

NEW
LOOK!

KNIT

ISSUE 116

today

SEE IT ♥ LOVE IT ♥ KNIT IT



QUICK-KNIT
CAT PURSE



COOL
COVER-UP
TRY A STOCKING STITCH SHAWL

MAKE it in A WEEKEND!



FINGER PUPPET
PIRATES

HOME
UPDATES

Lace lampshade
& bathroom set

28 EASY
PATTERNS
TO CAST ON NOW!



FLAUNT IT



WEAR IT



BAG IT

NEON+
NAVY

Cowl, necklace,
shopper, clutch bag,
bracelets & more!

IMMEDIATE
MEDIA Co
ISSUE 116 (2015)

HOWTOs: Knit moss stitch ■ Cast on two ways ■ Work i-cords ■ Pick up & knit stitches



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KNIT

today

SEE IT ♥ LOVE IT ♥ KNIT IT



Welcome to your new look *Knit Today*! Every issue we'll bring you a generous helping of our favourite creative ideas and patterns, so you can enjoy making something

for yourself, as a gift, or for your home. If you love simple, stylish projects that knit up quickly then you're in just the right place. We'll be featuring easy designs for complete beginners (quick knits for the rest of you!), and a few that are a bit more challenging. No one has the time to knit

every pattern they come across, so our aim is to make your knitting life simpler by bringing you the best contemporary patterns that reflect the trends we see on the high street and online.

Don't miss our great reads and our easy to follow technique guides – they'll make a real difference to your knitting, and they're perfect if you're just starting out. You really will be able to say, 'Yes, I knitted it myself!'. Whether you're picking up your needles for the first time or just enjoy trying new techniques, you'll find lots to tempt you in every issue of *Knit Today*.

Rosee

Rosee Woodland
Editor





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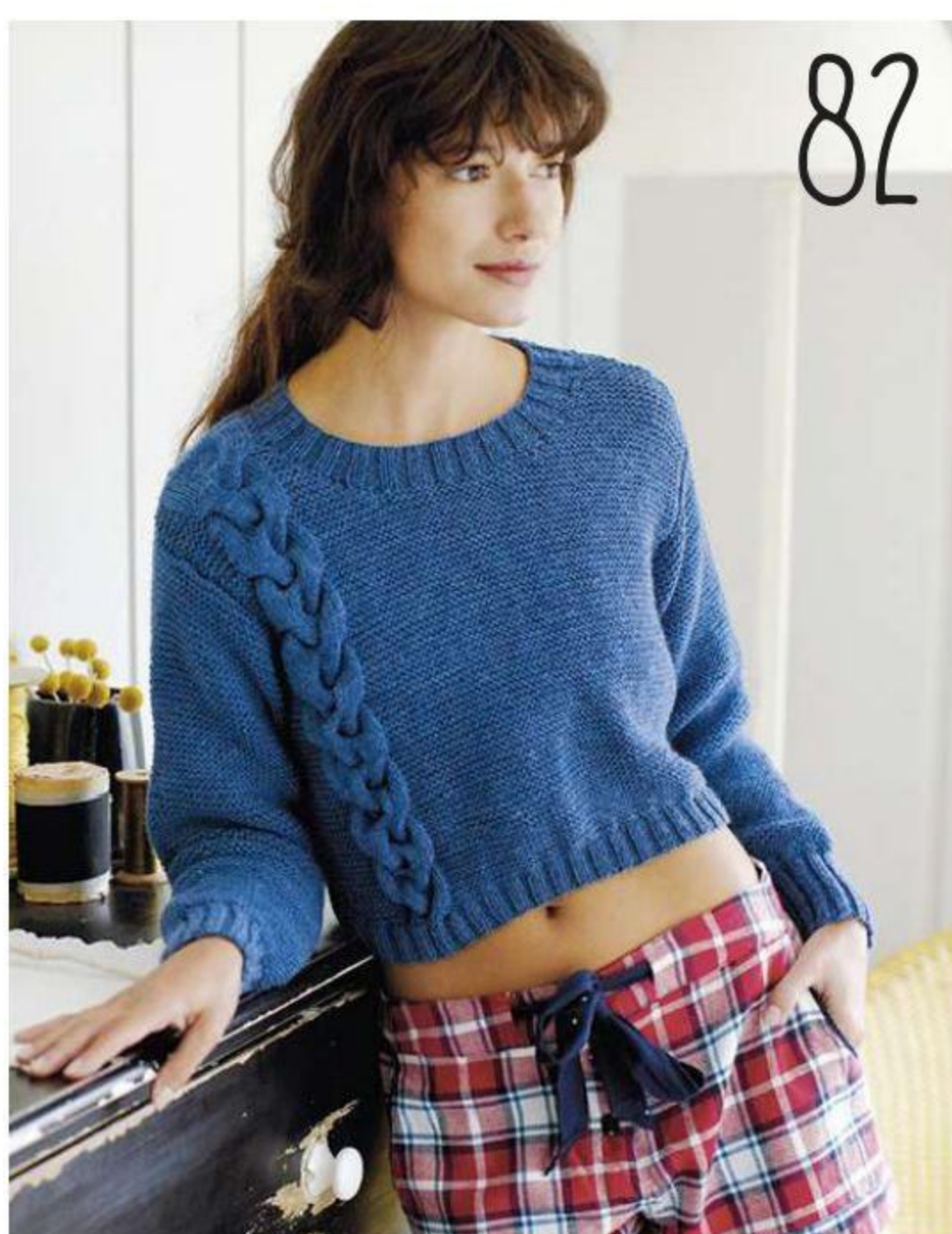


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Your library of stitches with clear photos plus abbreviations, needle conversions and yarn weights



HOW TO VIDEOS
Go to knit-today.com for handy step-by-steps

WANT TO SUBSCRIBE?

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SLOUCHY SWEATER

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THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE THIS ISSUE...



DEBBIE BLISS

This month, discover the magic of chunky cotton yarn with pro designer and yarn mogul Debbie Bliss. Turn to page 64 to find Debbie's stunning shell pattern vest top.



JESSICA BISCOE

Star designer Jessica Biscoe has created a set of easy-to-follow video tutorials to help you learn new skills and work your way through any tricky bits! Flip to page 32 to see what she's been making lately.



LOUISE WALKER

Louise is famous for her fabulous faux taxidermy knit kits, animal-themed scarves and more. This issue she has created the purrfect kitty purse. You can find the pattern on page 35.



CECILIA FORFITT

Our roving reporter, Cecilia, caught up with uber-cool US knitwear designer Steven West to discuss his favourite thing – super squishy stitches! Read all about them on page 98.

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Knit Today is available for licensing overseas.

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DISTRIBUTION

Knit Today is published 13 times a year and is available through leading newsagents and supermarkets in the UK.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

BAR rates: UK £43 annually,

EUR £60 annually, ROW £70 annually

To subscribe, call the Subscription Hotline 0844 8440231

Overseas Subscription Hotline +44 (0)1795 414612

Subscription email knittoday@servicehelpline.co.uk

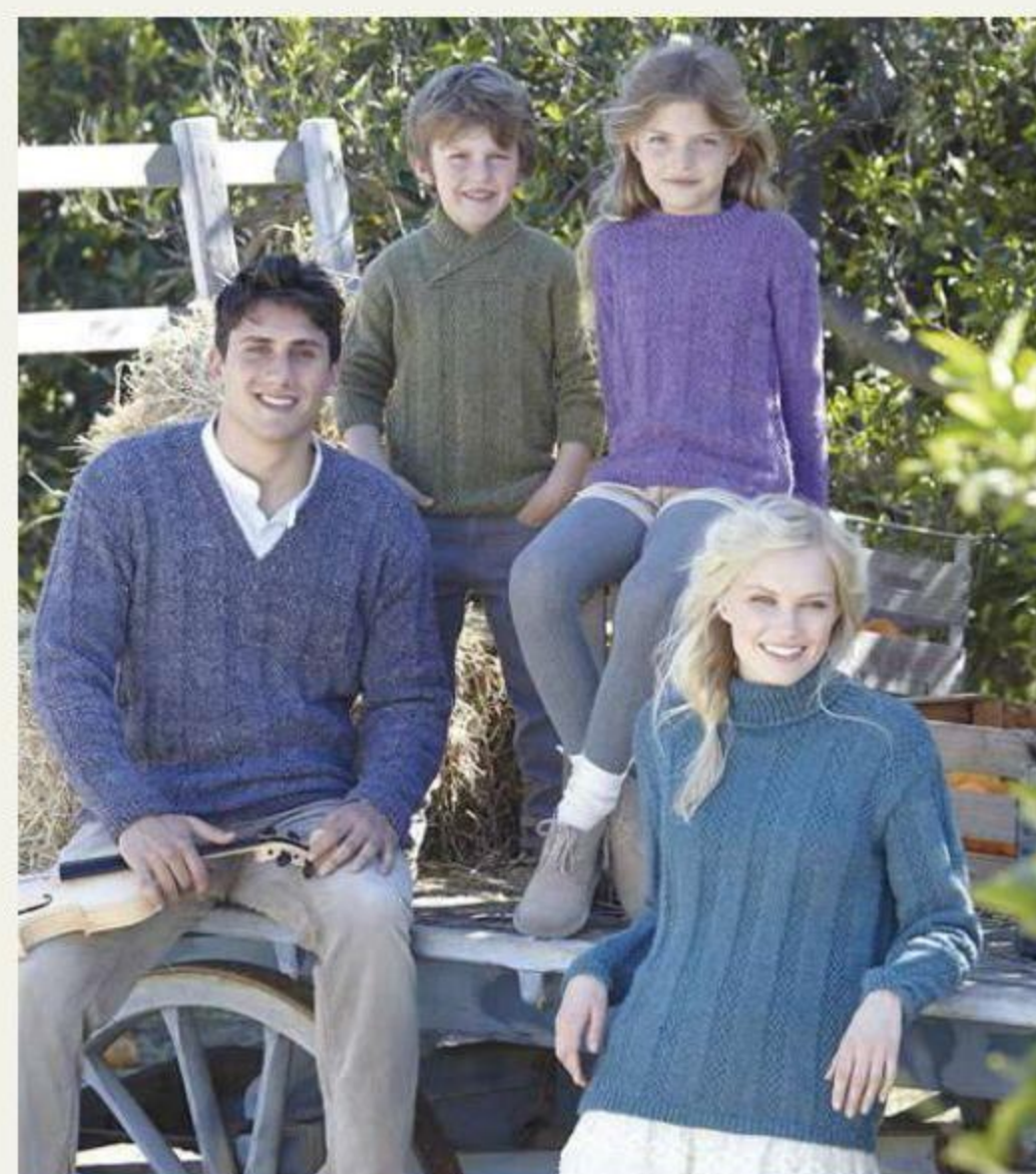
Published monthly by Immediate Media Co,
Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN
Tel: 0117 9279009

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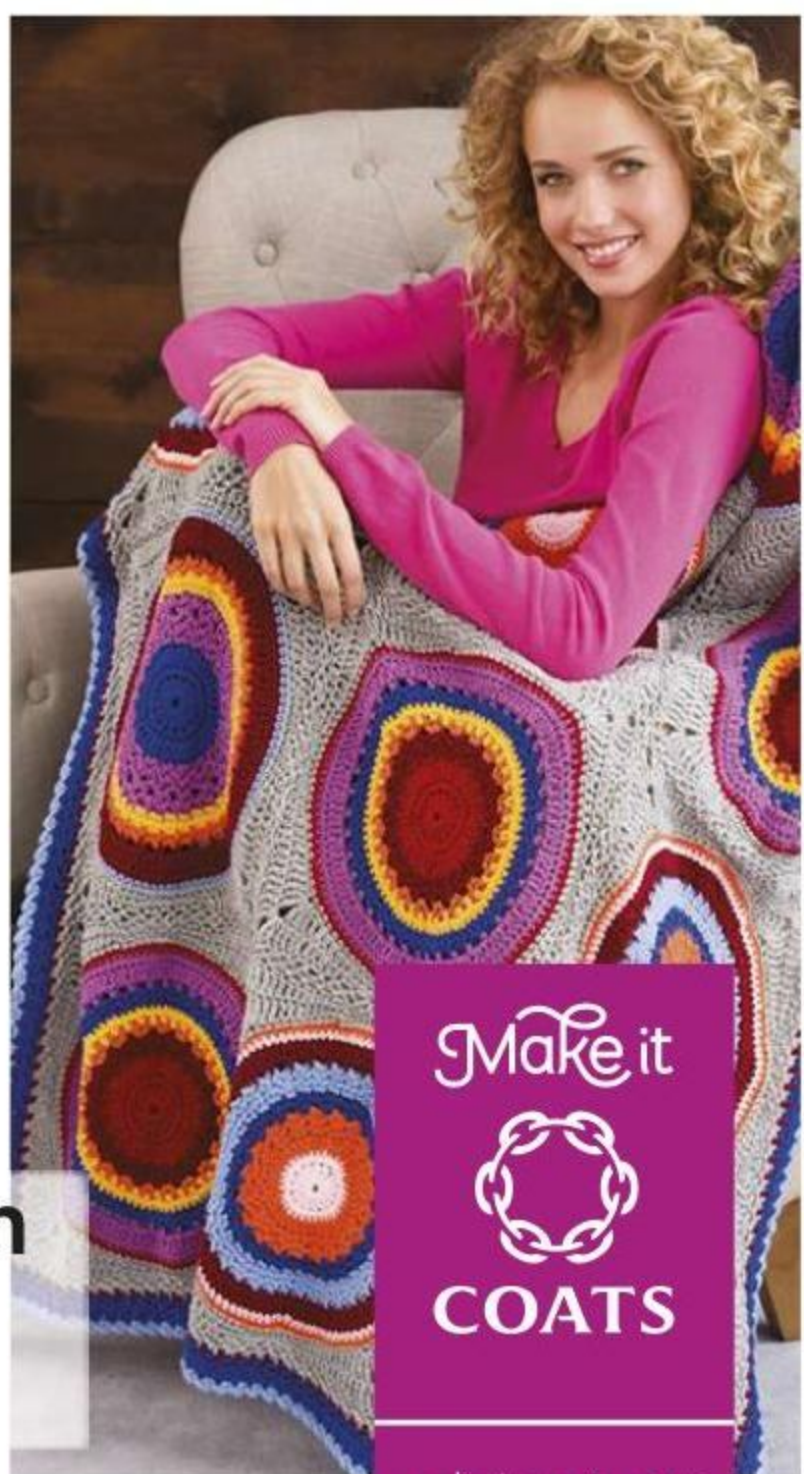
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HARRAP TWEED

A Double Knitting Tweed

Book 494 - New for Autumn Winter



Find over 400 free knit and crochet patterns on
www.redheart.co.uk

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makeitcoats.com

NOTEBOOK

IDEAS ♡ INSPIRATION ♡ ACCESSORIES ♡ WEBSITES ♡ EVENTS ♡ STUFF

WIN A FAB
THROW KIT
page 10



WE WANT TO KNIT TOGETHER

Become a super-knitter with Stitch & Story's workshop for beginners, where you'll learn to cast on, knit, purl, and cast off. It's the perfect place to make new knitting friends, create a handful of knitted swatches and generate great memories. This two-hour London workshop includes a set of bamboo knitting needles, 50g of supermerino wool yarn, an instruction booklet and Artisan cakes to share, all for the bargain price of £35. Visit Notonthehighstreet.com/stitchandstory for more information.





MEET RUSTY THE FOX

■ If, like us, you need a little encouragement to recheck your measurements then you need Rusty in your life. This sleepy fox tape measure (£2.95) will have you reaching to check and re-check the lengths of those armholes at very regular intervals. Leaving you with the perfect finish. Find Rusty the Fox Tape Measure at Dotcomgiftshop.co.uk



YUMMY YARNS

Freshen up your summer wardrobe with these zingy summer yarns from the experts at DMC. Their Natura Just Cotton range comes in 50g balls (£3.50) and 60 vibrant and subtle shades from Bougainvillea to Rose de Meaux and Aqua. Worked on 2.5–3.5mm needles they're perfect for cool, last-minute summer garments, accessories and homewares. Visit dmccreative.co.uk to discover more about this new yarn range and pick out the perfect colour for you.

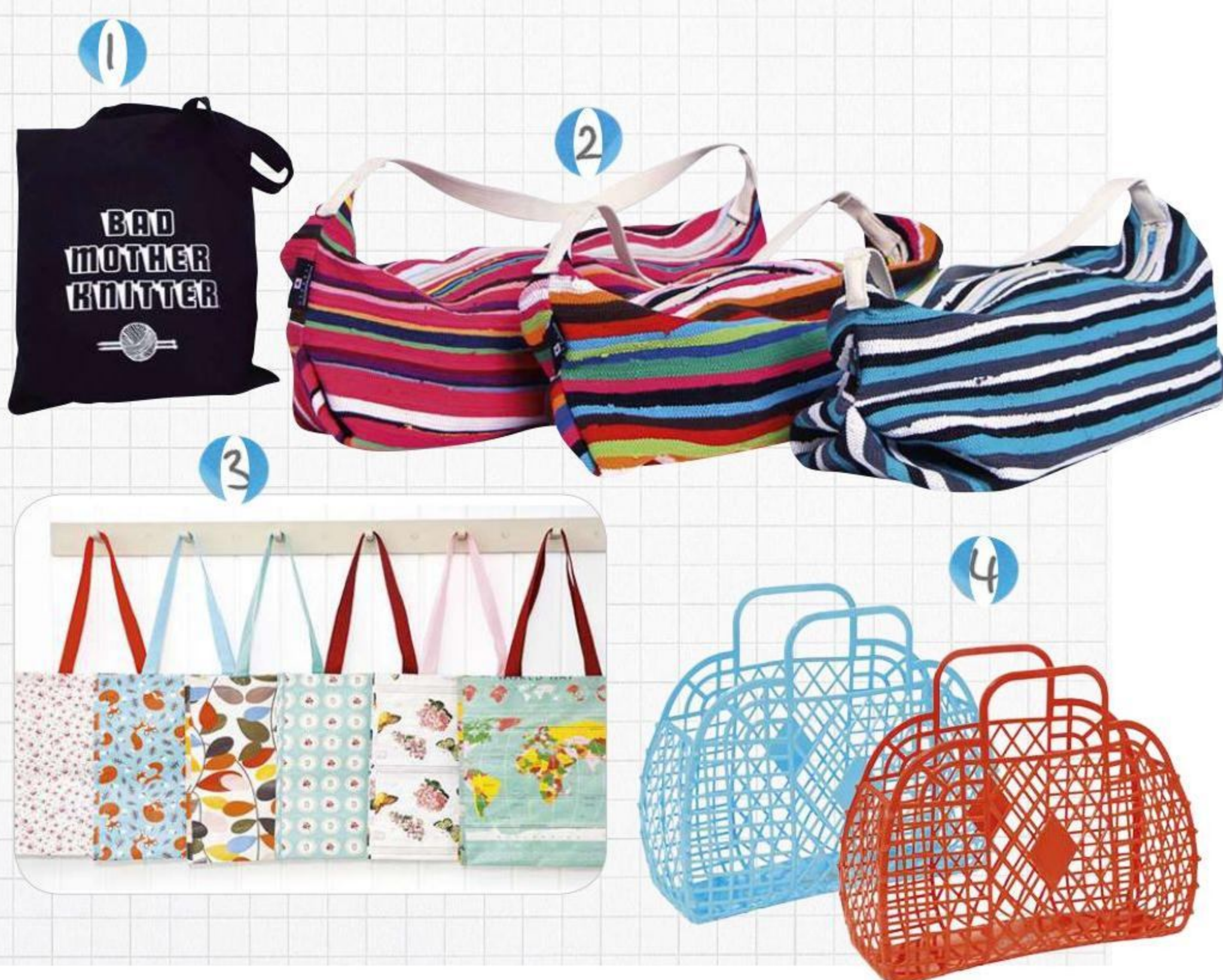
MEGA BIG THROW

The gigantic stitches on this 70 by 100cm throw mean it'll take just 2-3 hours to knit. Loopy Mango in New York are giving *Knit Today* readers the chance to win one of their Nantucket Throw DIY kits complete with a 40oz (1134g) skein of their Big Loop merino yarn – the thickest yarn there is, plus birchwood needles, and bag worth £154. Visit Loopymango.com to see more, and enter online at Knit-today.com. Turn to page 6 for terms and conditions.

TIME TO TIDY UP

Turn tidy time into a bittersweet joy with these smile-coaxing storage ideas...

1. Give this hard-wearing knitting bag to those with a wicked sense of humour! Bad Mother Bag. £13.75 from Notonthehighstreet.com
2. Knitting on the go? This lovely long Banana Bag makes a fab place to nestle all your needles. £13.39 from Notonthehighstreet.co.uk
3. Organise that craft room with a row of bright, patterned Shopper Bags made from recycled plastic. Just £2.95 from Dotcomgiftshop.co.uk.
4. Don't hide your knitting when it's pack away time, keep it on show with a retro-tastic Jelly Handbag. £10 from Sunjellies.com





STREET-STYLE SMARTS

We love fresh, funky kids' knits that rival high-street makes and this month the knit experts at Yarn Stories are treating us to a fabulous new collection called Drift. Packed with the coolest beanies, scarves, jumpers, cardigans and snoods (like Samphire left, £4 for a collection of four accessories patterns), there's no lack of street cred whether you're knitting for a boy or girl. The Drift collection is also available as a book from most yarn shops. Find this and more patterns at yarnstories.com.

SILK 'N' CHUNKY

Looking for a super quality yarn that delivers luxury in hanks? Then Rowan Big Wool Silk could be for you...

Made up of 70% wool and 30% silk, you know this yarn's going to knit up like a dream, creating garments of brilliant quality. Worked on 10 to 15mm needles, it comes in six deep, muted colours, perfect for autumn and winter. £11.99, knitrowan.com



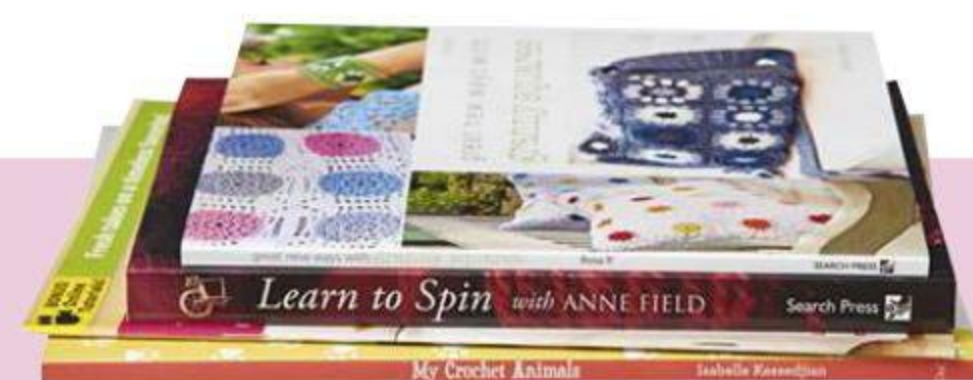
Knit it



THE 'NORMA' TOP

Ready for your first garment? Then give Wool And The Gang's Norma Top a go!

Wool And The Gang make knitting a fashionable garment easy. This chunky Norma Sweater kit (£65) comes with all you need to get started. Just pick a yarn shade from their 28-strong range – from Lipstick Red to Ultra Violet, there's a colour to suit everyone's style. Discover more at woolandthegang.com.

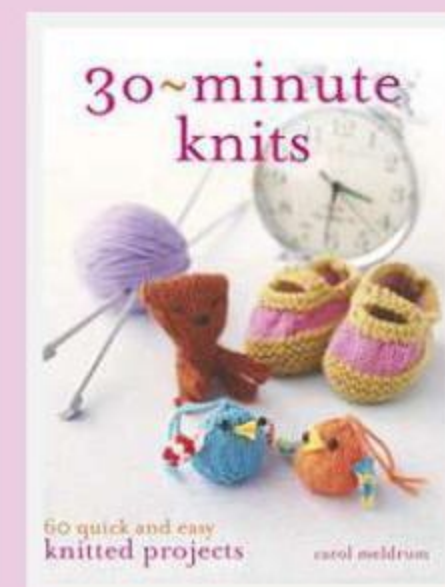


NEW KNIT READS

30-MINUTE KNITS

Carol Meldrum (£9.99, Search Press)

Love knitting on the bus to work? Or in your lunch break? Then this book could be perfect for you. Packed with knits for knitters of all abilities, it's a whole lot of 30-minute fun!



LACE KNITS

Ann Kingstone (£17.50, Rowan)

From quick-to-finish basic projects to intricate openwork marvels, this book has all the step-by-steps you need to master this technique, whatever your current level.



KNITTED ANIMAL SCARVES, MITTENS AND SOCKS

Fiona Goble (£12.99, Cico Books)

Cute as a button, quirky and highly wearable, we love this collection of 35 fluffy and fun animal knits for little and big people alike! Available to buy from 10 September.



JUNIOR COLOUR KNITS

Erika Knight (£9.95, Quail Publishing)

If you're looking for a book that's filled with colourful designs then this is for you. Packed with simple ideas for babies and kids it's ideal for those new to knitting for children.





HANDMADE FAIR

For a day trip to handmade heaven, look no further than a ticket to The Handmade Fair at Hampton Court Palace on 18-20 September (thehandmadefair.com; tickets from £16). Hone your skills or be inspired at the Super Theatre or Skills Workshop, or browse the fripperies and frills on offer in the Shopping Village – extra tote bags for purchases are recommended!

BAG-SY THIS ONE!

■ We're already big fans of Frankie Brown and her fab freebie patterns on Ravelry, but this has to be one of our favourites! Worked in DK scraps from your own stash this gorgeous bag will be the envy of all, not to mention the perfect place for your latest project. Find this rainbow, lust-have make at Ravelry.com/designers/frankie-brown.



WOOLLY PLAYTIME

Woody the sheep has lost his fleece but... hang on a minute, we can create a new one for him! Little ones will love giving this sweet sheep a new fleece. They simply thread the wool provided through all those holes to create fun, looped patterns and help improve hand-eye coordination. Once finished, Woody becomes a beautiful decorative ornament, with pedigree too – the wood is from a sustainable French forest and the wool is French organic – oh la la! Woody Knitting Game costs £25.95 from e-side at notonthehighstreet.com. This kit is recommended for children aged 4+.

ELEKTRA YOUTH



Bright, bold colours are one of our fave trends this season, so we can't get enough of Elektra, the first ever yarn from Conway + Bliss. The pair, made up of Debbie Bliss' daughter Nell and her creative partner Teresa, launched their first designs earlier this year, and have followed up with a fabulously flamboyant collection to support their new yarn, which knits up on 8mm needles and comes in 12 shades, all named after music genres. Rock on!





✕ NOTEBOOK ✕



5 MINUTES WITH...



MEREDITH CRAWFORD

Hi Meredith!
Tell us about
OneSheepishGirl.com... Hello!
I started
OneSheepishGirl

at college to share my new passion for knitting and crochet. A friend encouraged me to try blogging and I went for it with zero experience. I still have a hard time believing how far my blog has come.

What's your favourite OSG design?

Oh, what a tough choice! One of my favourite knit projects is my Knit Ampersand. I simply knit an I-cord over some primary wire to create a unique piece of wall art! I love using knitting and crochet in unexpected ways.

Do your designs reflect your own style?

Absolutely! I love wearing clothes that have clean lines, bold colours, and a retro

feel. I do my best to incorporate my own 'sheepish' style into everything I make!

What do you love most about being a designer/blogger?

I love the ability to create new things, to be able to express my creativity, and to do it all in a space that is unique to me. I look upon it as an incredible blessing and I couldn't be more thankful.

Where do you find inspiration?

