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PATTERNS
& IDEAS



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Hello



ALAN DART'S PETEY
the penguin p37



We're all so excited here at SK towers. Why? The next adorable creation in your collectible Alan Dart kit series is here. Meet Petey the Penguin – he's small but perfectly formed and he's guaranteed to melt everybody's heart. We've

given you all the yarn you need to knit your own, and the pattern can be found on p37. But beware! Once your friends and family see him, they'll all want one for themselves.

Are you looking forward to the fantastic craft shows on the horizon? The Knitting and Stitching Show will soon be upon us, and hordes of crafters will descend on Olympia to get their hands on all the newest goodies and gadgets for spring 2015. It's going to be a fantastic event, and we hope to see many of you there! And don't forget to show us some snaps of your favourite stalls and purchases.

Kirstie



Snuggly kids' tunic p21



Fun, colourful mittens p71



CRAFT ROOM ACCESSORIES p47



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PS Subscribe and save up to 34% off the cover price, get an extra pattern every month and still enjoy our free gifts each issue! See page 44 for more information.

GET ALL THE YARN YOU NEED TO KNIT
YOUR VERY OWN PETEY THE PENGUIN!

Subscribe digitally from just £3.99! Learn more at www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk.

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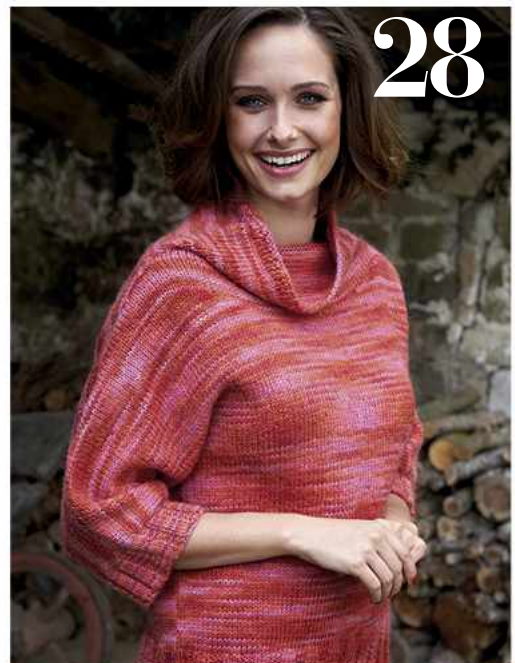
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CAST ON *March*

KNITTING IDEAS & INSPIRATION FOR THE MONTH AHEAD



FLOWER POWER

■ It may still be chilly outside, but inside there's a ray of sunshine on our needles! The Three Sunflowers Knitting Kit (£18.95) from The Mercerie contains all the items you need to make up a trio of cheerful yellow flowers. They'd look great worn as fascinators or brooches (three brooch pins are included in the kit), but could also be sewn onto your favourite handbag. Call 07790 421646 or see www.themercerie.net for more information.



Spring to life

We can't wait to cast on our first lightweight knit of the year, so we were delighted to see Stylecraft's brand new cotton and silk yarn, Malabar Aran. It costs £5.25 per 100g ball and is accompanied by lots of lovely patterns, such as this cardigan (9146) in the gorgeous Fuchsia colourway. Call 01535 609798 or go to www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk.



It's showtime!

Belinda Harris-Reid and Rachel Vowles invite you to p-LUSH, a new show championing the British design industry. It takes place at Ricoh Arena, Coventry, on 27-28 March, alongside British Alpaca Futurity's annual celebration of everything alpaca. If you can't make it to the event you can still get involved by buying a pair of special p-LUSH needles to help raise money for Target Ovarian Cancer. Call 01884 243579 or visit www.p-lush.co.uk.



NEAT & TIDY

The handy Lilly Brush helps you to remove pills and lint from delicate knitted garments – and we have three to give away, courtesy of Viridian! See page 73 to enter, using the code SKBRUSH130.

ON TREND Vivacious colour



Perk up grey days and welcome spring into your wardrobe with splashes of hand-dyed colour. The *Vivacious* collection from Fyberspates features ten easy-to-wear designs all knitted in the company's Vivacious yarn. Cast on the stylish Rum Raisin kimono jacket (left), which is perfect for pairing with your trustiest pair of jeans. Call 07540 656660 for stockists or visit www.fyberspates.co.uk.



WOOL WASHES

Splurge or save with these wool-safe detergents.



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www.wildcraft.co.uk



£5.99

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Wash, 1 litre bottle,
£5.99, 01539 488100.
www.lakeland.co.uk



£10.95

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0207 288 1160. [www.
loopknittingshop.com](http://www.loopknittingshop.com)



VET KIT KNITS

Animal charity SPANA's Big Knit for Vet Kit campaign needs you! Raise money to help working animals in developing countries by asking people to sponsor you to knit a critter. As well as a cute camel, horse and donkey to make, there's a new design for 2015, Oscar the ox. Order a free pattern by calling 0207 831 3999, or go to www.spana.org/knit.

PS

You can subscribe to *Simply Knitting* digitally from just £3.99. See myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/digital-magazines for more.



TICKET GIVEAWAY! We have 25 pairs of tickets to the Hobbycrafts show at the NEC in Birmingham on 19-22 March to give away. For a chance of winning see page 73 to enter, using code SKSHOW130.

Luscious lavender

Nestle these lavender sachets in your stash to help ward off moths and keep your yarn smelling sweet. They're beautifully handmade by Sarah Le Corre of Dolly What Not (www.dollywhatnot.co.uk) and we love this Cute Mushrooms design, available for £5.50 at Skein Queen, www.skeinqueen yarns.co.uk.



QUICK QUESTION

MARKERS

Q I just can't get on with stitch markers – if they're at the end of a row they come off the needle and try as I may I get them 'knitted in' during the course of the row – even the safety pin type! Is there a knack?

Audrey Warwick, Nottingham

A Take care not to pass the needle through the loop of the marker when working a stitch, and if the marker is quite dangly make sure that it always sits at the front of your work. Rubber markers are more flexible and may be easier to use. Rather than slipping the marker onto the needle you could try attaching it to a stitch instead – just hang the marker on the front 'leg'.



THE BEST OF THIS MONTH'S WORKSHOPS & SHOWS

5-8 MARCH Hobbycrafts show, SECC, Glasgow, 01425 277988 www.ichfevents.co.uk

11 MARCH Basic Intarsia, Liss, Hampshire, 01730 893941 www.lisswools.co.uk

14-15 MARCH Edinburgh Yarn Festival, Edinburgh Corn Exchange, Edinburgh www.edinyarnfest.com

20 MARCH Sweater Refashioning, Combe Martin, North Devon, 01271 883550 www.knitmoor.com

28 MARCH Advanced Finishing Techniques Masterclass, Ipswich, 01473 805208 www.jennywren yarns.co.uk

FIVE OF THE BEST...

BABIES' LAYETTES

Traditional sets for newborns.



LITTLE ONE

King Cole 2793, shawl with mitts, booties, jacket and more, made in any King Cole DK yarn. www.kingcole.co.uk, 01756 703670



BONNY BABY

Peter Pan P1069, beautiful set including coat and card, knitted in Peter Pan's 4 Ply yarn. www.tbramsden.co.uk, 01943 872264



IT'S A GIRL!

James C Brett JB004, babies' pram collection using Magi-Knit DK and Baby DK. www.jamescbrett.co.uk, 01274 565959



VICTORIANA

Stylecraft 4163, 4ply weight set with bonnet and shawl, perfect for special occasions. www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk, 01535 609798



WEE BUNDLE OF JOY

Sirdar 3908, DK blanket and coat with matching beret, mittens and booties. www.sirdar.co.uk, 01924 231682



5 MINUTES WITH...

FIONA GOBLE

This month we have a chat with Fiona Goble, the author of *Beanies and Bobble Hats*.

Favourite knitting technique?

My current favourite is double moss stitch – just like single moss stitch only you work the first row twice, then the second row twice. It looks fancy but is ever so easy.

Metal or wooden needles?

Neither. I love the old-fashioned coloured plastic needles. They make less of a clicky noise and I like the look of them. Also, you can usually find them for less than £1 a pair in charity shops.

Desert island yarn?

I think I'd have to take some very fine yarn, which I usually avoid. It would take longer to knit so would keep me busy, and I could knit lots of layered clothes to keep me warm at night.

Favourite yarn in your stash?

This is so tricky as there are so many beautiful yarns to choose from. One of my current favourites is Lion Brand Wool-Ease Thick & Quick. It's a brand named mega-chunky yarn so knits up really quickly. And I particularly love the pastels and neutral shades.

Biggest knitting ambition?

I keep meaning to have a go at a knitted version of one of those lovely stag heads you can hang on a wall. I'd need to give it a bit of thought though – it wouldn't be a quick project!

Read our review of Fiona's latest book in the Beautiful Books section, above. For more details visit www.cicobooks.co.uk.

BEAUTIFUL BOOKS



KNIT-A-BEAR

Val Pierce (GMC, £14.99)

This adorable book shows you how to knit teddies tailored to the people you love. There are 15 different designs to choose from, suitable for a range of skill levels, and as the bears are mostly similar sizes you can mix and match their outfits to make a gift that's truly personal. There's Mortimer in his graduation-day gown, Sunny the surfing panda, mummy bear Daisy with her cub Honey, and many more. Each bear is full of character, and the instructions to make them are concise and easy to follow. You'll have enough for a teddy bears' picnic in no time!



BEANIES AND BOBBLE HATS

Fiona Goble (CICO Books, £12.99)

There's a hat for everyone in this collection of 36 knits. The bobble hats, berets, beanies and headbands here are all suitable for adventurous beginners, and there's some Scandi colourwork and cables to stretch your skills. A fun, accessible book.



JERSEY YARN CREATIONS

Alexandre Callier-Taylor (Search Press, £7.99)

Jersey yarn, also known as T-shirt yarn, is made of recycled off-cuts from the fashion industry, and it's perfect for modern homewares. This book is aimed mostly at crocheters and features some funky and fashionable ideas.



KNIT YOUR OWN FARM

Sally Muir and Joanna Osborne (Pavilion, £12.99)

The latest book in the popular *Best in Show* series contains patterns for a whole farmyard – from sheep and pigs to a majestic Highland cow. With detailed photos, clear patterns and fun facts about each creature, this is a treat for animal fans.

5 SUPER TIPS ON...

STASH SORTING

1. Stock take

How much yarn do you really have? Grab all those skeins from around the house and find out!

2. Get organised

Use an online database such as Ravelry to catalogue your stash, or just create your own list.

3. Filing system

Sort the yarn by weight, colour or fibre – whichever makes it easiest to find what you need.

4. Do the maths

Weigh any partial skeins to see how much is left and make a note of it on the ball band.

5. Plan ahead

If you have a project in mind for a yarn, pop it in a bag along with the pattern and needles.



DENIM BLUE

We're always excited to see something different here at SK HQ. Rowan Original Denim yarn shrinks when first washed and the colour fades beautifully over time, just like your favourite jeans! In attractive denim-inspired shades, it's available in 50g/92m balls. Call 01484 681881 for more details or visit www.knitrowan.com.

YOUR FREE GIFT!

with your March issue...

SIMPLY CROCHET EDITS PATTERN BOOKLET



* Get six gorgeous accessories to crochet, in pretty springtime brights. There's a floral purse, shopping bag, a granny square cowl and more – see p103 for the patterns.

Beautifully soft acrylic yarn, from £2.49 per ball!

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SPARKLY JUMPER



WOMEN'S
JUMPER in
SIZES 8-20

SHIMMER

*From the picot neckline to the pretty patterning,
it's the little details that make **Pat Menchini's**
glittering sweater something truly special.*



YOU WILL NEED

- King Cole, Shine DK (97% acrylic, 3% polyester, 100g/282m)
- A pair of 3¼mm needles
- A pair of 4mm needles
- A 4mm circular needle, approx 60cm long
- 2 stitch holders

For yarn stockists contact
King Cole 01756 703670
www.kingcole.co.uk

TENSION

Yarn used knits as DK to this tension: 22 sts and 28 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 4mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 92



45 (48: 51: 53.5: 56: 59: 61.5)cm
17 3/4 (19: 20: 21: 22: 23 1/4: 24 1/4)in



This versatile, all-seasons sweater would look gorgeous dressed up or down – wear it with a pair of comfy chinos for the weekend, or a stylish fitted skirt for special occasions. The bands of eyelet patterning look impressive, but they're really easy to create, so if you've mastered the basic jumper and want something a little more complex, this is the project for you!



BACK

Cast on 97 (103: 109: 115: 121: 127: 133) sts using 3¼mm needles, taking care not to create a tight edge.

Row 1 (RS) K2, (P1, K1) to last st, K1.

Row 2 K1, (P1, K1) to end.

Rep the last 2 rib rows once, inc 1 st at end of last row.

[98 (104: 110: 116: 122: 128: 134) sts]

Change to 4mm circular needles and work 8 rows in st st beg with a RS row.

Begin to work in patt as folls:

Row 1 (RS) K1 wrapping yarn round needle twice, knit to end of row wrapping yarn round needle 3 times for every st.

Row 2 Purl, working once only into each st dropping off the extra loops as you go to create long stitches.

Row 3 K1, *(K1, yo, K1) into front of next 3 sts worked together; rep from * to last st, K1.

Work 11 rows in st st, beg with a WS row.

Rep the last 14 rows 4 times more, then rows 1–3 again.

Beg with a WS row, cont in st st until

work meas 41cm from beg, ending after a WS row.

SHAPE ARMHOLES

Cast off 6 (7: 8: 8: 9: 10: 10) sts at beg of next 2 rows.

[86 (90: 94: 100: 104: 108: 114) sts]

Dec 1 st at each end of next 5 (5: 5: 7: 7: 7: 9) rows, then on every foll alt row until 70 (74: 78: 82: 84: 88: 92) sts rem.

Cont straight until Back measures 58 (59: 59: 60: 61: 62: 63)cm, measured through centre of work, ending after a WS row.

SHAPE SHOULDERS

Cast off loosely 6 (6: 7: 7: 7: 8: 8) sts at beg of next 4 rows, then 5 (7: 6: 7: 8: 7: 8) sts at beg of next 2 rows.

[36 (36: 38: 40: 40: 42: 44) sts]

Leave rem sts on a stitch holder.

FRONT

Work as given for Back until Front measures 22 (22: 24: 24: 26: 26: 28) rows less than Back up to shoulder shaping, ending after a WS row.

SHAPE NECK

Next row Knit across 22 (24: 25: 26: 27: 28: 29) sts, turn.

Cont on these sts for left of neck.

Dec 1 st at neck edge on next 5 rows.

[17 (19: 20: 21: 22: 23: 24) sts]

Work 16 (16: 18: 18: 20: 20: 22) rows straight, ending at armhole edge.

SHAPE SHOULDER

Cast off loosely 6 (6: 7: 7: 7: 8: 8) sts at beg of next row and foll alt row.

Work 1 row.

Cast off.

SIZE		8	10	12	14	16	18	20
TO FIT	cm	81	86	91	97	102	107	112
	in	32	34	36	38	40	42	44
ACTUAL BUST	cm	90	96	102	107	112	118	123
	in	35 1/2	37 3/4	40	42	44 1/4	46 1/2	48 1/2
LENGTH	cm	58	59	59	60	61	62	63
	in	22 3/4	23	23 1/4	23 3/4	24 1/4	24 1/2	25
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	43	44	44	44	45	45	46
	in	17	17 1/2	17 1/2	17 1/2	17 3/4	17 3/4	18
YARN King Cole, Shine DK (100g/282m balls)								
Glacier (138)		4	4	5	5	5	6	6

To make this pattern easier to follow, we've colour-coded the sizing instructions – simply follow the relevant column.

SPARKLY JUMPER

With RS facing slip next 26 (26: 28: 30: 30: 32: 34) sts on a stitch holder or length of yarn and leave to work neckband later.
Rejoin yarn to rem 22 (24: 25: 26: 27: 28: 29) sts and knit to end of row.
Complete as left half, working 1 row more before shaping shoulder.

SLEEVES

Cast on 41 (41: 43: 43: 45: 45: 47) sts using 3¼mm needles.

Row 1 (RS) K2, (P1, K1) to last st, K1.

Row 2 K1, (P1, K1) to end.

Rep the last 2 rib rows once inc 1 st at each end of last row.

[43 (43: 45: 45: 47: 47: 49) sts]

Change to 4mm needles and beg with a knit row work in st st shaping sleeve by inc 1 st at each end of 5th row, then on every foll 8th (8th: 8th: 6th: 6th: 4th) row until there are 53 (53: 55: 63: 69: 67: 63) sts, then on every foll 10th (8th: 8th: 8th: 8th: 6th: 6th) row until there are 67 (71: 73: 77: 81: 85: 91) sts. Cont straight until sleeve measures 43 (44: 44: 44: 45: 45: 46)cm from beg, ending after a WS row.

SHAPE TOP

Cast off 6 (7: 8: 8: 9: 10: 10) sts at beg of next 2 rows.

[55 (57: 57: 61: 63: 65: 71) sts]

Work 0 (2: 4: 4: 4: 6: 4) rows straight.

Dec 1 st at each end of next row, then on every foll RS row until 29 (33: 33: 37: 37: 41: 45) sts rem, then on every row until 19 (23: 23: 27: 27: 31: 35) sts rem.

Cast off loosely.

NECKBAND

First join left shoulder. Using 3¼mm

needles, with RS facing, knit across 36 (36: 38: 40: 40: 42: 44) back neck sts, pick up and knit 20 (20: 22: 22: 23: 23: 25) sts evenly down left front neck, knit across centre 26 (26: 28: 30: 30: 32: 34) front sts, pick up and knit 21 (21: 23: 23: 24: 24: 26) sts evenly up right front edge.
[103 (103: 111: 115: 117: 121: 129) sts]
Beg with row 2 work 3 rows in rib as given for Back.

PICOT CAST OFF

Cast off as folls: Cast off 3 sts, *slip st on RH needle back onto LH needle and cast on 2 sts, cast off 5 sts, k2tog, now slip second st on RH needle over first st; rep from * until no sts rem.

TO MAKE UP

Join right shoulder and neckband. Sew in sleeve tops. Join side and sleeve seams. 



The jumper is worked mostly in stocking stitch with stripes of eyelet patterning.



Picots are formed by casting on a few new stitches for every stitch that is cast off.

NEXT MONTH

Add a sumptuous striped sweater to your wardrobe with our fab design. Issue 131, April, is on sale Friday 27 February.

STEP-BY-STEP HOW TO PICK UP STITCHES



1 Holding the piece of knitting you are going to pick the sts up from in your left hand, and starting at the top-right corner, insert the RH needle between the first two stitches of the row.



2 Wind your yarn around the needle and 'knit' the first stitch...



3 ...And pull the new stitch through between the two stitches.



4 Continue to work like this along the row or until you have picked up the necessary amount of stitches. Try to space your stitches evenly.

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patience goes into creating your
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POLAR BEAR

Make **Mary Henderson's** cabled bobble hat your go-to headwear for chilly days.

*Quick
&
Easy*

FOR EXTRA INSULATION, WORK
THIS HAT IN A YARN THAT'S
MADE OF 100% WOOL



Tip The tubular cast on is an ingenious technique that makes it look like the edge of an item is turned under. It's a lovely decorative touch, but the cast on also has a practical purpose – it's really stretchy and ideal for hats!



YOU WILL NEED

- Jamieson & Smith, Shetland Chunky (100% wool, 100g/120m) 2 balls of Kirm Mylk
- Approx 3m of waste cotton DK yarn for provisional cast on
- A 4.5mm crochet hook
- A set of 5mm DPNs (or circular needle, 60cm long)
- A set of 5½mm DPNs (or circular needle, 60cm long)
- Cable needle
- Tapestry needle
- 10cm diameter cardboard circles or 10cm diameter pom-pom maker

For yarn stockists contact
Jamieson & Smith
01595 693579 www.shetlandwoolbrokers.co.uk

TENSION

Yarn used knits as chunky to this tension: 27 sts and 19 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over patt (unstretched) using 5½mm needles

SIZE

45cm circumference – negative ease for a snug fit

ABBREVIATIONS

pfb purl into front and back of stitch
s2kpo slip 2, knit 1, pass 2 slipped sts over st just knitted

For a full list see page 92

Everyone needs a cabled bobble hat, right? So make it this one! It's a deliciously quick knit in chunky pure wool yarn, and would suit teens and adults alike. The attractive cable pattern is easy to follow – just ensure you have a row counter or pattern marker to keep track of your place in the chart. It's a great project for a rainy day!



TUBULAR CAST ON

1. Using crochet hook and waste cotton DK yarn, chain 46.
2. Using 5mm needles and main yarn pick up and knit 45 stitches along the chain bumps.
3. Starting with a purl row, work 3 rows in stocking stitch.
4. Remove the waste yarn and carefully pick up the live sts on a spare needle.
5. Fold the cast-on edge sts behind the working row, with WS facing. *K1tbl from front needle, P1tbl from back needle; rep from * to last stitch. [90 sts]

HAT CUFF

Join to work in the round, taking care not to twist sts. PM to denote beg of round.

Round 1 (K1tbl, P1tbl) to end of round. Repeat round 1 for a total of 27 rounds.

Increase round *(K1, P1) twice, kfb, (P1, K1) twice, pfb; rep from * to end. [108 sts]

Change to 5½mm needles and begin round 1 of asymmetric cable pattern.

Round 1 (K6, P3) to end.

Round 2 (K2, C4F, P3) to end.

Rounds 3–5 (K6, P3) to end.

Round 6 (K2, C4F, P3) to end.

Round 7 (K6, P3) to end.

Round 8 (C4B, K2, P3) to end.

Rounds 9–11 (K6, P3) to end.

Round 12 (C4B, K2, P3) to end.

Work rounds 1–12 once more.

DECREASE FOR CROWN

Decrease round 1 (K6, p2tog, P1) to end. [96 sts]

Decrease round 2 (K2tog, C4F, P2) to end. [84 sts]

Decrease round 3 (K5, p2tog) to end. [72 sts]

Decrease round 4 (K1, k2tog, K2, P1) to end. [60 sts]

Next round (C4F, P1) to end.

Next round (K4, P1) to end.

Decrease round 5 (K1, k2tog, K1, P1) to end. [48 sts]

Decrease round 6 (S2kpo, P1) to end. [24 sts]



After a few cm of knitting the hat you'll notice the cable pattern is asymmetrical.

Decrease round 7 (K2tog) to end.

[12 sts]

Next round Knit.

Decrease round 8 (S2kpo) to end.

[4 sts]

Cut yarn leaving a 15cm tail and pull through sts.

TO MAKE UP

Make a pom-pom using either 2 cardboard discs or pompom maker. Tie securely onto top of hat and weave in ends.

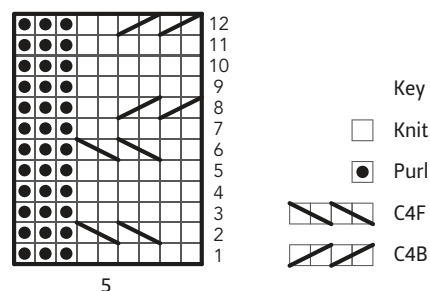
NEXT MONTH

Cosy up on chilly nights with a sweet, sheep-scene hot water bottle cover. Issue 131, April, is on sale Friday 27 February.

HOW TO USE OUR CHARTS

Start at the bottom right-hand corner. Read right side rows from right to left and wrong side rows from left to right. A row of squares represents a row of knitting.

Chart





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Stylecraft

Pattern: Stylecraft 8950 Yarn: Stylecraft Stars DK Chunky

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DRESSING UP

Kids will love wearing this comfy moss stitch tunic from **Debbie Bliss**.

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12 MONTHS TO
6 YEARS



CASHMÉRINO ARAN IS
A LUXURIOUS BLEND OF
FIBRES THAT IS EASY
TO CARE FOR TOO!



YOU WILL NEED

- Debbie Bliss, Cashmerino Aran (55% Merino wool, 33% acrylic, 12% cashmere, 50g/90m)
- A pair of 4mm needles
- A pair of 5mm needles
- Two buttons
- Stitch holders

For yarn stockists contact
Designer Yarns 01535 664222
www.designeryarns.uk.com

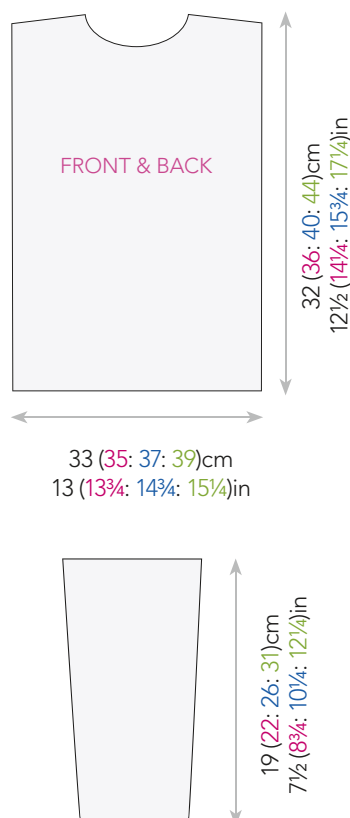
TENSION

Yarn used knits as aran to this tension: 18 sts and 36 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over moss st using 5mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS

y2rn wrap yarn round needle twice

For a full list see page 92



There's a reason why tunic tops are a kids' wardrobe staple – they are so practical! Wherever they wear it, the kids will be able to run and play while still looking presentable. This long-sleeved version is sure to see them through long days at the playground but it can also be dressed up with smart trousers. Plus it's loose-fitting and has rolled up cuffs – so you can knit it safe in the knowledge that they won't grow out of it overnight! And if that's not enough, this lush yarn is also machine washable and tumble dryer-safe so you don't have to worry about the pups getting mucky!



