

A Plethora of Petals

Val Pierce gets you stash busting with these flower accessories for any occasion

Search out all the beautiful yarns in your stash to create these pretty and fashionable flowers. You can use them to brighten up clothes or add them as an embellishment to your favourite bags or accessories. There is even a little posy of flowers that can be made into a brooch or you may choose

to sew it on to a hat or sweater. I have given suggestions for different colour schemes but the options are many and varied: you can either follow my choices or use your imagination to make unique flowers of your own. There are basic pattern instructions for each flower and where I have quoted different needle sizes, this will be for use with either

thicker or thinner yarns. Of course, if you use a finer yarn the flower will be smaller than if you use thicker yarns. You can mix and match the centres and leaves on any of the flowers and instead of using three shades of yarn you can just make them in one or two colours if you choose. The choices are endless, as you will discover. ►





Basics

You will need

A variety of yarns in DK and 4ply weights
1 pair each 3mm and 4mm needles
Two 3mm double-pointed needles
3mm and 4mm crochet hooks

Tension

Not critical.

Sizes

The flowers will vary according to yarns used.

Abbreviations see page 83

Crochet

Crochet Flower 1

With 3mm hook (for 4ply) or 4mm hook (for DK) and colour of choice, mk 2 ch.

Rnd 1: Work 6 dc into 2nd ch from hook and join with a ss. 6 dc.

Rnd 2: 1ch, work 2dc into each dc to end, then join with a ss. 12 dc.

Rnd 3: 1ch, 1dc into first dc, (4ch, sk next dc, 1dc in foll dc) to end, finishing with a ss rather than a dc into the first dc of the round, to join. Six 4-ch spaces.

Rnd 4: 1ch, work (1dc, 1htr, 2tr, 1htr, 1dc) into each 4-ch space, then join with a ss. 6 petals. Fasten off.

Centre

With 3mm hook (if using 4ply) or 4mm hook (if using DK) and colour of choice, mk 3 ch.

Rnd 1: Work 6 tr into 3rd ch from hook and join rnd with a ss. 6 tr.

Rnd 2: 2ch, work 1tr into each tr to end, then join rnd with a ss. Fasten off but leave a tail of yarn about 10cm (4in) long.

With darning needle, draw the yarn end through the tops of the sts of rnd 2, draw up tight to form a little ball and secure. Sew to centre of flower.

To finish off

Darn in loose ends.

Crochet Flower 2

With 3mm hook (for 4ply) or 4mm hook (for DK) and colour of choice, mk 2 ch.

Rnd 1: Work 6 dc into 2nd ch from hook and join with a ss. 6 dc.

Change colour at this point if you like.

Rnd 2: 1ch, work 2dc into each dc to end, then join with a ss. 12 dc.

Fasten off and join in a new colour.

Rnd 3: 1ch, 1dc into first dc, (4ch, sk next dc, 1dc in foll dc) to end, finishing with a ss rather than a dc into the first dc of the round, to join. Six 4-ch spaces.

Rnd 4: 1ch, work (1dc, 1htr, 2tr, 1htr, 1dc) into each 4-ch space, then join with a ss. 6 petals.

Fasten off and join in a new colour.

Rnd 5: Work 1dc into each st, all around edge of flower, then join rnd with a ss.

Fasten off.

To finish off

Darn in loose ends.

Knitted

5-petal knitted flower

With 3mm needles (for 4ply) or 4mm needles (for DK) and colour of choice, cast on 57 sts.

Row 1 (RS): Purl.

Fasten off and join in a new colour.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: (K2, *k1, slip this st back onto LH needle, lift the next 8 sts on LH needle over this st and off the needle, yo twice, knit that st again. Rep from * to last 2 sts, k2. 27 sts (inc yarn-overs).

Fasten off and join in a new colour.

Row 4: *P1, p2tog, (p1, p1 tbl) into each of the two yarn-overs. Rep from * to last 2 sts, p2.

Break off yarn leaving a long tail. Do not cast off, but instead use a darning needle to run yarn through rem sts, draw together into a circle to form flower centre and secure with a knot. Sew seam.

To finish off

Darn in loose ends.

Star Flower

Petals (make 5)

With 3mm needles (for 4ply) or 4mm needles (for DK) and colour of choice, cast on 5 sts.

Row 1 (WS): Purl.

Row 2: Kfb, k3, kfb. 7 sts.

Row 3: Purl.

Row 4: Kfb, k5, kfb. 9 sts.

Row 5: Purl.



Posy

Row 6: Knit.

Rows 7-8: As rows 5-6.

Row 9: Purl.