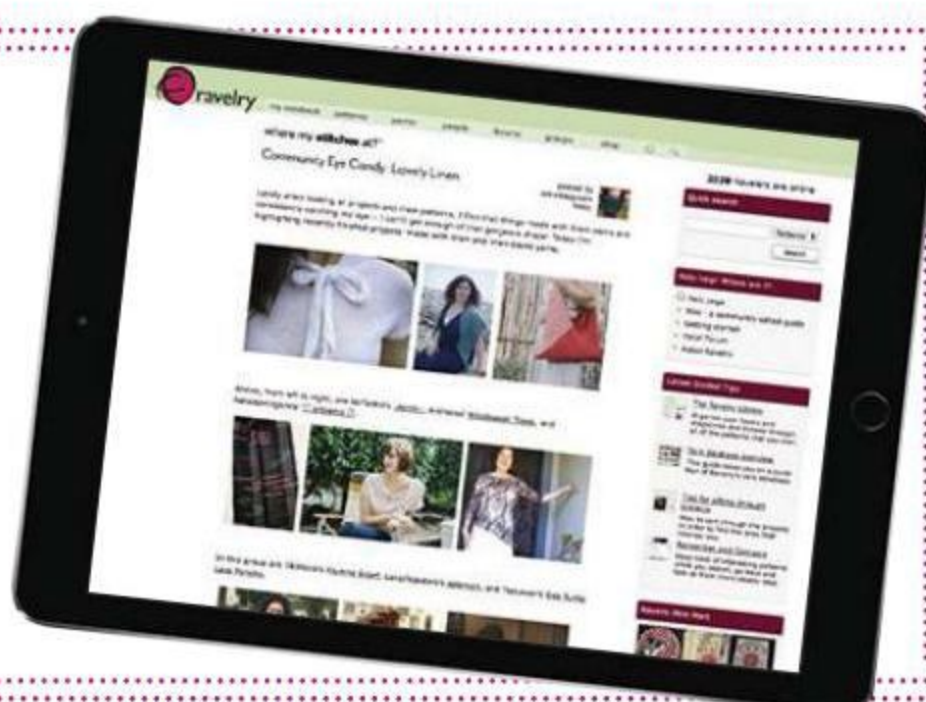
I am what you might call a magazine hoarder... ha ha! I love drawing inspiration from fashion editorials in my favourite magazines. I am also a big fan of Pinterest and love gathering inspiration there from all around the Internet!

See more great ideas and designs from Meredith at Onesheepishgirl.com

MUST BOOKMARK!

www.ravelry.com

Any knitter worth their salt will love spending time wandering around Ravelry – it's packed with pattern downloads, yarn details, forums, groups, project info and tech help. Dive in!



5 FAB FINDS

For button gluttons
Add a flourish to your knit
with a fabulous fastening



WILLIAM MORRIS CERAMIC

Created for the V&A these buttons pay homage to the Arts & Crafts movement.
£2 each, stockwellceramics.co.uk



BLACK & CREAM

Magical monochrome makes a great impact. Six fabric buttons, £6, from Diane Francis Designs on Etsy.

COOL SECONDS

Try large recycled buttons (£3.50 each), in eight colours from Flock Follies at notonthehighstreet.com



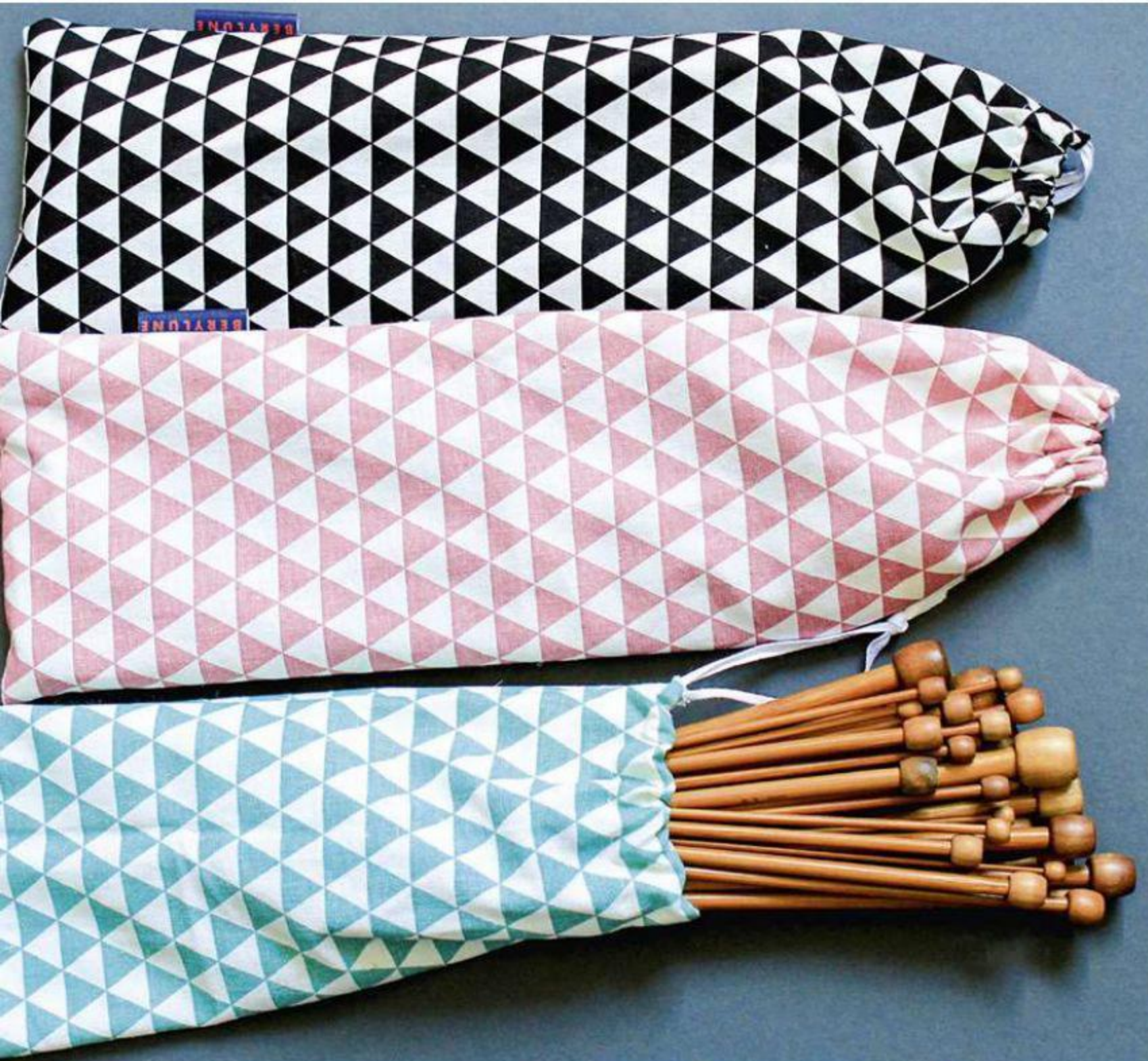
HEART BUTTONS

We love these ceramic heart buttons from Dottery Pottery. Just £5 for 4 from Dottery Pottery on Folksy.com.

TINNED TREATS

Can't decide?
Bag yourself a whole tin of button loveliness from The Makery at Johnlewis.com. 50 buttons, £6.95.





NEVER NEEDLE-LESS

As well as looking lovely, bamboo needles are lighter than metal and can make for a more relaxing knitting experience. They're also better at gripping your yarn, meaning far less chance of dropped stitches. Update your equipment with this full set of 18 pairs of carbonised bamboo needles, tucked neatly into a geometric drawstring storage bag. Just £24.95 from Berylune at Notonthehighstreet.com.



OH-SO FLUFFY!

Are you a fan of the uber-cute? This best-selling King Cole pattern comes with two sweet seals (one large, one small). Their cuddly fur finish is achieved using King Cole Luxe Fur in shades of Impala, Polar and Silver Fox. £2.65 from Purplelindacrafts.co.uk.

KNIT-BITS

RECORD BREAKER

Edward Hannaford of Sittingbourne has broken the world record for creating the longest piece of continuous knitting with a colourful rope measuring almost 20 miles long!



KNITTERS SAY 'NO' TO FRACKING

A group of knitting mamas and nannas from Alice Springs, Australia have staged a two-hour 'knit-in' in to protest about hydraulic fracking in Australia's Northern Territories. Find out more about their 'nannafesto' at Knitting-nannas.com

The first photos of Princess Charlotte in her oh-so-sweet knitted bonnet didn't just melt hearts around the world – they revived a trend for old-fashioned handknit bonnets! Since then the sweet caps have been a must-add to Ravelry queues for knitters everywhere. This pretty bonnet from Sublime is simple enough to tempt newbies to try lace knitting for the first time – and it only takes one ball of Sublime Cashmere Merino Silk DK! It's part of The Seventeenth Little Sublime Hand Knit Book of 15 patterns, available for about £8 from most yarn shops.



SKILLS, SHOWS & EVENTS

Sep 4 Knit Your First Jumper workshop, £49
Born to Knit, Fisherton Mill, Salisbury
07557985935 Borntoknit.co.uk

Sep 6 Fix It Disaster Recovery workshop, £35
Baa Ram Ewe, 180 Harrogate Road, Leeds
Baaramewe.co.uk

Sep 11-13 Bristol Wool Fair, from £8
Bristol Exhibition Centre, Washingpool Farm,
Bristolwoolfair.co.uk

Sep 26-Oct 4 Shetland Wool Week, some free. Events taking place across the region
Shetlandwoolweek.com



Photograph Frank Bradford



Patons



PBN0000-04042 Family Fairisle Jumpers knitted in Patons Wool Blend Aran

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makeitcoats.com



CHUNKY COTTON TEE



TEE-LICIOUS

Be bold with **Lynne Rowe's** chunky block striped tee worked in soft cotton

CHUNKY COTTON TEE



MATERIALS

- Yarn
Wendy Supreme Cotton Chunky
Yarn A: 2 (2:3:3:3) x 100g balls in Cherry (shade 1428)
Yarn B: 2 (2:3:3:3) x 100g balls in Ochre (shade 1437)
Yarn C: 3 (3:3:4:4) x 100g balls in Cerise (shade 1433)
- Needles
1 pair 6mm (UK 4, US 10)
1 pair 6.5mm (UK 3, US 10.5) knitting needles

YARN DETAIL

- Wendy Supreme Cotton Chunky
tbramsden.co.uk
01943 872264
- 100% mercerised cotton
- 100g/83m (91yds)
- Machine wash at 30°C
- £4.25

TENSION

14 sts and 20 rows to 10cm or 4in measured over st st using 6.5mm needles

PATTERN NOTES

- When changing colour, leave long tail ends [approximately 40cm (15¾in)] of yarn to sew seams at the end

YARN ALTERNATIVES

- Rowan All Seasons Chunky
knitrowan.com
01484 681881
- Hayfield Bonus Chunky
sirdar.co.uk
01924 231 682

- Turn to page 93 for a list of abbreviations

This super-chic block striped tee is worked in a soft, chunky weight cotton yarn so you'll have it knitted up in no time. We love these bold colours teamed with your favourite skinny jeans or denim shorts but if sunset shades are not your palette, Wendy Supreme Cotton Chunky is also available in a range of cool ocean hues so you can choose your own colour story.

FRONT AND BACK (MAKE 2)

Using yarn A and 6.5mm needles, cast on 67 (73:79:85:97) sts.

For the rib edging:

Row 1 (RS): K4, p3, (k3, p3) to the end.

Row 2 (WS): (K3, p3) to the last 4 sts, k4.

Rows 3-8: Rep rows 1 and 2 three times more.

Change to 6.5mm needles.

For sizes 12-14 and 16-18 only:

Row 9 (RS): Kfb, K to last st, Kfb.

75 (81) sts

Row 10 (WS): P.

For size 20-22 only:

Row 9 (RS): Kfb, (K27, Kfb) 3 times.

89 sts

Row 10 (WS): P.

For all sizes

Work in st st until work measures 15

(15.5:16:16.5:17) cm,

6 (6:6¼:6½:6¾) in, from cast on edge ending with a WS row.

Change to yarn B.

Work in st st until work measures

30 (31:32:33:34) cm,

11¾ (12¼:12½:13:13½) in, from cast on edge, ending with a WS row.

Change to yarn C.

Work in st st until work measures

40 (41.5:43:44.5:46) cm,



TO FIT SIZE		8-10	12-14	16-18	20-22	24-26
TO FIT BUST	cm	83-87	92-97	104-111	118-125	132-139
	in	32-34½	36-38	41-43½	46½-49	52-55½
ACTUAL BUST	cm	96.5	107	117	127	139
	in	38	42	46	50	54½
LENGTH	cm	45	46.5	48	49.5	51
	in	17¾	18¼	19	19½	20
ARMHOLE DEPTH	cm	22.25	22.75	22.75	24	24.75
	in	8¾	9	9	9½	9¾

15¾ (16¼:17:17½:18) in, from cast on edge, ending with a WS row.

Next row: (K1, p1) to the last st, k1. Rep last row (to form moss st) until work measures 45 (46.5:48:49.5:51) cm, 17¾ (18¼:19:19½:20) in, from cast on edge. Cast off knitwise using the simple cast off below.

SLEEVES (MAKE 2)

Using yarn C and 6mm needles, cast on 61 (63:63:67:69) sts.

Row 1: (K1, p1) to the last st, k1. Rep row 1 three times more.

Change to 6.5mm needles and work 6 (6:8:8:8) rows in st st. Cast off.

MAKING UP

Using matching yarn sew shoulder seams from outside edge for approximately 5cm (or more if a smaller neckline is desired).

Fold sleeves in half and match centre point with shoulder seam. Pin and stitch in place. Sew side and sleeve seams.

Lightly iron, placing a thin tea towel over your knitting. Do not place iron directly onto fabric. Leave to dry completely.



Get the perfect sizing for chunky yarn by working up a tension square before you start

SIMPLE STEPS SIMPLE CAST OFF

The simple cast off creates a firm, hard-wearing edge to your fabric. It can end up being quite tight and pull in the edges of your work, so if you find this happening make sure you aren't tightening your yarn after dropping off your stitch (step 2). If you are still finding it's too tight, try going up a needle size or two, by using a larger needle in your right hand to create bigger stitches to cast off with.



1 Knit two sts. Now insert the tip of your left hand needle into the first stitch you knitted on your right hand needle, from left then right, as in the above picture.



2 Continuing to use your left hand needle tip, lift the first stitch up and over the second stitch you knitted, and drop it off the right needle first and then off the left hand needle.



3 Knit a stitch so that you have two stitches on your right needle and repeat the cast off as before until your last stitch. Break your yarn, thread it through the final stitch and pull taut.

BAGSY ME

If you're after a look-at-me bag, allow us to introduce this nifty little number. Its navy and white flecks, sturdy shape and neon topping make a tote so dazzling you'll wanna hold it close and never let go. Destined to become a fave.

TASSEL TEASE

Flamboyant and flouncy, this fun keyring will look swish left keyless and dangling from your bag, so get flicky with your neon tail and give it a cheeky twirl. Tether your keys to neon and they'll be easy to spot as they lurk at the bottom of your satchel.





NEON & NAVY

Punctuate autumn with fluoro brights from this collection of on-trend makes by **Rosee Woodland**



GET A GRIP

Here's a clutch for girls who take colour coding seriously. Knitted in zingy hi-viz neon this solid block of hue makes the perfect fashion full stop to a little black dress. Accessories this good deserve to be shown off and, as it contains your disco survival kit, you'll want to hold it close.

COWL GIRL

You'll go loop-da-loop for this infinity cowl, it's super-easy to knit and super-cosy to wear once you've curled it around your neck. Even with its neon flash, the navy and white colourway is neutral enough to partner with other shades – so you can accessorise to your heart's content.



STOCKMAN





LINK SYNC

Make a splash with this stunning chain necklace filled with drama and style. Waist-length and with supersize links, this is a statement piece that will elevate even the plainest dress or tee to look-at-me status.

WRIST WRAP

These simple i-cord bracelets are a lovely easy project for those keen to get into crafting, so if you've been meaning to teach your little sister finger knitting, start with these quick, wearable makes. Keep to the same colourway or use leftover yarn from your stash.

TOTES AMAZING

Stash your projects in this sturdy little sack. Chunky Hi Viz yarn gives this tote a solid look, while Navy and Cream Stripe knits up into fetching flecks.

MATERIALS

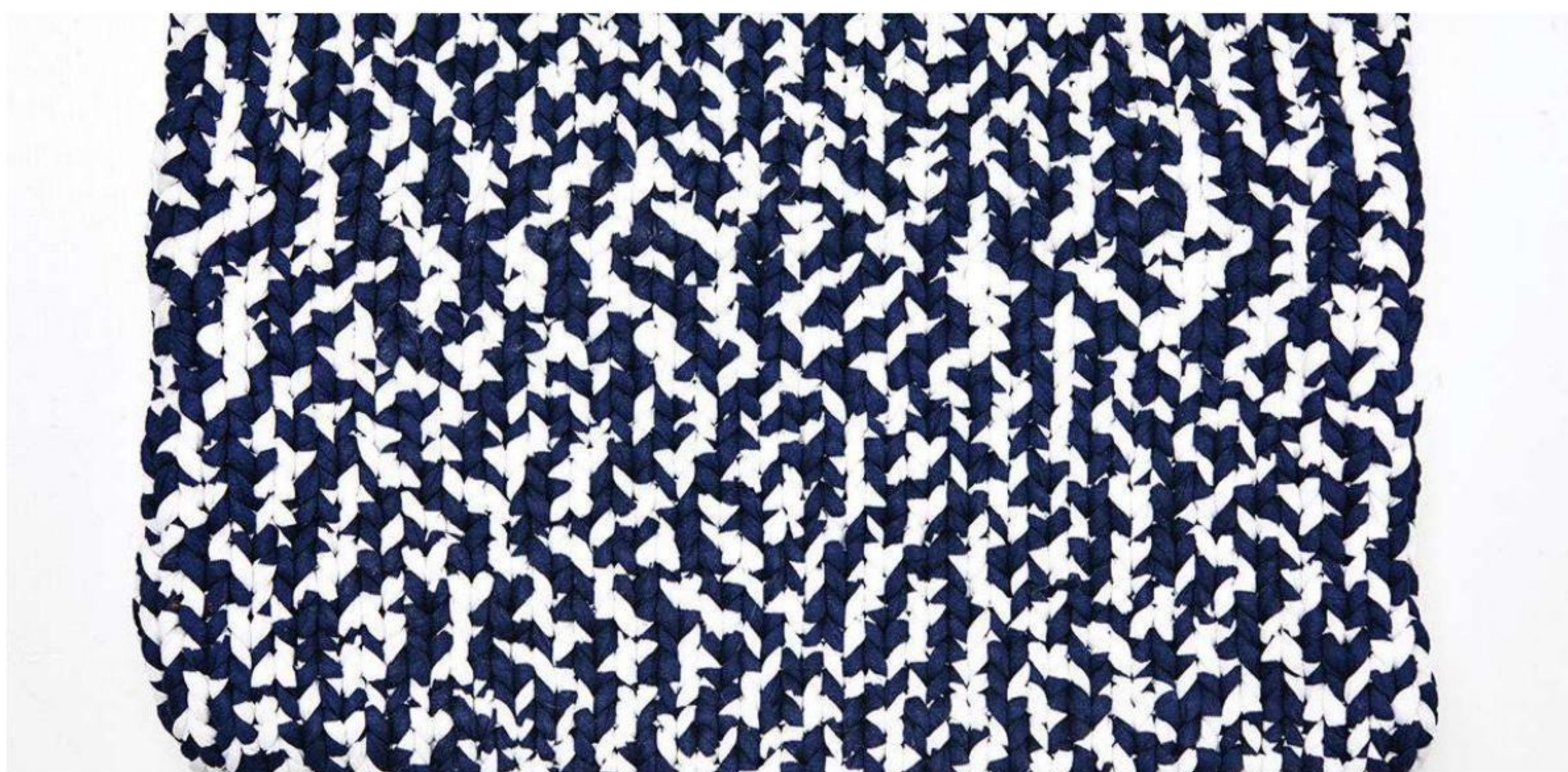
- Yarn
Tek Tek T shirt yarn,
1 x large 136m (148yds) cone each in
Navy Cream Stripe and Hi Viz
colourway
- This amount is enough to make the
Totes Amazing Bag and the Cluck
Clutch (see page 28).
Due to the nature of recycled t-shirt
yarns, available colours change
regularly and yarn length may vary
slightly between cones. If you can't
find the colour you want from Tek Tek
give Wool And The Gang Jersey Be
Good or Hoooked Zpagetti a try.
- Needles & accessories
1 pair of 10mm (UK 000, US 15)
straight knitting needles
Tapestry needle

YARN DETAIL

- Tek Tek T shirt yarn
- Super chunky weight
- 100% cotton
- 820g/136m (148yds)
- Hand wash
- £8.50 per 136m cone from
firesideyarn.co.uk

TENSION

10 sts and 16 rows to 10cm or 4in square
over st st using 10mm needles. 31cm
wide x 34cm tall (after sewing up).



Using 10mm needles and Hi Viz, cast on
34 stitches using the thumb method (see
p91). Knit 10 rows.

Row 11 (RS): Knit 12 sts, cast off central
10 sts and knit 12 sts to end.

Row 12 (WS): Knit 12 sts, cast on 10 sts
using the backwards loop method (see
p91), making sure to pull cast on stitches
quite taut, knit 12 sts.

Knit 10 more rows.

Change to Navy Cream Stripe.

Row 23 (RS): Knit

Row 24 (WS): Purl

These last two rows form stocking stitch,
Repeat last 2 rows 16 times more. You
should have 34 rows of stocking stitch.

Row 57 (RS): Purl. This will make a ridge
on the right side to make it easier to fold
the base of the bag.

Row 58 (WS): Purl

Row 59 (RS): Knit

Repeat the last 2 rows 16 times more.

Row 92 (WS): Purl

Change to Hi Viz.

Knit 10 rows.

Row 103 (RS): Knit 12 sts, cast off
central 10 sts, knit 12 sts to end.

Row 104 (WS): Knit 12 sts, cast on 10 sts
using the backwards loop method, knit
12 sts.

Knit 9 more rows.

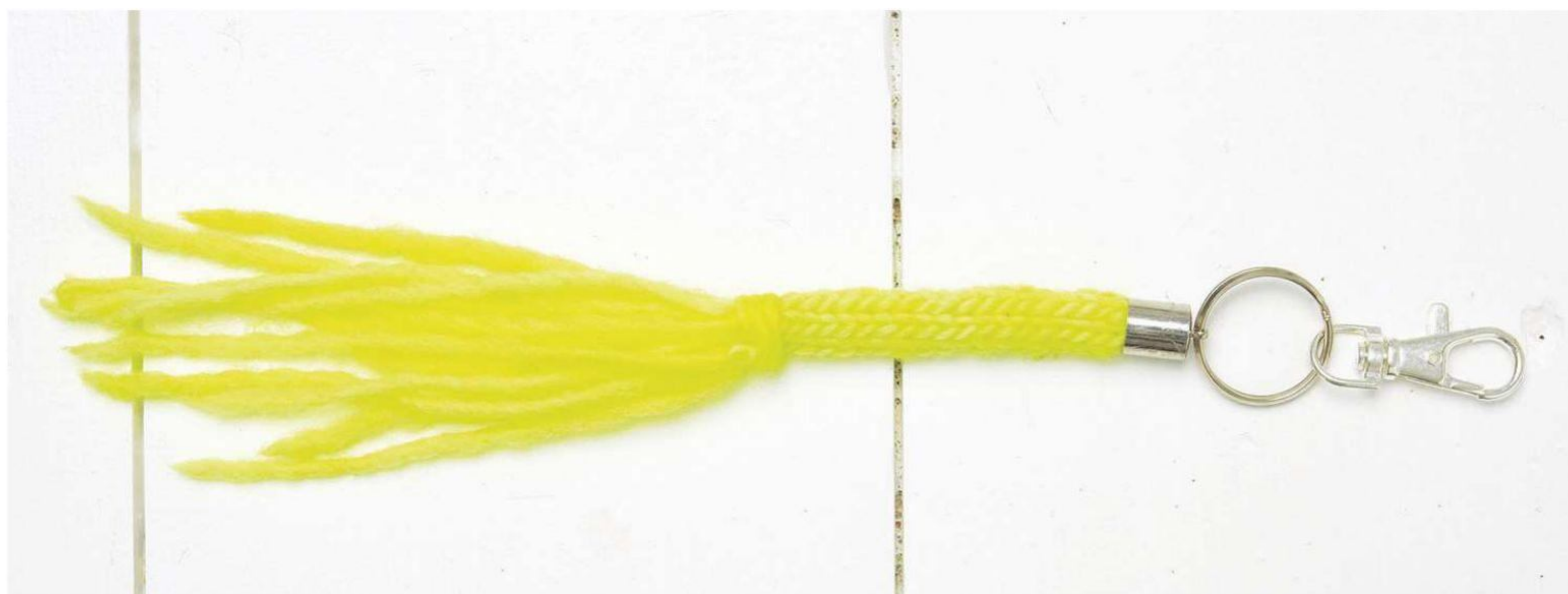
Row 114 (WS): Cast off knitwise using
the simple cast off (see p92).

MAKING UP

Using a steam iron on a medium setting
gently press the bag on the wrong side
of the stocking stitch section only.

Using matching yarn for each section,
sew up the sides of the bag, right sides
together, using back stitch. Weave in all
ends, and clip them, leaving a 5cm (2in)
tail on the inside of the bag for each tail
to avoid it working its way loose.





TASSEL KEY RING

Keep your keys high viz with this on-trend i-cord accessory, which doubles up as a cheeky bag charm you can make for your friends – they'll love it!

MATERIALS

- Yarn
You can use oddments of any double knit or worsted weight yarn for this quick project.
- We used scraps of Manos del Uruguay Maxima in shade Highlighter (M2060). At the time of writing, this shade was not available in the UK. A good alternative is Red Heart Lisa, in shade Neon Yellow (8232)
- Needles & accessories
Two double pointed 4mm (UK 8, US 6) knitting needles
Tapestry needle
Key ring fob
Cord end cap
Superglue

YARN DETAIL

- Manos del Uruguay Maxima
- Worsted weight
- 100% extrafine merino wool
- 100g/200m
- Hand wash
- £14 per 100g hank from manosyarns.com
- Other shades available in the UK from loveknitting.com
- Red Heart Lisa
- DK weight
- 100% acrylic

- 50g/133m (145yds)
- Machine wash
- 95p per 100g ball from redheart.co.uk

TENSION

Exact tension is not crucial for this project.

FINISHED SIZE

Adjustable.

MAKE AN I-CORD

Using 4mm needles cast on five stitches.
*Without turning the work, slide the stitches to the other end of the left hand needle and take the yarn across the back of the work. Knit the five stitches.**

Repeat from * to **. At first the stitches will feel quite baggy, but after you've knitted several rows the i-cord will start to tighten up and become neater.

Work from * to **, repeating this sequence until you have made an i-cord about 7cm (2¾in) long. Break yarn, leaving at least a 20cm (8in) length and thread it onto a needle.

Slide the stitches along to the tip of the needle again and, without turning your work, thread your needle through the stitches one at a time, slipping them off the needle as you do so.

When all stitches are off the needle, pull the yarn end tight to fasten them off securely but do not weave in the yarn tail.

MAKING UP

1. Weave in the tail created when you cast on, by threading it onto a needle and then passing it vertically down the centre of the i-cord and out the other end. If the yarn isn't long enough to do this, poke the needle out through the side of the i-cord and carefully snip the tail close to the surface – you'll find that it will disappear into the fabric.

2. Cut lengths of your yarn, varying them between 15cm (6in) and 20cm (8in) long. Pass them through the edge of the fastened off end of the i-cord, to create a fringe. You can either knot them in place or just leave them hanging, as you will secure them in a moment.

3. When you are happy with how the fringe looks, take the tail you used to fasten off the i-cord and wrap it around the top of the fringe three times, to neaten everything up and hide the join. Knot your tail to one of the pieces of fringe to secure it and cut it so that it is a similar length to the rest of the fringe

4. Soften the edge of the fringe by rubbing it between your palms for a few seconds, to fluff up the ends slightly.

5. When you are happy with the finished fringe effect, superglue the other end of the i-cord into the cord cap. Leave to dry for a few minutes before using it.

CLUCK CLUTCH

Bag up your bits for a night on the tiles with a neon clutch that's bright enough to steal the limelight. Make it from the same cone of yarn as the tote.

MATERIALS

- Yarn
Tek Tek T shirt yarn, Hi Viz (see Tote pattern, on previous page)
- Needles & accessories
1 pair of 10mm (UK000, US 15) straight knitting needles
Pins
Sewing needle
Tapestry needle
Navy zip, 22cm long
Matching polyester thread
Lining fabric, approx 18cm by 37cm

YARN DETAIL

- Tek Tek T shirt yarn
1 x large 820g cone in Hi Viz
- Due to the nature of recycled t-shirt yarns, available colours change regularly and yarn length may vary slightly between cones. If you can't find the colour you want from Tek Tek you can also try Wool And The Gang

Jersey Be Good or Hoooked Zpaghetti.

