



By Alan Dart

Yuletide Gnomes

You won't be able to resist making these little Swedish chaps, beautifully designed by Alan Dart.



The furry pile of Sirdar's Foxy yarn is perfect for making bushy beards.



Our cute, friendly gnomes from Alan Dart are the perfect addition to Christmas! With their warmth, their cute button noses and their fab hairy beards, they're bound to be loved by children and grown-ups alike.

Your own personal *jultomten* (or mini Santa Claus) need not do anything more taxing than sit on your mantelpiece, surveying the festive scene in front of him. Made from a combination of simple knit stitches, using contemporary yarns and some inventive stuffing using beanbag granules in the *jultomten*'s bottom, these chaps will become as much a tradition in your house as they are in homes all over Sweden.

When we asked Alan to make us a toy for Christmas he didn't hesitate on his choice of subject matter: "I made them because I was given free rein, and whenever that occurs I try to sneak in something Swedish-inspired because I just love Sweden and most things Swedish... apart from reindeer meat – I'm vegetarian!"

Knitted toys are a great way for beginners to get to grips with the basic techniques of knitting. You are able to practise skills such as increasing and decreasing without fear of little problems having too detrimental an effect on your finished piece, which could happen if you were making a full-sized garment. Any mistakes you may make will only add to the character of your toy.

The shaping of Alan's fantastic gnomes involves nothing more complicated than increasing by knitting into the front and the back of the stitch, and knitting two stitches together to decrease a stitch (see page 84 in *Simply Knitting*, issue 8 for a photographic guide to both these techniques).

Colour coded

Although we have stated that to make each gnome you'll need one ball of each yarn stated, you will in fact just use part of the ball to complete a finished toy, so you'll easily be able to make all three little chaps out of one ball of each yarn. For colour combinations you can refer to our pictures, but feel free to make them in any colour you choose.





Pattern info

You will need...

For all gnomes (see photographs for colour combinations):

Yarn A

Sirdar Country Style DK

Cherry (402)/Greystone (408)/
Cream (411)

Yarn B

Sirdar Country Style DK

Cherry (402)/Greystone (408)/
Cream (411)

Face yarn:

Hayfield Toytime DK

Flesh Tone (963)

Beard yarn:

Sirdar Foxy

Arctic Fox (432)/Silver Fox (434)/
Ermine (417)

A pair of 3mm needles

A pair of 6mm needles

20g (25g: 30g) washable toy stuffing

10in (25cm) diameter circle of muslin

75g of PVC beanbag granules

Sewing thread to match beard shade

Long tweezers for stuffing

For where to buy, turn to page 96
of Simply Knitting issue 8

Sizing colour key

So you can re-use this pattern, we've colour-coded the sizing instructions. Simply follow our colour-coded measurements and you're off.

■ Small ■ Medium ■ Large

Yuletide Gnomes

✿ Start knitting here...

HEAD AND BODY

Cast on 11 sts using 3mm needles in Face yarn for top edge of head.

Row 1 K.

Row 2 P.

These 2 rows form st st.

Next row Inc into every st to end. 22 sts.

Next row P.

Next row *Inc 1, K1* to end. 33 sts.

St st 3 rows.

Next row *K1, inc 1, K1* to end. 44 sts.

St st 9 rows starting with a P row.

SHAPE BASE OF HEAD

Next row *K1, k2tog, K1* to end.

33 sts.

Next row P.

Next row *K1, k2tog* to end.

22 sts.

Next row P.

Change to Yarn A for body and

st st 6 (8:10) rows.

SHAPE TOP OF BODY

Next row *Inc 1, K1* to end. 33 sts.

St st 5 (7:9) rows.

Next row *K1, inc 1, K1* to end. 44 sts.

St st 5 (7:9) rows.

Next row *K1, inc 1, K2* to end. 55 sts.

St st 11 (13:15) rows.

SHAPE BASE OF BODY

Next row *K2, k2tog, K1* to end. 44 sts.

St st 3 rows.

Next row *K1, k2tog, K1* to end. 33 sts.

St st 3 rows.

Next row *K1, k2tog* to end. 22 sts.

Next row P.

Next row *K2tog* to end. 11 sts.

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

BOOT AND LEG

(MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 22 sts with 3mm needles and Yarn B for boot base edge and continue in st st.

Row 1 K1, (inc 1) twice, K6, (inc 1) four times, K6, (inc 1) twice, K1. 30 sts.

Next row P.

Next row K1, (inc 1, K1) twice, K6 (inc 1, K1) four times, K6, (inc 1, K1) twice, K1. 38 sts.

