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Santa AND PALS

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MAKE ME
TONIGHT!

BEGINNER
CROCHET

EASY
colour
CHANGES

CROCHET
BRUNO BEAR



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POM-POMS



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GIFT
BAGS



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Hello!

One of my **favourite things about Christmas** is the build up. So it's all in the decorations for me. Spotting fairy lights and a bauble garland out the corner of my eye as I tune in to *Strictly Come Dancing* – hooray, it's back! – brings me nothing but joy and excitement. As does this **brand new edition of Let's Get Crafting**, which is bursting with festive fun.

I cannot wait to decorate my front door with the pom-pom wreath (p16) and my banister with our super fun **Santa's clothing line** on page 30. All whilst wearing a **knitted elf hat** of course – see Ella Austin's too-cute-for-words design in action on page 32.

I'm also chuffed with part two of our **Christmas blanket crochet series**. Turn to page 34 to see the next set of granny squares. Want to see what the final blanket looks like? Visit our Instagram page @knitcrochet for an **exclusive sneak peek**! Don't say we never treat you.

Make sure you head to page 46 to find out who's won our **short story competition**, The Woolly Writer. The team has really enjoyed reading your wonderful entries, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who took part – until next year!

Happy Christmas crafting – the countdown has officially begun...

Rosie

ROSIE SAVAGE, EDITOR



P8 BRUNO BEAR



P10 ANTLER HEADBAND

MEET OUR EXPERTS



HEATHER GIBBS

I've made the one and only Santa (p13)



SUE STRATFORD

I chat all about knitted Christmas gifts (p23)



SACHIYO ISHII

Enjoy knitting my robins on page 38

SUBSCRIBE TODAY FOR YOUR FREE GIFT!



SEE P24 FOR MORE DETAILS

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LET'S GET CRAFTING KNITTING & CROCHET



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Editor's favourite!

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JESSICA ELKIN, DEPUTY EDITOR

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SPARKLY
CHRISTMAS
YARN!



SHINE BRIGHT

This stunning Christmas cardigan was knitted with King Cole Shine DK, shade 1719 Festive. We're loving the glittery thread that runs through the skein! The 97% premium acrylic, 3% polyester blend comes in 22 different shades, all with a stunning shimmer effect. It's sure to make the festive season extra special. To find stockists visit kingcole.com or call **01756 703670**.



MYTHICAL MAKES

Meet Luna the unicorn. She's one of the latest toys added to the Deramores collection of fantastic kits. Made by Amanda Berry, the pack, worth £12.99, includes a digital copy of the pattern, the required yarn and a bag of stuffing. Once finished, she stands an impressive 48cm tall. To get yours visit deramores.com.

LET'S GET CRAFTING KNITTING & CROCHET loves

*A peek into what we're
loving in the run-up
to Christmas*



SEW AMAZING

Love sewing too? Make sure you pick up the Christmas special of Crafts Beautiful magazine, on sale now until 12th October. You'll find an exclusive 36-page Brother supplement guest-edited by Lauren Guthrie from *The Great British Sewing Bee*. It's packed with the latest sewing news you need, lovely crafty stories and

plenty of techniques to try – there's even a Brother Innov-is F420 machine up for grabs, worth £599! Get your copy today from all good supermarkets.



TOYMAKER OF THE YEAR 2017

Time is running out to enter our annual toymaking competition and we can't wait to see what you create. Simply make a toy and send it in for the chance to win. It's never been easier to enter and you could become our champion – what are you waiting for? Head to letsgetcrafting.com/toymaker now!

DEADLINE: 9TH OCTOBER

PUPPY LOVE

How adorable is this Best in Show TOFT bundle from Create and Craft? Designed by Kerry Lord as part of her Edward's Menagerie collection, you can say hello to Annie the Red Setter, Kate the Boxer, Mark the Dalmatian, Rosie the Dachshund, Romeo the Schnauzer and Samson the Old English Sheepdog. The kit costs £78.99 (club members, £71.09) and includes all the yarn you need to make all six pooches. Get yours now! **0905 648 0480, createandcraft.com**



CAN'T GET ENOUGH?

Get your hands on a huge 600g Merry yarn kit for only £14.99 at the Craft Store. It includes 5mm bamboo needles and hook, plus 100g of each festive shade from your yarn kit this issue! Visit **craftstoreuk.com** or call **0800 923 3005**.

LOVE
YOUR
KIT!



LET'S GET READING

We take a look at the knitting titles you need on your Christmas list

KNITTING FOR CHILDREN

BY CLAIRE MONTGOMERIE

Keep little ones busy by teaching them to knit! It's the perfect skill to pass down the generations and the simple patterns are sure to keep them engaged. The book includes 35 projects with clear, easy instructions that they will love to try. (£12.99, CICO Books) **rylandpeters.com**

Knitting for Children

35 simple knits kids will love to make!



Claire Montgomerie

Super Chunky Knits

35 FUN AND FAST DESIGNS TO KNIT



LAUREN ASTON

SUPER CHUNKY KNITS

BY LAUREN ASTON

This stunning book by young Exeter resident Lauren is on our wish list this year. It's filled with quick projects that use a variety of yarns and needle sizes to make a whole host of cosy projects this season.

It's due to be published in November, so keep your eyes peeled. (£12.99, Search Press)

searchpress.com

CUTE & EASY LITTLE KNITS

BY NICKI TRENCH

Whether it's gifts or home décor you're after, this is the title for you. The little projects can be made in no time at all – with most using less than one ball of yarn! On sale next month, make sure to grab your copy. (£12.99, Search Press) **searchpress.com**

cute & easy little knits

35 quick and quirky projects you'll love to make



Nicki Trench

Mini Knitted CHRISTMAS

Angels, reindeer, Santa Claus, the nativity and more

Sue Stratford



SEARCH PRESS

26 brand new original designs

MINI KNITTED CHRISTMAS

BY SUE STRATFORD

Our lovely columnist Sue has many Christmas titles up her sleeve but this one has to be our favourite.

It features 26 projects including some fun, novelty treats for you to enjoy – you can even get your copy signed! Head to her website today to get yours. (£9.99, Sue Stratford)

suestratford.co.uk

USE
YOUR FREE
Merry
YARN KIT



PLUS

stitch markers,
tapestry
needle,
stuffing, two
9mm black
safety eyes,
small length of
black DK,
pom-pom
maker
(optional)

SIZE

Height: 14cm
(excl
pom-pom)
Length: 20cm

CRUNCH THROUGH THE SNOW WITH Bruno bear

HEATHER GIBBS' winter bear has been created with all the colours in the kit, making him a vibrant addition to your crochet to-do list. He has playtime written all over him, and would pal up nicely with our robins (p38) and ice-skating goat (p50) for a frolic in the forest. Want to make him a bear for all seasons? Just switch up the colours on his outfit!



Perfect for
beginners

TOP TIP

Sections are worked without joining in continuous rounds - place a stitch marker in the top of the first stitch to indicate the start of each round



BRUNO BEAR

ear

Make two

Using 5mm hook and Christmas Pud make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring, join with a sl st to first st. Six sts
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

head & body

Using 5mm hook and Milk Bottle make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring. Six sts

Rnd 1: (2dc, 2dc in next st) to end. Eight sts

Rnd 2: 1dc in each st to end

Rnds 3-4: (1dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 18 sts

Change to

Christmas Pud

Rnd 5: 6dc, (2dc in next st, 1dc) four times, 1dc in each st to end. 22 sts
Embroider nose and mouth using black DK

Rnd 6: rep Rnd 2

Rnd 7: 8dc, (2dc in next st, 1dc) five times, 1dc in each st to end. 27 sts

Rnd 8: 15dc, 2dc in next st, 1dc to end. 28 sts

Rnd 9: rep Rnd 2

Rnd 10: 11dc, dc2tog, 6dc, dc2tog, 1dc in each st to end. 26 sts

Rnd 11: 11dc, dc2tog, 4dc, dc2tog, 1dc in each st to end. 24 sts

Rnd 12: rep Rnd 2
Insert safety eyes between Rnds 5-6, approx five sts apart

Sew Ears to Head
Stuff

Change to
Evergreen

Rnd 13: (3dc, 2dc in

next st) to end.

30 sts

Join Tinsel Blue to back loop of any st

Rnd 14: working in back loops only, 1dc in each st to end

Rnds 15-21: 1dc in each st to end

Change to

Evergreen

Rnds 22-23: 1dc in each st to end
Join Christmas Pud to back loop of any st

Rnd 24: working in back loops only, 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 25: (3dc, dc2tog) to end. 24 sts

Rnds 26-28: 1dc in each st to end
Embroider five stars onto jumper using Silver Sparkle

Rnd 29: (2dc, dc2tog) to end. 18 sts

Stuff

Rnd 30: (1dc, dc2tog) to end. 12 sts

Rnd 31: (dc2tog) to end. Six sts
Fasten off

tail

Using 5mm hook

and Christmas Pud make a magic ring, work 5dc into ring. Five sts

Rnd 1: 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

leg

Make four

Using 5mm hook and Robin Red make 5ch

Rnd 1: starting in second ch from hook 3dc, 3dc in last ch, work along opposite side of ch as follows: 2dc, 2dc in next st. Ten sts

Rnd 2: working in back loops only, 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 3: 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 4: 3dc, (dc2tog) to last st, 1dc. Seven sts

Rnds 5-7: 1dc in each st to end
Join Christmas Pud to back loop of any st

Rnd 8: working in back loops only 1dc in each st to end

Rnds 9-10: 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

hat

Using 5mm hook and Robin Red make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring. Six sts

Rnd 1: 2dc in each st to end. 12 sts

Rnd 2: (1dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 18 sts

Rnd 3: 1dc in each st to end
Change to
Evergreen

Rnd 4: rep Rnd 3
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

to make up

Weave in all ends. Using fastened-off yarn end, sew Body closed. Make a pom-pom using Silver Sparkle and attach to top of Hat. Stuff Hat and sew to Head. Stuff Legs and sew to Body: front legs on Rnds 12-15, back legs on Rnds 23-26. Attach Tail to Rnd 29 of Body



TRY THIS TEDDY BEAR RATTLE – IT'S A GREAT STOCKING FILLER FOR A NEWBORN BABY. SEARCH 'BEAR' AT TOPCROCHETPATTERNS.COM



USE
YOUR FREE

Merry

YARN KIT



PLUS
Alice band,
tapestry
needle, stuffing

SIZE
To fit: 1cm wide
headband

JOIN DANCER AND PRANCER
IN THE SNOW WITH OUR

Antler headband



Take the
next step

Doesn't **CLAIRE GARLAND'S** project look gorgeous on our adorable model Emma? The antlers are filled with stuffing, but you could also add wire to make them more positionable. Once you've made this you'll want a whole host of play-things – why not make an angel's halo or elf ears? Make sure to post a picture of your finished creation on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

ANTLER HEADBAND cover

Using 5mm needles and Silver Sparkle cast on five sts
Row 1: k5, without turning sl sts back onto LH needle
Row 2: k5, pulling working yarn across back of sts, without turning sl sts back onto LH needle
Rows 3-5: rep Row 2 three times
Slide end of Alice band into Rnds 1-5
Rep Row 2 until entire Alice band is covered
Cast off

antler

Make two

Using 5mm needles and Christmas Pud cast on 22 sts
Rows 1-14: k
Row 15 (first time): cast off four sts, k5, turn
Note: work on these six sts as follows:
Row 16: kfb, k3, k2tog. Six sts

Row 17: k6, turn
Rows 18-23: rep Rows 16-17 three times
Row 24: skpo, k3, kfb
Row 25: k6, turn
Rows 26-31: rep Rows 24-25 three times
Cast off six sts
Note: rejoin yarn to rem 12 sts
Row 32: k
Row 33: cast off six sts, k to end. Six sts
Row 34 (second time): skpo, k3, kfb
Row 35: k
Rows 36-41: rep Rows 34-35 three times
Row 42: kfb, k3, k2tog
Row 43: k
Rows 44-49: rep Rows 42-43 three times
Cast off

ear

Make two

Using 5mm needles and Milk Bottle cast on four sts
Row 1: kfb, k2, kfb. Six sts

Row 2: k
Row 3: kfb, k4, kfb. Eight sts
Rows 4-10: k
Row 11: skpo, k4, k2tog. Six sts
Row 12: k
Row 13: skpo, k2, k2tog. Four sts
Row 14: k
Row 15: skpo, k2tog. Two sts
Row 16: k
Change to Christmas Pud
Row 17: k1, m1, k1. Three sts
Row 18 and every even-numbered row: k
Row 19: kfb, k1, kfb. Five sts
Row 21: kfb, k3, kfb. Seven sts
Row 23: kfb, k5, kfb. Nine sts
Rows 24-30: k
Row 31: skpo, k5, k2tog. Seven sts
Row 32: k
Row 33: skpo, k3, k2tog. Five sts
Row 34: k
Row 35: skpo, k1, k2tog. Three sts
Row 36: k
Cast off

red flower

Make two

Using 5mm needles and Robin Red cast on four sts
Row 1: k2tog, cast off two sts, without turning sl st onto LH needle. One petal made
Row 2: cast on three sts, k2tog, cast off two sts, without turning sl rem st onto LH needle
Rows 4-7: rep Row 2 four times, leaving final st on RH needle
Pick up and k one st in sp at base of each petal. Five sts
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

blue flower

Make two

Using 5mm needles and Tinsel Blue cast on five sts
Row 1: k2tog, cast



“If you're not sure what some of the abbreviations mean, turn to page 64 to find a full list”

CLAIRE GARLAND, DESIGNER

off three sts, without turning sl st onto LH needle. One petal made
Row 2: cast on four sts, k2tog, cast off three sts, without turning sl rem st onto LH needle
Rows 4-7: rep Row 2 four times, leaving final st on RH needle
Pick up and k one st in sp at base of each petal. Six sts
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

leaf

Make six

Using 5mm

needles and Evergreen cast on 18 sts
Row 1: (k1, k2tog) to end. 12 sts
Row 2: k
Rows 3-4: (k2tog) to end. Three sts
Cast off leaving a long tail

to make up

Join each end of Cover using mattress st. Using a needle gather straight edge of Flowers, pass needle through all sts once more to secure centre of Flower. Fold Antler in half vertically, aligning cast-on edge with cast-off edge, fold tines, matching

decreases and increases at row ends. Using mattress st join all around while gently stuffing. Fold Ear at tip where colour changes, ease row ends tog and use mattress st to join back of Ear to front, leaving cast-on and cast-off edges open. Pinch cast-on edge tog and work a st to hold in place. Join base of Ear to bottom of Antlers' vertical side before sewing onto Cover. Fold Leaf in half across cast-off edge and join along row ends to create a cup shape. Sew Red Flower to centre of Blue Flower, sew between two Leaves, sew to Cover. Sew another Leaf at back of Ear to keep Antler from falling backward

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Emma!

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PROJECT
OVERLEAF





PLUS
stitch markers,
tapestry
needle,
stuffing, two
6mm safety
eyes, small
length of black
craft wire,
small amount
of white
eyelash yarn,
small pom-
pom maker,
blusher
(optional)

SIZE
Height: 24cm



Rnd 26: (1dc, dc2tog) to end. 12 sts
Rnd 27: (dc2tog) to end. Six sts
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

hat
Using 5mm hook and Robin Red make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring. Six sts
Rnd 1: (1dc, 2dc in next st) to end. Nine sts
Rnd 2: 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 3: (2dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 12 sts
Rnd 4: rep Rnd 2
Rnd 5: rep Rnd 1. 18 sts
Rnd 6: rep Rnd 3. 24 sts
Rnd 7: (3dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 30 sts
Rnds 8-9: 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off



With his adorable little spectacles and shiny belt, **HEATHER GIBBS'** Father Christmas pattern is guaranteed to get you in the festive spirit. The sections are worked without joining in continuous rounds, so it can be helpful to place a stitch marker in the top of the first stitch to mark the start of a round. Are you on the naughty or nice list this year?

SANTA CLAUS nose

Using 5mm hook and Milk Bottle make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring. Six sts
Rnd 1: (1dc, 2dc in next st) to end. Nine sts
Rnd 2: 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 3: (1dc, dc2tog) to end. Six sts
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

ear

Make two

Using 5mm hook

and Milk Bottle make a magic ring, join with a sl st to first st. Six sts
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

beard

Using 5mm hook and Milk Bottle held with Snow Drop (from issue 94) make 4ch
Row 1: 4htr in fourth ch from hook, turn. Five sts
Rows 2-3: * (2ch [counts as 1htr], 1htr) in next st *, 1htr in each st to last st, 2htr in next st, turn. Nine sts

Fasten off, leaving a long tail

head and body

Using 5mm hook and Milk Bottle make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring. Six sts
Rnd 1: 2dc in each st to end. 12 sts
Rnd 2: (1dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 18 sts
Rnd 3: (2dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 24 sts
Rnd 4: (3dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 30 sts
Rnds 5-9: 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 10: (3dc, dc2tog) to end. 24 sts
Rnd 11: (2dc, dc2tog) to end. 18 sts
Insert safety eyes between Rnds 4-5, approx three sts apart, stuff Head
Change to Robin Red
Rnds 12-13: rep Rnds 3-4. 30 sts
Rnd 14: (4dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 36 sts
Rnds 15-18: 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 19: (5dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 42 sts
Change to

Christmas Pud
Rnds 20-21: 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 22: (5dc, dc2tog) to end. 36 sts
Rnd 23: (4dc, dc2tog) to end. 30 sts
Change to Robin Red
Rnds 24-25: rep Rnds 10-11. 18 sts
Stuff

hand and arm

Make two
Note: stuff Arms as you go, leaving upper half unstuffed
Using 5mm hook and Christmas Pud make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring. Six sts
Rnds 1-2: rep Rnds 1-2 of Hat. Nine sts
Rnd 3: 4dc, MB (see Great Advice)

GREAT ADVICE
MAKE BOBBLE (MB)
(yoh, insert hook in st, pull up a loop) three times. Nine loops on hook. Yoh and pull through all loops on hook, cont with next st as normal

in next st, 4dc
Rnd 4-5: 1dc in each st to end
 Change to Robin Red
Rnd 6: (1dc, dc2tog) to end. Six sts
Rnds 7-9: 1dc in each st to end
 Fasten off, leaving a long tail

boot

Make two

Using 5mm hook and Christmas Pud make 5ch

Rnd 1: starting in second ch from hook, 3dc, 3dc in last ch, work along opposite side of ch as folls: 2dc, 2dc in next ch. Ten sts

Rnd 2: (2dc in next st, 2dc, 2dc in next

st, 3dc in next st) twice. 18 sts

Rnd 3: working in back loops only, 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 4: 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 5: 4dc, (dc2tog) three times, 8dc. 15 sts

Rnd 6: 3dc, (dc2tog) three times, 6dc. 12 sts

Rnd 7-9: 1dc in each st to end
 Fasten off, leaving a long tail

sack

Using 5mm hook and Evergreen make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring. Six sts

Rnds 1-5: rep Rnds 1-5 of Head. 30 sts

Rnds 6-12: 1dc in

each st to end

Rnd 13: 2ch (counts as 1htr), (1ch, miss next st, 1htr) to end, join with a sl st to first st. 15 sts

Rnd 14: (1ch, 1dc) in same st, 1dc in each 1ch sp and st to end. 30 sts
 Fasten off

to make up

Using Silver Sparkle make 36ch, fasten off. Thread through Sack eyelets, pull tightly, fasten into a bow to secure. Stuff Sack. Make

small pom-pom using Silver Sparkle, sew to Hat. Stuff Nose, sew Hat, Nose and Ears to Head. Attach Row 3 of Beard to Rnd 9 of Head. Stuff Boots, sew Boots and Arms to Body. Using black wire shape glasses to fit over Nose and Ears. Add blusher to cheeks. Embroider a buckle using Silver Sparkle. Weave in all ends

Love THIS PATTERN?



TRY IRENE STRANGE'S CUTE LITTLE TREES AT
TOPCROCHETPATTERNS.COM
 - JUST SEARCH 'TREE'

LET'S SHOP

Multicoloured silk baubles, tch.net

Got any eyelash yarn left from last issue? Use it for Santa's beard!

Don't forget to apply blusher!





SANTA WILL DEFINITELY STOP AT YOUR DOOR WHEN HE SPOTS THIS

Festive wreath

PLUS
25cm flat-backed polystyrene wreath, tapestry needle, stitch holder, pom-pom makers, fabric glue

SIZE
Height (incl tassel and loop): 43cm



Perfect for beginners

Sparkles, tassels and pom-poms galore – do projects get any more fun? **NICOLA VALIJI'S** funky Christmas pattern is full of crafty techniques for you to enjoy over a creative weekend snuggled on the sofa. We particularly love the mini stockings, they add such a special touch to the project. Want to make more? Buy extra Merry yarn kits at craftstoreuk.com.

FESTIVE WREATH cover

Using 5mm needles and Evergreen cast on 25 sts
See Great Advice for colour sequence
Rows 1-148: starting with a k row work in st st
Cast off

holly leaf

Make four
Using 5mm needles and Evergreen cast on 13 sts
Row 1: k
Row 2: p
Row 3: k1, (yfwd, k2tog) to end
Row 4: p
Row 5: k
Cast off

stocking

Make three
Using 5mm needles and Evergreen (Christmas Pud, Robin Red) cast on 14 sts
Rows 1-3: starting with a k row work in st st
Row 4: cast off three sts, p to end. 11 sts

Row 5: cast off three sts, k to end. Eight sts
Rows 6-8: starting with a p row work in st st
Change to Milk Bottle
Rows 9-11: k
Cast off

hanging loop
Using 5mm needles and Robin

Red cast on 29 sts
Row 1: k
Row 2: p
Cast off

silver ribbon
Using 5mm needles and Silver Sparkle cast on 80 sts
Row 1: k
Row 2: p
Cast off



to make up
Place Cover over polystyrene ring and sew seam on WS. Fold Hanging Loop in half and sew to top of Wreath. Tie Silver Ribbon into a bow and sew to top of Wreath. Make ten large and four small pom-poms in your chosen yarn colours and glue to Wreath. Make a 25cm twisted cord in Robin Red. Fold Stockings in half and sew seam, leaving top open. Sew to twisted cord. Glue cord to Wreath. Sew cast-on and cast-off edges of Holly Leaves tog to make picot edge. Fold in half and sew down middle, glue to each side of cord. Make tassel using all yarn colours and glue to bottom of Wreath. Weave in all ends

USE ALL
SIX
YARN
COLOURS!

GREAT ADVICE

COLOUR SEQUENCE

The wreath cover can be made in any colour sequence, ours was made as follows: six rows Evergreen, two rows Milk Bottle, 12 rows Silver Sparkle, four rows Robin Red, ten rows Tinsel Blue, two rows Silver Sparkle, 16 rows Christmas Pud, six rows Milk Bottle, 16 rows Silver Sparkle, ten rows Robin Red, four rows Tinsel Blue, 12 rows Evergreen, ten rows Silver Sparkle, two rows Milk Bottle, eight rows Christmas Pud, 16 rows Robin Red, 12 rows Silver Sparkle



“I’ve glued the elements onto the wreath, but you could stitch them on instead”

NICOLA VALIJI, DESIGNER

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LUZINDA WINS A SELECTION
OF BERISFORDS CHRISTMAS
RIBBONS FROM
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★ Star letter ★

MER-MAZING!