- Tek Tek T shirt yarn
- Super chunky weight
- 100% cotton
- 820g/136m (148yds)
- Hand wash
- £8.50 per 136m (148yds) cone from firesideyarn.co.uk

TENSION

10 sts and 16 rows to 10cm or 4in square measured over stocking stitch using 10mm needles.

FINISHED SIZE

14cm x 20.5cm (after sewing up)

Using 10mm needles cast on 22 sts using the thumb method (turn to page 91 for a photo step by step).

Row 1 (RS): Knit.

Row 2 (WS): Purl.

These two rows form stocking stitch.

Repeat these two rows 9 more times.

Row 21 (RS): Knit.

Row 22 (WS): Knit. This will make a ridge to make it easier to fold the base of the bag

Row 23 (RS): Knit

Row 24 (WS): Purl.

Repeat these two rows 9 more times.

Cast off purlwise using the simple cast off, (see p92).

MAKING UP

1. Using a steam iron on a medium setting gently press the bag on the reverse of the fabric.
2. With the wrong side of the finished piece facing up, pin the lining fabric to the bag, folding under a 2cm seam all the way around as you do.
3. Hand sew the lining fabric to the bag, removing the pins as you go. Due to the stretchy nature of the yarn, you may find that you need to slightly adjust how much lining fabric is folded under as you go, to keep it flat.
4. Open up the zip and pin one side of it to the top long edge of the lining fabric.
5. Hand sew it to the lining, using backstitch to make it nice and secure. Repeat for the second side.
6. Leaving the zip open, fold the bag so



that the lining fabric is on the outside, and stitch the sides together using the Hi Viz yarn.

7. Carefully turn the bag right side out, so as not to damage your stitching.

8. Give the bag one more gentle press, avoiding the zip. Close the zip and hey presto! You're ready for a night out.

INFINITY COWL

Add a flash of neon to a classic cowl and bust your stash in one easy move with this infinity-and-beyond scarf, which goes with just about anything.

MATERIALS

- Yarn
 - 1 x 50g ball of Rico Essentials Big in shade Neon Yellow (24)
 - 3 x 50g ball of Rico Essentials Big in shade Cream (01)
 - 4 x 50g ball of Rico Essentials Big in shade Navy (11)
- Needles & accessories
 - 1 pair of 7mm straight knitting needles (UK 2, US 10.5-11)
 - Tapestry needle

YARN DETAIL

- Rico Essentials Big
- Chunky weight
- 50% wool, 50% acrylic
- 50g/48m (52yds)
- Hand wash
- £3.99 per 50g ball from rico-design.de

TENSION

11 sts and 16 rows to 10cm or 4in square over stocking stitch, using 7mm knitting needles. Finished size 20cm wide x 250cm circumference

Using 7mm needles and Navy, cast on 22 sts using the thumb method (turn to page 91 for a photo step by step).

**

Row 1 (RS): Knit.

Row 2 (WS): Purl.

These two rows form stocking stitch. Continue as set in stocking stitch for 50 rows in total.

Change to Cream and continue in



stocking stitch for 50 rows in total. Change to Navy.

Repeat from ** to **** 3 times in total. Repeat from ** to *** once more.

Change to Neon Yellow and continue in stocking stitch for 50 rows in total. Cast off using a simple cast off and weave in ends (turn to page 92 for a photo step by step).

MAKING UP

Using a tapestry needle and with right

sides together, back stitch together the cast on and cast off short ends. Be careful not to twist the long length of knitting as you do so.

Using a steam iron on a medium setting, lightly iron the cowl, first on the wrong side, and then on the right side, to help the edges uncurl slightly.

Leave your cowl flat to dry completely and then loop it on.

CHAIN NECKLACE

Be bold! Throw on this mega chunky, ultra light chain – it won't weigh you down but it'll certainly get you noticed. Make it as short or as long as you like.

MATERIALS

- Yarn
 - 1 x 100g hank of Manos del Uruguay Maxima in shade Highlighter (M2060).
- At the time of writing, this shade was not available in the UK. A good alternative is Red Heart Lisa, in shade Neon Yellow (8232)
- Needles & accessories
 - 1 pair of 4mm (UK 8, US 6) knitting needles
 - Tapestry needle

YARN DETAIL

- Manos del Uruguay Maxima
- Worsted weight
- 100% superfine merino wool
- 100g/200m (218yds)
- Hand wash
- £14 per 100g hank from
- Other shades available in the UK from loveknitting.com
- Red Heart Lisa, in shade Neon Yellow (8232)
- DK weight
- 100% acrylic
- 50g/133m (145yds)
- Machine wash
- 95p per 100g ball

TENSION

22 sts and 30 rows to 10cm or 4in over stocking stitch using 4mm needles. Finished size: Adjustable. Our necklace was about 1m in circumference and used 18 chain links. For a chain that doesn't twist when it hangs you'll need to use an even number of links.

Using 4mm needles cast on 35 stitches using the thumb method (p91).

Row 1 (WS): Purl.

Row 2 (RS): Knit.

Repeat the last two rows once more.

Row 5 (WS): Cast off knitwise using the simple cast off. Leave your yarn ends unwoven for finishing later. We used the



clippings from our yarn ends to make the fringe for the key ring.

MAKING UP

The small pieces of fabric you have made will naturally curl together to show the 'wrong' (purl) sides on the outside as a kind of tube. Your finished chain uses this as the outer edge, so don't press your finished pieces to prevent this curling from happening.

1. For your first link, hold the two short ends of the fabric together with the 'wrong' (purl) sides together, and stitch them together using one of your yarn ends from the cast on or cast off.

2. Weave in the remaining yarn end, fasten off and clip both yarn ends.

3. Turn the link the other way out, so that the 'wrong' (purl) side is showing.

4. For the next, and all but final link, do the same thing, but make sure you've passed your loop around the previous link first, so that the two are connected.

5. For your final link, loop through both the first and last links you've made, to join them together, and then finish it as before to complete the necklace.

6. Wrap it around your neck and stand out from the crowd!

CORD BRACELETS

Bust your scrap stash with these ultra speedy makes. The power cord bands make perfect wrist wraps – they're the new friendship bracelets.

MATERIALS

- Yarn
You can use oddments of any chunky yarn for this quick project. We used scraps of Rico Essentials Big in shades Neon Yellow (24), Cream (01) and Navy (11).
- Needles & accessories
Two double pointed 7mm (UK 2, US 10.5-11) knitting needles
Tapestry needle

YARN DETAIL

- Chunky weight
- 50% wool, 50% acrylic
- 50g/48m (52yds)
- Hand wash
- £3.99 per 50g ball from rico-designs.de

1 SKINNY CORD BRACELET

Make a finger knitted chain as follows:

1. Make a slip knot and put it over your left index finger.
2. *Take a piece of the working yarn and wrap it over your left index finger, in between your original slip knot and the tip of your finger.
3. Holding this new loop taut, pull the original slip knot over the new one and off your finger. ** You have now made a finger knitted stitch!
4. Repeat from * to ** until your chain is the desired length. Cut your yarn tail and pass it through the final stitch. Weave in ends if desired. Loop it around your wrist and tie in a knot.

2 KNOTTED CORD BRACELET

Make as for Skinny Cord, ending when your chain is two and a half times the circumference of your wrist. Weave in ends if desired. Fold the chain in half and tie a loose knot in the centre. Tie around your wrist as before.

3 STANDARD CORD (NEON AND NAVY)

Make a two stitch i-cord as follows:

1. Using a pair of 7mm double pointed needles cast on two stitches.

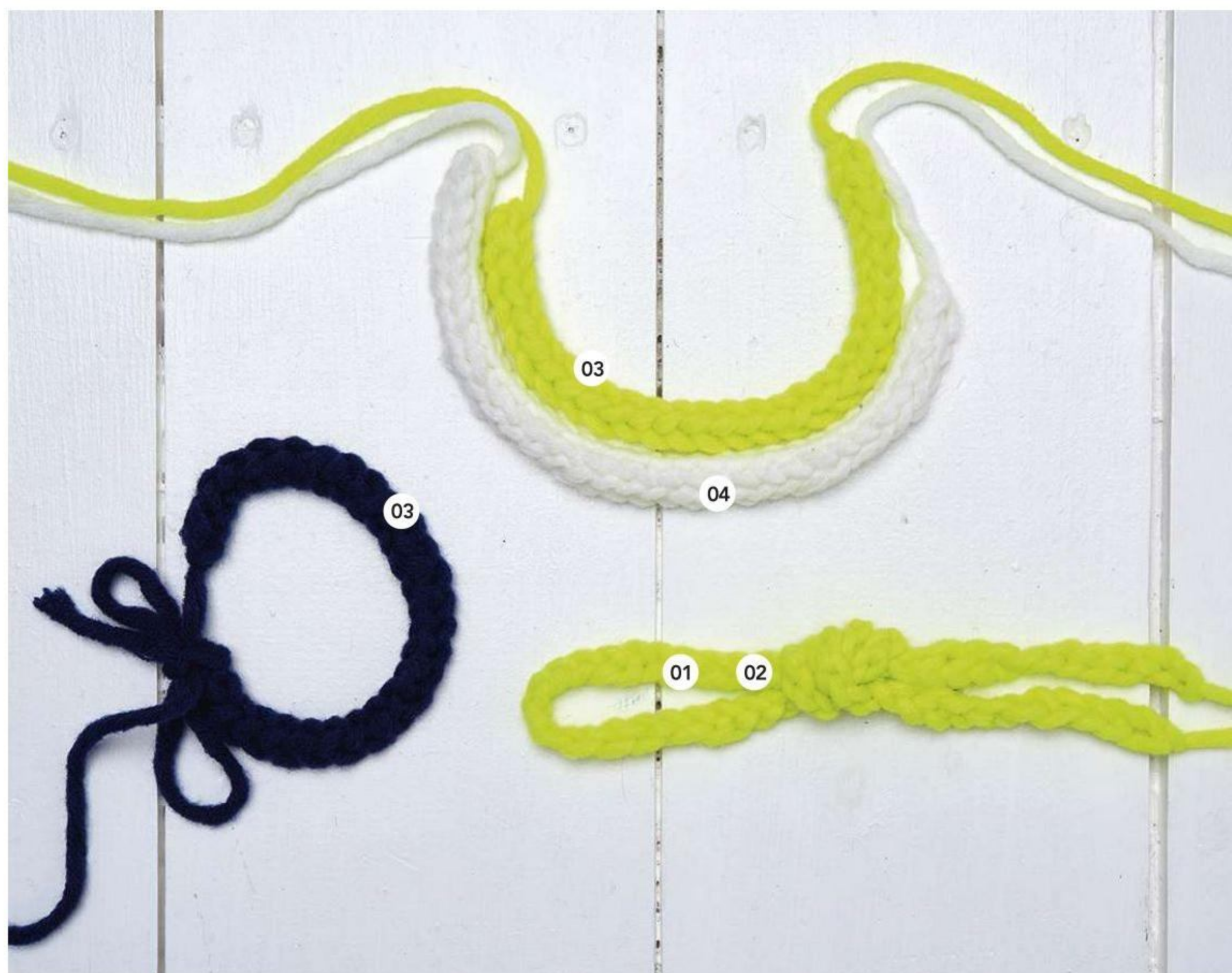
2. *Without turning the work, slide the stitches to the other end of the left hand needle and take the yarn across the back of the work.
3. Knit the two stitches.**
4. Repeat from * to **. At first the stitches will feel quite baggy, but after you've knitted several rows the cord will start to tighten up and become neater.
5. Work from * to **, repeating this sequence until you have made an i-cord long enough to fasten around your wrist.
6. Break the yarn, leaving at least a 10cm length and thread this length onto a tapestry needle.
7. Slide the stitches along to the tip of the needle again and, without turning your work, thread your needle through the stitches one at a time, slipping them off the needle as you do so.
8. When both stitches are off the needle, pull the yarn end tight enough to fasten them off securely.
9. Weave in ends if desired and tie around your wrist as before.

4 CHUNKY CORD

Make an i-cord as follows:

1. Using a pair of 7mm double pointed needles cast on three stitches.

2. *Without turning the work, slide stitches to other end of left hand needle and take yarn across back of work.
3. Knit the three stitches.**
4. Repeat from * to **. At first the stitches will feel quite baggy, but after you've knitted several rows you'll find that the i-cord will start to tighten up and become neater.
5. Work from * to **, repeating this sequence until you have made a cord long enough to fasten around your wrist.
6. Break yarn, leaving a piece at least 10cm in length and thread it onto a tapestry needle.
7. Slide the stitches along to the tip of the needle again and, without turning your work, thread your needle through the stitches one at a time, slipping them off the needle as you do so.
8. When all three stitches are off the needle, pull the yarn end tight to fasten them off securely.
9. Weave in ends if desired and tie around your wrist as before.



MY KNITTING LIFE

...FROM THE STUDIO

This month we down needles and talk ice cream, Pimm's and knitted bikinis with knitwear designer **Jessica Biscoe**



Summer is the time when some knitters down needles and retreat to a shady corner, but it doesn't need to be that way! No, knitting is a craft for all seasons, why shouldn't we don our (temperature appropriate) knits and enjoy a '99 on the beach? (Flake n'all!)

My head's been swimming with summer inspiration the past few months, so grab that glass of Pimm's and I'll show you what's caught my eye...

COLOUR, TEXTURE, EVERYWHERE!

Plant fibres like cotton, bamboo and linen are perfect for summer knits – combine these light, breathable fibres with splashes of colour and a neutral base, and you can't go wrong.

If that's not your bag, try a finer ply wool yarn, or plant blends; I love the squish of a good wool cotton! My favourite colours this season (or let's face it, anytime!) are mint, yellow and a lovely zingy orange.

A lot of spinners are producing plant-based tape yarns this year and I'm curious to try them. In cheery summer colours these chunky yarns are the perfect texture for a tank or slouchy sweater, don't you think?

I can see these yarns working really well with chunky needles for a quick knit and some light coverage on a hot day.

"I'M SERIOUSLY COVETING A SWEET KNITTED BRALET FOR A SPOT OF SUNBATHING"

OH, BUT WHAT TO KNIT...

So what treats should we knit with these delectable yarns? My queue on ravelry.com is currently full to bursting with great ideas I simply can't keep up with.

My top picks for really wearable, everyday patterns are Quince and Co's Aster tank and Dubro tee. The shaping on both garments is just perfect.

Lace also provides some necessary ventilation, so the Alcomar tee in the new issue of *Pom Pom Quarterly* magazine (#13) is another staple destined for my needles. Last year I finished Cotton & Cloud's Teardrop Shawl in a lovely zesty shade of Rialto Lace by Debbie Bliss, and it's a great way to finish off a summer outfit. Embrace the lace, I say!

BE A BIKINI BABE!

Now, a knitted or crocheted bikini sounds impractical, right? But they've been making a bit of a comeback on the high street recently, along with cropped tops, and I'm seriously coveting a sweet knitted bralet for a spot of sunbathing, or layering under a cool cotton shirt.

1 Dubro tee pattern, approx £3.85, from Quinceandco.com

2 Teardrop Shawl pattern, £3.50, from Cottonandcloud.com





The Leeds Halter by Tara-Lynn Morrison (available on ravelry.com) is next on my knit-list, as well as Wool and the Gang's Teeny Tiny bikini. This fabulous knit is a very good reason to try out their rather brilliantly named, Shiny Happy Cotton.

IT'S DREAMY OUTDOORS

So where are you going to do all this knitting? As long as you can find a shady spot knitting outside is a liberating experience so don't forget your needles when heading out and about this summer.

Whether it's on a blanket in the park, a long train journey or big adventure, it's a great way to get some extra rows in while seeing the sights.

You'll need to be prepared though: a small project bag and survival kit are

a must. I recommend the following essentials: yarn needle, scissors and a handy retractable tape measure.

If you're going to be on your feet a lot, grab a project bag with a small handle to loop over your wrist and you'll never miss a stitch! Oh, and don't forget your pattern – I like to keep PDF copies of mine on my phone for easy access.

Summer is becoming my fave knitting season, so I'm packing away my winter WIPs and heading for a picnic blanket. I hope you'll join me – Pimm's anyone?

3 Jessica's summer knitting survival kit
4 Susy Rust Knitted Crop Vest Top, £15, Prettylittlething.com

5 Bralet in Chunky Knit, £22, from Asos.com
6 Wool & The Gang Teeny Tiny Bikini Kit, £25, Woolandthegang.com

A LOOK AT MY BOOK

"Knitting Smitten was inspired by all that's cute and crafty! It's aimed at beginners but has a range of different sized projects and learning opportunities, so you can progress as you work through the patterns.

"My favourite project is probably the triangle motif blanket – it lives on the back of my sofa and makes a great statement piece!

"Homewares make fab summer projects – the cushions and neon dishcloth are some of my favourite patterns for brightening up the house. They're just the right size for travel-knits and are super practical! And the set of little bobble hats for eggs will make perfect gifts."

Knitting Smitten by Jessica Biscoe, £12.99, Quadrille Publishing



7 Delphi cotton tape yarn from Debbie Bliss, £4.75 per 50g



"KNITTED CROP TOPS LOOK FAB UNDER A SHIRT"

RICO ESSENTIALS COTTON DK – *Essentially unbeatable!*



VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.RICO-DESIGN.CO.UK

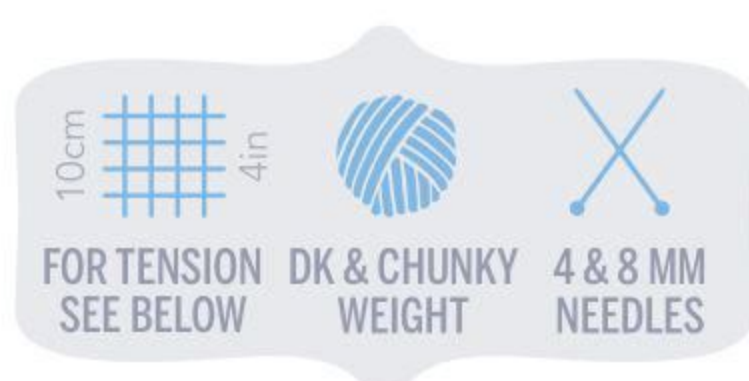
CAT PURSE



JUST PURRFECT

Make **Louise Walker**'s cute kitty purse with a mix of DK and ultra fluffy yarns

CAT PURSE



MATERIALS

- Yarn
 - 1 x 50g balls of Louisa Harding in the following:
 - Yarn A:** Cassia in Powder (105)
 - Yarn B:** Cassia in Silver (113)
 - Yarn C:** Luzia in Wish (012)
 - Yarn D:** Black DK yarn for embroidering the face
- Needles
 - 1 pair 4mm (UK 8, US 6)
 - 1 pair 8mm (UK 0, US 11) knitting needles
- Accessories
 - Silver 15cm (6in) sew in purse frame and silver 123cm (48½in) purse chain from bag-clasps.co.uk
- 1 fat quarter of cotton fabric for the lining

YARN DETAIL

- Louisa Harding Cassia, £4.95
designeryarns.uk.com
01535 664222
- 75% superwash wool, 25% nylon
- DK
- 50g/132m (144yds)
- Machine wash 40°C
- Louisa Harding Luzia, £14.75
- 80% viscose, 20% nylon
- Chunky
- 50g/40m (43yds)
- Hand wash

TENSION

For Cassia: 22 sts and 30 rows to 10cm or 4in measured over st st using 4mm needles.
For Luzia: 11 sts and 14 rows to 10cm or 4in measured over st st using 8mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS

SKP Slip stitch knitwise, knit stitch, pass slipped stitch over, knit stitch

- Turn to page 96 for a list of abbreviations

This playful purse is knitted in two different yarns. The front and ears are worked in a soft wool-mix DK and the back is knitted in a gorgeous fur-style yarn for a fabulously fluffy feel. The purse is finished with a simple sew-in clasp and chain. Why not line your kitty with a pretty, contrasting fabric? Polka dots or ditsy florals would be purrfect!

FRONT OF PURSE

Using a long tail cast on and 4mm needles, cast on 12 stitches in yarn A. This will form row 1.

Row 2 & every following WS row: P.

Row 3: (Kfb, k1) repeat to end. 18 sts

Row 5: K.

Row 7: (Kfb, k2) repeat to end. 24 sts

Row 9: K.

Row 11: (Kfb, k3) repeat to end. 30 sts

Row 13: K.

Row 15: (Kfb, k4) repeat to end. 36 sts

Row 17: K.

Rows 19–50: Work in st st.

Row 51: Cast off and weave in loose ends.

BACK OF PURSE

Using 8mm needles and the long tail cast on method, cast on 6 stitches in yarn C. This will form the first row of knitting.

Row 2 & every following WS row: P.

Row 3: (Kfb, k1) repeat to end. 9 sts

Row 5: (Kfb, k2) repeat to end. 12 sts

Row 7: (Kfb, k4) repeat to end. 15 sts

Row 9: (Kfb, k5) repeat to end. 18 sts

Rows 11–26: Work in st st.

Row 27: Cast off and weave in loose ends.

FRONT EARS – MAKE 2

The front of the ears are knitted with both yarn A and yarn B. Use the intarsia method when changing colour (see opposite page). Using the long tail cast on method and 4mm needles, cast on 14 stitches in yarn A. This will form the first row of knitting.

Row 2 (WS): P

Row 3: K3 in yarn A, k8 in yarn B, k3 in yarn A.

Row 4: P3 in yarn A, p8 in yarn B, p3 in yarn A.

Rows 5–12: Repeat the last two rows four more times.

Row 13: K3 in yarn A, skp in yarn B, k4 in yarn B, k2tog in yarn B, k3 in yarn A. 12 sts

Row 14: P3 in yarn A, p6 in yarn B, p3 in yarn A.

Row 15: K3 in yarn A, skp in yarn B, k2 in yarn B, k2tog in yarn B, k3 in yarn A. 10 sts

Row 16: P3 in yarn A, p4 in yarn B, p3 in yarn A.

Row 17: K3 in yarn A, skp in yarn B, k2tog in yarn B, k3 in yarn A. 8 sts

Row 18: Purl all stitches in yarn A from here on.

Row 19: K2, skp, k2tog, k2. 6 sts

Row 20: P.

Row 21: Cast off and weave in loose ends.



Louisa Harding Luzia yarn knits up to look and feel like faux fur

CAT PURSE

BACK EARS – MAKE 2

Using the long tail cast on method and 8mm needles, cast on 7 stitches in yarn C. This will form the first row of knitting.

Row 2 & every following WS row: P.

Rows 3–8: Work in st st.

Row 9: Skp, k3, k2tog. 5 sts

Row 11: Skp, k1, k2tog. 3 sts

Row 12: Cast off purlwise and weave in loose ends.

CAT'S FACE

Using yarn D, embroider the face onto the front side of the purse, following the chart as a guide. The 'X' indicates where to sew over a knitted stitch and the lines indicate a backstitch.

LINING

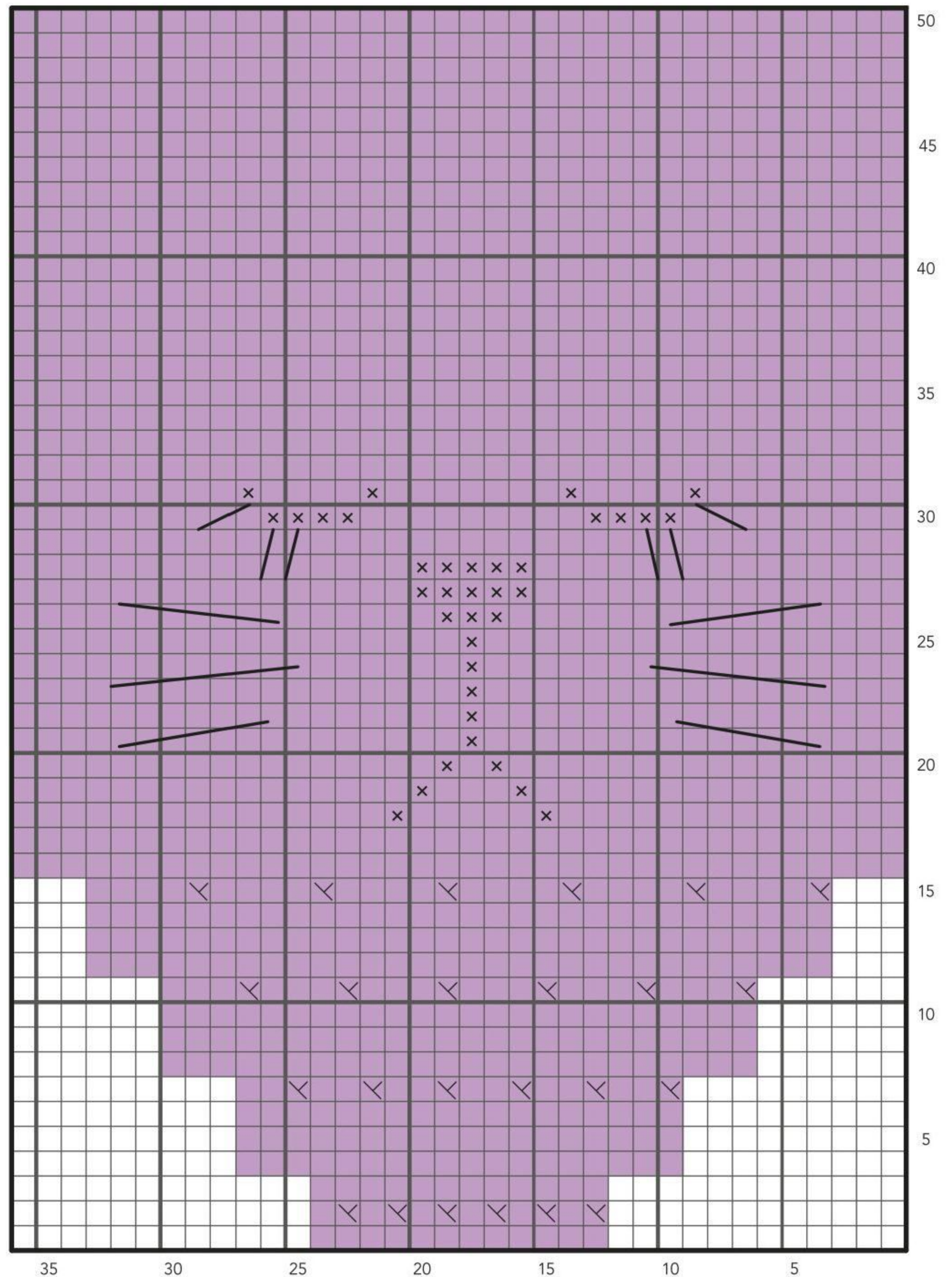
Place front piece of cat purse against the lining and carefully draw around it twice, creating two identical pieces. Cut out and place first against front piece with right sides facing in. Sew up neatly with a mattress stitch using a needle and matching thread. Leave a small hole along the cast off edge for turning. Sew up hole. Repeat for back of purse.

SEWING UP

Sew purse pieces together with right-sides facing in using yarn A and mattress stitch, being careful not to sew too far into knitting. Leave cast off edge open and 2.5cm (1in) along either vertical side of cast off edge unsewn. Sew bag clasps onto purse. Starting from 2.5cm (1in) gap on front side of purse, push purse into gap of clasp. Using yarn A, sew up and along cast off edge and down onto other side with 2.5cm (1in) gap in clasp. Repeat for the back side of the purse.

CAT'S EARS

Place one front and one back ear piece right-sides together. Sew up with a mattress stitch in yarn A, leaving cast on edges open. Turn right-side out and weave in loose ends. Repeat for second ear. Place each inner ear edge nine stitches above eye stitches. Position ears slightly diagonally and sew front of ear onto purse using yarn A, being careful not to sew into lining. When attaching back of ears, sew a few stitches about 2cm (¾in) up the ear, pinning them against the purse. Add the purse chain.



USING THE INTARSIA METHOD TO CHANGE COLOUR

To attach a new colour, drop the old strand and leave it hanging until you need it again, then tie the new strand around the old one. To change strands, bring the new colour up from underneath the old one. This twists the strands together, preventing holes forming on the front of your work. You don't need to knot the strands around one another because the ends will later be woven in.

