

BY ALAN DART



# Hare Brained

Get a touch of spring fever  
with Alan's Mad March Hare.





## Pattern Info

### You will need...

#### Hayfield Bonus DK

1x100g/280m ball of each:  
Walnut (927), Oatmeal (964) and  
Primrose (957)

#### Hayfield Bonus Toytime DK

1x25g/70m ball of each:  
Emerald (916), White (961),  
Sunflower (978) and Bottle Green  
(839)

#### Sirdar Funky Fur

1x50g/90mm ball of each:  
Walnut (549)  
Oddments of dusky pink, black and  
chocolate brown DK yarn  
A pair of 3mm knitting needles  
Stitch holder  
Washable toy stuffing  
Long tweezers  
Hair spray  
Red pencil

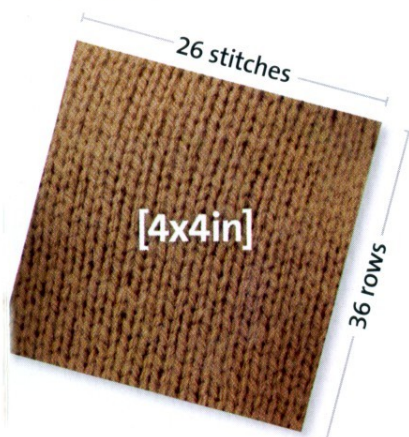
For where to buy, see page 92

Visit [www.alandart.co.uk](http://www.alandart.co.uk) for more  
information on Alan's designs and to  
purchase patterns.

### Tension

#### Yarn used knits as DK to this tension:

26 sts and 36 rows to measure 4x4in  
(10x10cm) over stocking stitch using  
3mm needles



The beautiful china on page 39 was  
loaned to us by Mrs Stokes Vintage  
China – visit Green Park Station, Bath,  
on Saturdays or [www.mrsstokes.com](http://www.mrsstokes.com)

Longer, lighter days, everything growing – no wonder everyone goes dotty over spring, humans and hares alike. Alan Dart has created his own March Hare, one who's rather more smartly dressed than the ones you'll see boxing in the fields. "I gave the March Hare a daffodil because they flower in March, and he's a bit daffy too," says Alan.

### Start knitting here

**NOTE** Use 3mm needles throughout and cast on by using the cable (two-needle) method. This is most important when knitting the smaller pieces. Begin all pieces with a K row, unless otherwise stated.

### BODY (MAKE 1 PIECE)

**Cast on** 20 sts with Walnut for neck edge and st st 10 rows.

#### SHAPE SHOULDERS

**1st inc row** K3, (inc 1) four times, K6, (inc 1) four times, K3. [28 sts].

**Next row** Purl.

**2nd inc row** K3, (inc 1, K1) four times, K6, (inc 1, K1) four times, K3. [36 sts]

St st 3 rows.

**3rd inc row** (K1, inc 1, K1) to end. [48 sts]

St st 25 rows.

#### SHAPE HAUNCHES

**1st inc row** K9, (inc 1) six times, K18, (inc 1) six times, K9. [60 sts]

**Next row** Purl.

**2nd inc row** K9, (inc 1, K1) six times, K18, (inc 1, K1) six times, K9. [72 sts]

St st 3 rows.

**3rd inc row** K10, (inc 1, K2) six times, K18, (inc 1, K2) six times, K8. [84 sts]

St st 27 rows.

#### SHAPE BASE

**1st dec row** (K2, k2tog, K2) to end. [70 sts]  
St st 5 rows.

**2nd dec row** (K2, k2tog, K1) to end. [56 sts]  
St st 3 rows.

**3rd dec row** (K1, K2tog, K1) to end. [42 sts]  
St st 3 rows.

**4th dec row** (K1, k2tog) to end [28 sts]

**Next row** Purl.

**5th dec row** (K2tog) to end. [14 sts]

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

### HEAD (MAKE 1 PIECE)

**Cast on** 13 sts with Walnut for back edge and st st 2 rows.

**1st inc row** Inc into every st to end. [26 sts]

**Next row** Purl.

**2nd inc row** (Inc 1, K1) to end. [39 sts]

St st 3 rows.