I've finished Violet the mermaid from issue 93, but I've made a few adaptations to her. I decided to create a shell necklace and I used a long strand of the Hibiscus Pink yarn to create a streak in her hair.

LUZINDA JOYCE, SCOTLAND

SWEET GIFT

Here is George the Pig from issue 89 that I made for my friend's first grandchild – I think he looks very dapper with his little sweater on. I knitted the sleeves separately and then mattress stitched them on. I am very pleased with him and I hope the recipient will love him too. There are always so many lovely projects in LGC – it's very inspirational for us crafters.

**SUSIE MANSO,
LONDON**

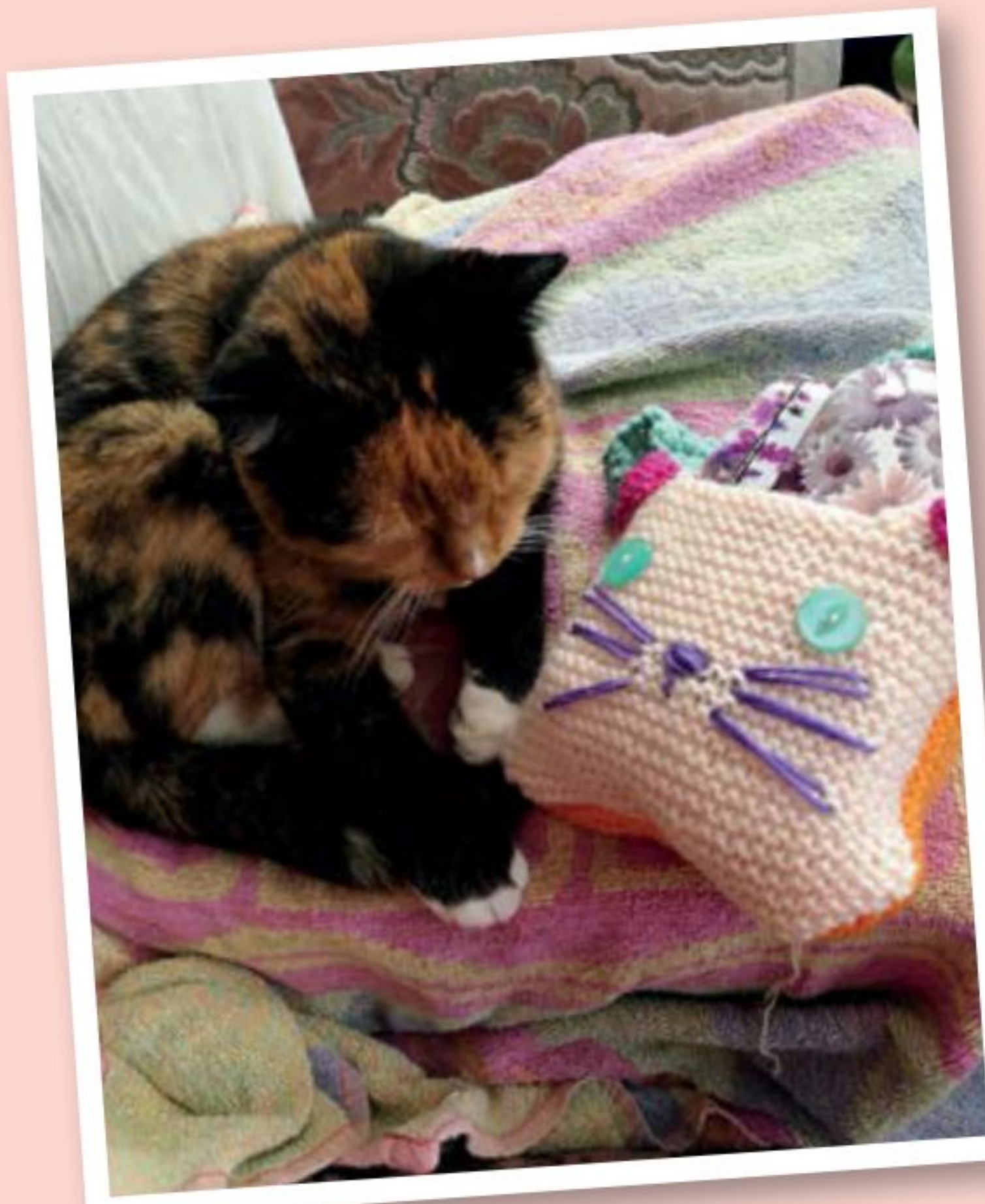


FAMILIAR FAVOURITES

I've been working on toy patterns that I've wanted to make for ages – my daughter is keen to keep them all! I love the range of patterns, they're helping me to improve my crochet skills as well as keep up with my knitting. I'm now working on Karma Chameleon from issue 71 – here's to some more crochet-friendly days.

**KATHERINE BROOKS,
LANCASHIRE**





KITTY CAT

I saw your kitty bag in issue 93 and I just had to make it. It was so easy and I finished it in less than two days. I changed the eyes to green and crocheted a shorter handle. I use it to keep my glasses in. The cat modelling the new bag is my 15 year-old Purrdy.

JOY GARTSIDE, BRADFORD

FOXY CREATION

Here is my version of Finley fox from issue 92 – he's just so cute! There have been some smashing patterns in the last few issues of Let's Get Crafting. I am going to start on Peaches doll next.

CAROL PARTRIDGE, DERBY



GIRLY TREATS

My youngest of four boys, Kenly, loves to receive my handcrafted projects from your magazine, but this time I've made Peaches for my niece Freya. I enjoyed adding small beads to the dress edge and a butterfly to her hair. Freya really loves the change of clothes!

JILL PARR, SOUTH WALES

EXCELLENT ELVIS

I made Elvis the elephant this month from issue 91 and I'm so proud of how he's turned out. I particularly love the little eyes

I bought him, the eyelashes are so cute!

I can't wait to get started on Finley fox next – thank you for the brilliant projects.

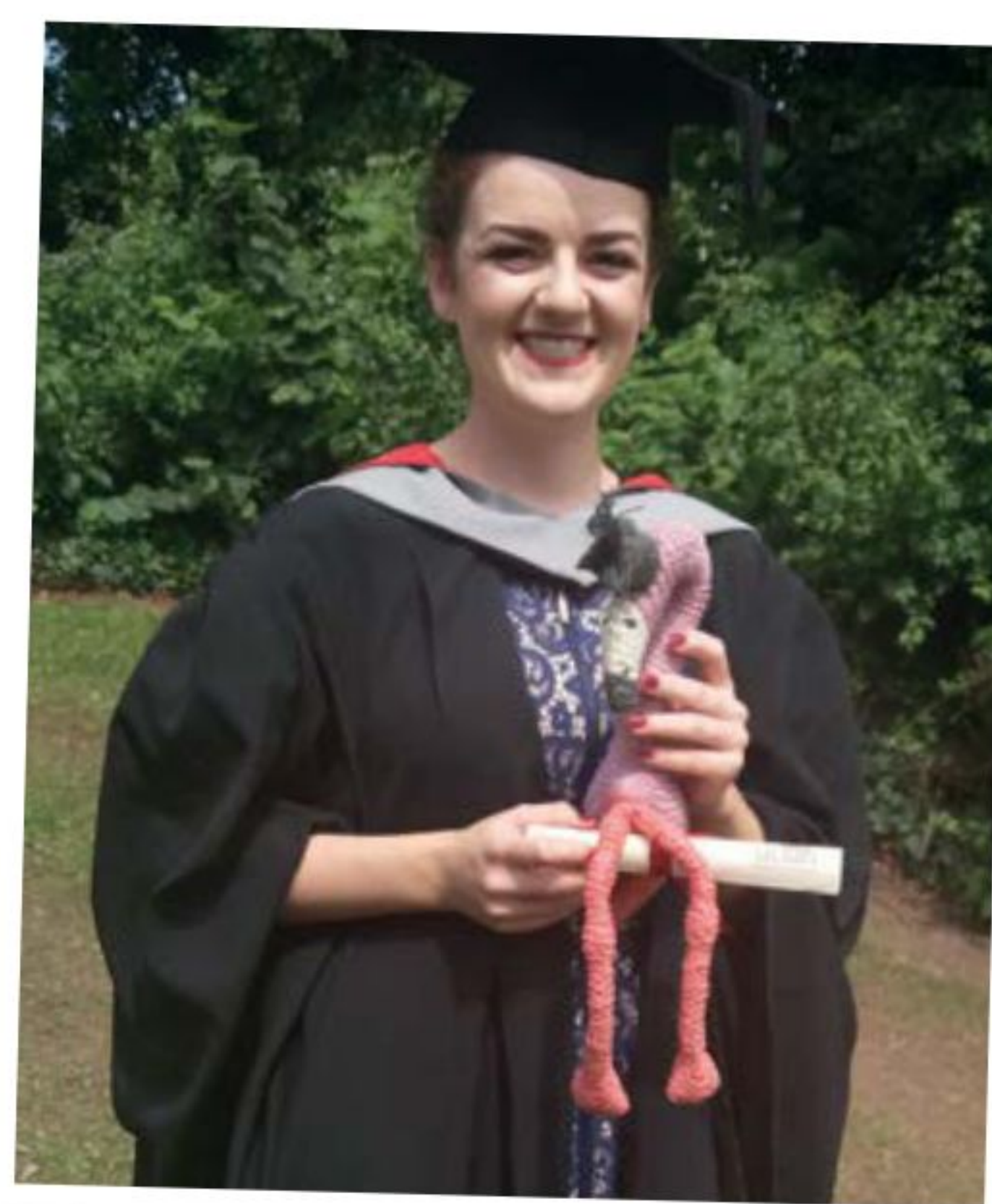
KAY EASTWOOD, SUFFOLK



FANCY FLAMINGO

Thank you so much for sending me extra yarn, I managed to finish the flamingo from issue 90 in time for my daughter Rachel's graduation – she finished with an honours degree in Geography!

TRACEY JONES, FLINTSHIRE



... OF THE ... WEB



If Craft Store isn't on your radar already, then it's time to familiarise yourself with your one-stop crafty shop! Craft Store sells your favourite yarn kits from Let's Get Crafting, sometimes in huge bumper sizes, so make sure you keep an eye out. You'll also find sewing, papercrafts and plenty of other creative treats. Head to **craftstoreuk.com** now.

HAVE YOUR SAY

WHEN DO YOU START YOUR CHRISTMAS PROJECTS?

“For me it depends on the craft. Cards I do in November and cross stitch is usually September or October. I usually make LGC toys for the house during October and November”

TRACY CHAPMAN

“I usually start too late and then don't get them finished in time! Hopefully this year I will be more organised”

AIMEE HEARN

“I start mine on 26th December!”

SONIA MARTIN

“This year I think I started in March or April”

BECKY WILLIAMS

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PLUS

tapestry
needle, cable
needle (cn),
40cm of 9mm
wide ribbon

SIZE

Santa Pouch:
10cm x 14cm

Cable Bag:
8cm x 13cm

Evening Bag:
10cm x 11cm

Striped
Handbag:
7cm x 12cm

SANTA POUCH bag

Using 5mm
needles and
Evergreen cast on
20 sts leaving a
long tail

Row 1: k1, (k1, p1) to
last st, k1

Row 2: p1, (p1, k1)
to last st, p1

Rows 3-10: rep
Rows 1-2 four
times
Change to Robin
Red leaving a
long tail

Row 11: k2, (yfwd,
k2tog, k1) to end

Rows 12-28:
starting with a p
row work in st st

Row 29: k3, (p2,
k4) twice, p2, k3
Row 30: p2, (k1, p2)
to end

Row 31: k1, p1, (k4,
p2) twice, k4, p1, k1

Row 32: rep
Row 30

Row 33: k3, (p2,
k4) twice, p2, k3



Challenge
yourself

Row 34: p

Rows 35-40: rep
Rows 29-34

Rows 41-44:

starting with a k
row work in st st

Rows 45-56: rep
Rows 29-34 twice

Rows 57-72:
starting with a k
row work in st st

Row 73: rep Row 11
Change to
Evergreen leaving
two long tails

Row 74: p

Rows 75-82: rep
Rows 1-2 four
times

Cast off in moss st
patt, leaving a
long tail

drawstring

Using 5mm
needles and Silver
Sparkle cast on
one st
Work a single st ch
(see Top Tip) until
piece meas
approx 40cm
Fasten off

to make up

Using tail of
Robin Red and a
tapestry needle,
join sides using
mattress st,
ensuring pattern
lines up. With WS
facing, fold over
moss st trim, sew
cast-on edge to

inside-bottom row
of moss st section
using cast-on tail
and overstitch.
Rep for cast-off
edge using
cast-off tail.
Weave Drawstring
through holes and
tie in a bow.

Weave in all ends

CABLE BAG

Using 5mm
needles and Milk
Bottle cast on ten
sts leaving a
long tail

Row 1: k1, (kfb) to
last st, k1. 18 sts

Row 2 and every

**even-numbered
row:** p

Row 3: k1, (k1, kfb)
to last st, k1. 26 sts

Row 5: k1, (k2, kfb)
to last st, k1. 34 sts

Row 7: k1, (k3, kfb)
to last st, k1. 42 sts

Row 9: k1, (k4, kfb)
to last st, k1. 50 sts

**Row 10 and every
even-numbered
row:** p1, (k2, p4) to
last st, p1

Row 11: k1, (k4, p2)
to last, p1

Row 13: rep Row 11

Row 15: k1, (C4B
[see Great Advice],
k2) to last st, k1

Rows 16-22: rep
Rows 10-11 three
times, then Row 10
once

Row 23: rep
Row 15

Rows 24-26: rep
Rows 10-11 once
then Row 10 once

Rows 27-28:

starting with a k
row work in st st

Row 29: k1, (k2,
yfwd, k2tog, k2) to
last st, k1

Rows 30-34:

starting with a p
row work in st st
Cast off, leaving a
long tail

to make up

* Using cast-off tail
sew side of bag
using mattress st *,
work a gathering
st through cast-on
sts and pull tight
to close bottom
neatly. Secure tail
and weave in all
ends. Thread a
40cm length of
ribbon through
holes and tie in a
bow. Trim ribbon
ends if necessary.
Weave in all ends

EVENING BAG bag

Make two

Using 5mm
needles and Silver
Sparkle cast on 25
sts leaving a
long tail

Rows 1-20:

starting with a k
row work in st st
Row 21: k2, sl five
sts onto cn, place
in front of LH
needle, * ([k1 from
cn, k1 from left
needle] at same
time *) four times,
k1, sl five sts to cn,
place behind LH
needle, rep from *
to * five times, k2.
15 sts

Rows 22-26: k

Row 27: cast off 12



sts, k to end.

Three sts

Row 28: k3, without turning sl sts back onto LH needle

Row 29: k3, pulling working yarn across back of sts, without turning sl sts back onto LH needle

Rep Row 29 until i-cord meas 7cm Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

to make up

* Using cast-on tail graft two cast-on edges tog as folls: with both edges tog, bring tapestry needle out in centre of first st just below edge on one piece. Insert needle through centre of first st on other piece and out through centre of next st. Insert tapestry needle through centre of first st on first piece again and out through centre of st next to it *. Using cast-off tail, join handle to other side of bag, join same side of bag using mattress st. Rep for second handle and other side. Weave in all ends

STRIPED HANDBAG

Make two

Using 5mm needles and Evergreen cast on

22 sts leaving a long tail

Note: change to Robin Red after Row 6, change to Milk Bottle after Row 10, change to Evergreen after Row 12

Rows 1-20: starting with a k row work in st st Cast off k-wise, leaving a long tail

handle

Using 5mm needles and Evergreen cast on three sts leaving a long tail

Row 1: k1, p1, k1 Rep Row 1 until piece meas 16cm Cast off leaving a long tail

flower

Using 5mm needles and Milk Bottle cast on one st Work a single st ch (see Top Tip) until piece meas 15cm Cut yarn and pull through sts

to make up

Rep from * to * of Evening Bag. Rep from * to * of Cable Bag. Sew Handle to inside top of bag using cast-on and cast-off tails. Create Flower by using cast-off tail and a tapestry needle to thread yarn through flower chain at 3cm intervals. Pull to create five petals, sew to front of bag. Using Robin Red embroider centre of Flower. Weave in all ends

TOP TIP

TO CREATE A SINGLE ST CHAIN, CAST ON ONE ST, YON, PASS FIRST ST OVER TO CREATE NEW ST

Evening bag



Santa pouch



Striped handbag



Cable bag



GREAT ADVICE

CABLE FOUR BACK (C4B)

sl next two sts onto cn and hold at back of work as you k foll two sts. Pull two sts to other end of cn and k in order

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SUE STRATFORD

Knitting for friends and family can be a challenge, but luckily for us, Sue has the perfect pattern



If you read last month's column, you'll know that I love knitting gifts. When you've really thought about what the recipient likes and put effort into sourcing materials, it can be very touching when they're appreciated. It doesn't have to be complicated or time-consuming, and small gifts are definitely a great start. I go for fingerless mittens time and time again – even for beginners they're really straightforward.



SUE'S GO-TO CHRISTMAS GIFT

You will need one ball – yes, just one! – of Aran weight wool. There's plenty of choice both online and in your local yarn store, so be sure to pick something bright and colourful.

Using 4.5mm needles and chosen yarn cast on 32 sts

Row 1: (k2, p2) to end

Row 2: (p2, k2) to end

Rows 3-6: rep Rows 1-2 twice

Rows 7-36: starting with a k row work in st st

Rows 37-42: rep Rows 1-6

Cast off

Repeat the pattern to make the second mitt. Fold them in half, sew a small seam along one rib edge and fasten off. Leave a gap for the thumb and sew the remainder of the seam. You can see that I've added colourwork to mine, but they look just as good plain. Why not embroider them with leftover yarn or adapt the pattern by working the rib in a contrasting colour? This pattern makes a practical

Find free
hat patterns
at letsknit.co.uk!

Q: I'M A TOTAL KNITTING BEGINNER, HOW DO I KNOW WHICH NEEDLE SIZE TO USE?

A: Most knitting patterns specify which size you should use along with the tension. To make sure your project comes out the right size, you need to achieve this. Here's how I do it...

Cast on four more stitches than the number in the tension information, and work as the pattern directs you. Continue until the swatch is square, cast off, and lightly steam your piece.



SUE'S TENSION SWATCH

Lay the swatch flat and place pins two stitches in from each side, then measure between them. Tension is usually measured over 10cm, so this is what you need to aim for. Don't worry about the row measurement, as in most cases, if you get the stitch tension correct, the row tension should be right too. If the measurement between your needles

is over 10cm, try working a swatch on smaller needles, if it's less than 10cm, try needles a size larger. It's worth spending time on this to ensure your project comes out correctly. When I was a teenager – and I thought I knew best – I made a jumper full of colourwork without doing a swatch. I ended up with a dress and sleeves that came down to my knees!

and fun present which will come in very handy – no pun intended – on chilly winter days. If you don't want to make mittens, you could try woolly hats. Pom-poms are currently on trend and they add a lovely contemporary twist to a traditional hat. For little ones I don't think any gift beats a knitted toy.

Sue

There's still time to enter our Toymaker of the Year competition – find out how at letsgetcrafting.com/toymaker

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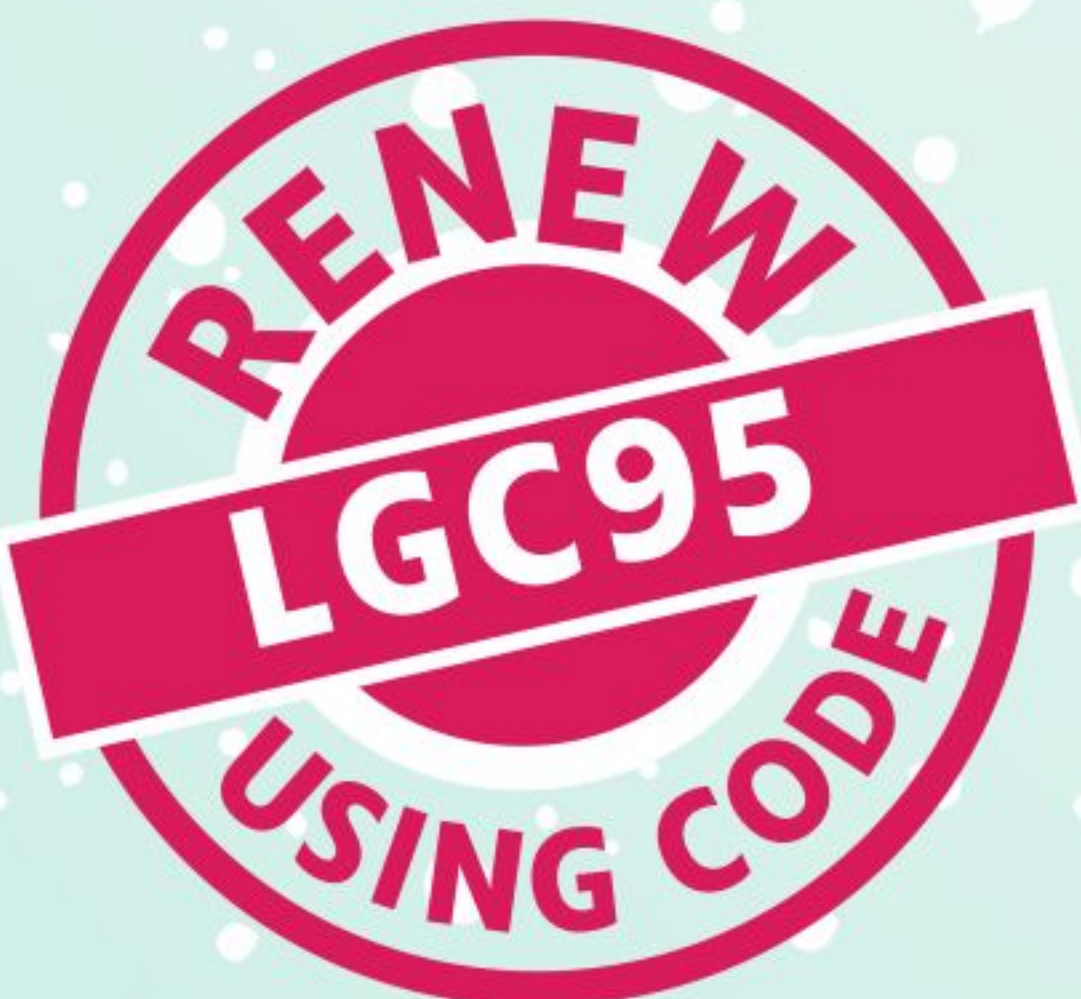
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PLUS

stuffing, two 5mm safety eyes, small length of black DK, tapestry needle, white felt

SIZE

Pudding height: 11cm
Plate diameter: 12cm



Take the next step

PERRY THE PUDDING

body
Using 5mm hook and Christmas Pud make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring. Six sts

Rnd 1: 2dc in each st to end. 12 sts

Rnd 2: (1dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 18 sts

Rnd 3: (2dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 24 sts

Rnd 4: (3dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 30 sts

Rnd 5: (4dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 36 sts

Rnd 6: (5dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 42 sts

Rnds 7-16: 1dc in each st to end

Note: push safety eyes through white felt, cut

around eyes, insert between Rnds 13-14

Rnd 17: (5dc, dc2tog) to end. 36 sts

Rnd 18 and every even-numbered rnd: 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 19: (4dc, dc2tog) to end. 30 sts

Rnd 21: (3dc, dc2tog) to end. 24 sts

Rnd 23: (2dc, dc2tog) to end. 18 sts

Stuff

Rnd 24: (1dc, dc2tog) to end. 12 sts

Rnd 25: (dc2tog) to end. Six sts

Fasten off

cream topping

Using 5mm hook and Milk Bottle make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring. Six sts

Rnds 1-6: rep Rnds

Decked with a sprig of holly and a drizzling of cream, Christmas wouldn't be the same without the traditional festive pudding.