KEY

Knit

Backstitch

Sew over stitch

Kfb



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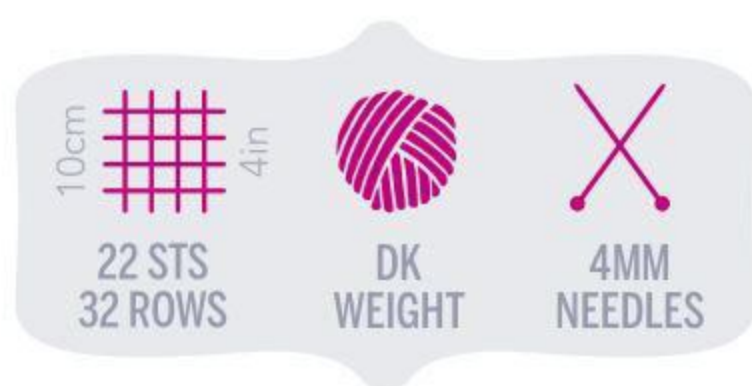
COTTONED ON

Make **Lisa Richardson's** soft sweater in textured cotton

READY FOR A CHALLENGE?



SUMMER JUMPER



MATERIALS

- Yarn
10 (11:12:13:14) x 50g balls of Rowan Tetra Cotton in Iseo (001)
- Needles
3.25mm (UK 10, US 3) knitting needles
4mm (UK 8, US 6) knitting needles

YARN DETAIL

- Rowan Tetra Cotton
knitrowan.com
01484 681881
- DK weight
- 100% cotton
- 50g/130m (142yds)
- Machine wash at 30°C
- £6.49

TENSION

22 sts and 32 rows to 10cm or 4in measured over patt using 4mm needles

PATTERN NOTES

Take care to ensure each dec of patt is matched by an inc. If there are insufficient sts to work both, work end sts of rows in st st.

- Turn to page 96 for full list of abbreviations

A stylish cotton sweater is a must for your summer wardrobe, especially as the cooler weather approaches. Lisa Richardson created this flattering open work design using Rowan's soft, textured Tetra Cotton DK. This yarn blends four shades and comes in eight dusky shades. We love the slouchy feel of this fun make, which'll look great with your favourite jeans.

BACK

Using 4mm needles, cast on 114 (126:138:150:166) sts.

Work in patt as folls:

Row 1 (RS): K3, *yfwd, sl 1, k1, psso, k2, rep from * to last 3 sts, yfwd, sl 1, K1, psso, K1.

Row 2 (WS): P3, *yrn, p2tog, p2, rep from * to last 3 sts, yrn, p2tog, p1.

These 2 rows form patt.

Cont in patt until back meas 41 (42:43:44:45) cm, 16 (16½:17:17¼:17¾) in ending with RS facing for next row.

Shape raglan armholes

Keeping patt correct, cast off 3 sts at beg of next 2 rows.

108 (120:132:144:160) sts

Sizes 8-10, 12-14, 16-18 and 20-22 only:

Next row (RS): K2, sl 1, k1, psso, patt to last 4 sts, k2tog, k2.

Next row: P3, patt to last 3 sts, p3.

Next row: K3, patt to last 3 sts, k3.

Next row: P3, patt to last 3 sts, p3.

Rep last 4 rows 14 (9:6:2:-) times more.

78 (100:118:138:-) sts

Sizes 24-26 only:

Next row (RS): K2, sl 1, k1, psso, patt to

last 4 sts, k2tog, k2.

Next row (WS): P2, p2tog, patt to last 4 sts, p2tog tbl, p2.

Rep last 2 rows twice more. 148 sts

All sizes:

Next row (RS): K2, sl 1, k1, psso, patt to last 4 sts, k2tog, k2.

Next row: P3, patt to last 3 sts, p3.

Rep last 2 rows 5 (16:24:34:38) times more, ending with RS facing for next row.

Break yarn and leave rem

66 (66:68:68:70) sts on a holder.

FRONT

Work as given for back until

78 (78:82:82:86) sts rem in raglan armhole shaping.

Work 3 (1:1:1:1) rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

Shape front neck.

Next row (RS): K2, sl 1, k1, psso, patt 7 (7:9:9:11) sts and turn, leaving rem sts on a holder. 10 (10:12:12:14) sts

Work each side of neck separately.

Keeping patt and raglan armhole decreases correct as set, dec 1 st at neck edge of next 4 rows, then on foll

0 (0:1:1:2) alt rows and at same time dec 1 st at raglan armhole edge on 2nd and foll 1 (1:2:2:3) alt rows. 4 sts

Work 1 row, ending with RS facing for next row.

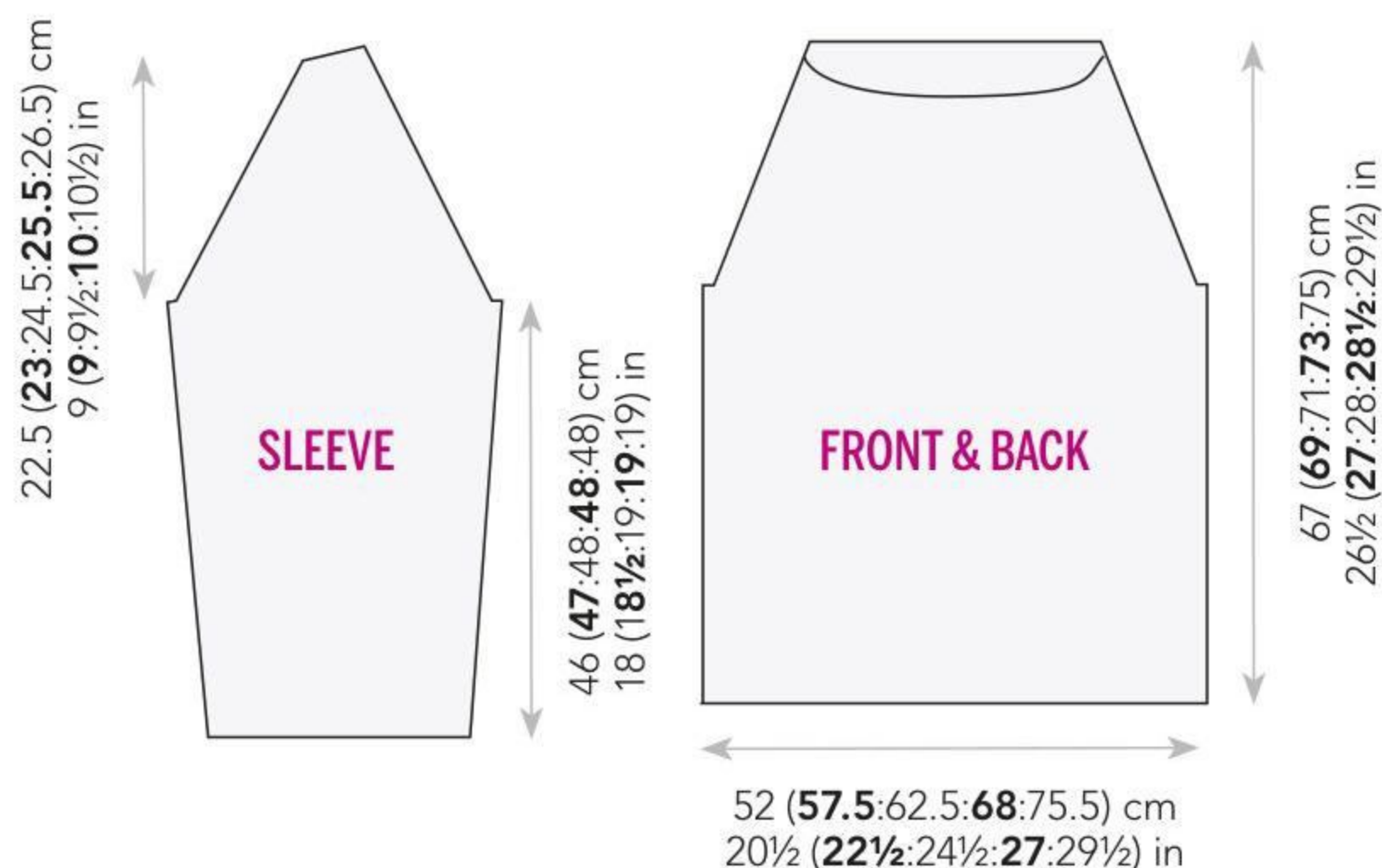
Next row (RS): K1, sl 1, k2tog, psso.

Next row (WS): P2.

Next row: K2tog and fasten off.

With RS facing, slip centre 56 sts onto a holder, rejoin yarn and patt to last 4 sts, k2tog, k2. 10 (10:12:12:14) sts

Complete to match first side, reversing shapings.



TO FIT SIZE		8-10	12-14	16-18	20-22	24-26
CHEST	cm	52	57.5	62.5	68	75.5
	in	20½	22½	24½	27	29½
LENGTH	cm	67	69	71	73	75
	in	26½	27	28	28½	29½
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	46	47	48	48	48
	in	18	18½	19	19	19
ARMHOLE DEPTH	cm	22.5	23	24	25.5	26.5
	in	9	9	9½	10	10½

SUMMER JUMPER

SLEEVES

Using 3.25mm needles, cast on 40 (42:44:44:46) sts.

Knit 3 rows, ending with WS facing for next row.

Row 4 (WS): K2 (3:1:1:2), m1, [k5 (5:6:6:6), m1] 7 times, k3 (4:1:1:2). 48 (50:52:52:54) sts

Change to 4mm needles.

Now work in patt as folls:

Row 1 (RS): K0 (1:0:0:1), *k2, yfwd, sl 1, k1, psso, rep from * to last 0 (1:0:0:1) st, k0 (1:0:0:1).

Row 2 (WS): P0 (1:0:0:1), *p2, yrn, p2tog, rep from * to last 0 (1:0:0:1) st, p0 (1:0:0:1). These 2 rows form patt.

Cont in patt, shaping sides by inc 1 st at each end of 5th (5th:3rd:3rd:3rd) and every foll 8th (8th:8th:6th:6th) row to 80 (78:86:70:72) sts, then on every foll – (10th:–:8th:8th) row until there are – (82:–:90:92) sts, taking inc sts into st until there are sufficient to take into patt. Cont straight until sleeve meas 46 (47:48:48:48) cm, 18 (18½:19:19:19) in ending with RS facing for next row.

Shape raglan

Keeping patt correct, cast off 3 sts at beg of next 2 rows. 74 (76:80:84:86) sts Working all raglan shaping in same way as back raglan armhole shaping, dec 1 st at each end of next and 5 foll 4th rows, then on every foll alt row until 16 sts rem. Work 1 row, ending with RS facing for next row.

Left sleeve only:

Dec 1 st at each end of next row, then cast off 4 sts at beg of foll row. 10 sts Dec 1 st at beg of next row, then cast off 4 sts at beg of foll row.

Right sleeve only: Cast off 5 sts at beg and dec 1 st at end of next row. 10 sts Work 1 row.

Cast off 4 sts at beg and dec 1 st at end of next row.

Work 1 row.

Both sleeves: Cast off rem 5 sts.

MAKING UP

Block out each piece of knitting and, following the instructions on the ball band, press the garment pieces. Take special care to press the edges as this will make sewing up both easier and neater.

Join both front and right back raglan seams using back stitch, or mattress stitch if preferred.

NECKBAND

With RS facing and using 3.25mm needles, pick up and knit 12 sts from top of left sleeve, and 7 (7:9:9:11) sts down left side of front neck, k across 56 sts on front holder, pick up and knit 7 (7:9:9:11) sts up right side of front neck, and 12 sts from top of right sleeve, then k across 66 (66:68:68:70) sts on back holder. 160 (160:166:166:172) sts.

Work in garter st for 8 rows, ending with WS facing for next row.

Cast off knitwise (on WS).

FINISHING

Join the neckband and then the sleeve and side seams.

Use a seam stitch such as back stitch or mattress stitch for all main knitting seams and use mattress stitch for the neckband.



The cuffs of this sweater are finished with a neat gather to create a flattering drape



Beautifully draping raglan sleeves add to the relaxed feel of this cool summer sweater



This pattern is taken from the book *Rowan Tetra Cotton Book* (RRP £9.50). For more info go to Knitrowan.com.

SIMPLE STEPS K2TOG

K2tog (or knit two together) is the easy way to decrease. This decrease results in a stitch that leans right, so if a pattern asks for a right-leaning decrease use k2tog. When decreasing at both ends of a row, on the RS start with a left-leaning decrease and end the row with a right-leaning decrease. For the left-leaning decreases (SSK and SSP) see our tutorial section on page 91.



1 Insert right hand needle into the next two stitches as if to knit them. Your needle should go into the second stitch on your left hand needle, before the first stitch.



2 Wrap the working yarn around your right hand needle and knit the two stitches together, working otherwise as if you were knitting a single stitch.



3 Slip the two old stitches off left hand needle. You now have a single new stitch on right hand needle to replace the two old stitches. You've now decreased one stitch.

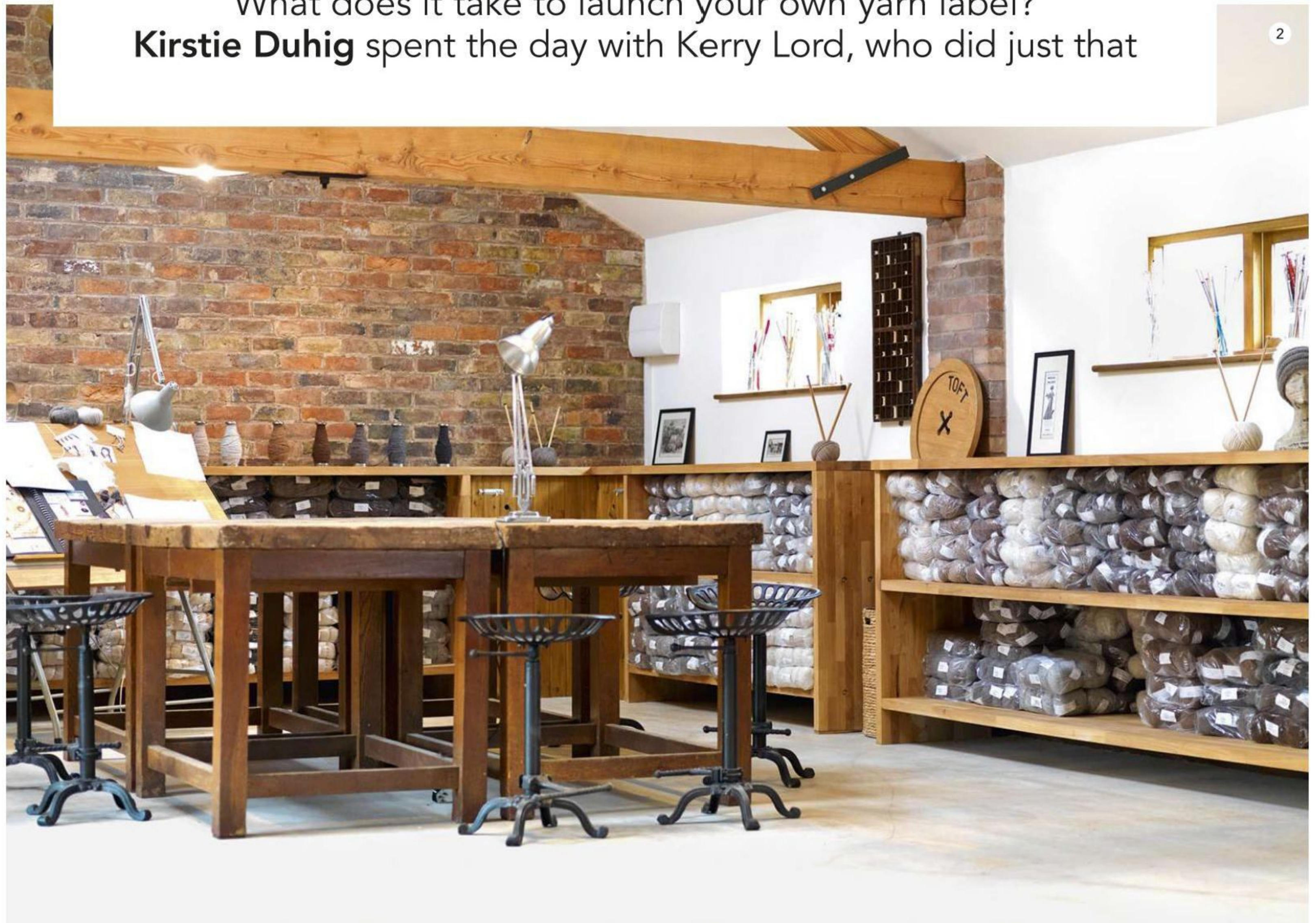


1

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

What does it take to launch your own yarn label?
Kirstie Duhig spent the day with Kerry Lord, who did just that

2





Thankfully it's a warm, sunny morning at Toft alpaca farm, as the team has been hard at work since 7am. It's late May and shearing week, and with a herd of 200 alpacas that means early starts!

"I'm usually up at 6am as I spend an hour on our social media sites before my toddler, Edward, wakes up," says Kerry Lord, owner and creative director of luxury yarn brand The Toft Alpaca Shop.

The farm is owned by her parents, Rob and Shirley Bettinson, who began breeding pedigree alpacas when Kerry was 11 years old. The yarn brand, studio and café are Kerry's creations.

After breakfast with her son and a couple of fortifying cups of coffee, Kerry drops Edward, two, at nursery then checks her list of tasks for the day ahead.

"I like everyone in the business to get involved in shearing week, as I think it's really important that we all understand where our yarn comes from," says Kerry. "Now that we have the yarn store, knitting and crochet workshops and café we meet our customers every day and need to be able to answer any questions."

ALL HANDS ON DECK

This morning it's the last day of shearing week and expert alpaca shearer Ben Wheeler has come to shear the remaining 40 alpacas.

"Ben is one of the best, he shears each alpaca in around six minutes!" says Kerry.

It's a dusty, noisy job and the buzz of the shears can be heard across the nearby paddocks, where two of the newest additions to the alpaca herd are grazing peacefully with their mothers. May is also birthing time.

While the shearing is underway, Kerry checks her phone. She manages all of the company's Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram feeds personally.

"I also check our stock levels and sales so that I can update the team if anything is sold out," says Kerry. "9am each morning is our usual meeting time, when we go through our agendas for the day."

The ultimate multi-tasker, the success of the Toft brand is a testament to Kerry's hard work. Surprisingly though, starting her own business was never something Kerry planned to do.



- ❶ Jo Storie Chunky Knit Cowl from the Toft 2015 collection
- ❷ Toft yarn store and studio
- ❸ Toft owner Kerry Lord with her toy designs
- ❹ Just been to the barbers!
- ❺ Alpacas are gentle, friendly creatures

"When I came home in 2007 after completing my English degree, my mum and dad had just finished shearing the herd, which was around 100 back then," she says. "I looked at this great pile of fleeces and asked, 'What are you going to do with them?' "

In response, Kerry's parents asked her if she'd find a buyer. "I went online and made a few calls expecting to find a fleece merchant as you would for sheep but there was no one," she says. "So then I started investigating the next stage; thinking if we turned the fleeces into yarn would there be a buyer out there?"

But again, Kerry found none. "That's when I thought maybe I should do it myself," Kerry says.

One of the first things she did was learn how to knit. "I knew I needed to understand how the yarn would be used if I was going to make a success of the idea."

Kerry then did an internship at two mills, learning how the fleeces are spun and processed into yarn.

»



6

"DESIGNER JO STORIE HAS TAKEN OUR YARN IN A COMPLETELY NEW AND BEAUTIFUL DIRECTION"

6 Jo Storie Chunky Cable Hat from the Toft 2015 collection

"I made the decision early on not to dye the yarn," says Kerry. "Alpaca fleeces have such a beautiful range of natural colours, from creamy whites to rich browns, that I wanted to create a natural product."

Eight years on and Kerry's entrepreneurial spirit has seen that first pile of fleeces grow into a cutting edge yarn company, producing a unique collection of wonderfully soft alpaca yarns and contemporary patterns to complement them, as well as a range of made-to-order garments and crocheted toys.

"It's been hard work but I'm very proud of what we've achieved," says Kerry. "I was doing three people's jobs until my son was born and I still work very long hours but I'm trying to find that balance between work and family life."

SENSE OF HUMOUR ESSENTIAL

Kerry's dedication is evident. With shearing completed mid-morning, she's straight onto the next task.

"Each fleece needs to be sorted by hand to check its quality and colour," Kerry explains, as she places a fleece on a wooden table in the shearing shed and rubs the fibres between her fingers. "A good fleece

should be soft and crimp all over and the fibres must be at least 2 inches in length." Any bits of fleece not up to standard are sold as stuffing for pillows and duvets so nothing is wasted.

Kerry checks the colours meticulously. It's vital the yarns are sorted carefully as this is how she is able to create the 10 natural shades in the Toft range.

"It's not an exact science but you learn with experience," says Kerry. "It's the one thing my parents and I disagree on," she laughs. "Dad often does an initial sort but I like to do it myself. Getting the brown shades right is the trickiest."

After two hours of grading, Kerry is covered in fluff and there are three more bags ready to go to the mill. In three month's time these fleeces will be part of this year's crop of Fudge and Chestnut DK.

"Everyone looks at me a bit funny when I go to pick up Edward from nursery like this," Kerry jokes, as she brushes off as many of the fibres as she can.

NURTURING NEW TALENT

Lunch in the café with her mum and dad is a chance to catch up on business rather than take a breather! Then, while this afternoon's crochet workshop is set up in the studio (the team teach more than 80 people a week to knit and crochet), Kerry heads to her on-site office to talk to her suppliers and retailers.

"I check on production daily," says Kerry. "I do a lot of number crunching actually!"



7 Toft café is adjacent to the stylish studio space

8 An expert shearer can shear an alpaca fleece in just six minutes



Kerry then sits down with the two textile degree students spending a year-long internship at Toft. Liz and Petra are each creating a 10-piece pattern collection, released as part of Toft's designs for 2015.

"Each year we create a 60-piece collection, so I like to give our interns the chance to work on every part of the process, from first sketches to pattern testing," says Kerry. "It's a great way to give young designers a chance and introduce new talent to the industry."

Kerry also designs part of the collection herself.

"Our garments really represent me as a knitter," she says. "I don't have a lot of spare time so our most complex pieces can be knitted in about 20 hours but most designs can be completed in under five."

With her uber cool cropped blonde hair and tailored shirt and trousers, it's clear that Kerry's own style is reflected in the simple, easy-to-wear elegance of the garments she creates.

"I do all my sketches in the evenings, so I carry a set of notebooks in my bag to jot down my ideas," she says.

This year Kerry has also collaborated with top knitwear designer Jo Storie to create a 10-piece capsule collection.

"I love working with other designers, especially technical knitters like Jo, as she has taken our yarn in a completely new and beautiful direction."

Kerry has also found time to design a set of 40 adorable crocheted bird patterns for her new book, *Edward's Menagerie – Birds*. To accompany the book,



she is launching her first collection of six bright yarn colours; part of Toft's range of sheep's wool yarns launched 18 months ago.

FOR THE LOVE OF IT

After a phonecall with her publisher to organise her book launch, Kerry heads off to collect Edward from nursery and enjoy some family time with her son and "very tolerant and long-suffering" husband, Doug, at their home a few miles from the farm.

That's not to say that Kerry's working day is over. Once her son is in bed, Kerry is soon back to work sewing up the toy samples for her new collection.

After that, there's just enough time to write the Toft newsletter before Kerry finally heads off to bed.

"People sometimes ask me why yarn is so expensive," Kerry muses. "But when you look at what goes into creating a ball of yarn – feeding the alpacas for a year, shearing and grading the fleeces, spinning the yarn, then the balling and delivery, lots of which is done by hand, it isn't really. It's hard work, but I feel very lucky to be involved in creating a wonderful, natural product that gives pleasure to so many people."

9 Alpaca shearer Ben and the Toft team hard at work

10 Jo Storie Cable Knit Throw Over Cardigan from the Toft 2015 collection



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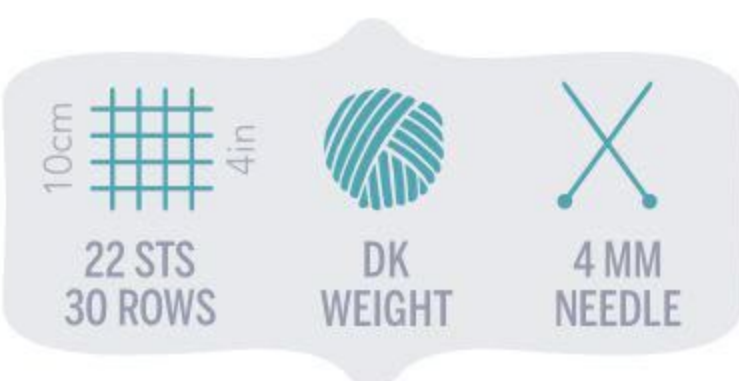
LACE COLLAR



VINTAGE GLAMOUR

Dress up a simple top or shift dress with
Julie Ferguson's pretty lace collar

LACE COLLAR



MATERIALS

- Yarn
1 x 50g ball of Rico Fashion Pixel DK in Rose (008)
- Needles
4mm (UK 8, US 6)
circular needle
- Accessories
1 button

YARN DETAIL

- Rico Fashion Pixel DK
rico-design.de
0203 024 9009
- DK weight
- 65% cotton, 35% polyester
- 50g/115m (125yds)
- Machine wash at 30°C
- £3.79

TENSION

22 sts and 30 rows to 10cm or 4in measured over st st using 4mm needle

YARN ALTERNATIVES

- Louisa Harding Azalea DK
designeryarns.uk.com
01535 664222
- Rico Essentials Cotton Soft DK
rico-design.de
0203 024 9009

- Turn to page 96 for a list of abbreviations

Prettify your summer fashion with Julie Ferguson's gorgeous button-up collar. It's worked in Rico Fashion Pixel DK – a gorgeous multicoloured cotton-blend yarn that comes in a range of 11 dusky, tonal blends. This means, choose the right shade for your fashion style and it should match most of the clothes in your wardrobe, making it super useful and versatile. It's finished in a very simple, pretty picot cast-off edge. Give it a go today!

TO MAKE

Cast on 100 sts.

Knit 2 rows.

Work 2 rows in st st.

Row 1 (RS): K10, *m1, k8, repeat from * to last 10 sts, m1, k10. 111 sts

Row 2 and every alternate row (WS): Purl.

Row 3: K10, *m1, k9, repeat from * to last 11 sts, m1, k11. 122 sts

Row 5: K10, *m1, k10, repeat from * to last 12 sts, m1, k12. 133 sts

Row 7: K2, sl1, k1, pssso, k6, *m1, k11, repeat from * to last 13 sts, m1, k9, k2tog, k2. 142 sts

Row 9: K2, sl1, k1, pssso, k5, *m1, k12, repeat from * to last 13 sts, m1, k9, k2tog, k2. 151 sts

Row 11: K2, sl1, k1, pssso, k4, *m1, k13, repeat from * to last 13 sts, m1, k9, k2tog, k2. 160 sts

Row 13: K2, (sl1, k1, pssso) x 2, k1 *m1, k14, repeat from * to last 13 sts, m1, k7, (k2tog) x 2, k2. 167 sts

Row 14: (P2tog) twice, purl to last 4 sts (p2tog) twice. 163 sts

Row 15: (Sl1, k1, pssso) twice, k14, *m1, k15, repeat from * to last 10 sts, m1, k6, (k2tog) twice. 169 sts

Row 16: (P2tog) twice, purl to last 4 sts, (p2tog) twice. 165 sts

Break yarn.

With RS facing, pick up and knit 12 sts down side of collar and around the curve, pick up and knit 165 sts around the back of the neck, pick up and knit 12 sts around the curve and up the side of collar. 189 sts. Knit 3 rows.

Picot edge cast off:

Cast off 3 sts, *cast on 2 sts, cast off 5 sts, repeat from * until all sts have been cast off.

Sew in ends.



Block your knitting carefully to shape the collar into a pleasingly smooth curve



Designer Julie has used a picot edge cast off to make this pretty scalloped finish



Complete your collar with a cute button in a contrasting colour for the best finish

TO FINISH

Block carefully with a steam iron, shaping the collar into a curve. Sew the button in place and create a sewn loop on the opposite side.

PICOT CAST OFF

A picot cast off is a brilliant way to finish off a curved edge, like the one on this collar and is perfect for up-front accessories.