BACK

Cast on 59 (63: 67: 71) sts using 5mm needles and Yarn A.

Moss st row K1, (P1, K1) to end.

This row forms moss st.

Cont in moss st until Back measures 32 (36: 40: 44)cm from cast-on edge, ending with a WS row.

SHOULDER SHAPING

Cast off 4 sts at beg of next 6 rows and 4 (5: 6: 7) sts at beg of foll 2 rows.

Leave rem 27 (29: 31: 33) sts on a spare needle.

FRONT

Work as given for Back until Front measures 28 (32: 36: 40)cm from cast-on edge, ending with a WS row.

SHAPE FRONT NECK

Row 1 Moss st 21 (22: 23: 24) sts, turn and leave rem sts on a spare needle.

The two sides will now be worked separately.

Row 2 Patt to end.

Row 3 Patt to last 2 sts, work 2 tog.

Rep the last 2 rows 4 times more.

[16 (17: 18: 19) sts]

Work straight until Front measures the same as Back to shoulder, ending at armhole edge.

SHAPE LEFT SHOULDER

Cast off 4 sts at beg of next row and 2 foll right side rows.

Work 1 row.

Cast off rem 4 (5: 6: 7) sts.

With RS facing, slip centre 17 (19: 21: 23) sts onto a holder, rejoin yarn to rem sts, patt to end.

Row 2 Patt to last 2 sts, work 2 tog.

Row 3 Patt to end.

Rep the last 2 rows 4 times more.

[16 (17: 18: 19) sts]

Work straight until Front measures the same as Back to shoulder, ending at armhole edge.

SHAPE RIGHT SHOULDER

Cast off 4 sts at beg of next row and 2 foll WS rows.

Work 1 row.

Cast off rem 4 (5: 6: 7) sts.

SLEEVES (MAKE 2)

Cast on 35 (37: 41: 43) sts using 4mm needles and Yarn A.

Moss st row K1, (P1, K1) to end.

This row forms moss st.

SIZE		12-18 mths	1-2 yrs	3-4 yrs	5-6 yrs
TO FIT CHEST	cm	66	70	74	78
	in	26	27¼	29¼	31
ACTUAL CHEST	cm	66	70	74	78
	in	26	27½	29¼	30¾
LENGTH	cm	32	36	40	44
	in	12½	14½	15¾	17¼
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	19	22	26	31
	in	7½	8¾	10¼	12¼
YARN		Debbie Bliss, Cashmerino Aran (50g/90m balls)			
Yarn A Grey (09)		6	7	7	8
Yarn B Citrus (75)		2	2	2	2

To make this pattern easier to follow, we've colour-coded the sizing instructions – simply follow the relevant column.

GIRL'S TUNIC

Work a further 13 (13: 15: 15) rows.

Change to 5mm needles.

Inc, and work into moss st, one st at each end of 9th row and every foll 8th (8th: 10th: 10th) row until there are 47 (51: 55: 59) sts.

Cont straight until sleeve measures 19 (22: 26: 31)cm from cast-on edge, ending with a wrong side row.

Cast off.

NECK EDGING

Join right shoulder seam.

With RS facing, 4mm needles and Yarn B, pick up and K14 sts down left front neck, work K3 (4: 4: 5), skpo, K7 (7: 9: 9), k2tog, K3 (4: 4: 5) across 17 (19: 21: 23) sts from centre front holder, pick up and K14 sts up right front neck, work K6 (7: 7: 8), skpo, K11 (11: 13: 13), k2tog, K6 (7: 7: 8) across 27 (29: 31: 33) sts from back neck holder.

[68 (72: 76: 80) sts]

Knit 4 rows.

Cast off knitwise on WS.

POCKETS (MAKE 2)

Cast on 18 (18: 20: 20) sts using 5mm needles and Yarn C.

Beg with a K row, work 18 (20: 22: 24) rows in st st.

Change to 4mm needles.

Knit 4 rows.

Buttonhole row (RS) K7 (7: 8: 8), k2tog, y2rn, skpo, K7 (7: 8: 8).

Knit 4 rows.

Cast off knitwise on WS.

TO MAKE UP

Join left shoulder and neckband seam.

Matching the centre of the cast-off edge of each sleeve to each shoulder, sew on sleeves. Join side and sleeve seams. Sew on buttons and pockets, using image as a guide. 

NEXT MONTH

Knit your little one a colourful cardigan in pretty self-stripping yarn. Issue 131, April, is in the shops on Friday 27 February.



There's no ribbing needed on the sleeve cuffs because moss stitch doesn't curl.



The two pockets are knitted in stocking stitch, using a contrasting coloured yarn.



Simple and memorable moss stitch is worked all over the body of the tunic.



This pattern is one of 12 designs for babies and children in *Cashmerino Aran* by Debbie Bliss. For stockist details call 01535 664222 or visit www.designeryarns.uk.com.

STEP-BY-STEP SKPO SLIP 1, KNIT 1, PASS SLIPPED STITCH OVER



1 Insert the point of the right-hand needle into the next stitch as if you were to knit, but slip the stitch off and on to the right-hand needle.



2 Knit the next stitch as normal.



3 Now insert the left-hand needle into the slipped stitch on the right-hand needle and lift it over the knitted stitch.



4 Continue knitting until the end of the row. This decrease forms a slant which lies to the right.



CATS PROTECTION

KNIT 1 PURL FUN

You can get knitting to help unwanted moggies.

“Our cats love to play before snuggling up for a nap”



There's no restriction on the colours and patterns you can use for your mouse.



The cats and kittens love having toys to play with.



Cats Protection look after cats and kittens of all ages.

How cute are these little woolly mice? Only a fraction as cute as the cats they're knitted for! Crafty cat-lovers are being asked to help enrich the lives of abandoned cats and kittens by knitting mouse toys for Cats Protection.

While it's still chilly outside, the UK's largest cat charity, Cats Protection, reminds us that the kitties in their shelters need more than just the basics of warmth and nourishment to get them through the colder months – they need plenty of affection too.

“Cats and kittens come into our care for many reasons – some because their owner has died or circumstances have changed,” says Cats Protection's Events Manager Emma Osborne. “Sadly, many cats have been abandoned and found as strays, but whatever their reason for coming to us, we're constantly thinking of ways to make their time with us as comfortable as possible.”

Each year, the charity helps over 194,000 cats through its national network of more than 250 volunteer-run branches and 31 adoption centres. “Cats love to play before snuggling up for a nap, so the knitted mice give a little extra homely comfort to their pens.”

It's an imposing number of kitties to keep happy, and the charity is keen to ensure each cat in its care has a cheery time. “Our volunteers and staff are always looking for ways to make life comfortable and interesting for the cats in our care,” explains Emma. “The knitted mice have been a huge hit, but with between 5,000 and 6,000 cats in our care at any one time we always need more!”

You can get your paws on a pattern for the popular ‘Captain Cat-Battler’ mouse – originally designed by Lauren O'Farrell of www.whodunnitknit.com – by calling the charity's Helpline on 03000 121212.

Cats Protection advises that when knitting a toy it's best to avoid using stretchy yarns or small items such as plastic toy eyes that could injure a cat or kitten. There's no restriction on the colour, however, as you can see from the vibrant rodent family pictured.

“Just like cats, no two knitted mice are the same so we're looking forward to seeing how creative knitters can be with their colours and patterns,” Emma says. 

Written by Judy Darley
Donations can be dropped into any Cats Protection branches, shops or adoption centres. To find your nearest one visit www.cats.org.uk or call 03000 121212.



Emma Osborne is thrilled with the campaign's success so far.



Knitted toys make the centres feel like home for the cats.



Lauren O'Farrell designed the original mouse pattern.



7282



7278



7279



7280

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LAUREN O'FARRELL

LAUREN'S LOOP

A knitting activist's view on the crafty world.

“But can I take my knitting on the plane?”

We're finally starting to thaw out and spring has almost sprung. Now the feeling is back in your fingers and toes, you can pack away your woollies (goodbye for now, cosy handmades) and turn your thoughts to sunnier times. Holidays are on their way and there's only one question at the front of every knitter's brain. “Which knitting project am I taking with me and can I take it on the plane?”

Ask any herd of hand-makers about flying with knitting, and you'll get as many answers as there are airports and airlines. Do you risk it? Do you confess at the x-ray machine that you have pointy barbs of death in your bag but you promise not to use them for evil? Do you come up with sneaky ways to send your WIP skywards?

To help you out I turned to my lovely clan of hand-making friends on social media and untangled the best advice from the tales they told.

THE VOICES OF REASON

Woolly wisdom: Before you decide anything, the easiest thing to do is just ask. Get in touch with airport and

airline customer services and ask somebody. If they're mentioned on the website or you get an email reply print out the page so you can wave it at officious types.

Bits of trees over stabby metal: Take the least offensive needles you can find. Short-tipped wooden interchangeable, which you can camouflage in a pencil case while your knitting relaxes on the cord, are best. Wooden is a better option than metal and even plastic. Others have opted for chopsticks (total genius), actual pencils, hair pins, or a bit of finger-knitting if you're desperate. They can't take your fingers, right?

Other bits of kit: Scissors are out, but there are other ways to break yarn. If you can't spring for a thread cutter and you want to keep your teeth, dental floss boxes have the little snippy bit which is ideal. Nail clippers are handy (but check you're allowed these before packing). Plastic darning needles should be fine, and you can use yarn instead of stitch holders.

Be prepared: Even if you've checked and checked again, there may well be someone at security so terrified of

what the combination of you and two pointy sticks could do on a 747 with access to a free bar, that they may confiscate your needles anyway. The best plan here is to take a stamped self-addressed envelope, come back out of security, and post your precious pins home. Run a piece of yarn through your stitches before you arrive so you can whip your needles out without trouble, and tuck a spare pair into your suitcase so you can get stitching again on arrival.

Flinging fibre while flying: Once you're successfully on board don't get overexcited and whip out your wool as soon as you're seated. Everything needs to be stashed away for take off and landing, and your knitting is no exception. You've come this far, don't mess it all up now by waving your knitting about during the safety demonstration while cackling with glee at the hours of pleasant stitching you have before you.

Now fly, fly, my purling pretty! And may you and your woolly work have a wondrous holiday. 🧶

Read more about Lauren O'Farrell's exploits at www.whodunnkmit.com.



From left to right: Lauren takes the opportunity to knit in beautiful desert surroundings; each airline has different rules on taking your knitting in the cabin, so check before you travel to ensure you all arrive together at your destination!

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COWL-NECK JUMPER



PERFECT
FIRST JUMPER
PROJECT!

SHERBET

***Sarah Hatton's** simple stocking stitch sweater has comfy connected sleeves and a flattering loose neckline, making it a great choice for everyone.*



YOU WILL NEED

- Rowan, Fine Art Aran (50% wool, 25% alpaca, 20% mohair, 5% silk, 100g/170m)
 - A pair of 4mm needles
 - A pair of 4½mm needles
 - A 4½mm circular needle, 60cm long
 - 6 stitch holders
- For yarn stockists contact
Rowan 01484 681881
www.knitrowan.com

TENSION

Yarn used knits as aran to this tension: 19 sts and 25 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 4½mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS

w&t slip next st from LH to RH needle, take yarn to opposite side of work between needles, slip st back onto LH needle, turn work. When working back over wrapped sts, work the wrapping loop and the wrapped st tog as one st

For a full list see page 92

Stocking stitch is not only a cinch to knit, it's also the perfect blank canvas to let a special yarn shine.

We love how the colours in Rowan's hand-painted Fine Art Aran turn a simple jumper into something truly exceptional. With minimal finishing and a casual fit, even a beginner can dress to impress with this accessible design! Just don't overthink the shaping and you'll have a new jumper in no time.



BACK

Cast on 87 (99: 111: 117: 135) sts using 4mm needles.

Row 1 (RS) K3, *P3, K3; rep from * to end.

Row 2 P3, *K3, P3; rep from * to end. These 2 rows form rib.

Cont in rib for a further 28 rows, - (dec: dec: inc: dec) 0 (2: 2: 2: 2) sts evenly across last row and ending with RS facing for next row.

[87 (97: 109: 119: 133) sts]

Change to 4½mm needles.

Beg with a K row, work in st st until Back meas 35 (36: 37: 38: 39)cm, ending with RS facing for next row.

SHAPE FOR SLEEVES

Change to 4½mm circular needle.

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

[97 (107: 119: 129: 143) sts]

Cast on 17 sts at beg of next 2 rows, then 18 sts at beg of foll 2 rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

[167 (177: 189: 199: 213) sts]

Place markers at both ends of last row to denote base of sleeve openings.

Cont straight until Back meas 57 (59: 61:

63: 65)cm, ending with RS facing for next row.

*** SHAPE SHOULDER SEAMS

Beg to slip sts onto holders (one for Right Sleeve, and one for Left Sleeve) for overarm/shoulder seams as folls: Slip 10 (11: 11: 12) sts at each end of last row onto holders.

[147 (155: 167: 177: 189) sts]

Work 2 rows, then slip 10 (10: 11: 12: 13) sts at each end of last row onto holders. [127 (135: 145: 153: 163) sts]

**Work 2 rows, then slip 9 (10: 11: 12: 13) sts at each end of last row onto holders.

Rep from ** 3 times more. [56 (61: 66: 71: 77) sts on each holder and 55 (55: 57: 57: 59) sts still in work at centre]**

Break yarn and slip rem centre sts onto a third holder for back neck.

FRONT

Work as given for Back until 14 (14: 16: 16: 18) 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) K71 (76: 82: 87: 94) sts, w&t.

Next row Purl.

Next row K68 (73: 79: 84: 91) sts, w&t.

Next row Purl.

Next row K65 (70: 76: 81: 88) sts, w&t.

Next row Purl.

Next row K62 (67: 73: 78: 85) sts, w&t.

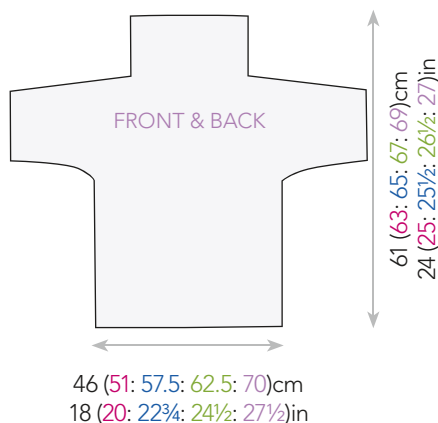
Next row Purl.

Next row K59 (64: 70: 75: 83) sts, w&t.

Next row Purl.

Next row K56 (61: 68: 73: 81) sts, w&t.

Next row Purl.



SIZE		S	M	L	XL	XXL
TO FIT	cm	81-86	91-97	102-107	112-117	122-127
BUST	in	32-34	36-38	40-42	44-46	48-50
ACTUAL BUST	cm	92	102	115	125	140
	in	36¼	40	45½	49¼	55
LENGTH	cm	61	63	65	67	69
	in	24	25	25½	26½	27
YARN	Rowan, Fine Art Aran (100g/170m balls)					
Azonto (552)		6	6	7	7	8

To make this pattern easier to follow, we've colour-coded the sizing instructions – simply follow the relevant column.

COWL-NECK JUMPER

SIZES L, XL AND XXL ONLY

Next row K- (-: 66: 71: 79) sts, w&t.

Next row Purl.

SIZE XXL ONLY

Next row K- (-: -: 77) sts, w&t.

Next row Purl.

ALL SIZES

Next row (RS) Knit.

Next row P71 (76: 82: 87: 94) sts, w&t.

Next row Knit.

Next row P68 (73: 79: 84: 91) sts, w&t.

Next row Knit.

Next row P65 (70: 76: 81: 88) sts, w&t.

Next row Knit.

Next row P62 (67: 73: 78: 85) sts, w&t.

Next row Knit.

Next row P59 (64: 70: 75: 83) sts, w&t.

Next row Knit.

Next row P56 (61: 68: 73: 81) sts, w&t.

Next row Knit.

SIZES L, XL AND XXL ONLY

Next row P- (-: 66: 71: 79) sts, w&t.

Next row Knit.

SIZE XXL ONLY

Next row P- (-: -: 77) sts, w&t.

Next row Knit.

ALL SIZES

Now working across all sts, work 1 row, ending with RS facing for next row.

Work from *** to *** as given for Back.

Break yarn and slip rem centre sts onto a 6th holder for front neck.

CLOSE SHOULDER SEAMS

Slip each set of 56 (61: 66: 71: 77) sts on holders onto separate 4½mm needles so that WS are together and points of needles face same direction. Graft right shoulder using Kitchener Stitch.

NECKBAND

With RS facing, using 4½mm needles, rejoin yarn and K across 55 (55: 57: 57: 59) sts on front holder, then K across 55 (55: 57: 57: 59) sts on back holder, inc 1 st at centre. [111 (111: 115: 115: 119) sts]

Beg with a P row, work in st st until neckband meas 15cm, ending with WS facing for next row.

Change to 4mm needles.

Row 1 (WS) P1, *K1, P1; rep from * to end.

Row 2 K1, *P1, K1; rep from * to end.

These 2 rows form rib.

Cont in rib for 1 more row, ending with RS facing for next row.

Cast off in rib.

Join left shoulder and neckband seam.

CUFFS (BOTH ALIKE)

With RS facing, using 4mm needles pick up and knit 69 (69: 75: 75: 81) sts evenly all round sleeve edge.

Beg row 2, work in rib as given for Back for 13 rows, ending with RS facing.

Cast off in rib.

TO MAKE UP

Sew side seams. Weave in all ends and block to measurements, following any special yarn care instructions given on ball band.



The construction of this jumper is simple, as the sleeves aren't worked separately.

NEXT MONTH

Update your spring wardrobe with a chic cabled pencil skirt. Issue 131, April, will be on sale from Friday 27 February.



This pattern is one of eight classic designs, perfect for everyone, from Rowan's *Simple Shapes Fine Art Aran*. For stockist details call 01484 681881 or visit www.knitrowan.com.

STEP-BY-STEP KITCHENER STITCH



1 Cut the yarn, leaving a long tail. Thread yarn purlwise through the first stitch at the front and knitwise through the first stitch at the back.



2 Back to the front. Pass through first stitch knitwise, then slip the stitch from the needle. Sew into the next front st purlwise, pulling the yarn through both stitches.



3 Take the sewing needle to the back needle and 'purl' a stitch, then slip that stitch from the needle. 'Knit' into the next stitch on the back needle.



4 Repeat steps 2-3 across until all the stitches have been grafted and weave the yarn in to finish off neatly.

Talking Points

Every letter printed here will win a Patons pattern and fab Millward needles from Coats Crafts. Don't forget to tell us where to send your prize!



Star letter

For a little while now I have been knitting large and small Rainbow Tortoises to help raise money for local charities and people in need, in and around Oxfordshire. I've been selling Rainbow the Tortoise as keyrings, cushions and baby gifts. They're often tried and tested by my friends and grandchildren and everybody loves them. I've also ticked a box on my 'One Day' list of writing a children's book about Rainbow the Tortoise searching for a pot of gold. The knitting pattern and other items can be purchased from www.rainbowthetortoise.co.uk with proceeds going to local charities.

Hazel Pattison, Wallingford

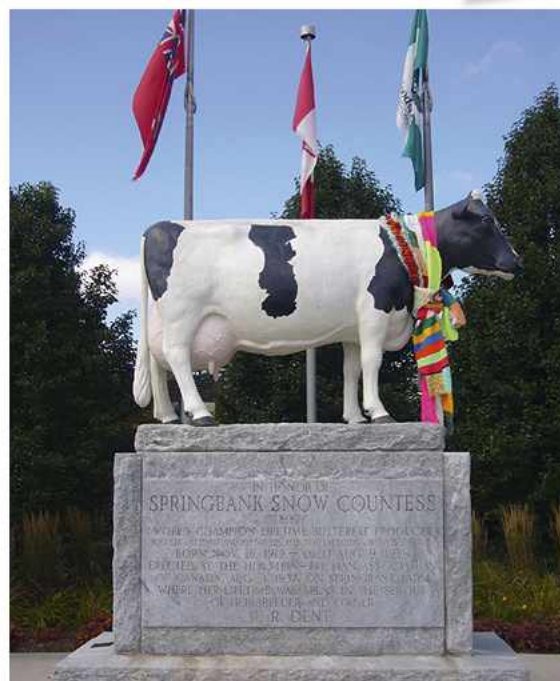
Your tortoises are so sweet, Hazel. What a fantastic way to raise some much-needed funds for charitable causes.



OUR LETTER OF THE MONTH WRITER WINS £50 WORTH OF KNITTING GOODIES FROM YEOMAN YARNS! With yarn for machine and hand knitting, in a range of different fibres and weights, there's lots to choose from. www.yeoman-yarns.co.uk, 01162 404464.



Help Hazel raise money for charity by buying a pattern or product online or at a stall.



Pat's bright yarn bombing is a fab reminder of the local show.

Knitters and Spinners decided to yarn storm the statue of Snow Countess in Woodstock (Ontario). We wanted to raise awareness of the fantastic one-day show, which is now in its sixth year, and will hopefully continue to wow spectators for many more to come.

Pat Menary, Ontario

That scarf is fantastic! What a lovely, colourful addition to an impressive (and very realistic) statue.

SK READER TIP

■ I've recently started knitting shawls like a thing possessed. They're a lot more tricky than scarves, but far less time consuming than garments – the perfect combo! Irene King, Whitley Bay

Amelie is delighted with her cat tunic, knitted by Anne.

AN IRRESISTIBLE REQUEST

My eight-year-old granddaughter Amelie was looking through issue 123, and she saw the pattern for the cute cat tunic. She said, "Grandma, I love this top. Would you please knit it for me?" Of course I did – who could resist a request from their delightful granddaughter? I think you'll all agree that she looks very pretty wearing it.

Anne Ransom, Stevenage

She looks very pretty indeed! What a lovely story, Anne, and a perfectly knitted tunic, too.

MOO-NIFICENT

In honour of the Woodstock Fleece Festival in Ontario, the Oxford

SOMETHING FOR HIM

My copy of *Simply Knitting* issue 123 was waiting for me when I got back from a week away and I instantly fell in love with the socks by Claire Devine. They're on my DPNs now.

I love the magazine and I've found quite a bit of inspiration for patterns for the men in my life – sometimes it can be very difficult to find sweaters for men, but not with a subscription to this magazine!

Barbara Bowman, Ontario

We're so pleased to hear that our men's patterns are an inspiration to you, Barbara. We'll make sure we keep them coming!





Joanne has caught the knitting bug and made some fab toys.

SUPERFAN

I'm a new subscriber to *Simply Knitting* and, I confess, Alan Dart is the main reason for my subscription. I wanted to share some of my Alan Dart projects with your readers. Triton and my April Fool Jester are from your magazine but Samuel Whiskers is one of Alan's older, out of copyright, patterns which I was fortunate to find at a car boot sale.

My granny taught me to crochet when I was eight years old and I've enjoyed many years of this lovely craft. I always wanted to knit but found it difficult having learned crochet first (something to do with one hook versus two needles). My mum eventually sat me down and got two needles to work for me, and I've been a knitting convert ever since! Knitting is much slower than crochet, as far as my results go, but much more satisfying, I'm finding. Alan Dart's patterns are my inspiration as I enjoy the shaping you can achieve with knitting – it can be like sculpture in wool!

Joanne Race, via email

Your toys are fabulous, Joanne, and so well knitted! We're thrilled to

hear that you've fallen in love with knitting – it's the best craft around!

RING BEAR-ER!

This is a photo of my daughter's elderly teddy bear, Ted, about to be the ring bearer at her wedding. He's dressed in 100% British wool, and will have the ring cushion from the 2011 Royal Wedding supplement on his knees. The pattern is from a '70s Patons book for knitted teddy bear costumes, and Ted's is from the wedding group. We hope it'll be a beary happy day!

Glynis Smith, Coulsdon

It's so lovely to see that your daughter's beloved teddy will be part of her special day. What a wonderful idea.

THANKS A BUNCH!

I want to thank you for my tickets to the Hobbycraft and Creative Stitching show at Glasgow SECC, which I won in one of your competitions. I invited my friend, also a keen knitter, and we had a lovely time poking around all the stalls. We picked up a few things there, including bracelet making →



Glynis knitted Ted a suit for her daughter's wedding.



Knitting around THE WORLD

Here I am, sharing a few ideas for my next knitting project with a Napoleonic soldier I happened to meet during a recent visit to Bratislava. I think he approves of my choice, don't you?

Kathie Griffiths, West Yorkshire



We'd love to see more pictures of you with *Simply Knitting* (or even just your knitting!) in foreign lands. The sender of every letter will receive a circular needle from Coats Crafts UK.



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GET MORE CHAT you can ALSO get in touch with us via FACEBOOK AND RAVELRY, AND you CAN TALK TO OTHER SIMPLY KNITTERS THERE TOO. IF YOU HAVE AN URGENT ENQUIRY THOUGH, IT'S ALWAYS BEST TO PHONE OR EMAIL US.