HANNAH COOPER'S delightful treat looks good enough to eat and will certainly add a touch of merriment to your home. If you're in need of some extra help, head to Crochet School on page 64 for lots of handy tips and tricks.



1-6 of Body. 42 sts

Rnds 7-8: 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 9: one sl st, (1dc, 1htr, 1dc) in next st, three sl st, (1dc, 1htr, 1tr, 1htr, 1dc) in next st, three sl st, 1dc, 1htr, 3ch, (1tr, 1htr) in second ch from hook, 1dc in next ch, one sl st in same st as htr before ch, two sl st, (1dc, 1htr) in next st, (2tr) in next st, (1htr, 1dc) in next st, three

sl st, (1dc, 1htr, 1dc) in next st, three sl st, 1dc, 4ch, 2tr in second ch from hook, 1htr in next ch, 1dc in next ch, 1dc in same st as dc before ch, two sl st, (1dc, 1htr, 1tr, 1htr, 1dc) in next st, four sl st, (1dc, 1htr) in next st, (2tr) in next st, (1htr, 1dc) in next st, three sl st, 1dc, 1htr, 3ch, (1tr, 1htr) in second ch from hook, 1dc in next ch, one sl st in same st as htr

before ch, three sl st
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

berry

Make three

Using 5mm hook and Robin Red make a magic ring, work 4dc into ring. Four sts

Rnds 1-2: rep Rnds 2-3 of Body. Eight sts

Rnd 3: (2dc, dc2tog) to end. Six sts
Fasten off

holly leaf

Make two

Using 5mm hook and Evergreen make 12ch, turn

Row 1: starting in second ch from hook, 1dc in each st to end, turn. 11 sts

Rnd 2: 1ch, * (1dc, 1htr, [1htr, 1tr] in next st, mp [see Great Advice], [1tr, 1htr] in next st, 1htr) twice *, 1dc, (1htr, mp, 1htr) in next st, work along opposite side of

GREAT ADVICE

MP (MAKE PICOT)

Picot edging is an effective decorative finish, it is worked as folls: make 3ch, sl st into back of third ch from hook (the first ch)

ch as folls: rep from * to * once, 1dc, join with a sl st to first st
Fasten off

plate

Using 5mm hook and Silver Sparkle make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring. Six sts

Rnds 1-6: rep Rnds 1-6 of Body. 42 sts

Rnd 7: 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 8: 1ch (counts as 1htr), (2ch, miss one st, 1htr), to end, join with a sl st to first st. 21 sts

Rnd 9: 1ch, ([1dc, 2htr, 1dc] in next 2ch sp, one sl st in next htr) to end, join with a sl st to first st
Fasten off

to make up

Sew Body closed. Using fastened-off tail, sew Cream Topping to Body. Position Holly Leaves on top of Cream Topping, sew down middle of each Leaf. Stuff Berries and sew between Holly Leaves. Using a tapestry needle and a length of black DK embroider a smile onto Body, beneath eyes. Weave in all ends



“Why not add a loop to the top of Perry and hang him from your Christmas tree?”

HANNAH COOPER, DESIGNER

Did you know?

Have you ever been lucky enough to discover the hidden sixpence in your serving of Christmas pudding? The tradition is believed to have dated back as far as 1300 when a dried pea or bean was baked in the pudding instead.





Craft to be kind

Improve the lives of others
with your favourite hobby

World Kindness Day falls on 13th November 2017, but as crafters we don't need just one dedicated day to be kind. We're always spreading joy to our loved ones through the art of handmade gifts, but here at LGC HQ we think it's time to spread that joy through entire communities. Deputy Editor Jessica discovers the ways you can make a crafty difference throughout the festive season.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation (randomactsofkindness.org) is an international company set up with one clear goal: to make the world a friendlier place. It features plenty of ideas on how to begin your first act of kindness, how to connect with your community, and initiatives to get involved with – including crafty activities, of course. We caught up with the company's Vice President – and keen crafter – Brooke Jones, to ask her about whether crafting for your community is a successful way to spread Christmas cheer. “My daughter and I did this by making winter scenes in apothecary

jars. We sold them to neighbours and friends to raise money for endangered Red Pandas. It was a huge success and we had so much fun! The jars became keepsakes for those who purchased them and they were able to fund a charity in the process.” Whether you leave a knitted toy at the park for someone to find, or crochet your neighbour a gift, it can be incredibly thoughtful, and even beneficial to your health. Brooke explains that a simple act like this generates the production of serotonin which makes you happier. “Our bodies create these ‘feel good’ chemicals when we participate in an act of kindness, receive one, or even when we witness one.”



“No act of kindness is ever wasted. Be kind in your own way and feel the joy that comes with being nice to others”

BROOKE JONES, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE
RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS FOUNDATION

CREATIVE ACTIVIST

Want to become a RAKtivist? Short for ‘Random Acts of Kindness activist’, the foundation believes that a RAKtivist lies in each and every one of us, perhaps we just don't know it yet. “They are the folks who want to take their kindness to the next level and share or be inspired by others online. In a few short years we've grown to almost 12,000 members worldwide.” Before you get started, Brooke has some great advice for you. “Be open to doing an act when the chance presents itself. If you notice an abandoned shopping trolley in a car park, return it. There's always an opportunity to be kind, just look for it and then act!” She says that it can be as simple as holding open a door, or letting someone go in front of you at the supermarket. The way you carry out your chosen act is important too, according to Brooke. “Only do something that you feel comfortable with. If you're someone who likes to do things anonymously, quietly perform your acts of kindness with no expectation of being recognised. If you're someone who is loud with your acts, then go for it and share it with the world! No act of kindness is ever wasted. Be kind in your own way and feel the joy that comes with being nice to others. Let it fuel you to do more, and become more creative with each act.”

YOUR KIND AND CRAFTY JOURNEY STARTS HERE...



Workshop elves will represent the hard work you've put into crafting these knitted goodies! Tie your Let's Get Crafting tag (opposite) around their necks.



These little trees will certainly brighten someone's Christmas – put them through the door of a friendly neighbour.



These cute characters will bring a big smile to the recipient's face. Place them in a public area for someone to find.

Head to topcrochetpatterns.com and letsknit.co.uk to find thousands of free projects that you can get started on right away.

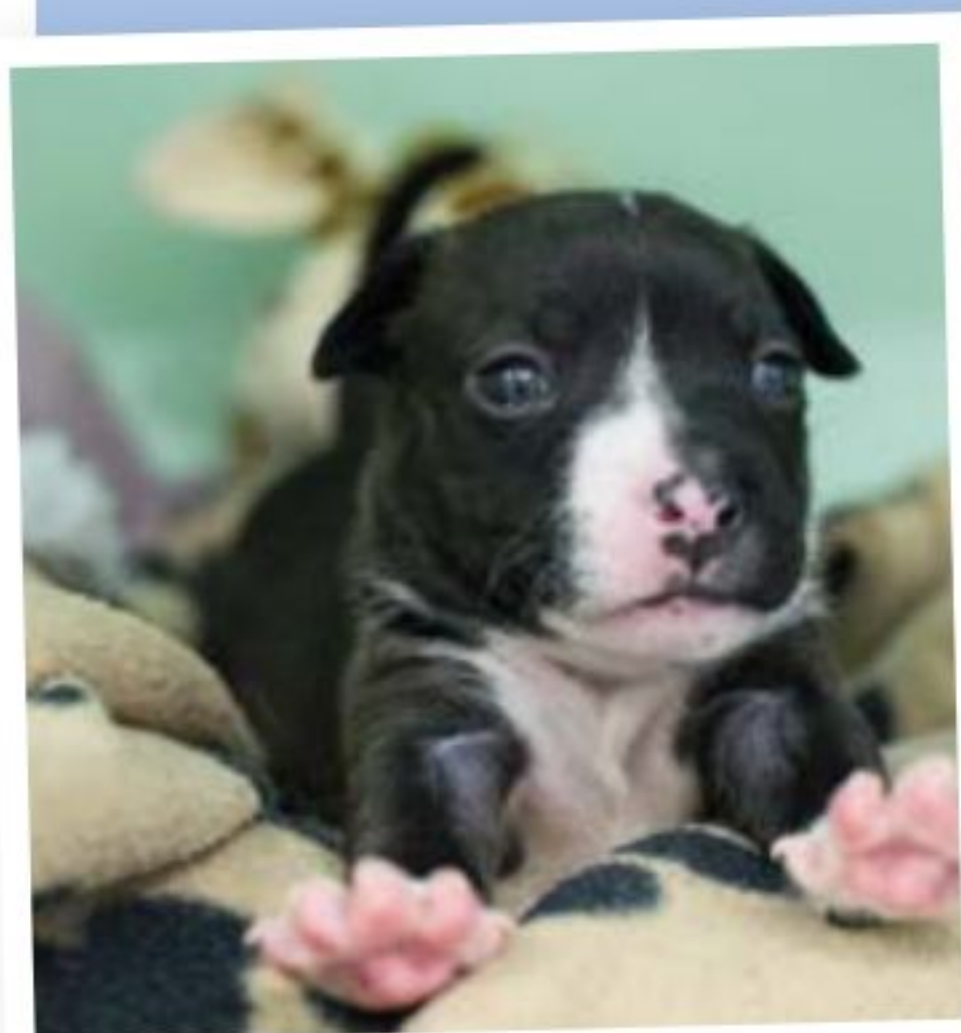
FREE gift tag

Why not leave a little note on your crafty gift? Cut this out or head to topcrochetpatterns.com to download your exclusive Let's Get Crafting tag. You could even add your email address if you want to find out where it ends up.

World Kindness Day is on 13th November 2017



BRIGHTEN THE LIVES OF THOSE IN NEED



The Blue Cross accepts blankets, comforters and socks for animals to wear. Visit the website to find out how you can get involved. bluecross.org.uk

Head to topcrochetpatterns.com/blog to read all about the charity which is taking the world by storm, and more importantly, how you can help.



Help those suffering from dementia by donating your crafty skills to the Alzheimer's Society. Check out alzheimers.org.uk/contactus to find your local charity office.



We caught up with the founders of Woolly Hugs – read all about it by searching 'charity' at topcrochetpatterns.com and find out how to join the projects they're involved in.



“Knit a hat or crochet a scarf for a homeless person in your community – it's a truly thoughtful act of kindness”

JESSICA ELKIN, DEPUTY EDITOR

Share your random acts of kindness with us at facebook.com/knitandcrochet



GAIN BEHIND-THE-SCENES ACCESS WITH SANTA'S Clothing line

PLUS
tapestry
needle, stitch
holder, small
length of black
DK, ribbon,
mini pegs

SIZE
Trousers
length (incl
braces): 14cm
Hat height:
6cm
Socks and
Boots length:
4cm
Pants width:
5cm
Sack height:
7cm
Scarf length:
20cm
Vest length:
6cm
Jumper width:
19cm



CLOTHING LINE trouser leg

Make two
Using 5mm
needles and Robin
Red cast on 18 sts
Row 1: k
Rows 2-17: starting
with a k row work
in st st
Change to Milk
Bottle
Rows 18-19: k
Cast off

braces
Make two
Using 5mm
needles and

Christmas Pud
cast on three sts
K each row until
piece meas 16.5cm
Cast off

hat
Using 5mm
needles and Milk
Bottle cast on
20 sts
Row 1: k
Row 2 (RS): k
Row 3: k
Change to
Robin Red
Rows 4-9: starting
with a k row work
in st st

Row 10: (k2tog) to
end. Ten sts
Change to Milk
Bottle
Row 11: p
Rows 12-15: k
Cast off

sock
Make two
Using 5mm
needles and
Evergreen cast on
ten sts
Row 1: k
Row 2: p
Row 3: cast off

two sts, k to end.
Eight sts
Row 4: cast off
two sts, p to end.
Six sts
Row 5: k
Row 6: p
Cast off

pants
Make two
Using 5mm
needles and Milk
Bottle cast on
ten sts
Rows 1-4: starting

with a k row work
in st st
Row 5: cast off
three sts, k4, cast
off three sts.
Four sts
Rejoin Milk Bottle
Rows 6-8: starting
with a p row work
in st st
Cast off



Make
Father
Christmas'
entire
wardrobe!

sack

Using 5mm needles and Christmas Pud cast on 14 sts

Rows 1-2: k

Row 3: p

Row 4: k1, (k2tog, yfwd) to last st, k1

Row 5-30: starting with a p row work in st st

Row 31: rep Row 4

Row 32: p

Rows 33-34: k
Cast off

scarf

Using 5mm needles and Evergreen cast on five sts

Starting with a k row work in st st until piece meas 19.5cm
Cast off

boot

Make two

Using 5mm needles and

Christmas Pud cast on 12 sts

Rows 1-6: rep Rows 1-6 of Socks. Eight sts

Change to Milk Bottle

Rows 7-9: k
Cast off

vest

Using 5mm needles and Milk Bottle cast on 12 sts

Rows 1-10: starting with a k row work in st st

Row 11: cast off one st, k3, cast off four sts, k3, cast off one st. Six sts

Note: work on first set of three sts only, place rem sts on st holder

Rows 12-18:

starting with a p row work in st st
Note: place these

sts on st holder.

Note: Rejoin Milk Bottle to second set of three sts, rep Rows 12-18, place both sets of sts onto needle and cont as folls:

Row 19: cast on one st, k3, cast on four sts, k3, cast on one st. 12 sts

Rows 20-29:

starting with a p row work in st st
Cast off

jumper body

Using 5mm needles and Milk Bottle cast on 30 sts

Row 1 (WS): k

Change to Robin Red

Rows 2-15: starting with a k row work in st st
Cast off

jumper sleeve

Make two

Using 5mm needles and Milk Bottle cast on 12 sts

Row 1 (WS): k

Change to Robin Red

Rows 2-13: starting with a k row work in st st
Cast off

to make up

Fold first Trouser Leg in half and sew from cuff up to 2cm before end of cast-on edge. Rep for other Leg. Join pieces tog in 2cm gap. Sew Braces to Trousers, use Silver Sparkle to add buttons. Fold top of Jumper so row edges are tog at back seam. Sew back seam and top opening closed. Using small length of black yarn embroider four buttons on front. Fold Sleeves in half, sew seams. Pin to Jumper and sew in place. Gather cast-off edge of Hat, pull tightly and sew down towards brim, turn RS out. Fold Socks, Boots and Sack in half, sew side seam, leaving top open. Make a twisted cord in Silver Sparkle and thread through eyelets of Sack, tie in a bow. Place two Pants pieces WS tog and sew, leaving top and leg holes open. Turn RS out and embroider Y-Front detail using Evergreen. Fold Vest in half, sew side seams. Make tassels from Evergreen and sew to edges of Scarf. Weave in all ends



“Use mini pegs to hang each item from a length of ribbon – it’d look wonderful hanging off a mantelpiece or window ledge”

ROSIE SAVAGE, EDITOR

Love
THIS PATTERN?



ENJOY MAKING MINI GARMENTS?
TRY THIS DAPPER SNOWMAN AT
TOPCROCHETPATTERNS.COM

USE
YOUR FREE
Merry
YARN KIT



PLUS
2.25mm
needles,
tapestry
needle, stuffing

SIZE
To fit:
18 months

IT CAN'T GET MUCH CUTER THAN OUR Elf hat

Christmas Day photos will never be more fun! **ELLA AUSTIN'S** elf accessory is sure to be a hit with all the family – Deputy Editor Jessica has even tried it on, and can vouch for its fabulous elasticity. Make sure to sew the ears on firmly so they stand out straight – the trait of a true elf – and stuff the bell lightly so it's not too heavy.



Perfect for
beginners

ELF HAT hat

Make two

Using 5mm
needles and
Evergreen cast on
72 sts

Rows 1-7: (k2, p2)
to end

Work in foll
six-row stripe
sequence: Robin
Red, Evergreen

Rows 8-27:
starting with a k
row work in st st

Row 28: (k7,
k2tog) to end.
64 sts

**Row 29 and every
odd-numbered
row:** p

Row 30: (k6,
k2tog) to end.
56 sts

Row 32: (k5,
k2tog) to end.
48 sts

Row 34: (k4,
k2tog) to end.
40 sts

Row 36: (k3,
k2tog) to end.
32 sts

Row 38: (k2,

k2tog) to end.
24 sts

Row 40: k

Row 42: (k1, k2tog,) to end. 16 sts

Note: after Row 55 cont in Robin Red only

Rows 43-61:

starting with a p row work in st st

Row 62: (k6, k2tog) twice. 14 sts

Row 63 and every odd-numbered row: p

Rows 64-70: rep Rows 32-38. Six sts Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

ear

Make two

Using 5mm
needles and Milk Bottle cast on 16 sts

Row 1: k

Row 2 and every even-numbered row: p

Row 3: (kfb, k5, kfb, k1) twice. 20 sts

Row 5: (kfb, k7, kfb, k1) twice. 24 sts

Row 7: k10, kfb, k1, kfb, k to end. 26 sts

Row 9: skpo, k9, kfb, k1, kfb, k10, k2tog

Row 11: (skpo) twice, k to last four sts, (k2tog) twice. 22 sts

Row 12: p
Cast off

bell

Using 2.25mm
needles and Silver Sparkle cast on seven sts

Row 1: (kfb) to last st, k1. 13 sts

Row 2: p

Row 3: (k1, kfb) to last st, k1. 19 sts

Rows 4-8: starting with a p row work in st st

Row 9: (k1, k2tog) to last st, k1. 13 sts

Row 10: p

Row 11: (k2tog) to last st, k1. Seven sts

Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

to make up

Weave in all ends. Seam Hat and Ears. Stuff and seam Bell. Sew Ears onto sides of Hat and Bell onto top of Hat



We've used 2.25mm needles for the bell to make it extra neat!



“Why not sew a real bell inside your knitted one for a festive jingle?”

ELLA AUSTIN, DESIGNER



USE YOUR *Merry* YARN KIT

PLUS: tapestry needle
SIZE: 10cm square



IRENE STRANGE,
DESIGNER

“Welcome to part two of this mystery blanket special! I’ve gone for traditional motifs for the Merry kit – robins, mistletoe and Christmas puddings are the stars of the show. To make my four-colour square, simply follow the pattern for the Mistletoe Base, but fasten off the yarn after each round and attach a new colour to the gaps without turning. Make sure you wash and reshape the squares before setting aside to sew together later.”



Challenge yourself

CHRISTMAS PUDDING base

Make three

Using 5mm hook and Christmas Pud make a magic ring, work 3ch (counts as 1tr) into ring, 11tr into ring, join with a sl st to third of first 3ch. 12 sts

Rnd 1: 3ch (counts as 1tr) in next st, 2tr in each st to end, 1tr in base of first 3ch, join with a sl st to third of first ch. 24 sts

Rnd 2: 3ch (counts as 1tr) in next st, (2tr in next st, 1tr) to last st, 2tr in next st, join with a sl st to third of first ch. 36 sts

Change to Tinsel Blue

Rnd 3: (3dc, 3tr, [3tr, 1ch, 3tr] in next st, 2tr) to end, join with a sl st to first st. 56 sts

Rnd 4: 1ch, (9dc, [1dc, 1ch, 1dc] in next 1ch corner sp, 5dc) to end, join with a sl st to first st. 64 sts

top

Make three

Using 5mm hook and Milk Bottle make 6ch

Row 1: 2htr in third ch from hook, 1htr in each of next two ch, 3htr in next ch, turn. Eight sts

Rows 2-3: (2ch

[counts as 1htr], 2htr) in same st, 1htr in each st to last st, 3htr in last st, turn. 16 sts

Row 4: 2ch (counts as 1htr), 1htr, 2ch (counts as 1htr), sl st in next three sts, 3ch, 3tr, (3ch, sl st) in next st, sl st in next st, 1ch, 1dc, (1ch, sl st) in next st, sl st in next two sts, 2ch (counts as 1htr), 2htr

Fasten off, leaving a long tail

berry

Make six

Using 5mm hook and Robin Red make a magic ring, work 5dc into ring. Five sts

Fasten off, leaving a long tail

leaf

Make six

Using 5mm hook and Evergreen make 6ch

Row 1: starting second ch from hook, (1dc, 1htr) twice, 3dc in next ch, work along opposite side of ch as follows: (1htr, 1dc) twice, join with a sl st to first st. 11 sts

Fasten off, leaving a long tail

to make up

Weave in all ends. Sew Top onto Base, then sew on Leaves and Berries

ROBIN base

Make three

Using 5mm hook and Robin Red make a magic ring, work 3ch (counts as 1tr), 11tr into ring, join with a sl st to third of first 3ch. 12 sts

Rnd 1: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 2tr in each st to end, 1tr in base of first 3ch, join with a sl st to third of first 3ch. 24 sts

Change to Christmas Pud

Rnd 2: 3dc, 2htr in each of next three sts, 2tr in each of next six sts, 2htr in each of next three sts, 3dc, miss rem sts

Join Evergreen to third missed st

Rnds 3-4: rep Rnds 3-4 of Christmas Pudding Base. 64 sts

Fasten off

wing

Make three

Using 5mm hook and Christmas Pud make a magic ring, work 3ch (counts as 1tr), 7tr into ring. Eight sts

Fasten off

to make up

Pull magic ring of Wing tightly. Sew one Wing to each body. Using Milk Bottle, embroider beaks and eyes. Weave in all ends

MISTLETOE base

Make two

Using 5mm hook and Robin Red (Milk Bottle) make a magic ring, work 3ch (counts as 1tr), 2tr into ring, (2ch, 3tr) into ring three times, 2ch, join with a sl st to third of first 3ch, turn. 12 sts

Rnd 1: (3ch [counts as 1tr], 2tr, 2ch, 3tr) in next 2ch corner sp, (3tr, 2ch, 3tr) in each 2ch corner sp to end, join with a sl st to third of first 3ch, turn. 24 sts

Rnd 2: (3ch [counts as 1tr], 2tr) in next sp between 3tr cl, ([3tr, 2ch, 3tr] in next 2ch corner sp, 3tr in next sp between 3tr cl) three times, (3tr, 2ch, 3tr) in next 2ch corner sp, join with a sl st to third of first 3ch, turn. 36 sts

GREAT ADVICE

3TR CLUSTER

Turn to page 65 to find out how to work a treble, then repeat this three times into the same stitch to form a 3tr cluster

festive granny squares BLANKET SERIES



Rnd 3: (3ch [counts as 1tr], 2tr) in next sp between 3tr cl, * (3tr, 2ch, 3tr) in next 2ch corner sp, 3tr in each sp between 3tr cl to next 2ch corner sp *, rep from * to * twice, (3tr, 2ch, 3tr) in next 2ch corner sp, 3tr in next sp between 3tr cl, join with a sl st to third of first 3ch. 48 sts. Fasten off

berry

Make six (three in Milk Bottle, three in Silver Sparkle)
Using 5mm hook and chosen yarn make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring. Six sts

Rnd 1: 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off

to make up

Sew Berries onto middle of squares. To create stems, use Evergreen to make five sl sts from middle of Berries towards corner, then five sl sts back towards Berries. To make one leaf: (3ch, 3tr cluster [see Great Advice], 3ch, sl st into square) twice. Make 12 in total, using photo as a guide. Embroider bow around stem in contrasting colour. Weave in all ends



SNOWBALL SKEINS

When those blue snowflakes start falling... just like Elvis, we practically crooned at Crafty HQ when we got our hands on these stunning shades. Treat yourself to some new blue-tiful yarns and have a magical Christmas.