Pattern 9143

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cotton with silk

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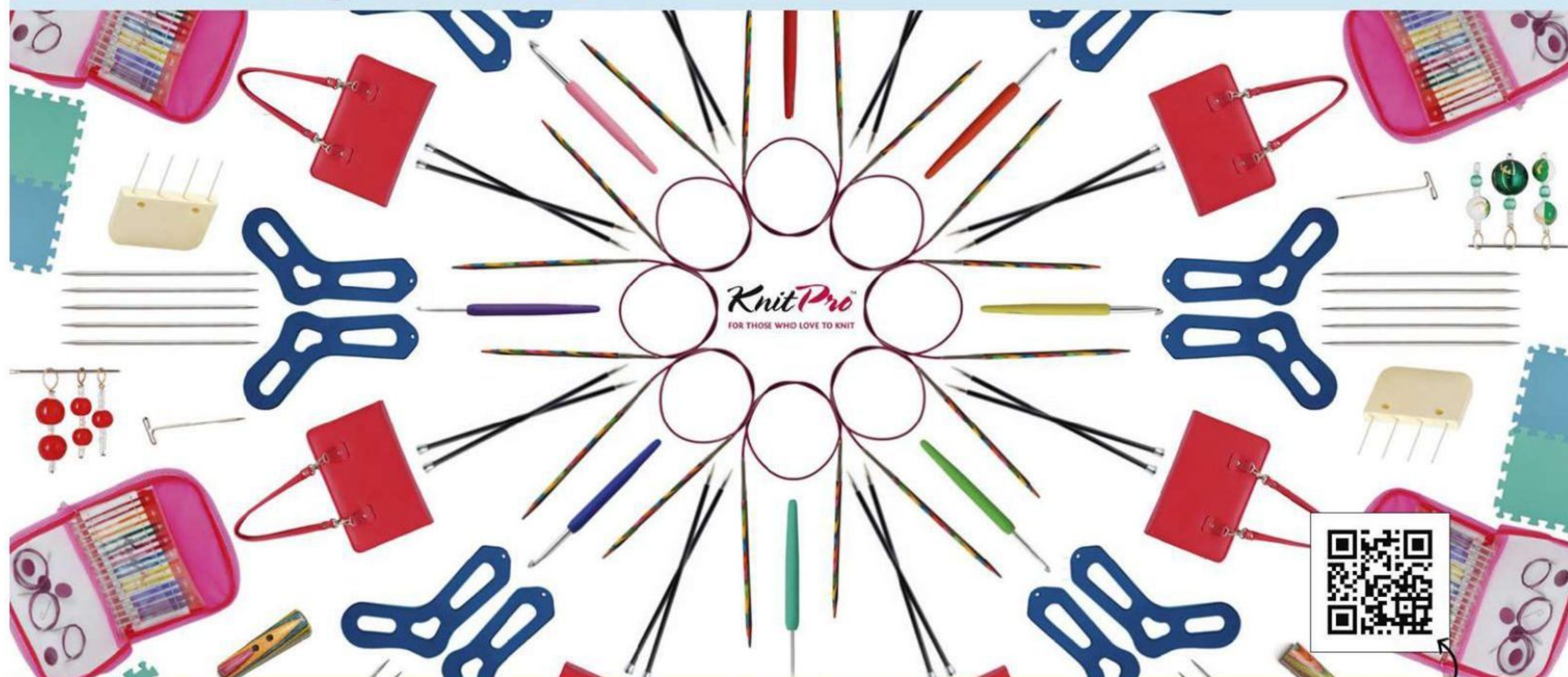
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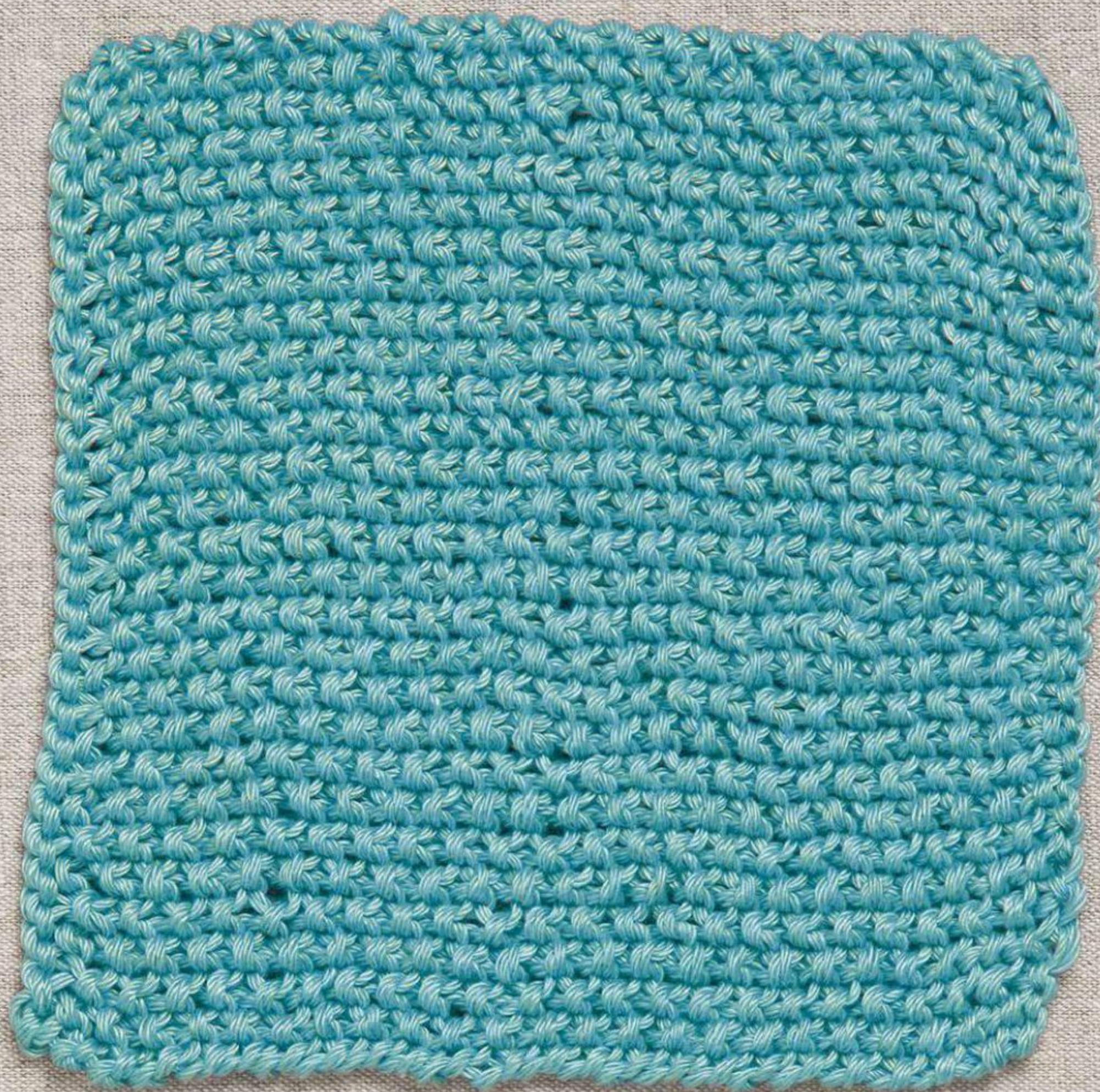
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MOSS STITCH

Discover a new stitch and how to use it in every issue



ABOUT MOSS STITCH

Moss stitch (referred to as seed stitch in America) looks far more complicated than it really is. Worked in a simple repetition of knit and purl stitches over one row, it's one of the most effective starting-out stitches you can try. For moss stitch you work across your stitches by first working a knit stitch, then a purl stitch. You will have to bring the yarn to the front and back of the stitched piece in between each stitch as you go, so that the yarn and needle are on the right side for that

stitch. This is the same technique used when working a simple rib.

HOW TO USE IT

Moss stitch creates a chunkier finish which is why it's often used on the edge of a garment, such as a cuff. It creates a firm texture which can add a 3D look to a garment, perhaps as a stripe section in the middle of a jumper or vest. Moss stitch can also be used to create shapes with the use of a chart, such as a heart motif in the middle of a stocking stitch cushion.

TIME TO STITCH IT

Over an even number of stitches:

Row 1 (RS): (K1, p1) repeat to end.

Row 2 (WS): (P1, k1) repeat to end.

Over an odd number of stitches:

Row 1 (RS): (K1, p1) repeat to last stitch, k1.

Row 2 (WS): (K1, p1) repeat to last stitch, k1.

Turn the page for more ideas using this stitch pattern. »

Use simple but stylish moss stitch to knit up this face cloth in a jiffy. Why not make up the set as a gift?



FACE CLOTH

MATERIALS

- Yarn
Wendy Supreme Luxury Cotton DK:
2 x 100g balls in Azure (shade 1959) and
1 x 100g ball in Dove (shade 1961)
- Needles
5mm (UK 6, US 8) circular knitting
needle 80cm or 32in long
- Accessories
Stitch markers

YARN DETAILS

- Wendy Supreme Luxury Cotton DK
tbramsden.co.uk
01943 872264
- 100% mercerised cotton
- 100g/201m (220 yards)
- Machine washable at 30°C
- £3.59

TENSION

18 sts and 28 rows to 10cm or 4in, yarn
held double using 5mm knitting needles

FINISHED SIZE

26cm x 26cm (10in x 10in) square

Turn to page 96 for abbreviations

TO MAKE

Before you start, unwind half of the Dove
yarn into a separate mini ball so you can
hold the yarn double. For the first part,
use the circular needle like straight
needles working back and forth. The
edge is knitted in the round.

Holding Azure double, cast on 39 sts.
Moss stitch pattern:

Row 1: *K1, p1 * k1.

Row 2: As row 1.

Repeat for 62 rows.

Cut the Azure strand and change to
Dove. Mark each edge with a stitch
marker. Knit 39 sts along the bottom
edge, place a stitch marker. *Turn your
work 90 degrees and pick up and knit 39
stitches along the next edge and place a
marker. Repeat from * until you've worked
all around the edge of the face cloth. You
should now have 156 sts on your needles
and 4 stitch markers – 1 at each corner.

Continue working in the round without
turning your work.

Round 1: Purl.

Round 2: Knit to the first marker, *m1,
slm, k1, m1, knit to the next marker: rep
from * to end of round. 164 sts
Repeat Rounds 1 and 2 twice more. 180



Finish your headband with a centre wrap knitted in a contrasting colour. If you're making the
face cloth you'll have plenty of Azure coloured yarn left over to make the wrap as well

sts. Cast off using Azure yarn. Take care
not to cast off too tightly.

TO FINISH

Darn in loose ends. Using Dove, make a
twisted or plaited cord and secure to one
corner.

HEADBAND

MATERIALS

- Yarn
Wendy Supreme Luxury Cotton DK:
1 x 100g ball in Dove (shade 1961) and
Small amount in Azure (shade 1959)
- Needles
5mm (UK 6, US 8) knitting needles

YARN DETAILS

- As for the face cloth.

TENSION

18 sts and 28 rows to 10cm or 4in, yarn
held double using 5mm knitting needles

FINISHED SIZE

8cm (3in) wide, 50cm (20in) circumference

TO MAKE

Before you start, unwind half of the yarn

into a separate mini ball so you can hold
the yarn double.

Using Dove, cast on 17 sts.

The hairband is knitted in moss stitch
pattern with a selvedge (narrow border)
for a pretty edge that won't unravel.
Slip the last stitch in the row, and at the
beginning of the following row, knit into
the back of the first stitch (kb).

Row 1: Kb * k1, p1 * k1, sl1.

Row 2: As Row 1.

Repeat until your work measures 50cm
(20in) long.
Cast off.

CENTRE WRAP

Using Azure, cast on 11 sts.
Work 30 rows in st st.
Cast off.

TO FINISH

Join the short edges of the hair band.
Position the Azure strip across the seam
and join the short edges of the strip.
Secure with a few stitches at the back if
you don't want the strip to move. »

This ingenious felted soap scrubby works by creating a lather with the soap still inside!



SOAP SCRUBBY

MATERIALS

- Yarn
 - 1 x 50g ball of Wendy Ramsdale DK in Bedale (3303)
- Needles
 - 5mm (UK 6, US 8) knitting needles
- Accessories
 - 40cm (16in) of cotton piping cord

YARN DETAILS

- Wendy Ramsdale DK
 - tbramsden.co.uk
 - 01943 872264
- 100% wool
- DK weight
- 100g/112m (122 yards)
- Hand wash
- £3.59

Turn to page 96 for abbreviations

TENSION

18 sts and 28 rows to 10cm or 4in, yarn held double using 5mm knitting needles

FINISHED SIZE

Knitted size: 16cm x 16cm (6¼in x 6¼in)
Felted size: 12cm x 12cm (4¾in x 4¾in)

TO KNIT

Before you start, unwind half of the yarn into a separate mini ball so you can hold the yarn double.

Cast on 36 sts.

Two-stitch check pattern:

Row 1: * K2, p2 *

Row 2: * P2, k2 *

Row 3: * P2, k2 *

Row 4: * K2, p2 *

Repeat for another 36 rows.

Row 5: K1, p1.

Row 6: P1, k1.

Repeat the last 2 rows 4 times more.

Cast off.

TO FINISH

With right sides together join the side seams, up to where the rib starts. Darn in loose ends.

TO FELT

Put the scrubby into a mesh lingerie bag or a zip-up pillow case. Wash in the washing machine with other clothing at 40°C with detergent. The friction and temperature will help with the felting process. Take the scrubby out of the mesh bag and pull into shape. Measure it and repeat the washing process if you need it to shrink more. Dry thoroughly (in an airing cupboard works well).

TO FINISH

Fold the ribbed edge over and sew into place, encasing the piping cord as you go along. Knot the ends of the cord together. Turn the soap scrubby the right way round again and pop in your soap.



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Aran Alpaca “Kajam” 10 shades

4ply Merino Sport 41 shades

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1 ply Polo merino and 2ply ac/wool Fifty again in many colours

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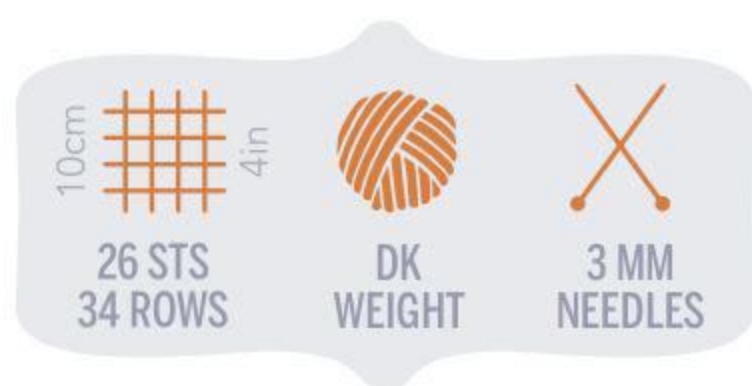




UP & AWAY

This super cute hot air balloon by **Angela Turner** is so easy to knit

HOT AIR BALLOON



MATERIALS

- Yarn
1 x 100g balls of Stylecraft Special DK in Pomegranate (1083), Aspen (1422), White (1001), Bluebell (1082), Storm Blue (1722) and Saffron (1081)
- Needles
1 pair of 3mm (UK 11, US 2/3) knitting needles
- Accessories
Balloon and papier mâché materials: newsprint, wallpaper paste or PVA glue
Button and cotton thread
4 pieces of 7 x 6cm (2¾ x 2¼in) card for sides of basket
1 piece of 7 x 6.5cm (2¾ x 2½in) card for base

YARN DETAIL

- Stylecraft Special DK
stylecraft-yarns.co.uk
01535 609798
- 100% acrylic
- 100g/295m (322yds)
- Machine wash 40°C
- £1.95

TENSION

26 sts and 34 rows to 10cm or 4in measured over st st using 3mm needles

FINISHED SIZE

Approx 71cm (28in) around widest point, 43cm (17in) from top of balloon to base of basket

YARN ALTERNATIVES

- King Cole Pricewise DK
kingcole.co.uk
01535 650230
- Schachenmayr Micro DK
uk.schachenmayr.com
01484 681881

- Turn to page 96 for a list of abbreviations

Blow up a balloon so the widest point is approximately 71cm (28in) in diameter. Use wallpaper paste or watered down PVA glue to cover the balloon in eight layers of newspaper strips, allowing each layer to dry before applying the next. When complete, it should be hard enough not to buckle under slight pressure from your hands.

BASKET SIDES (MAKE 4)

Using Bluebell, cast on 18 sts.

Work 19 rows st st.

Next row (RS): Knit.

Starting with a knit row, work 18 rows st st.

Cast off.

BASKET BASE

Using Bluebell, cast on 16 sts.

Work 23 rows st st.

Next row (RS): Knit.

Starting with a knit row, work 22 rows st-st.

Cast off.

Fold sides/base in half and sew 2 sides. Insert piece of card then sew rem seam. Sew 4 side pieces tog then sew base to all 4 sides.

BALLOON

Begin at base of balloon using Pomegranate and cast on 8 sts.

Row 1 (WS): Purl.

Row 2 (RS): Kfb to end. 16 sts

Row 3: Purl.

Row 4: (K1, kfb) to end. 24 sts

Row 5: Purl.

Row 6: (K2, kfb) to end. 32 sts

Row 7: Purl.

Row 8: (K3, kfb) to end. 40 sts

Row 9: Purl.

Row 10: (K4, kfb) to end. 48 sts

Row 11: Purl.

Row 12: (K5, kfb) to end. 56 sts



Sew pieces of card inside the sides and base of the basket so that it holds its shape

Row 13: Purl.

Row 14: (K6, kfb) to end. 64 sts

Change to Aspen.

Row 15: Purl.

Row 16: Knit.

Row 17: Purl.

Change to White.

Row 18: (K7, kfb) to end. 72 sts

Row 19: Purl.

Row 20: Knit.

Row 21: Purl.

Row 22: (K8, kfb) to end. 80 sts

Row 23: Purl.

Row 24: (K9, kfb) to end. 88 sts

Row 25: Purl.

Change to Saffron.

Row 26: Knit.

Row 27: Purl.

Row 28: (K10, kfb) to end.

96 sts

Row 29: Purl.

Row 30: Knit.

Row 31: Purl.

Row 32: (K11, kfb) to end.

104 sts

Row 33: Purl.

Row 34: (K12, kfb) to end.

112 sts

Row 35: Purl.

Row 36: Knit.

Row 37: Purl.

Row 38: (K13, kfb) to end.

120 sts

Row 39: Purl.

Row 40: Knit.

Row 41: Purl.

Row 42: (K14, kfb) to end.

128 sts

Row 43: Purl.

Row 44: (K15, kfb) to end.

136 sts

Row 45: Purl.

Change to Bluebell.

Row 46: Knit.

Row 47: Purl.

Cont to inc in next and every foll 4th row in same way as before till 184 sts then work without shaping, AND AT THE SAME TIME, **change colour to White** on the 2nd row and work 4 rows, then **change colour to Aspen** for 9 rows, then **change colour to Pomegranate** for 20 rows.

Change colour to Storm Blue and st-st 6 rows.

Change colour to White.

Next row: (K21, k2tog) to end.

176 sts

Starting with a purl row, st st 3 rows.

HOT AIR BALLOON



Neatly sew a twist cord made from white yarn to the inside of each corner of the basket



Sew a button inside the top of the balloon and thread with cotton to create a hanging loop



Attach the twist cords to the balloon where the white and saffron stripes meet

Change colour to Saffron and st st 2 rows.

Next row: (K20, k2tog) to end. 168 sts

Next row: Purl.

Next row: Knit.

Next row: Purl.

Next row: (K19, k2tog) to end. 160 sts

Next row: Purl.

Next row: (K18, k2tog) to end. 152 sts

Next row: Purl.

Cont to dec in this way to 144 sts.

Change colour to Bluebell and work more decreases as before on every alt row to 120 sts then again **changing colour to Aspen** to 104 sts.

Next row: Purl.

Next row: (K11, k2tog) to end. 96 sts

Next row: (P10, p2tog) to end. 88 sts

Cont to dec in this way until 72 sts rem.

Change colour to Pomegranate and dec as before to 16 sts.

TO MAKE UP

Cut yarn and thread through.

Gather round these sts and pull up tightly. Sew seam for 2cm (¾in).

Take button and sew to top of balloon on the inside. Run a thread through the button so there is a secure loop at the top of the balloon for hanging.

Sew seam to the middle Pomegranate stripe. Turn right side out and insert papier mâché balloon. Sew rest of seam to base. Gather round cast on sts and pull up tightly to finish.

Using White, cut 4 x 127cm (50in) lengths

of yarn to make 4 twist cords.

To make a twist cord: tie a knot in one end, attach the centre of the loop to a secure object, such as a drawer handle, and insert a pencil where the knot is. Twist the pencil so the yarn begins to twist and when it starts to pull into a twist naturally, let it go and it should twist in the centre, creating a neat twist cord. Secure the ends and trim, making sure all lengths are the same.

Sew one end of a twist cord to a corner of the basket and sew the other end to the balloon where the White stripe meets the Saffron stripe.

Repeat with the remaining three cords. Ensure all of the loose ends are tied in neatly to finish.



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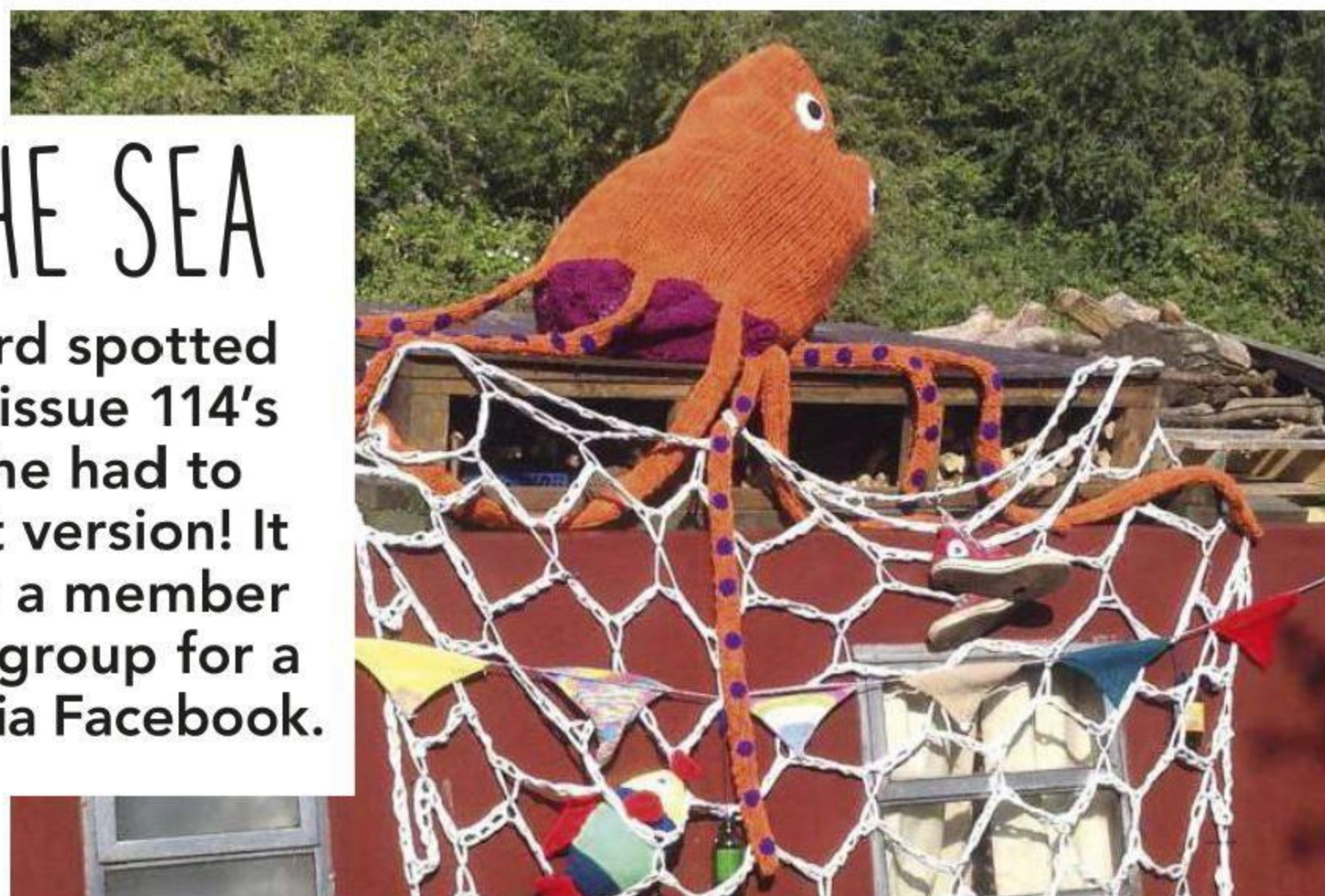
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SHOW US YOURS!

Join our gang of (knit and) purly queens and kings
and share your thoughts and makes with us here

UNDER THE SEA

When Elise Ward spotted our octopus in issue 114's free booklet, she had to share this giant version! It was created by a member of her knitting group for a canal festival. Via Facebook.



THIS MONTH WE ASKED YOU...

WHAT WAS THE FIRST THING YOU EVER KNITTED?

"CONCERNED THAT MY
SINDYS AND BARBIES
DIDN'T OWN ANY KNICKERS;
MY VERY FIRST KNITTING
PROJECT WAS TO COVER
THEIR MODESTY!"

Emma Kathryn via Facebook

BABY LOVE

▼ **Carol Avent**
adapted a pattern
for a lace top she
loved from issue
100 to create the
pattern for this cute
blanket she knitted
for her grandson.
Loving your
ingenuity, Carol!
And Carol tells us
that baby loves his
blanket! Via email.



WINNER

HOLIDAY POSTCARD

▲ When we posed the question, 'What's the strangest place you've knitted?', the top of a volcano (albeit extinct!) was not what we expected. Bravo Hilary Bath of The Dropped Stitch, Portslade. We love this pic of you knitting in Lanzarote at 1700ft above sea level. Via Facebook.

THE LOWDOWN

To be in with a chance of winning one of three £30 vouchers to spend at LoveKnitting (www.loveknitting.com), show us your *Knit Today* makes on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or via email at knittoday@immediate.co.uk. For competition rules please visit knit-today.com/feature/competition-terms-and-conditions.





WINNER

SPOT THE PIGEON!

Recognise this feathered friend? Yep it's our beloved Boris the pigeon from issue 113 (now Wimbledon's over, he's downed the racket and is having some 'me' time).

Karen Parkes was delighted when she saw the pattern as her son's girlfriend loves pigeons, so Boris made the perfect gift. Photo shoot finished, he's all set to fly off to his new home. Via email.

WINNER

MINION MADNESS

Jill van Lieshout emailed us this photo of her awesome minion sweater – Jill made the pattern up as she went along!



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TWEET! TWEET!

We've been listening to your knit natter on the Tweetosphere. Here's what you've been tapping. Tag us **@knittoday** to share your tweets

GRANNY VS THE KNITTING MACHINE

@UKHKA There's a knit-off in this *Clanger's* episode. Lovely take on why we love the craft.

MY FAVOURITE THINGS

@ysolda Dreaming of retreats or tours that combine outdoor activity and knitting/ yarn... Loved kayaking to dinner.

VIP VISITOR

@woolsanctuary It was lovely seeing Jenny Agutter at knit club. She managed to pop in during a break in filming *The Railway Children* to do some washing up. #knitclub #thewoolsanctuary #nutter...

TISH BOOM

@SwedishCanary I just found out it takes 5 sheep to make 1 wool sweater. I didn't even know sheep knew how to knit.

READY, STEADY...

@JoanofDarkKnits Have decided the only option for getting office clean by Sat is to knit all the yarn. Stashbusting ideas for 100 skeins... Go!



