

Lucky Swine!

BY ALAN DART

He's a traditional European gift for good luck – the squeal of fortune!





Pattern Info

You will need...

Hayfield, Bonus DK

1 x 100g/280m ball of each: Flesh Tone (963), Iced Pink (958) and Oatmeal (964)

Sirdar, Snuggly DK

Elf (414), 1 x 50g/165m ball
Oddments of black, coffee and dusky pink DK yarns

A pair of 3mm knitting needles

100g of washable toy stuffing

A pink pencil

Clear adhesive

Long tweezers

Hair spray

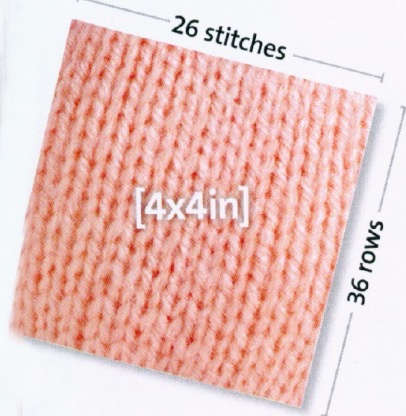
For where to buy, see page 91

Visit 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



Measurements

11in (28cm) tall

The origins of the 'glückschwein', or Lucky Pig, are unclear, but in Germany and parts of Scandinavia he's a good luck symbol, and people give little marzipan pigs to their friends as a sign of best wishes for the new year. In picture and toy form he usually carries a four-leafed clover for extra luck, just like Alan Dart's one. "This perky porker will bring luck to whoever you knit him for – if only because they've received a fab toy!" 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 28 sts with Flesh Tone for neck edge and st st 2 rows.

1st inc row K6, (inc 1) twice, K11, (inc 1) twice, K7. [32 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd inc row K6, inc 1, K2, inc 1, K11, inc 1, K2, inc 1, K7. [36 sts]

Next row Purl.

3rd inc row K6, inc 1, K4, inc 1, K11, inc 1, K4, inc 1, K7. [40 sts]

Next row Purl.

4th inc row (K6, inc 1) twice, K11, inc 1, K6, inc 1, K7. [44 sts]

St st 9 rows.

5th inc row (K1, inc 1, K2) to end. [55 sts]

St st 3 rows.

6th inc row (K2, inc 1, K2) to end. [66 sts]

St st 3 rows.

7th inc row (K2, inc 1, K3) to end. [77 sts]

St st 5 rows.

8th inc row (K3, inc 1, K3) to end. [88 sts]

St st 9 rows.

1st dec row (K3, k2tog, K3) to end. [77 sts]

St st 5 rows.

2nd dec row (K3, k2tog, K2) to end. [66 sts]

St st 5 rows.

3rd dec row (K2, k2tog, K2) to end. [55 sts]

St st 3 rows.

4th dec row (K2, k2tog, K1) to end. [44 sts]

St st 3 rows.

5th dec row (K1, k2tog, K1) to end. [33 sts]

St st 3 rows.

6th dec row (K1, k2tog) to end. [22 sts]

Next row Purl.

7th dec row (K2tog) to end. [11 sts]

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

HEAD (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 28 sts with Flesh Tone for neck edge and st st 2 rows.

SHAPE BASE OF HEAD

Inc row (Inc 1, K1) to end. [42 sts]

Next row Purl.

SHAPE BASE OF CHEEKS

1st inc row K11, (inc 1) four times, K12, (inc 1) four times, K11. [50 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd inc row K11, (inc 1, K1) four times, K12, (inc 1, K1) four times, K11. [58 sts]

Next row Purl.

3rd inc row K12, (inc 1, K2) four times, K12, (inc 1, K2) four times, K10. [66 sts]

St st 9 rows.

SHAPE TOP OF CHEEKS

1st dec row K19, (k2tog, K2) three times, K8, (k2tog, K2) three times, K15. [60 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd dec row K18, (k2tog, K1) three times, K8, (k2tog, K1) three times, K16. [54 sts]

Next row Purl.

3rd dec row K18, (k2tog) three times, K8, (k2tog) three times, K16. [48 sts]

St st 3 rows.

SHAPE TOP OF HEAD

1st dec row (K9, SKPO, K3, k2tog, K7) twice, K2. [44 sts]

St st 3 rows.