West Yorkshire Spinners 100% DK Bluefaced Leicester, shade 02 Bluebell, £4.85 per 50g (122m) ball, wyspinners.com



Louisa Harding Marmo, shade 04 Rio Bravo, £11.99 per 100g (160m) ball, woolwarehouse.co.uk

DesignEtte Merinette, shade 330 Light Blue, £3.50 per 50g (140m) ball, designette.co.uk



Rico Creative Bubble, shade 008 Mint, £2.49 per 50g (90m) ball, blacksheepwools.com





Scheepjes Linen Soft, shade 615 Heron, visit scheepjes.com for stockists



Patons Smoothie DK, shade 1013 Ocean, £2.75 per 100g (200m) ball, purplelindacrafts.co.uk



Cygnet Yarns Aran Tweed, shade 1035 Blueberry, visit cygnetyarns.com for stockists



MillaMia Naturally Soft Merino, shade 165 Rain, £3.58 per 50g (125m) ball, loveknitting.com

OUR TOP BLUE YARNS

Bergere De France Paradou, shade 43172 Horizon, £3.99 per 50g (135m) ball, knittingwool.com



LET'S SHOP

Snow effect vinyl flooring, atrafloor.com
Sequins, hobbycraft.co.uk

USE
YOUR FREE
Merry
YARN KIT



PLUS
stuffing, small
length of black
DK, tapestry
needle,
white felt

SIZE
Rita height:
12cm
Robbie height:
10cm



Perfect for
beginners

RITA body

Using 5mm
needles and
Christmas Pud
cast on ten sts

**Row 1 and every
odd-numbered
row:** p

Row 2: kfb in each
st to end. 20 sts

Row 4: (k1, kfb) to
end. 30 sts

Row 6: (k2, kfb) to
end. 40 sts

Rows 8-21:
starting with a k
row work in st st

Row 22: (k2,
k2tog) to end.
30 sts

Row 23: p

Row 24: (k1, k2tog)
to end. 20 sts

Row 25: p

Row 26: (k2tog) to
end. Ten sts
Cut yarn leaving a
long tail, thread
tail onto tapestry
needle and thread
through rem sts,
fasten off

red breast

Using 5mm

needles and Robin
Red cast on
ten sts

Rows 1-7: rep
Rows 1-7 of Body.
40 sts
Cast off

wing

Make two

Using 5mm
needles and
Christmas Pud
cast on 14 sts

Rows 1-4: starting
with a p row work
in st st

Row 5: p2, (p2tog,
p2) to end. 11 sts

Row 6: k

Row 7: p1, (p2tog)
to end. Six sts
Cut yarn leaving a
long tail, thread
tail onto tapestry
needle and thread
through rem sts,
fasten off

beak

Using 5mm
needles
and black
DK cast on
16 sts

**Row 1
(WS):** p

Row 2: (k2,
k2tog) to
end. 12 sts

Row 3: (p2tog) to
end. Six sts
Cut yarn leaving a
long tail, thread
tail onto tapestry
needle and thread
through rem sts,
fasten off

tail

Using 5mm
needles and
Christmas Pud
cast on 16 sts

Rows 1-4: (k2, p2)
to end

Row 5: (k2, p2tog)
to end. 12 sts

Row 6: (k1, p2)
to end

Row 7: (k2tog, p1)
to end. Eight sts

Row 8: (k1, p1)
to end

Row 9: (k2tog) to
end. Four sts
Cut yarn leaving a
long tail, thread
tail onto tapestry
needle and thread
through rem sts,
fasten off

hat

Using 5mm
needles and
Evergreen cast
on 40 sts
Work in foll
four-stripe

sequence:

Evergreen,
Robin Red

Rows 1-6: starting
with a k row work
in st st

Row 7: (k3, k2tog)
to end. 32 sts

Rows 8-10:

starting with a p
row work in st st

Row 11: k2tog, (k1,
k2tog) to end.
21 sts

Rows 12-22:

starting with a p
row work in st st

Row 23: (k1, k2tog)
to end. 14 sts

Row 24: p

Cont in Robin
Red only

Row 25: (k2tog) to
end. Seven sts
Cut yarn leaving a
long tail, thread
tail onto tapestry
needle and thread
through rem sts,
fasten off

bobble

Using 5mm
needles and
Evergreen cast on
12 sts

Rows 1-5: starting
with a p row work
in st st
Cut yarn leaving a

long tail, thread
tail onto tapestry
needle and thread
through rem sts,
fasten off

ROBBIE body

Using 5mm
needles and
Christmas Pud
cast on eight sts

Rows 1-5: rep
Rows 1-5 of Rita's
Body. 24 sts

Rows 6-13:

starting with a k
row work in st st

Rows 14-16: rep
Rows 24-26 of
Rita's Body.

Eight sts
Cut yarn leaving a
long tail, thread
tail onto tapestry
needle and thread
through rem sts,
fasten off

red breast

Using 5mm
needles and Robin
Red cast on
eight sts

Rows 1-5: rep
Rows 1-5 of Rita's
Body. 24 sts
Cut yarn leaving a
long tail, thread
tail onto tapestry



needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

wing

Make two

Using 5mm needles and Christmas Pud cast on eight sts

Row 1 (WS): p

Row 2: (k2, k2tog) to end. Six sts

Row 3: p

Row 4: (k2tog) to end. Three sts
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

beak

Using 5mm needles and black DK cast on eight sts

Row 1: (p2, p2tog) to end. Six sts

Row 2: (k2tog) to end. Three sts
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

tail

Using 5mm needles and Christmas Pud cast on eight sts

Rows 1-3: (k2, p2) to end

Row 4: (k2, p2tog) to end. Six sts

Row 5: (k1, p2tog) to end. Four sts
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

hat

Using 5mm needles and Evergreen cast on 24 sts

Rows 1-4: starting with a k row work in st st
Work in foll two-row stripe sequence: Robin Red, Evergreen

Row 5: k

Row 6: p

Row 7: (k1, k2tog) to end. 16 sts

Row 8: p

Row 9: (k2tog) to end. Eight sts

Rows 10-12: starting with a p row work in st st
Cont in

Evergreen only

Row 13: rep Row 9. Four sts

Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

bobble

Using 5mm needles and Evergreen cast on eight sts

Rows 1-3: starting with a k row work in st st

Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry

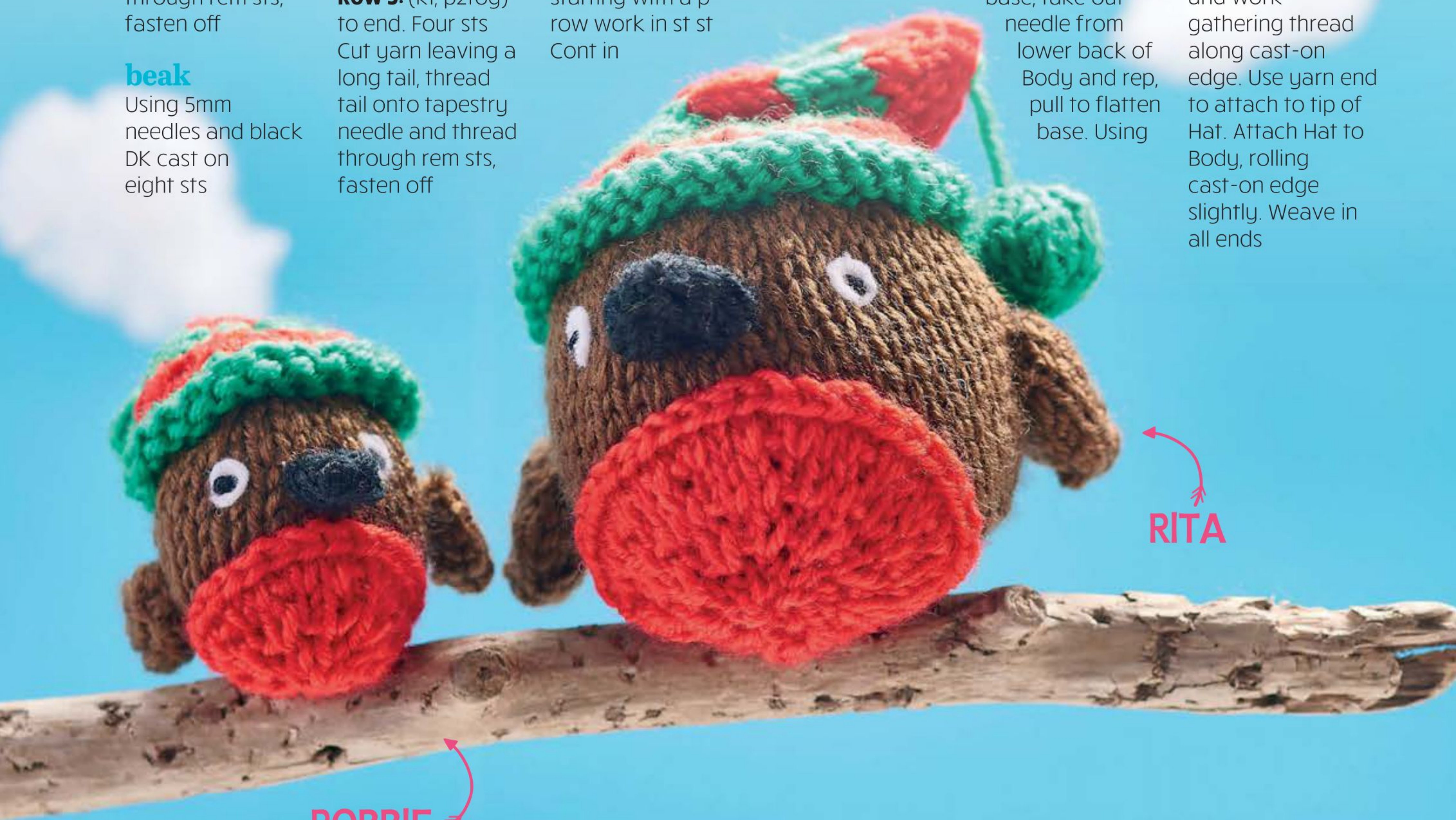
needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

to make up

Using fastened-off yarn end seam Body halfway. With cast-on yarn end work a gathering thread along cast-on edge and draw tightly. Sew base, stuff Body and sew closed.

Thread Christmas Pud onto tapestry needle and pierce from centre of base, take out needle from lower back of Body and rep, pull to flatten base. Using

fastened-off yarn end seam Red Breast to edge, sew to Body. Seam Wings and Beak, sew to Body. Sew Tail to Body. Cut four 8mm circles of white felt and place two on each face. Using Christmas Pud make two French Knots for eyes, piercing through felt. Using fastened-off yarn end seam Hat to cast-on edge. Seam Bobble, stuff and work gathering thread along cast-on edge. Use yarn end to attach to tip of Hat. Attach Hat to Body, rolling cast-on edge slightly. Weave in all ends



ROBBIE

RITA

CRAFT
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**WORTH
OVER
£1,600**



BOOK BUNDLES

We've got 128 creative titles up for grabs from various publishers – it's every crafter's dream! 16 lucky winners have got the chance to get their hands on eight books each. Simply head to letsgetcrafting.com, fill out the form and the books could be yours just in time for Christmas.



CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

How does your own personalised stocking sound? Pretty wonderful, right? Thanks to Charlotte Cot Blankets (charlottecotblankets.com), eight LGC readers can get

one ready for the festivities. The 54cm x 28cm stockings are sure to be treasured for years and Santa will certainly be impressed! The knitted pure wool, Fair Isle design can be created with a name that is a maximum of 12 letters.



YARN MAKEOVER

We've teamed up with your favourite brands to offer you lovely readers a huge bundle of yarn. Two crafters will each receive 35 balls of various yarn — your stash will never have looked so good! From lace to chunky and neon to subtle shades, you really can win it all. Visit letsgetcrafting.com now.

**£400
WORTH OF
YARN!**

Click & WIN

Enter online for free at

LETSGETCRAFTING.COM

**FUN FOR
ALL THE
FAMILY**



PRESS AND PLAY

Nosy Crow (nosycrow.com) is giving away brand new releases for Christmas. Eight winners will get both *Make & Play Nativity* illustrated by Joey Chou, worth £7.99, and *Press Out and Decorate Unicorns* illustrated by Kate McLelland, worth £9.99. Both activity books are ideal stocking fillers, where children can press out and assemble their own scenes and characters.

CROCHET KITS

Meet Patsy Panda and Blossom Mouse. If you visit letsgetcrafting.com today they could both be yours. The Crafty Kit Company (craftykitcompany.co.uk) is kindly offering ten winners the opportunity to win two toy kits, worth £12.99 each. They make the perfect gifts this Christmas or could even be a little treat for yourself.



ENTERING IS EASY!

1 2 3

Visit our website
letsgetcrafting.com

Click the
'Giveaways' tab

Select a giveaway
and **enter details**

CLOSING DATE: 9TH NOVEMBER 2017



TRY YOUR HAND AT OUR TASTY Gingerbread man



SACHIYO ISHII'S little character is a wonderful stocking filler to wake up to on Christmas morning – he's best gifted with some warm cookies to nibble on! We advise you to leave at least 10cm tails at the beginning and end of each piece. That's only if you can get through the project though, because he looks good enough to eat! Give him a try tonight.

GINGER-BREAD MAN first leg

Using 5mm needles and Christmas Pud cast on eight sts
Row 1 (WS): p
Row 2: (kfb) to end. 16 sts
Rows 3-11: starting with a p row work in st st
Note: cut yarn and transfer sts onto st holder

second leg, body and arms

Using 5mm needles and Christmas Pud cast on eight sts
Rows 1-11: rep Rows 1-11 of First Leg. 16 sts
Row 12: kfb, k15, work across 16 sts of First Leg as folls: kfb, k to end. 34 sts
Rows 13-21: rep Rows 3-11 of First Leg
Row 22: cast off eight sts, k to end. 26 sts
Row 23: cast off

eight sts, p to end. 18 sts
Row 24: cast on eight sts, k to end. 26 sts
Row 25: cast on eight sts, p to end. 34 sts
Row 26: k8, (k2tog, k2) four times, k2tog, k8. 29 sts
Rows 27-29: starting with a p row work in st st
Row 30: k10, transfer next nine sts onto st holder, cast on nine sts on working needle, k to end from main needle
Rows 31-35: starting with a p row work in st st Cast off

head

Using 5mm needles and Christmas Pud pick up nine sts from st holder
Row 1 (front of neck, WS): p, turn
Row 2 (back neck edge): cast on five sts, k to end. 14 sts
Row 3: cast on five sts, p to end. 19 sts
Rows 4-7: starting with a k row

work in st st
Row 8: k1, (k2tog, k1) to end. 13 sts Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

button

Make three
Using 5mm needles and Robin Red (Evergreen, Tinsel Blue) cast on five sts Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread

tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

to make up

Using cast-on yarn end of Leg, work gathering thread to cast-on edge and draw tightly, seam Legs. Seam arms and work a gathering thread to close. With fastened-off yarn end, seam Head to edge (Row 2) and sew

backside of neck edge (Row 3) to cast-on edge created at Row 30 of Body. Stuff Body lightly and sew closed. Using Milk Bottle, French knot eyes and backstitch a mouth. Make ch

sts around bottom of Arms and Legs. Sew ends of each Button tog to make bobbles, sew to Body. Make a bow using Silver Sparkle, sew to Body. Weave in all ends

GREAT ADVICE

Rather than making separate body parts, this pattern picks up sts from previous sections to continue knitting from the bottom upwards



You'll still have plenty of
your kit left to try
other projects!



“Make a few ladder stitches at the armpits to bring the arms closer to the body if desired”

SACHIYO ISHII, DESIGNER



USE ALL
SIX
YARN
COLOURS!

LET'S SHOP

American hard gum sweets,
oldestsweetshop.co.uk



CRAFT A CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER WITH OUR Sparkly stocking



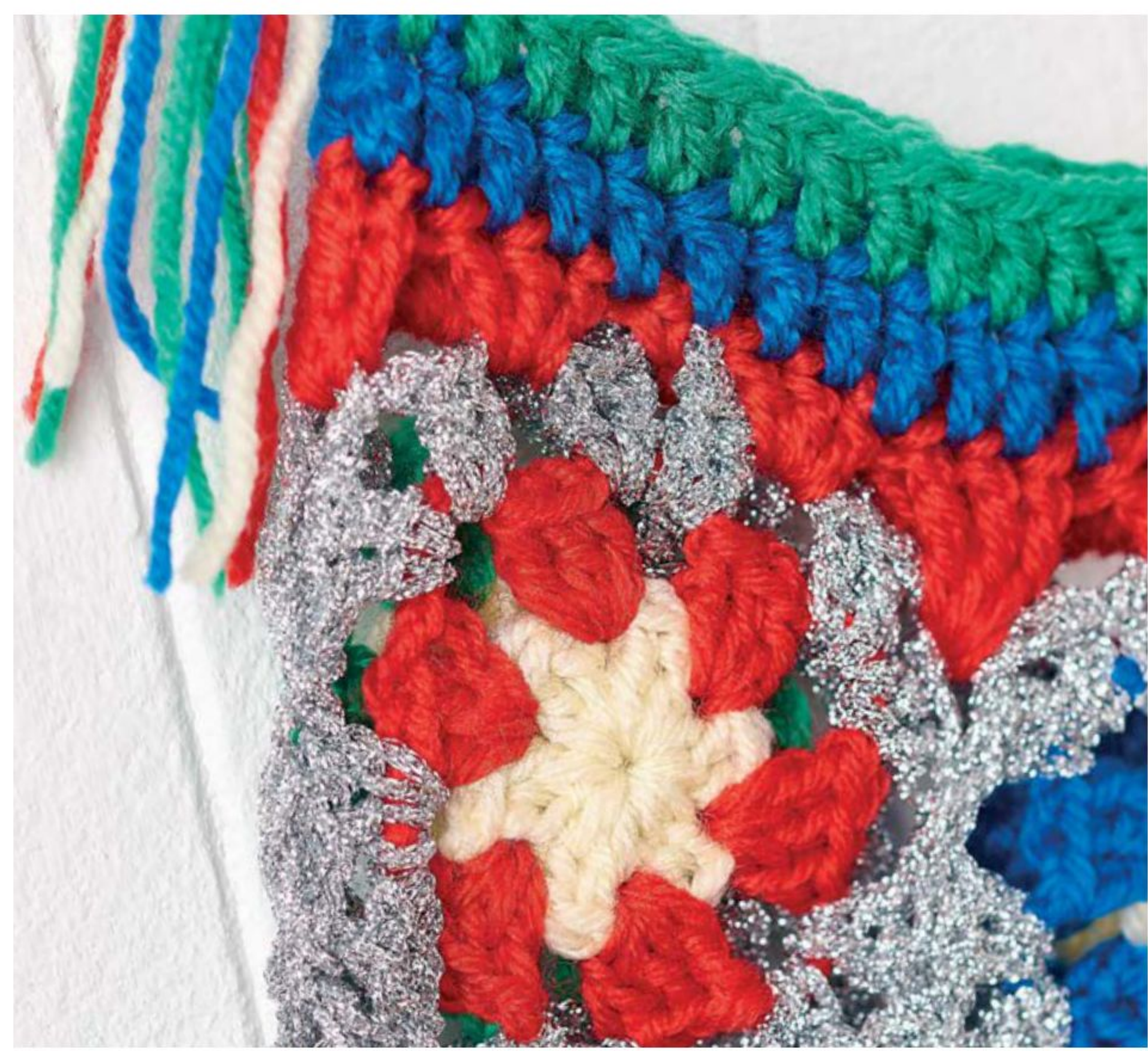
SPARKLY STOCKING hexagon

Make 18 (six each in Robin Red, Tinsel Blue, Evergreen)
Using 5mm hook and Milk Bottle make a magic ring, work 3ch (counts as 1tr), 11tr into ring. 12 sts
Fasten off Milk Bottle, join Robin Red (Tinsel Blue, Evergreen) between any two sts
Rnd 1: (3ch [counts as 1tr], 2tr) in same sp, (miss two sts, [3ch, 3tr] in next sp between sts) five times, 3ch, join with a sl st to third of first 3ch. 18 sts
Fasten off
Once three Hexagons have been made, join Silver Sparkle to any 3ch sp
Join Hexagons 1-3 (see Chart) tog to form top ring of leg as folls:
Rnd 2 (Hexagon 1 only): (3ch [counts as 1tr], 1tr, 3ch, 2tr) in same 3ch sp, (1ch, 2tr, 3ch, 2tr) in each 3ch sp to end, 1ch, join with