**3rd inc row** (K1, inc 1, K1) to end. [52 sts]

St st 5 rows.

### SHAPE CHEEKS

**Inc row** K11, (inc 1, K1) four times, K15, (inc 1, K1) four times, K10. [60 sts]

St st 3 rows.

**1st dec row** (K4, k2tog, K4) to end. [54 sts]

St st 5 rows.

**2nd dec row** (K4, k2tog, K3) to end. [48 sts]

**Next row** Purl.

**3rd dec row** K8, (k2tog) four times, K16, (k2tog) four times, K8. [40 sts]

St st 5 rows.

### SHAPE FRONT

**1st dec row** (K1, k2tog, K1) to end. [30 sts]

St st 7 rows.

**2nd dec row** (K1, K2tog) to end. [20 sts]

St st 3 rows.

**3rd dec row** K1, (K2tog) nine times, K1. [11 sts]

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

### EAR BACKS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

**Cast on** 8 sts with Walnut for base edge and st st 12 rows.

Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row.

St st 7 rows.

Repeat the last 8 rows three more times. [16 sts]

St st 4 rows.

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row.

St st 3 rows.

Repeat the last 4 rows once more. [12 sts]

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next 2 rows. [8 sts]

**Cast off** for top edge.

### EAR LININGS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

With Oatmeal, work as given for ear backs.

### TEETH

#### (MAKE 1 PIECE)

**Cast on** 4 sts with White for top edge and st st 3 rows.

P 3 rows for fold line.

St st 2 rows, beg with a K row.

**Cast off** for top edge.

### NOSE (MAKE 1 PIECE)

**Cast on** 14 sts with dusky pink for top edge.

**Inc row** K2, (inc 1, K1, inc 1, K3) twice. [18 sts]

St st 3 rows, beg with a P row.

**1st dec row** (K3, k2tog, SKPO, K1) twice, K2. [14 sts]

**2nd dec row** (P2, p2tog tbl, P2tog) twice, P2. [10 sts]



Make the hare's eyes slightly crossed for a loopy look.

## HOW TO...

### KFB

Do the increases this way to get the correct stitch count.



1

Insert the tip of the right-hand needle into the front of the stitch to knit, as you would normally when knitting a stitch.



2

Knit the stitch but don't drop it from the left-hand needle.



3

Take the right-hand needle to the back of the knitting and insert the tip of the needle through the loop of the stitch on the left-hand needle.



4

Knit this second stitch and keep it on the right-hand needle, dropping the stitch from the left-hand needle.

**3rd dec row** K1, (k2tog, SKPO) twice, K1. [6 sts].  
Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

### HAIR (MAKE 1 PIECE)

**Cast on** 27 sts with Funky Fur for outside edge and st st 2 rows.

**1st dec row** (K1, k2tog) to end. [18 sts]

**Next row** Purl.

**2nd dec row** (K2tog) to end [9 sts].

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

### LEGS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

**Cast on** 18 sts with Walnut for top edge and st st 10 rows.

Change to Oatmeal and st st 6 rows.

**Cast off** for base edge.

### FEET (MAKE 2 PIECES)

**Cast on** 14 sts with Oatmeal for back edge and st st 2 rows.

**1st inc row** K1, (inc 1, K3, inc 1, K1) twice, K1. [18 sts]

**Next row** Purl.

**2nd inc row** K1, (inc 1, K5, inc 1, K1) twice, K1. [22 sts]

St st 15 rows.

**3rd inc row** K1, (inc 1, K7, inc 1, K1) twice, K1. [26 sts]

St st 3 rows.

**4th inc row** K1, (inc 1, K9, inc 1, K1) twice, K1. [30 sts]

St st 3 rows.

**5th inc row** K1, (inc 1, K11, inc 1, K1) twice, K1. [34 sts]

St st 7 rows.