Hasn't Pamela done a fantastic job of knitting this Santa mobile?

kits, card making supplies, bobbins and, after a bit of resistance, some wool. A stash can never be too big!

Trisha Weir, via email

We're so thrilled to hear that the tickets were put to good use, and you had such a great day.

SUPER SANTA

I thought you may like to see my finished Santa and Sleigh. The second part of Alan Dart's pattern arrived through my letterbox the day after I finished knitting my ten reindeer. There are only nine in my finished mobile because my cat took



MY BEST IDEA

■ Keep safety pins in your purse. You never know when you might drop a stitch on the go!
 Denise Trowther, Castletown

This doorstop is Linda's return to knitting again. Welcome back!

a liking to them and ran off with one (which I still haven't found)! I used yarn from my stash so I substituted gold metallic yarn for the silver, black for the mobile ring and added some snowflake trim and beard to Santa. My sister loved her present. I've even been asked to make one for a friend – maybe the missing reindeer will turn up, so I'll only have to make eight more!

Pamela Leech, Berkshire

What a fab mobile, Pamela – you've done a great job. Well done.

WELCOME BACK!

I haven't done any knitting in ages, but decided to buy issue 125 of *Simply Knitting*. I bought the wool for the snowman doorstop, but realised I didn't have any double-pointed needles. I managed to adapt the pattern to work on two needles and what a fab result. I'm planning to make another one and I can't wait to start another project. Thank you for renewing my interest in knitting!

Linda Williams, via email

You're most welcome, Linda. Your doorstop is truly adorable.



Write to us!

We love hearing from our readers. If you'd like to get in touch, you can email us at simplyknitting@immediate.co.uk or write to us at 'Talking Points', *Simply Knitting*, Immediate Media, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.

When you include a photo, please make it as clear as possible, and take it somewhere with plenty of light so your knitting really looks its best. Please don't resize or edit the photo before sending it to us – we can make your pictures smaller here, but we can't make them larger, so if you make it too small we won't be able to use it.

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Pattern 9118



Pattern 9111



Pattern 9117

Alpaca chunky

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PETHEY THE PENGUIN

EXCLUSIVE
ALAN DART
DESIGN

Quick and easy to knit, **Alan Dart's** flippered friend will steal your heart.

USE THE YARN FROM
YOUR FREE KIT TO KNIT YOUR
VERY OWN PENGUIN PAL!



Tip There aren't too many pieces to this toy, so you can fly through the knitting. But make sure you pace yourself with the sewing. It's the seams, stuffing and embroidery that give the toy its character, so it's worth taking your time over it and making it perfect!



YOU WILL NEED

- Yarn from free kit OR Hayfield, Bonus DK (100% acrylic, 100g/280m) 1 ball of each: Black (965), White (961), Sunflower (978) and Signal Red (977)
- A pair of 3mm knitting needles
- 10g of washable toy stuffing
- Long tweezers

For yarn stockists contact
Sirdar 01924 231682
www.sirdar.co.uk

TENSION

Yarn used knits as DK to this tension: 26 sts and 36 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 3mm needles

MEASUREMENTS

14cm tall

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 92

Well, it's official. This is the cutest penguin we've ever seen! His friendly little wave and adorable hat have secured our affections for sure. So what are you waiting for? Make one yourself, and his sweet face will be an instant mood lifter every day of the week. This is a great project to choose if you're new to knitting toys. Although you have to pay close attention to each piece you knit, there are only a few of them, so you'll be done before you know it! That means you'll have plenty of time to make a whole colony of penguin cuties.



NOTE

Use 3mm needles throughout and cast on by using the cable (two needle) method. This is especially important when knitting the smaller pieces. Also begin all pieces with a K row, unless otherwise stated, and always work 'inc 1' by knitting into the front and back of the stitch.

K BODY FRONT (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 8 sts with White for neck edge and work in st st for 8 rows.

Inc row 1 (K1, inc 1) three times, K2. [11 sts]

Work in st st for 7 rows.

Inc row 2 K2, (inc 1, K2) to end. [14 sts]
Work in st st for 9 rows.

Dec row 1 K2, (k2tog, K1) to end. [10 sts]

P 1 row.

Dec row 2 K1, (k2tog) four times, K1. [6 sts]

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

BODY BACK (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 14 sts with Black for neck edge and work in st st for 8 rows.

Inc row 1 (K1, inc 1) six times, K2. [20 sts]

Work in st st for 7 rows.

Inc row 2 K2, (inc 1, K2) to end. [26 sts]
Work in st st for 5 rows.

WORK TAIL

Row 1 K18, yfwd, sl1, ybk, turn.

Row 2 Sl1, P10, ybk, sl1, yfwd, turn.

Row 3 Sl1, K8, yfwd, sl1, ybk, turn.

Row 4 Sl1, P6, ybk, sl1, yfwd, turn.

Row 5 Sl1, K4, yfwd, sl1, ybk, turn.

Row 6 Sl1, P2, ybk, sl1, yfwd, turn.

Row 7 Sl1, K3, yfwd, sl1, ybk, turn.

Row 8 Sl1, P4, ybk, sl1, yfwd, turn.

Row 9 Sl1, K6, yfwd, sl1, ybk, turn.

Row 10 Sl1, P8, ybk, sl1, yfwd, turn.

Row 11 Sl1, K10, yfwd, sl1, ybk, turn.

Row 12 Sl1, P12, ybk, sl1, yfwd, turn.

Row 13 Sl1, K to end.

Row 14 P across all sts. [26 sts]

Work in st st for 2 rows.

Dec row 1 K2, (k2tog, K1) to end. [18 sts]

P 1 row.

Dec row 2 K1, (k2tog) eight times, K1. [10 sts]

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

HEAD (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 9 sts with Black for back edge and work in st st for 2 rows.

Inc row 1 Inc into every st to end. [18 sts]

P 1 row.

Inc row 2 (K1, inc 1) eight times, K2. [26 sts]

Work in st st for 3 rows.

Inc row 3 K2, (inc 1, K2) to end. [34 sts]
Work in st st for 5 rows.

Dec row 1 K2, (k2tog, K2) to end. [26 sts]

P 1 row.

Dec row 2 K2, (k2tog, K1) to end. [18 sts]

P 1 row.



ALAN DART TOY

Change to Sunflower for beak and work in st st for 2 rows.

SHAPE BEAK

Dec row 1 (K3, skpo, k2tog, K1) twice, K2. [14 sts]

Work in st st for 3 rows.

Dec row 2 (K2, skpo, k2tog) twice, K2. [10 sts]

Work in st st for 3 rows.

Dec row 3 K1, (skpo, k2tog) twice, K1. [6 sts]

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

FEET (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 12 sts with Sunflower for front edge and work in st st for 6 rows.

Dec row 1 (K2tog, K2, skpo) twice. [8 sts]

Work in st st for 3 rows.

Dec row 2 (K2tog, skpo) twice. [4 sts]

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

WINGS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 6 sts with Black for top edge and work in st st for 4 rows.

Inc row (Inc 1, K1, inc 1) twice. [10 sts]
Work in st st for 7 rows.

Dec row (K2tog, K1, skpo) twice. [6 sts]

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

HAT (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 36 sts with Signal Red for base edge and K 1 row.

Change to White and continue in st st stripe pattern of 2 rows White, 2 rows Signal Red, beg with a P row.

Work in st st for 3 rows.

Dec row 1 (K2, k2tog, K2) to end. [30 sts]

Work in st st for 3 rows.

Dec row 2 (K2, k2tog, K1) to end. [24 sts]

Work in st st for 3 rows.

Dec row 3 (K1, k2tog, K1) to end. [18 sts]

Work in st st for 3 rows.

Dec row 4 (K1, k2tog) to end. [12 sts]
Work in st st for 3 rows.

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row.

Work in st st for 3 rows.

Repeat the last 4 rows three more times. [4 sts]

WORK BOBBLE

Inc row 1 Continue in Signal Red and inc into every st to end. [8 sts]

Inc row 2 (Inc 1, K1) to end. [12 sts]
Work in st st for 4 rows, beg with a P row.

Dec row (P2tog) to end. [6 sts]

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

Unless otherwise stated, sew seams and join pieces using mattress stitch, working with right side of knitting uppermost. A one-stitch knitted seam turning has been allowed on most pieces to accommodate this method. Join front and back body pieces together, leaving neck edges open. Stuff firmly and put to one side. Starting at gathered front edge, join beak and head seam, stopping 2cm away from back edge. Use tweezers to stuff beak first, then stuff head and join remainder of seam. Work a gathering thread through every stitch along back



The bobble is worked as part of the hat and then stuffed to make it plump.

edge, draw up tightly and fasten off. With a length of Sunflower yarn, work a gathering thread through every stitch along first knitted row of beak, draw up slightly to shape, then tie off ends securely and sew into head. With head seam running along underside, position head on top of body and sew open neck edge of body to head, fitting between second increase row and first decrease row on head. When embroidering eyes, fasten off ends of yarn at top of head, where these ends will eventually be covered by hat. Mark eye positions with pins, placing 3 knitted rows up from beak and spacing 2.5cm apart. Draw out a single strand from a length of White yarn and use this to embroider a circle

STEP-BY-STEP INC 1 INCREASE 1 BY KNITTING INTO FRONT AND BACK



1 Insert the tip of the right-hand needle into the front of the stitch and knit as normal, but don't drop it from the left-hand needle.



2 Then take the right-hand needle behind the left and insert the tip of the needle down through the back of the stitch on the left-hand needle.



3 Wrap the yarn round the tip of the right-hand needle to knit the stitch. Bring the needle through to make the stitch, keeping it on the right-hand needle.



4 Take the stitch off the left-hand needle. You will have increased one stitch by knitting twice into the original stitch, first at the front, then at the back.

Tip Not only is this toy the perfect size for little ones, it's also perfectly safe too! There are no pipe cleaners, straws or any other plastic parts to Petey, so you can make him just the way he is, happy in the knowledge that there's nothing to choke on or swallow.

of 10 tiny chain stitches for each eye, leaving a black dot in centre and taking care when drawing yarn through work as fibres can easily separate. Fold each foot in half and, starting at gathered back edge, oversew side edges together. Use tweezers and a very small amount of stuffing to pad foot lightly, then fold cast-on edge in half and oversew across. Treating oversewn seam as outer edge, position and pin feet vertically to base of body front, spacing 5 knitted stitches apart, checking that penguin sits correctly. Sew in place with a few stitches, worked close to folded inner edge of each foot, and remove pins. Fold each wing in half and, starting at gathered edge, oversew side edges together. With folded edge facing forward, position and sew top edge of each wing to side of body, placing directly below neck seam. Starting at gathered edge of bobble, and treating purl side as right side, join bobble seam and use tweezers to stuff firmly, then join remainder of hat seam. With seam at centre back, fit hat on head and pin in position, then work backstitch over every stitch along cast-on edge and remove pins. 🧶

NEXT MONTH

Get in the mood for spring with the super sweet Little Bo Sheep. Issue 131, April, will be on sale from Friday 27 February.



it's nice
on the ice!

IT'S ALL IN THE DETAIL



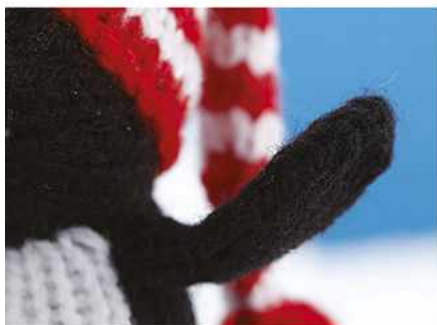
Sew the hat onto the head really carefully as the stitches will be very visible!



You only need a small amount of stuffing for each foot to give them the right shape.



Mattress stitch is perfect for invisible seams on small pieces, like the beak.



You can position the wings however you like, but we love Petey's jaunty wave.



Clever short row shaping in the body creates the iconic stumpy penguin tail.



Reverse st st gives the bobble its texture and makes it look like a tiny pom-pom.

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UPPER
STREET
EVENTS

 twistedthread

Knit and Natter in Solihull



This issue, our club of the month wins a fabulous goodie bag of knitting products worth £50, courtesy of LoveKnitting. For more info visit www.loveknitting.com.



Knit And natter, Solihull

"YOU CAN NEVER HAVE too much of a good thing," says Patricia Lyons – which is why she not only attends a crafting group in one of the department stores in Solihull and another in a local village, but has also started one of her own!

"After retiring in August 2013 I had it in the back of my mind to start a knitting group in our local area," says Patricia. "A discussion with friends at church led to me taking the decision and starting a group in our local church centre."

The group is quite small, but Patricia says that this has been an advantage. "It's enabled two ladies to join us and to develop their confidence in getting out of the house and joining in an activity," she explains. "Indeed, one of them has said it's good to have somewhere to meet in a welcoming atmosphere and that it enables her to get out and about. The other was delighted to be able to help at our stall at the Christmas Bazaar as she'd never done anything

like it before. She thoroughly enjoyed the experience."

All of the ladies enjoy being part of a companionable group who support one another. "It's the sort of group where it doesn't matter if you can knit or not as there's always someone to help," says one member. "It's a chance to make new friends and to meet different people."

Patricia had already knitted for charity for several years before starting the group, and was thrilled when a chance meeting led to a contact from

a local church. "To my delight I discovered that I'd taught with this lady's husband many years ago, so we had a link. It meant we could help people and that we had a ready-made outlet for any knitting our group did."

So far they've focused on making blankets, jackets and bonnets for premature babies, which are taken to hospitals in Birmingham. "I also knit trauma teddies," says Patricia, "and was very pleased to hear that some of mine had gone to Africa with a church member

Out & about

Great things to see and do in and around Solihull.

A collage done by the group's local Girls' Brigade shows Solihull in a different light.



GREAT DAYS OUT

SOLIHULL

Solihull is a lively West Midlands town that has its own Arts Complex, a sports centre including an athletics track and several parks. It's popular with shoppers, with its department stores and soon-to-be-expanded Touchwood shopping centre. It's also conveniently situated for travel into Birmingham and to other places of interest, including National Trust properties. Find out more at www.visitbirmingham.com.



MANOR HOUSE

For 500 years Baddesley Clinton was home to the Ferrers family, and now this beautiful property, with its stunning stained-glass coats of arms, is open to the public. For info call 01564 783294 or see www.nationaltrust.org.uk.



The modern Touchwood mall is located in the town centre. Above: Solihull in bloom.



THE KNITTERS HAVE BEEN BUSY THIS FESTIVE SEASON!



THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR STALL LOADED WITH GOODIES



A COLOURFUL COLLECTION OF THE GROUP'S KNITTING

and had been recognised in photos of the visit by their smiley faces. In October we had a very rewarding event when the lady in question visited and talked about the need for such items."

The group also had fun knitting novelty items for the church Christmas Bazaar, including 30 small Christmas stockings requested by the pre-school group that meets in the same building. And their infectious enthusiasm has even led to yet another club being founded! "The daughter of one of our ladies accompanied her mother to a meeting and

decided to have a go at knitting baby clothes," says Patricia.

"She had never knitted before and has now set up her own group in Manchester."

The members of Knit and Natter have big plans for 2015. "In future we hope to welcome new members and to advertise more widely, maybe involving some of the pupils from the local junior school as well," says Patricia. Their most pressing aim, though, is to continue knitting for charity and to make items for Easter—possibly with a view to holding a craft fair in the spring. We think that's a wonderful idea!

The Knit and Natter group meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at St Stephen's Church Centre, Solihull, West Midlands. To get in touch with the group for more information and to find out how to join, please contact Patricia Lyons by phone on 01217 043554 or send an email to patricial57@hotmail.com.

If your knitting group would like to be featured as our club of the month, write to the usual address on page 34 or email us at simplyknitting@immediate.co.uk.

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YOUR CLUBS

■ Knit and Natter meet every Tuesday from 1.30-3.30pm at Hilda Haarhoff Knitwear, Earlswood, Solihull. Email info@hildaknitwear.co.uk for more information.

■ The Knit and Natter group at Sitting Knitting meet from 10am-12pm on Fridays and 7-9pm every other Thursday at Stable Gallery, Sutton Coldfield. Visit www.facebook.com/SittingKnitting for details.

■ Knit and Natter gather every Thursday from 11am-12pm at Great Barr Library, Great Barr, Birmingham. Contact Jacqueline_Hawkins@sandwell.gov.uk for more.

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knit & stitch it 15

27th February-1st March 2015

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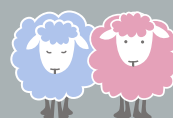
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IN THE FRAME

Keep your yarn close at hand with this pretty storage solution. By **Sarah Dennis**.

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intermediate
project!



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THE COLLECTION



YOU WILL NEED

- Hayfield, Aran With Wool (80% acrylic, 20% wool, 100g/210m)
3 balls of Softmint (741)
- A pair of 4½mm needles
- A 4.5mm crochet hook
- Cable needle
- Tapestry needle
- Scrap yarn in contrasting colour and similar weight (for provisional cast on)
- Stitch markers or safety pins
- 1 button (optional)
- Craft bag frame measuring 28x28cm, opening gusset measuring 22x15cm

For yarn stockists contact

Sirdar 01924 231682

www.sirdar.co.uk

TENSION

Yarn used knits as aran to this tension: 29 sts and 26 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) using 4½mm needles over central cable pattern, and 17 sts and 24 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) using 4½mm needles over st st

ABBREVIATIONS

C4B Sl next 2 sts onto cn and hold at back of work, K2, then K2 from cn

C4F Sl next 2 sts onto cn and hold at front of work, K2, then K2 from cn

C8B Sl next 4 sts onto cn and hold at back of work, K4, then K4 from cn

T3B Sl next st onto cn and hold at back of work, K2, then P1 from cn

T3F Sl next 2 sts onto cn and hold at front of work, P1, then K2 from cn

T4B Sl next 2 sts onto cn and hold at back of work, K2, then P2 from cn

T4F Sl next 2 sts onto cn and hold at front of work, P2, then K2 from cn

For a full list see page 92

Being organised for a knitting project can be tricky, even when you're at home! Make things easier with a delightful project bag that can stand beside you while you knit so you know that all the yarn, needles and instructions you need are in one place. With lots of cables and interesting construction, it will be fun to knit too!



PROVISIONAL CAST ON

Make a slip knot and place it on the crochet hook. Hold the crochet hook in your right hand and the knitting needle in your left hand. Position the crochet hook over the knitting needle and carry the working yarn underneath the needle then over the crochet hook. *Use the hook to pull the working yarn through the loop on the hook. Move the working yarn back underneath the knitting needle then over the hook. Repeat from * until the required number of sts has been cast on. Cut the yarn and pass the tail loosely through the loop on the hook, then tie a knot in the end of the yarn – this is the end you will use to begin unravelling the provisional cast on later.

NOTES

When assembling the knitting over the frame of the knitting basket, it might be helpful to tie the handles in position approximately 20cm apart so that it stands up.

If the basket frame has a metal loop closure, you can stitch a button loosely to the opposite side of the frame to keep the top of the basket closed when required.

K KNITTING BASKET GUSSET

Cast on 27 sts using 4½mm needles. Knit 4 rows.

Row 1 Knit.

Row 2 Purl.

Rep last 2 rows until gusset measures 68cm from cast-on edge, ending with a row 2.

Knit 4 rows.

Cast off.

CABLED PANEL

Cast on 68 sts using 4.5mm crochet hook and contrast yarn using the provisional cast on method (see above). Knit one row with contrast yarn. Join in main yarn and work throughout

in this yarn.

Row 1 (P2, K8) twice, P2, (K2, P3) twice, C4B (P3, K2) twice, P2, (K8, P2) twice.

Row 2 (K2, P8) twice, K2, (P2, K3) twice, P4, (K3, P2) twice, K2, (P8, K2) twice.

Row 3 (P2, K8) twice, P2, K2, P3, T3F, T4B, T4F, T3B, P3, K2, P2, (K8, P2) twice.

Row 4 (K2, P8) twice, K2, P2, K4, (P4, K4) twice, P2, K2, (P8, K2) twice.

Row 5 (P2, C8B) twice, P2, T3F, P3, C4F, P4, C4F, P3, T3B, P2, (C8B, P2) twice.

Row 6 (K2, P8) twice, K3, P2, K3, P4, K4, P4, K3, P2, K3, (P8, K2) twice.

Row 7 (P2, K8) twice, P3, T3F, (T4B, T4F) twice, T3B, P3, (K8, P2) twice.

Row 8 (K2, P8) twice, K4, P4, (K4, P4) twice, K4, (P8, K2) twice.

Row 9 (P2, K8) twice, P4, C4B, (P4, C4B) twice, P4, (K8, P2) twice.

Row 10 As row 8.

Row 11 (P2, K8) twice, P3, T3B, (T4F, T4B) twice, T3F, P3, (K8, P2) twice.

Row 12 As row 6.

Row 13 (P2, C8B) twice, P2, T3B, P3, C4F, P4, C4F, P3, T3F, P2, (C8B, P2) twice.

Row 14 As row 4.

Row 15 (P2, K8) twice, P2, K2, P3, T3B, T4F, T4B, T3F, P3, K2, P2, (K8, P2) twice.

Row 16 (K2, P8) twice, K2, (P2, K3) twice, P4, (K3, P2) twice, K2, (P8, K2) twice.

Rows 1–16 form cable pattern. Repeat these rows a further 9 times (10 patt repeats in total).

HEMS

***Next row** Inc in every st. [136 sts]

With RS facing you, use a tapestry needle and a length of contrast yarn and thread it through the front of the 1st, 3rd, 5th, etc sts.

Use a second length of contrast yarn and thread it through the back of the 2nd, 4th, 6th, etc sts.

Slide the 4½mm needle out of these sts, then with the right side of the work facing you, reinsert it through the odd numbered sts, from right to left. You should now have 68 sts on this needle, with WS facing you and the main yarn ready to work these sts.

Starting with a knit row, work 5 rows in st st. Break main yarn leaving a long tail and leave these sts on a spare 4½mm needle.

With RS facing you, reinsert the 4½mm

Tip This is quite a complicated pattern, with specific making up instructions, so when you come to it, don't rush! Mark and pin the pieces carefully and be sure it matches the diagram before you start sewing. That way you're sure to have great success.

needle into the even numbered sts, from left to right. You should now have 68 sts on this needle, with RS facing you. Rejoin the yarn and work from ** to ** once more.*

Starting at the knotted end, unravel the provisional cast on, and place the sts onto a 4½mm needle. Unravel the row knitted with the contrast yarn. You should now have 68 sts on the needle, with RS facing you. Rejoin the yarn and work from * to *.

TO MAKE UP

Lay the cable panel RS down. Place st markers on each side 24cm from the live sts (see diagram).

Lay the gusset RS down centrally across the cable panel. Place st markers on each side 22cm from cast-on and cast-off edges (see diagram).

The st markers on the two pieces should align when the knitting is slightly stretched.

Where the two pieces meet, sew one side together carefully, ensuring that the stitches are not visible from the right side of the work.

Open out the frame of the basket and place it over the knitting so that the cabled panel will form the main sides of the basket. Place the gusset over the base of the frame and carefully stitch the other side of the gusset to the cabled panel. The cabled piece should be under the frame and the gusset piece over the base of the frame so that the frame is encased within it.

For each end of the cabled panel, hold two needles with live sts so that the two parts of the short knitted hems fall either side of the wooden bar that forms the top of the basket, with the long length of yarn hanging from the back sts at the right and the two needles parallel. Now use Kitchener st to secure the knitting around the wooden bar as follows:

Put needle purlwise into first st on front needle and pull yarn through.
Put needle knitwise into first st on back needle and pull yarn through.

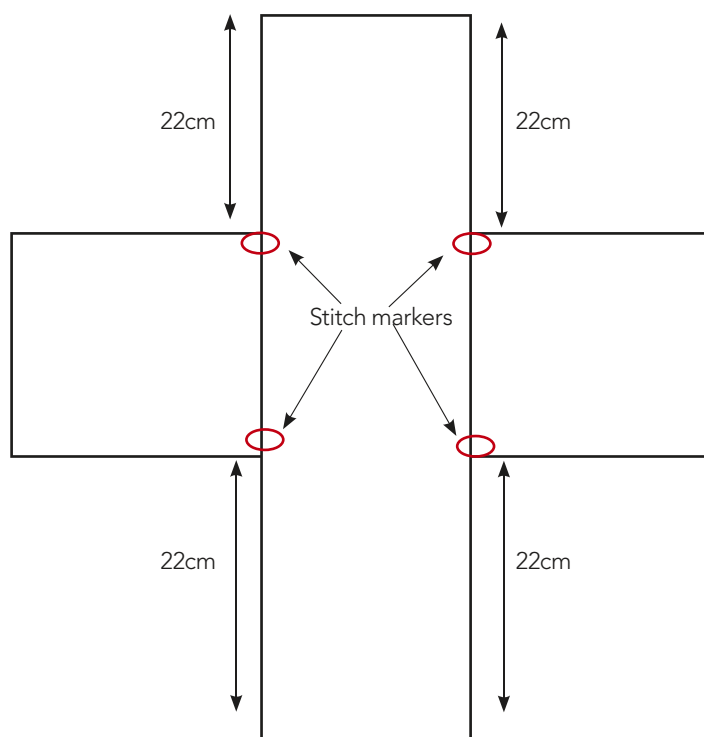
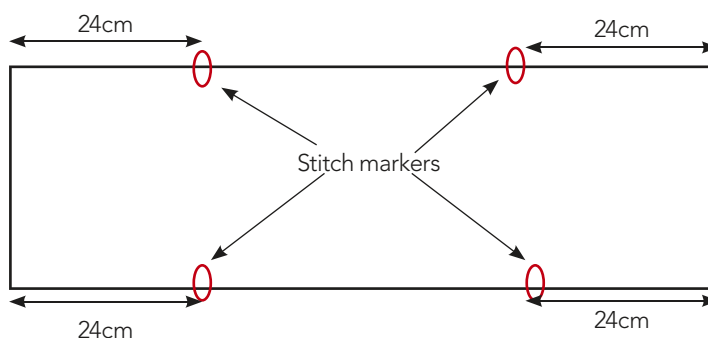
*Put needle knitwise into first st on front needle and slip st off knitting needle.