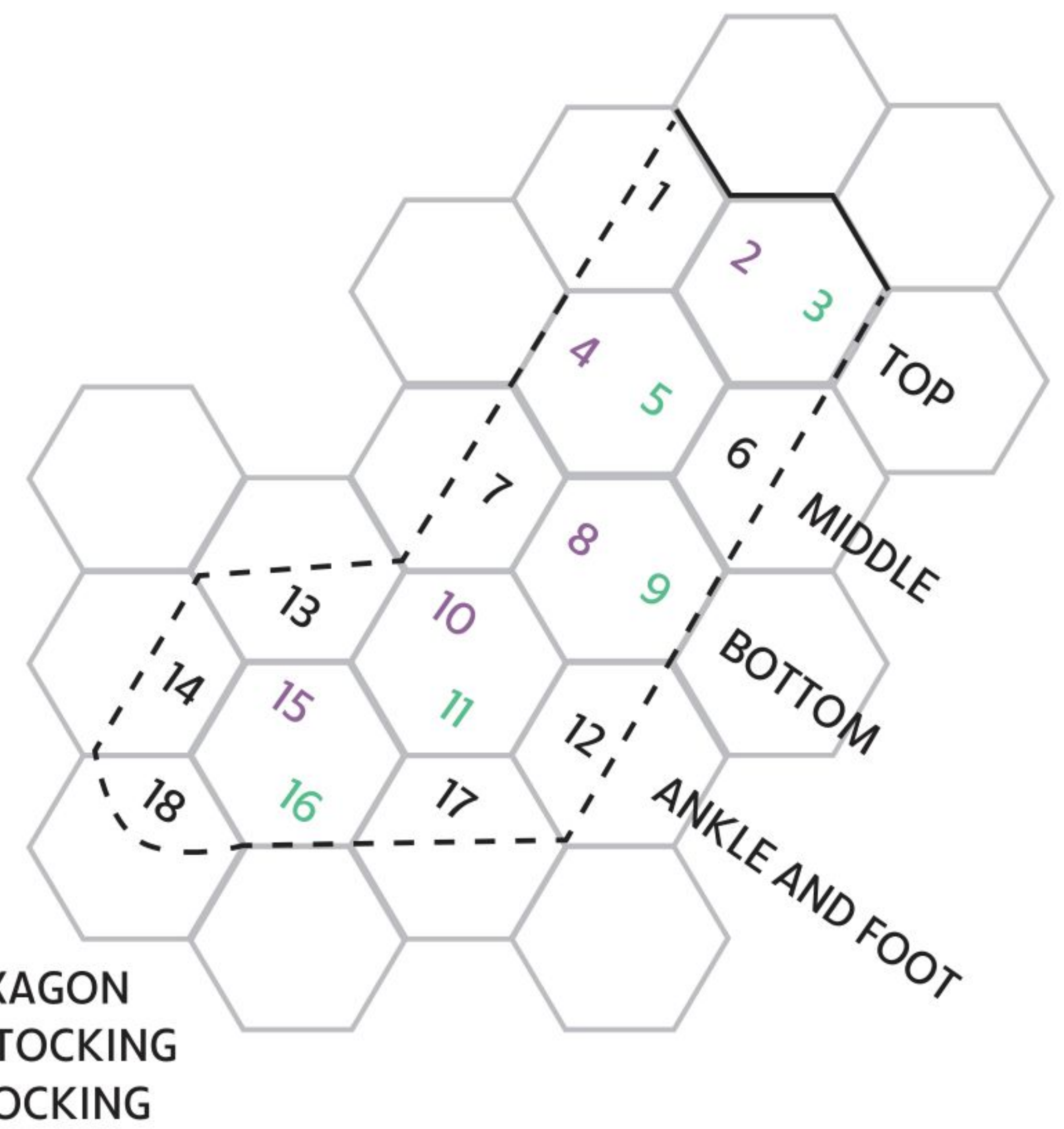
a sl st to third of first 3ch. 24 sts
Rnd 2 (Hexagon 2 and 3 only): join Silver Sparkle to any 3ch sp, (3ch [counts as 1tr], 1tr, 3ch, 2tr) in same 3ch sp, 1ch, ([2tr, 1ch, 1ch join [see Great Advice], 1ch, 2tr] in next 3ch sp, 1ch join) to end replacing 1ch join with 1ch when not joining to an adjacent Hexagon
Fasten off
Note: cont working Rnd 3 in this way for Hexagons 4-6 for middle ring and 7-9 for bottom ring (see Chart)
joining ankle and foot
Note: follow Chart for guidance
Join Hexagon 10 to Hexagons 7 and 8, turn over, fold in half and join Hexagon 12 to Hexagons 10, 8 and 9. Join Hexagon 11 to Hexagons 12, 7 and 8. Fold Hexagon 13 in half and place

The carrots are out, the milk is sat neatly with the cookies, and the living room is set for a memorable Christmas Eve. Joining the hexagons in **ALI CAMPBELL'S** stocking project can be a little tricky, so make sure you check out the chart. You can also download it from **topcrochetpatterns.com** – just search 'sparkly stocking'. If you struggle to count stitches when using Silver Sparkle, try swapping it for another colour.

in position. Join Hexagon 13 to Hexagons 10 and 11 with one 1ch join: insert hook into 3ch sp of Hexagon 10 followed by 3ch sp of Hexagon 11, yoh and pull through. Use Chart to join rem Hexagons in numerical order
top edge
Using 5mm hook and Robin Red, join to any top 3ch sp from Rnd 3 of Hexagons 1-3
Rnd 1: 1dc, (3tr in next 1ch sp, miss next two sts and 3ch sp, 3dtr in next sp between joined Hexagons, miss next 3ch sp and two sts, 3tr in next 3ch sp, miss two sts, 1dc in next ch sp) to end, join with a sl st to first st
Work in foll one-rnd stripe sequence: Tinsel Blue, Evergreen
Rnds 2-3: 3ch, 1tr in each st to end
Fasten off



to make up
Block to shape. Using hook and rem lengths of Milk Bottle, Robin Red, Evergreen and Tinsel Blue held tog, loosely make 20ch, leaving long tails. Sew to Top Edge to hang



GREAT ADVICE

JOINING HEXAGONS

Hexagons are joined with a 1ch join as follows: hook into any 3ch sp of adjoining Hexagon, yoh, draw yarn through sp and loop on hook. Always use middle ch of 3ch or 1ch along Hexagon sides to join. When joining one Hexagon to two others, place the 1ch join in sp between where prev two Hexagons were joined

Love
THIS PATTERN?



FIND THE FREE PROJECT FOR KAREN WEIDERHOLD'S STRIPY STOCKING AT
TOPCROCHETPATTERNS.COM



LET'S SHOP

Milk bottle, talkingtables.co.uk
Straws, pipii.co.uk
Tealight holder, tch.net



And the winner is...



OUR WINNER

"I'm absolutely delighted that I've won The Woolly Writer"

NATALIE AHMED

The time has come to reveal The Woolly Writer champion. After launching our annual competition back in issue 92, LGC HQ was flooded with fantastic and imaginative crafty stories. The team loved reading through each and every one – we've shared many laughs and were also touched by plenty of emotive reads. It was certainly a tough one to judge, but we want to congratulate Natalie Ahmed on her winning story. We suggest you sit back, relax and enjoy this one with a cup of tea. Thank you for entering crafters – we can't wait for next year's competition.

She slowly turned the ball of bright red yarn over in her hands, imagining all the wonderful things she could make, but before she could pop it into her basket, she felt a tapping on her shoulder...

"Excuse me," the shop girl said. "I'm sorry, but have you chosen what you'd like? We're closing early today, for the holidays." She gave Mary an intentional

smile, a shared joke. Of course Mary knew it was the holidays, and of course the girl knew who she was – everyone in the village did. Mary thanked the girl and bundled the yarn into her hand-knitted bag – a present from her husband last year. She wrapped her overcoat tightly around her and trudged into the dreary, cold day. She didn't mind the icy weather,

and it wasn't a far walk back to their cabin's inviting log fire.

She moved slowly through the snow-covered pavements, barely bumping into a soul. She still couldn't decide if she'd bought enough yarn – her husband's waistline had been increasing over the years, and she was sceptical whether the pattern had made allowances for middle-aged spread. She opened the door and was enveloped by a reassuringly warm wave of heat and spices; their home smelt so beautiful this time of year. Once again she couldn't believe she'd left her knitting until the last minute.

Her mantra of 'just begin' went out the window as quickly as she had printed the beautifully designed words from Pinterest. "It's fine," she muttered to herself. "It's only 3pm and he's working late tonight, he won't be home for ages."

She prioritised putting the kettle on – no knitting project can be completed unless fuelled by tea and biscuits, this she knew adamantly. She'd already started a few rows a couple of months ago to make herself feel better about leaving it so late. The yarn was the boldest shade of red, reminiscent of a stop sign, funny when all Mary could think was 'go, go, go!'. Her husband was going to love it – he was the sort who truly appreciated a handmade gift, especially from his loving wife, and red was his colour. He'd been complaining about the holes and snags in his favourite cardigan that Mary had made over four years ago. He wore it all the time and it certainly showed. They weren't particularly flashy dressers, who could be bothered at their age? But still, she couldn't stand the thought of him walking around the village in threadbare cardies, especially as they were so well-known in the local community.

The only audience for Mary's click-clacking of needles was her cat Claws and the dancing fire. She liked to knit in silence, it provided the calm amongst the storm of her ferociously moving fingers. She allowed a break in the silence to listen to The Archers at seven o'clock, and made time for a few more tea-stops. As she knitted into the evening, unfurling more and more bright red cardigan as she went, the only movement in the cosy room was Claws' eyes flickering as he tried to sleep through the noise by the fire. At around 11 o'clock Mary's husband found her with a newly born, bright red cardigan

keeping her warm as the fire sizzled and shrunk. He knew it was for him and kissed her on the head as she woke. "Sorry to startle you dear, I must get going if I'm going to make all the deliveries." Flustered and worried that she'd fallen asleep before

she finished, she looked down to see what she'd produced.

The cardigan was the most magnificent colour and beautifully knitted piece of clothing she'd ever made, even if she did think so herself. And to Mary's delight, it was finished, hooray! "Er, well I've made this for you to replace your old one, it's nothing really, I hope you like it," she said wearily. She was always slightly embarrassed when she gave someone a present she'd made, no matter who it was for. "I absolutely love it," he said, as he whisked it off her lap to try on – a perfect fit. As he headed out, she rattled off a few instructions that she couldn't help herself from giving. "Well, if you're off be careful and don't drive too fast. Has Rudolph eaten enough carrots? He'll need the energy." He cut her off: "Mary. I do this every year you know. Love you Mrs Claus." And with a straightening of his beautiful new red cardigan, he went into the night.

"She prioritised putting the kettle on – no knitting project can be completed unless fuelled by tea and biscuits, this she knew adamantly"

OUR WINNER

"I'm absolutely delighted that I've won The Woolly Writer. I love writing and Let's Get Crafting magazine, so to be part of something that combines my passions is wonderful. When I read the opening sentence about bright red yarn I knew I wanted to weave in a Christmas theme – and reading it back has reminded me that I need to get started on my handmade gifts! I certainly won't be short of yarn, ideas or materials with my incredible prize – thank you so much."

Natalie wins a £100 Search Press voucher (searchpress.com), a £250 bundle from Cygnet Yarns (cygnetyarns.com), plus a year's free subscription to Let's Get Crafting!

SEARCH PRESS
specialist art and craft book publishers



OUR JUDGE

"I love the warm, cosy and homely feel that this story conjures up. From the snow-covered pavements to the sleepy cat by the glowing log fire, and the beautiful smell of spices wafting through the log cabin. It has such a lovely twist at the end – the knitted red jumper is for a very special person indeed! I didn't predict that fun ending at all. It's a lovely, well-written, magical Christmas story"

Mary Ellingham, Publicity Manager at Search Press (searchpress.com)

Head to topcrochetpatterns.com/blog to read the stories from our runners-up Leska Beikircher and Vivienne Millward – congratulations ladies!

USE
YOUR FREE
Merry
YARN KIT



PLUS

four buttons,
stitch markers,
tapestry
needle

SIZE

Diameter:
53cm



Take the
next step

GATHER THE PRESENTS ON OUR STRIPY Tree skirt

TINA BARRETT'S project uses all of the colours in your kit to create a traditional decoration that will be treasured throughout the years. If you don't want to put it under a tree, you can use it as a table centrepiece too. This pattern uses abbreviations such as pm and yfwd – see our full list and find out what they mean on page 65.

TREE SKIRT

Using 5mm
needles and
Christmas Pud
cast on 42 sts

Rows 1-2: k

Row 3: k3, (yfwd, pm, k1, yfwd, k4) seven times, yfwd, pm, k1, yfwd, k to end. 58 sts

Row 4: k3, p to last three sts, k3

Row 5: k

Row 6: rep Row 4
Change to
Evergreen

Row 7: (k to next st marker, sl marker, yfwd, k1, yfwd) eight times, k to end. 74 sts

Rows 8-10: rep Rows 4-6
Change to Silver Sparkle

Row 11: rep Row 7. 90 sts

Rows 12-14: k
Work in foll

four-row stripe
sequence: Robin Red, Milk Bottle, Tinsel Blue

Row 15: rep Row 7. 106 sts

Rows 16-18: rep Rows 4-6

Rows 19-26: rep Rows 15-18 twice. 138 sts

Work in foll two-row stripe sequence: Christmas Pud, Evergreen, Silver Sparkle, Robin Red, Milk Bottle, Tinsel Blue

Row 27: rep Row 7. 154 sts

Rows 28-31: rep Rows 4-7. 170 sts

Row 32: k

Rows 33-35: rep Rows 5-7. 186 sts

Row 38: rep Rows 4-6

Work in foll four-row stripe sequence:

Christmas Pud, Evergreen, Silver Sparkle

Row 39: rep Row



7. 202 sts

Rows 40-47: rep Rows 4-7 twice. 234 sts

Rows 48-50: k
Change to Robin Red

Row 51: rep Row 7. 250 sts

Rows 52-53: rep Rows 4-5
Change to Milk Bottle

Row 54: rep Row 4

Row 55: rep Row 7. 266 sts

Row 56: rep Row 4
Change to Tinsel Blue

Rows 57-58: rep Rows 5-6
Change to Silver Sparkle

Rows 59-60: k
Cast off

to make up
Block Tree Skirt by

spraying with water and pinning on board. Leave to dry. Sew buttons to edge

to correspond with buttonholes (see Great Advice). Weave in all ends

GREAT ADVICE

BUTTON IT

Using hook and Christmas Pud (Tinsel Blue) make four button loops along one short edge of Skirt as folls: join yarn, make 6ch, sl st to first ch and fasten off

LET'S SHOP

Reversible Christmas present boxes, partypacks.co.uk

Urling Christmas tree micro light bundle, lights4fun.co.uk

USE ALL
SIX
YARN
COLOURS!



USE
YOUR FREE

Merry

YARN KIT



PLUS
stuffing,
tapestry
needle, two
1cm safety
eyes, teasel
brush

SIZE
Height: 18cm

MEET BILLY, THE INCREDIBLY TALENTED Ice-skating goat



Is Christmas even Christmas without a novelty skater goat? When he's not twirling around on frozen lakes, he loves to sit by the fire on chilly days. Billy's adorable little goatee really completes this project and it's simple to achieve too – find out how in the To Make Up section. **LIZ WARD'S** pattern should take between 4-5 hours, so why not try it this weekend?



ICE-SKATING GOAT head

Using 5mm hook and Milk Bottle make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring. Six sts

Rnd 1: 2dc in each st to end. 12 sts

Rnd 2: (1dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 18 sts

Rnd 3: (2dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 24 sts

Rnd 4: (3dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 30 sts

Rnd 5: (4dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 36 sts

Rnds 6-9: 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 10: (dc2tog, 4dc) to end. 30 sts

Rnd 11: (dc2tog, 3dc) to end. 24 sts

Rnd 12: (dc2tog, 2dc) to end. 18 sts

Insert safety eyes on Rnd 7, approx eight sts apart

*** Rnd 13:** (dc2tog, 1dc) to end. 12 sts

Stuff

Rnd 14: (dc2tog) to end. Six sts

Fasten off

muzzle

Using 5mm hook and Milk Bottle make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring. Six sts

Rnds 1-2: rep Rnds 1-2 of Head. 18 sts

Rnd 3: (2dc in next st, 5dc) to end. 21 sts

Rnds 4-6: 1dc in each st to end

Fasten off

ear

Make two

Using 5mm hook and Milk Bottle make a magic ring, work 4dc into ring. Four sts

Rnds 1-4: rep Rnds 2-5 of Head. 12 sts

Fasten off

horn

Make two

Using 5mm hook and Christmas Pud make a magic ring, work 4dc into ring. Four sts

Rnds 1-6: 2dc in first st, 1dc in each st to end. Ten sts

Fasten off

body

Using 5mm hook

and Robin Red make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring. Six sts

Rnds 1-3: rep Rnds 1-3 of Head. 24 sts

Rnd 4: (dc2tog, 6dc) to end. 21 sts

Rnd 5: (2dc in next st, 6dc) to end. 24 sts

Rnd 6: (2dc in next st, 7dc) to end. 27 sts

Rnd 7: (2dc in next st, 8dc) to end. 30 sts

Note: change to Evergreen after Rnd 12, change to Milk Bottle after Rnd 14

Rnds 8-14: 1dc in each st to end

Rnds 15-16: rep Rnds 11-12 of Head. 18 sts

Rnds 17-18: rep from * to * of Head

Fasten off

skate

Make two

Using 5mm hook and Tinsel Blue make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring. Six sts

Rnds 1-2: rep Rnds 1-2 of Head. 18 sts

Rnd 3: working in back loops only, 1dc in each st to end

Rnds 4-9: dc2tog, 1dc in each st to end. 12 sts

Fasten off

blade

Make two

Using 5mm hook and Silver Sparkle make 13ch

Row 1: starting in second ch from hook, 1dc in each ch to end. 12 sts

Row 2: 1ch, turn, 1dc in each st to end

Fasten off

arm

Make two

Using 5mm hook and Christmas Pud make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring. Six sts

Rnd 1: 2dc in each st to end. 12 sts

Rnd 2: rep Rnd 3 of Skate

Note: change to Evergreen after Rnd 4, change to Robin Red after Rnd 6

Rnds 3-5: dc2tog,



GOATS ARE DEPUTY EDITOR JESS' FAVOURITE ANIMAL!

1dc in each st to end. Nine sts

Rnds 6-12: 1dc in each st to end

Fasten off

collar

Using 5mm hook and Evergreen make 22ch

Row 1: starting in third ch from hook, 1htr in each st to end. 20 sts

Fasten off

to make up

Stuff Head, Body and Arms, sew closed. Stuff

Muzzle and Horns. Sew Muzzle, Horns and Body to Head. Pinch Ears tog and sew to Head. Sew Blades to Skates. Stuff Skates, sew to Body. Sew Collar around neck. Using Christmas Pud embroider a nose. Using Silver Sparkle embroider a star onto Body. Use a teasel brush to comb yarn under chin to form goatee

A circular graphic with a red border and a dotted red inner circle. The text "USE ALL" is in red, "SIX" is in large blue letters, "YARN" is in blue, and "COLOURS!" is in red. The background of the circle has a yellow-to-orange gradient.

LET'S SHOP

Curtain lights, **lights4fun.co.uk**
Snowy Christmas tree, **pipii.co.uk**

LET'S SHOP

Curtain lights, **lights4fun.co.uk**
Snowy Christmas tree, **pipii.co.uk**

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!

Thank you so much to all of you who both nominated and voted for your favourites in our annual awards. Widely recognised as the biggest and most prestigious in the industry, the British Knitting & Crochet Awards mean so much to those who win, as they are voted for entirely by real crafters like you. We offer huge congratulations to the fantastic brands, people and shops celebrated below. Until next year!



BEST BABY YARN BRAND

1st Debbie Bliss
2nd Stylecraft
3rd Sirdar

BEST INDEPENDENT YARN BRAND

1st West Yorkshire Spinners
2nd TOFT
3rd Baa Ram Ewe

BEST VALUE YARN BRAND

1st Stylecraft
2nd Drops
3rd Sirdar

BEST LUXURY YARN BRAND

1st Rowan
2nd Debbie Bliss
3rd West Yorkshire Spinners

BEST SOCK YARN BRAND

1st West Yorkshire Spinners
2nd Stylecraft
3rd Regia

BEST OVERALL YARN BRAND

1st Stylecraft
2nd Sirdar
3rd Rowan

BEST BRAND FOR BRITISH YARN

1st West Yorkshire Spinners

2nd TOFT
3rd Baa Ram Ewe

FAVOURITE PATTERN HOUSE

1st Rowan
2nd Stylecraft
3rd Sirdar

FAVOURITE KNITTING DESIGNER

1st Debbie Bliss
2nd Louisa Harding
3rd Kaffe Fassett

BEST CHAIN STORE/MULTIPLE

1st Hobbycraft
2nd John Lewis
3rd Abakhan

BEST ONLINE SHOP

1st Wool Warehouse
2nd LoveKnitting
3rd Black Sheep Wools

BEST LOCAL INDEPENDENT YARN STORE

SOUTH EAST OF ENGLAND
1st Loop, London
2nd The Sheep Shop, Cambridge
3rd I Knit London, London

SOUTH WEST OF ENGLAND
1st Spin A Yarn, Devon

2nd Get Knitted, Bristol
3rd Pins & Needles, Devizes

NORTH OF ENGLAND

1st Black Sheep Wools, Warrington
2nd Purl & Jane, Skipton
3rd Yarn etc, Harrogate

WALES

1st The Wool Croft, Abergavenny
2nd Rosemary's Wool Shop, Aberaeron
3rd Red Apple Yarn, Lampeter

IRELAND

1st This Is Knit, Dublin
2nd Love Wool, Portadown
3rd Parlour Yarns, Carrickfergus

MIDLANDS

1st Knit Nottingham, Nottingham
2nd Christine's Wool Shop, Bournville
3rd Woollyhippo, Hinckley

SCOTLAND

1st Wool for Ewe,

Aberdeen
2nd Ginger Twist Studio, Edinburgh
3rd The Yarn Cake, Glasgow

BEST KNITTING NEEDLE RANGE

1st KnitPro
2nd Clover
3rd Pony

BEST KNITTING ACCESSORIES RANGE

1st KnitPro
2nd Clover
3rd Pony

BEST READY-TO- USE KNIT KITS

1st Wool Warehouse/Attic24
2nd Deramores
3rd TOFT

FAVOURITE KNITTING BLOG

1st LoveKnitting
2nd Black Sheep Wools
3rd Winwick Mum

BEST WEBSITE

1st Ravelry
2nd Wool Warehouse/Attic24
3rd LoveKnitting

FAVOURITE BOOK (2016/2017)

1st The Sock Drawer – Verity Castledine

2nd Hygge Knits – Nicki Trench
3rd Knitting From the North – Hilary Grant

BEST KNITTING SHOW/EVENT (2016/17)

1st Yarnale, Skipton, September
2nd The Knitting & Stitching Show, Ally Pally, October
3rd The Knitting & Stitching Show, Harrogate, November

FAVOURITE CHARITY CAMPAIGN

1st Octopuses for Premature Babies
2nd Innocent Big Knit
3rd Cherished Gowns for Angel Babies

BEST YARN SHOP DAY EXPERIENCE 2017

1st Black Sheep Wools
2nd Christine's Wool Shop, Bournville
3rd Knit Nottingham

FAVOURITE CROCHET DESIGNER

1st Lucy, Attic 24

2nd Jane Crowfoot
3rd Kerry Lord

BEST YARN FOR CROCHET

1st Stylecraft
2nd Sirdar
3rd Scheepjes

BEST CROCHET STORE

1st Wool Warehouse
2nd Black Sheep Wools
3rd Hobbycraft

FAVOURITE CROCHET BLOG

1st Attic24
2nd Look At What I Made
3rd Bella Coco

FAVOURITE CROCHET BOOK

1st Granny Squares and Shapes – Sue Pinner
2nd Edward's Crochet Imaginarium – Kerry Lord
3rd Sophie's Universe – Dedri Uys

BEST CROCHET ACCESSORIES RANGE

1st Clover
2nd KnitPro
3rd Pony



USE
YOUR FREE

Merry

YARN KIT



PLUS
tapestry
needle

SIZE
Diameter: 16cm



CREATE CLASSIC CHRISTMAS DÉCOR WITH THESE

Icy snowflakes

Whether they're coasters, hanging decorations or simply scattered across the mantelpiece, you'll love **KAREN WIEDERHOLD'S** snowy project. The delicate patterns make four different designs, so you can choose your favourite or make all four. We particularly love the Silver Sparkle snowflake – it makes such a great tree dec. Make sure you send us a picture once you've made yours!

