



flower babies

exclusive
to LK!

Different textures and vibrant colours make this adorable toy great fun for the little ones

Babies love tactile playthings and with its brightly-coloured petals and multitude of textured stitches, this flower is sure to be a hit. LK designer Val Pierce has used up oddments of yarn from her stash and incorporated solid and variegated shades as well as striped patterns. With cables, picot edges, moss stitch and garter stitch patterns, this small toy is as fun to knit as it is for little ones to play with. One side of the flower features a cheerful, smiley face while the other has a sleepy expression – take a look at the Knit wise panel on advice for embroidering the features.

knit knowledge

Measurements & sizes

Width: approx 21cm

Knit kit

Yarn: oddments of DK, including yellow

Needles: 3.25mm

Cable needle

Safety toy stuffing

About the Yarn

This project uses oddments of DK. As it's a baby toy, try to use yarns that are machine washable.

Need an alternative?

If you've used all your oddments or wish to use a specific colour scheme, check out **Patons FaB DK**. It's a machine washable, acrylic yarn that comes in handy 25g balls which is ideal for toy-making.

Special abbreviations

mb: make bobble – (k1, p1, k1, p1) all into next st, turn, p4, turn, k4, turn, p4, turn, k4, lift second, third and fourth sts over first st

C4B: sl next two sts onto cn, hold at back of work, k2 from LH needle, k2 from cn

For abbreviations see page 86

POSY PATTERN

Centre of flower (make two)

Using 3.25mm needles cast on ten sts

- ☐ K two rows
- ☐ Cont in garter st, inc one st at each end of next and foll alt rows until there are 24 sts
- ☐ Work 18 rows without shaping
- ☐ Dec one st at each end of next and foll alt rows until ten sts rem
- ☐ K two rows
- ☐ Cast off

Petals

GARTER ST PETALS (MAKE NINE)

NOTE: for striped version, work in two row stripes

Using 3.25mm needles cast on eight sts

- ☐ K two rows
- Cont in garter st, inc one st at each end of next and foll alt rows until there are 14 sts
- ☐ Work eight rows without shaping
- ☐ Dec one st at end of next and foll alt rows until two sts rem
- ☐ Next row: k2tog
- ☐ Fasten off

MOSS ST PETALS (MAKE NINE)

Using 3.25mm needles cast on nine sts

Work in moss st as follows:

- ☐ Row 1: (k1, p1) to last st, k1
- ☐ Row 2: as Row 1
- ☐ Cont in moss st and working inc sts into patt, inc one st at each end of next and foll alt rows until you have 15 sts
- ☐ Work eight rows without shaping
- ☐ Dec one st at each end of next and foll alt rows until three sts rem
- ☐ Next row: k3tog
- ☐ Fasten off

- ☐ Row 5: as Row 1
- ☐ Row 6: as Row 2
- These six rows set patt
- ☐ Rep patt until work is long enough to fit around inner circle of face, ending on a Row 6
- ☐ Cast off

Bobble Ring

Using 3.25mm needles cast on seven sts

- ☐ K four rows
- ☐ Next row: k3, mb, k3
- ☐ K five rows
- ☐ Rep last six rows until work fits around inner circle of face ending on a k row
- ☐ Cast off

To make up

NOTE: as this toy is for babies, ensure all elements are firmly secured



knit wise

Face the challenge

Facial expression on a toy is really important as a wonky mouth or uneven eyes can unintentionally change it from cute to creepy. The 'awake' eyes are created using satin stitch. Thread a blunt tapestry needle with the necessary yarn and insert it through the front of the fabric, bringing it back out three rows up. Take the yarn back through the piece close to the first entry point leaving a long strand on the RS of the work. Keep the strands as close as possible to avoid gaps. Use a French knot for the pupil and make two small stitches for eyelashes. The smile and sleepy eyes are made using a loop of yarn secured into a curve with small stitches. Make sure the thread for the loop comes in and out on the same row and check the securing stitch is in the centre or the feature will be lopsided.

Sew together centre pieces leaving a small opening for stuffing. Stuff lightly then close up gap. Join petals together in pairs of garter st and moss st. Join sides leaving base open, stuff lightly, then close gap. Arrange petals around centre, pin in position and stitch firmly in place. Embroider a smiley face on one side of centre section and a sleepy face on the other, as shown in photographs (see Knit wise panel).

Fold cable strip in half lengthways, sew seam, then join strip into a circle. Rep with bobble strip and stitch one around each centre to cover where petals are joined **LK**

let's shop!

Patons FaB DK costs 59p per 25g (68m) ball from Purplelinda Crafts, www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk

Cheap and cheery knit babies will love



LK DESIGNER VAL PIERCE

"Use up all your oddments of bright DK to knit this cute baby grab toy. By adding a hanging loop, the flower could also be used as a pram toy"