Put needle purlwise into next st on front needle and pull yarn through.
Put needle purlwise into first st on back needle and slip st off knitting needle.
Put needle knitwise into next st on back needle and pull yarn through.
Rep from * until all sts have been grafted.

Use mattress st to sew up the sides of the basket. 



The key to these intricate cables is simple – just pay close attention to the pattern!



SHIPSHAPE

Lost haberdashery will be a thing of the past with these bags. By **Sarah Dennis**.

Whip up A
couple this
weekend!

you could colour
co-ordinate your BAGS
FOR the DIFFERENT things you
want to store in them



Tip These bags are a great opportunity to try out some new lace stitches. Since the finished object doesn't have to fit anyone or anything, it doesn't matter if you make the odd blunder in the knitting, and you can just focus on learning a new technique.



YOU WILL NEED

- Hayfield, Aran With Wool (80% acrylic, 20% wool, 100g/210m) 1 ball of each:
Yarn A Softmint (741)
Yarn B Ivory Aran (962)
 - A pair of 4½mm needles
- For yarn stockists contact
Sirdar 01924 231682
www.sirdar.co.uk

TENSION

Yarn used knits as aran to this tension: 18 sts and 26 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) using 4½mm needles over eyelet patt
Yarn used knits as aran to this tension: 17 sts and 24 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) using 4½mm needles over textured patt

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 92

Craft rooms always seem to collect odd bits and bobs, don't they? Items that are super useful and you want to keep track of, but that don't really belong anywhere. Well, a couple of bags in these lacy or textured designs could be just the answer you've been searching for! Whatever you end up storing in them, you'll wonder how you ever managed without them.



K EYELET BAG

Cast on 69 sts using 4½mm needles and Yarn B.

Row 1 Knit.

Rep row 1 twice more.

Next row *K1, inc in next st; rep from * to last st, K1. [103 sts]

Row 1 K1, *yfwd, k2tog, K2; rep from * to last 2 sts, yfwd, k2tog.

Row 2 Purl.

Row 3 K3, *yfwd, k2tog, K2; rep from * to last 4 sts, yfwd, k2tog, K2.

Row 4 Purl.

Rows 1–4 form eyelet pattern. Repeat these rows a further 11 times, ending with a row 3 of patt.

Next row P1, *p2tog, P2; rep from * to last 2 sts, p2tog. [77 sts]

Next row K3, *yfwd, k2tog, K1; rep from * to last 2 sts, K2.

Next row P1, *p2tog, P1; rep from * to last st, P1. [52 sts]

Next row K1, *yfwd, k2tog; rep from * to last st, K1.

Next row P1, *p2tog; rep from * to last st, P1. [25 sts]

Next row *K2tog; rep from * to last st, K1. [12 sts]

Next row *P2tog; rep from * to end of row. [6 sts]

Break yarn, thread through last 6 sts and pull tight. Sew up seam.

HANDLES (MAKE 2)

Cast on 50 sts using 4½mm needles and Yarn B.

Row 1 Knit.

Rep row 1 once more.

Cast off.

Stitch handles to top edge of bag.

TEXTURED BAG

Cast on 69 sts using 4½mm needles and Yarn A.

Row 1 Knit.

Rep row 1 twice more.

Next row *K1, inc in next st; rep from * to last 2 sts, K2. [102 sts]

Row 1 K1, yfwd, *yo, p2tog; rep from * to last st, K1.

Row 1 forms patt. Repeat until work



This pretty eyelet design is easy to knit with regular pairs of yfwd and k2tog.



Read the pattern carefully to keep track of this slightly trickier textured pattern.

measures 21cm from cast-on edge.

Next row K1, yfwd, *yo, (p2tog) twice; rep from * to last st, K1. [77 sts]

Next row K1, yfwd, *yo, p2tog; rep from * to last 2 sts, P1, K1.

Next row K1, yfwd, *yo, (p2tog) twice; rep from * to last 4 sts, yo, p2tog, P1, K1. [59 sts]

Next row K1, yfwd, *yo, (p2tog) twice; rep from * to last 2 sts, P1, K1. [45 sts]

Next row K1, *p2tog; rep from * to end of row. [23 sts]

Next row K1, *p2tog; rep from * to end of row. [13 sts]

Next row K1, *p2tog; rep from * to end of row. [7 sts]

Break yarn, thread through last 7 sts and pull tight. Sew up seam.

HANDLES (MAKE 2)

Cast on 50 sts using 4½mm needles and Yarn A.

Row 1 Knit.

Rep row 1 once more.

Cast off.

Stitch handles to top edge of bag.

THE COLLECTION



YOU WILL NEED

- Hayfield, Aran With Wool (80% acrylic, 20% wool, 100g/210m) 1 ball of each:
Yarn A Softmint (741)
Yarn B Ivory Aran (962)
- A pair of 4½mm needles
- Stuffing

For yarn stockists contact
Sirdar 01924 231682
www.sirdar.co.uk

TENSION

Yarn used knits as aran to this tension: 17 sts and 26 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 4½mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 92



A LOTTA LOVE

Teeny tiny and so adorable, these cushions will prove to be invaluable. By Sarah Dennis.

HOW TO USE OUR CHARTS

Start at the bottom right-hand corner. Read right side rows from right to left and wrong side rows from left to right. A row of squares represents a row of knitting.



Working intarsia requires bobbins of each colour, instead of stranding at the back.

Whether you use them as pin cushions or lavender sachets, these little lovelies will look fab in your craft room. Mix up each square by changing around the colour combinations and swapping the hearts for a plain stocking stitch version. You could even make lots of squares and sew them together for a cushion cover or blanket! No matter what you decide to do with your finished pieces, you are sure to enjoy the ease of knitting them.



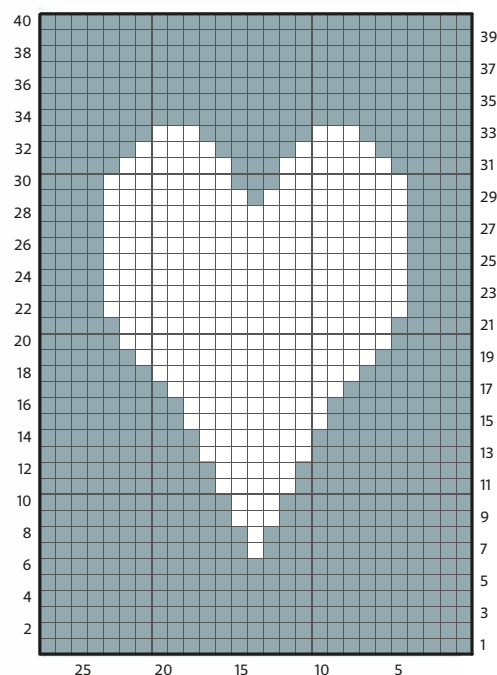
K MINI PILLOW (MAKE 2)

Cast on 27 sts using 4½mm needles and yarn of choice.
Work 40 rows from Chart in st st, joining in the second colour where indicated.
Cast off.

TO MAKE UP

Sew the two pillow pieces together on 3 sides. Stuff to desired firmness, sew up remaining side seam.

Chart



Key

- Yarn A
- Yarn B

A SOFT TWIST

Spruce up plain jars and pots with these lovely covers. By **Sarah Dennis**.

GREAT
STASHBUSTING
PROJECT

THESE WRAPS ARE EASILY
ADJUSTABLE TO FIT ANY SIZE
OF POT OR JAR PERFECTLY



THE COLLECTION



YOU WILL NEED

- Hayfield, Aran With Wool (80% acrylic, 20% wool, 100g/210m)
- 1 ball of Softmint (741)
- A pair of 4½mm needles
- A 4.5mm crochet hook
- Cable needle
- Tapestry needle
- Several short (2m) lengths of scrap yarn in contrasting colour and similar weight (for provisional cast on)
- Jam jar (approx 22cm circumference)
- Large jar (approx 35cm circumference)

For yarn stockists contact
Sirdar 01924 231682
www.sirdar.co.uk

TENSION

Yarn used knits as aran to this tension: 17 sts and 26 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) using 4½mm needles over st st (allow 2 extra sts for cable)

SIZE

Small cover 24cm circumference
Large cover 37cm circumference

ABBREVIATIONS

C4B Sl next 2 sts onto cn and hold at back of work, K2, then K2 from cn
C4F Sl next 2 sts onto cn and hold at front of work, K2, then K2 from cn
C8B Sl next 4 sts onto cn and hold at back of work, K4, then K4 from cn
T3B Sl next st onto cn and hold at back of work, K2, then P1 from cn
T3F Sl next 2 sts onto cn and hold at front of work, P1, then K2 from cn
T4B Sl next 2 sts onto cn and hold at back of work, K2, then P2 from cn
T4F Sl next 2 sts onto cn and hold at front of work, P2, then K2 from cn

For a full list see page 92

These beautiful wraps are easily adjusted to fit jars of any circumference – just ensure that the knitting fits around the jar when slightly stretched, and end the knitting one row before the final pattern row (the final pattern row will be worked during the grafting process). Simple!



PROVISIONAL CAST ON

Make a slip knot using scrap yarn and place it on the crochet hook. Hold the crochet hook in your right hand and the knitting needle in your left hand. Position the crochet hook over the knitting needle and carry the working yarn underneath the needle then over the crochet hook. *Use the hook to pull the working yarn through the loop on the hook. Move the working yarn back underneath the knitting needle then over the hook. Repeat from * until the required number of sts has been cast on. Cut the yarn and pass the tail loosely through the loop on the hook, then tie a knot in the end of the yarn – this is the end you will use to begin unravelling the provisional cast on later.

KITCHENER STITCH

To graft the ends together using Kitchener stitch for a completely seamless finish, you need to adjust the method based upon the current stitch type you are grafting and the type of stitch that follows it. For these wraps there are four variations:

Put needle purlwise into first st on front needle and pull yarn through.
Put needle knitwise into first st on back needle and pull yarn through.

Where a K st is followed by a K st:

- Step 1** Put needle knitwise into 1st st on front needle and sl st off needle.
- Step 2** Put needle purlwise into next st on front needle and pull yarn through.
- Step 3** Put needle purlwise into 1st st on back needle and sl st off needle.
- Step 4** Put needle knitwise into next st on back needle and pull yarn through.

Where a K st is followed by a P st:

- Step 1** Put needle knitwise into 1st st on front needle and sl st off needle.
- Step 2** Put needle knitwise into next st on front needle and pull yarn through.
- Step 3** Put needle purlwise into 1st st on back needle and sl st off needle.
- Step 4** Put needle purlwise into next st on back needle and pull yarn through.



If you're new to cables, these small-scale projects offer a great chance to learn.



A solid-colour yarn is the best choice to show off these intricate-looking twists.

Where a P st is followed by a P st:

- Step 1** Put needle purlwise into 1st st on front needle and sl st off needle.
- Step 2** Put needle knitwise into next st on front needle and pull yarn through.
- Step 3** Put needle knitwise into 1st st on back needle and sl st off needle.
- Step 4** Put needle purlwise into next st on back needle and pull yarn through.

Where a P st is followed by a K st:

- Step 1** Put needle purlwise into 1st st on front needle and sl st off needle.
- Step 2** Put needle purlwise into next st on front needle and pull yarn through.
- Step 3** Put needle purlwise into 1st st on back needle and sl st off needle.
- Step 4** Put needle knitwise into 1st st on back needle and pull through.

K CABLED JAM JAR WRAP

Cast on 18 sts using 4.5mm crochet hook and contrast yarn using the provisional cast on method (see above). Join in main yarn and work throughout in this yarn.

Row 1 K3, P2, K8, P2, K3.

Row 2 K5, P8, K5.

Row 3 As row 1.

Row 4 As row 2.

Row 5 K3, P2, C8B, P2, K3.

Row 6 As row 2.

Row 7 As row 1.

Row 8 K5, P8, K5.

Rows 1–8 form cable pattern. Repeat these rows a further 7 times, ending with a row 7 of patt.

Starting at the knotted end, unravel the provisional cast on, and place the sts onto a 4½mm needle. Fold the knitting in half and hold the two needles parallel, with the last row worked at the back and the unpicked cast on at the front, the working yarn should be hanging down at the right on the back needle. Break yarn leaving a long length (1m) and use Kitchener st to graft the two sets of sts together (see instructions above).

Fasten off.

LARGE CABLED JAR WRAP

Cast on 34 sts using 4.5mm crochet hook and contrast yarn using the provisional cast on method (see above). Join in main yarn and work throughout in this yarn.

Row 1 K3, P2, (K2, P3) twice, C4B, (P3, K2) twice, P2, K3.

Row 2 K5, (P2, K3) twice, P4, (K3, P2) twice, K5.

Row 3 K3, P2, K2, P3, T3F, T4B, T4F, T3B, P3, K2, P2, K3.

Row 4 K5, P2, K4, (P4, K4) twice, P2, K5.

Row 5 K3, P2, T3F, P3, C4F, P4, C4F, P3, T3B, P2, K3.

Row 6 K6, P2, K3, P4, K4, P4, K3, P2, K6.

Row 7 K3, P3, T3F, (T4B, T4F) twice, T3B, P3, K3.

Row 8 K7, P4, (K4, P4) twice, K7.

Row 9 K3, P4, C4B, (P4, C4B) twice, P4, K3.

Row 10 As row 8.

Row 11 K3, P3, T3B, (T4F, T4B) twice, T3F, P3, K3.

Row 12 As row 6.

Row 13 K3, P2, T3B, P3, C4F, P4, C4F, P3, T3F, P2, K3.

Row 14 As row 4.

Row 15 K3, P2, K2, P3, T3B, T4F, T4B, T3F, P3, K2, P2, K3.

Row 16 K5, (P2, K3) twice, P4, (K3, P2) twice, K5.

Rows 1–16 form cable pattern. Repeat these rows a further 5 times, ending with a row 15 of patt.

Starting at the knotted end, unravel the provisional cast on, and place the sts onto a 4½mm needle. Fold the knitting in half and hold the two needles parallel, with the last row worked at the back and the unpicked cast on at the

front, the working yarn should be hanging down at the right on the back needle. Break yarn leaving a long length (1m) and use Kitchener st to graft the two sets of sts together (see instructions above).

Fasten off.

**NEXT
MONTH**

Get ready for Easter with our beautiful and fun seasonal collection. Issue 131, April, is in the shops from Friday 27 February.

IT'S ALL IN THE DETAIL

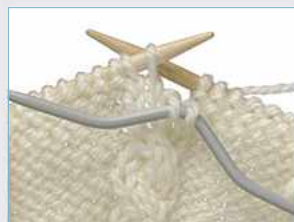


For picture-perfect results, take care to keep your tension even when you're working the cables. If you pull too tight or make them too loose they could become distorted.

STEP-BY-STEP C4F CABLE 4 FRONT



1 Work up to where the cable pattern starts, then take the yarn to the back of the knitting.



2 Slip the first 2 stitches knitwise on to a cable needle. Hold these stitches at the front of the knitting.



3 Knit the next 2 stitches from the left-hand needle, then slide the stitches on the cable needle to the end of the needle and knit them on to the right-hand needle.



4 Bring the yarn to the front of your knitting, and pull the yarn tight to avoid ladders along the side of the cable. Purl the next stitch and continue in the pattern.

WOOLLY HAT

Join the flock and knit yourself this fun
Shaun the Sheep hat by **Kirstie McLeod**.

EXCLUSIVE
SHAUN THE
SHEEP DESIGN



ONLY IN CINEMAS FEB 6

SHAUN'S EYES AND EARS
ARE KNITTED SEPARATELY
AND THEN SEWN ONTO
THE FINISHED HAT



STUDIOCANAL

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JOIN THE
FLOCK

#SHAUNTHESHEEPMOVIE
WWW.SHAUNTHESHEEP.COM

Tip Use a large pompom maker to create Shaun's top knot, or make your own template using two pieces of stiff card. Make sure you sew the pompom on firmly and weave the darning yarn securely inside the hat so that your finished pompom stays in place.



YOU WILL NEED

■ DROPS, Alaska (100% wool, 50g/70m) 1 ball of each:
Yarn A Off White (02)
Yarn B Black (06)

■ DROPS, Alpaca Boucle (80% alpaca, 15% wool, 5% polyamide, 50g/140m) 1 ball of Yarn C Off White (0100)

■ A pair of 4½mm needles
■ A pair of 5mm needles
■ Stitch markers

For yarn stockists contact
Wool Warehouse 01926 882818
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

TENSION

Yarn used knits as aran to this tension: 22 sts and 25 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 5mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS

P2togtbl purl 2 sts together through the back loop
slm slip marker

For a full list see page 92

Kirstie McLeod designed this adorable Shaun hat to celebrate the launch of the new film *Shaun the Sheep the Movie*, in cinemas from February 6. We think it's baa-rilant!



HAT

Cast on 103 stitches using 4½mm needles and Yarn A.

Row 1 K1, (P1, K1) to end of row.

Row 2 P1, (K1, P1) to end of row. Continue to work in K1, P1 rib as set for 7 more rows.

Change to 5mm needles.

Starting with a knit row, work 2 rows in stocking stitch.

Next row K34 sts, PM, start working from row 1 of Chart A, PM, knit to end.

Next row P34 sts, slm, start working from row 2 of Chart A, slm, purl to end. Continue working as set from Chart A until you have worked row 25.

NOTE Two sets of decreases take place in Shaun's face. You will not need to add any shaping to his face as it will be created with these decreases.

Continuing to work colours as set (Yarn A either side of marker, Yarn B in between markers), work as follows:

Next row K1, (K15, k2tog) to the end of the row. [97 sts]

Next row Purl.

Next row K1, (K14, k2tog) to the end of the row. [91 sts]

Next row Purl.

Next row K1, (K13, k2tog) to the end of the row. [85 sts]

Continue to decrease 6 stitches every alt row as set until you have 43 sts.

Next row (P2tog, P5) to last st, P1. [37 sts]

Next row K1, (K4, k2tog) to end of row. [31 sts]

Next row (P2tog, P3) to last st, P1. [25 sts]

Next row K1, (K2, k2tog) to end of row. [19 sts]

Cast off.

EYES (MAKE 2)

Cast on 5 sts using Yarn A and 4½mm needles.

Work from Chart B, increasing each end of every row where indicated until you have 11 sts. Work 4 rows straight and then decrease every row until you have 5 sts. **Cast off.**

EARS

Cast on 3 sts using 4½mm needles and Yarn B.

Row 1 Purl.

Row 2 Kfb, K1, kfb. [5 sts]

Row 3 Purl.

Row 4 K1, kfb, K1, kfb, K1. [7 sts]

Starting with a purl row, work in st st for 30cm, ending on a purl row.

Next row K1, k2tog, K1, k2tog, K1. [5 sts]

Next row Purl.

Next row K2tog, K1, k2tog. [3 sts]

Cast off.

TO MAKE UP

With RS facing join the side seam of the hat. Sew the eyes in place. Attach the ears to the top of the hat. Make a large pompom using Yarn C and attach to the hat over the ears. 🧶

NEXT MONTH MAKE A SHAUN MUG HUG. ISSUE 131, APRIL, IS IN THE SHOPS ON FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY.

STEP-BY-STEP KFB INCREASE 1 BY KNITTING INTO FRONT AND BACK



1 Insert the tip of the right-hand needle into the front of the stitch and knit as normal, but don't drop it from the left-hand needle.



2 Then take the right-hand needle behind the left and insert the tip of the needle down through the back of the stitch on the left-hand needle.



3 Wrap the yarn round the tip of the right-hand needle to knit the stitch. Bring the needle through to make the stitch, keeping it on the right-hand needle.



4 Take the stitch off the left-hand needle. You will have increased one stitch by knitting twice into the original stitch, first at the front, then at the back.

SHAUN THE SHEEP HAT

Chart A

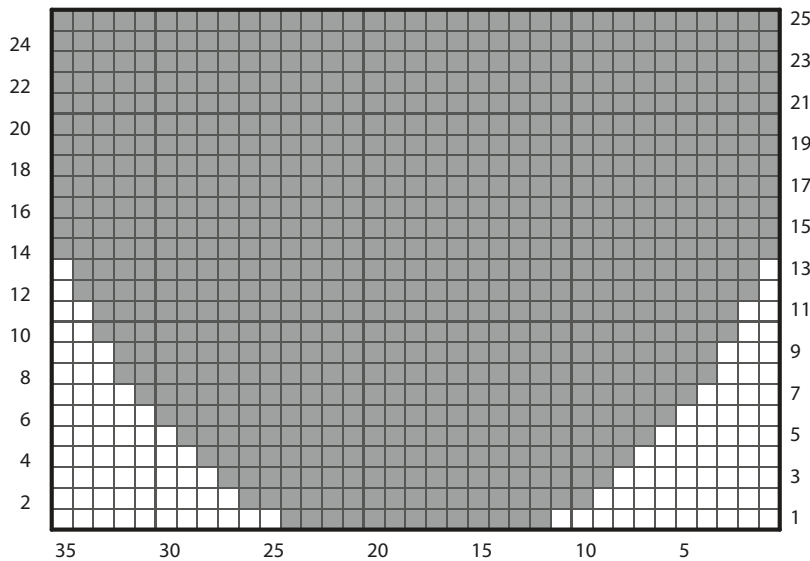
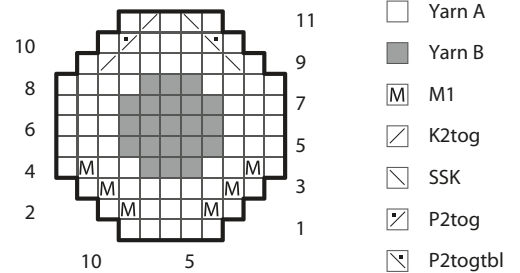


Chart B



HOW TO USE OUR CHARTS

Start at the bottom right-hand corner. Read right side rows from right to left and wrong side rows from left to right. A row of squares represents a row of knitting.

Shaun the Sheep MOVIE

ONLY IN CINEMAS FEB 6

Join Shaun and the Flock on a thrilling adventure!



WIN A BAA-RILLIANT WEEKEND AWAY!

To help you spring into action this February, we're also giving you the chance to win a baa-rilliant weekend away with Best Western GB. All you have to do is send us a photo of you wearing your handmade Shaun hat. For further details of the competition and to find out how you can enter, visit www.simplyknitting.co.uk.



Hotels with personality

FIND OUT MORE

WHAT IS SHAUN UP TO?

In his very first flock-buster, Shaun the Sheep's mischief inadvertently leads to the Farmer being taken away to the Big City in his caravan. Shaun, Bitzer and the Flock make the dramatic decision to leave the farm and rescue the Farmer themselves... setting the stage for an epic adventure. Join the flock and watch the trailer today at www.sh aunthesheep.com.



FLOCK TO IT!

Get involved in the fun at www.sh aunthesheep.com. Meet and bleat Shaun and his friends, discover top knot-ch games to play, enter competitions to win prizes, and stay up to date with all the latest news on the movie.



FAIR ISLE JUMPER



HAVE A
GO AT SIMPLE
COLOURWORK

ROSEWATER

*Get in touch with your feminine side in
Linda Parkhouse's sweet and elegant
sweater – perfect for chilly spring days.*

Tip If you are new to Fair Isle knitting, it's all too easy to pull your yarn really tight, and in doing so, change your tension and distort the knitted fabric. So remember to relax and when you change colours, make sure your floats stay loose at the back of the work.



YOU WILL NEED

- Sublime, Egyptian Cotton DK (100% cotton, 50g/105m)

NOTE sample garment was worked in Sublime, Lustrous Extrafine Merino DK, which has now been discontinued. The yarn we have suggested above is suitable, though the colours may vary slightly from the photographs

- A pair of 3 3/4mm needles
- A pair of 4mm needles
- Stitch holders

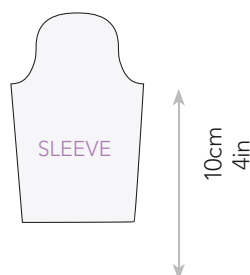
For yarn stockists contact
Sublime 01924 369666
www.sublimeyarns.com

TENSION

Yarn used knits as DK to this tension: 23 sts and 28 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 4mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 92



Fresh and feminine, this Fair Isle jumper will be a gorgeous addition to your wardrobe. The short sleeves will be really handy as the days start to get warmer – but until then, you can layer it on top of long-sleeved tees and shirts. With a pretty colourwork motif across the back and front, this top is practically perfect in every way.