DIAMOND FLAKE

Using 5mm hook and Milk Bottle make 6ch, join with a sl st to make a ring

Rnd 1: (6ch, one sl st into ring) six times. Six loops made

Rnd 2: sl st along to top of next 6ch loop, (8ch, one sl st in top of next loop) to end. Six 8ch loops made

Rnd 3: 1ch, (4dc, 3ch, 4dc) in each 8ch sp to end, join with a sl st to first st. 48 sts

Rnd 4: sl st to next 3ch sp, (one sl st, 3ch [counts as 1tr], 2tr, 2ch, 3tr) in same 3ch sp, 3ch, miss three sts, 1tr, ([3ch, 3tr, 2ch, 3tr] in next 3ch sp, 3ch, miss three sts, 1tr) five times, 3ch, join with a sl st to third of first ch. 42 sts

Rnd 5: * sl st to next 2ch sp at tip, (5ch, one sl st, 8ch, one sl st, 5ch, one sl st) in 2ch sp, rep from * to end, sl st to first st, join with a sl st to first st. Fasten off

BLUE FLAKE

Using 5mm hook and Tinsel Blue make 6ch, join with a sl st to make a ring

Rnd 1: (3ch [counts as 1tr], 1tr) into ring, (1ch, 2tr) into ring five times, 1ch, join with a sl st to third of first 3ch. 12 sts

Rnd 2: sl st to next 1ch sp, (3ch [counts as 1tr], 2tr, 2ch, 3tr) in same 1ch sp, (3tr, 2ch, 3tr) in each 1ch sp to end, join with a sl st to third of first 3ch. 36 sts

Rnd 3: sl st to next 2ch sp, (3ch [counts as 1tr], 2tr, 5ch, 3tr) in same 1ch sp, (3tr, 5ch, 3tr) in each 2ch sp to end, join with a sl st to third of first 3ch

Rnd 4: (sl st to next 5ch sp, [5ch, one sl st, 8ch, one sl st, 10ch, one sl st, 8ch, one sl st, 5ch, one sl st] in same 5ch sp) to end, join with a sl st to st. Fasten off

SILVER FLAKE

Using 5mm hook and Silver Sparkle make 6ch, join with a sl st to make a ring

Rnd 1: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr into ring, join with a sl st to third of first 3ch. 12 sts

Rnd 2: (one sl st, 6ch [counts as 3ch, 1tr]) in next sp between sts, 1tr in next sp between sts, (3ch, 1tr in next sp between sts) to end, 3ch, join with a sl st to third of first 3ch

Rnd 3: sl st in next 3ch sp, 10ch (counts as 1tr, 7ch), miss next 3ch sp, 1tr in next 3ch sp, (7ch, miss next 3ch sp, 1tr in next 3ch sp) four times, 7ch, join with a sl st to third of first 10ch. Six 7ch loops made

Rnd 4: ([6ch, one sl st, 8ch, one sl st, 6ch, one sl st] in next sp, 7dc in 7ch sp, one sl st in next tr) to end

Rnd 5: sl st to centre of next 6ch loop, 6ch, 1dc in next 8ch loop, 5ch, 1dc in next 6ch loop, (7ch, 1dc in next 6ch loop, 5ch, 1dc in next 8ch loop, 5ch, 1dc in next 6ch loop) to end, 7ch, join with a sl st to first loop

Rnd 6: (sl st to next 8ch loop, [one sl st, 8ch, one sl st] in same 8ch loop) to end, sl st across next 12 sts, join with a sl st to first st. Fasten off

next 6ch sp) five times, 6ch, join with a sl st to first ch

Rnd 3: (3ch [counts as 1tr], 5tr) in next dc, (3ch, 6tr in next dc) to end, 3ch, join with a sl st to third of first 3ch. 36 sts

Rnd 4: (sl st to centre of next 6tr

cl, [8ch, one sl st] in same sp) to end, join with a sl st to first st

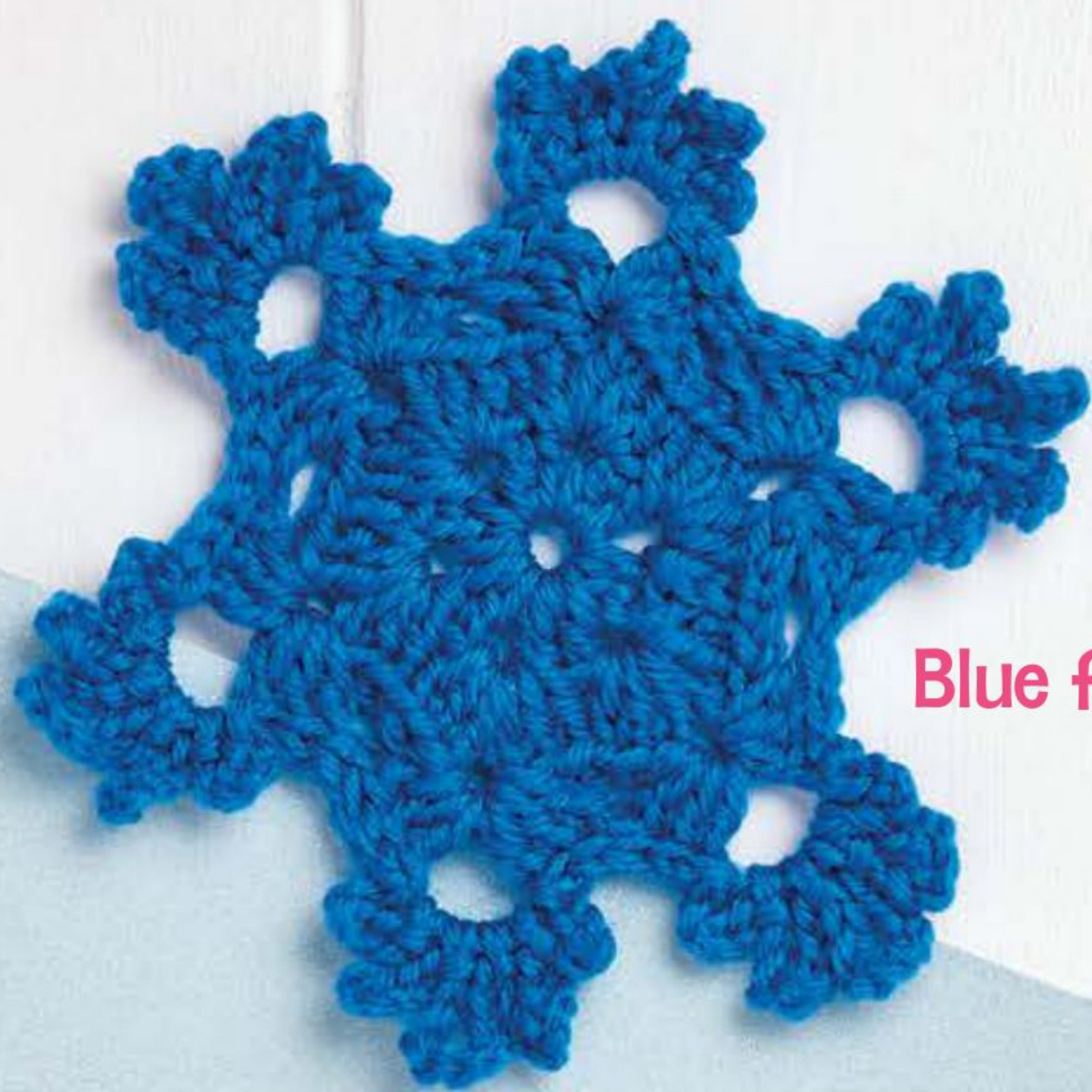
Rnd 5: (sl st to next 8ch sp, [6ch, one sl st, 8ch, one sl st, 6ch, one sl st] into same 8ch sp) to end, join with a sl st to first st. Fasten off

Love
THIS PATTERN?



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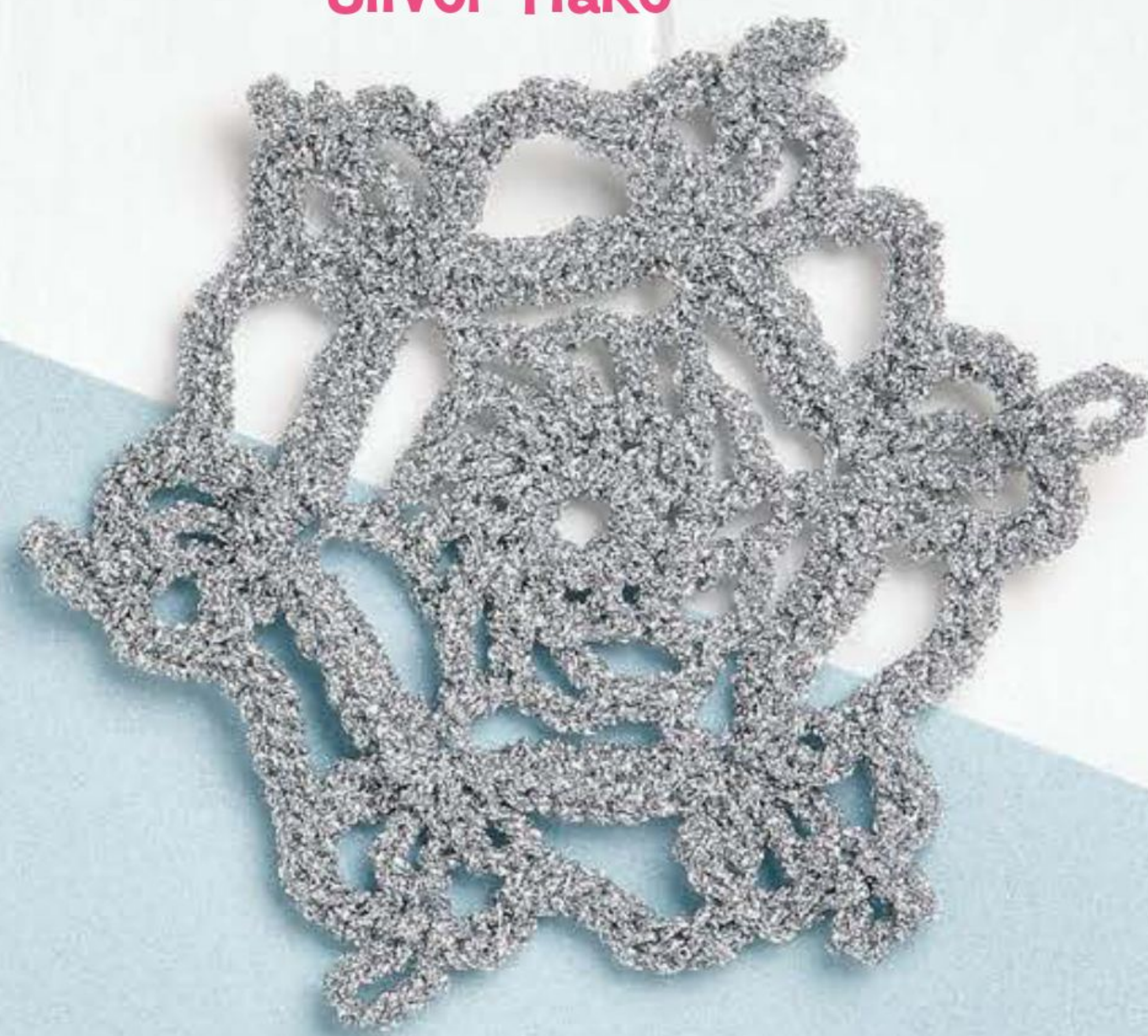
Use the
rest of your
kit to try
another
project



Blue flake



Round flake



Silver flake



Diamond
flake

Ways with YOUR SNOWFLAKES!

DOILY Join seven of the same snowflake in a cluster

LACY TABLECLOTH Join several rows of the same pattern together

GARLAND String a few of each motif

with ribbon or twine

CUSHION COVER Stitch a snowflake onto a plain cover

PLACEMAT Swap the yarn for string and follow the patterns for a sturdy make

SERVETTE RING Fold a snowflake in half then stitch two pairs of points together to form a tube

SHAWL Join several snowflakes in a triangle

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YARN!



Coming next issue

*Knit & crochet with
your **Nut Cracker** colour pack*

ISSUE 96 IS ON SALE
2ND NOVEMBER 2017

65
EXCLUSIVE
patterns for
you...

- ...including pom-pom mittens and mischievous elves
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**Complete your
festive blanket!**



**CHRISTMAS
BUNNY**



Rudolph cushion



Penguin pals

*PROJECTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE



YOU WILL NEED

YARN

Drops Safran 4-ply: A (Off White), B (Light Ice Blue), C (White), D (Beige), E (Light Brown), F (Red), 50g ball of each

PLUS

3.5mm hook, four 6mm safety eyes, tapestry needle, stuffing, stitch marker

SIZE

Height: 11cm

MARY AND JOSEPH head and body

Make two

Using 3.5mm hook and Yarn A make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring.

Six sts

Rnd 1: 2dc in each st to end. 12 sts

Note: pull yarn tail to close ring

Rnd 2: (1dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 18 sts

Rnd 3: (2dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 24 sts

Rnd 4: (3dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 30 sts

Rnd 5: (4dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 36 sts

Rnds 6-10: 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 11: (dc2tog, 4dc) to end. 30 sts

Rnd 12: (dc2tog, 3dc) to end. 24 sts

Rnd 13: (dc2tog,

2dc) to end. 18 sts

Note: insert safety eyes on Rnd 8, approx seven sts apart

Rnd 14: (dc2tog, 1dc) to end. 12 sts
Stuff

Change to Yarn B

Rnd 15: 1dc in each st to end

Rnds 16-17: rep Rnds 4-5. 18 sts

Rnd 18: (5dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 21 sts

Rnd 19: (6dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 24 sts

Rnd 20: (7dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 27 sts

Rnd 21: (8dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 30 sts

Rnd 22: (9dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 33 sts

Rnd 23: (10dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 36 sts

Rnds 24-30: 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 31: working in back loops only (dc2tog, 4dc) to end. 30 sts

Rnd 32: (dc2tog, 3dc) to end. 24 sts

Rnd 33: (dc2tog, 2dc) to end. 18 sts

Rnd 34: (dc2tog, 1dc) to end. 12 sts

Stuff

Rnd 35: (dc2tog) to end. Six sts
Fasten off, leaving a tail

arm

Make four

Using 3.5mm hook and Yarn B make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring.

Six sts

Rnd 1: 2dc in first st, 1dc in each st to end. Seven sts

Rnd 2: 1dc in each st to end

Rnds 3-10: rep Rows 1-2 four

times. 11 sts

Rnd 11: rep Rnd 2
Fasten off

hand

Make four

Using 3.5mm hook and Yarn A make a magic ring, work 8dc into ring.

Eight sts

Rnds 1-2: 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off

headdress

Make two

Using 3.5mm hook and Yarn B (Yarn

D) make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring. Six sts

Rnds 1-5: rep Rnds 1-5 of Head and Body. 12 sts

Rnd 6: (11dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 39 sts

Rnds 7-8: 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 9: 30dc, turn
Note: work on these 30 sts only

Rows 10-16: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end, turn

Row 17: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end, do

not turn
Fasten off

MARY ONLY belt

Using 3.5mm hook and Yarn C make 36ch

Fasten off

to make up

* Using a tapestry needle weave tail around last rnd of Body, pull tight to gather and secure. Sew Arms to Body. Sew Hands partly inside Arms. Sew

AWAY IN A MANGER, LAY THIS AMAZING Christmas nativity

This brilliant collector's series is the ideal start to your festive decorations. Here you can find the patterns for **LIZ WARD'S** Mary and Joseph. Next issue, on sale 2nd November, features Jesus, two shepherds, a sheep and the Three Wise Men. Once you've made the set, make sure you share your nativity with us on Facebook and Twitter.





Find part
two next
issue!



**“I’ve designed
this nativity to
look like primary
school shows.
I never played
Mary, but I rocked
it as a Wise Man!”**

LIZ WARD, DESIGNER

Headdress to
Head, securing to
Arms with a few
sts. * Wrap Belt
around Body and
sew in place. Using
Yarn E embroider
mouth and fringe
with straight sts

JOSEPH ONLY beard

Using 3.5mm hook
and Yarn E make

16ch, sl st in first ch
to make a loop

Row 1: 1ch, 1dc in
next seven ch, turn

Note: work on
these seven sts
only

Rows 2-4: 1ch,
dc2tog, 1dc in each
st to end, turn.

Four sts
Row 5: 1ch,
(dc2tog) twice,
turn. Two sts

Row 6: 1ch, dc2tog.

One st
Fasten off

scarf

Using 3.5mm hook
and Yarn F make
four ch

Row 1: starting in
second ch from
hook, 1dc in each
st to end. Three sts

Rows 2-39: 1ch, 1dc
in each st to end,
turn

Row 40: 1ch, 1dc in

each st to end,
do not turn
Fasten off

to make up

Rep from * to * of
Mary To Make Up.
Sew Beard to
face. Wrap
Scarf around
neck and st to
ridge on Body

LET'S SHOP

Drops Safran 4-ply, £1.15 per 50g
(160m) ball, **0800 505 3300,**
woolwarehouse.co.uk

GET YOUR LITTLE ONE READY FOR THE FESTIVITIES WITH OUR Santa suit



It's the prerogative of adults to dress babies in ridiculously cute outfits, especially around Christmas time, and **JANE BURNS'** hat and shorts combo would be a great gift for a new arrival. The hat comes in different sizes – you'll find instructions for 12-24 months in square brackets. The shorts have just one set of instructions due to the stretch in the waistband.

YOU WILL NEED

YARN

Stylecraft Special DK: A (White), B (Lipstick), C (Black), D (Gold), 100g ball of each

PLUS

tapestry needle, set of five 3.75mm and 4mm straight and double-pointed needles

SIZE

6-12 [12-24] months

HAT

Using 3.25mm double-pointed needles and Yarn A cast on 80 [92] sts
Note: take care not to twist sts, pm for beg of rnd
Rnd 1: (k2, p2) to end
Rep Rnd 1 until piece meas 3.5[4]cm
Change to 4mm double-pointed needles

first size only

Next rnd: k

second size only

Next rnd: (k29,

k2tog) twice, k to end. 90 sts

all sizes

Rnd 2: k

Change to Yarn B k every rnd until piece meas 10[12]cm

SHAPE TOP

Rnd 1: (k6 [7], k2tog) to end.

70 [80] sts

Rnds 2-8: k

Rnd 9: (k5 [6], k2tog) to end.

60 [70] sts

Rnds 10-15: k

Rnd 16: (k4 [5], k2tog) to end.

50 [60] sts

Rnds 17-21: k

Rnd 22: (k3 [4], k2tog) to end.

40 [50] sts

Rnds 23-27: k

Rnd 28: (k2 [3], k2tog) to end.

30 [40] sts

Rnds 29-33: k

Rnd 34: (k1 [2], k2tog) to end.

20 [30] sts

Rnds 35-37: k

first size only

Rnd 38: (k2tog) to end. Ten sts

second size only

Rnd 38: (k1, k2tog) to end. 20 sts

Rnd 39: (k2tog) to end. Ten sts

all sizes

Next rnd: (k2tog) to end. Five sts
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

SHORTS

Make two

Using 4mm needles and Yarn B cast on 17 sts using long tail method

Row 1: k

Row 2: cast on five sts, p to end. 22 sts

Row 3: cast on five sts, k5, ssk, k13, k2tog, k to end. 25 sts

Row 4: rep Row 2. 30 sts

Row 5: cast on five sts, k10, ssk, k11, k2tog, k to end. 33 sts

Row 6: cast on seven sts, p to end. 40 sts

Row 7: cast on seven sts, k17, ssk, k9, k2tog, k to end. 45 sts

Row 8: rep Row 6. 52 sts

Row 9: cast on seven sts, k24, ssk, k7, k2tog, k to end. 57 sts

Row 10: cast on three sts, p to end. 60 sts

Row 11: cast on three sts, k27, ssk, k5, k2tog, k to end. 61 sts

Row 12 and every even-numbered row: p

Row 13: k27, ssk, k3, k2tog, k to end. 59 sts

Row 15: k27, ssk, k1, k2tog, k to end. 57 sts

Row 17: k27, ssk, k2tog, k to end. 55 sts

Row 18: p26, p2tog, p to end. 54 sts

Rows 19-56: starting with a k row work in st st
Change to Yarn C

Row 57: k
Change to 3.25mm needles

Next row: (k2, p2) to last two sts, k2

Next row: (p2, k2) to last two sts, p2
Rep last two rows until rib meas 6cm
Cast off

LEG CUFFS

Note: join side seams and gusset using mattress st
Using 3.25mm double-pointed needles and Yarn B, pick up and k56 evenly around each leg

Change to Yarn A

Rnd 1: k

Rnds 2-10: (k2, p2) to end
Cast off

BUCKLE

Using two 4mm

double-pointed needles and Yarn D cast on six sts
Row 1: k6, do not turn, slide sts to other end of needle, pull yarn firmly across back of work

Rep Row 1 until piece meas 16cm from cast-on edge
Cast off

to make up

Use Yarn A to make a pom-pom. Sew to top of Hat. For Buckle join cast-off and cast-on edges tog to form a ring. Sew to front of Shorts. Embroider a couple of long sts for Buckle fastener





OH BABY!

Love crafting for children? Here's our pick of the best baby yarns from SMD Knitting...



Debbie Bliss Baby Cashmerino Tonals, £4.99 per 50g ball



Sirdar Snuggly Pearls DK, £3.49 per 50g ball



King Cole Baby Soft Chunky, £2.79 per 100g ball

You'll also find the Stylecraft Special DK used in this project. Visit knittingwool.com today!

KNIT SCHOOL

*New to the world of knitting?
You've come to the right place!*

P38



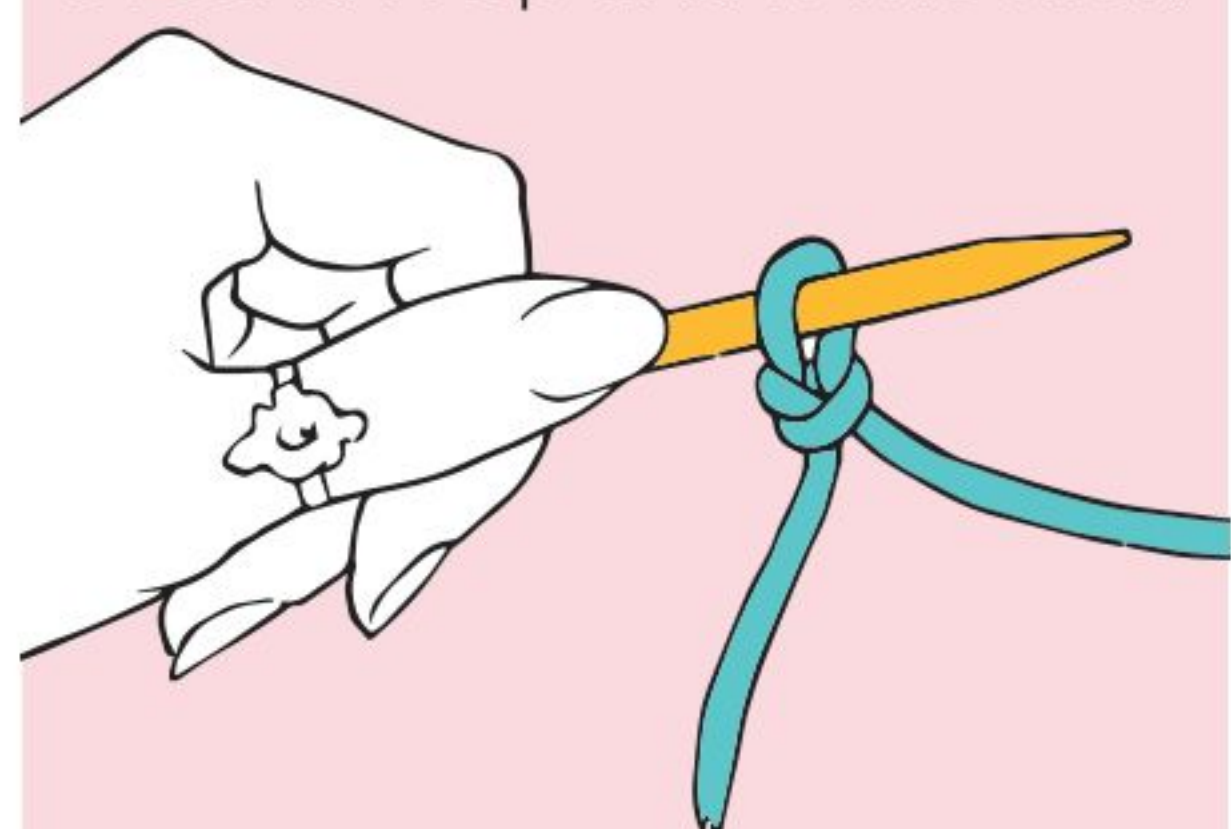
START HERE

slip knot

You need to make a slip knot on your needle before casting on. It counts as your first cast-on stitch



1 Hold the yarn under your left thumb, wrap it twice around your left index and middle fingers, with the second loop closer to the base of the fingers. With the backs of the fingers uppermost, insert the tip of the needle beneath the first loop and over the second, then pull the second loop under the first.