Row 10: K2tog, k5, k2tog. 7 sts.

Row 11: Purl.

Row 12: K2tog, k3, k2tog. 5 sts.

Row 13: Purl.

Row 14: K2tog, k1, k2tog. 3 sts.

Row 15: P3tog.

Fasten off.

Make 4 further petals in the same way. Darn in loose ends on all 5 petals and press lightly.

With a length of matching yarn sew petals together in a circle, overlapping them slightly as you go.

Centre

With 3mm needles (for 4ply) or 4mm needles (for DK) and colour of choice, cast on 4 sts.

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: (Kfb) in each st to end. 8 sts.

Row 3: Knit.

Row 4: (Kfb) in each st to end. 16 sts.

Row 5: Knit.

Row 6: (K2tog) to end. 8 sts.

Row 7: Knit.

Row 8: (K2tog) to end. 4 sts.

Cast off k-wise.

With darning needle run a thread all around the outer edge and draw up into a ball.

Secure with a knot and stitch onto the centre of the flower.

With a contrast yarn work long and

short stitches at the base of each petal, using photograph as a guide.

Leaves

Leaf 1

With 3mm needles (for 4ply) or 4mm needles (for DK) and colour of choice, cast on 5 sts.

Rows 1-2: Knit.

Row 3: K2, m1, k1, m1, k2. 7 sts.

Row 4: K3, p1, k3.

Row 5: K3, m1, k1, m1, k3. 9 sts.

Row 6: K4, p1, k4.

Row 7: Knit.

Rows 8-12: Rep rows 6-7 twice and then row 6 once more.

Row 13: K2tog, k5, k2tog. 7 sts.

Row 14: K3, p1, k3.

Row 15: K2tog, k3, k2tog. 5 sts.

Row 16: K2, p1, k2.

Row 17: K2tog, k1, k2tog. 3 sts.

Row 18: K3tog. Fasten off.

Leaf 2

With 3mm needles (for 4ply) or 4mm needles (for DK) and colour of choice, cast on 5 sts.

Rows 1-2: Knit.

Row 3: Kfb, k3, kfb. 7 sts.

Row 4: Knit.

Row 5: Kfb, k5, kfb. 9 sts.

Rows 6-12: Knit.

Row 13: K2tog, k5, k2tog. 7 sts.

Row 14: Knit.

Row 15: K2tog, k3, k2tog. 5 sts.

Row 16: Knit.

Row 17: K2tog, k1, k2tog. 3 sts.

Row 18: K3tog.

Fasten off.

Flowers (make 5)

With 3mm needles and 4ply yarn cast on 16 sts.

Rows 1-6: Beg with a k row, work in st st.

Change to 4mm needles.

Row 7: K1, (yfwd, k2tog) to last st, k1.

Row 8: Purl.

Change back to 3mm needles.

Rows 9-14: Beg with a k row, work in st st.

Do not cast off.

With darning needle, thread yarn through sts, draw up tight and secure with a knot.

Now sew the side seam of the flower. Turn it back on itself and the holes will form a picot edge on the right side of the flower.

Catch the base together.

Embroider french knots in yellow or a colour of your choice onto the centre of the flower.

Stems (make 3)

The stems are made using an I-cord. Although this method may seem a bit complicated when you first attempt it, in practice it is quite straightforward and quick to do.

With the two 3mm double-pointed needles and 4ply yarn, cast on 4 sts.

Knit the first row.

Now slide the stitches to the opposite end of the needle.

The working yarn is

at the left-hand side of the row.

Knit another row, pulling the working yarn tight at the back of the piece.

Again, slide the stitches to the opposite end of the needle and you are ready to knit the next row.

Repeat in this manner.

As you pull the yarn the back will close up on itself, like magic.

Continue in this way until your work measures approx 8cm (3.25in). Cast off.

Small leaves

With 3mm needles and 4ply cast on 5 sts.

Rows 1-2: Knit 2 rows.

Row 3: Kfb, k3, kfb. 7 sts.

Row 4: Knit.

Row 5: Kfb, k5, kfb. 9 sts.

Rows 6-8: Knit.

Row 9: K2tog, k5, k2tog. 7 sts.

Row 10: Knit.

Row 11: K2tog, k3, k2tog. 5 sts.

Row 12: Knit.

Row 13: K2tog, k1, k2tog. 3 sts.

Row 14: K3tog.

Fasten off.

To finish off

Sew bases of the flowers together into a bunch. Group the stems together and sew them to the back of the posy.

Add two small leaves to complete. You can use beads in the centre of the flowers if you wish instead of embroidering French knots. ●