**1st dec row** K1, (SKPO, K12, k2tog) twice, K1. [30 sts]

**Next row** Purl.

**2nd dec row** K1, (SKPO, K10, k2tog) twice, K1. [26 sts]

**Next row** Purl.

**3rd dec row** K1, (SKPO, K8, k2tog) twice, K1. [22 sts]

**Next row** Purl.

**4th dec row** K1, (SKPO, K6, k2tog) twice, K1. [18 sts]

**Next row** Purl.

**Cast off** for front edge.

### FOOT PADS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

**Cast on** 12 sts with dusky pink.

**1st dec row** K4, SKPO, k2tog, K4. [10 sts]

**2nd dec row** P3, p2tog, p2tog tbl, P3. [8 sts]

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

### TAIL (MAKE 1 PIECE)

**Cast on** 18 sts with White for base edge and st st



## Pattern Info

### Abbreviations

|              |                                                     |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>beg</b>   | beginning                                           |
| <b>dec</b>   | decrease (by working 2 stitches together)           |
| <b>inc</b>   | increase (by working into front and back of stitch) |
| <b>K</b>     | knit                                                |
| <b>P</b>     | purl                                                |
| <b>PSSO</b>  | pass slipped stitch over                            |
| <b>SKPO</b>  | slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over        |
| <b>sl</b>    | slip                                                |
| <b>st st</b> | stocking stitch                                     |
| <b>st(s)</b> | stitch(es)                                          |
| <b>tbl</b>   | through back of loops together                      |

### Measurements

12½in (32cm) tall

*A sharp-pointed darning needle is best for embroidering.*

2 rows.

**1st inc row** (K1, inc 1, K1) to end. [24 sts]

St st 3 rows.

**2nd inc row** (K1, inc 1, K2) to end. [30 sts]

St st 7 rows.

**1st dec row** (K1, K2tog) to end. [20 sts]

**Next row** Purl.

**2nd dec row** (K2tog) to end. [10 sts]

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

### TAILCOAT (MAKE 1 PIECE)

#### LEFT TAIL

**Cast on** 3 sts with Emerald for base edge and st st 2 rows.

Inc 1 st at end of next row. St st 3 rows.

Repeat the last 4 rows 12 more times. [16 sts]

Break yarn and slip sts on to a stitch holder.

#### RIGHT TAIL

**Cast on** 3 sts with Emerald for base edge and st st 2 rows.

Inc 1 st at beg of next row. St st 3 rows.

Repeat the last 4 rows 12 more times. [16 sts].

### JOIN TAILS

**Next row** K14, SKPO from right tail sts, then K2tog, K14 from held left tail sts. [30 sts]

**Next row** Purl.

**Cast on** 11 sts at beg of next 2 rows. [52 sts]

### SHAPE FRONT EDGES

**Next row** Inc 1, K to last 2 sts, inc 1, K1.

**Next row** Purl.

Repeat the last 2 rows six more times. [66 sts]

St st 2 rows.

### SHAPE LAPELS

**1st dec row** SKPO, K to last 2 sts, k2tog.

**2nd dec row** P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog tbl.

Repeat the last 2 rows two more times. [54 sts]

**7th dec row** SKPO, K2, (K1, k2tog, K3) to last 2 sts, k2tog. [44 sts]

**8th dec row** P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog tbl. [42 sts]

**9th dec row** SKPO, K2, (SKPO, K2, k2tog) twice, K10, (SKPO, K2, k2tog) twice, K2, k2tog. [32 sts]

**10th dec row** P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog tbl. [30 sts].

**11th dec row** SKPO, (SKPO, k2tog) twice, K10, (SKPO, k2tog) twice, k2tog. [20 sts]

**12th dec row** P tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog tbl. [18 sts].

**Cast off** for back neck edge.

### COLLAR AND LAPELS (MAKE 1 PIECE)

#### WORK LEFT LAPEL

**Cast on** 2 sts with Emerald for base edge and st



*The petals of the daffodil are made all in one piece, so it's not as fiddly as it looks to make.*

st 2 rows. Inc 1 st at beg of next row.