Inspiring Patterns



Helpful Tips
& How-Tos

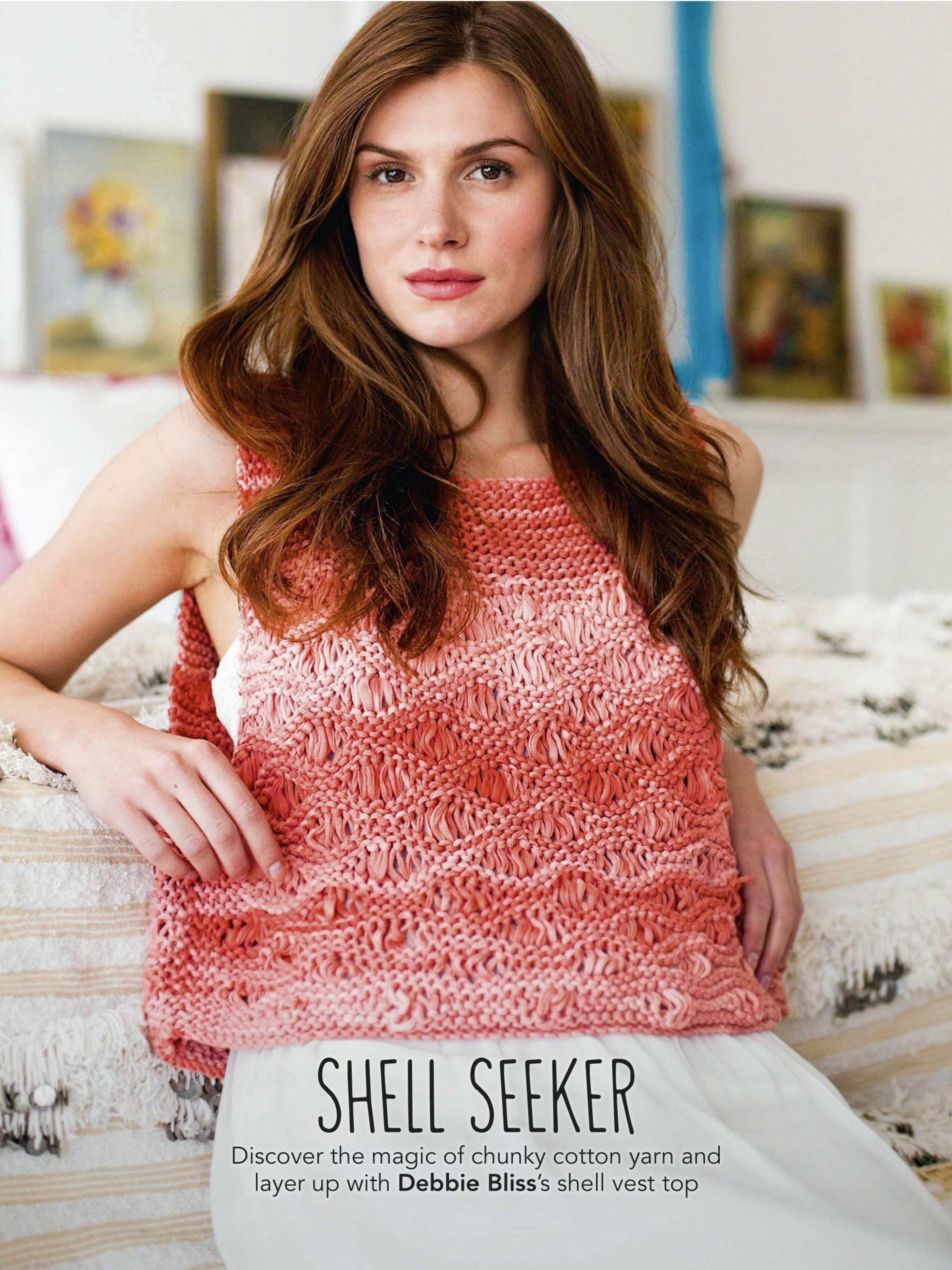


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SHELL SEEKER

Discover the magic of chunky cotton yarn and layer up with **Debbie Bliss's** shell vest top

SHELL VEST TOP



MATERIALS

- 7 (8:9:10:11:12:13:14) x 50g balls of Debbie Bliss Delphi in Peach (shade 11)
- Needles
7mm (UK 2, US 10.5/11) knitting needles
- Accessories
Stitch holders
Spare needle

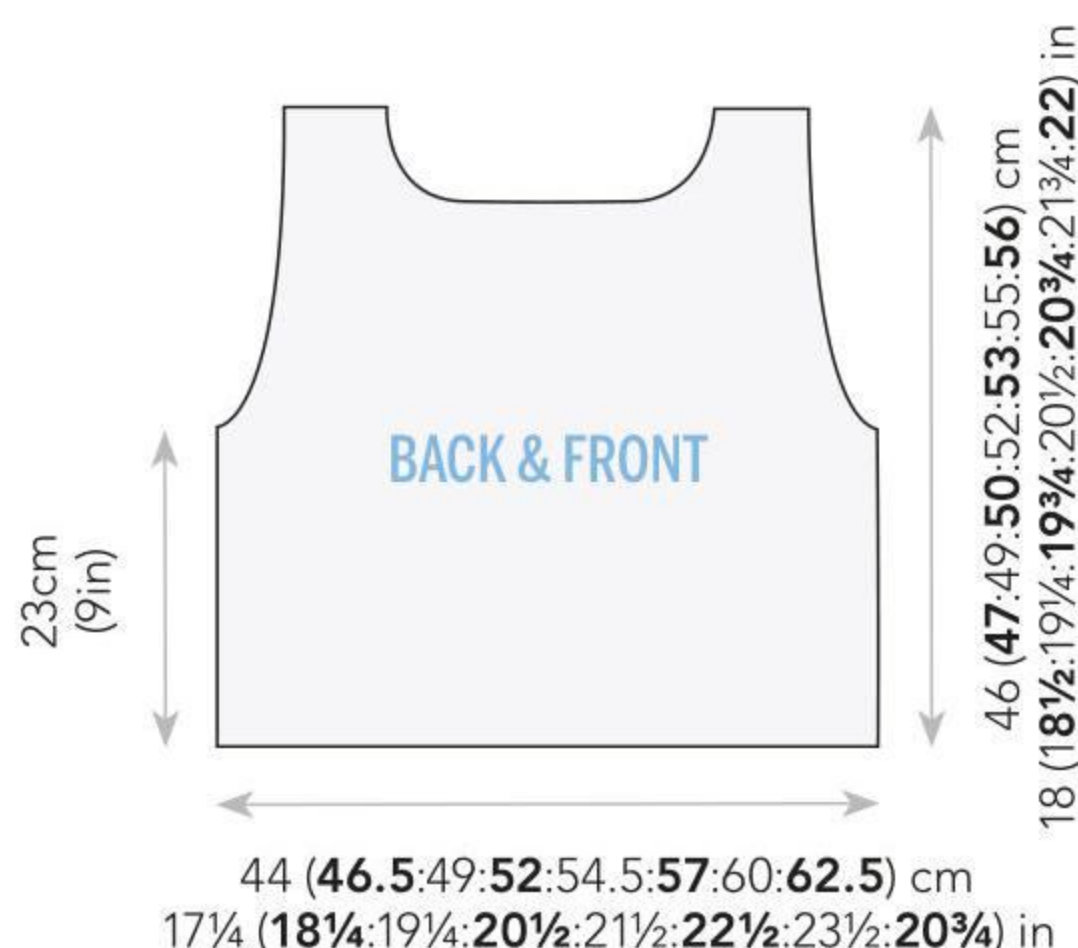
YARN DETAIL

- Debbie Bliss Delphi
Debbieblissonline.com
- Chunky weight
- 100% cotton
- 50g/50m (54yds)
- Hand wash
- £4.55

TENSION

15 sts and 13 rows to 10cm or 4in measured over patt, and 13 sts and 24 rows to 10cm or 4in measured over garter st, using 7mm needles

- Turn to page 96 for a list of abbreviations



This pretty shell vest top worked in chunky cotton is a brilliant project for beginners wanting to challenge themselves. Debbie Bliss's Delphi yarn has a gorgeous multi-tonal finish and we love this bright peach shade as it's so perfect for summer. Worked in a chunky yarn on large needles this funky top will soon be ready to wear, making it the perfect last-minute summer make no matter what colour you choose. Why not cast on today?!

BACK AND FRONT (BOTH ALIKE)

Using 7mm needles, cast on 66 (70:74:78:82:86:90:94) sts.

K3 (3:5:5:7:7:9:9) rows.

Now work in patt as follows:

Row 1 (RS): K6 (8:10:7:9:6:8:10), *yrn, k1, (yrn) twice, k1, (yrn) 3 times, k1, (yrn) twice, k1, yrn, k6; rep from * to last 10 (12:14:11:13:10:12:14) sts, yrn, k1, (yrn) twice, k1, (yrn) 3 times, k1, (yrn) twice, k1, yrn, k6 (8:10:7:9:6:8:10).

Row 2 (WS): Dropping all extra loops without working them, k to end.

Rows 3 and 4: K to end.

Row 5: K1 (3:5:2:4:1:3:5), *yrn, k1, (yrn) twice, k1, (yrn) 3 times, k1, (yrn) twice, k1, yrn, k6; rep from * to last 5 (7:9:6:8:5:7:9) sts, yrn, k1, (yrn) twice, k1, (yrn) 3 times, k1, (yrn) twice, k1, yrn, k1 (3:5:2:4:1:3:5).

Row 6: Dropping all extra loops without working them, k to end.

Rows 7 and 8: K to end.

These 8 rows form the shell patt and are repeated. Work a further 22 rows, so ending with a 6th row.

SHAPE ARMHOLES

Next 2 rows: Cast off 5 sts, k to end.

56 (60:64:68:72:76:80:84) sts

Beg with a 5th patt row, work a further 15 rows in patt, ending with a 3rd row.

Next row: K6 (8:10:7:9:6:8:10), (skpo, k1, k2tog, k5) to last 10 (12:14:11:13:10:12:14)

sts, skpo, k1, k2tog, k5 (7:9:6:8:5:7:9).

46 (50:54:56:60:62:66:70) sts

Cont in garter st, knit every row until armhole measures

15 (16:17:18:19:20:21:22) cm,

6 (6 1/4:6 3/4:7:7 1/2:8:8 1/4:8 3/4) in, ending with a wrong side row.

SHAPE NECK

Next row: K16 (17:18:19:20:21:22:23), turn and work on these sts only for first side of neck shaping.

Next row: K to end.

Next row: K to last 4 sts, k2tog, k2.

Rep the last 2 rows 7 times more.

8 (9:10:11:12:13:14:15) sts

Knit 1 row.

Leaving enough yarn for casting off later, cut yarn and place these sts on a holder for shoulder.

With right side facing, rejoin yarn to rem sts, cast off centre

14 (16:18:18:20:20:22:24) sts, k to end.

Next row: K to end.

Next row: K2, skpo, k to end.

Rep the last 2 rows 7 times more.

8 (9:10:11:12:13:14:15) sts

Knit 1 row.

Leaving enough yarn for casting off later, cut yarn and place these sts on a holder for shoulder.

MAKING UP

With right sides together and needles facing in the same direction, cast off shoulder sts together, using a third needle. Join side seams.



This pattern is taken from the book *Debbie Bliss Delphi*, £7.95. For more info visit debbieblissonline.com

TO FIT SIZE		8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22
TO FIT BUST	cm	81	86	92	97	102	107	112	117
	in	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46
ACTUAL BUST	cm	88	93	98	104	109	114	120	125
	in	34 3/4	36 1/2	38 1/2	41	43	44 3/4	47 1/4	49 1/4
LENGTH	cm	46	47	49	50	52	53	55	56
	in	18	18 1/2	19 1/4	19 3/4	20 1/2	20 3/4	21 3/4	22

LAMP REVAMP

Turn a tired lamp from drab to fab with **Julie Ferguson**'s stylish shade



LACY LAMPSHADE



MATERIALS

- Yarn
2 x 100g balls of Debbie Bliss Roma in Blaze (06)
- Needles
10mm (UK 000, US 15) circular needle, 60cm or 23½in long
- Accessories
30cm or 12in drum lampshade in cream

YARN DETAIL

- Debbie Bliss Roma
debbieblissonline.com
020 8520 8814
- 70% wool, 30% alpaca
- 100g/80m (87 yards)
- Hand wash
- £8.50

TENSION

10 sts and 12 rows to 10cm or 4in over st st on 10 mm needles

YARN ALTERNATIVES

- Rowan Big Wool
knitrowan.com
01484 681881
- Drops Andes
garnstudio.com

■ Find abbreviations on page 96

This funky lace pattern lampshade is quick and easy to make and will give a dull, old lamp a new lease of life with a quirky vintage style. Using super chunky yarn, designer Julie has opted for fiery red, to help inject a warm glow into your homes.

LAMPSHADE

Cast on 78 sts and join in the round.

Rounds 1–4: Knit.

Round 5: *K4, k2tog, yo, k1, yo, sl1, k1, psso, k4, repeat from * to the end of the round.

Round 6: Knit.

Round 7: *K3, k2tog, yo, k3, yo, sl1, k1, psso, k3, repeat from * to the end of the round.

Round 8: Knit.

Round 9: *K2, (k2tog, yo) twice, k1, (yo, sl1, k1 psso) twice, k2, repeat from * to the end of the round.

Round 10: Knit.

Round 11: *K1, (k2tog, yo) twice, k3, (yo, sl1, k1, psso) twice, k1, repeat from * to the end of the round.

Round 12: Knit.

Round 13: *(K2tog, yo) three times, (yo, sl1, k1, psso) three times, repeat from * to the end of the round.

Round 14: Knit.

Repeat round 1 to round 14 once more, then round 1 to round 4 once more. Cast off.

TO MAKE UP

Cover the lampshade in cling film or cellophane to protect it. Stretch the knitted lace cover to fit over the shade and



This lamp is knitted in the round on a circular needle which is a great fun technique to try



Lace the lampshade by connecting the edges on the inside, keeping tension even

run thread from the top to the bottom all round, on the inside of the shade, to tension the lace cover. Spray the cover with water and leave to dry naturally. Remove the lace cover. Remove cling film or cellophane. Replace the lace cover on the shade and lace up on the inside using a fine thread, pulling it tight enough to allow the cover to fit neatly.

SIMPLE STEPS YARN OVER & YARN ROUND NEEDLE



1 Yarn overs are used to make increases on knit rows. To make a yarn over, get to the increase point in your row and then take your yarn through your needles to the front of your work.



2 Now take the yarn over the top of your needle to the back of your work before knitting the next stitch as normal. You will now have one extra stitch on your right hand needle.



3 Yarn round needle is used to make increases on purl rows: Get to the increase point, and wrap the yarn around the work, taking the yarn over the needle and then through your needles to the side facing you again.



4 When you work your next stitch you'll find that you now have an extra stitch on your right hand needle. As with a yarn over, there will be a small hole underneath this stitch. This is correct so don't worry about it!



BIG NEEDLE KNITS BY MELANIE PORTER, PHOTOGRAPHY BY PENNY WINCER AND EMMA MITCHELL © CICO BOOKS 2015

SUPER SIZE ME

1

Uber-cool and oh-so-confident, big knitting is bursting out from the catwalk and flooding the high street, says **Katie Nicholls**

1 Self-confessed big knitter, designer and book author, Melanie Porter, goes public with her supersize hobby

Knitting is big news and hot contemporary knitwear is everywhere! Just take a look at the autumn/winter 2015 catwalk where huge super-chunky knitwear rules among the collections of Edun, Lacoste and Alexander Wang. Today's young knitters are hungry for exciting designs using bold colours and experimental techniques. Big, it seems, is better, and the trend for knitting with oversized yarn on giant needles is gathering pace. Designer Debbie Bliss is the latest convert, inspired by what she saw at Italian knitting industry show Pitti Filati: "One of the big trends for spring/summer 2015 seen at Pitti Filati in January was tape yarn. I've been slow to warm to tape yarn in general, but when I saw the way that the right tape could be used and how it could bring much needed variety to the season, I was on board!"

BIG IS BETTER

Who can ignore the flurry of big knitting books and patterns flooding shops and blogs? Add to that a variety of new yarns made from a myriad of materials, such as upcycled t-shirt yarn or sari silk and you'll be intrigued with this new revolution. Designer Melanie Porter (melanieporter.com) was one of the first to spot the potential of going gargantuan with her knitting. "I love using texture in my work, especially felting," says Melanie who is looking forward to the release of her

new book, *Big Needle Knits* (rylandpeters.com) in October. "While I love the dense, tight textures I wanted to take it to the other extreme and create super-oversized cables and bobbles. I started trying to knit with rope on broom handles!" Melanie's chunky, hand-knitted chairs and sofas have certainly influenced the big knitting trend.

FINGERS AND ARMS

While Melanie prefers enormous needles to create big stitches, designer Anne Weil (flaxandtwine.com) author of *Knitting Without Needles*, explores the possibilities of finger and arm knitting. "Weaving yarn by hand brings great satisfaction," enthuses Anne. "I started designing beautiful finger-knitting projects as a way to use up the miles of finger knit strands we had made for fun. Before I knew it, I was attaching strands back to themselves to make a wider knit fabric." Her book is certainly testament to that – from woven rugs to a stylish dip-dye scarf, *Knitting Without Needles* is an inspirational read. "We've only just begun to explore the possibilities," says Anne. "With a few twists, you can apply almost any traditional knitting technique to arm knitting, from increases and decreases to cables and lace!" Melanie agrees that big knitting offers the chance to be hugely creative, "I feel very free when designing a big needle knit," she says.



2



3

KNITTING WITHOUT NEEDLES BY ANNE WEIL (RANDOM HOUSE)



4



5



6

- 2 Finger knitted woven rug from *Knitting Without Needles*
- 3 Arm knitting in action
- 4 Electric blue bag from the book *Big Needle Knits*
- 5 Wool and the Gang's Jersey Be Good yarn
- 6 DMC's Hooooked Zpagetti tape yarn

"I STARTED TRYING TO KNIT WITH ROPE ON BROOM HANDLES!"

BIG KNITTING ESSENTIALS

When you're used to knitting on 5mm needles, the size of a 25mm beast might be something of a shock but you'll soon adjust to the dimensions and fall in love with this quick and effective way to create. So pop your regular-sized needles away and head to loopymango.com to order their 25mm straight or circular needles. Loopy Mango also produce a fantastic range of super-sized chunky yarns in bright and bold single or variegated shades. Beyond wool yarns, both Wool And The Gang and DMC sell cotton yarn made from upcycled t-shirt scraps. Mixtape (woolandthegang.com) and Hooooked Zpagetti (dmccreative.co.uk) are available in a range of exciting colours and their inherent hard-wearing qualities make them great for homeware and accessories. Mainstream yarn companies are offering options for the big knitter too. Rico's Super Chunky (rico-design.de) range made from 100% cotton is soft and light, so perfect for

cooler big knits while Rowan's Big Wool (knitrowan.com) offers a luxurious, super-chunky knit option for winter designs.

WHY KNIT BIG?

Easy to do, satisfying, creative and full of possibilities: what's not to love about big knitting? "You can't beat the squishy fabric you create. And I love that it's really easy for beginners to pick up – there are no needles to fuss with. Plus, it's super fast – so it's perfect for a little instant gratification!" claims Anne. Melanie is also fervent in her love for the big knitting trend. "I love the giant balls of yarn, the clank-clank of the needles and the speed in which you can make a really dramatic piece of work." So why, we asked Melanie before she went back to her supersize yarn, should *Knit Today* readers add big knitting to their yarn craft skillset? "Big needle knits make people smile," she said. We can't think of a better reason to give it a go!



FIND YOUR PERFECT

NEW
LOOK



BEGINNER FRIENDLY

If you're new to knitting and have fallen head over heels for needles and yarn then this is the mag for you. Packed with projects that are exciting and bold, *Knit Today* is all about quick-and-easy knitting fun every day.

www.knit-today.com



FAMILY FAVOURITES

Is knitting already a familiar friend? Do you love to knit for friends and family as well as yourself? *Simply Knitting* delivers a chic mix of classic and modern projects and inspiration for those seeking to expand their skills.

www.simplyknitting.co.uk

KNITTING MAGAZINE!



CREATIVE KNITTING

When you're ready for the challenge of more creative knitting, expert knitting magazine *The Knitter* delivers inspiration in hanks! Immerse yourself in stunning patterns and indulgent yarn stories every issue.

www.theknitter.co.uk

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STOCKING STITCH SHAWL



GREAT FOR
NEWBIES

SUMMER STRIPES

Fall hopelessly in love with shawls by casting on **Julie Ferguson's** bold make

STOCKING STITCH SHAWL



MATERIALS

- Yarn
Sublime Extra Fine Merino
Worsted
Yarn A: 4 x 50g in
Marmalade (shade 0478)
Yarn B: 3 x 50g in Teal
(shade 0362)
- Needles
4.5mm circular needle 80cm
long or long straight needles

YARN DETAIL

- Sublime Extra Fine Merino
Worsted
- sublimeyarns.com
01924 369666
- DK weight/Aran
- 100% extra fine merino
- 50g/100m (108yds)
- Machine wash at 40°C
- £5.29

SIZE

170cm x 72cm (67in x 28in)

TENSION

18 sts and 24 rows to 10cm or
4in over pattern on 4.5mm
needles

- Turn to page 96 for a list
of abbreviations

A quick look on Instagram or Pinterest confirms the knitting world has fallen in love with shawls, and they are easy and fun to knit so we can see why. Try our orange and blue combo for on-trend zing!

SHAWL

Stripe sequence:

Yarn A: 20 rows

Yarn B: 2 rows

Yarn A: 4 rows

Yarn B: 2 rows

Yarn A: 8 rows

Yarn B: 4 rows

Yarn A: 2 rows

Yarn B: 2 rows

Yarn A: 14 rows

Yarn B: 2 rows

Yarn A: 2 rows

Yarn B: 2 rows

Yarn A: 2 rows

Yarn B: 2 rows

Yarn A: 10 rows

Yarn B: 4 rows

Yarn A: 2 rows

Yarn B: 4 rows

Yarn A: 2 rows

Yarn B: 4 rows

Yarn A: 18 rows

Yarn B: 2 rows

Yarn A: 4 rows

Yarn B: 4 rows

Yarn A: 4 rows

Yarn B: 2 rows

Yarn A: 22 rows

The shawl begins at centre back with increases each side of centre spine and at each row end on RS rows.

Using yarn A, cast on 3 sts.



Feeling creative? Alter the stripe repeats to create your very own colourful finish

Row 1 (RS): K1, yo, k1, yo k1. 5 sts

Row 2 (WS): K2, purl to last 2 sts, k2.

Row 3: K2, yo, k1, yo, k2. 7 sts

Row 4: K2, purl to last 2 sts, k2.

Row 5: K2, yo, k1, yo, k1, yo, k1, yo, k2. 11 sts

Row 6: K2, purl to last 2 sts, k2.

Row 7: K2, yo, k3, yo, pm, k1, pm, yo, k3, yo, k2. 15 sts

Row 8: K2, purl to last 2 sts, k2.

Row 9: K2, yo, knit to marker, yo, slm, K1, slm, yo, knit to last 2 sts, yo, k2. 19 sts.

Row 10: K2, purl to last 2 sts, K2.

Repeat row 9 and row 10 following stripe sequence. Then continue in yarn B only.

Next 141 (RS): K2, yo, knit to marker, yo, slm, K1, slm, yo, knit to last 2 sts, yo, K2. 161 sts.

Next row (WS): Knit.

Repeat last 2 rows, six more times. 167 sts.

Cast off loosely, sew in ends and block.

SIMPLE STEPS YARN OVER NEEDLE (KNIT AND PURL VARIATIONS)



1 Knit-side (yo): used to increase stitches, the yarn is taken over the needle from front to back to create a stitch that's worked on the return row.



2 Once you have moved the yarn over the needle you just continue working the remaining stitches as normal.



1 Purl side (yrn): on a purl side, you need to wrap the yarn around the needle once, going forward over the top of the needle first.



2 Once the yarn is wrapped over the needle you just continue working the remaining stitches as normal.



FROM THIS
MONTH'S STAR
DESIGNER!

CABLE GIRL

Try cables for the first time with **Jessica Biscoe's** chunky knitted jewellery

HEADBAND & BANGLE



MATERIALS

- Yarn
 - 1 x 100g Sirdar Hayfield Bonus DK in Bright Pink (shade 887) for bracelet
 - 1 x 100g Sirdar Hayfield Baby Chunky in Lola (shade 406) for headband
- Needles
 - 4mm (UK 8, US 6) knitting needles for bracelet
 - 8mm (UK 10, US 11) knitting needles for headband
 - Cable & tapestry needle

YARN DETAIL

Bracelet

- Sirdar Hayfield Bonus DK, sirdar.co.uk. 01924 371 501
- 100% acrylic
- 100g/280m (306yds)
- Machine wash at 40°C
- £1.69

Headband

- Sirdar Hayfield Baby Chunky
- 70% acrylic, 30% nylon
- 100g/155m (170yds)
- Machine wash at 40°C
- £3.49

MEASUREMENTS

- **Bracelet:** 21cm x 4cm (8¼in x 1½in).
- **Headband:** 50cm x 8cm (19¾ x 3¼in)

ABBREVIATIONS

See simple steps photo tutorial on the right for full explanation of cable stitch. Find all other abbreviations on page 96.

TENSIONS

- **Bracelet:** 25 st and 11.5 rows measured over 5cm (2in) over pattern using 4mm needles
- **Headband:** 12.5 sts and 9 rows measured over 5cm (2in) over pattern using 6.5mm needles

Once you've succeeded with your first knitted cable, we can guarantee you'll be hooked. It may look tricky but it really isn't and the results are not only incredibly rewarding, they can be incorporated into your own designs easily. Start your cable journey here with Jessica Biscoe's awesomely simple headband and bracelet set. Then read all about Jessica's knitting life in our great feature over on page 32.

Note: This pattern is for both the bracelet and the headband.

Using 4mm needles for the bracelet or 8mm needles for the headband, cast on 20 stitches.

Row 1 (RS): K to end.

Row 2 (WS): P to end.

Rep these 2 rows once more.

Next row (RS): C10B, C10F

Row 6: P to end.

Row 7: K to end.

Rep rows 6 and 7 three more times and work row 6 again.

Row 15 (RS): C10B, C10F.

Rep rows 6 to 15 four more times for the bracelet and seven more times for the headband, or until it fits comfortably around your wrist or head.

Starting with a purl row, work 3 rows of st st and cast off leaving a 15cm (6in) tail end for sewing up.

Thread the tail onto a yarn needle and join the cast on and cast off edges.



This simple project is the perfect introduction for those new to cable



Use this cable stitch to make mug cosies, book bands and much more...

JESSICA BISCOE

Jessica is a knit designer and author. Only learning to knit in 2009, her passion for colour has helped her create sought-after knits.



- jessicabiscoe.co.uk
- [Instagram.com/jessbiscoe](https://www.instagram.com/jessbiscoe)

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO DO A FOUR CABLE (C4) STITCH (FRONT OR BACK)



1 – Slip two stitches onto a cable needle and hold either in front of your work or behind depending on whether a F (front) or B (behind) is indicated in the cable pattern.



2 – Knit two stitches from the left-hand needle.



3 – Knit two stitches from the cable needle. **With the 10 stitch cable section in the pattern above, work 5 stitches to the back or the front as directed, then knit 5 from left-hand needle.**

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AUTUMN WONDERS

Our top picks from this season's scrumptious new yarns

DIAMOND MOTIF

Cast on 27 sts.

Knit 1 row.

Row 2: K12, k3tog, k12. 25 sts

Row 3 and all alt rows: Knit.

Row 4: K11, k3tog, k11. 23 sts

Row 6: K10, k3tog, k10. 21 sts

Row 8: K9, k3tog, k9. 19 sts

Row 10: K8, k3tog, k8. 17 sts

Row 12: K7, k3tog, k7. 15 sts

Row 13: K6, k3tog, k6. 13 sts

Row 15: K5, k3tog, k5. 11 sts

Row 17: K4, k3tog, k4. 9 sts

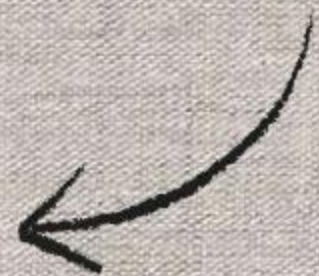
Row 19: K3, k3tog, k3. 7 sts

Row 21: K2, k3tog, k2. 5 sts

Row 23: K1, k3tog, k1. 3 sts

Break yarn, thread through
all sts and fasten off.

SEW TOGETHER
FOR A FAB
BLANKET!



