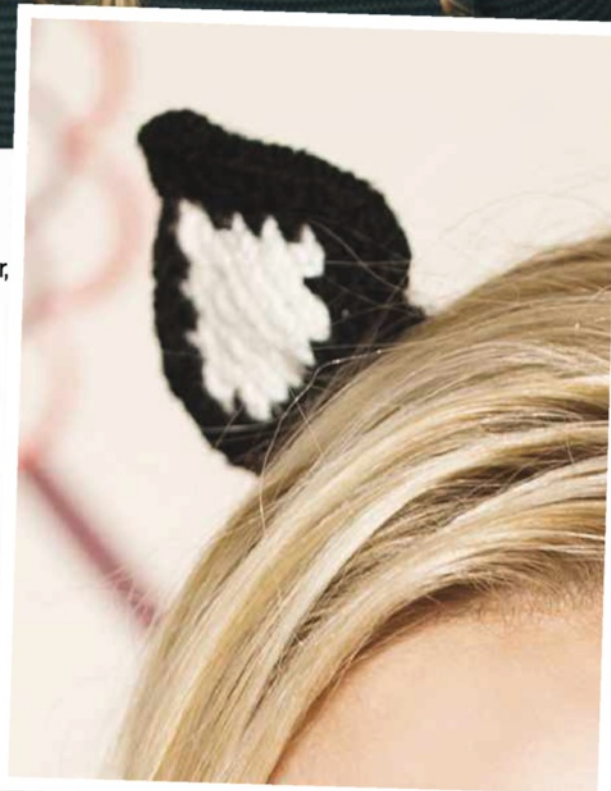
Next row: Sl1, k2tog, psso.

Fasten off.

Press pieces.

Sew the bottom seam together.

Position on the hairband and sew the side seams, securing onto the hairband, to finish.



3. Eye patch

You will need...

Yarn

4g of Debbie Bliss Rialto DK in Black (shade 03)

Needles

4mm (UK size 8) knitting needles

Other

Length of black elastic

Start
here!

Make two pieces

Cast on 5sts.

Row 1: Increase in the first st, knit to the last two stitches, increase in the next st, K1. 7sts.

Row 2: Purl to the end of the row. Repeat these two rows four times more. 15sts.

Work two rows st st.

Next row: K1, skpo, knit to the last 3sts, k2tog, K1. 13sts.

Next row: P1, p2tog, purl to the last 3sts, p2togtbl, P1. 11sts.

Repeat the last two rows once more. 7sts. Cast off.

Press the pieces and sew together, then sew the elastic to the top of the back of the eye patch.

Abbreviations (for all)

K	knit
P	purl
St/sts	stitch/stitches
Inc	increase
S1 1	slip 1 st
Pssso	pass slipped st over
St st	stocking st
M1	make 1 stitch; pick up horizontal strand of yarn lying between st just worked and next st and K it
Skpo	slip 1 st, K 1st, pass slipped st over
Tbl	through back loop
RS	right side
WS	wrong side



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Liven up the office party with this mini top hat

4. Top hat

You will need...

Yarn

6g of Debbie Bliss Party Angel in Black/Silver (shade 01)

Needles

3.25mm (UK size 10) knitting needles

Other

Length black elastic, card to fit template

Start here!

Starting at the lower brim, **cast on** 55sts. Knit one row.

Row 1 (RS): (K3, inc in next st) to the last

3sts, K3. 68sts.

Row 2, 4, 6: Purl.

Row 3: (K4, increase in the next st) to the last 3sts, K3. 81sts.

Row 5: (K5, increase in the next st) to the last 3sts, K3. 94sts.

Rows 7 and 8: Knit.

Rows 9-10: St st, starting with a knit row.

Row 11: (K5, skpo) to last 3sts, K3. 81sts.

Rows 12 and 14: P.

Row 13: (K4, skpo) to last 3sts, K3. 68sts.

Row 15: (K3, skpo) to last 3sts, K3. 55sts.

Row 16: (WS facing): Knit.

Starting with a knit row, work 8cm st st, ending with a RS row, inc 1st at centre of last row. 56sts.

Knit one row.

Shape top

Row 1: (K5, skpo) x 8 (48 sts).

Rows 2 and 4 following alternate rows: Purl to the end of the row.

Row 3: (K4, skpo) x 8. 40sts.

Row 5: (K3, skpo) x 8. 32sts.

Row 7: (K2, skpo) x 8. 24sts.

Row 9: (K1, skpo) x 8. 16sts.

Row 11: (skpo) to end. 8sts.

Row 12: Purl to the end of the row.

Break off the yarn and thread through the remaining sts.

Fasten off tightly.

Cut out the card pieces as follows:

Step 1: Main piece 23cm wide and 8cm deep (will be 21cm circumference plus overlap).

Step 2: Circle 7cm diameter.

Step 3: Ring 11cm wide; outer diameter 7 cm wide; inner diameter 2cm deep.

Tape together to form a hat shape, using the solid circle for the top of the hat, the ring for the brim and the rectangle for the main upright piece. Fit the knitted hat over the card hat and sew into place. Sew elastic to the inside of the hat.



5. Lips

You will need...

Yarn

5g of Debbie Bliss Rialto DK in Scarlet (shade 12)

Needles

Size 4mm needles

Other

Small amount black DK yarn for embroidery, cotton wool for stuffing, stick 20cm long

**Start
here!**

Make two pieces

Cast on 10sts.

Row 1: Inc in first st, K to last 2 sts, inc in next st, K1. 12sts.

Row 2: Purl.

Rep these two rows three times more. 18sts.

Next row: K1, skpo, K to the last 3sts, k2tog

K1. 16sts.

Next row: P1, p2tog, P to the last 3sts, p2togtbl, P1. 14sts.

Next row: K1, skpo, K to last 3sts, k2tog, K1. 12sts.

Next row: P1, p2tog, P3, turn, (5sts), skpo, k2tog, K1. 3sts.

Next row: Purl.

Cast off.

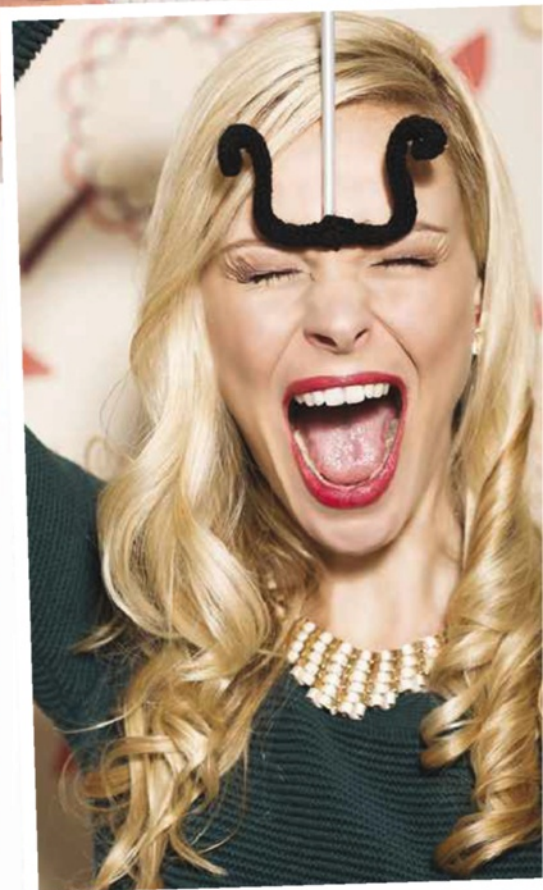
Join yarn to the remaining 6sts, P3, p2togtbl, P1. 5sts.