St st 5 rows.

SHAPE FRONT OF BOOT

Next row K1, skpo, K2, k2tog, K24, skpo, K2, k2tog, K1. 34 sts.

Next row P.

Next row K1, skpo, K2tog, K24, skpo, K2tog, K1. 30 sts.

P to end of row.

KNT TIP

If you don't have long tweezers to stuff the hands and feet, you can use a pen or large needle.

Sizing guide

			Small	Medium	Large
From top of hat to base of bottom		in cm	12½ 32	14 35.5	15 38
Yarn	Ball size	Shade			
For all Gnomes:					
Yarn A	Sirdar Country Style DK	100g/318m	Cherry (402)/ Greystone (408)/ Cream (411)	1	1
Yarn B	Sirdar Country Style DK	100g/318m	Cherry (402)/ Greystone (408)/ Cream (411)	1	1
Face Yarn	Hayfield Toytime DK	25g/70m	Flesh Tone (963)	1	1
Beard Yarn	Sirdar Foxy	50g/40m	Arctic Fox (432)/ Silver Fox (434)/ Ermine (417)	1	1



How to...

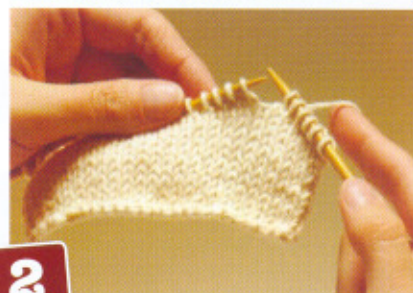
SKPO

Use this method to decrease stitches on your gnome.



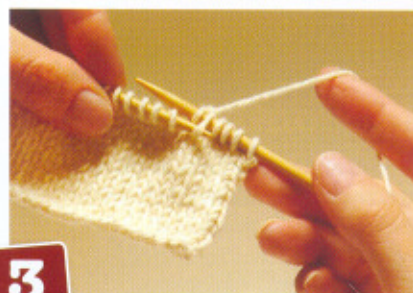
1

Insert the point of the right-hand needle into the next stitch as if you were to knit it, but instead of winding the yarn around the needle, just slip the stitch off the left 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, and your slipped stitch should look like this.

Cast off 6 sts at beg of next 2 rows. 18 sts.
Next row Dec 1 st at beg of next 2 rows. 16 sts.
St st 6 rows.
Next row Knit 2 rows for top of boot.
Change to Yarn A for leg and st st 16 (22: 28) rows.
Cast off for top edge of leg.

ARM AND MITTEN

(MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 12 sts using 3mm needles and Yarn A for top edge of arm and st st 10 (16: 22) rows.
Change to Yarn B for mitten and K 2 rows for cuff.
Beg with a K row, st st 2 rows.
Cast on 4 sts at beg of next 2 rows for thumb. 20 sts.
St st 2 rows.
Cast off 3 sts at beg of next 2 rows. 14 sts.
St st 4 rows.

SHAPE END OF MITTEN

Next row K1, (k2tog, K2, skpo) twice, K1. 10 sts.
Next row P.
Cast off.

Knit in
time for
Xmas

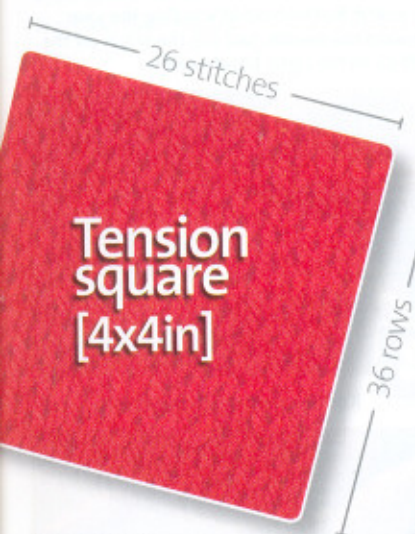
*A beanbag bottom
gives your gnome
good stability.*



Pattern info

Abbreviations

beg beginning	P purl
dec decrease (by working 2 stitches together)	skpo slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over
inc increase (by working into front and back of stitch)	st(s) stitch(es)
K knit	st st stocking stitch (one row knit, one row purl)
k2tog knit 2 sts together	



Tension

Yarn used for body knits as DK to this tension: 26 sts and 36 rows to 4x4in (10x10cm) in st st worked with Country Style or Toytime DK on 3mm needles.

Yarn used for beard knits as chunky to this tension:

15 sts and 20 rows to 4x4in (10x10cm) in st st worked with Foxy on 6mm needles.