2 Remove your two fingers and gently tug on both ends of yarn to tighten the slip knot around the needle.

Count your stitches after every row to check you haven't dropped any

cast on

This method, also called the 'two-needle method', is great for beginners



1 Make a slip knot on the LH needle and pull it taut. Insert the RH needle into the knot from front to back, passing under the LH needle. Wrap the ball end of yarn anti-clockwise around the point of the RH needle.



2 Pull the loop that forms back through the original stitch and insert the tip of the LH needle into the new stitch from underneath to transfer from the RH to LH needle. There should now be two stitches on the LH needle.



3 Repeat the above steps, knitting into the top stitch on the LH needle and returning the new stitches from the RH to the LH needle until you have the required number of stitches.



COMING UP...

Every issue we give away different needle and hook sizes, plus extra goodies for your craft kit. Here's what you can look forward to receiving soon...

* **Issue 96:** 4mm hook & needles, plus Nutcracker yarn kit featuring white fluffy wool

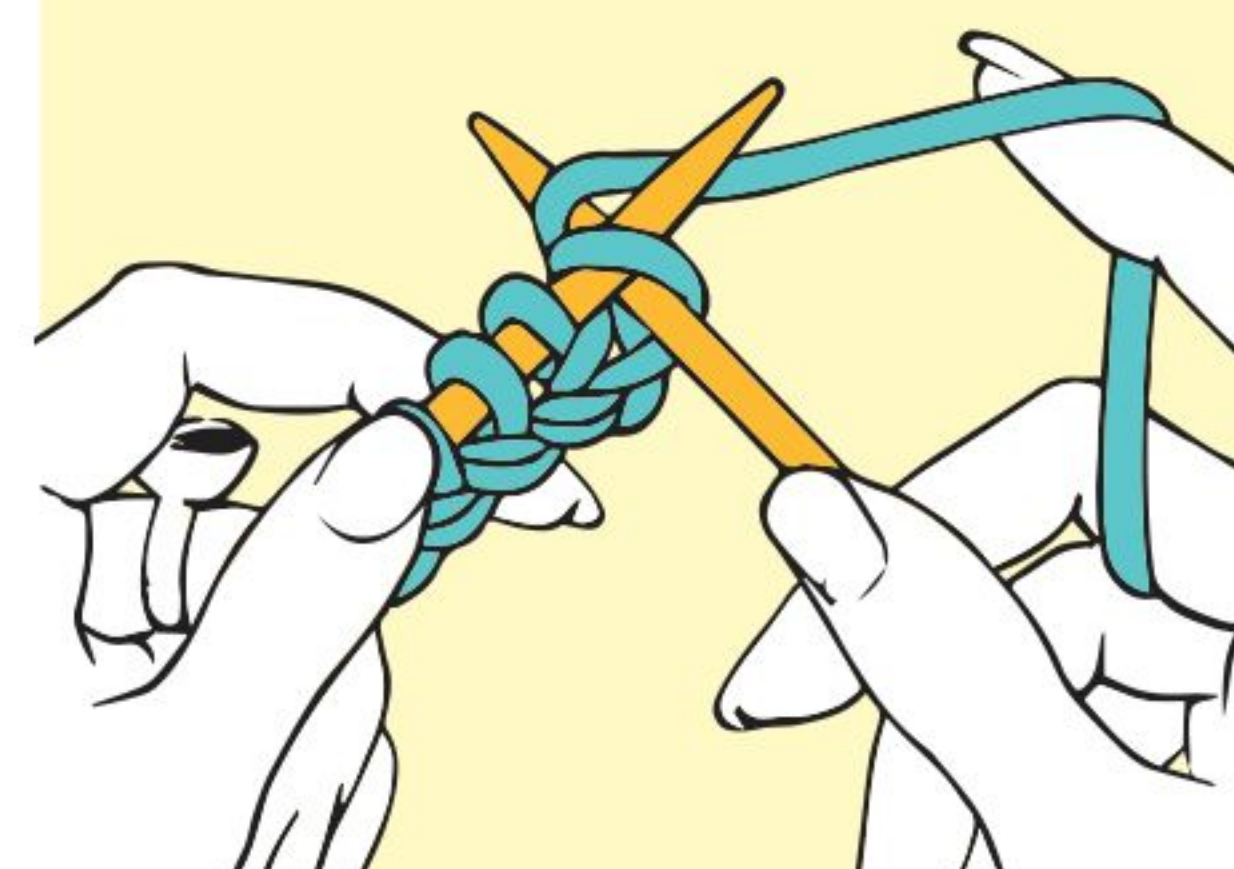
* **Issue 97:** 3.75mm hook & needles, plus Aurora yarn kit featuring variegated wool

Rosie Savage, Editor

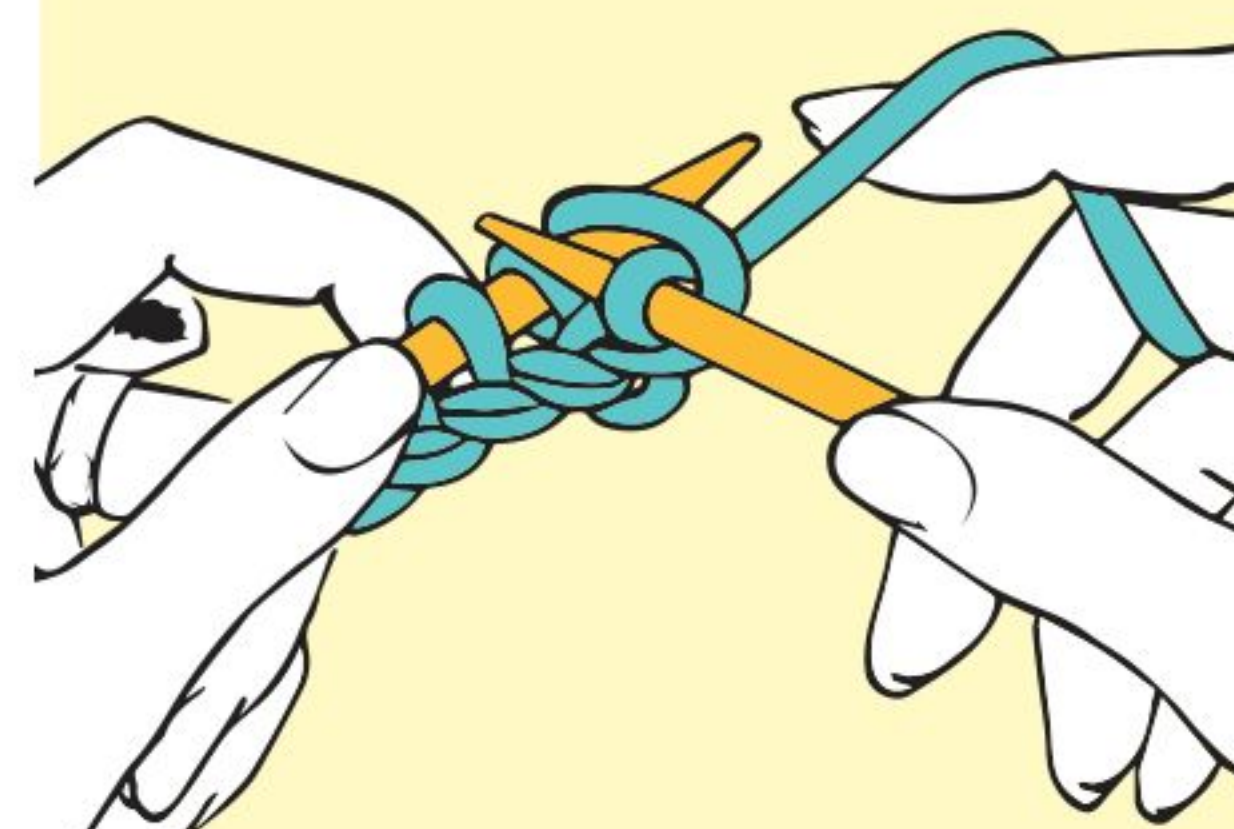


knit stitch (k)

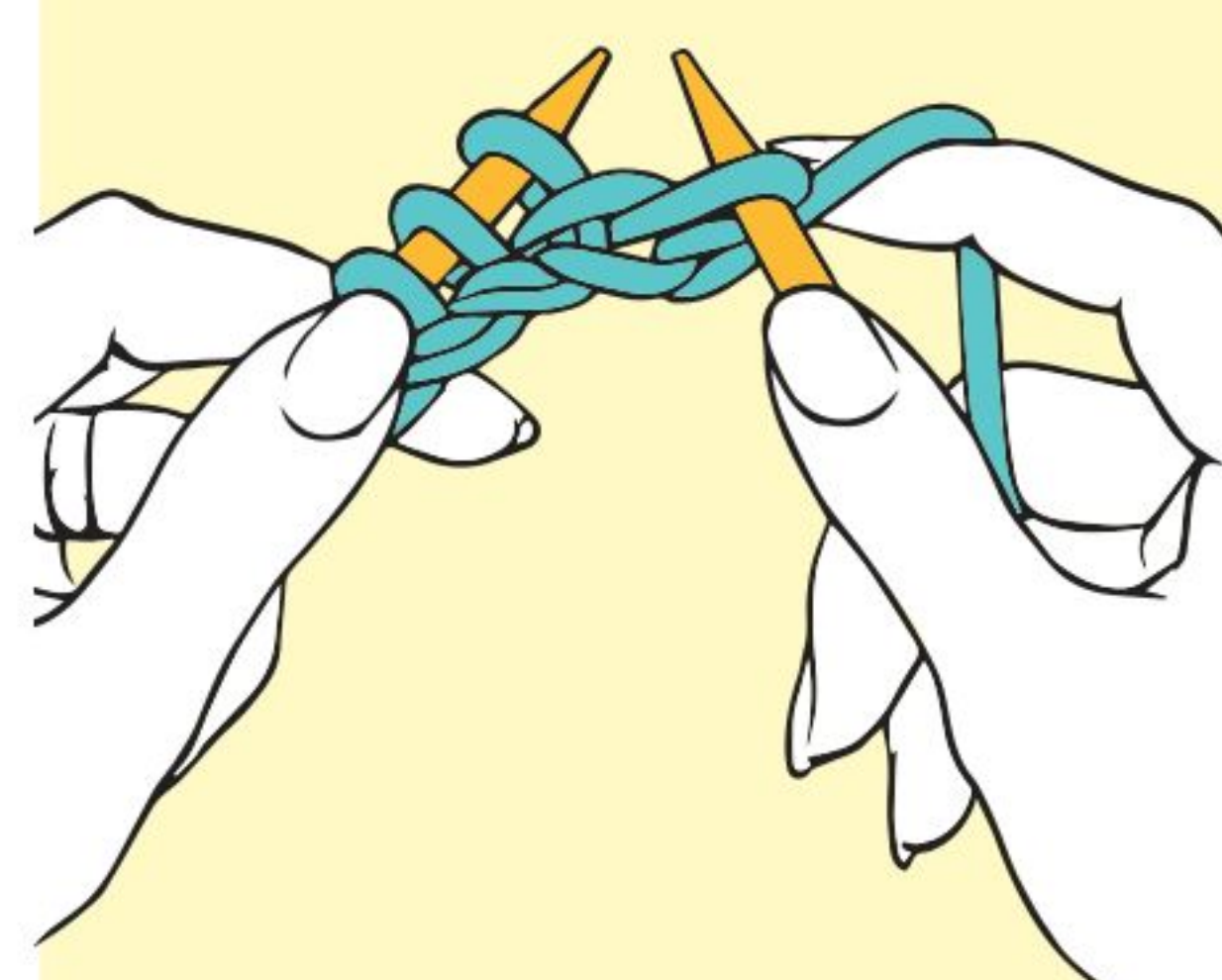
Also known as garter stitch, the knit stitch is the foundation of knitting



1 Once cast on, insert the tip of the RH needle upwards and from front to back into the top stitch on the LH needle. The RH needle should sit behind the LH one. Wrap the ball end of yarn anti-clockwise around the tip of the RH needle.



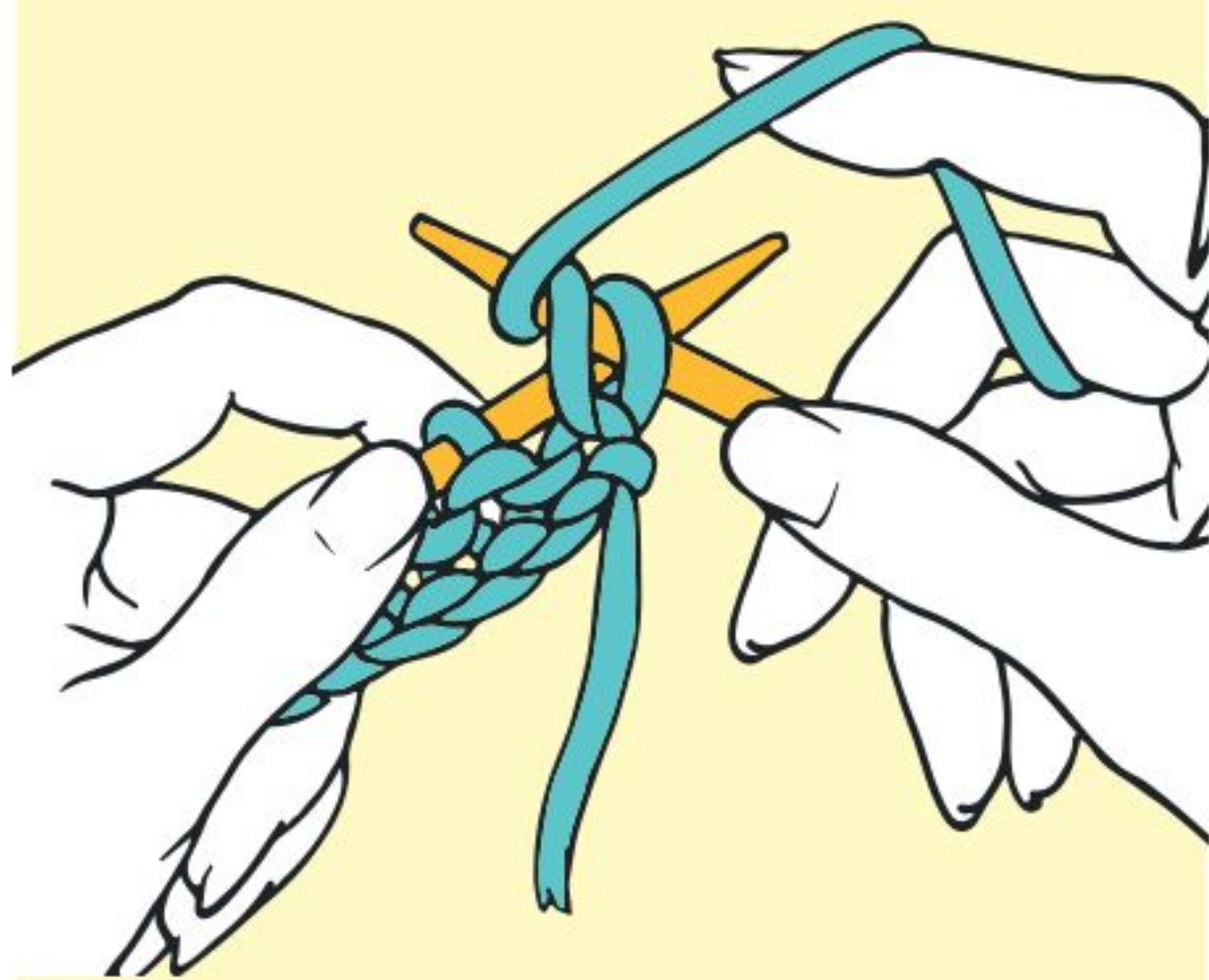
2 Using the RH needle, pull a loop of the wrapped yarn through the original stitch to create a new one on the RH needle.



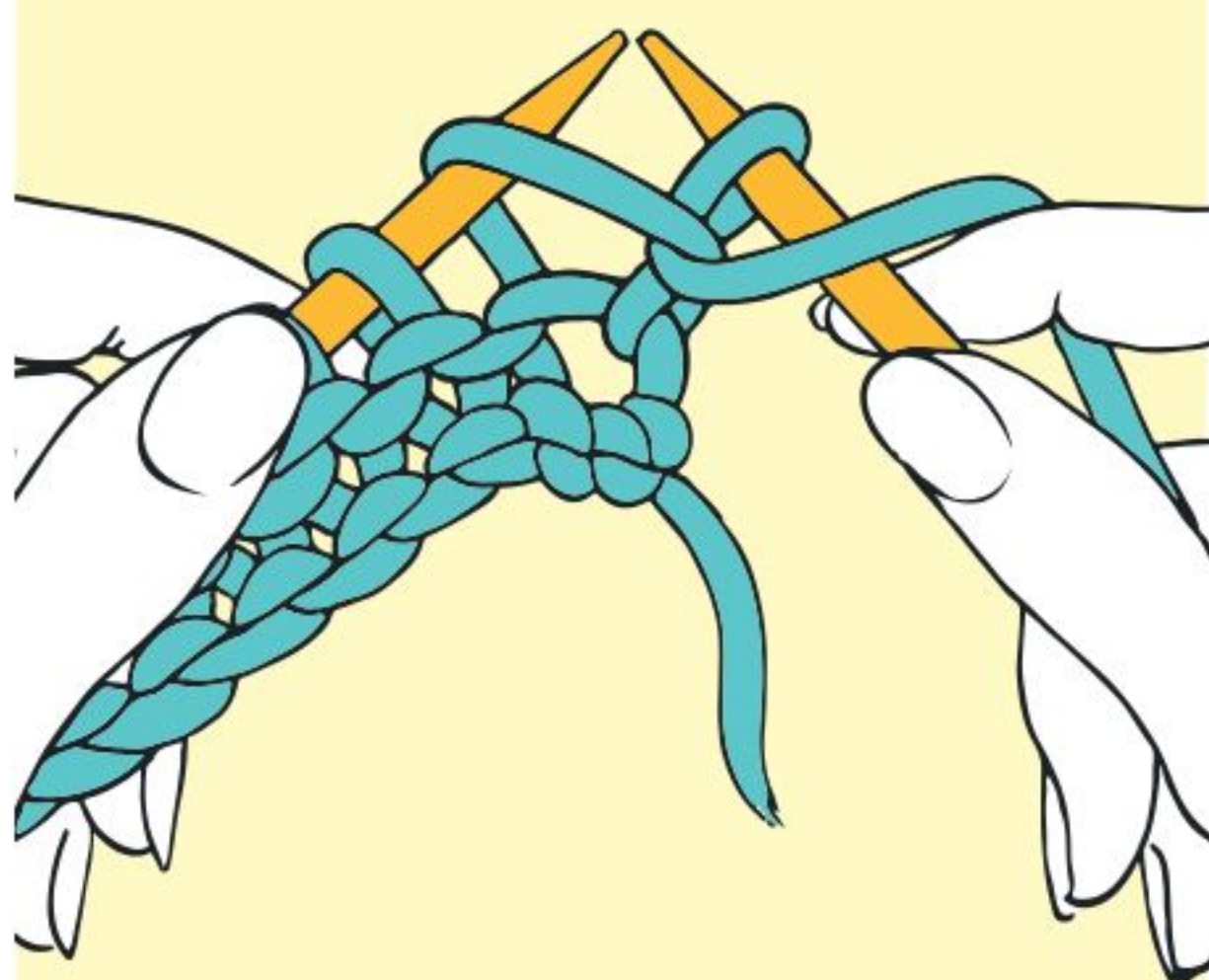
3 Slide the original stitch off the LH needle. Repeat from step 1.

purl stitch (p)

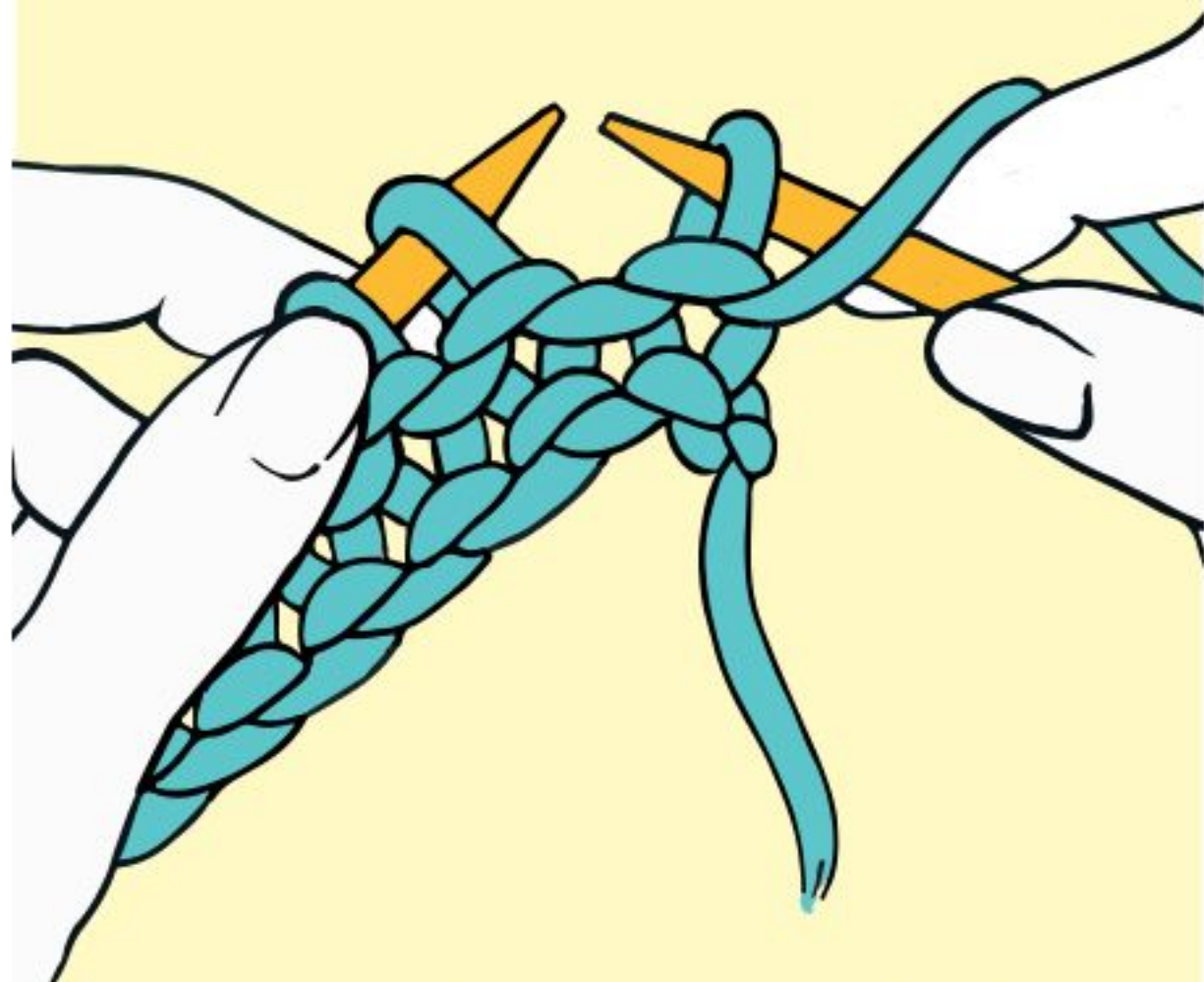
Most frequently seen paired with the knit stitch to create different stitch patterns like stocking stitch and ribbing



1 With the ball-end of the yarn at the front (towards you), insert the tip of the RH needle into the front loop of the first stitch from right to left, with the RH needle in front of the LH one. Wrap the ball end of the yarn anti-clockwise around the RH needle.