NOTE Weave in yarns across back of work when working patterned bands to prevent gaps forming.

BACK

Cast on 102 (106: 114: 118: 122) sts with 3 3/4mm needles and Yarn A, and work in rib as follows:

Row 1 *K2, P2; rep from * to last 2 sts, K2.

Row 2 *P2, K2; rep from * to last 2 sts, P2.

Rep these 2 rows to form rib until piece measures 6cm from beg, ending with a WS row and inc 5 (7: 5: 7: 9) sts evenly across this last row.

[107 (113: 119: 125: 131) sts]

Change to 4mm needles and, starting with a knit row, work straight in st st until piece measures 32 (32.5: 33: 33.5: 34)cm from beg, ending with a WS row.

Beginning on stitch 2 (7: 4: 1: 6) of Chart, work in patt using the Fair Isle technique, rep central 16-st patt 6 (7: 7:

7: 8) times across row, ending on stitch 28 (23: 26: 29: 24).

Work 6 rows straight in patt from Chart as set until piece measures 34 (34.5: 35: 35.5: 36)cm from beg, ending with a WS row.

SHAPE ARMHOLES

Keeping patt correct, cast off 4 (5: 6: 7: 8) sts at beg of next 4 rows, then cast off 2 sts at beg of next 2 rows.
[87 (89: 91: 93: 95) sts]

Now dec 1 st at each end of next and every foll alt row 6 times until 75 (77: 79: 81: 83) sts rem, ending with a WS row, AT THE SAME TIME, when row 16 of Chart has been worked, change back to Yarn A and work in st st.**

Work straight in st st in Yarn A only as set on these rem sts until Back measures 53 (54: 55: 56: 57)cm from beg, ending with a WS row.

SHAPE SHOULDERS

Cast off 6 sts at beg of next 2 rows and 7 sts at beg of foll 2 rows. Leave rem 49 (51: 53: 55: 57) sts on stitch holder.

FRONT

Work as given for Back to **.

Work straight in st st as set on these rem 75 (77: 79: 81: 83) sts until Front measures 46.5 (47: 47.5: 48: 48.5)cm from beg, ending with a WS row.

SIZE		8-10	12-14	16-18	20-22	24-26
TO FIT	cm	81	86	91	96	101
	in	32	34	36	38	40
ACTUAL BUST	cm	93	98	103	108	113
	in	36 1/2	38 1/2	40 1/2	42 3/4	44 1/2
LENGTH	cm	55	56	57	58	59
	in	21 1/2	22	22 1/2	22 3/4	22 3/4
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	10	10	10	10	10
	in	4	4	4	4	4
YARN		Sublime, Egyptian Cotton DK (50g/105m balls)				
Yarn A Bud Pink (323)		7	8	9	10	11
Yarn B Smudge (354)		1	1	2	2	3
Yarn C Safflower (327)		1	1	1	1	2
Yarn D Dotty (331)		1	1	1	1	1
Yarn E Hope (352)		1	1	1	1	1

To make this pattern easier to follow, we've colour-coded the sizing instructions – simply follow the relevant column.

FAIR ISLE JUMPER

SHAPE FRONT NECK

Next row K26 and turn, leaving rem sts on a stitch holder.

Cast off 4 sts at beg of next and foll alt row, 3 sts at start of foll alt row and then 2 sts at beg of next alt row. [13 sts]

Work straight in st st as set on these rem 13 sts until Front matches Back to shoulder, ending WS row as for Back.

SHAPE SHOULDER

Cast off as given for Back shoulder.

Return to sts on spare needle. With RS facing, rejoin yarn to neck edge of rem sts, K across next 23 (25: 27: 29: 31) sts and leave on spare needle, then knit to end. Now work as for first side on rem 26 sts, reversing all shapings.

SLEEVES

Cast on 62 (62: 66: 66: 70) sts with 3¼mm needles and Yarn A and work in rib as given for Back and Front for 4cm from beg, ending with a WS row and inc 3 (5: 3: 5: 3) sts evenly across this last row. [65 (67: 69: 71: 73) sts]

Change to 4mm needles and, starting with a knit row, work in st st in Yarn A only as given for Back and Front, and inc 1 st at each end of every foll row 3 until 75 (77: 79: 81: 83) sts are on needle, working extra sts in st st. Work straight in st st on these sts until sleeve measures 10cm from beg, ending with a WS row.

SHAPE SLEEVE HEAD

Cast off 4 (5: 6: 6: 6) sts at beg of next 2 rows, then dec 1 st at each end of next and every foll alt row until 35 sts rem.

Cast off 2 sts at beg of next 2 rows and 3 sts at start of foll 2 rows.

Cast off rem 25 sts.

NECKBAND

Block pieces to size but do not press. Join right shoulder seam. With RS of work facing, using 3¼mm needles and Yarn A, pick up and knit 29 (29: 31: 31: 33) sts from left front neck edge, then knit across 23 (25: 27: 29: 31) sts from stitch holder at front neck edge, then pick up and knit 29 (29: 31: 31: 33) sts from left front neck edge, then knit across 49 (51: 53: 55: 57) sts from spare pin at back neck edge.

[130 (134: 142: 146: 154) sts]

K 1 row then change to rib as given for Front and Back and work straight for 3cm, ending with a WS row.

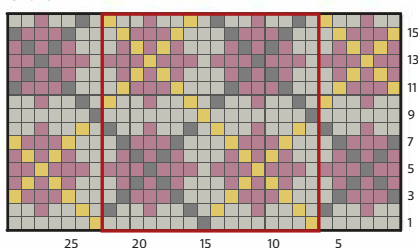
Cast off in rib.

TO MAKE UP

Weave in all loose ends. Join rem shoulder seam, cont across neckband. Sew sleeves to body then join side and sleeve seams. 

NEXT MONTH ADD SOME COLOUR TO YOUR WARDROBE WITH A VIBRANT RED JUMPER. ISSUE 131, APRIL, IS ON SALE FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY.

Chart



 Yarn B
  Yarn D
  Pattern Repeat
  Yarn C
  Yarn E

HOW TO USE OUR CHARTS

Start at the bottom right-hand corner. Read right side rows from right to left and wrong side rows from left to right. A row of squares represents a row of knitting.



The Fair Isle motif is worked on the front and back, but the sleeves are plain.



Remember to twist your yarns together on the WS to keep your floats tidy.

STEP-BY-STEP HOW TO KNIT FAIR ISLE



1 This is what happens to the yarn that you carry over on the wrong side. Work a stitch in the first colour as usual. To change colour, twist the two yarns together before working the next stitch.



2 Work the next stitch in the new colour as normal. When working alternating stitches of two colours, try and keep an even tension and do not pull the yarn too tight.



3 Change back to the original colour, not forgetting to twist the two yarns together before you work the stitch.



4 A completed row shows the yarn 'floats' carried across the back of the work. If the floats of one colour always stay above the other colour, your work will look more even.



RISE OF THE MACHINES

*Want a career in fashion design?
Learning to use a knitting machine
may be a vital part of your skillset.*

You may recall that a few issues ago we explored the pros and cons of using knitting machines. It raised some controversy in the office, but we all agreed that when it comes to high street and catwalk fashion, machines are essential to keep knitwear available to the masses, and put it in the public eye!

Sue Enticknap and Richard Dykes of Knit-1 and Knit Design Courses have been providing machine knitting training since 2008, after becoming aware of a worrying trend. "I believed that there was a need to teach practical machine knitting skills as increasingly we saw less and less actual knitting in the final portfolios of students, graduates and working designers who approached us for internships and employment," Richard explains.

Zoe Miller is a knitting tutor at Bath Spa University. "Like many BA textile courses, we offer a wide range of textile disciplines for our students to explore, which reflects

the broad range of sectors in the textile industry," she says. Zoe points out that machine knitting is a key component of the fashion world. "Machine knitting has been a staple of the fashion industry both historically and in the contemporary age," she comments. "I think the number of textile degrees offering machine knitting modules is a key indicator that it's at the core of the fashion industry. Knitting has seen a key resurgence in the last ten years both on the catwalk and as a craft."

This makes it an exciting time to get stuck into machine knitting, not least due to the array of possibilities it can lead students to.

"Job potential can be quite wide-ranging for our graduates – from setting up as a designer/maker to working as a freelance designer producing swatches or as an in-house designer," Zoe says.

Applicants to Knit-1's machine knitting courses come from a variety of backgrounds too. "Mostly they're people already working in the

fashion industry or people running (or wanting to set up) a related business," says Richard. "Some are senior designers who are quite inexperienced when it comes to practical machine knitting, but can see that learning these skills will be of benefit to them in their working practices with their manufacturers. We also have people wanting to enliven their portfolio or CV with creative and real designs."

After the Knit-1 course, many participants have gone on to work with such high-profile companies as Anthropologie, Reebok, Jean Paul Gaultier, Nike, Stella McCartney and Massimo Dutti, to name but a few.

THE TOOLS AT HAND

While we're more accustomed to Silver Viscount's knitting machines in the UK, Kingston University London has a few other models for students to work with. "We're the only educational establishment in the country to house a Japanese Shima machine, which opens up



Clockwise from top left: part of Polly Clarkson's final collection; Ceri Belshaw's crop top; Khanh Nguyen's sweater; a funky design by Sue Enticknap; Nicole Fulmer, Sue Enticknap and Richard Dykes at the Knit-1 studio; Mayumi Ito's knitted outfit.

ALL OTHER PHOTOGRAPHS © KNIT DESIGN COURSES

more options for stitches, intarsia, and jacquard," says associate professor Sam Elliott. "We also house flatbed dubied machines and domestic knitting machines."

However, she adds that "it's important for students to understand knitting before they can design with the stitches and constructions" – so learning to hand knit is an essential stage of the process. Sam is adamant that without knowing what happens when yarn and needles come together, the students will have no hope of getting the full potential from their designs, or from the Shima machine. For many students on the degree courses, this is their first experience of hand-knitting, and it's only when they've got to grips with this and completed a thorough induction module on the machines that they can move on.

Kingston University graduate Polly Clarkson says that the chance to play with different methods was key to bringing her final collection to

the catwalk. "On my degree course we were always encouraged to experiment with different techniques and try new things."

CELEBRATING FORM & COLOUR

The opportunity to dabble in machine knitting let Polly create a collection packed with creativity. "I'm inspired by colour and texture," she explains. "It's why I chose the knitting specialism at university – I wanted to be able to design and create my fabrics as well as the silhouettes and the garments."

For her final collection, Polly drew inspiration from kaleidoscopes. "I created complicated five-colour jacquards that just wouldn't have been possible without the specialist digital Shima machine."

Sam believes that knitting is vital to the creativity of the fashion industry. "It enables the designer to introduce texture and volume, inform silhouette and fully consider construction," she says. "Here at Kingston we encourage our

students to embrace all gauges, working towards fusing hand and machine knitting skills." In fact, it seems that machine knitting is truly part of the equation when it comes to successful fashion knitwear.

"At Bath Spa University we teach both skills – it allows our students to fully develop their ideas and the possibilities of their discipline," says Zoe. "Many design jobs are computer or paper based, but without this core knowledge it can be very limiting. Understanding both hand and machine knitting will be a huge benefit to any designer."

Quite simply, with technology like the Shima machine at future fashionistas' fingertips, knitwear is bound to rock catwalks for years to come. And that's a prediction that makes us very happy indeed. 🌍

Written by Judy Darley

For more information you can visit www.knitdesigncourses.com, www.bathspa.ac.uk and www.kingston.ac.uk. Or contact Polly via [@pollyclarkson](https://twitter.com/pollyclarkson) on Twitter or pollyclarkson@yahoo.co.uk.

BRAEBURN

Get one of your five-a-day with
Jane Burns' apple cushion.

Fun gift
FOR SPECIAL
TEACHERS

CHOOSE FRESH
APPLE-Y COLOURS
TO MAKE YOUR
CUSHION LOOK
REALISTIC



APPLE CUSHION



YOU WILL NEED

- Deramores, Vintage Chunky (50% acrylic, 50% Merino wool, 100g/140m) 2 balls of Sage (003)
- A set of 3 1/4mm DPNs
- A pair of 5 1/2mm circular needles, 60cm long
- A set of 5 1/2mm DPNs
- Oddment of brown DK yarn
- Toy stuffing

For yarn stockists contact
Deramores 0800 488 0708
www.deramores.com

TENSION

Yarn used knits as chunky to this tension: 17 sts and 21 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 5 1/2mm needles

SIZE

83cm circumference x 26cm tall

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 92

How fab is this cushion? It's fat and squashy and just calling out to be snuggled into on the sofa. The construction is quite interesting, as the two top parts are worked separately and then joined together to knit the body of the cushion. Worked in the round, there aren't too many seams to sew, so you can get on with using your new cushion.



PIECE ONE

Cast on 25 sts evenly over three 5 1/2mm DPNs and join into the round, taking care not to twist the sts.

Rounds 1–2 Knit.

Round 3 (K3, M1) eight times, K1. [33 sts]

Round 4 Knit.

Round 5 (K4, M1) eight times, K1. [41 sts]

Round 6 Knit.

Round 7 (K5, M1) eight times, K1. [49 sts]

Round 8 Knit.

Round 9 (K8, M1) five times, K9. [54 sts]

Rounds 10–13 Knit.

Leave sts on holder.

PIECE TWO

Work as given for Piece One but leave stitches on needles.

JOIN PIECES

Using circular needle, K27 (from Piece Two), knit across all stitches on holder from Piece One, knit rem 27 sts from Piece Two and join into the round. Place marker to denote new beg of round. [108 sts]

MAIN BODY OF APPLE

Rounds 1–28 Knit.

Round 29 (K8, k2tog) ten times, K8. [98 sts]

Rounds 30–39 Knit.

Round 40 (K7, k2tog) ten times, K8. [88 sts]

Rounds 41–50 Knit.

Round 51 (K6, k2tog) ten times, K8. [78 sts]

Rounds 52–54 Knit.

Round 55 (K5, k2tog) ten times, K8. [68 sts]

Rounds 56–58 Knit.

Round 59 (K4, k2tog) ten times, K8. [58 sts]

Cast off.

STALK

Cast on 7 sts using 3 1/4mm needles and brown yarn.



Sew the i-cord stalk into position securely and hide loose ends inside the cushion.



The bottom edge is one of only two seams to sew up on this cushion.



Use the i-cord technique to knit your stalk and give it a twist for the jaunty shape.

Row 1 Knit, slide these seven sts to other end of needle, do not turn. Repeat row 1 pulling yarn tight across back of i-cord each time you start a new row.

Work until i-cord measures 9cm.

Cast off.

TO MAKE UP

'Fold' piece in half to form apple shape, sew tops of apple closed, including centre top seam. Stuff firmly, sew bottom seam closed. Sew stalk to centre top of apple. Weave in any loose ends. 

NEXT MONTH WHY NOT GET A BIT GIRLY AND KNIT UP A SET OF BANGLES? ISSUE 131, APRIL, IS ON SALE FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY.

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GET IN TOUCH THROUGH EMAIL, TWITTER AND FACEBOOK!

THEY DID THE MONSTER MASH

As soon as I saw the Pocket Pal jumper in your July 2014 issue, I had to get my needles out. The pattern was just what I needed for two little friends of mine. The smaller size was fine, but I wanted to do a larger one for a six-year-old, and the pattern stopped at five. So my arithmetic was polished up and I managed it! I haven't got pictures of them in their jumpers, but I understand they went to bed that day clutching their little monster toys. *Cindy Ainslie, Darlington What fab jumpers, well done!*

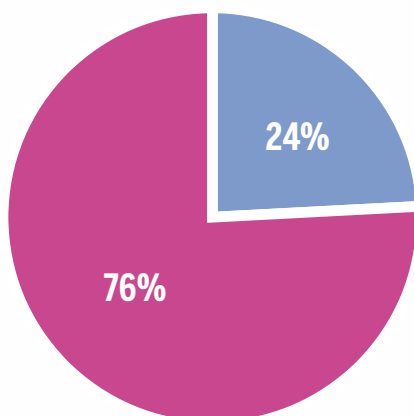


FREE FOR you! CELEBRATE the new SHAUN the SHEEP film with this cute INTARSIA pattern. Find the LATEST news, COMPS AND tips on our website, www.simplyknitting.co.uk!

FACEBOOK POLL

IT'S IN PROGRESS

We asked... do you have different projects on the go at once?



76% YES Wow! Loads of you tailor your projects to where you are and how much you can concentrate on knitting.
24% NO But some of you still prefer to focus on one: "One project at a time – it's too stressful for me otherwise!"

THE BEST OF THIS
MONTH'S TWEETS
FROM YOU

@HEATHERCLENNETT

@SimplyKnitMag I made myself a chunky scarf from the last issue and used Patons Big Fab #knit #scarf #craft

@LUCYPHIMISTER

#carknitting daydreamer cowl from @SimplyKnitMag @handspinnnerskye in yummy #bfl pencil roving #HappySunday

@FULHAMNONNY

Thanks @SimplyKnitMag for the #puppypower pattern! Made one in my #rugby team colours for our captain's new puppy!

@PERDI1309

@SimplyKnitMag printed my Christmas/boyfriend sweater/proposal story! Squee!



THREE OF THE BEST...

GREAT KNITS ON PINTEREST

We love to see all your photos!



BALL IT UP!

Isn't this a fab idea? Katherine Barbary has found a great way to use up little oddments in her stash – this miniature tree!



PUG HUG

A clever bit of Fair Isle has added plenty of fun and personality to this hat. Sylvie Doucet has done a really fantastic job of her pug project.



BERRY SNOOD

Amanda Hurrell won't be feeling the cold when she dons this snugly moss stitch snood. That rich red will be lovely and comforting too.

PS

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CANDY STRIPE

Add some fun to your wardrobe with
Jessica Biscoe's three-colour mittens.

*Quick
&
Easy*



← THIS STRIPE PATTERN WOULD
BE PERFECT FOR USING UP
SCRAPS OF STASH YARN

Tip Make 1 right (M1R) and make 1 left (M1L) are complementary increases that lean in opposite directions. Here they're used in pairs so that the increases on the mittens are symmetrical. Make sure you keep track of which one you need to work each time!



YOU WILL NEED

■ Sublime, Extra Fine Merino Wool DK (100% Merino wool, 116m/50g) 1 ball of each:

Yarn A Cinnamon (377)

Yarn B Penelope (374)

Yarn C Alabaster (003)

■ A set of 4mm DPNs

■ 3 stitch markers

■ Scrap yarn or a stitch holder

■ Darning needle

For yarn stockists contact

Sublime 01924 369666

www.sublimeyarns.com

TENSION

Yarn used knits as DK to this tension: 22 sts and 28 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 4mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 92

We just love how customisable these mittens are! Will you be bold and clash the colours or pick three shades that match perfectly? Perhaps you could choose something to go with your favourite coat, or just use up some partial skeins from your stash. Whatever you choose, we're sure this will be a fun, quick and satisfying knit.



K MITTENS

CUFF

Cast on 40 sts using Yarn A, PM and join for working in the round, being careful not to twist stitches.

Round 1 (K1, P1) to end.

Work K1, P1 ribbing as given in round 1 for 20 rows in total.

HAND

Cut yarn and join Yarn B.

Round 1 M1, K19, PM, M1R, K1, M1L, PM, K20. [43 sts]

Round 2 Knit.

Round 3 Using Yarn C, K20, M1R, K3, M1L, K20. [45 sts]

Round 4 Using Yarn B, knit.

Round 5 K20, M1R, K5, M1L, K20. [47 sts]

Round 6 Using Yarn C, knit.

Round 7 Using Yarn B, K20, M1R, K7, M1L, K20. [49 sts]

Round 8 Knit.

Round 9 Using Yarn C, K20, M1R, K9, M1L, K20. [51 sts]

Round 10 Using Yarn B, knit.

Round 11 K20, M1R, K11, M1L, K20. [53 sts]

Round 12 Using Yarn C, knit.

Round 13 Using Yarn B, K20, M1R, K13, M1L, K20. [55 sts]

Round 14 Knit.

Round 15 Using Yarn C, K20, M1R, K15, M1L, K20. [57 sts]

Round 16 Using Yarn B, knit.

Round 17 K20, M1R, K17, M1L, K20. [59 sts]

Round 18 Using Yarn C, K20, sl19 onto holder, K20 to rejoin work in the round, discarding markers. [40 sts]

Round 19 Using Yarn B, knit.

Round 20 Knit.

Round 21 Using Yarn C, knit. Rep rounds 19–21 until little finger is almost covered when tried on.

DECREASES

Cut yarn and join Yarn A.

Knit 1 round.

Rearrange stitches evenly onto two DPNs (20 sts on each).

Round 1 *K1, ssk, K to within 3 sts of



The long rib cuffs will keep the mittens on, and make sure your hands stay warm.



Once the hand is finished, the thumb is worked from stitches on the holder.

end of needle, k2tog, K1; rep from * once more. [36 sts]

Round 2 Knit.

Rep rounds 1&2 four more times. There are now 10 sts on each needle. Graft these sts using Kitchener stitch and weave in any loose ends.

THUMB

Slip 19 sts from holder onto DPNs and join Yarn B. Pick up and knit 1 st from hand and join for working in the round. [20 sts]

Round 1 Ssk, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog. [18 sts]

Round 2 Knit.

Round 3 Using Yarn C, knit.

Rep rounds 1–3 until thumb is almost covered when tried on.

Cut yarn and join Yarn A.

Round 1 Knit.

Round 2 (K4, k2tog) to end. [15 sts]

Round 3 Knit.

Round 4 (K3, k2tog) to end. [12 sts]

Round 5 Knit.

Round 6 K2tog to end. [6 sts]

Cut yarn and pull through sts to close.

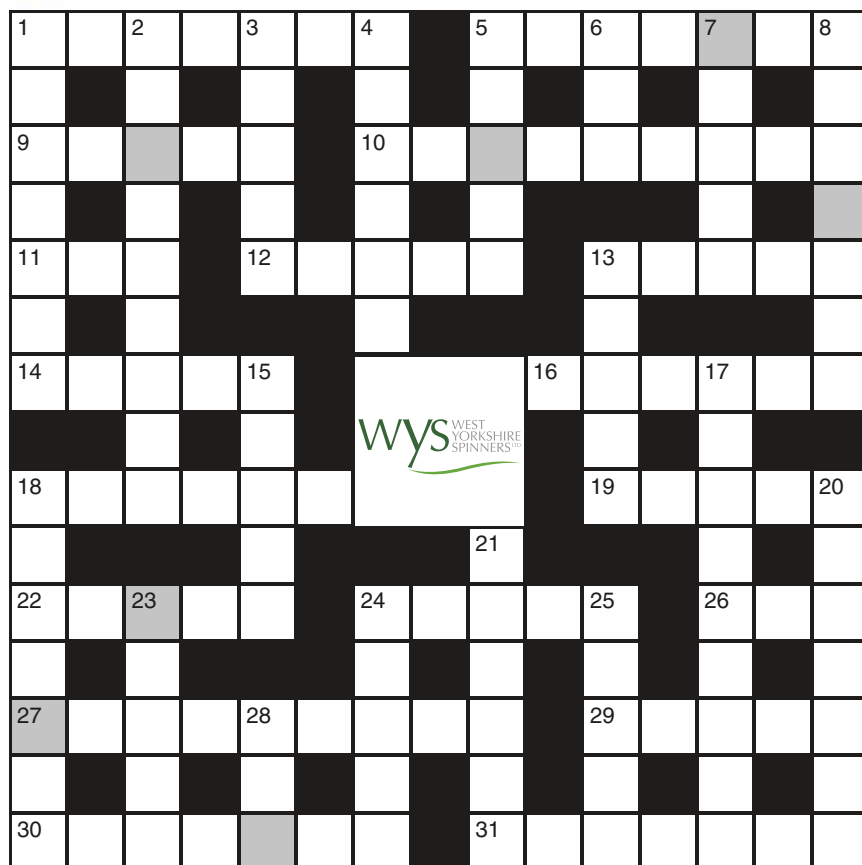
TO MAKE UP

Block, following instructions on ball band. Weave in all loose ends.

PRIZE PUZZLES



As a crossword prize five people will get £10 worth of goodies from West Yorkshire Spinners (www.wyspinners.com, 01535 664500). Ten sudoku prize winners can knit their very own pet with Val Pierce's delightful Knitted Rabbits, courtesy of Search Press (www.searchpress.com, 01892 510850).