HAT

Cast on 48 sts using 3mm needles in Yarn B. St st 7 rows for cuff.

Row 8 K row, st st 6 rows.

Next row (K2, k2tog, K2) to end. 40 sts. St st 5 rows.

Next row (K2, k2tog, K1) to end. 32 sts. St st 5 rows.

Next row (K1, k2tog, K1) to end. 24 sts. St st 5 rows.

Next row (K1, k2tog) to end. 16 sts. St st 5 rows.

Next row (K1, k2tog, K1) to end. 12 sts. St st 5 rows.

Next row Dec 1 st at beg and end of row. St st 7 rows.

Repeat the last 8 rows three more times. 4 sts.

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

NOSE

Cast on 12 sts using 3mm needles in Face Yarn for base edge and work 4 rows st st.

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

BEARD

Cast on 3 sts using 6mm needles and Beard yarn for base edge and st st 2 rows.

Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row.

St st 3 rows.

Repeat the last 4 rows two more times. 9 sts.

Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row. (11 sts)

Next row P.

Cast on 6 sts at beg of next 2 rows. 23 sts.

St st 6 rows.

Cast off for top edge.

TO MAKE UP

For best results, sew seams and join pieces using mattress stitch (see page 86 of *Simply Knitting*, issue 8), working with right side of knitting uppermost. A one stitch knitted seam turning has been allowed on all pieces to accommodate this method.

BEAN BAG FOR BASE

First make beanbag by sewing a line of large running stitches around the edge of the muslin circle. Draw up slightly and fill with granules, then gather tightly and fasten off securely. Should you prefer to omit the beanbag, simply fill entire body with toy stuffing.

BODY AND HEAD

Join body seam from gathered base edge up to last knitted increase row on body. Insert beanbag into base of body, then join remainder of body and head seam, stopping at last increase row on head. Stuff top of body and head firmly, then join remaining section of head seam. Work a gathering thread through every stitch on top edge of head, draw up tightly and fasten off.

LEGS AND BOOTS

Fold base edge of each boot in half and join, then join round front of boot and up leg, leaving top edge of leg open. Use tweezers to stuff boot firmly, then remainder of leg lightly. Position and sew legs to body, spacing them 6 knitted stitches apart and placing centre back of each leg in line with first decrease row at base of body.

ARMS AND MITTENS

Fold cast off edge of each mitten in half and join, then join up side of mitten, round thumb, and up arm, leaving top edge of arm open. Use tweezers to stuff mitten firmly, then remainder of arm lightly. Fold top edge of each arm flat and sew to body sides, placing in line with first increase row at top of body.

We've used traditional colours here, but you could choose colours to match your Christmas theme.





BEARD

Join the straight side edges on the top section of beard piece then, placing this seam at centre back, fit over head and pin in position. Sew top edge of beard securely in place with sewing thread and remove pins.

NOSE

Join side edges of nose piece, leaving base edge open, then use tweezers to stuff firmly. Work a gathering thread through every stitch on base edge, draw up tightly and fasten off. Sew base of nose to head, placing centrally and directly above top of beard.

HAT

Join side edges of hat and turn up cuff then, placing this seam at centre back and stuffing base of pointed section very lightly, fit on head, holding in position with pins. Working along final knitted row of cuff, sew hat securely in place and remove pins. Fold tip of hat to form a zigzag shape and hold in position with hair spray if desired (see 'How to' on the right).

With a 15% wool content, Country Style gives the gnomes a rustic feel.

How to... Form the hat

Get that distinctive zigzag on the hat with hairspray!



1

Once you've sewn the hat into position, form the tip of it to create a zigzag effect and hold in place. You may find pinning it in position on an old towel is a little easier.



2

Now spray the hat, holding it in place, until the hairspray has dried. The natural wool fibres in the yarn mean that the hat will keep its shape for a long time.

History of the Swedish Gnomes

So where did Alan Dart's inspiration come from for these cute little guys?

Although our festive gnomes may remind you of Father Christmas, their background has a little more to it than just that. In Sweden, these little chaps are called *jultomten* – which literally translates as 'the Christmas Gnome' – and really, they don't look too different to our garden gnomes.

The myth surrounding *jultomten* is not too far removed from our own Santa Claus, because he is the Swedish version of St Nicholas. In Sweden, a member of the family or a 'chartered' neighbour dresses up as *jultomten*, so that he or she is as unrecognisable as possible. With a sack over his or her shoulder, they then knock on the door, asking the traditional question, "Are there any good children here?"