Next row: K1, skpo, k2tog. 3sts.

Purl one row. Cast off.

Press the pieces and sew around the edges, wrong sides together, leaving a gap at the bottom. Stuff with cotton wool. Embroider a line with black yarn.

Insert a stick at the bottom of the lips and sew up the gap, securing around the stick.



6. Moustache

You will need...

Yarn

3g of Debbie Bliss Rialto DK in Black (shade 03)

Needles

4mm (UK size 8) double pointed needles

Other

Length wire 24cm, Stick 20cm, cord

Start here!

Cast on 5sts.

Row 1: K to end, do not turn.

Row 2: Slip sts to the other end of needle, take yarn across back of work, pull tightly, K5, do not turn.

Work row 2 only, until the work measures 22cm.

Cast off.

Turn both ends of the wire over to form a loop. Insert one end into i-cord, and secure at the end, sewing through the loop to secure and sewing up end of i-cord. Sew up the other end in the same way. Sew the moustache to stick at centre, and bend into shape. ■



Christmas Party! KnitToday



We three kings...

Part 2

Look out for part 3 of our Nativity series in issue 94 (on sale 19 December). Part 1 appeared in issue 92 (call 0844 844 0231 for back issues)

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Start
here!

Basic body and head

Note: Used as a base for all figures in the Nativity scene, including the three kings.

Right leg

Using 3.25mm needles and A, **cast on** 10sts.

Row 1: (Kfb) to the end of the row. 20sts.

Beginning with a purl row, stocking stitch five rows.

Row 7: K1, (k3tog) x 4, K7. 12sts.

Beginning with a purl row, stocking stitch 11 rows. Break off the yarn and leave sts on a spare needle.

Left leg

Row 1: (Kfb) to the end of the row. 20sts.

Beginning with a purl row, st st five rows.

Row 7: K7, (k3tog) x 4, K7. 12sts.

Beginning with a purl row, st st 11 rows. Break off A and join in B.

Row 19 (worked across the 12sts of the left leg, and then the 12sts of the right leg from the spare needle): K2, (kfb) x 2, K15 (8sts remaining from left leg, and first 7sts of right leg), (kfb) x 2, K3. 28sts.

Beginning with a purl row, st st 15 rows.

Shape shoulders

Row 35: K5, (k2tog) x 2, K10, (k2tog) x 2, K5. 24sts.

Beginning with a purl row, st st three rows.

Shape neck and head

Break off B and rejoin A.

Row 39: (K1, k2tog) to the end of the row. 16sts.

Row 40: Purl to the end of the row.

Row 41: (Kfb) to the end of the row. 32sts.

Skill level



Intermediate

Robe

Using 3.25mm needles and B, **cast on** 50sts.
Knit two rows.

Beginning with a knit row, st st 18 rows.

Row 21: (K3, k2tog) to the end of the row. 40sts.
Cast off purlwise.

Sleeves (make two)

Using 3.25mm needles and B, **cast on** 18sts.
Knit two rows.

Beginning with a knit row, st st four rows.

Row 7: (K1, k2tog) to the end of the row. 12sts.
Beginning with a purl row, st st three rows.

Row 11: K2tog tbl, knit to the last 2sts, k2tog.
10sts.

Row 12: P2tog, purl to the last 2sts, p2tog tbl. 8sts.

Row 13: K2tog tbl, knit to the last 2sts, k2tog. 6sts.
Cast off purlwise.

Sash

Using 3.25mm needles and D, **cast on** 38sts.
Knit five rows. Cast off.

Sandals (make two)

Sole

Using 3.25mm needles and E, **cast on** 20sts.
Knit two rows.

Row 3: (K2tog) x 2, K2, (k2tog) x 4, K2, (k2tog) x 2.
12sts.

Row 4: Knit.

Row 5: (K2tog) to the end of the
row. 6sts.
B&T.

Strap

Using 3.25mm needles and
E, **cast on** 15sts.
Cast off.

Making up

Legs, body and head: At the base of each leg, sew a running thread through the cast on sts and draw up the sts to make a closed circle. Join the side seams of the legs, up to the body portion. Join the main seam of the head and body, matching the colour changes, and leaving a small gap for turning. Turn and stuff firmly. Close the gap. Sew a running stitch through the first row of the neck using A, and pull these up slightly to help form the neck.

Face: Using A, sew two horizontal sts over the centre st, five rows above the head increase row for the nose. Using E, make the eyes by working two vertical sts over one row of knitting for each eye, three knitted sts apart, and seven rows

Pattern details

You will need...

For each Wise Man:

Note: For shades used, see individual dolls

Yarn

- 15g of Hayfield Bonus DK in A (for legs, arms and head)
- 20g of Hayfield Bonus DK in B (for robe and crown/turban)
- 10g of Hayfield Bonus DK in D (for sash/headband and collar)
- 10g of Hayfield Bonus DK in E (for sandals and cloak)
- Oddment of Hayfield Bonus DK in G (for mouth)
- 10g of Hayfield Bonus DK in H (for crown and gift)

Needles

3.25mm (UK size 10)
knitting needles

Other

20g of toy stuffing

Tension

Tension is not important

Finished sizes

20.5cm or 8¹/₄in tall

Abbreviations

B&T	Break the yarn off and thread it through the sts on the needle. Pull the yarn end tightly to gather the cast-off stitches into a closed circle
cm	centimetre(s)
in	inch(es)
K	knit
kfb	knit into the front and back of the stitch
k2tog	knit 2sts together
k3tog	knit 3sts together
P	purl
p2tog	purl 2sts together
RS	right side
st(s)	stitch(es)
st st	stocking stitch
tbl	through the back loop
W&T	Bring the yarn forward, slip the next st onto the right hand needle, take the yarn back, then transfer the slipped stitch back onto the left hand needle. Turn the work, ready to work the next row

Yarn detail

Hayfield Bonus DK

www.sirdar.co.uk
01924 371501

Content 100% acrylic

Weight/length 100g/280m

Wash Machine wash 40°C

RRP £3.33

Beginning with a purl row,
st st 13 rows.

Row 55: (K2, k2tog) to the
end of the row. 24sts.

Row 56: Purl.

Row 57: (K1, k2tog) to the end of the
row. 16sts.

Row 58: Purl.

Row 59: (K2tog) to the end of the row.
8sts. B&T.

Arms (make two)

Using 3.25mm needles and A, **cast on** 5sts.

Row 1: (Kfb) to the end of the row. 10sts.

Beginning with a purl row, st st 11 rows.

Row 13: K2tog tbl, knit to the last 2sts, k2tog. 8sts.

Row 14: P2tog, purl to the last 2sts, p2tog tbl. 6sts.

Row 15: K2tog tbl, knit to the last 2sts, k2tog.
4sts.

Cast off purlwise.



above the head increase row. Using G, sew a long horizontal stitch over the two centre sts, three rows above the head increase row. Catch down the centre of the mouth stitch, one row below the ends, to form a smile.