Across

- 1 Wise saying (7)
5 Steady, reliable source of income (4,3)
9 Looped stitch (5)
10 Classic Cilla Black show (5,4)
11 Mist (3)
12 Superior group (5)
13 Culinary herb (5)
14 Provide food for (5)
16 Buzzed (6)
18 Younger (6)
19 Clichéd (5)
22 Indian dish (5)
24 Assert (5)
26 --- Campbell, former footballer (3)
27 Pattern stitch for an unusual design (4,5)
29 Diving gear (5)
30 Playhouse (7)
31 Enigma (7)

Down

- 1 Largest ocean (7)
2 Red-haired ape (9)
3 --- Wise, vintage comedian (5)
4 Yarn reel (6)
5 Illegal act (5)
6 Depressed (3)
7 Mad (5)
8 Saturday and Sunday (7)
13 Hand digit (5)
15 Spacious (5)
17 Tiny (9)
18 Largest prize (7)
20 Cradle song (7)
21 Money demanded for a hostage (6)
23 Wash through (5)
24 Greek island (5)
25 Biblical Hebrew prophet (5)
28 Dynamite (1,1,1)

Issue 128 solution Across: 1 Lecture, 5 Ketchup, 9 Bonus, 10 Esplanade, 11 Tie, 12 Trick, 13 Metre, 14 Roads, 16 Closed, 18 Rhymes, 19 Ripen, 22 Vicar, 24 Sauna, 26 Row, 27 Recession, 29 Olive, 30 Examine, 31 Amateur.
Down: 1 Lobster, 2 Centenary, 3 Upset, 4 Eyelid, 5 Kapok, 6 Tea, 7 Heart, 8 Pretend, 13 Molar, 15 Steer, 17 Supervise, 18 Reverse, 20 New Year, 21 Guinea, 23 Cocoa, 24 Spire, 25 Aloha, 28 Ski. Prize answer: CHAMPAGNE.

ENTER OUR COMPS!

To enter one of our competitions visit www.simplyknitting.co.uk and click on the 'Competitions' tab. Then, all you have to do is enter the correct code, your name and your address. You will need an email address to enter online, but if you don't have one of your own, feel free to use ours! Just type simplyknitting@immediate.co.uk into the box on the form.

Here are this month's competition codes:

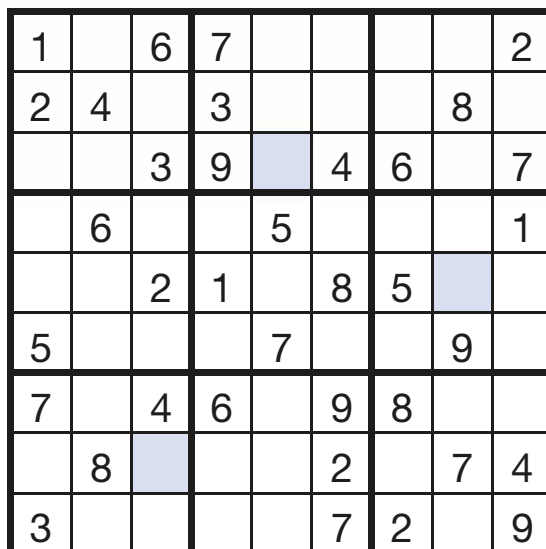
Crossword: SKXWORD130 (then a space followed by the Prize Puzzle Word)

Sudoku: SKSUDOKU130 (then a space followed by the Prize Number)

Lint removers: SKBRUSH130

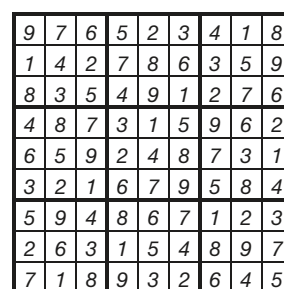
Show tickets: SKSHOW130

Find full terms and conditions on p34. The competitions close on Friday 27 February.



PLUS Reader Offer

If you don't win a copy, don't despair! You can order with free P&P in the UK – just call 01892 510850 or visit www.searchpress.com and quote code 'Simply Knitting'.



ISSUE 128 SOLUTION

ALPACA YARNS

Snuggly and soft for beautiful garments or accessories.

Big Bad Wool WEEPACA

BALL WEIGHT 50g
BALL LENGTH 86m
YARN CONTENT 50% baby alpaca, 50% Merino wool
KNITS AS aran
RRP £10.25
REC NEEDLE SIZE 3¾-4½mm



Designed with babies in mind, Weepaca combines the softness of alpaca with the hardiness of Merino.

This loose, three-ply yarn has beautiful bounce for a squashy knitted fabric, and a subtle sheen that makes it feel even more special.

There are 23 lovely shades available, ranging from muted

Pink Noses to vivid Stop, so you can create fab colourful knitwear for your little ones. It would be perfect for colourwork too!

Although this yarn will be slightly sturdier than most alpaca blends, it's best to hand wash in cool water.

www.loopknittingshop.com, 0207 288 1160



Sublime SUPERFINE ALPACA DK

BALL WEIGHT 50g
BALL LENGTH 120m
YARN CONTENT 100% alpaca
KNITS AS DK
RRP £6.30
REC NEEDLE SIZE 4mm



This delicate, pure alpaca yarn is a great choice if you fancy knitting lightweight and yet super snuggly garments.

Constructed of four loose plies, each with their own halo, this yarn knits up into a tactile fabric that will be a joy to wear.

In all six of the shades available, each ply is slightly marled, giving extra depth to

the overall colour. The tones are all subdued and timeless for sophisticated knits.

With a collection of luxury designs for women and the home, you're sure to find the perfect project for any taste.

To avoid felting this beautiful yarn, hand wash in cool water.

www.sublimeyarns.com, 01924 369666



Stylecraft ALPACA CHUNKY

BALL WEIGHT 100g
BALL LENGTH 135m
YARN CONTENT 20% alpaca,
 80% acrylic
KNITS AS chunky
RRP £4.29
REC NEEDLE SIZE 6mm



Strong and hardwearing, this yarn is a practical way to make the most of the natural qualities alpaca fibres boast.

Constructed of four tight plies with a slight halo, this yarn has good stitch definition and a cosy finish to block out even the chilliest of breezes.

Available in six versatile colours, this yarn is sure to

become a favourite. Three of the shades, including Orchid (pictured) are mottled, adding extra interest to the yarn.

The designs available for this yarn feature ladies' garments and accessories in classic, wearable shapes.

Machine washable at 30°C.
www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk,
 01535 609798



DROPS ALPACA BOUCLÉ

BALL WEIGHT 50g
BALL LENGTH 140m
YARN CONTENT 80% alpaca,
 15% wool, 5% polyamide
KNITS AS aran
RRP £2.10
REC NEEDLE SIZE 5mm



A lush, textured alternative to the usual alpaca yarns, this isn't just a bargain, it's beautiful too.

This yarn is constructed of two plies – one intermittently dotted with bouclé loops, the other a smooth cord that adds strength to the yarn.

Available in seven neutral hues and three fun, brighter colours, this yarn would be

equally suited to knitting realistic toys and teddies, and on-trend faux-fur style accessories or garments.

For ease of knitting, smooth, sharp-pointed needles are best for this yarn.

To maintain the finish of the yarn, hand wash and dry flat.
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk,
 01926 882818



Debbie Bliss ROMA

BALL WEIGHT 100g
BALL LENGTH 80m
YARN CONTENT 70% wool,
 30% alpaca
KNITS AS super chunky
RRP £8.95
REC NEEDLE SIZE 12mm



For chunky knits that won't weigh you down, Roma is the perfect yarn to choose.

The loose, three-ply construction of this yarn creates plump stitches and a cosy fabric, with a long-fibre halo that adds a rustic feel.

All 16 colours available are deeply saturated for a luxurious touch to your knitting projects.

From show-stopping Crimson to chic Teal (pictured) you'll love these shades.

To show off the great stitch definition, the collection of bold accessory and garment patterns for this yarn features lots of sumptuous textures.

Hand wash for best results.
www.designeryarns.uk.com,
 01535 664222



We just
LOVE this
YARN!

Rooster ALMERINO ARAN

BALL WEIGHT 50g
BALL LENGTH 94m
YARN CONTENT 50% baby
 alpaca, 50% Merino wool
KNITS AS aran
RRP £5.15
REC NEEDLE SIZE 4½-5½mm



Even softer than the standard alpaca yarns, this baby alpaca blend will be a delight to wear and to knit with.

Tightly plied, this yarn has crisp stitch definition that would be ideal for intricate cables or lace designs. The knitted fabric is very even, and there's a slight sheen from the Merino wool element, so it

would be a beautiful yarn for all kinds of garments.

There are a whopping 24 shades available, and lots of gorgeous patterns to choose from in the new Rooster Folklore collection, out soon!

Hand wash this yarn to keep it in good condition.
www.roosteryarns.com,
 01829 740903





50 BABY KNITS

PATTERNS FOR
ALL SKILL LEVELS,
EVEN KNIT NOVICES!



SNUGGLE UP WITH CUTE IDEAS FOR TOTS & TODDLERS

Treat tiny tots to the softest, snuggliest handmade gifts with our bumper collection of the best ever baby knits from *Simply Knitting* magazine. Welcome new arrivals with sweet projects – from booties and blankets to adorable nursery décor, baby's first toys and cute clothes to keep them snug all year round.

Download it today! In Apple Newsstand (via the *Simply Knitting* app) or at www.zinio.com/UK.



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App Store



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<http://craft.buysubscriptions.com/special-issues>

you can go traditional or modern, to suit each project individually

BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

Give your children's knits the wow factor with these adorable buttons.

Knitting for the kids in your life is wonderful for so many reasons. It makes your heart sing to see them finally wearing your creations, all of the projects are super quick to finish, and, best of all, you get to play with some of the most delightful buttons around. To help you choose, we've picked a few of our favourites, ranging from classics you'll have definitely seen before to slightly more unusual offerings that the young 'uns are sure to be utterly smitten with.

1. These wooden apple buttons are the perfect mix of traditional and cheeky – we just love their little smiling faces! 20p each, www.woolwarehouse.co.uk, 01926 882818

2. A gorgeous take on children's buttons, these lasered shells feature a scene from *Little Red Riding Hood*. Also available in green, or *Bambi* motif. £2.50 each, www.loopknittingshop.com, 020 7288 1160

3. These classic duckie buttons have stood the test of time, and for good reason! Aren't they just darling? We can see them happily swimming along the fronts of any little one's cardigan. £1.75 for a pack of four, www.deramores.com, 0800 488 0708

4. What child wouldn't love these itty-bitsy aeroplanes? They're the perfect finishing touch for any of your fun, light-hearted creations. Also available in yellow. 50p each, www.loveknitting.com, 0845 544 2196

5. Simple but effective, we just love these car-shaped wooden buttons. The little details make all the difference, and they'd look adorable on any hand-knit. 15p each, www.atomicknitting.co.uk, 07787 526592

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your inner
child!



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<http://craft.buysubscriptions.com/special-issues>

Knitting to celebrate World War One's HEROES



Crafters in Dorset's parish of Bourton created a wall hanging to commemorate the village's men who perished in World War One.

A group of crafters in Dorset's most northerly parish of Bourton teamed up to create a very special wall hanging last year. Using all the skills at their fingertips, including knitting, crochet and embroidery, they set about making a memorial wall hanging to remember the 14 men from the village who lost their lives in WWI, and whose names are on the village's War Memorial.

"The names are worked in black perle cotton on 11-count aida," says group member Ruth Hounsell. "The poppies are a mixture of knitting, crochet, machine embroidery and felting. We've also made a miniature balaclava helmet, a tiny pair of mitts and a scarf – all knitted by our talented miniaturist, Moira – plus a tiny tin helmet."

The centrepiece of the work of art is an original WWI embroidered envelope, still containing a blank message card. "The envelope is one of a collection that I bought at an antiques fair some years ago," Ruth says. "Three of them had messages written on the little cards inside, from a soldier called Harry to his

sister. One says: 'You may hear good news of me soon, if I have the luck to get through tomorrow.' As the card on the wall hanging is blank, I rather think that Harry didn't get through and that the unused card and envelope were returned to his family with his other effects."

In the bottom right-hand corner sits a row of miniature replicas of the medals awarded to the men who fought in WWI. "We found the tiny medals in the gift shop at the regimental museum in Dorchester, Dorset," Ruth says. "I think they can be found in most gift shops attached to museums and stately homes. They were known fondly as Pip, Squeak and Wilfred, but more correctly they're the Service Medal, the WWI Campaign Medal and the Victory Medal."

FROM PLANS TO REALITY

The idea for the project came after reading a number of articles in magazines about what communities were proposing to do for the WWI Anniversary. Ruth runs the village Craft 'n' Chat group, and thought it would be an interesting event for

the members to work towards.

"I also decided to ask people who weren't part of our group if they would like to join in," she says. "A short article in the Parish Magazine produced a number of 'extras', most of whom were responsible for embroidering the names."

In all, 21 people took part in the project, and it took around six months to complete.

"The wall hanging was displayed in our parish church of St George in time for the Commemorative Service on 3 August 2014, and remains there for all to see, along with an accompanying folder that contains brief biographies of each of the soldiers listed in the village's War Memorial."

For many of the participants, this was their first time getting involved in such a large-scale project, and it's been a great success. "The sense of community, pride and achievement which it has brought has been enormous!" Ruth exclaims. "Some people want to know what's next – there is a 'next' being planned, but at present it's a secret!"

Written by Judy Darley



From left to right: The team of crafters who made the display; poppies remind us of those lost in war; this original envelope was the perfect centrepiece.



JUST FOR FUN

Get a cuppa and enjoy a brainstretcher and a giggle with the Knitall family. Can you find the word that's missing from the list?

WORDSEARCH

All of these Irish counties can be found in the grid – but there's one that's not listed. Have a go at finding which it is and in the next issue we'll tell you which it was. There's no prize – just satisfaction!

ANTRIM / ARMAGH
CARLOW / CAVAN
CLARE / CORK
DONEGAL / DOWN
DUBLIN / GALWAY
KERRY / KILDARE
KILKENNY / LIMERICK
LOUTH / MAYO
MEATH / MONAGHAN
ROSCOMMON / SLIGO
TIPPERARY / TYRONE
WEXFORD / WICKLOW

Last issue's word:
VALENTINE

In stitches by Malcolm Bird



See more of Malcolm's great art work on his website www.malcolm-bird.co.uk

NOUVEAU

With clever Fair Isle and funky zips, you'll love **Bergère de France**'s spring sweater.

A cool
twist on A
CLASSIC!



LEAVE THE ZIPS OPEN TO
ACT AS VENTS AND ADD A
SUBTLE DESIGN FEATURE



YOU WILL NEED

- Bergère de France, Cyclone (78% acrylic, 18% wool, 4% polyester, 50g/85m)
- Bergère de France, Cocoon (70% acrylic, 25% mohair, 5% alpaca, 50g/70m)
- A pair of 5mm needles
- A pair of 5½mm needles
- Stitch holder
- 2 non-separating grey zips, 15cm long. We used Bergère de France ref 665.191

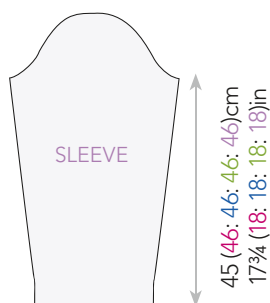
For yarn stockists contact
Bergère de France
www.bergeredefrance.co.uk

TENSION

Yarn used knits as chunky to this tension: 15 sts and 19 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over Fair Isle pattern using 5½mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 92



This might seem like an ordinary jumper, but look again – there's more to it than meets the eye. With an understated Fair Isle pattern that will keep you concentrating as you knit, and the addition of zips at the end, this jumper is super stylish and yet really wearable. Sling it on with skinny jeans and boots and it'll take you anywhere!



BACK

Cast on 73 (79: 85: 93: 99) sts using Yarn A and 5mm needles.

Row 1 (RS) *K1, P1; rep from * to last st, K1.

Row 2 *P1, K1; rep from * to last st, P1. These 2 rows set K1, P1 rib.

Cont to work in rib as set until work measures 5cm, increasing 1 st on final row. [74 (80: 86: 94: 100) sts]

Change to 5½mm needles and work 2 rows st st in Yarn A.

Next row K37 (40: 43: 47: 50), place marker, K to end.

Next row Purl.

****Row 1** Starting on stitch 6 (3: 6: 2: 5) of Chart A, work chart to marker, slip marker, knit to end using Yarn A.

Row 2 Knit to marker, slip marker, work row 2 of Chart A to end.

Repeat last 2 rows until all 12 rows of Chart have been worked.

Knit 6 rows in Yarn A.

Row 19 Using Yarn A, knit to marker,

slip marker, work Chart B to end, ending on stitch 1 (4: 1: 5: 2).

Row 20 Beginning with st 1 (4: 1: 5: 2) of Chart B, work chart to marker, slip marker, knit to end.

Repeat last 2 rows until all 12 rows of Chart have been worked.

Knit 6 rows using Yarn A.

Rep from ** until Charts have been worked three times on each side of garment, AT THE SAME TIME working armhole shaping as folls when work meas 43 (44: 44: 45: 46)cm:

ARMHOLES

When work measures 43 (44: 44: 45: 46) cm, keeping pattern correct, cast off 2 (3: 3: 3: 3) sts at beg of next 4 (2: 2: 4: 4) rows, then 1 (2: 2: 2: 2) sts at beg of next 8 (2: 4: 2: 4) rows, then 0 (1: 1: 1: 1) st at beg of next 0 (8: 6: 8: 8) rows.

[58 (62: 66: 70: 72) sts]

Cont without shaping until work measures 61 (63: 65: 67: 69)cm.

SHOULDERS & NECK

Cast off 5 (5: 6: 6: 6) sts, work 13 (14: 15: 16: 16) sts, cast off the central 22 (24: 24: 26: 28) sts for the neck, work rem 18 (19: 21: 22: 22) sts.

Each side will now be completed separately.

Next row (WS) Cast off 5 (5: 6: 6: 6) sts, work to central cast-off sts and place rem sts on a st holder.

[13 (14: 15: 16: 16) sts]

Next row Cast off 2 sts at neck edge,

SIZE		S	M	L	XL	XXL
TO FIT	cm	86-91	97-102	107-112	117-122	127-132
BUST	in	34-36	38-40	42-44	46-48	50-52
ACTUAL BUST	cm	96	104	112	122	130
	in	37¾	41	44	48	51
LENGTH	cm	63	65	67	69	71
	in	24¾	25½	26¼	27	28
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	45	46	46	46	46
	in	17¾	18	18	18	18
YARN	Bergère de France, Cyclone (50g/85m balls)					
Yarn A Astro Marron (34164)		8	9	10	11	12
	Bergère de France, Cocoon (50g/70m balls)					
Yarn B Camel (29396)		2	2	2	2	2
Yarn C Olive (29399)		2	2	2	2	2

To make this pattern easier to follow, we've colour-coded the sizing instructions – simply follow the relevant column.

ZIP-DETAIL JUMPER

work to end. [11 (12: 13: 14: 14) sts]

Next row Cast off 5 (6: 6: 7: 7) sts, work to end. [6 (6: 7: 7: 7) sts]

Work 1 row straight.

Next row Cast off rem 6 (6: 7: 7: 7) sts.

With WS facing pick up sts left on the stitch holder.

Cast off 2 sts, work to end.

[11 (12: 13: 14: 14) sts]

Next row (RS) Cast off 5 (6: 6: 7: 7) sts, work to end. [6 (6: 7: 7: 7) sts]

Work 1 row straight.

Next row Cast off rem 6 (6: 7: 7: 7) sts.

FRONT

Work as given for Back until work meas 56 (58: 60: 62: 64)cm.

NECK

Next row (RS) Work 23 (24: 26: 27: 27) sts, cast off the central 12 (14: 14: 16: 18) sts, work to end.

Next row Work to cast-off sts, place rem sts on a st holder.

Each side will now be completed separately.

Keeping pattern correct, cast off at the beg of every RS row as foll: 3 sts once, 2 sts once, 1 st twice.

[16 (17: 19: 20: 20) sts]

Cont without shaping until work measures 61 (63: 65: 67: 69)cm.

SHOULDER

Cast off at the beg of every WS row as foll: 5 (5: 6: 6: 6) sts 2 (1: 2: 1: 1) times, then 6 (6: 7: 7: 7) sts 1 (2: 1: 2: 2) times.

With WS of work facing pick up sts left on st holder and work as given for first side of Neck, reversing all shaping.

SLEEVES

Cast on 35 (37: 39: 39: 41) sts using Yarn A and 5mm needles.

Work 5cm in K1, P1 rib as given for Back, increasing 1 (0: 0: 1: 1) st on the final row. [36 (37: 39: 40: 42) sts]

Change to 5½mm needles and starting with a knit row, cont in st st for 9 (9: 7: 5: 5) rows.

Next row K2, inc 1, knit to last 2 sts, inc 1, K2. [2 sts inc'd]

Rep this row on every foll 10th (10th: 8th: 6th: 6th) row 4 (1: 6: 10: 11) times and then on every foll 8th (8th: 6th: 0: 0) row 2 (6: 2: 0: 0) times.

[50 (53: 57: 62: 66) sts]

Cont without shaping until work measures 45 (46: 46: 46: 46)cm.

SHAPE SLEEVE CAP

Cast off at the beg of every row as foll: 3 sts 2 (2: 2: 4: 4) times, 2 sts 2 (4: 4: 2: 2) times, 1 st 16 (12: 14: 16: 16) times, 2 sts 2 (4: 2: 2: 4) times, 3 sts 2 (2: 4: 4: 4) times.

Cast off rem 14 (13: 13: 14: 14) sts.

NECK BORDER

Cast on 77 (81: 85: 87: 91) sts using Yarn A and 5mm needles. Work 8cm in 1x1 rib and leave the sts on a spare needle.

TO MAKE UP

Join shoulder seams. Sew neck border around neck edge, then sew edges of border together. Sew sleeves into armholes. Sew sleeve and side seams, leaving 15cm open at the bottom of each side to place the zips. Sew in zips. Secure and weave in all ends.



The subtle colour combination makes this Fair Isle motif look like variegated yarn.



Cocoon is a slightly chunkier yarn and will add texture to the finished knitted fabric.



This quirky sweater is one of 159 stylish designs from Bergère de France's Creations 14/15. For stockists visit www.bergere-defrance.co.uk.

Chart A

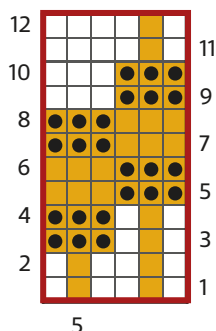
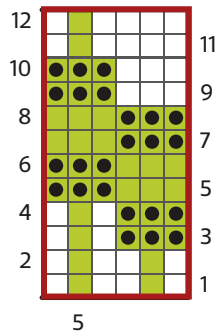


Chart B



Key

- K on RS; P on WS using Yarn A
- K on RS; P on WS using Yarn B
- P on RS; K on WS using Yarn B
- K on RS; P on WS using Yarn C
- P on RS; K on WS using Yarn C

HOW TO USE OUR CHARTS

Start at the bottom right-hand corner. Read right side rows from right to left and wrong side rows from left to right. A row of squares represents a row of knitting.

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STITCH LIBRARY

NEW GROWTH

This trio of leaf-inspired lace stitches are the perfect designs as spring draws ever closer.



BRACKEN

Cast on a multiple of 10 sts plus 5 sts.
(Try 45 sts)

Row 1 (RS) K1, (P1, K1) twice, *yo, ssk, K1, k2tog, yo, K1, (P1, K1) twice; rep from * to end.

Row 2 K1, (P1, K1) twice, *P5, K1, (P1, K1) twice; rep from * to end.

Row 3 K1, (P1, K1) twice, *K1, yo, sl1, k2tog, pssso, yo, K2, (P1, K1) twice; rep from * to end.

Row 4 K1, (P1, K1) twice, *P5, K1, (P1, K1) twice; rep from * to end.
Rep rows 1–4 to form pattern.

PINE NEEDLES

Cast on a multiple of 10 sts plus 1 st.
(Try 41 sts)

Row 1 (WS) Purl.

Row 2 K1, *(yo, ssk) twice, K1, (k2tog, yo) twice, K1; rep from * to end.

Row 3 Purl.

Row 4 K2, *yo, ssk, yo, sl2 knitwise, K1, p2sso, yo, k2tog, yo, K3; rep from * to last 2 sts, K2.

Rep rows 1–4 to form pattern.

MAPLE LEAF

Cast on a multiple of 15 sts plus 4 sts.
(Try 49 sts)

Row 1 (RS) K2, *K1, yo, K3, ssk, K4, k2tog, K3, yo; rep from * to last 2 sts, K2.

Row 2 Purl.

Row 3 K2, *K2, yo, K3, ssk, K2, k2tog, K3, yo, K1; rep from * to last 2 sts, K2.

Row 4 Purl.

Row 5 K2, *K3, yo, K3, ssk, k2tog, K3, yo, K2; rep from * to last 2 sts, K2.

Row 6 Purl.

Rep rows 1–6 to form pattern.

ABBREVIATIONS

K knit

P purl

k2tog Knit two sts together

rep repeat

st(s) stitch(es)

sl slip

yo yarn over

ssk slip two sts one at a time, knit 2 slipped stitches together (1 st decreased)

tog together

pssso pass slipped st over

p2sso pass 2 slipped sts over

NEXT MONTH

Add instant style to any project with pretty lace edgings. Issue 131, April, will be on sale from Friday 27 February.

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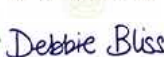


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When did you start selling?

Originally I wanted to open a doll's house shop and was looking for premises and something to complement this when I viewed a wool shop that was closing down. It was a bit of a light bulb moment and Grandma's Attic started to take shape. I bought all her stock and found premises local to me in Belleek. It was hard work packing one shop up to move the stock and open another, but in March 2007 my dream became a reality.

What do you stock?

Initially I stocked the same as the previous owner – Sirdar, Patons, Tivoli and a few others – but gradually increased my stock to include Rowan, Debbie

Bliss, Bergère de France, Rico Design and Stylecraft. There aren't too many wool shops in Ireland and even less that have the same amount of stock as I have.