2nd dec row (K9, SKPO, K1, k2tog, K7) twice, K2. [40 sts]

Next row Purl.

3rd dec row (K9, sl 1, k2tog, PSSO, K7) twice, K2. [36 sts]

Next row Purl.

Pin the legs in place and make sure your pig can sit up before you sew them on.





Draw up the thread very tightly when you fasten off the Lucky Pig's snout – you don't want to leave a hole.



knit tip

Stuff the toy firmly, and use a pair of long tweezers to get to the hard-to-reach parts.

Cast off for top edge.

SNOUT (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 14 sts with Flesh Tone for back edge and st st 2 rows.

Inc row Inc into every st to end. [28 sts]

P 3 rows for fold line.

St st 4 rows, beg with a K row.

1st dec row (K3, k2tog, K2) to end. [24 sts]

St st 2 rows.

P 2 rows for fold line.

Change to Iced Pink and st st 2 rows, beg with a P row.

2nd dec row (P2tog) to end. [12 sts]

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

EARS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 7 sts with Flesh Tone for base edge and st st 2 rows.

Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row.

Next row Purl.

Repeat the last 2 rows once more. [11 sts]

St st 4 rows.

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row.

Next row Purl.

Repeat the last 2 rows three more times. [3 sts]

Next row Sl 1, k2tog, PSSO, break yarn and draw through st.

EAR LININGS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Work as given for ears, using Iced Pink throughout.

LEGS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

***Cast on** 16 sts with Oatmeal for trotter edge and st st 2 rows.

Inc row (Inc 1, K1) to end. [24 sts]

Next row Purl.

Change to Flesh Tone and st st 8 rows.

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

St st 5 rows.**

SHAPE TOP OF LEG

1st inc row (Inc 1, K1) to end. [27 sts]

St st 3 rows.

2nd inc row (K1, inc 1, K1) to end. [36 sts]

St st 3 rows.

3rd inc row (K1, inc 1, K2) to end. [45 sts]

St st 3 rows.

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.



Pattern Info

Abbreviations

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



Use the increase and decrease stitches as markers to help you place the limbs correctly.

Curl the tail before sewing it on.

Cast off 6 sts at beg of next 2 rows for base edge of opening. [33 sts]

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next 3 rows. [27 sts]

Next row Purl.

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row.

Repeat the last 2 rows once more. [23 sts]

St st 8 rows.

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row.

Next row Knit.

Repeat the last 2 rows once more. [19 sts]

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next 3 rows. [13 sts]

Cast off for top edge of opening.

ARMS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Work as given for legs from * to **.

SHAPE TOP OF ARM

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

St st 7 rows.

Cast off 3 sts at beg of next 2 rows for base edge of opening. [18 sts]

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next 3 rows. [12 sts]

St st 4 rows.

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next 3 rows. [6 sts]

Cast off for top edge of opening.

TAIL (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 7 sts with Flesh Tone for body edge and st st 2 rows.

1st dec row K3, k2tog, K2. [6 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd dec row K2, k2tog, K2. [5 sts]

St st 26 rows.

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

CLOVER LEAVES (MAKE 4 PIECES)

Cast on 5 sts with Elf for outside edge and st st 2 rows.

Dec row SKPO, K1, k2tog. [3 sts]

Next row Purl.

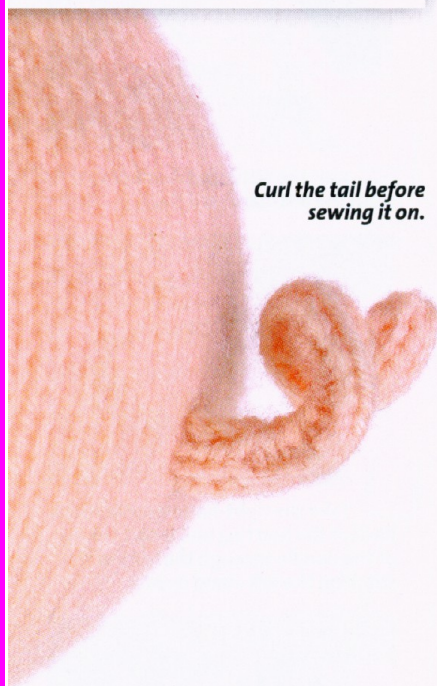
Next row Sl 1, k2tog, PSSO, break yarn and draw through st.