Arms: Sew a running thread through the cast-on sts and draw these up to make a closed circle. Join the side seam up to the shaped portion at the top of the arm. Turn and stuff the arm. Sew the open, shaped portion to the sides of the body, placing the cast-off sts at the shoulder shaping.

Sleeves: Sew the main side seam, up to the shaped portion at the top of the sleeves. Turn to the RS and place over the arms. Sew the shaped portion to the body around the arms.

Robe: Sew the main seam to form a skirt. Place the skirt on the doll, with the main seam at the centre back, and the cast-off edge 13 rows down from the neck row. The hem should be level with the bottom of the feet. Sew the cast-off edge of the robe to the doll.

Sash/waistband: Join the side seams to form a circle. Place the sash around the centre of the doll, between the top of the robe skirt and the arms. Sew in place.

Sandals: Join the side seams of the sole to form an oval. Sew each end of the strap to each of the long sides of the oval, about halfway down, forming a sandal. Place the sandals onto the feet with the strap lying across the foot's shaping. Sew in place.

Wise man

In addition to the basic doll pattern, each of the **Wise Men** has a crown/turban, and a cloak and collar. These are the same for each of the Wise Men and simply vary in the colours used.

Cloak

Using 3.25mm needles and E, **cast on** 24sts. Knit 36 rows.

Row 37: (K2, k2tog) to the end of the row. 18sts.

Knit nine rows.

Row 47: (K1, k2tog) to the end of the row. 12sts. Knit two rows. Cast off.

Collar

Using 3.25mm needles and D, **cast on** 44sts. Knit two rows.

Beginning with a knit row, st st two rows.

Row 5: (K2, k2tog) to the end of the row. 33sts.

Row 6: Purl.

Row 7: (K1, k2tog) to the end of the row. 22sts.
Cast off purlwise.

Crown/turban

Using 3.25mm needles and H, **cast on** 40sts.

Knit four rows.

Break off H and join in B.

Beginning with a K row, st st a further six rows.

Row 11: (K3, kfb) to the end of the row. 50sts.

Beginning with a purl row, st st three rows.

Row 15: (K3, k2tog) to the end of the row. 40sts.

Row 16: Purl.

Row 17: (K2, k2tog) to the end of the row. 30sts.

Row 18: Purl.

Row 19: (K1, k2tog) to the end of the row. 20sts.

Row 20: Purl.

Row 21: (K2tog) to the end of the row.

10sts. B&T.

Making up

Cloak: Sew the cast-off edge to the back of the doll, one row below the colour change row.

Collar: Place the collar around the neck of the doll. Join the side seams together. Sew the cast-off edge of the collar around the neck.

Crown: Sew the main seam, matching colour changes and leaving the cast-on edge open. Place a small amount of toy stuffing in the top of the crown, and place the crown over the top of the head, positioning the crown just above the eyes at the front, and matching the back seam with the back seam of the head.

Casper

Colours used

Colour A: Hayfield Bonus DK in Flesh Tone (shade 0963)

Colour B: Hayfield Bonus DK in Bright Purple (shade 0828)

Colour D: Hayfield Bonus DK in Sunflower (shade 0978)

Colour E: Hayfield Bonus DK in Signal Red (shade 0977)

Colour G: Hayfield Bonus DK in Pink (shade 0992)

Colour H: Hayfield Bonus DK in Bright Orange (shade 0981)

Make the basic figure, arms, sleeves, robe, sash and sandals in the colours detailed above. Add the face. Add the cloak, collar and crown, then make the gift (below).

Gold

Using 3.25mm needles and H, **cast on** 6sts.

Row 1: (Kfb) to the end of the row. 12sts.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: (K1, kfb) to the end of the row. 18sts.





Row 4: Purl.

Row 5: (Kfb, K1, kfb) to the end of the row. 30sts.

Row 6: Knit.

Row 7: (P1, K4) to the end of the row.

Row 8: (P4, K1) to the end of the row.

Repeat rows 7-8 three times more.

Row 15: As row 7.

Row 16: Knit.

Row 17: (K2tog, K1, k2tog) to the end of the row. 18sts.

Row 18: Purl.

Row 19: (K1, k2tog) to the end of the row. 12sts.

Row 20: Purl.

Row 21: (K2tog) to the end of the row. 6sts. B&T.

Making up

Sew a running stitch around the cast-on edge and draw up to make a closed circle. Join the side seams, leaving a small gap for turning and stuffing. Turn and stuff, keeping the cast-on end flat and forming the cast-on end into a blunt peak. Push the stuffing into the sides to accentuate the hexagonal shaping. Using a long length of A, sew the gift between the hands of the doll, with the flat end at the bottom.

Melchior

Colours used

Colour A: Hayfield Bonus DK in Flesh Tone (shade 0963)

Colour B: Hayfield Bonus DK in Azure (shade 0824)

Colour D: Hayfield Bonus DK in Signal Red (shade 0977)

Colour E: Hayfield Bonus DK in Royal Blue (shade 0979)

Colour G: Hayfield Bonus DK in Pink (shade 0992)

Colour H: Hayfield Bonus DK in Silver Grey (shade 0838)

Make the basic figure, arms, sleeves, robe, sash and sandals in the colours detailed above. Add the face. Add the cloak, collar and crown, then make the gift (below).

Frankincense

Using 3.25mm needles and H, **cast on** 6sts.

Row 1: (Kfb) to the end of the row. 12sts.

Row 2: Knit.

Row 3: (K1, kfb) to the end of the row. 18sts.

Row 4: Knit.

Row 5: (K2, kfb) to the end of the row. 24sts.

Row 6: Purl.

Row 7: Knit.

Row 8: Knit.

Beginning with a knit row, st st six rows.

Knit four rows.

Row 19: (K3, k2tog) to the end of the row. 24sts.
Knit three rows.
Row 23: (K2, k2tog) to the end of the row. 18sts.
Knit three rows.
Row 27: (K1, k2tog) to the end of the row. 12sts.
Row 28: Knit.
Row 29: (K2tog) to the end of the row. 6sts.
B&T.

Making up

Sew a running stitch around the cast-on edge and draw up to make a closed circle. Join the side seams, leaving a small gap for turning and stuffing. Turn and stuff, keeping the cast-on end flat. Using a long length of A, sew the gift between the hands of the doll, with the flat end at the bottom and the dome at the top.

Balthazar

Colours used

Colour A: Hayfield Bonus DK in Flesh Tone (shade 0963)
Colour B: Hayfield Bonus DK in Bright Pink (shade 0887)
Colour D: Hayfield Bonus DK in Bright Lemon (shade 0819)
Colour E: Hayfield Bonus DK in Purple (shade 0840)
Colour G: Hayfield Bonus DK in Pink (shade 0992)
Colour H: Hayfield Bonus DK in Sunflower (shade 0978)

Make the basic figure, arms, sleeves, robe, sash and sandals in the colours detailed above. Add the face. Add the cloak, collar and crown, then make the gift (below).