What makes you special?

My shop is sometimes more like a community centre, with a group of charity knitters meeting every week and an evening class that sees up to 26 people meeting each week to learn new skills and share ideas.

What's your favourite part of owning your own shop?

The customers. I love getting involved in their projects, however small or large, and helping people as much as I can with their choices and patterns.

TOP 5 BEST SELLERS

- 1 HAYFIELD BONUS DK
- 2 RICO DESIGN BABY SO SOFT
- 3 STYLECRAFT CLASSIQUE COTTON DK
- 4 STYLECRAFT ARAN WITH WOOL 400G
- 5 STYLECRAFT BABY DK

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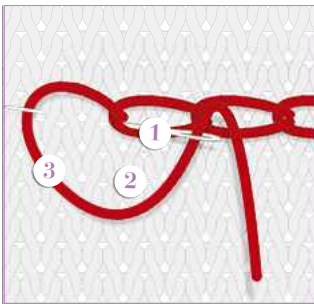
MAKE IT EASY

Everything you need to know to help you make the most of the projects in this issue!



PETEY THE PENGUIN, p37

The finishing touches



Chain Stitch

A series of loops, chain stitch is used to create Petey the Penguin's eyes. Come out of the fabric at 1, where you want to begin, and leaving a loop, go back down again in the same hole at 2. Bring the needle out again at 3, keeping the thread under the needle. Repeat. Make a small stitch over the last loop to fix it.



Mattress Stitch

Bring your needle to the front between the first and second stitches of the edge, then insert the needle between the first two stitches of the other edge. Bring it back up through the opposite piece, between the two stitches and below the horizontal strand you just made. Keep stitching in this way, pulling the yarn tight every few stitches.



CANDY STRIPE, p71

M1 Make 1 stitch



1 Insert the point of the right-hand needle into the back of the stitch from the previous row.



2 Bring the loop of the stitch onto the left-hand needle and knit this part of the stitch.



3 Insert the right-hand needle into the stitch remaining on the left-hand needle and knit it.



4 This method of increasing will give you a neat-looking increase on this pattern.



DELUXE, p93

SSK Slip, slip, knit



1 With the yarn at the back of your knitting, slip the first stitch on the left-hand needle knitwise.



2 Now slip the next stitch on the left-hand needle knitwise.



3 Push the left-hand needle through the front of both the slipped stitches.



4 Bring the yarn round just as you would for a knit stitch and knit the two stitches together. You will now have a single stitch on the right-hand needle, and your two slipped ones will create a left-leaning decrease.

How to Knit

CAST ON: CABLE METHOD Use it for a firm edge, and when adding stitches in your work.



1 Make a slip knot. Insert right-hand needle into the stitch as if to knit. Wrap the yarn around the point and pull through, slipping the stitch on to the left-hand needle.



2 Push the point of the right-hand needle between the first and second stitches. Wrap the yarn anti-clockwise round the point of the right-hand needle.



3 Pull the loop out with the right-hand needle, then slip it over the tip of the left-hand needle.



4 Repeat steps 2-3 until you have the number of stitches you require.

KNIT Follow our simple steps to make the most important stitch you'll learn.



1 Hold the needle with the stitches on it in your left hand. Keeping the yarn in your right hand and at the back of your work, insert the point of the right-hand needle up into the front loop of the first stitch, as shown.



2 Wind the yarn anti-clockwise around the point of the right-hand needle using your index finger. It's important to keep the yarn in your right hand relatively taut to maintain an even tension as you go.



3 Bring the right-hand needle down through the loop, making sure that you catch the yarn you wound around the needle. This creates the stitch. Don't pull the free yarn too tightly, let out some slack.



4 Push the point of the right needle further through the stitch you created, then gently pull the right needle up and to your left, taking the original loop with it. You've now created one knit stitch. Repeat points 1-4 across the row.

PURL To make purl stitches, just reverse the action of plain knit stitches.



1 Holding the needle with all the stitches on it in your left hand, and ensuring that the yarn is at the front of your work, insert the right-hand needle down through the front loop of your first stitch as shown.



2 Wind the yarn around the tip of the right-hand needle from right to left, in an anti-clockwise motion, constantly keeping a slight tension on the yarn.



3 Now slip the right-hand needle back through the stitch, ensuring that you catch the yarn that you've already wound around the needle. This creates a stitch on your right-hand needle.



4 Pushing the point of the right-hand needle a little further through the stitch you've just created, pull the original loop up and off the left-hand needle. That's your first purl! Repeat points 1-4 across the row.

CAST OFF Finish off your knitting with this straightforward cast-off technique.



1 Start by knitting the first two stitches of the row as normal, but don't go any further along as you usually would.



2 Insert the left-hand needle through the first stitch, as shown. Lift this stitch over the other stitch on the right-hand needle and over the needle point.



3 Knit another stitch so you have two on the right needle. Lift the first stitch over the second, then repeat steps 1-3.



4 When you get to the last stitch, cut the yarn about 6in (15cm) away, feed it through the loop and pull through firmly to fasten off.

How to Crochet

CHAIN STITCH This is the foundation of all crochet stitches.



1 About 6in (15cm) from the end of the yarn, make a loop with the ball end on top. Insert the hook through this loop and catch the yarn, pulling it through the loop. Slide the slipknot up to the hook.



2 With the hook in your right hand, hold the slipknot between thumb and finger of the left hand. Move the hook under and over the yarn.



3 Pull the hook and yarn back through the slipknot loop to form your first chain (ch) stitch. Now repeat steps 1-2 until you've formed a chain.



4 This is what your row of chains will look like. Keep going until you have the number of chains that are stated on your pattern. (Don't count the slipknot.)

SLIP STITCH This stitch won't add height.



1 Insert the hook from front to back under the top of the second chain from the hook. Wrap the yarn round the hook (this is known as yrh).



2 Pull the yarn through both loops on the hook to make a slip stitch (sl st). To carry on working a row of slip stitches, insert the hook into the next chain down and so on, repeating step 2 each time.

FOUNDATION RING Carry on for a spiral.



1 Make a short length of foundation chain as stated in your pattern instructions, for example, ch 5. Insert hook into the first chain.



2 Close the ring with a slip stitch (yarn round hook and pull through). You can continue the spiral. If working in the round, add a stitch marker here.

Get Professional Results with



loveknitting

This month we've got some beautiful cabled projects for you to have a go at. Here are LoveKnitting's top tips!

WHAT IS A CABLE?

Even the simplest cables are impressive, and yet they're so easy to create! Knitting a cable is just changing the order of stitches. Cable instructions are written C6R/L or C6F/B. C means cable, the number is the total stitch count of the cable, and R or L indicates whether the cable lies to the right or left. F or B tells you whether to hold the cable needle at the front or at the back of the work.



TOP CABLE TIPS

- 1 A counter helps you keep track of rows when they're twisting in and out of cables.
- 2 Plump and bouncy fibres such as wool or alpaca will show off your cables to their best.
- 3 Use a cable needle – they're designed to hold your stitches away from the body of work.
- 4 Holding stitches in front of your work will make your cable lean to the left.
- 5 Holding stitches behind your work will make your cable lean to the right.



For more hints and tips or to find out more about LoveKnitting, visit us online at www.loveknitting.com or call 0845 544 2196. Use the code SKHELP for 15% off your order.

Abbreviations & Useful Info

alt	alternate	P/p	purl	ssp	slip 2 sts one at a time, purl 2 slipped stitches together through back of the loops (1 stitch decreased)
approx	approximately	patt(s)	pattern(s)	st(s)	stitch(es)
beg	beginning	patt	pattern repeat(s)	st st	stocking stitch
C2B	slip next st to cn & hold at back, K1; K1 from cn	rep(s)	place bead	tbl	through the back of the loop
C2F	slip next st to cn & hold at front, K1; K1 from cn	PB	purl into front and back of stitch	T2B	slip next st to cn & hold at back, K1; P1 from cn
C4B	slip next 2 sts to cn & hold at back, K2; K2 from cn	pfb	purl into front and back of stitch	T2F	slip next st to cn & hold at front, P1; K1 from cn
C4F	slip next 2 sts to cn & hold at front, K2; K2 from cn	PM	place marker	T5L	slip next 3 sts to cn & hold at front, P2; K3 from cn
C6B	slip next 3 sts to cn & hold at back, K3; K3 from cn	P2tog	purl 2 stitches together (1 stitch decreased)	T5R	slip next 2 sts to cn & hold at back, K3; P2 from cn
C6F	slip next 3 sts to cn & hold at front, K3; K3 from cn	P3tog	purl 3 stitches together (2 stitches decreased)	tog	Wrap 3 stitches – with yarn held at back of work, slip next 3 sts to cable needle and hold at front of work. Wrap yarn 3 times around these 3 sts, being careful not to pull it too tight and ending up with yarn at back of work. Slip the 3 sts to right needle without knitting them
cb	cable back	prev	previous	W3	wrong side
CC	contrast colour	pssso	pass slipped stitch over	wyib	with yarn at back
cf	cable forward	p2sso	pass 2 slipped stitches over	wyif	with yarn in front
cn	cable needle	p(1)tbl	purl (1) into back loop	ybk	yarn to the back
co	cast on	pwise	purlwise; by purling the stitch	yfwd	yarn forward
cont	continue	rem	remain/remaining	yo	yarn over
dec	decrease(ing) (by working two stitches together)	rep(s)	repeat(s)	yn	yarn round needle
est	established	rev st st	reverse stocking stitch	yon	yarn over needle
DK	double knitting	RH	right hand	*	work instructions immediately following *, then repeat as directed
DPNs	double-pointed needles	rib2tog	either k2tog or p2tog dep on what next st in ribbing should be (keeps ribbing looking neat on buttonholes)		
foll/s	following/follows	rnd(s)	round(s) (on a circular needle/DPNs)		
g st	garter stitch (knit every row)	RS	right side		
inc	increase (usually knit into same stitch twice)	RT	right twist		
K/k	knit	skpo	slip 1 stitch, knit 1 stitch, pass slipped stitch over (1 stitch decreased)		
kfb	knit into front and back of stitch	sl	slip		
kwise	knitwise; by knitting the stitch	sl st	slip stitch		
k2tog	knit the next two stitches together	sm	stitch marker		
k(1)tbl	knit (1) into back loop	ssk	slip 2 stitches one at a time, knit 2 slipped stitches together (1 stitch decreased)		
LH	left hand		slip 3 sts one at a time, knit 3 slipped stitches together (two stitches decreased)		
LT	left twist				
meas	measure(s)				
M1	make one by knitting into back of loop between two sts (increase 1 stitch)				
M1L	make one twisted to the left (increase 1 stitch)				
M1R	make one twisted to the right (increase 1 stitch)				
M1P	make one purlwise by purling into back of loop between two sts (increase 1 stitch)				
MB	make a bobble				
MC	main colour				

YARN WEIGHT UK/US CONVERSION	
4ply	Sport
Double knitting	Light worsted
Aran	Fisherman/Worsted
Chunky	Bulky
Super chunky	Extra bulky

NEEDLE SIZES

UK	METRIC	US
14	2mm	0
13	2¼mm	1
–	2½mm	–
12	2¾mm	2
11	3mm	–
10	3¼mm	3
–	3½mm	4
9	3¾mm	5
8	4mm	6
7	4½mm	7
6	5mm	8
5	5½mm	9
4	6mm	10
3	6½mm	10½
2	7mm	–
1	7½mm	–
0	8mm	11
00	9mm	13
000	10mm	15
–	12mm	17
–	15mm	19
–	20mm	36
–	25mm	50

HOOK SIZES

UK	METRIC	US
14	2mm	B/1
13	2.25mm	–
12	2.5mm	C/2
11	3mm	–
10	3.25mm	D/3
9	3.5mm	E/4
8	4mm	G/6
7	4.5mm	7
6	5mm	H/8
5	5.5mm	I/9
4	6mm	J/10
3	6.5mm	K/10½
2	7mm	–
0	8mm	–
00	9mm	–
000	10mm	–

YARN WEIGHTS

CHOOSE THE RIGHT YARNS TO KNIT WITH.

1, 2 & 3ply Knit on 2-3½mm needles. Use for delicate lace knitting and baby garments. Good for socks and gloves.

4ply Knit on 3-4mm needles.

Great for baby clothes, heavier socks and lightweight tops.

Double knitting (DK) Knit on 3½-4½mm needles. Usually double the weight of 4ply, this is the most widely used weight. Suitable for most garments and quick to knit up.

Aran Knit on 4-5½mm needles. Originally created for fishermen's jumpers. Use when DK isn't heavy enough, and chunky is too bulky. Perfect for outdoor or warm clothing.

Chunky Knit on 5½-7mm needles. Associated with outdoor wear and winter jumpers, great for oversized garments.

Super chunky Knit on 7-12mm needles. A great weight for beginners, as it produces quick results. Good for furnishings.

Big Knit on 9-20mm needles. Perfect for eye-catching scarves and coats, as well as cosy cushions and throws.

DELUXE

Rhian Drinkwater's comfy socks will be a joy to knit.

A GREAT
on-the-go
project!

THESE SOCKS
ARE KNITTED IN ARAN
WEIGHT YARN, SO THEY
ARE BEAUTIFULLY COSY
AND SOFT!



BASKETWEAVE SOCKS



YOU WILL NEED

- Debbie Bliss, Cashmerino Aran (55% wool, 33% acrylic, 12% cashmere, 50g/90m) 2 balls of Citrus (75)
 - A 4½mm circular needle, 80cm long, or set of 4½mm DPNs
- For yarn stockists contact
Designer Yarns 01535 664222
www.designeryarns.uk.com

TENSION

Yarn used knits as aran to this tension: 24 sts and 29 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 4½mm needles

SIZE

To fit foot circumference of approx 20-24cm. This stretchy pattern, combined with the soft yarn, can fit a range of sizes and the length of leg and foot can be adjusted to fit

NOTE socks should have some negative ease

ABBREVIATIONS

slm slip marker
For a full list see page 92

Worked in springy aran weight yarn, these gorgeous socks will knit up in a flash and are ideal for wearing with wellies or chunky ankle boots. We're sure this is a pattern you'll want to knit again and again!



BASKETWEAVE PATTERN

Rounds 1-3 (K2, P6) to end of round.

Round 4 Knit.

Rounds 5-7 (P4, K2, P2) to end of round.

Round 8 Knit.

NOTE

Due to the nature of knitting in the round, there will be a slight jog in the pattern at the start and end of rounds. The heel is positioned differently on the right and left socks to keep this jog on the inner ankle of both socks.

CUFF

Cast on 40 stitches, using a long-tail cast on for elasticity. Join in the round, being careful not to twist.

Rounds 1-7 (K2, P2) to end.

LEG

Work in Basketweave Pattern as above until leg of sock measures approx 14cm from cast-on edge, finishing with round 3 or 7 of pattern.

LEFT FOOT

Knit 1 round.

K1, turn ready to start heel.

RIGHT FOOT

K21, turn ready to start heel.

HEEL

Row 1 Sl1 pwise, P19, turn.

Row 2 (Sl1, K1) 10 times, turn.

Repeat these 2 rows 9 more times.
[20 rows in total]

TURN HEEL

Next row Sl1 pwise, P10, p2tog, P1, turn.

Next row Sl1, K3, ssk, K1, turn.

Next row Sl1, P4, p2tog, P1, turn.

Next row Sl1, K5, ssk, K1, turn.

Next row Sl1, P6, p2tog, P1, turn.

Continue in this way until all the sts have been used up. [12 sts remain]

Resume working in rounds.

Next round Pick up 12 sts down left side of flap, place marker (M1), work across top of foot in pattern, place



The pattern may look intricate, but it's made up of just knit and purl stitches.



The slipped stitches on the heel help to make the finished sock more durable.

marker (M2), then pick up 12 sts up right side of flap.

Dec round K to 2 sts before M1, k2tog, slm, work across top of foot in pattern to M2, slm, ssk, K to end.

Straight round Work around sock in pattern (stocking stitch on sole of foot, Basketweave Pattern on top).

Repeat these two rounds until 40 sts remain, continuing in pattern across top of foot. The sole of the foot continues in stocking stitch throughout.

Knit until foot measures approx 4cm less than the length of your foot, ending with round 3 or 7 of pattern.

SHAPE TOE

Knit to M1. From now on, round begins immediately after marker 1.

Plain round Knit.

Dec round K1, ssk, knit to 3 sts before M2, k2tog, K2 (1 st either side of M2), ssk, knit to 3 sts before M1, k2tog, K1.

Repeat these two rounds until 16 sts remain. Distribute these so there are 8 on each needle tip. Now 'cast off' 1 stitch at the end of each needle, lifting the very end stitch over the one next to it, then off the needles.

Graft remaining 12 sts using Kitchener stitch, then weave in all ends.

NEXT MONTH

Treat yourself to an elegant pair of pretty textured socks. Issue 131, April, will be in the shops from Friday 27 February.

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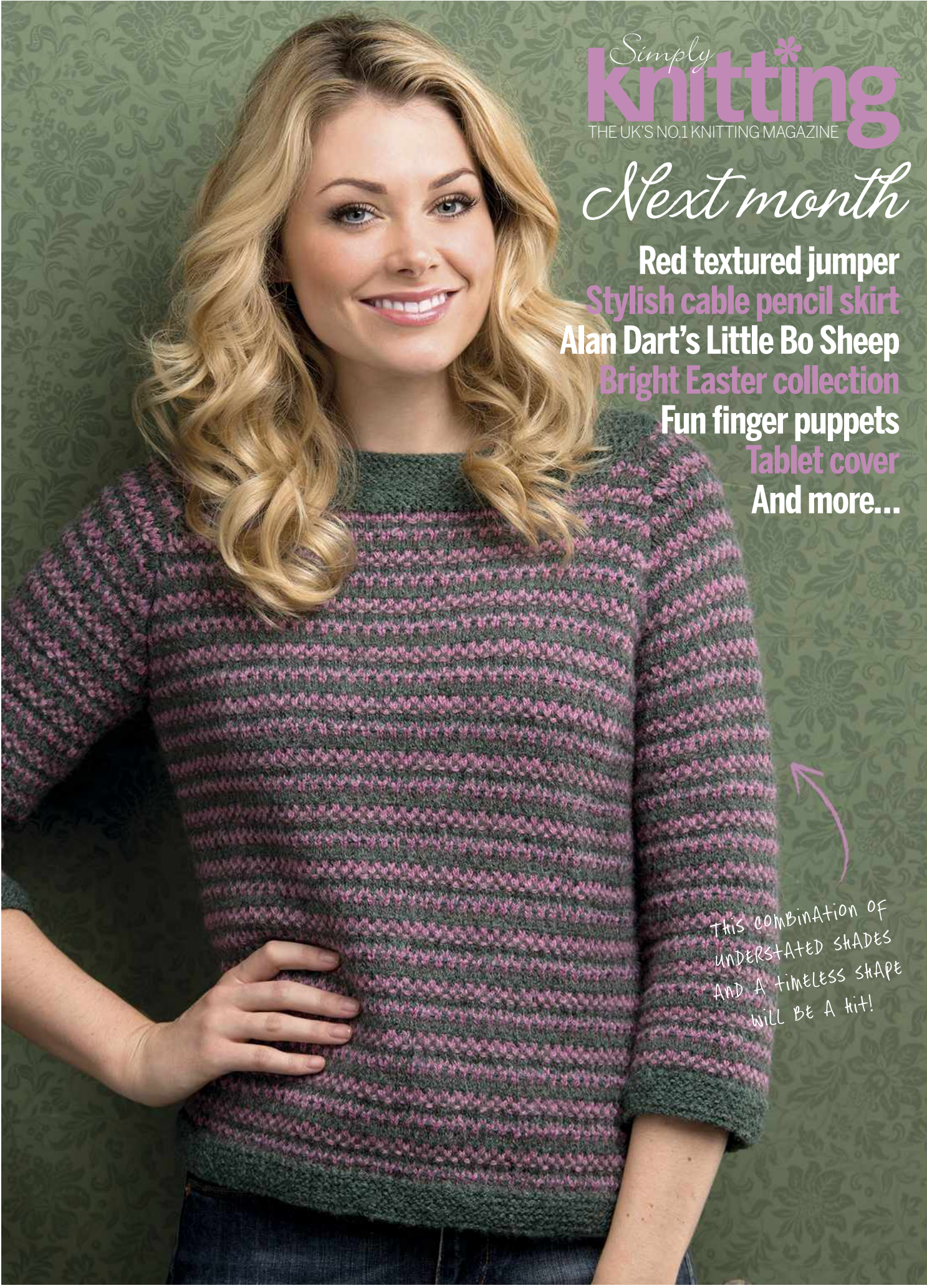
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Red textured jumper
Stylish cable pencil skirt
Alan Dart's Little Bo Sheep
Bright Easter collection
Fun finger puppets
Tablet cover
And more...

THIS COMBINATION OF
UNDERSTATED SHADES
AND A TIMELESS SHAPE
WILL BE A HIT!

APRIL ISSUE ON SALE FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2015





On the needles

RHIAN DRINKWATER



The sock-knitting queen shares her story with us.



Best item to knit Socks! They turned me from someone who knits into a 'proper' knitter.



Best knitting rituals Nothing really – I knit anywhere and everywhere! I don't leave the house without a project bag.

BEST KNITTING TEACHER I first learned as a child, but it never really clicked. Then, about seven years ago, I was representing a cross stitch magazine at a show and Debora Bradley taught me to cast on and work the knit stitch. I bought a scarf kit from Colinette and was hooked!

BEST KNITTING COMPANION My Kindle – I love that I can easily read while I'm knitting.

BEST STYLE DESCRIPTION Pretty and practical! I like to make things that will be worn – things that fit into your wardrobe. With socks, I like to play with stitch patterns that show off the hand-dyed yarns I particularly love.

BEST KNITTING SNACK I'm not sure I have one – it's hard to eat and keep your hands clean! A warm cup of tea at my side is lovely though.

BEST FILM Hmm... *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *Star Wars*, *Labyrinth*, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Avengers Assemble*, *Serenity* – I can't pick one top film!

BEST ADVICE FOR BEGINNERS Practise, practise, practise, and don't get disheartened by mistakes. Knitting sock after sock taught me so much about knitting that I struggled to absorb from books. You just start to understand the stitches and how they're formed, the more you do.

BEST CHILDHOOD MEMORIES I'm an only child, so I lived with my parents, and went to my grandparents after school when they were at work. My Nain (grandma) was a seamstress and taught me to sew, embroider, knit, crochet – and I was a complete bookworm as well.

BEST ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLE For years and years I wanted to be a writer. Then for a while I wanted to be an engineer, and work with computers, and all my qualifications were geared towards that. Eventually I realised I was better suited to playing with words and got into craft magazines, which also led to designing.

BEST UNFULFILLED ASPIRATIONS I'd love to get better at colourwork. I love the effects but still struggle to make my knitting fluent. I know I need to just take my own advice and practise lots!

BEST PLACE TO KNIT In a beer garden on a warm summer's day! Failing that, my sofa, with a DVD box set.

Turn to page 93 for Rhian's latest sock design. To read more about what Rhian has been up to visit her blog, www.thecraftygeek.blogspot.co.uk.



Best stash place All around my house in many, many boxes!



Best knitting listening I like listening to knitting podcasts – *A Playful Day* is my favourite.