LOUISA HARDING AMITOLA GRANDE

CONTENT 80% wool, 20% silk
BALL 100g/250m (273yds)
NEEDLE 6mm (UK 4, US 10)
TENSION 18 sts and 24 rows to 10cm or 4in square
RRP £13.95



Amitola Grande is a luxuriously chunky wool-silk blend. The silk content gives this yarn a beautifully smooth handle, while the wool is cosy and soft. Amelia (above) is our fave shade with its ombre blue, green and purple tones, but there are 12 lovely self-

striping colours for you to choose from. Louisa has also created the Aberfeldy collection, 14 new patterns worked in Amitola Grande, including a stylish bobble edge poncho and moss stitch jacket.
designeryarns.uk.com
01535 664222

STYLECRAFT ALPACA TWEED CHUNKY

CONTENT 77% acrylic, 20% alpaca, 3% viscose
BALL 100g/135m (147yds)
NEEDLE 6mm (UK 4, US 10)
TENSION 14 sts and 20 rows*
RRP £4.90



New for Autumn comes a chunky version of Stylecraft's gorgeous Alpaca Tweed DK. Alpaca Tweed Chunky is available in a range of six shades varying from the soft muted tones of duck egg and dusky pink to darker, richer shades of avocado, cherry and

midnight, each with a flecked tweed-effect. This yarn knits up super quick on 6mm needles, making it ideal for chunky textured knits and fun accessories. The 100g balls make it excellent value, too.
stylecraft-yarns.co.uk
01535 609798

ROWAN HEMP TWEED

CONTENT 75% wool, 25% hemp
BALL 50g/94m (104yds)
NEEDLE 4.5mm (UK 7, US 7)
TENSION 19 sts and 25 rows to 10cm or 4in square
RRP £4.49



This blend of 75% wool and 25% hemp creates a soft, durable yarn with a natural sheen. Wool and hemp create 'breathable' knitted fabrics which are stretch-resistant, cool to wear in warm weather and warm in colder temperatures, making

them ideal for mid-season makes. Lisa Richardson's 14 designs in Hemp Tweed are worked in a variety of cable and textured stitches and include on-trend wrap cardis and stylish ideas for men, too.
knitrowan.com
01484 681881

SCHACHENMAYR REGIA PAIRFECT

CONTENT 75% virgin wool, 25% polyamide
BALL 100g/420m (459yds)
NEEDLE 2-3mm (UK 11-14, US 1-3)
TENSION 30 sts and 42 rows*
RRP £9.95



Make two identical socks from one self-patterning ball? Yes you can! With the yellow starter threads to show you where to find the beginning of each sock, it's now really easy! Wool-rich for softness and warmth, with polyamide for elasticity, Regia Pairfect is

available in 16 self-patterning and striped colourways to suit all toes. We love Lagune (above) for both his and hers and are rather smitten with Cheesecake – pretty stripes in Neapolitan ice cream colours!
coatscrafts.co.uk
01484 681881

DEBBIE BLISS BOHEME

CONTENT 52% wool, 34% acrylic, 14% polyamide
BALL 50g/50m (54yds)
NEEDLE 10mm (UK 000, US 15)
TENSION 12 sts and 15 rows*
RRP £4.95



This luxurious super chunky wool-rich yarn is available in 10 tonally variegated hues. Each shade has a black base with a vivid coloured thread woven into it to create a dramatic, flecked effect. Accompanying the launch of the yarn is the Boheme

pattern booklet featuring 11 sophisticated knits. The chunky cowl has just rocked to the top of our knit lists. Our only dilemma? Which of the rich, midnight shades to choose first.
debbieblissonline.com
0208 520 8814

HAYFIELD CHUNKY TWEED WITH WOOL

CONTENT 74% acrylic, 20% wool, 6% viscose
BALL 100g/145m (158yds)
NEEDLE 6.5mm (UK 3, US 10.5)
TENSION 14 sts and 19 rows*
RRP £3.79



This new yarn from Hayfield contains 20% wool, making it soft, warm and perfect for chunky autumn-winter knits. The eight shades are a range of natural tones along with a pink, pale blue and purple – each with flecks of contrasting colours which knit up to

create a tweed effect. Chunky Tweed patterns include cosy cardigans, shawls, scarves and hats, as well as a set of four vintage-style cushion covers. Our sofas are calling out for that cable-pattern cushion...
sirdar.co.uk
01924 371501

* 10cm or 4in square

NORO SHINRYOKU

CONTENT 70% wool, 30% silk
BALL 100g/180m (197yds)
NEEDLE 5mm (UK 6, US 8)
TENSION 18 sts and 24 rows to 10cm or 4in square
RRP £13.95



Shinryoku's textured blend of wool and silk allows for fantastic stitch definition and knits up with plenty of character. The self-patterning yarn creates a unique asymmetrical finish making it perfect for creating statement pieces such as the

stylish over-sized cardi, cable sweater and chunky scarf launched alongside the yarn. Shinryoku is available in eight multi-tonal shades ranging from the bright Ayoka Haze above to subtle purple hues.
designeryarns.uk.com
01535 664222

MIRASOL YAYA

CONTENT 100% superwash merino wool
BALL 100g/50m (54yds)
NEEDLE 9mm
TENSION 8 sts and 10 rows*
RRP £11.95



Named after a little girl from a family of shepherds who helps tend alpaca in Peru, Mirasol is a plush yarn created from the rich alpaca, wool, cotton and bamboo sourced from the Andes. Soft to the touch, this super-chunky yarn knits up quickly and creates

garments that last. This superwash merino wool has an irresistible sheen and is subtly variegated. A portion from each sale helps to directly fund education for the children of the shepherds.
designeryarns.uk.com
01535 664222

PATONS WOOL ARAN

CONTENT 100% virgin wool
BALL 50g/85m (93yds)
NEEDLE 4.5mm (UK 7, US 7)
TENSION 18 sts and 25 rows to 10cm or 4in square
RRP £2.95



Great quality, a great colour range – 25 fantastic shades in all – and great value make this yarn one of our new favourites for this autumn's knitting wish-list! The colour palette features neutrals and brights, including this Cranberry shade we rather fancy turning

into a cute cropped sweater or cardi. Patterns in Wool Aran include contemporary, high-street inspired pieces for men and women, plus modern children's knits to see them through the cooler months.
coatcrafts.co.uk
01484 681881

RICO FASHION ELEMENTS

CONTENT 59% virgin, 40% acrylic, 1% polyester
BALL 50g/60m (65yds)
NEEDLE 10mm (UK 000, US 15)
TENSION 10 sts and 14 rows*
RRP £3.75



This soft, chunky yarn has a lovely crimp feel and knits up a treat on 10mm needles. The six autumn-inspired multicoloured shades come in hues of forest greens, woodland ochres, browns and reds and midnight blues. Use this yarn for chunky over-sized

cardigans and wrap-up warm shawls. We have shade 02, above, earmarked for a set of wristwarmers and a matching cowl. It's yarns like this that (almost) make us look forward to some chilly weather!
rico-design.de
0203 0249009

CONWAY + BLISS ELEKTRA

CONTENT 44% wool, 44% acrylic, 12% polyamide
BALL 50g/130m (142yds)
NEEDLE 8mm (UK 0, UK 11)
TENSION 12 sts and 18 rows*
RRP £4.95



Elektra is an edgy new yarn from the Debbie Bliss studio by Conway+Bliss, the exciting duo that is Debbie's daughter Nell and creative partner Teresa. This fluffy yarn comes in 12 vibrant colours designed to pop and clash (including Grunge, above) –

no wallflower knits here! The Elektra pattern collection combines craft and fashion and includes a range of projects from simple wristlets to the very sassy Chevron Twinset tee and mini. Love it!
designeryarns.uk.com
01535 664222

WENDY CAIRN ARAN

CONTENT 69% acrylic, 25% wool, 6% viscose
BALL 100g/240m (262yds)
NEEDLE 3.75-4.5mm (UK 7-9, US 5-7)
TENSION 19 sts and 24 rows*
RRP £4.50



Aran weight yarn is perfect for when you need a slightly heavier yarn for the colder months, and when you're knitting cable jumpers or patterned shawls (as seen in the collection of patterns that show off this new yarn), you can be guaranteed both

warmth and stitch definition. Rich earthy tones lend themselves to homeware and accessories as well as clothes, so opt for this if you have tablet cosies, sofa throws or cushions on your knitting list.
tbramsden.co.uk
01943 872 264

* 10cm or 4in square

SUBLIME PHOEBE

CONTENT 94% extra fine merino wool, 6% nylon blend
BALL 40g/96m (105yds)
NEEDLE 8mm (UK 0, US 11)
TENSION 14 sts and 19 rows*
RRP £6.14



Made in Italy using a light and luxurious blend of 94% extra fine merino wool and nylon blend, this yarn is crafted with a light-as-air knit construction for a sumptuously soft finish. Perfect for drapey scarves, hats and cosy cover-ups, this gorgeously chunky merino

yarn gives you all the warmth you need for winter, without the weight. Phoebe comes in a collection of six shades, including Floyd (above), the dramatic Damsonberry and Ellsworth – a vibrant blue.
sublimeyarns.com
01924 369666

ROWAN SUPER FINE MERINO DK

CONTENT 100% wool
BALL 50g/115m (126yds)
NEEDLE 4mm (UK 8, US 6)
TENSION 22 sts and 30 rows to 10cm or 4in square
RRP £5.75



Made with high quality extra fine merino, this soft, smooth yarn has a natural elasticity helping it to keep its shape once knitted up. Super fine Merino DK is also 'breathable', which means it is warm when the weather is cold, and cool when the temperature rises.

This is a great 'go-to' DK yarn in 28 shades, including the lovely Dewberry above. Martin Storey has designed a set of six stylish sweaters and cardis in this new yarn; find them in *Rowan Easy DK Knits*.
knitrowan.co.uk
01484 681881

MONDIAL EXPRESS

CONTENT 50% new wool, 50% acrylic
BALL 200g/25m (27yds)
NEEDLE 20mm
TENSION 3 sts and 5 rows to 10cm or 4in square
RRP £12.50



Mondial is an Italian brand renowned for its innovative yarns and the super chunky Express is a fabulously fun addition to their range. The collection includes a total of 11 colours from staple shades – black, grey and cream – to bold red, navy, orange

and gold (pictured above). Knitting with such a chunky yarn requires large needles and you'll be amazed how quickly your knits progress! Patterns include scarves, cowls and a fab waistcoat.
designeryarns.uk.com
01535 664222

WENDY EVOLVE CHUNKY

CONTENT 50% wool, 40% acrylic, 10% alpaca
BALL 100g/180m (197yds)
NEEDLE 5.5-6.5mm (UK 3-5, US 9-10.5)
TENSION 14 sts and 20 rows*
RRP £5.95



Autumn calls for a warm yarn that's lighter to wear than full-on winter woollies and Wendy's Evolve Chunky could be the answer. This wool/acrylic mix is soft and warm to the touch yet light and airy to wear. The subtle colour changes make this an

exciting yarn to work with and a palette of 10 thrilling shades includes Thunder, Ocean and Earth, alongside Sky, Mint and Nougat. Knits for men and women feature in the patterns that go with this yarn.
tbramsden.co.uk
01943 872 264

SIRDAR HARRAP TWEED DK

CONTENT 40% nylon, 30% wool, 24% acrylic, 6% viscose
BALL 50g/155m (170yds)
NEEDLE 4mm (UK 8, US 6)
TENSION 22 sts and 28 rows*
RRP £3.01



Harrap Tweed is named after the Harrap brothers who started Sirdar back in the 1880s. This luxurious wool blend tweed yarn comes in a range of glowing autumnal colours inspired by the historic countryside of Yorkshire. We love the

teal blue hues of Purdey (above). The yarn launch is accompanied by eight new pattern leaflets and the *Harrap Tweed Book 494* which includes tailored cardigans, hats, homewares and kids' knits.
sirdar.co.uk
01924 371501

KING COLE RAFFIA

CONTENT 100% cellulose rayon
BALL 50g/114m (124yds)
NEEDLE 5.5mm (UK 5, US 9)
TENSION 15 sts and 19 rows to 10cm or 4in square
RRP from £4.99



This is the only raffia yarn we know of on the UK market and it's a rather brilliant idea. Available in 10 colourways from natural to a range of denim blues, wood browns and the gorgeous multi-coloured Carousel, pictured above. This yarn has so much

potential for creating funky accessories. Patterns available include hats, totes, handbags, purses, belts and homewares – including baskets, a cushion and a set of cute pot covers we're currently coveting!
kingcole.co.uk
01756 703670

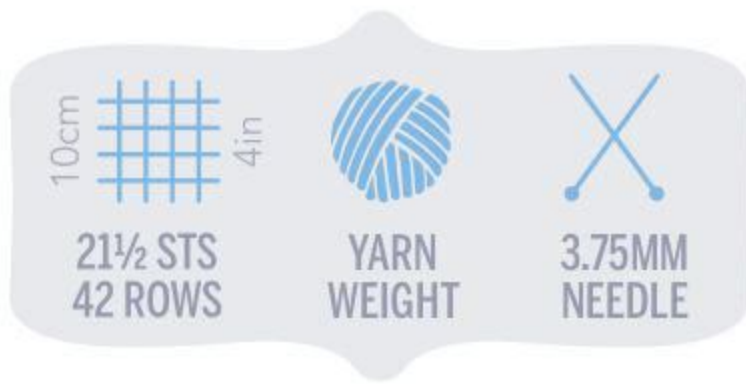




SHORTIE CHIC

Look cool in **Martin Storey's** cheeky crop top with chunky cable detail

CROPPED JERSEY



YARN DETAIL

- Rowan Pure Wool Superwash DK 8 (9:10:12:13) x50gm (photographed in Gravel 108)

MATERIALS

- Needles
 - 1 pair 3.25mm (UK 10, US 3) needles
 - 1 pair 3.75mm (UK 9, US 5) needles
 - Cable needle

TENSION

21½ sts and 42 rows to 10cm or 4in measured over garter stitch using 3.75mm (UK 9, US 5) needles. Cable panel (18 sts) measures 5.5cm or 2¼in wide.

SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

- C12B** slip next 6 sts onto cable needle and leave at back of work, K6, then K6 from cable needle
- C12F** slip next 6 sts onto cable needle and leave at front of work, K6, then K6 from cable needle

Mixing cabling with garter stitch gives this classic pullover a fresh new look and, cropped snugly at the waist, it belongs firmly in the stable of sport-luxe knits that have been so popular this year. We love the super-chunky cable worked casually at the side of the sweater, and the garter stitch texture gives a smooth backdrop. Pair with an A-line skirt or skinny jeans to make the most of this cropped shape.

BACK

Using 3.25mm needles cast on 98 (110:122:134:150) sts.

Row 1 (RS): K2, *p2, k2, rep from * to end.

Row 2 (WS): P2, *k2, p2, rep from * to end.

These 2 rows form rib.

Cont in rib for a further 8 rows, inc (dec:inc:inc:inc) 1 st at end of last row and ending with RS facing for next row. 99 (109:123:135:151) sts

Change to 3.75mm needles.

Row 11 (RS): K14 (18:25:31:38), (inc in next st, k1) 6 times, k73 (79:86:92:101). 105 (115:129:141:157) sts

Now work in patt as folls:

Row 1 (WS): K73 (79:86:92:101), p18, k14 (18:25:31:38).

Row 2 (RS): K20 (24:31:37:44), C12F, k73 (79:86:92:101).

Row 3: K73 (79:86:92:101), p18, k14 (18:25:31:38).

Row 4: Knit.

Rows 5 to 8: As rows 3 and 4, twice.

Row 9: As row 1.

Row 10: K14 (18:25:31:38), C12B, k79 (85:92:98:107).

Rows 11 to 16: As rows 3 and 4, 3 times.

These 16 rows form patt.

**Cont in patt until back meas 20 (21:22:23:24) cm, 8 (8½:8¾:9¼:9½) in ending with RS facing for next row.

SHAPE ARMHOLES

Keeping patt correct, cast off 4 sts at beg of next 2 rows. 97 (107:121:133:149) sts

Dec 1 st at each end of next and foll 4 alt rows. 87 (97:111:123:139) sts

Cont straight until armhole meas 18 (19:20:21:22) cm, 7¼ (7½:8:8½:8¾) in ending with RS facing for next row.

SHAPE SHOULDERS & BACK NECK

Next row (RS): Cast off 3 (4:6:7:8) sts, patt until there are 28 (32:36:41:47) sts on right needle and turn, leaving rem sts on a holder.

Work each side of neck separately.

Dec 1 st at neck edge of next 6 rows and at same time cast off 5 (5:6:7:8) sts at beg of 2nd row, 6 (7:7:7:9) sts at beg of foll alt row, and 6 (7:9:10:11) sts at beg of foll alt row.

Work 1 row.

Cast off rem 5 (7:8:11:13) sts.

With RS facing, slip centre 31 (31:33:33:35) sts onto a holder, rejoin yarn and k to end. 25 (30:36:42:49) sts.

Cast off 3 (4:6:7:8) sts at beg of next and foll 0 (0:3:3:1) alt rows, then 4 (5:-:-9) sts at beg of foll 3 (3:-:-2) alt rows and at same time dec 1 st at neck edge of next 6 rows.

Work 1 row.

Cast off rem 4 (5:6:8:9) sts.

FRONT

Using 3.25mm needles cast on 98 (110:122:134:150) sts.

Work in rib as given for back for 10 rows, inc (dec:inc:inc:inc) 1 st at end of last row and ending with RS facing for next row. 99 (109:123:135:151) sts

Change to 3.75mm needles.

Row 11 (RS): K73 (79:86:92:101), (inc in next st, k1) 6 times, k14 (18:25:31:38). 105 (115:129:141:157) sts

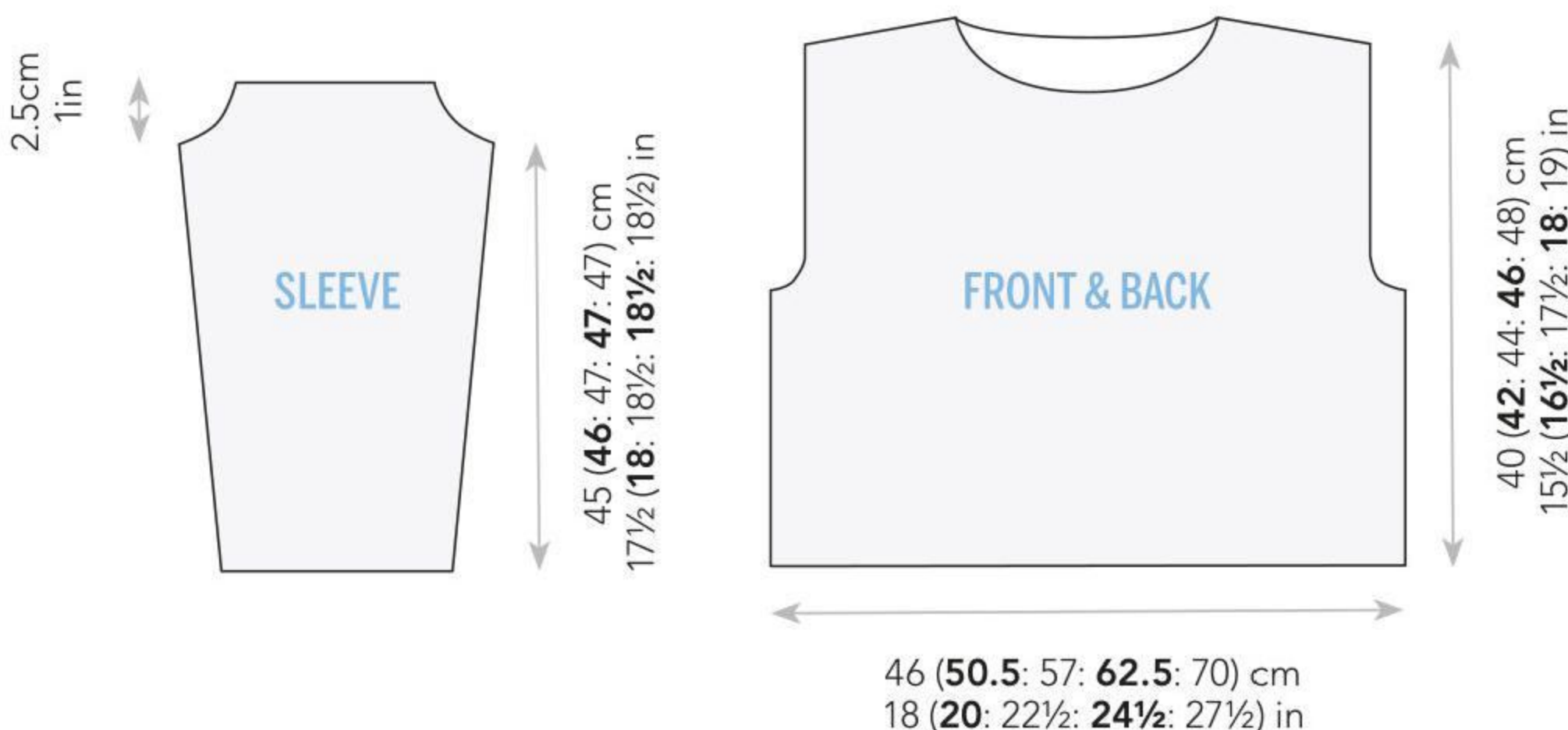
Now work in patt as folls:

Row 1 (WS): K14 (18:25:31:38), p18, k73 (79:86:92:101).

Row 2 (RS): K73 (79:86:92:101), C12B, k20 (24:31:37:44).

Row 3: K14 (18:25:31:38), p18, k73 (79:86:92:101).

Row 4: Knit.



CROPPED JERSEY

Rows 5 to 8: As rows 3 and 4, twice.

Row 9: As row 1.

Row 10: K79 (85:92:98:107), C12F, k14 (18:25:31:38).

Rows 11 to 16: As rows 3 and 4, 3 times. These 16 rows form patt.

Cont as given for back from ** until 26 (26:30:30:34) rows less have been worked than on back to beg of shoulder shaping, ending with RS facing for next row.

SHAPE FRONT NECK

Next row (RS): K31 (36:43:49:57) and turn, leaving rem sts on a holder. Work each side of neck separately. Dec 1 st at neck edge of next 6 rows, then on foll 3 alt rows, then on 3 (3:4:4:5) foll 4th rows. 19 (24:30:36:43) sts. Work 1 row, ending with RS facing for next row.

SHAPE SHOULDER

Cast off 3 (4:6:7:8) sts at beg of next and foll 0 (0:3:3:1) alt rows, then 4 (5:-:-9) sts at beg of foll 3 (3:-:-2) alt rows. Work 1 row.

Cast off rem 4 (5:6:8:9) sts.

With RS facing, slip centre 19 sts onto a holder, rejoin yarn and patt to end.

37 (42:49:55:63) sts

Keeping patt correct, dec 1 st at neck edge of next 6 rows, then on foll 3 alt rows, then on 3 (3:4:4:5) foll 4th rows.

25 (30:36:42:49) sts

Work 2 rows, ending with WS facing for next row.

SHAPE SHOULDER

Cast off 3 (4:6:7:8) sts at beg of next row, 5 (5:6:7:8) sts at beg of foll alt row, 6 (7:7:7:9) sts at beg of foll alt row, then 6 (7:9:10:11) sts at beg of foll alt row. Work 1 row. Cast off rem 5 (7:8:11:13) sts.

SLEEVES

Using 3.25mm needles cast on 50 (50:54:54:54) sts.

Work in rib as given for back for 24 rows, dec (inc:dec:dec:inc) 1 st at centre of last row and ending with RS facing for next row. 49 (51:53:53:55) sts

Change to 3.75mm needles.

Now work in garter stitch throughout as folls:

Inc 1 st at each end of next and every foll 10th (10th:10th:8th:6th) row to 61 (71:81:83:59) sts, then on every foll 12th (12th:12th:10th:8th) row until there are

75 (79:83:89:93) sts.

Cont straight until sleeve meas 45 (46:47:47:47) cm, 18 (18½:18¾:18¾:18¾) in ending with RS facing for next row.

SHAPE TOP

Cast off 4 sts at beg of next 2 rows.

67 (71:75:81:85) sts

Dec 1 st at each end of next and foll 3 alt rows, then foll row, ending with RS facing for next row.

Cast off rem 57 (61:65:71:75) sts.

MAKING UP

Join right shoulder seam using back stitch, or mattress stitch if preferred.

NECKBAND

With RS facing and using 3.25mm needles, pick up and knit

22 (22:25:25:26) sts down left side of front neck, k across 19 sts on

front holder inc 1 st at centre, pick up and knit 22 (22:25:25:26) sts up right side of front neck, and 5 sts down right side of back neck, k across 31

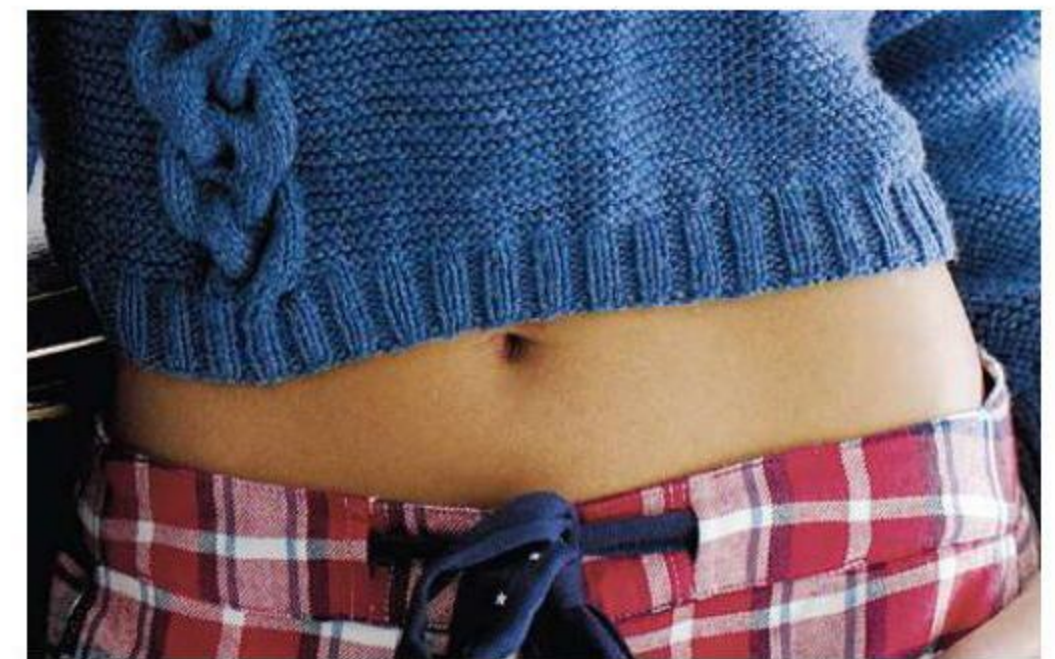
(31:33:33:35) sts on back holder inc 1 st at centre, then pick up and knit 5 sts up left side of back neck.

106 (106:114:114:118) sts

Beg with row 2, work in rib as given for back for 9 rows, ending with RS facing for next row. Cast off in rib.

TO MAKE UP

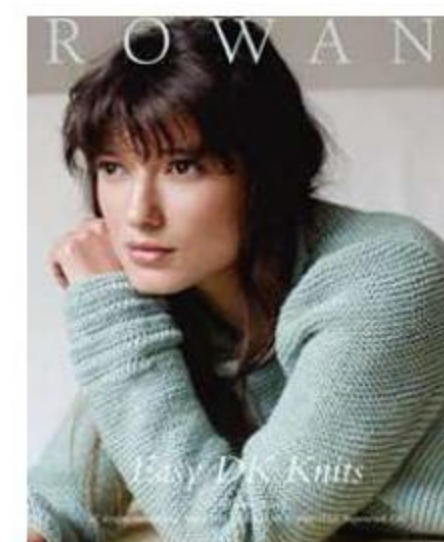
Join left shoulder seam. Next set in the sleeves using the shallow set-on method, as follows: place centre of cast-off edge of sleeve to shoulder seam. Match decreases at beg of armhole shaping to decreases at top of sleeve. Sew sleeve head into armhole, easing in shapings. Join sleeve and side seams.



We love how the end of the cable detail flows seamlessly into the rib-stitch waist



A classic round neck in rib stitch contrasts well with the garter stitch of the main body



This pattern is taken from the book *Easy DK Knits*, £9.50. For more info visit knitrowan.com

TO FIT SIZE		8-10	12-14	16-18	20-22	24-26
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
ACTUAL BUST	cm	92	110	114	135	140
	in	36	43	45	53	55
BODY LENGTH	cm	40	42	44	46	48
	in	15½	16½	17½	18	19
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	45	46	47	47	47
	in	17½	18	18½	18½	18½



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PONY

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AHOY THERE!