Myrrh

Using 3.25mm needles and H, **cast on** 6sts.
Row 1: (Kfb) to the end of the row. 12sts.
Beginning with a purl row, st st three rows.
Row 5: (Kfb) to the end of the row. 24sts.
Beginning with a purl row, st st three rows.
Row 9: (K2, kfb) to the end of the row. 32sts.
Beginning with a purl row, st st three rows.
Row 13: (K2, k2tog) to the end of the row. 24sts.
Beginning with a purl row, st st three rows.
Row 17: (K2tog) to the end of the row. 12sts.
Beginning with a purl row, st st three rows.
Row 21: (K2tog) to the end of the row. 6sts.
Beginning with a purl row, st st five rows.
B&T.

Making up

Sew a running stitch around the cast-on edge and draw up to make a closed circle. Join the side seams, leaving a small gap for turning and stuffing. Turn and stuff, pushing the stuffing

into the narrow portion at the B&T end to form the neck of the bottle. Using a long length of A, sew the gift between the hands of the doll, with the fat end at the bottom and the neck of the bottle at the top.

Star

Using 3.25mm needles and Bright Lemon, **cast on** 5sts.

Row 1: (Kfb) to the end of the row. 10sts.

Row 2: Knit.

Row 3: (Kfb) to the end of the row. 20sts.

Row 4: Knit.

Row 5: (Kfb, K2, kfb) x 5. 30sts.

Row 6: Knit.

Row 7: (Kfb, K4, kfb) x 5. 40sts.

Row 8: Knit

Row 9: K8, turn. Working on these 8sts only:

Row 10: Knit.

Row 11: K2tog, K4, k2tog. 6sts.

Knit three rows.

Row 15: K2tog, K2, k2tog. 4sts.

Knit three rows.

Row 19: (K2tog) x 2. 2sts.

Row 20: Knit.

Row 21: K2tog to cast off.

With right side facing, rejoin the yarn to the sts left on the left needle, then work from rows 9–21 four more times.

Making up

Sew a running stitch around the cast-on edge and draw up to make a closed circle. Sew the side seams together using ladder stitch, from the closed circle at the centre to the edge of the main body (row 7), leaving the 'arms' of the star free. Neaten all the loose threads. If you wish to hang the star, create a loop at the end of the 'arm' opposite the main seam whilst sewing in loose threads. ■



Pattern details

You will need...

For the star:

□ Yarn

● 10g of Hayfield Bonus DK in Bright Lemon (shade 0819)

□ Needles

3.25mm (UK size 10) knitting needles

Tension

Tension is not important

Finished size

Approx. 9cm 3½in diameter

Reader offer!

Get 15% off Hayfield Bonus DK

Quote code **KTHB** when you call Deramores on 0800 4880708 or go to www.deramores.com

This offer ends 19 December 2013

Our giveaways

We have some amazing goodies up for grabs this issue – don't forget, you've got to be in it to win it!

Over £500 worth of Minerva Crafts prizes

Spot the sheep



Our sheep has wandered off again. He's hiding somewhere among the pages of *Knit Today* and you could win one of these amazing prizes if you find him. This month, we've teamed up with online knitting store Minerva Crafts to offer five prize bundles worth over £100 each. In each bundle you'll find the following Sirdar yarns: Spellbound, Shaggy, Salsa, Glam Frilly, Snowball and One Hour Scarf Yarn.

Perfect for all your winter knits!

Minerva Crafts is a treasure trove of knitted and craft goodies. From patterns and books to needles and big name yarns to accessories, you'll find all your knitted goodies in one place! Find out more at www.minervacrafts.com.



Win!

Over £900 worth of prizes to be won



How to enter

Simply search for our missing sheep (he's hiding somewhere in this issue), then send us a postcard telling us what page he's on, plus your name, address, email address and telephone number to: Yarn giveaway, *Knit Today* 93, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN. The closing date is 31 January 2014.

Prizes will be dispatched within 28 days of judging. There are no cash alternatives. Employees of Immediate Media and contributing companies are not allowed to enter. A list of winners' names is available on request. The judges' decision is final. By entering this competition you are agreeing to receive details of future offers and promotions from Immediate Media Company and related third parties. If you do not want to receive this, please add the words 'NO INFO' at the end of your text message or write 'NO INFO' on your postcard. UK and Channel Islands entrants only. *Texts will be charged at 50p plus your standard network tariff rate. The closing date for competitions is 31 January 2014, unless otherwise stated.

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Reader offers



SAVE
15%

Three wise men p74



SAVE
15%

Duckling dressing gown p61



SAVE
15%

Chunky jumper p24

Motley crew

There's a whole menagerie of adorable animal knitting patterns available at Etsy shop, RedwoodDawn, and you could win 10 of them! Four readers will receive 10 designs including all the ones pictured here. The patterns are available as PDFs, delivered via email. Each set is worth over £30.

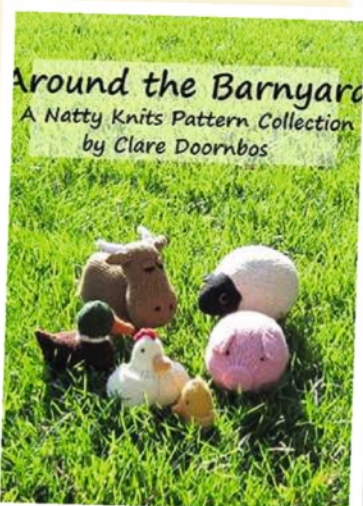
Entries to: Menagerie giveaway 93, *Knit Today*, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN. Include your name, address, email address and telephone number. Enter online at www.knit-today.com. ***Alternatively, text MENAGERIE** and your name followed by a space to 87474. The closing date is 31 January 2014.



Down on the farm

Around the Barnyard is an amazing 28-page ebook from Natty Knits on Etsy, containing six farmyard animal toy patterns and hints and tips on shaping and sewing together the finished toys. The book costs £9.53, or you could try winning a copy – we have 11 to give away!

Entries to: Farmyard giveaway 93, *Knit Today*, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN. Include your name, address, email address and telephone number. Enter online at www.knit-today.com. ***Alternatively, text FARMYARD** and your name followed by a space to 87474. The closing date is 31 January 2014.



Wonder clips

These Jumbo Wonder Clips from Clover are ideal for holding your knitting and crochet projects in position and are a great alternative to pins for securing seams or components prior to stitching. There are 24 clips in each pack, worth £24, and we have five packs to give away.

Entries to: Clover giveaway 93, *Knit Today*, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN. Include your name, address, email address and telephone number. Enter online at www.knit-today.com. ***Alternatively, text CLOVER2** and your name followed by a space to 87474. The closing date is 31 January 2014.



Super scarves

KnitChicGrace on Etsy is well known for its amazing scarf patterns and you could knit 15 of them with this amazing prize! We have four copies of KnitChicGrace's 15 PDF Hand Knitting Pattern Collection up for grabs, which contains 15 patterns for beautiful scarves, neckwarmers and cowls, worth £28.57.

Entries to: Scarves giveaway 93, *Knit Today*, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN. Include your name, address, email address and telephone number. Enter online at www.knit-today.com. ***Or, text SCARVES** and your name followed by a space to 87474. The closing date is 31 January 2014.



Super scarves

The temperature has started to drop, so why not knit one of these gorgeous accessories to beat the chilly winter wind?

If you ask most knitters about their first project more often than not their reply will be the same: 'It was a stocking stitch scarf full of dropped stitches!' Of course, with a bit of experience and some help from more knowledgeable knitters we all move on to more complex creations. In honour of the scarf as a knitting stalwart, we've chosen six of our favourite patterns, from a star-strewn number from Artesano to a colourwork wrap by Kate Davies.