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Pattern 38
taken from our
magazine 176



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Issue 129 February 2015

Chunky cardi * Kids' robot jumper * Roll neck jumper * Alan Dart's Sugar Plum Fairy * Winter Warmers Collection * Textured bag * Wrap cardigan * Men's cable cardi * Shoulder cape * Fair Isle cushion * Mock cable socks * **PLUS!** Scarf and hat patterns



Issue 128 January 2015

Cable jumper * Fair Isle roll neck * Lace cardi * Child's hoodie * Bobbled tea cosy * Six coin purses * Legwarmers * Light lace scarf * Bedroom Collection * Alan Dart's Grandma Holly * Pig pencil case * Dainty socks **PLUS!** Cowl pattern



Issue 127 December 2014

Christmas jumper * Child's jacket * Men's pullover * Embellished sweater * Mug hugs * Easy mitts * Lace cardi * Sparkly stocking * Dog's coat and hat * Scarf collection * Hedgehog paperweight * Slippers * Alan Dart's Santa, part 2



Issue 126 November 2014

Faux fur-trimmed cape * Textured wrap cardi * Baby hat, pinafore and jacket * Men's hoodie * Cable wristwarmers * Cat jumper * Ribbed cowl * Intarsia throw * Alan Dart's Santa Mobile, Part 1 * Stocking Collection * Double knitting socks



Issue 125 October 2014

Chunky shrug * Cable jumper * Lace scarf * Openwork pullover * Lace scarf * Bobble bag * Baby booties * Men's jumper * Textured hat * Halloween Collection * Alan Dart's Skeleton * Lacy socks * **PLUS!** Hand Knit Christmas book

TURN FOR MORE BACK ISSUES



Issue 124 September 2014

Floral intarsia top * Faux quilted gilet * Lace cardigan * Jumper dress * Child's striped jumper * Stripy unisex hat * Luxury cowl * Men's socks * Alan Dart's Silent Movie Mice * Patchwork Home Collection * **PLUS!** Fair Isle sock pattern



Issue 123 August 2014

Cropped cardi * Lace tank top * Oversized top * Summer tee * Baby jacket * Kid's cat tunic * Flower cushion * Lace set * Alan Dart's Monsieur Bearnard * Zig-zag socks * Beach set * Lacy belt * Charity nurses * **PLUS!** 50 sock patterns



Issue 122 July 2014

Bright cardi * Teen zigzag jumper * Ladies' tank top * Kid's monster sweater and toy * Classic cardi * Conservatory Collection * Trio of hangers * Fruit keyring * Cabled socks * Tablet cover * Sparkly collar * **PLUS!** Alan Dart's Llama pattern



Issue 121 June 2014

Summer top * Lace cardi * Ladies' hoodie * Baby onesie * Kids' slippers * Alan Dart's One-Man Band * Bike Collection * Cafetière cosy and mug hug * Vintage footie mascot * Super boyfriend * Ankle socks * **PLUS!** Summer shawl pattern



Issue 120 May 2014

Silk cardi * Textured cardi * Kid's sweater * Men's cardi * Summer bag * Lace jumper * Alan Dart's cats * Charity duck * Kid's bedroom set * Camera strap & golf club covers * Socks * **PLUS!** World cup toys, festival patterns book, and doll



Issue 119 Spring 2014

Slash neck jumper * Lace sweater * Bag Collection * Wrap * Kid's sweater * Lace socks * Sheep keyring * Alan Dart's Tweety Birds * I-cord headband * Fair Isle cushion * Fox purse * Man's jumper * **PLUS!** Sparkly cardigan pattern



Issue 118 April 2014

Alpaca jumper * Long hooded cardi * Lacy shawl * Kitchen Collection * Retro socks * Rib hat * Baby's fox onesie * Lace collar * Shopper bag * Home accessories * **PLUS!** Easter eggs and Alan Dart gnome patterns



Issue 117 March 2014

Cable jumper * Fun fur sweater * Boy's waistcoat * Man's Fair Isle jumper * Storage baskets * Phone case * Wavy rib socks * Cable hat * Denim Collection * Lacy mittens * Tea set * Alan Dart's Mother Goose * **PLUS!** Sewing set pattern

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THE VERY BEST OF THIS SEASON'S STYLE

PRETTY
BRIGHTS
for you!



**6 GORGEOUS
ACCESSORIES
TO CROCHET**



Welcome

Flower purse



IN BLOOM

Step out in handmade style with a fabulously floral clutch bag Tanya Eberhardt. Divine.

Flower purse



TREBLE
CLUSTERS



DK
WEIGHT



4.5MM
HOOK

YOU WILL NEED

- 50g of acrylic yarn in each of 4 shades, Yarns A, B, C and D
- A 4.5mm (US 7) hook
- Sew-in purse frame (15cm)
- Fabric for lining (optional)

MEASUREMENTS

24x13cm (9½x5in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

This stunning clutch bag is made up of a host of vibrant blooms in four different shades. The easy-peasy flowers are made separately in a single round with treble clusters, and then assembled in order and joined together. You can choose to make your purse with or without a lining. Apart from the fun flowers, our favourite feature is the metal clasp that gives the bag a vintage feel. It's your new go-to accessory.

NOTES

Make 38 flowers in total, 9 each of Yarns A, B and D, and 11 of Yarn C.

FLOWERS

Ch5 and ss to the first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 (RS) *Ch3, 4-tr cl into the ring, ch3 and ss into the ring (petal made); repeat from * 4 more times. [5 petals]

Fasten off leaving a long tail, weave in starting ends.

TO MAKE UP

Sew the flowers together using the long tail ends of the yarn, making sure that the petals interlock with one another. See images 1-4 below.

Follow the diagram on the opposite page to make an identical piece for the

Front and the Back.

Follow the diagram to make a row of 6 flowers for the Base.

Join the Base of the bag to the Front and Back along the long edge (see Joining diagram). Add the remaining 2 flowers to each side of the Front bottom row as shown. 05

LINING

If you're making a lining for your clutch bag, use the flat piece of work as a template for cutting out the fabric, leaving a seam allowance all the way around.

Fold the lining RS together, sew along the bottom and sides and press the seam allowances along the top open edge to the WS.

Fold up the outer bag and sew the flowers together along the side seams, enclosing the lining.

Sew the lining to the bag along the opening edges.

TO FINISH

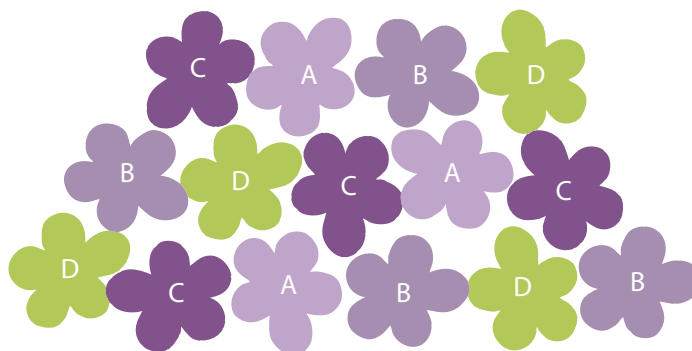
Fit the purse clasp to the opening edges and sew in place.



Flower purse

CHARTS

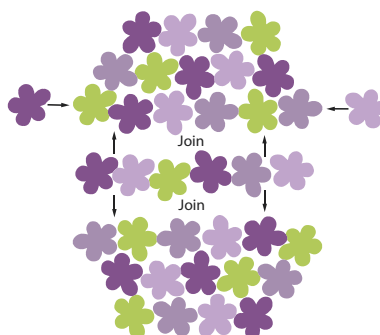
Front and Back



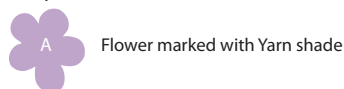
Base



Joining



Key



A FEW OF TANYA'S FAVOURITE THINGS

"Crocheting came into my life out of nowhere. I remember sitting on a couch, three years ago, trying to make the first chain stitches of a scarf project. The process was not easy. The outcome? One scarf and a new addiction that totally changed my life.

What I love most about crochet is the diversity of stitches and

patterns. One can create anything from a variety of textures and stitches. It's all about using your imagination.

One of my favourite things to crochet is definitely amigurumi! When I completed my first amigurumi, I was thrilled. The process of crocheting each part and then joining them to form a toy made me

think I was in a world of dreams. My biggest crochet achievement is that I now create my own crochet patterns! I really enjoy this process, from filling my notebook with sketches and stitch notes to bringing the project to life!

I started my blog almost two years ago as I wanted to share my adventures in crochet.

It's great to talk with creative people across the world, who are just as passionate. I think you should blog about the things you like and reflect your taste; let your personality shine through. Regular posts help, as well as sharing on social media."

See what Tanya's been working on at www.littlethingsblogged.com



Granny square cowl



SQUARE EYES

Harness patchwork power and make this cool and colourful cowl by Jacquie Welbourn.

Granny square cowl



YOU WILL NEED

- We used 9 different shades of DK yarn
- A 4mm (US G/6 hook)

MEASUREMENTS

27x35cm (10½x13¾in) folded flat

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Bust through your yarn stash with this stylish and speedy project by blogger Jacquie Welbourn (you might know her as Bunny Mummy). Each tiny square is worked in only two rounds, meaning you'll have more than enough of them before you know it. Use simple treble stitches to make the mini granny squares, joining them carefully as you work. This ravishing rainbow cowl is finished off beautifully with a treble edging worked in a contrasting colour.

SQUARES

Make 128, using one shade per square and using the shades evenly.

FIRST SQUARE

Ch4, ss to the first ch to make a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr into the ring, ch2, (3tr into the ring, ch2) 3 times, ss to the top of the beginning ch-3. [4 groups of 3-tr and 4 ch-2 sp] 01

Round 2 Ss into the first 2 tr and ch-2 sp. Ch3 (counts as tr), (2tr, ch2, 3tr) into the first ch-2 sp, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) into each ch-2 sp around, ss to the top of the beginning ch-3. 02

Fasten off and weave in ends.

FOLLOWING SQUARES

Subsequent squares are worked as the

first square for Round 1.

Join each square to the next in Round 2 by replacing the corner ch2 with (ch1, ss to the corner space on the other square). 03

Also join the squares together in the middle of each side, by adding a ss between the tr groups on the side of the square, inserting the hook into the gap between the tr groups on the side of the other motif. 04

Make 16 rows of 8 squares each, and join the last row to the first to make a tube. 05 06

EDGING

Join a shade of your choice into any space along the edge of the cowl. Work 3 tr in each side space between treble groups, and 2tr in each corner space around.

To begin, replace 1 of those tr with a starting ch-3, continue around and ss to the top of the beginning ch-3 to end round.

Repeat to complete the edging on the other edge of the cowl.

Fasten off and weave in ends.





WHO'S BUNNY MUMMY?



Crafty crochet designer and granny square lover Jacquie Welbourn is truly passionate about blogging. We chatted with her about how it all works.

Jacquie loves being part of blogland, sharing her own crochet makes and being inspired by others. Her blog is bright and fun and packed with great tutorials. We quizzed her for some top blogging tips and a little inside information about her love of crochet and those downright adorable little owls.

What do you love most about crochet?
It is such a portable, family-friendly craft. It's easy to pick up and take anywhere. I love making blankets and things that make me smile. When my boys were little I didn't do anything creative for many years, so rediscovering crochet has been wonderful.

What is your favourite thing to crochet?
It's got to be granny squares. They're versatile and so easy and soothing to

make. From projects using tiny, two round, squares like my recent Small Squares Cowl, to one giant granny square made into a blanket. I'm sure I will never tire of them.

Biggest crochet achievement?
It has to be spreading the love of crochet. I have done a few tutorials on my blog, and it's a thrill when somebody leaves me a message to say they've found them helpful. I'm delighted by how popular my Easy Crochet Owl tutorial is. Bloggers often leave me links to photos of their cute owl creations in the comments. Wonderful.

Who is your crochet or blogging hero?
When I first discovered Attic24, Lucy's website shone out as such a happy and inspiring place. Lucy is the master of colour and crochet, and writes her blog in such a

naturally chatty and enthusiastic way that it's always a joy to visit her site.

Any advice for aspiring crafty bloggers?
Don't be afraid of technology – it's really easy to set up a blog. Try to do your creations justice with good photography so your readers can really appreciate how lovely your item is. I have done a post with photography tips on my blog. The best way to get people to visit your site is to leave comments on the sites you love.

What are you working on at the moment?
I'm writing up a tutorial for wrist warmers and I've got a granny square blanket on the go. You can't have too many in my opinion.

See Jacquie's makes and tutorials at www.bunnymummy-jacquie.blogspot.co.uk

HAPPY SHOPPER

Play with contrast to make Julie Harrison's fun shopping bag.



Shopping bag



YOU WILL NEED

- DK cotton in each of two shades of your choice, 100g of Yarn A and 50g of Yarn B
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook

MEASUREMENTS

27x39cm (10½x15¼in) without handles

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Pair lilac with zesty lime to make this handy crocheted shopping bag that's light and lacy. Together, the double crochet stitches form a breezy mesh. It's wonderfully simple to hook.

NOTES

The Main part of the bag is worked top down in Yarn A, then the base and finally the top and handles are added in Yarn B.

C MAIN BAG

With Yarn A and a 4mm hook, ch101.

Round 1 (RS) Dc into 2nd ch from hook and in each ch to end, join with ss to first dc to work in the round, being careful not to twist. [100 sts]

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), 2dc, *ch5, skip 2 dc, 3dc; rep from * to end, omitting 2 dc at end of last repeat, ss to first dc. [20 ch-5 sp]

Round 3 Ss to next dc, ch1, *5dc into next ch-5 sp, skip 1 dc, 1dc in next dc, skip 1 dc; rep to end, ss to first and 2nd dc of next ch-5 sp.

Round 4 Ch1, 1dc in same st as last ss, 2dc, *ch5, skip 3 dc, 3dc; repeat to end, ss to first dc.

Round 5 Ss to next dc, ch1, dc in same st as last ss, *5dc into next ch-5 sp, skip 1 dc, 1dc in next dc, skip 1 dc; rep to end, omitting last dc on final repeat, ss to first dc and to next 2 dc.

Rounds 4 and 5 create lace pattern, cont repeating these 2 rounds until work meas approx 35cm, finishing with Round 5.

Fasten off.

BASE

With Yarn B and a 3.5mm hook, join to first dc in any ch-5 sp.

Round 1 Ch1, *dc in each of 5 dc in ch-5 sp, htr in next dc; repeat from * to end, ss in first dc. [120 sts]

Round 2 Ch1, dc in each st to end, ss to first dc.

Repeat last round twice more (four rounds in total).

Flatten bag and dc through both layers to join the bottom by repeating (5dc, ch4, ss in last ch worked) along the base. **Fasten off.**

TOP AND HANDLES

With Yarn B and a 3.5mm hook, join into original foundation ch at the side of the bag.

Round 1 Ch1, dc into each remaining loop of foundation ch, ss to first dc. [100 sts]

Rounds 2 and 3 Ch1, dc in each st to end, ss to first dc.

HANDLES

Round 4 Ch1, 15dc, ch60, skip next 20 dc, 30dc, ch60, skip next 20 dc, 15dc, ss to first dc.

Round 5 Ch1, 15dc, 85dc into ch-60 sp, 30dc, 85dc into ch-60 sp, 15dc, ss to first dc.

Round 6 Ch1, dc in each st to end, ss to first dc.

Round 7 Ch2 (counts as first htr), htr in each st to end, ss to top of beg ch-2.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Gently block bag to bring out lacy pattern.

A FEW OF JULIE'S FAVOURITE THINGS



"I love a lot of things about crochet! The speed of it, the creative possibilities, how versatile it is, and the range of things you can make, not to mention the colour play and interesting stitches. I like to make blankets the most, whether motif-based or done in rows. Finishing my second mixed stitch stripy

blanket for the CAL I was running on my blog has been my biggest crochet achievement, because I didn't think I would get it finished, my interest came in fits and starts and it was a very, very big blanket.

I started blogging to join in the crafty conversations I saw happening on the internet. I wanted to

share my love of crochet with other kindred spirits who would really understand my passion for making things. I also thought it would be a nice way to record some of our family life for my children to look at later.

My advice to aspiring bloggers is just do it! Post your makes and thoughts and see what happens. Blogging is a

fun and rewarding way to share my love of craft, and if I can do it anyone can. I have a few projects on the go right now: a granny square blanket, a circles in squares type blanket, some tapestry crochet washcloths and a baby blanket."

Keep an eye on all of Julie's crochet blanket progress at www.littlewoollie.blogspot.co.uk

SITTING PRETTY

Hook a trio of irresistible floral brooches by Rachel Lane.



Flower brooch



DOUBLE
TREBLE



DK
WEIGHT



3MM
HOOK

YOU WILL NEED

- Several shades of cotton DK yarn – we used Rico Essentials Cotton DK
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Brooch pin

For yarn stockists, contact
Rico www.rico-design.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

Each flower 8.5cm (3¼in) dia

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Three is a magic number, or so we're told, and when a project is this pretty it seems silly to stop at just one. Blogger Rachel's stunning trio of flower brooches is worked with small amounts of DK yarn, so it's a brilliant pattern for busting through your stash. The layers of long petals are made up of dc and dtr stitches. Pick a bright shade for your flower centre to make it pop.

C FLOWER PETALS

Make 3, each in a different shade, with 1 being green for leaves if you wish. Make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (doesn't count as a stitch), 10dc into loop, ss to first dc to join.

Round 2 *Ch12, 1dtr into the fourth ch from the hook, 1dtr into each of the remaining 8 ch, skip the next dc, ss into the next dc; repeat from * 4 more times. [5 petals, each with 10 dtr]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

FLOWER CENTRE

Round 1 Work as for Flower Petals.

Round 2 *Ch4, ss into the fourth ch from the hook to make a picot, skip the next dc, ss into the next dc; repeat from * 4 more times. [5 picots]

Fasten off leaving a long tail (approx 50cm) for sewing up. Weave in the starting tail.

TO MAKE UP

Position the three Flower Petals on top of one another so that the petals are staggered and fan out (they will start to



Pastels are perfect – this girly brooch would make a quick and easy gift for a friend.



Be sure to stitch securely through all of the layers when making up your flower brooch.

curl up a little bit) with a Flower Centre on top.

Thread a yarn needle with the long tail from the Flower Centre and take it down and back up through Round 1 of the three layers.

Continue making tiny running stitches up and down through all three layers of Round 1 until the layers are firmly sewn together.

Sew a brooch pin securely to the back of the flower.

Block gently to keep the petals flat.



A FEW OF RACHEL'S FAVOURITE THINGS

"I made a huge granny square blanket in 2009 after a relative started me off, but I didn't know any other stitches. In 2011 I made a resolution to learn how to crochet, as it was a childhood ambition. I'm so proud that I learnt, after thinking it was just something I wouldn't ever master. This really spurs you on to think

about all the other skills you're more than capable of learning.

I love crocheting for other people. Seeing your items being used by friends and family is lovely. Recently I spotted a blanket I'd made in a friend's photo on Facebook. That's pretty special.

Other blogs really inspire me – there are so

many great craft blogs. I discovered them when I typed a crochet term into Google one day. Reading these made me think I'd like to start my own as I learnt to crochet. It's tempting, at the beginning, to emulate bloggers you admire but it's better to find your own voice.

At the moment I'm darning. I haven't stuck

to my resolution to darn ends as I go, crocheting granny squares for a blanket, so I'm working on 480 of the blighters. I have more of my own crochet designs in mind, too. The grey stuff is whirling with ideas, I need more hands!"

You can read all about Rachel's projects at www.thelittleroomofrachel.wordpress.com

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Simple scarf



TREBLE
CROCHET



CHUNKY
WEIGHT



5.5MM
HOOK

YOU WILL NEED

- West Yorkshire Spinners 100% Blue Faced Leicester Roving Yarn (100% wool, 100g/150m)
- 1 skein of Ecru (this yarn has been hand dyed by our designer using onion skins)
- A 5.5mm (US I/9 hook)
- A piece of lace measuring twice the width of the finished scarf

MEASUREMENTS

12x90cm (4¾x35½in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.



ALL IS GOLDEN

Rachelle Blondel's stylish scarf is trimmed with sweet lace, giving it a vintage vibe.



The groups of five trebles are simple and satisfying to work. Love that chunky texture.

SCARF

Ch19.

Row 1 (RS) 5tr in the sixth ch from the hook (skipped ch count as 2 skipped ch and 1tr), *ch1, skip 4 ch, *5tr in the next ch; repeat from *, tr in the last ch, turn. [3 groups of 5-tr, 2 tr]

Row 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr in st at the base of ch, ch1, (5tr in the next ch-1 sp, ch1) twice, 3tr in the top of the beginning ch-3, turn. [2 groups of 5-tr, 2 groups of 3-tr]

Row 3 Ch3 (counts as tr), (5tr in the next ch-1 sp, ch1) twice, 5tr in the next ch-1 sp, tr in the top of the beginning ch-3, turn. [3 groups of 5-tr, 2 tr]

Repeat Rows 2 and 3 until the yarn is used up.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Cut the piece of lace in half and sew to each end of the scarf.



MAKING TED AND AGNES



Co-author of *Granny Chic* Rachelle is the crafty brains behind the Ted and Agnes blog. She spilt the beans about her inspirations and what's up next.

Rachelle's blog just oozes vintage style and honest crafty writing – it's a fantastic place to visit for inspiration. She's passionate about all things handmade, too, vowing this year to wear a little something handmade every day. We caught up with her to talk books, blogs and stitching favourites.

When did you first learn to crochet?
In my twenties I think. I had only knitted and stitched up until then, and then the call of the hook whispered in my ear.

What's your favourite thing to crochet?
I'm a fan of scarves and cowls at the moment. If I want to make a blanket or larger piece I have to be rather strict otherwise it will end up in the pile of doom, forever unfinished, tucked behind a chair.

Where do you find inspiration?
In every waking moment. There is always something to catch your eye, maybe a colour, a magazine, a yarn or a granny wearing a jaunty scarf. It's all scribbled down in a notebook, snapped with a camera and pondered for another time.

What made you start blogging?
About 2006, I was laid up with a virus and came across the marvellous world of blogging. These tidbits of people's lives enthralled me. It's like a soap opera, recipe book and DIY show all in one. I decided I would start my own and ramble on and on, hopefully inspiring one or two other folk.

Any advice for aspiring crafty bloggers?
Keep it real and find your own voice. Don't worry about fancy formatting and

unnecessary bells and whistles. Write about what you love, share with people and hope to inspire them. I love reading about other folks who chuck their projects across the room in a tangled mess.

What are you working on at the moment?
I'm writing books number two and three, pondering another, revamping my website to include an online shop, and working on my most exciting project, The Stitching Rooms, a social studio for all things stitch.

Can you tell us about your next book?
Not yet, but it does involve something dear to my heart, along with stitching projects. And that's all I'm saying.

Catch all the latest from Rachelle over at www.talesoftedandagnes.blogspot.co.uk

HATS OFF!

Keep pins nice and neat with a very cute pincushion by Hannah Davis.



Amigurumi pincushion



YOU WILL NEED

- Stylecraft Special DK (100% acrylic, 100g/295m)
1 ball of Parchment (1218) oddments of: Magenta (1084), Fondant (1241), Shrimp (1132), Meadow (1065)
 - A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
 - Stuffing (i.e. batting or cotton balls)
 - Coins or other small items to use as weights
 - Stitch marker (optional)
- For yarn stockists, contact
Stylecraft 01535 609798
www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

10cm (4in) diameter

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

For your craft space, or as a pretty gift for a fellow stitcher, this sweet hat-shaped pincushion more than fits the bill. It's worked using amigurumi and is adorned with flowers and leaves.

NOTES

Pattern is worked using amigurumi method. Work sts continuously in a spiral without closing off each rnd with a ss. You can use a st marker in 1st st of each rnd, moving it up as you work.

C BASE AND BRIM

With Parchment, make a magic loop.

Rnd 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into loop.

Rnd 2 2dc in each st around. [12 dc]

Rnd 3 (2dc in next st, 1dc) 6 times. [18 dc]

Rnd 4 (2dc in next st, 2dc) 6 times. [24 dc]

Rnd 5 (2dc in next st, 3dc) 6 times. [30 dc]

Rnd 6 (2dc in next st, 4dc) 6 times. [36 dc]

Rnd 7 Working in back loops only for this rnd: (2dc in next st, 5dc) 6 times. [42 dc]

Rnd 8 (2dc in next st, 6dc) 6 times. [48 dc]

Rnd 9 Rep Round 3. [72 dc]

Rnd 10 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 11 Rep Round 4. [96 dc]

Rnd 12 Dc in each st around, ss to next st. **Fasten off** and weave in ends.

HAT

Attach Parchment to front loops left visible by Rnd 7.

Rnd 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each loop around. [36 sts]

Rnds 2-4 Changing to Magenta, dc in each st around.

Rnds 5-6 Change to Parchment, dc in each st around.

Rnd 7 (Dc2tog, 4dc) 6 times. [30 sts]

Rnd 8 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 9 (Dc2tog, 3dc) 6 times. [24 sts]

Place small coins or weights at the bottom of hat to stabilise, then fill rest of space inside hat with stuffing.

Rnd 10 (Dc2tog, 2dc) 6 times. [18 sts]

Rnd 11 (Dc2tog, 1dc) 6 times. [12 sts]

Rnd 12 (Dc2tog) 6 times.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

FLOWERS

Make 2 in Fondant, 1 in Shrimp.

Make a magic loop.

Rnd 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), 5dc into loop.

Rnd 2 (1dc in next st, ch3) 5 times, ss to first dc. **Fasten off** leaving yarn tails for attaching flowers to hat.

LEAVES (MAKE 2)

With Meadow, make a magic loop.

Rnd 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in loop, ch3, ss in first of those ch, dc in loop. **Fasten off** leaving yarn tails for attaching leaves to flowers.

TO MAKE UP

Attach a leaf to each of Fondant flowers. Using yarn tails, attach Fondant flowers to hat first, leaving space for Shrimp flower. Attach Shrimp flower so it is in front of two Fondant flowers. Weave in ends.



A FEW OF HANNAH'S FAVOURITE THINGS

"I first learnt to crochet when I was around 17, so about eight, maybe nine years ago. I'm quite an anxious person so having something to do with my hands is a great de-stressor. I do love a hobby that's productive and enjoyable, too.

Bigger projects that take time, like blankets, are my faves because you get such a sense of

accomplishment when they're complete. My biggest crochet achievement has been making the As-We-Go Stripy Blanket tutorial from my summer CAL. (inspired by Julie's blanket on her Little Woollie blog). I spent a lot of time planning, taking photos and writing up the pattern, and I'm very pleased

with the result. At the moment I'm working on another ripple throw blanket using the Neat Ripple Pattern from Attic24, and I'm also trying to design some new patterns, too!

I started blogging out of a desire to document how I change and grow as a crocheter, as well as to make connections with other crocheters.

My advice to aspiring bloggers would be to keep it real and fun. Don't worry about what other people might say about you or your work – the online crochet and knitting community is very supportive and just so encouraging!"

Find out more about Hannah's makes on her blog at www.notyouraveragecrochet.com



**Hope
you have a
SUPER CRAFTY
SPRING!**



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