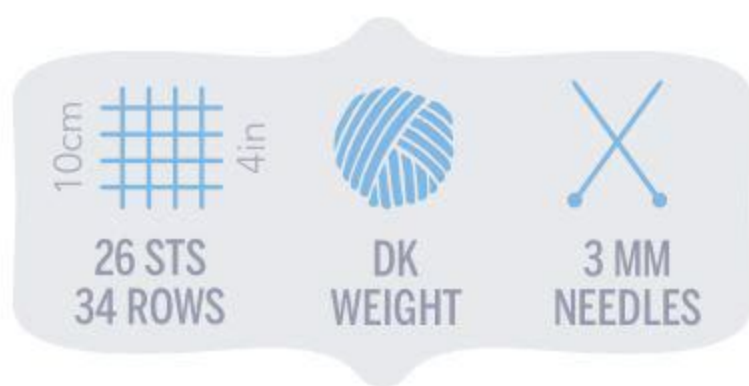
Make **Angela Turner's** swashbuckling pirate crew and set sail for adventure

This pint-sized pirate crew would make the perfect gift for little kids with big imaginations. Designer Angela shows you how to make three different pirates and a parrot using the same basic pattern. So once you're confident with the basic puppet shape you can experiment with different colours, hair, hats and even facial expressions!

Knitted in durable 100% acrylic yarn, finger puppets are a brilliant stash buster as you only need small amounts of yarn for each one. Don't forget to show us what you make, me hearties!



FINGER PUPPETS



MATERIALS

- Yarn
 - 1 x 100g balls of Stylecraft Special DK in Apricot (1026), Black (1002), Matador (1010), White (1001), Royal (1117), Turquoise (1068), Spring Green (1316), Walnut (1054) and Lemon (1020)
- Needles
 - 1 pair of 3mm (UK 11, US 2-3) knitting needles
- Accessories
 - Polyester filling
 - 1-2 small black beads for each puppet's eyes

YARN DETAIL

- Stylecraft Special DK
 - stylecraft-yarns.co.uk
 - 01535 609798
- 100% acrylic
- 100g/295m (322 yards)
- Machine wash 40°C
- £1.99

TENSION

26 sts and 34 rows to 10cm or 4in measured over st st using 3mm needles

FINISHED SIZE

Puppets measure 8.5cm (3¼in) tall by 5.5cm (2in) wide

- See page 96 for abbreviations

BASIC PUPPET SHAPE (FRONT) (ALSO FOR ROYAL BLUE PUPPET)

Using Royal, cast on 14 sts. Knit 2 rows. Change to White and knit 2 rows. Work last 4 rows again. Change to Royal and knit 10 rows. Change to Apricot and st st (knit one row, purl one row) for 8 rows. Change to Matador and knit 2 rows.

Next row: K2tog, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog. 12 sts

Next row: Purl.

Rep last 2 rows again. 10 sts

Next row: K2tog, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog. 8 sts

Next row: P2tog, purl to last 2 sts, p2tog. 6 sts. Cast off.

BASIC PUPPET SHAPE (BACK)

As for Front but using Walnut instead of Apricot. With RS facing, sew seam up and around body, leaving base open. Tie in all loose ends. Turn RS out.

HEAD SCARF TIE (MAKE 2)

Using Matador, cast on 4 sts. Cast off. Sew on to pirate's right hand side where head scarf meets face. Tie in loose ends.

HAIR PLAIT (MAKE 4)

Using Walnut, cast on 8 sts. Cast off. Sew two plaits to each side of face at head scarf where face meets hair. Tie in loose ends.

PONY TAIL (MAKE 3)

Using Walnut, cast on 8 sts. Cast off. Sew onto back of head where hair meets shirt. Weave in loose ends. Tie together near top with a length of Turquoise yarn.

BANDANA

Using Black, cast on 40 sts. Knit one row. Cast off. Place around puppet where Royal meets Apricot and secure with a stitch at the side.

TO FINISH

Sew on 2 beads for eyes 4 rows up from Royal shirt with 4 sts between them. With Black yarn work a V-shape mouth starting from one row up from shirt.

RED FINGER PUPPET

Work Front as for Royal Blue puppet working stripe pattern as follows: Knit 4 rows using Matador, 2 rows White, three times. Make face Apricot as before and make hat Black. For Back, use Sunshine for hair instead of Walnut.

HAIR (RIGHT HAND SIDE)

Using Sunshine, cast on 4 sts.

Row 1 (RS): Knit.

Next row (WS): Purl.

Next row: Knit to last 2 sts, k2tog. 3 sts

Next row: Purl.

Next row: Knit.

Next row: Purl.

Next row: Knit to last 2 sts, k2tog. 2 sts. Cast off purlwise.

HAIR (LEFT HAND SIDE)

Using Sunshine, cast on 4 sts.

Row 1 (RS): Knit.

Next row (WS): Purl.

Next row: K2tog, knit to end. 3 sts

Next row: Purl.

Next row: Knit.

Next row: Purl.

Next row: K2tog, knit to end. 2 sts. Cast off purlwise. Sew onto each side of face, touching hair, and sew across top next to hat. With Sunshine yarn, work a few straight sts at centre top of face for fringe. Weave in loose ends.

HAT BRIM

Using Black, cast on 28 sts. St st 2 rows. Cast off. Sew ends tog. Place join to front centre of hat with cast off edge uppermost. Sew in place. Sew cast on



FINGER PUPPETS

ADVERTISING FEATURE



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YARN INFO

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seam of brim to first row of hat, make indents in 2 places around brim by sewing top of brim to base, pulling up tightly. With White yarn sew a cross in centre of hat.

EYE PATCH

Using Black, cast on 3 sts.

Row 1 (RS): Knit.

Next row: P3tog.

Cut yarn, pull through sts. Sew onto face in place of eye. From lengths attached create eye patch loop. Sew on a black bead for second eye and a mouth as per Royal Blue puppet. Tie in loose ends.

PARROT FINGER PUPPET

Work front the same as the Royal Blue puppet but in Spring Green working the head in st st only. For the back, knit 20 rows in Lemon then work the head in st st following same shaping front. Make up as for puppets, including the eyes.

BEAK

Using Sunshine, cast on 3 sts.

Row 1 (WS): Purl.

Next row (RS): Kfb to end. 6sts

Next row: Purl.

Next row: Knit.

Next row: Purl.

Next row: (K1, kfb) to end. 9 sts

Next row: Purl.

Next row: (K2, kfb) to end. 12 sts

Next row: Purl.

Cast off. Fold in half then sew seam. Add filling. Run a length of yarn from top to tip of beak, pull up slightly. Sew parrot's beak in place 2 rows below eyes.

WINGS (MAKE 2)

Using Turquoise, cast on 3 sts.

Row 1 (WS): Purl.

Next row (RS): Kfb to end. 6 sts

Next row: Purl.

Next row: Kfb, knit to last st, kfb. 8 sts

Next row: Purl.

Rep last 2 rows until you have 12 sts.

Starting with a knit row, st st 2 rows.

Next row: K2tog, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog. 10 sts

Starting with a purl row, st st 3 rows.

Next row: K2tog, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog. 8 sts

Next row: Purl.

Rep last 2 rows until 2 sts. Cast off. Pin

wings to sides, top in line with eyes.

Secure with stitches. Curve up wing tips.

TAIL FEATHERS

Work 3 feathers as for hair plaits using Matador. Sew to back of parrot. Sew a few loops of Spring Green to head.

TURQUOISE FINGER PUPPET

Work Front as for Royal Blue puppet working stripe pattern as folls: Knit 2 rows in Turquoise, 2 rows White, 4 times, then 2 rows of Turquoise again. Make face in Apricot and hat in Sunshine. Make Back same as Front, using Black for hair. Make up as for Royal Blue puppet. With Black yarn sew loops to side of head and along where hat meets face. Make Head Scarf Ties as before in Sunshine. Sew to left hand side.

SCARF

Using Matador, cast on 34 sts. Working in st st, cast off 6 sts at beg of first 4 rows. 10 sts. Sew on to right hand side where scarf meets face. Tie loose ends.

Next row: K2tog, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog. 8 sts

Next row: P2tog, purl to last 2 sts, p2tog. 6 sts. Rep last 2 rows again. 2 sts

Next row: K2tog. 1 st

Cut yarn and thread through. Place on puppet with ties at the front. Sew securely to finish.



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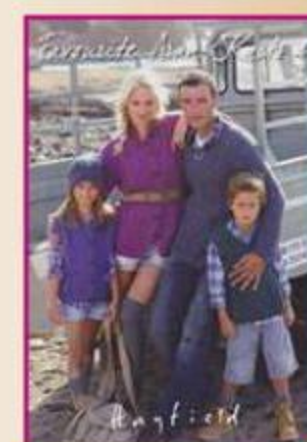
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KNITTING KNOW-HOW

These step-by-steps, from casting on to casting off, will help you feel confident when you pick up your needles

BACKWARD LOOP CAST ON

The simplest of all cast ons, use this to cast on mid row, or if you need a very loose starting edge.



1 To work backward loop cast on you need to start off with a slip knot with a long tail. To do this you need to pull out about 12cm of yarn from your yarn ball. Make a loop in the yarn. Place the loop on top of the

yarn to the side of the loop. Pick up the yarn from inside the loop and pull it through. Pull the knot tight, keeping the loop at the top open. Slip the knot onto a knitting needle, and pull it nice and snug.



2 Holding the working yarn taut, scoop your thumb underneath it.



3 Catch the loop with the tip of the needle and pull tight. Repeat from step 2 until you have enough stitches.

THUMB OR LONG TAIL CAST ON

The cast on your mum knows! This creates a nice stretchy edge and should be your first cast on choice.



1 Make a slip knot leaving a long tail and place it on your needle. The tail should be at roughly three times the finished width of stitches.



2 Hold the working yarn in your left hand and the tail in your right. Scoop your left thumb under the yarn and pull up to create a loop.



3 Catch the loop with the tip of the needle, wrap the tail yarn around the needle, while still holding the loop taut with your thumb.



4 Slip the loop off your thumb and off the needle. Repeat from step 2 until you have cast on your desired number of stitches.

KNIT STITCH

The stitch you learn first. Knit stitch is what you knit on the 'right side' when making stocking stitch.

Knit stitch is where most knitters start. It's easy to learn, and garter stitch fabric (which is knitted every row) is lovely and squishy, although it is naturally shorter than stocking stitch (knit one row, purl one row and repeat). Start here, but make sure you give purl stitch a go soon. It's just over the page...



1 Insert your right needle diagonally, front to back into the first stitch on your left needle. Your needles should be roughly at right angles.



2 Wrap the working yarn around the right needle clockwise and pull this yarn through to the front of the stitch with your right needle.



3 Let the old stitch fall off the left hand needle, keeping the new stitch on the right hand needle. That's your first stitch done!

PURL STITCH

Essentially the same as knit stitch, but worked from the other side of your fabric.

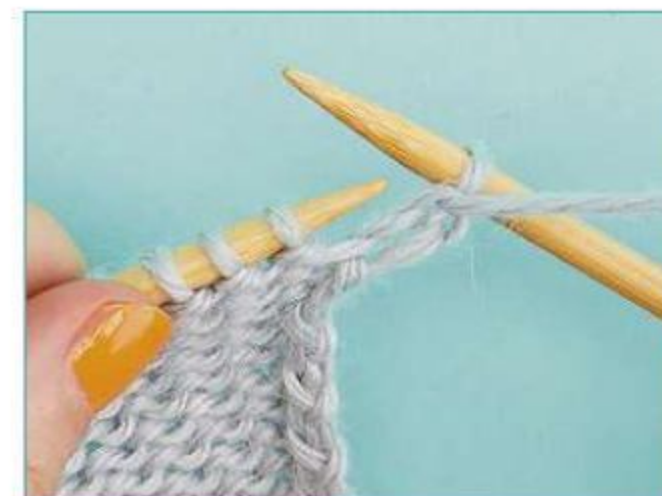
Lots of new knitters stick with knit stitch for a really long time before tackling purl stitch. We think it's worth trying to learn them both at the same time, as it means that you will be able to work stocking stitch fabric straight away. Stocking stitch fabric grows more quickly than garter stitch (knit every row) so you'll feel like you're making faster progress on your project, and that's got to be good, right?



1 Holding the working yarn in your right hand at the front of the work as you look at it, insert your right hand needle diagonally into the first stitch on your left hand needle, from back to front.



2 Wrap the working yarn around the front of your right hand needle anti-clockwise and push this new loop to the back of the stitch, taking your right hand needle tip through the old stitch.



3 Let the old stitch fall off the left hand needle, keeping the new stitch on the right hand needle. You've purled one stitch. So do some more!

SIMPLE CAST OFF

You've finished your first project, but now what? This cast off makes a nice firm edge and is easy to learn.

The simple cast off creates a firm, hard-wearing edge to your fabric. It can end up being quite tight and pull in the edges of your work, so if you find this happening make sure you aren't tightening your yarn after dropping off your stitch (step 2). If you are still finding it's too tight, try going up a needle size or two, by using a larger needle in your right hand to create bigger stitches to cast off with.



1 Knit two sts. Now insert the tip of your left hand needle into the first stitch you knitted on your right hand needle, from left then right, as in the above picture.



2 Continuing to use your left hand needle tip, lift the first stitch up and over the second stitch you knitted, and drop it off the right needle first and then off the left hand needle.



3 Knit a stitch so that you have two stitches on your right needle and repeat the cast off as before until your last stitch. Break your yarn, thread it through the final stitch and pull taut.

STRETCHY CAST OFF

This cast off is a little more work, but creates a lovely stretchy edge, so it's worth the extra effort!

This stretchy cast off is also known as the Russian cast off. In order to do it you need to know how to knit two stitches together, so see our handy tutorial for this at the top of the opposite page. When you get to the end of this cast off, and have just one stitch left, treat it as you would for the simple cast off – break your yarn, then thread it through the final stitch and pull taut.



1 Knit two stitches onto your right hand needle, one at a time, and slip them back to your left hand needle without twisting them.



2 Knit the first two stitches on your left hand needle together (see top of next page for help!). You will end up with a single stitch on your right hand needle.



3 Knit another stitch and repeat steps 1 and 2 again until the final stitch. You should find that the edge is quite stretchy.

K2TOG

This is the simplest way to decrease stitches and is also used on the stretchy cast off.

There are lots of ways to decrease stitches but the easiest one to learn is probably 'knit two together', commonly known as k2tog. This decrease results in a stitch that 'leans' right, so if a pattern asks for a 'right leaning decrease' this is the one you need to use. For the left leaning decreases (SSK and SSP) see our tutorials over the page.



1 Insert your right hand needle into the next two stitches as if to knit them. Your needle should go into the second stitch on your left hand needle, before the first stitch (see above image).



2 Wrap the working yarn around your right hand needle and pull the loop to the front.

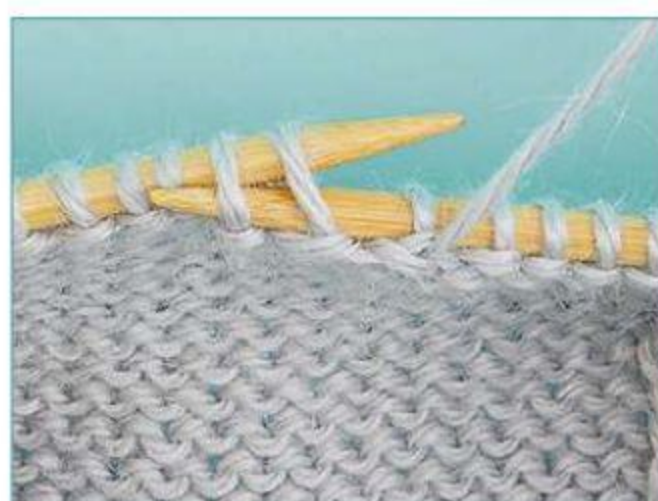


3 Slip the two old stitches off the left hand needle. You should now have a single new stitch on your right hand needle to replace the two old stitches. You've now decreased one stitch.

P2TOG

Your go-to decrease for purl rows, and when you need to decrease on the 'wrong' side in stocking stitch.

The purl two together stitch (p2tog) is used to combine two stitches on a purl row, decreasing one stitch each time you use it. From the purl side of the work it leans left, so when viewed from the right (knit) side in stocking stitch it will lean right, and look like you've made a k2tog stitch on the knit side of the work.



1 With your yarn held at the front of the work, insert your right hand needle into the next two stitches purlwise, from right to left.



2 Wrap the yarn around the front of both stitches anti-clockwise, and push the new loop to the back.



3 Drop the two old stitches off the left hand needle and you will be left with a single stitch on your right hand needle. You've decreased one stitch.

SLIPPING A STITCH PURLWISE AND KNIT WISE

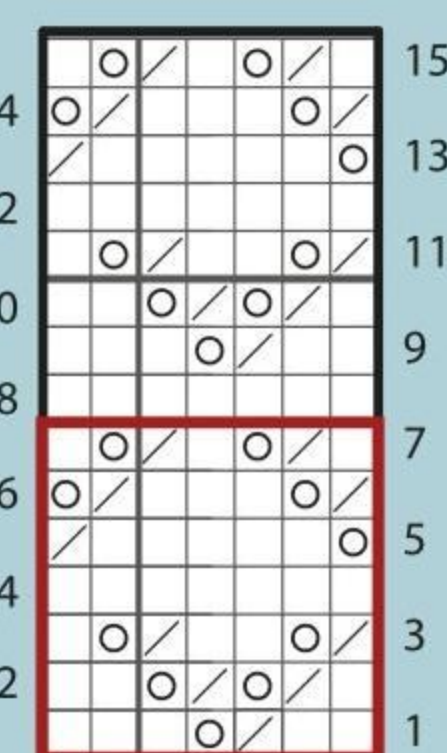
Two ways to move a stitch without working it.



1 To slip a stitch knitwise, insert your right needle into it from front to back as if to knit it and let it fall off the left hand needle. This twists the stitch, and tightens it up.



2 To slip a stitch purlwise, insert your right needle into it from back to front, as if to purl it, and let it fall off the left hand needle. This moves it to the right hand needle untwisted so it stays loose.



KEY

- yo
- ∕ K2tog
- Repeat

HOW TO READ KNITTING CHARTS

Knitting charts follow the same rules unless the pattern states otherwise. Right side rows are usually odd numbers and are worked right to left. Wrong side rows are normally even numbers and are worked left to right. Pattern repeats will be contained in an area outlined in red and some charts will have further coloured outlines for different sizes. The key will give you each symbol and tell you what stitch it is.

SSK

This left leaning decrease is easy to do, and the finished stitch is neater than some other options.

There are several common options for a left leaning decrease. Patterns may also tell you to knit two stitches together through their back loops (k2togtbl) or to slip one stitch, knit the next one, and then pass the slipped stitch over the knitted one and (skp). However, we think slip, slip knit (ssk) is the neatest and easiest way to do it, so unless the pattern says otherwise we use this one every time!



1 Slip the next two stitches knitwise, one at a time, from the left hand needle to the right hand needle. This twists them to tighten them up.



2 Insert your left hand needle through both front loops of the stitches you've just slipped, from back to front.



3 Wrap the yarn around anti-clockwise and pull the loop to the front, and off the left needle. You've decreased one stitch.

SSP

This purled decrease leans right, so if you make it on the wrong side, from the front it looks like an SSK.

Of all the decreases shown in this section slip, slip, purl (ssp) is probably the trickiest to master, as working purl stitches through their back loops can feel a bit fiddly until you get used to it. You'll need to insert the right hand needle from back to front and pull this needle to the front of the left one so that you can purl the two stitches together. Don't give up! It's not as hard as it looks.



1 Slip the next two stitches knitwise, one at a time, from the left hand needle to the right hand needle, as you would if working ssk.



2 Slip them back to the left hand needle by putting your left needle through the front of both of them from left to right and pull them off your right hand needle.



3 With yarn held in front, put your right hand needle through the back loops of both two stitches from back to front, and purl them together. You've decreased one stitch.

YARN OVER & YARN ROUND NEEDLE

These simple increases create a small hole in your work, so they're also used in lace stitch patterns.



1 Yarn overs are used to make increases on knit rows. To make a yarn over, get to the increase point in your row and then take your yarn through your needles to the front of your work.



2 Now take the yarn over the top of your needle to the back of your work before knitting the next stitch as normal. You will now have one extra stitch on your right hand needle.



3 Yarn round needle is used to make increases on purl rows: Get to the increase point, and wrap the yarn around the work, taking the yarn over the needle and then through your needles to the side facing you again.



4 When you work your next stitch you'll find that you now have an extra stitch on your right hand needle. As with a yarn over, there will be a small hole underneath this stitch. This is correct so don't worry about it!

CABLE LEFT/FRONT

Cables have great impact and are surprisingly easy. Here's how to do them over four stitches.

Cable stitches are known by two different sets of names, which can be pretty confusing! To make a left leaning cable, you hold half your stitches at the front of the work on a cable needle, so, for example, a four stitch cable like this may be called C4L or C4F. Usually half the stitches are cabled and half worked as normal. For odd cables (eg, C5L/F) the pattern should tell you what to do with the extra stitch.



1 To make C4L/F slip two sts purlwise onto a cable needle and hold them at the front of your work. This can be a spare double pointed needle, or a special cable needle with a notch in it to stop the stitches sliding off.



2 With the two stitches on the cable needle left 'in wait' for a moment, knit the following two stitches on your left hand needle.



3 Now return to your stitches on the cable needle and knit them onto your right hand needle as well. You should now have two twisted stitches that lean left. The pattern will tell you when to work the next cabled row.

CABLE RIGHT/BACK

Cables are often worked on a background on reverse stocking stitch to make them stand out.

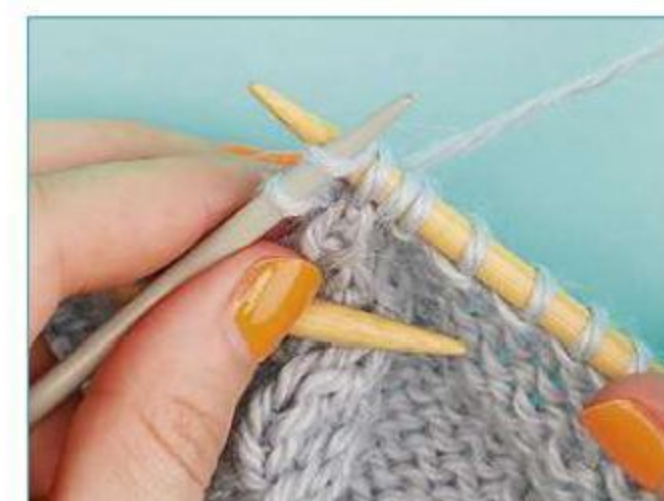
To make a right leaning cable you hold the cable needle at the back of the work as you make the cable – that's why it's also known as the cable back stitch. You may find this stitch more straightforward to work than the cable left. When working a cable stitch be gentle as you hold the yarn, if you hold it too tightly you'll make a hole.



1 Slip two stitches onto your cable needle as for C4L/F. You can hold the cable needle at the front to do this if it's easier, but remember to then move it to the back of your work.



2 Knit the next two stitches on your left hand needle, leaving the stitches on your cable needle at the reverse of your work.



3 Now insert your right hand needle into the first stitch on the cable needle, and knit it, and the following stitch off the cable needle. You should now have two twisted stitches that lean right.

YARN WEIGHTS GUIDE

Yarn comes in different thicknesses, known as weights. Some yarns will include the yarn weight in the name (eg, Rowan Superwash Merino DK), but some weights have several different names!

If you want to swap the yarn suggested in a pattern for a different one, the best way to do this is to find a yarn of the same tension. It is important to remember that there may be more or less meterage in the yarn you are swapping. So a pattern calling for 10 balls of double knit yarn at 100m per ball (1000m of yarn in total) will need 13 balls of a substituted double knit yarn which only has 80m per ball. If you only use 10 balls you'll be 200m short!

The finest yarn weights all use similar needle sizes, and for lacy patterns may be knitted on much larger needles too.



NAMES	Typical needle size	Typical tension to 10cm or 4in square
Lace	2.25mm to 3.25mm	34 sts and 42 rows
3ply	2.25mm to 3.25mm	32 sts and 40 rows
4ply/ fingering/sock	2.25mm to 3.25mm	28 sts and 36 rows
Baby/sport/ light DK	3.75mm	24 sts and 32 rows
DK (double knit)	4mm	22 sts and 30 rows
Worsted/ light aran	4.5mm	20 sts and 28 rows
Aran	4.5mm to 5mm	18 sts and 24 rows
Chunky	6mm to 8mm	14 sts and 19 rows
Super chunky	9mm upwards	10 sts and 12 rows

PICKING UP STITCHES AND KNITTING

This is a great way to add an edging to a garment, and is often used for neckbands.

When picking up and knitting along a horizontal edge, pick up every stitch. For a vertical edge, pick up and knit a stitch two out of every three rows, or three out of every four rows. If you pick up every row on a vertical edge it will flare out and it won't look good. It is usual to go down a needle size when working an edging, again, to stop the edge flaring out.



1 Insert your right hand needle into centre of the 'V' of your stitch and wrap the working yarn around your right hand needle.



2 Pull the edging yarn through the middle of the picked up stitch. You now have a single new stitch on your needle.



3 Put your right hand needle back into the 'V' of the next stitch and repeat until you have picked up and knitted the required number of stitches for your edging.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

alt	alternate	sl1	slip one stitch
beg	beginning	slm	slip marker from one needle to the other
C4L/F	cable 4 left/front	one by one, slip the next 2 sts kwise. Put the left needle through front loops of both slipped sts and k2togtbl	
C4R/B	cable 4 right/back	ssp	one by one, slip the next 2 sts kwise and back to the left hand needle. Put the left needle through the stitches from back to front and purl them together
cm	centimetre(s)	st(s)	stitch(es)
cont	continue(ing)	st st	stocking stitch
dec	decrease(ing)	tbl	through the back of the loop(s)
dpn	double-pointed needles	W&T	wrap and turn (or short rows). Knit row: slip next st pwise, bring yarn to front, return slipped st to LH needle without twisting. Turn work. Purl row: slip next st pwise, bring yarn to back of the work, return slipped st to LH needle without twisting. Turn work.
g st	garter stitch, knit every row	WS	wrong side
fol	following	wyib	with yarn in back
inc	increase(ing)	wyif	with yarn in front
in	inch(es)	yb	yarn back
k	knit	yf/yfwd	yarn forward
kfb	knit into front and back of next stitch	yoh	yarn over hook
k2tog	knit two stitches together	yo	yarn over needle
k3tog	knit three stitches together	yrn	yarn round the needle
kwise	knitwise		
m	marker		
m1	make one stitch, by picking up the horizontal loop before next stitch and knitting into the back of it		
meas	measure(s)		
p	purl		
pm	place marker		
p2tog	purl two stitches together		
p3tog	purl three stitches together		
psso	pass slipped stitch over		
rem	remaining		
rep	repeat(ing)		
rev st st	reverse stocking stitch		
RS	right side		
skp	slip 1 st, k1, pass slipped stitch over		

NEEDLE SIZE CONVERSION CHART

UK	METRIC	US
14	2mm	0
13	2.25mm	1
12	2.75mm	2
11	3mm	2/3
10	3.25mm	3
10/9	3.5mm	4
9	3.75mm	5
8	4mm	6
7	4.5mm	7
6	5mm	8
5	5.5mm	9
4	6mm	10
3	6.5mm	10.5
2	7mm	10.5/11
1	7.5mm	10.5/11
0	8mm	11
00	9mm	13
000	10mm	15
–	12mm	17
–	16mm	19
–	19mm	35
–	25mm	50

NEXT ISSUE

Sparkly boatneck top

Gingham goes giant!

Tweed pencil skirt

Woodland critters

Stylish stripy tech set

And more...



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BRIOCHE STITCH

Knitwear designer Stephen West is crazy in love with brioche, the super-squishy stretchy stitch

Brioche is fast becoming the stitch of 2015 (as predicted by me!) as more and more knitters try this intriguing knitting technique. I took a class on two-colour brioche from the queen of this lofty stitch, Nancy Marchant, two years ago and it changed my life. I immediately started a big brioche scarf that evening and now it's my go-to stitch, along with garter.

Brioche stitch creates a super-squishy reversible ribbed fabric, and I like to call it the stitch that gives – it's so voluminous and bouncy. It requires several admiration breaks to pet your fine work and I find that brioche has a steadier, more soothing rhythm than regular

knitting. One of my first brioche projects started as a hat, but I loved knitting it so much I decided to make a cowl. However, I couldn't stop brioche-ing so I increased for the yoke of a sweater... and soon I had a pastel brioche dress. It's one of my top five favourite items in my decade of knitting. I called it the Askews Me Dress (above right) and it was soon followed by the Askews Me Sweater, Hat (above top left), Dickey, and Shawl (bottom left).

I'm certainly not done exploring brioche stitch – I have an entire brioche collection coming out in Autumn 2015.

Briochestitch.com, ravelry.com/designers/stephen-west

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