Funchal Moebius



Kate Davies

Inspired by the basalt and limestone mosaic-covered streets of Funchal, Madeira, this stranded colourwork wrap by Highland-dwelling designer Kate Davies features an incredibly intricate and unusual pattern. Simple to knit, the garment can be worn around the neck, as a snood or over the shoulders. Knitted in organic 4-ply yarn from Renaissance Dyeing, it's available to download from www.katedaviesdesigns.com.

For more information and to buy, go to www.katedaviesdesigns.com

Ballard



Lisa Richardson for Rowan

Taken from the Alpaca Colour collection by Lisa Richardson – contemporary knits showcasing Rowan's new yarn by the same name – this openwork stitch pattern scarf is designed for the beginner knitter. Worked in 100 per cent baby alpaca in a bold shade of yellow, it's a soft, luxurious knit that's super-easy to make and looks great paired with leather or denim.

For more info and to buy, go to www.knitrowan.com or call 01484 681881

Hug Kiss scarf



Bessie May

This beautiful design from Bessie May is made up of seven deep reversible colour sections and long bulky stitches that cross to make kisses, earning this beautiful scarf its unusual name. The Hug Kiss scarf is knitted flat, using all seven shades of Bessie May Hug, with thick and thin slubs of wool that unwind as you knit – the result is a gorgeously soft, textured fabric that just begs to be wrapped up in. Why not make a selection in different colours?

To buy, go to www.bessiemay.com or call 01903 816708



Ringo scarf



Wool and the Gang

We like to think this loose, low-hanging scarf is named after our favourite Beatles member, however, it's probably more to do with the shape. Made with WATG's new Woolly Bully yarn, 80% alpaca and 20% merino wool, Ringo is, in fact, an incredibly easy knit – even an absolute beginner will have it knitted up in no time at all. Wear it over a plain t-shirt for a laid-back look, or with your coat for a little extra warmth. This is available as a Beginner Knit Kit with pattern, yarn and a sewing needle.

To buy, go to www.woolandthegang.com

Fleur scarf



Artesano

Designed by Jeanette Sloan, this beautiful crimson scarf is knitted in Artesano Alpaca 4-ply. Worked in ribbed stocking and reverse stocking stitch on 3-3.25mm needles with shaped stocking stitch star-shaped flowers, it's so much more than an accessory – it's a standout piece that deserves to be the focal point of your outfit and the colour is spot-on for the festive season. This pattern is suitable for intermediate knitters.

For stockists, go to www.artesanoyarns.co.uk or call 0118 9503350

Cable scarf



Debbie Bliss

Knitted in Debbie Bliss Winter Garden, a sumptuous blend of baby llama, merino wool, silk and linen, this gorgeous dark cyan scarf is taken from the Rustic Knits pattern collection. With its striking cable and bobble design and tweedy effect, it's perfect for adding a touch of style to frosty winter mornings. This chunky scarf is knitted on 9mm needles, great for time-poor knitters as it'll be done before you can say 'Jack Frost'.

For more info, go to www.designeryarns.uk.com or call 01535 664222

Sock yarns

If you're looking for a yarn to knit socks with, durability, softness and strength are key. We test six of the best...

From traditional 4-plys to standard DKs, sock yarns come in all shapes and sizes and they are usually developed to withstand wear and tear. Adding polyamide or nylon makes these yarns extra durable (essential for socks), while superwash wool means you can keep them clean in the machine (also pretty important!). Most of our reviews focus on self-striping and Fair Isle-effect yarns – these are increasingly popular and people are often drawn to sock knitting purely because of the exciting yarns available.



1. Artesano



Definition Sock Yarn

Content: 75% wool, 25% polyamide
Weight/length: 100g/400m
Needle size: 3mm
Shade: Denim
Wash: Machine wash 40°C

Luxurious and incredibly soft, Artesano's sock yarn comes as a twisted skein and is beautifully spun for excellent stitch definition, hence the name. There are 12 solid shades with names such as Cream Cake and Kimono, so you're spoilt for choice when it comes to colour. Try the stripy Wuru Socks for girls, or the gorgeous cabled Polperro socks for women.

To find a stockist, call 0118 950 3350 or go to www.artesanoyarns.co.uk

2. Bergère



Goomy 50

Content: 75% wool, 25% polyamide
Weight/length: 50g/215m
Needle size: 2.5mm
Shade: Imprim Prune
Wash: Machine wash 30°C

This 4-ply yarn knits up with a lovely even texture and it feels particularly nice against the skin. Resistant to friction and machine washing, it's a hardwearing choice, perfect for socks and other accessories. Choose from eight plain colours and six Imprim shades, which create a Fair Isle effect when worked in stocking stitch. We love the accompanying leg warmer pattern – a great gift for Christmas or winter birthdays.

Order at www.bergeredefrance.co.uk

3. Wendy



Roam Fusion

Content: 75% wool, 25% nylon
Weight/length: 100g/400m
Needle size: 3.25mm
Shade: Moor
Wash: Machine wash 30°C

Each shade of Roam Fusion is marled and space-dyed in bright colours, which create gorgeous patterns when knitted. There are five colour mixes on offer, all inspired by the rugged landscape and the blend of fibres ensure a warm, durable knit. One ball will make a pair of socks – look out for the free pattern offered by some retailers with a purchase of this fabulous 4-ply.

To find a stockist, call 01943 872264 or go to www.tbamsden.co.uk



4. Sirdar



Crofter DK

Content: 60% acrylic, 25% cotton, 15% wool
Weight/length: 50g/170m
Needle size: 4mm
Shade: Thistle
Wash: Machine wash 40°C

If you like the finish of a DK yarn, try Crofter from Sirdar. With a blend of acrylic, cotton and wool, it's a supersoft and lightweight option for socks, as well as other DK projects such as cardigans or scarves – plus it washes well. Find four supporting patterns in *Socks in Sirdar Crofter DK* (9388), which bring to life the spray-dyed Fair Isle effect.

To find a stockist in your area, call 01924 371501 or visit www.sirdar.co.uk

5. Rowan



Fine Art

Content: 45% merino wool, 20% kid mohair, 10% silk, 25% polyamide
Weight/length: 100g/400m
Needle size: 2.5mm
Shade: Raven
Wash: Hand wash

Fine Art is a premium, hand-painted yarn that feels wonderfully silky to the touch. Use it to knit winter essentials like socks, scarves, wraps and other accessories, including Marie Wallin's cabled Cuckoo socks from Rowan. You'll want a durable finish for such a beautiful pair and this self-stripping yarn doesn't disappoint.

To find a stockist, call 01484 681881 or go to www.knitrowan.com

6. Noro



Silk Garden Sock Yarn

Content: 45% silk, 45% mohair, 10% lambswool
Weight/length: 50g/100m
Needle size: 5mm
Shade: 356
Wash: Gentle dry cleaning

Such luxurious fibres mean you pay a little more for this variegated yarn, but the results are well worth it. Create a textured pair of socks with unique colour combinations and an unrivalled handmade quality. Spun in Japan using traditional processes, Silk Garden Sock Yarn also has superior drape, making it ideal for special garments, too.