**Next row** Purl.

Repeat the last 2 rows three more times. [6 sts]

St st 2 rows.

**Next row** Cast off 4 sts, cast on 4 sts, K to end. [6 sts].

### WORK COLLAR

St st 27 rows.

**Next row** Cast off 4 sts, cast on 4 sts, K to end. [6 sts].

### WORK RIGHT LAPEL

St st 3 rows.

Dec 1 st at beg of next row.

**Next row** Purl.

Repeat the last 2 rows three more times. [2 sts]

**Cast off** for base edge.

### ARMS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

**Cast on** 6 sts with Emerald for top edge of sleeve. St st 2 rows.

Inc 1 st at beg of next 2 rows.

Repeat the last 4 rows once more. [10 sts]

**Cast on** 2 sts at beg of next 2 rows for underarm. [14 sts]

St st 14 rows.

K 2 rows for sleeve cuff.

Change to Oatmeal for paw and st st 2 rows, beg with a K row.

**1st inc row** K1, (inc 1, K3, inc 1, K1) twice, K1. [18 sts].

**Next row** Purl.





**2nd inc row** K1, (inc 1, K5, inc 1, K1) twice, K1. [22 sts]

**Next row** Purl.

**3rd inc row** K1, (inc 1, K7, inc 1, K1) twice, K1. [26 sts]

St st 5 rows.

**1st dec row** K1, (SKPO, K8, k2tog) twice, K1. [22 sts]

**Next row** Purl.

**2nd dec row** K1, (SKPO, K6, k2tog) twice, K1. [18 sts]

**3rd dec row** P1, (p2tog, P4, p2tog tbl) twice, P1. [14 sts]

**Cast off.**

## PAW PADS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

**Cast on** 10 sts with dusky pink.

**Dec row** K3, SKPO, k2tog, K3. [8 sts]

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

## BUTTONS (MAKE 3 PIECES)

**Cast on** 12 sts with Bottle Green and K 1 row.

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

## DAFFODIL PETALS (MAKE 1 PIECE)

**Cast on** 12 sts with Primrose for centre edge and st st 2 rows.

### WORK FIRST PETAL

**\*Next row** Inc 1, K1, turn and work on these 3 sts only.

St st 3 rows.

**Dec row** Sl 1, k2tog, PSSO \*\*, break yarn, leaving a 60in (150cm) length, thread through st, draw up, then sew down left-hand side of petal to meet remaining sts on needle.

### WORK SECOND AND FOLLOWING PETALS

Using remaining length of yarn, work from \* to \*\*, thread yarn through st, draw up, then sew down left-hand side of petal as before.

There will be six petals altogether.

## DAFFODIL TRUMPET (MAKE 1 PIECE)

**Cast on** 18 sts with Sunflower for top edge.

**Dec row** (K1, k2tog) to end. [12 sts]

St st 6 rows, beg with a P row.

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

## TO MAKE UP

Unless otherwise specified, 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.

Starting at gathered base edge, join body seam, stopping 3in (7.5cm) down from neck edge, then stuff base of body firmly, adding extra balls of stuffing to pad out top of haunches. Continue to join body seam, stopping 1in (2.5cm) down from neck edge, then stuff top of body firmly, adding extra balls of stuffing to pad out shoulders. Now join remainder of seam and use tweezers to stuff neck firmly. The seam will run down centre back of body.

Starting at gathered front edge, join head seam, stopping 1in (2.5cm) away from back edge. Stuff firmly, adding extra balls of stuffing to pad out cheeks, then join remainder of seam. Work a gathering thread through every stitch along back edge, draw up tightly and fasten off. With head seam running along underside, position and sew neck edge of body to head, placing body back seam in line with cheek increase row.

Fold back edge of each foot piece in half and sew across, then join side edges, stopping ½in (12mm) away from front edge. Use tweezers to stuff, join remainder of seam, then fold front edge flat and sew across. Press feet between fingers and

## HOW TO...

### SKPO

This creates a decrease at an angle, great for shaping toys.