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, leaving neck edge open, and stuff firmly. This seam will run down centre back. Now join head seam, from neck edge up to top edge. With this seam in centre, fold top edge flat and sew across, then stuff head firmly, adding extra balls of stuffing to pad out cheeks. Matching seams, sew neck edges of head and body together.

Starting at gathered front edge, join snout





seam and use tweezers to stuff firmly, then work a gathering thread through every stitch along cast-on back edge, draw up tightly and fasten off. Treating first knitted fold line as base edge, pin snout in position on head, placing between 2nd decrease row at top of cheeks and a point 10 knitted rows up from neck edge. Sew in place, picking up stitches along row directly above knitted fold line, and remove pins.

Take ear and ear lining pieces together and join side edges, then, with lining side facing forward, position and sew an ear to each end of top head seam.

Fold trotter edge of each leg in half and sew across, then join leg seam, stopping at base edge of opening, and stuff firmly. Mark position of right leg on body with four pins. Starting at back seam, count five shaping lines to the right and mark vertically with a pin, which is where you will place the base edge of the leg opening. Then count two shaping lines to the right of the back seam and mark this vertically with a pin, which is where you will place the top edge of the leg opening. Now mark the 8th knitted increase row on the body horizontally with a pin, which is where you will place the side edge of the leg opening. Then mark the 3rd knitted decrease row on the body horizontally with a pin, which is where you will place the opposite side edge of the leg opening. Using the marked points as a guide, pin right leg in position and sew in place, then remove pins. Mark left leg position in same manner, counting to the left of back seam, and sew leg in place.

Join each arm seam from trotter edge up to base edge of opening, then, with this seam in centre, fold trotter edge flat and sew across. Use tweezers to stuff firmly, then pin arms in position on body, placing in line with neck edge and covering knitted shaped section at each side of body top. Sew in place and remove pins.

Starting at gathered tip, join tail seam, drawing up sewing yarn tightly to make tail curl. Fasten off, then sew tail in position, placing in line with 2nd decrease row at base of body.

To form division on each trotter, first mark centre points on front and back, at top of Oatmeal section, with pins. Now use a length of coffee yarn to insert needle into back point and draw out at front point. Remove pins, then take the yarn round the edge of the trotter, from front to back, and insert needle into back point and out at front point again. Draw up yarn tightly to indent, then repeat once more. Fasten off securely and sew yarn ends back into trotter.

Embroider features by carefully drawing out a single strand from a length of yarn and working with the remaining 2 strands. Use pins to mark nostrils on snout, then embroider a circle of 6



You don't need very much yarn for the clover – an oddment should be enough.

small chain stitches at each point. Mark eye positions with pins, placing them in line with 3rd decrease row at top of cheeks and spacing 4 knitted stitches apart, then use black yarn to embroider a circle of 5 tiny chain stitches for each eye. Use dusky pink yarn to embroider a curved line for mouth, following base of snout for centre of mouth, and fasten off ends securely. Blush cheeks with pink pencil, working in a circular motion to gradually build up colour, then fix with hair spray.

To make clover stem, take a 24in (61cm) length of Elf yarn and fold in half. Holding cut ends in left hand, insert right index finger into folded end and twist yarn tightly, keeping taut. Bring ends together and allow yarn to twist into a cord, then tie a tight knot 2½in (7cm) in from neat end and trim away excess. Darn in ends of cast-on yarn remaining on each clover leaf, then thread a sharp needle with yarn at cast-off end of one leaf and insert into stem knot. Draw up yarn until leaf is ½in (12mm) away from knot. Dab a spot of glue on this yarn and draw into knot, then trim away excess. Repeat with remaining three leaves, then coat clover with hair spray and leave, leaf side down, on a flat surface to set.

Thread a large needle with end of stem and sew through right trotter, drawing up until leaf touches trotter. Dab a spot of glue on stem, then lift leaf by ½in (12mm) to draw glued section into trotter.

February is the month for romance, so we'll be getting in the mood next issue with Alan's pretty lovebirds. (Issue 76, February, on sale Wednesday 29 December 2010.)

HOW TO... SKPO

This method creates a left-leaning decrease.



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.