To find a stockist, call 01535 664222 or visit www.designeryarns.uk.com

Best books

Get ideas for knitted and crocheted Christmas gifts, from quirky to super-stylish



More Modern Top-Down Knitting

Create 24 stylish garments from these top-down knitting templates



Kristina McGowan

In 1982 Barbara Walker's book, *Knitting from the Top*, featured inspirational designs knitted from the top down. The idea really caught on and inspired Kristina McGowan's popular title, *Modern Top-Down Knitting*, published in 2010. Now, in response to huge demand, Kristina has released another. Its 160 pages are packed with patterns for hats, skirts, jumpers, trousers and more, that you simply won't be able to resist.

STC Craft/a Melanie Falick book, hardback, 160 pages, ISBN 978-1-61769-033-4

***Reader offer!** Call 01903 828503 and quote ref 50430 to buy this book for £13.99 (RRP £16.99) with free UK mainland p&p. Offer ends 16 January 2014, while stocks last

The Night Before Christmas in Crochet

Crochet the classic festive poem with easy-to-make amigurumi characters



Mitsuki Hoshi & Clement C Moore

... 'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse... Clement C Moore's much-loved festive poem is captured beautifully in crochet with patterns and step-by-step instructions for characters including Santa Claus, a reindeer, cat, mouse, boy and girl. With the characteristic amigurumi look, the heads are large and the bodies are small, giving each figure an irresistible appeal. Check out www.hoshimitsuki.com for more on the author.

Harper Design, hardback, 80 pages, ISBN 978-0-06228-974-2

Cuddly Knitted Animals

Mix-and-match patterns to make your very own zoo creatures



Caprice Birker

Take one simple knitted body shape, add your pick of ears, arms, legs, tails and features, and what do you get? A whole menagerie of cute animals – 22 to be precise! There's a cat, an elephant, a pig, a lion, a sheep and many more, (not forgetting the unicorn!) and they're all bursting with personality. Close-up photos alongside the step-by-step instructions really help to illustrate the knitting techniques involved. Knitters of all abilities will really enjoy bringing these fun creatures to life, and they'll make sweet gifts for all ages, whether you make one or the whole set.

Search Press, paperback, 112 pages, ISBN 978-1-84448-925-1



Vintage Knit Gloves and Mittens

Try your hand at these cosy retro designs



Kathryn Fulton

The passion for vintage fashion continues unabated and from the pages of this lovely book you can bring to life 25 classic designs for gloves and mittens. All the patterns have updated terminology and modern abbreviations, so they're easy to follow. There are patterns for the whole family in a range of styles, from women's gloves in delicate lace stitches to chunky cabled mittens for men. You'll find patterns for beginners and experienced knitters, so there is something here to appeal to everyone, so why not add some cosy retro style to your wardrobe this winter?

Stackpole, paperback, 80 pages, ISBN 978-0-81171-243-9

Fun Hats

Get ahead when you knit a hat (or two) for the family



Lynne Rowe

There's nothing better than a cute knitting pattern to bring a smile to everyone's face, and *Knit Today's* very own Lynne Rowe is certainly doing her bit with her new book, which is crammed with jolly designs for the whole family. There are 32 patterns suitable for all levels of knitting ability, for babies and children of all ages – and by that we mean adults too...! Choose from a wacky beehive, an octopus or a Mohawk to Little Red Riding Hood, a birthday cupcake, a crown or a little devil. They make wonderful presents and you'll have as much fun creating them as the lucky recipient will have wearing them!

Search Press, paperback, 96 pages, ISBN 978-1-78221-046-7

The Knit Parade

Take 12 chic sweater patterns, add 12 cool motifs to make unique fashion statement knits



Rebecca Rymasz

If you've always longed to create a totally original piece of knitwear, but don't know where to start, Where's Me Jumper (www.wheresmejumper.co.uk) is an amazing website that allows you to do just that. You can upload images and have them incorporated into a knitted jumper or dress, created just for you. This gorgeous book is from the creative team behind the website and the designs are every bit as cool and quirky as you'd expect. Each one is inspired by the author's favourite songs, but these are jumpers that you can customise, so get creative and break the rules!

Collins & Brown, hardback, 112 pages, ISBN 978-1-908449-37-5

Knit club

Meet fellow knitters at a club local to you. Find your nearest group here, or log on to www.knit-today.com to find even more fantastic knitting-related social events to join



Find your local knitting club at www.knit-today.com

South East

Herts Stitch & Bitch

Meets on the first and third Thursday of the month from 7pm at The John Gilpin, Ware.

☎ www.meetup.com/hertsstitch-bitch

Crafty Beggars

Meets every Wednesday from 2-4pm at Guinea Butt, Calverly Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

☎ For info, call 07850 375420 or email lorrynieturley779@btinternet.com

Knit & Natter

Meets every other Wednesday from 10am-12pm and Thursdays from 6-8pm at Sittingbourne Library.

☎ Email cella.rumble@googlemail.com or call 07966 032919.

Open Gateway Craft Club

Meets for craft and chat on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays in West Thamesmead, London.

☎ Email karensessions@hotmail.com www.opengatewaycraftclub.webs.com

Knit & Sew (UFO)

Meets Thursdays from 7-9pm at Byfleet Village Hall, 54 High Road, Byfleet, Surrey KT14 7QL £5 per visit.

☎ Call 07766 110931 or email cherylfoolkes@hotmail.com

Craft Club

Meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at Rainham Bookshop, 17-23 Station Road, Rainham, Gillingham.

☎ For more details, call 01634 371591.

The K Factor – Lordshill

Meets on Thursdays at 5.30pm at Lordshill Library, Southampton.

☎ For information, visit www.the-k-factor.co.uk email kfactorsouthampton@gmail.com

Knit 'n' Natter

Meets on the first Saturday of the month, 2-4pm at East Grinstead Library, West Street, East Grinstead.

☎ For more information, email pnf@funnellp.fsnet.co.uk

Knit & Natter @ Cocoon

Meets Fridays from 10.30am-12.30pm at Cocoon, 10 George Street, Hove BN3 3YA ☎ Visit www.cocoonknits.co.uk email info@cocoonknits.co.uk or call 01273 776176.

I Knit London Knitting Group

Meets on the second Wednesday of the month in various pub venues with members of all ages and abilities.

☎ For more information, visit www.iknit.org.uk

Maidstone Knitters

Meets at Ethos, 9 Gabriels Hill, Maidstone on the second Saturday of each month, from 1-3pm.

☎ Call 01622 851885 for more information, or email the club at hawkeylodge@btinternet.com

KTOG group

Meets fortnightly from 7-9pm above the community centre on the High Street in Baldock, North Hertfordshire. Entry costs £3.50 a time.

☎ For more information, contact info@ktog.co.uk



London Crochet Club
Meets every fortnight, for knitting and crochet.

There's no regular venue, so members will be contacted with venue details before each meeting.

☎ For more information and to join visit knitting.meetup.com/1271/ or email heldap@hotmail.co.uk

South West

K1SIP1

Meets fortnightly from 8-9.30pm. Wellesley Arms Pub, Sutton Benger, Chippenham.

☎ Call Ed on 07773 254004 or Nic on 07788 425475, or go online to visit the groups website at ukgroups.yahoo.com/group/k1sip1

South West Knit and Natter Group

Meets every Wednesday from 2-4pm at Village Yarns, 7 Whipton Village Road, Exeter, Devon.