**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 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, and your slipped stitch should look like this.





thumb to flatten slightly. Join each leg seam, then use tweezers to stuff firmly. With leg seam running down centre back, position and sew base edge of each leg to a foot, placing leg seam 4 knitted rows in from foot back seam. Position and sew legs to body, placing between 1st and 2nd decrease rows at base, and spacing 14 knitted stitches apart. Starting at gathered tip, join tail seam, then use tweezers to stuff firmly. With seam running along underside of tail, position and sew base edge to back of body, again placing between 1st and 2nd decrease rows. Following instructions on ball band, press tailcoat piece lightly on wrong side. Pin lapels and collar piece to shaped front edges and back neck of coat, then sew in place by oversewing edges together and remove pins. Wrap tailcoat round body, overlapping front edges by 1in (2.5cm) and pin in place. Join side edges of each button, then use remaining yarn ends to sew one button to front of coat, stitching through to body, and remove pins. Now sew the remaining two buttons to back, again stitching through to body, placing directly above tail opening and spacing 2 knitted stitches apart. Using a length of Sunflower yarn, embroider a cross stitch in the centre of each button.

Starting at underarm, join each arm seam, then fold cast-off edge of paw in half and sew across. Use tweezers to stuff, again flattening paw as for feet, then position and sew sleeve heads to sides of tailcoat, stitching through to body and adding more stuffing if necessary.

Pull each foot pad or paw pad into a triangular shape, pin in position, then sew in place and remove pins. With dusky pink yarn, embroider four circles round top of each pad, working 6 chain stitches for each foot circle, and 5 chain stitches for each paw circle.

Join ear back and lining pieces together round side and top edges, then

oversew base edges together. Position and sew ears to top of head, placing back edge of each ear in line with 3rd inc row at back of head and spacing ears 10 knitted stitches apart.

Starting at gathered base edge, join nose seam and use tweezers to stuff firmly, then, with this seam running down centre back, fold top edge flat and sew across. Position and sew nose to front of head, placing top in line with 1st dec row. Fold teeth piece in half along knitted fold line, then oversew open edges

together. Positioning  $\frac{3}{4}$ in (2cm) below base of nose, sew teeth in place.

When embroidering features, fasten off ends of yarn at top of head where they will eventually be covered with hair. Draw out a single strand from a length of Walnut yarn and use this to embroider a single stitch, wrapped round centre of teeth piece and sewing from front to back, to divide into two teeth. Now draw out a single strand from a length of chocolate brown yarn and use the remaining 2 strands to first embroider a vertical line of chain stitches from base of nose to top of teeth, then a curved line, directly in front of teeth, to form a lopsided smile. Mark eye positions with pins, placing in line with 2nd dec row of cheek shaping and spacing 6 knitted stitches apart. Using

White yarn, first embroider a circle of 5 chain stitches for each eye, then surround this with a circle of 10 chain stitches to enlarge. With Black yarn, embroider a French knot on each eye, placing to form a cross-eyed expression.

Use pencil to blush cheeks, working in a circular motion to gradually build up colour, then fix features with hair spray. Join side edges of hair piece, then sew to top of head to cover ends of embroidery yarns.

Oversew side edges of daffodil petals piece together, starting at cast-on edge and joining 2 knitted rows above this, then work a

gathering thread through every stitch along cast-on edge, draw up tightly and fasten off. Also oversew side edges of daffodil trumpet piece together, then sew trumpet to centre of petals piece. Coat with hair spray and shape between fingers, then leave, with petals on a flat surface, to set. Position and sew daffodil to left lapel of tailcoat. ●

**We've an egg-cellent treat for you from Alan next issue: Humpty Dumpty. And unlike all the King's men, you can put him together! Issue 78, April, is on sale Tuesday 22 February 2011.**



**Pin the tail on, check it helps the hare to sit up, then sew it in place.**