☎ Call Jane or Pam on 01392 670443 or email villageyarns@yahoo.co.uk

Wells Knitting Centre Knitting Club

Meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm, at 5 Mill Street, Wells. Knitters of all abilities are welcome.

☎ For more information, call 01749 677548.

Liskeard Knitting Club

Meets Thursdays 10.30am-12.30pm at Stuart House, Liskeard, Cornwall.

☎ Call Hella Tovar on 01579 349397.

Midlands

Stratford-Upon-Avon Knitters

Meets weekly at Patisserie Valerie, Henley Street.

☎ Call Karen on 07925 371557 or email stratfordknitters@hellokitty.com.

Birmingham Stitch 'n' Bitch

Meets on Saturdays from 11am to 1pm, at Caffè Nero coffee shop on Waterloo Street in Birmingham centre.

Loughborough Knit & Chat

Meets on the second Tuesday each month from 2-4pm.

☎ Call 01509 261845 or email trish.moore@virgin.net

Knit Lincs Lincoln Branch

Meets on the second and fourth Saturday afternoons of the month at the Drill Hall Café in Freeschool Lane, Lincoln, from 2-4pm.

☎ Call 07799 650691 or drop an email to nicola_l.sharp@hotmail.com

RK Knit Chicks

Meets Tuesdays from 2-3.30pm and Wednesdays from 11.30am-1pm at Raptor Crafts, The Heath, St Ives Road, Woodhurst.

☎ Contact Lynne Pope on 01487 840011, email info@raptorkrafts.co.uk or go online at www.raptorkrafts.co.uk

North

Nattering Knitters

Meets on Tuesdays from 7-9pm at The Salvation Army on Oldham Road, Failsworth, Oldham. £1 a week.

☎ To find out more, send an email to pauline.ford60@googlemail.com

A Good Yarn

Meets on the third Tuesday of the month from 7.30-9.30pm in the Community Room at Hope House Church, Blucher Street, Barnsley.

☎ Call 07930 247572 or email agoodyarnbarnsley@gmail.com

Billingham Knitters, Stockton-on-Tees

Meets Wednesdays from 5.30-7pm at Costa Coffee inside Tesco in Billingham, Stockton-on-Tees. Knitters and

crocheters of all abilities are welcome to join. Free entry.

☎ Call 01642 357180 or email dawnwaugh1@googlemail.com.

Northern Ireland

East Belfast Knitting Group

Meets Wednesdays 7.30-9.30pm at the Christian Fellowship Church, 52 Redcar Street, Belfast BT6 9BP.

☎ Call 07969 724858 or carrascosa10@ntlworld.com

Knit and Yarn @ Belmont

Meets for knitting and chat on Thursdays from 8-10pm in Belfast.

☎ Email wilma.leech@ntlworld.com or call 07731 021566.

Scotland

Loving Hands Charity Knitting Club

Meets Mondays from 1-3pm in Keltie Community Centre; the second Wednesday of the month from 2pm at Andrew Leckie Church Hall in Peebles; the second and fourth Friday of the month from 1.30-3.30pm at Invercarron Resource Centre in Stonehaven and every other Thursday from 7-9pm at Morrison's Café in Anniesland, Glasgow West.

☎ Call 01383 830277 or visit www.lovinghands.org.uk

Wooly Wags

Meets for knitting and chat every Thursday evening at 7.30pm at Swansacre Playgroup, Kinross.

☎ For more details and to join, contact Anna on 01577 864232.

Wales

Taff Knitters & Natters

Meets Wednesdays at 11am in TAFF Housing Association, Cardiff.

☎ For information and to join, visit www.lovinghands.org.uk, email charityknitters@yahoo.co.uk or call 01383 830277.

For club of the month, turn to page 9

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Shopping guide

Use our handy shopping guide to buy the yarn for the projects in this issue.

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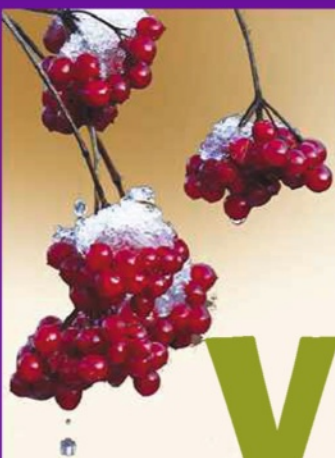
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The party starts here!
Our fun knitted props
are on page 68





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How to Knit

Use our step-by-step guide to learn the basics of knitting

Make a slipknot

Start all knitting projects with this easy knot



Twist the yarn into a loop and form a second loop of yarn to pull through the first one.



Tighten the first loop into a knot around the second. This will be your first cast on stitch.

Cast on - thumb method

Use this for an extra-stretchy edge



Make a slipknot with a long tail of 2.5cm or 1in per stitch that the pattern has asked you to cast on.



Loop the tail end of the yarn around your left thumb and then slide the needle tip into this loop.



Wrap the ball end of the yarn anticlockwise around the needle. Push the needle through the loop.



Slide the loop off your thumb and tighten both ends. Repeat steps 2-4 for each stitch.

Cast on - two needle method

Use this for a strong, hardwearing edge



With the slipknot on your left needle, insert the right needle from front to back of the loop.



Wrap the ball end of the yarn anticlockwise around the right needle and then pull this through the loop.



Now insert the left needle tip through the front of this new loop, dropping it off the right needle.



Repeat steps 1-3 as needed, forming new stitches from the top stitch on the left needle.

Cast off

What to do when you've reached the end



To begin, knit only the first two stitches in the cast off row.



Push the left needle through the first stitch, then lift it over the second stitch and off the right needle.



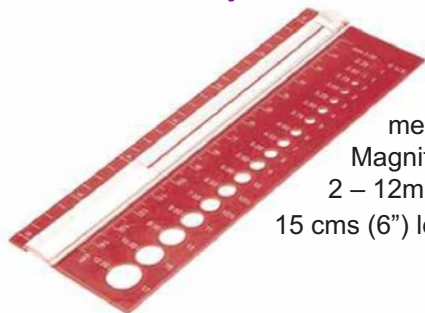
With one stitch now on the right needle, knit another stitch and then repeat step 2 until the row end.



Cut the yarn with a 15cm or 6in tail. Pull the tail through the final cast off stitch.

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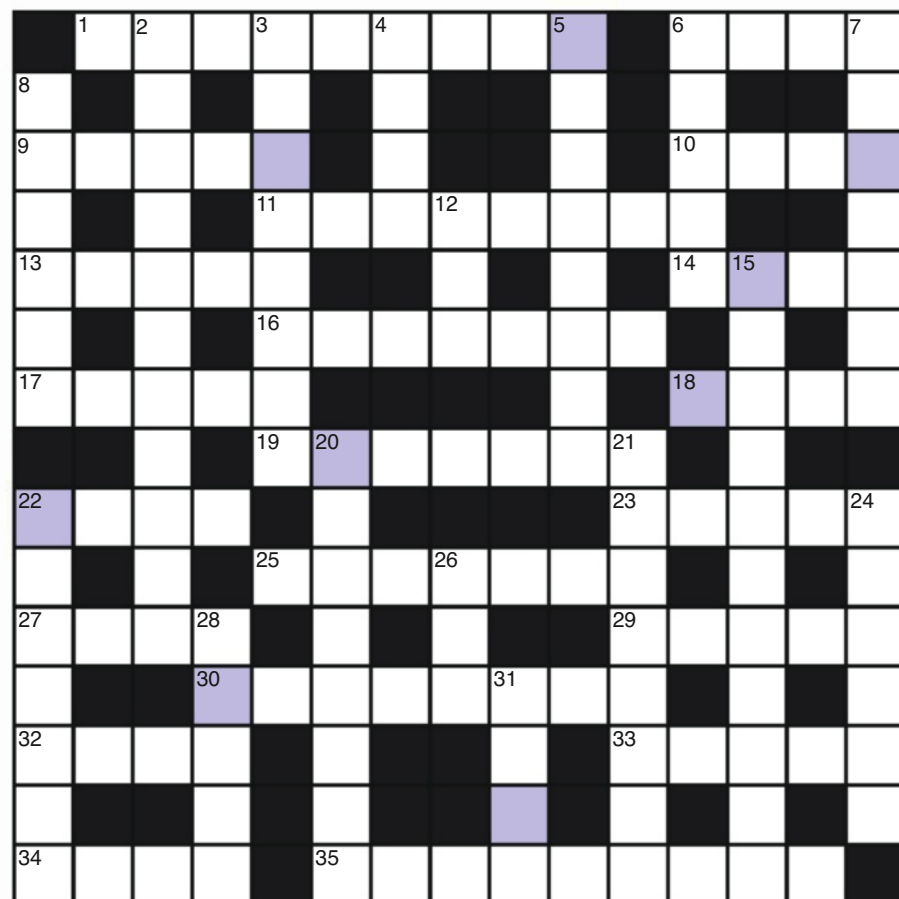
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Knit puzzle

Prize crossword

Solve the clues, then rearrange the letters in the shaded squares to spell the name of something to do with the theatre (3,6)



ACROSS

- 1 Orange jam (9)
- 6 Moderately hot (4)
- 9 Loft (5)
- 10 Artificial, imitation (4)
- 11 Cave in, fall down (8)
- 13 Rich fruit cake (5)
- 14 Wander without purpose (4)
- 16 Improvised substitute (7)
- 17 Raw fish dish (5)
- 18 Wide smile (4)
- 19 - - - and crosses, paper and pencil game (7)
- 22 Thin aluminium sheet (4)
- 23 Do better than (5)
- 25 Enduring strength (7)
- 27 Ancient Roman robe (4)
- 29 Reduces speed (5)
- 30 Narrow track for walkers (8)
- 32 Way out (4)
- 33 Duck down used for quilts (5)
- 34 Rip, pull apart (4)
- 35 Decisive majority of votes for one party (9)

DOWN

- 2 Causing great surprise (11)
- 3 Soft leather slipper (8)
- 4 Soothe or calm (4)
- 5 Large animal with a trunk (8)
- 6 Crisp biscuit (5)
- 7 Greatest possible amount (7)
- 8 Traditional Scottish dish (6)
- 12 Rim of a cup (3)
- 15 Packed with too many people (11)
- 20 Not compulsory (8)
- 21 Decorative item found on a beach (8)
- 22 Most healthy (7)
- 24 Sheen, gloss (6)
- 26 Cleaning implement (3)
- 28 Following (5)
- 31 Dry and parched (4)



We'll put all the correct crossword answers into a hat and the first five entries we draw will win a knitting goodie bag from Abakhan! To find out more, visit www.abakhan.co.uk or look for Abakhan Fabrics on Facebook to find out about great new products and special offers.

How to enter

Send the correct answer and your name and address on a postcard to: *Knit Today* Crossword 93, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN. Closing date 31 December 2013



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Ros Badger

Prolific crochet and knitwear designer Ros Badger reveals what lies behind her inspiration...



Ros has a huge catalogue, from children's knits to homeware



the 1980s and I often look through them for shape ideas and texture, particularly when designing clothes.

Who taught you to knit, and what was your first project?

My grandmother taught me to crochet before I could knit and my first make was an oval blanket for my doll's cot, which I still have. I think it was meant to be circular but my eight-year-old hands made a few mistakes along the way!

What is your advice for young knitwear designers?

Follow your creative instincts, make what you like, not what you think other people expect and keep an open mind.

What are your favourite materials to work with, and why?

I always work with natural fibres and mainly cotton. Knitting is time consuming so it seems to go against the grain to spend all that time making something with a yarn that won't do justice to your work. I love cashmere and cashmere blends, silk and alpaca too but most of my work uses a mercerised cotton called Cannele, which I buy from Yeoman Yarns. It holds its shape texture and finish no matter how often it's washed and I have been using it for over 25 years.

Tell us about a typical designing day.

There isn't a typical day, as I have quite a variety of creative areas to my career. When I was working on my latest book I did spend all day every day sitting knitting and writing the patterns as I made the work. It was very hard work and intense but also very calm and enjoyable, sitting on a sofa all day listening to Radio 4 or 3 with a fire, a cup of tea and my yarn and needles.

What can we look forward to from you in the future?

I am re-launching my children's hand knitwear range in a month or so and I have pitched a new book idea to Quadrille, which I am hoping will be commissioned. If it's not, then my agent, Jane Turnbull, will pitch it elsewhere. Lastly, I have a monthly 'make' column starting in Saga magazine in January, so there's lots going on.

Tell us about your designs. What do you like to make?

I make everything from children's jumpers and cardigans to accessories and recently a bowl made from Hoopla – a recycled cotton jersey yarn. I love designing and if I see a new yarn or a stitch texture that I haven't used before I try and think of a way of designing with it.

What's the inspiration behind your designs?

I am inspired by everything, but if I had to be specific it would be nature, I love the contrasting colours and textures that nature puts together and the symmetry that appeals to my sense of pattern. Today I saw an amazing spider's web between two branches, the dew was hanging from each strand like jewels, it was amazing: nature's natural lace.

What is your favourite design?

From my latest knitting book, *Simple Knitting*, I particularly like the sparkly socks. Partly because Yuki's (Sugiura) photograph was so inspired and they are easy to make too!

What has been the highlight of your career so far?

I have had many highlights so I can't really name one – but a few are: teaching the lovely Paula Yates to knit on C4's *Big Breakfast* in the '90s (although nerve-racking too); seeing my children's knitwear being bought by celebrities from Madonna and Nicole Kidman to Jude Law and members of The Clash and making bespoke knitted hats for U2. Seeing one being worn on the cover of *Rolling Stone* magazine was pretty cool too.

Which designers inspire you?

My main inspiration comes from old knitting patterns from the '20s '30s '40s and '50s. Sadly, the designers of these patterns are anonymous but they are incredibly creative. I have a huge archive that I started collecting when I was at Chelsea College of Art in

Find me here.

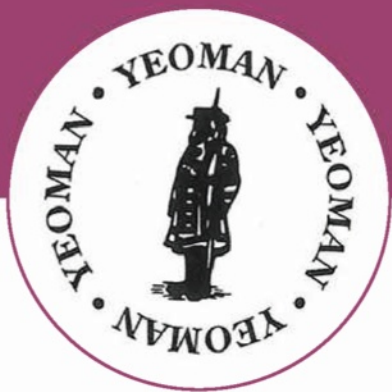
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