2 Draw this needle backwards and upwards, forming a new stitch on the RH needle.



3 Once the new stitch has been formed on the RH needle you can let the loop from the LH needle slide off the end. Repeat until all the stitches have been purred and you have completed the row.

INCREASING & DECREASING

knit two together (k2tog)

Decrease two stitches to one by knitting them together



Insert the RH needle into the front loops of the next two stitches on the LH needle. Then wrap the yarn anti-clockwise around the tip and knit both stitches at the same time.

make one (m1)

Form a new stitch and increase your stitch count by one



1 Insert the LH needle into the horizontal bar of yarn lying between the stitch just knitted and the next stitch to be knitted. Hook and lift it with the needle tip in a backwards direction (away from you).

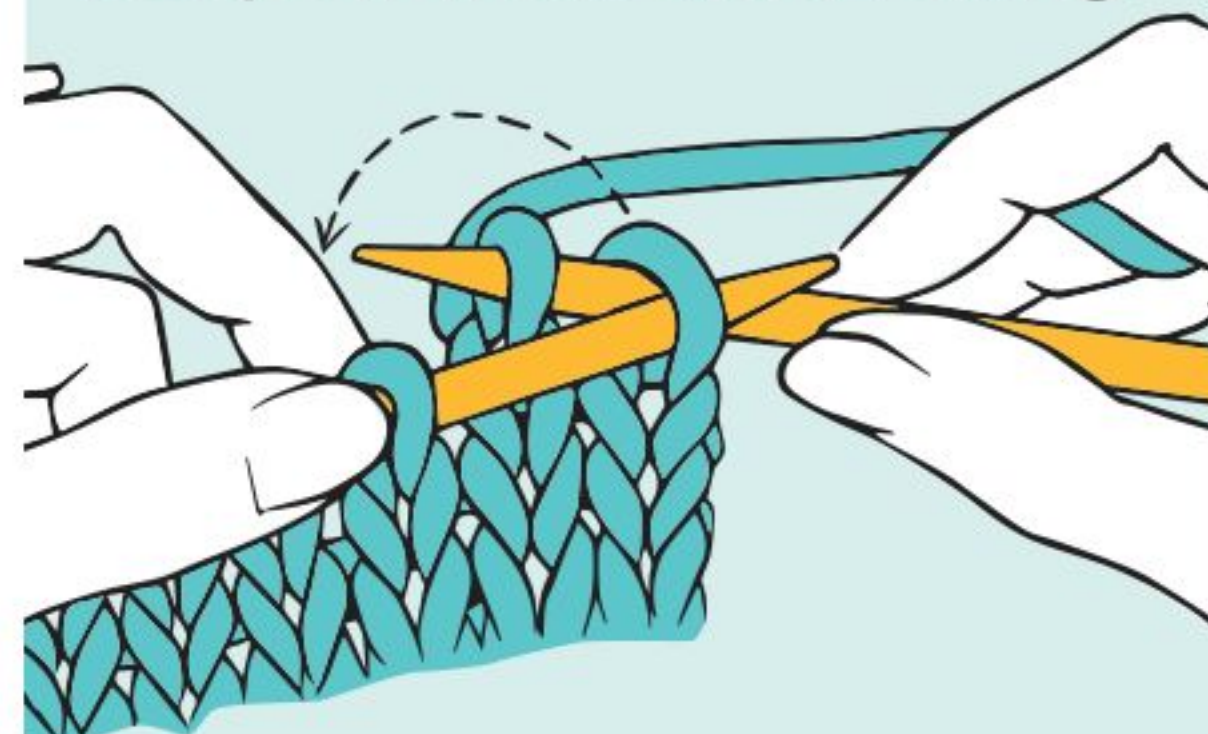


2 Push the RH needle into the back part of the loop that now lies over the LH needle and knit this stitch. You will now have an additional stitch on the RH needle.

FINISH HERE

cast off

Once you have completed the number of rows needed for your project, you'll need to cast off. This fastens the work and keeps it from unravelling

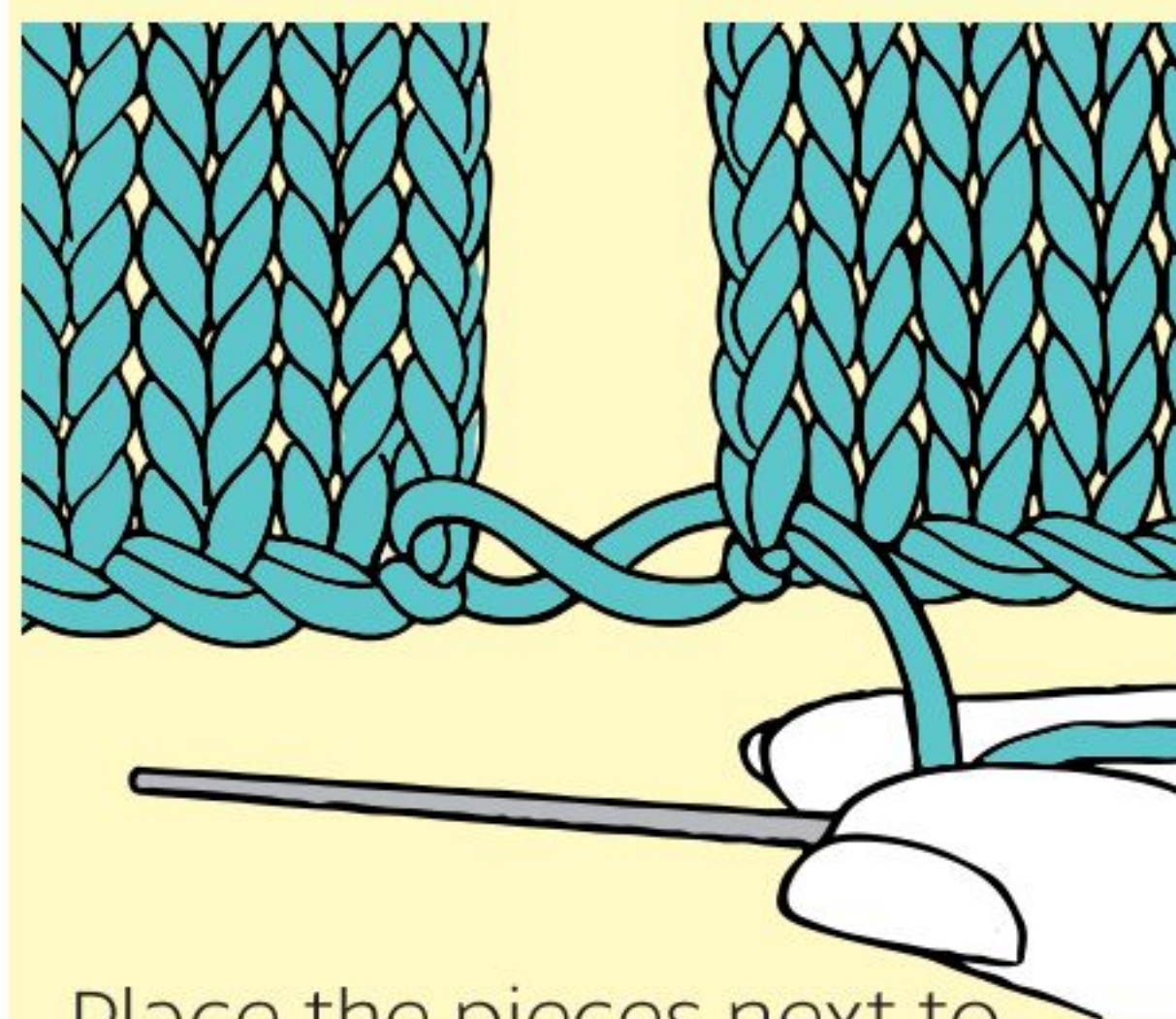


1 Knit two stitches as normal. Insert the tip of the LH needle into the second stitch on the RH needle (the stitch closest to you). Carefully lift it up and over the top stitch, dropping it off the tip of the RH needle and pulling the yarn to tighten. There is now one stitch on the RH needle.

2 Knit one more stitch and repeat the process in step one. Continue until there is one stitch remaining. Cut the yarn, leaving a long tail. Slip the loop off the needle and pull the tail through, pulling it tight.

beginning a seam

How to start sewing up your project



Place the pieces next to each other RS up, push a threaded tapestry needle through the fabric after the first stitch, moving from front to back. Push through after the first stitch on the second piece, moving from back to front.

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2ND NOVEMBER 2017

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mattress stitch

Join knitted pieces
together with this
invisible method



With the two pieces next to each other, hook the horizontal bar of the first stitch with a needle. Move to the other piece and hook the first horizontal bar of the stitch on that side. Repeat, moving from one piece to the next.

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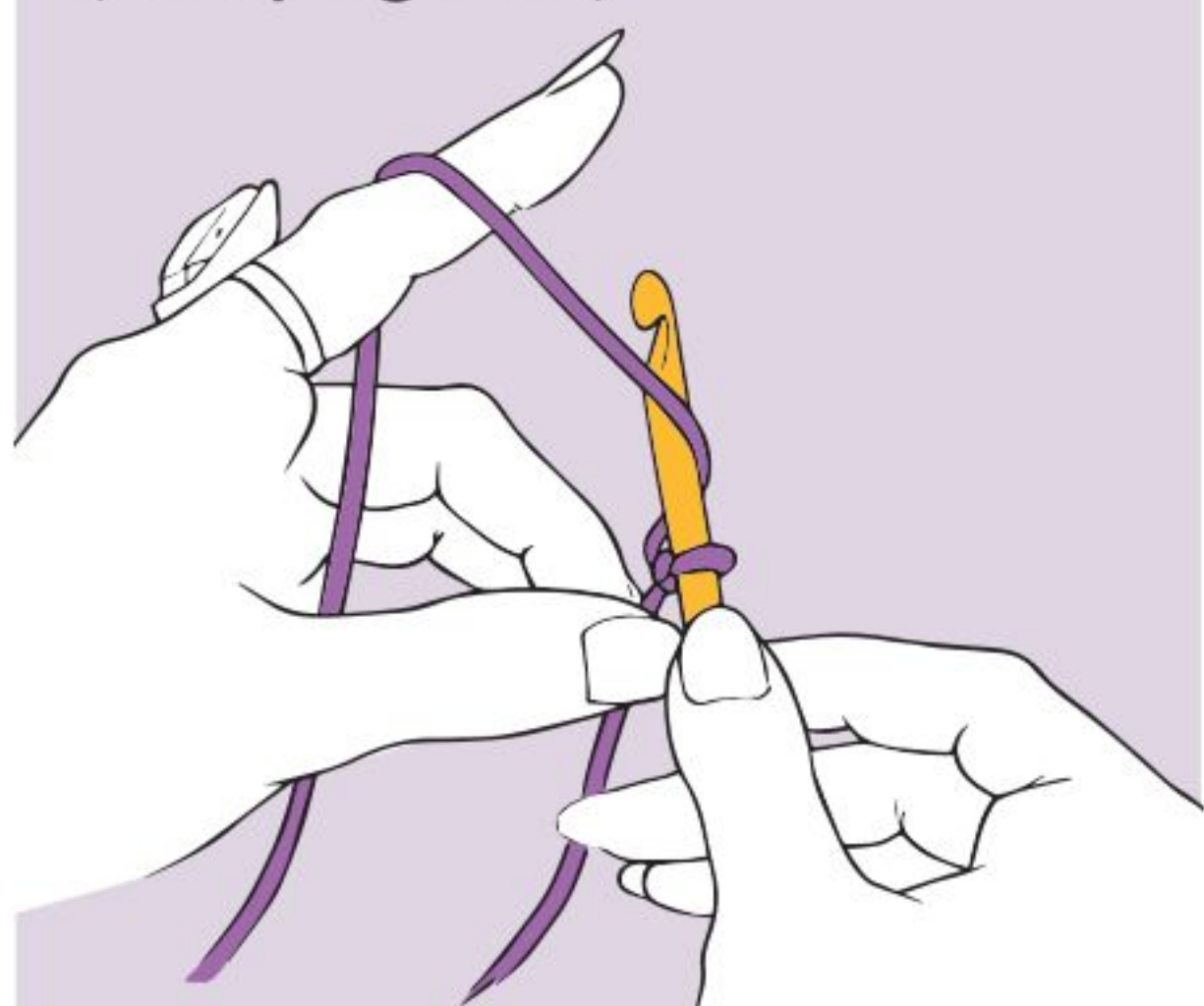


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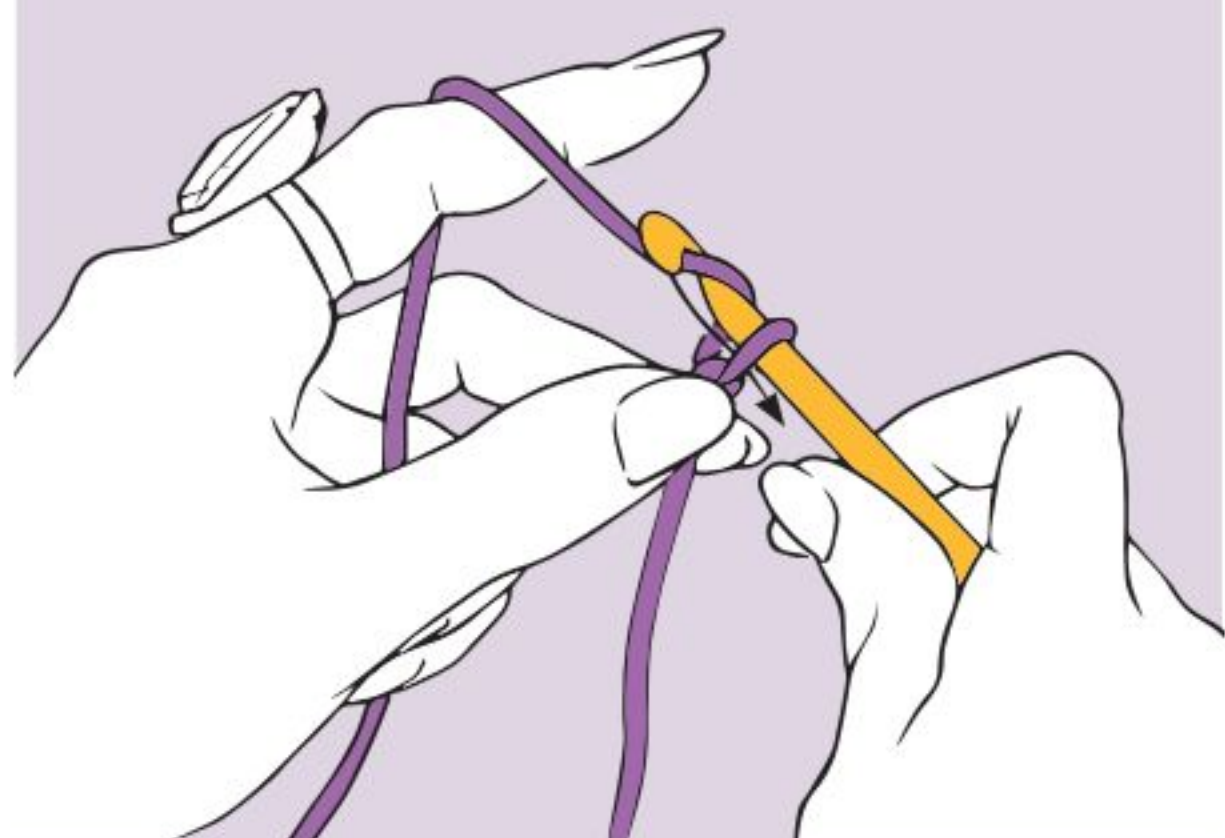
START HERE

slip knot & chain (ch)

Many projects start with a series of chain stitches. To begin you need to make a slip knot on your hook (see page 62)



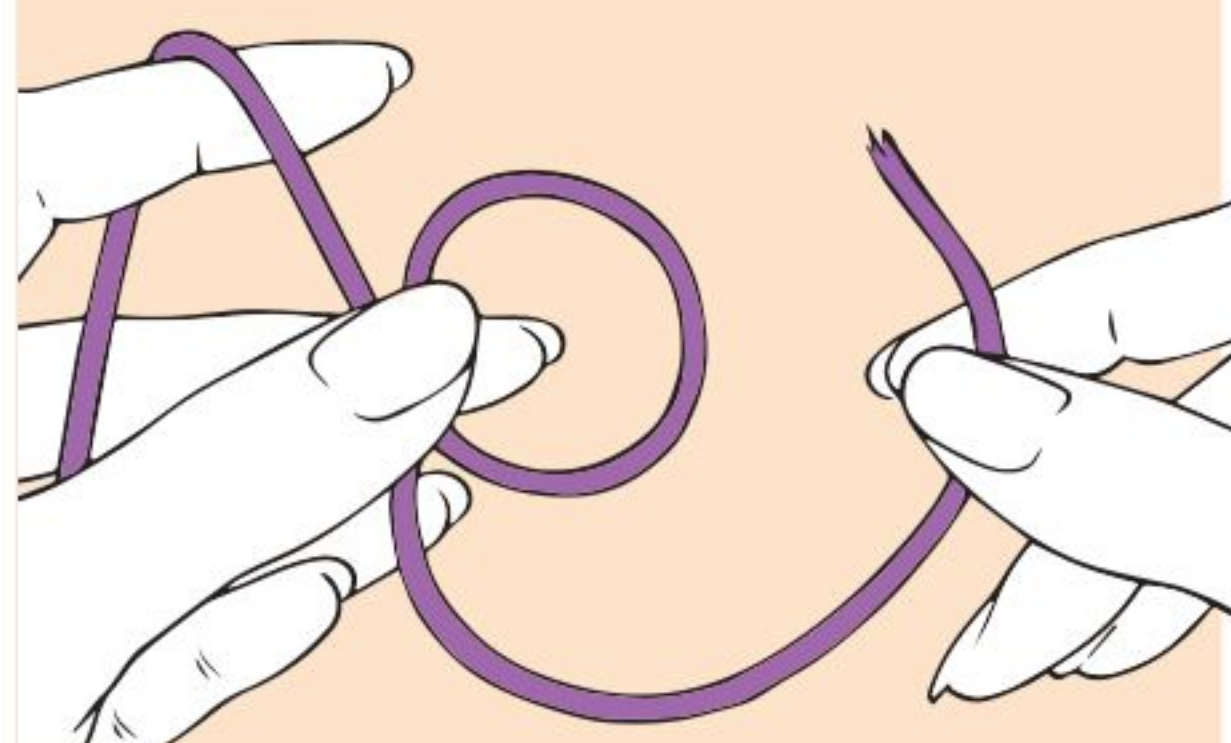
1 Make a slip knot and put it on the neck of the hook – don't pull it too tight or it will be difficult to stitch with. Coming from behind, wrap the yarn around the hook from right to left, across the 'neck'.



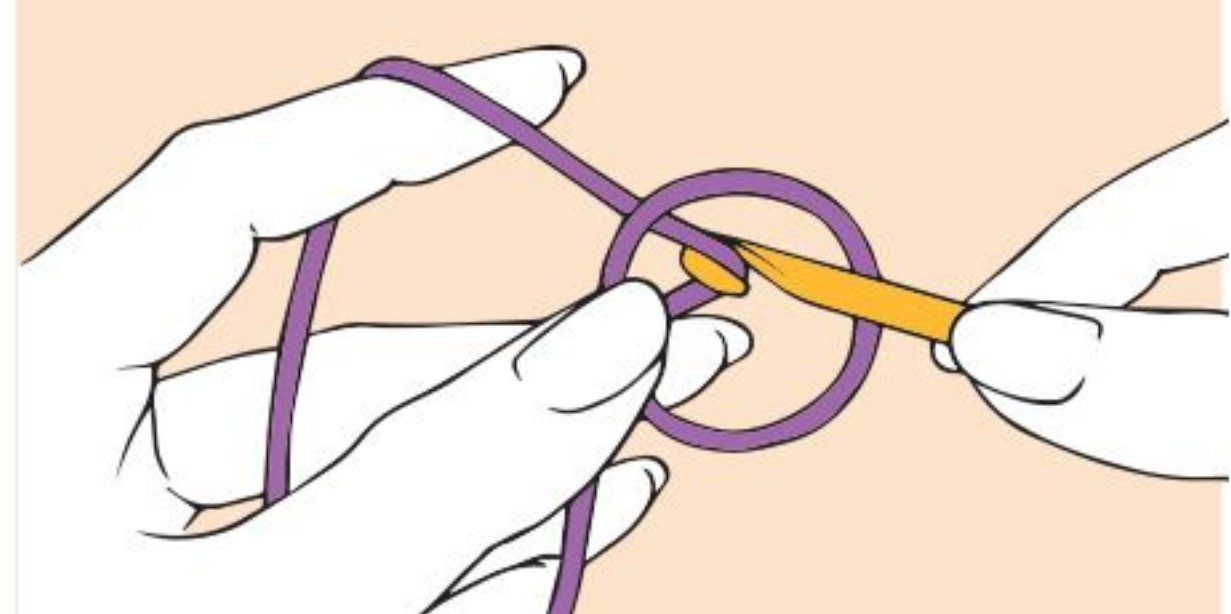
2 Catch the yarn and use the hook to pull it down through the slip knot. You have now made one chain (ch). Continue to make more chains, as directed in the pattern.

magic ring

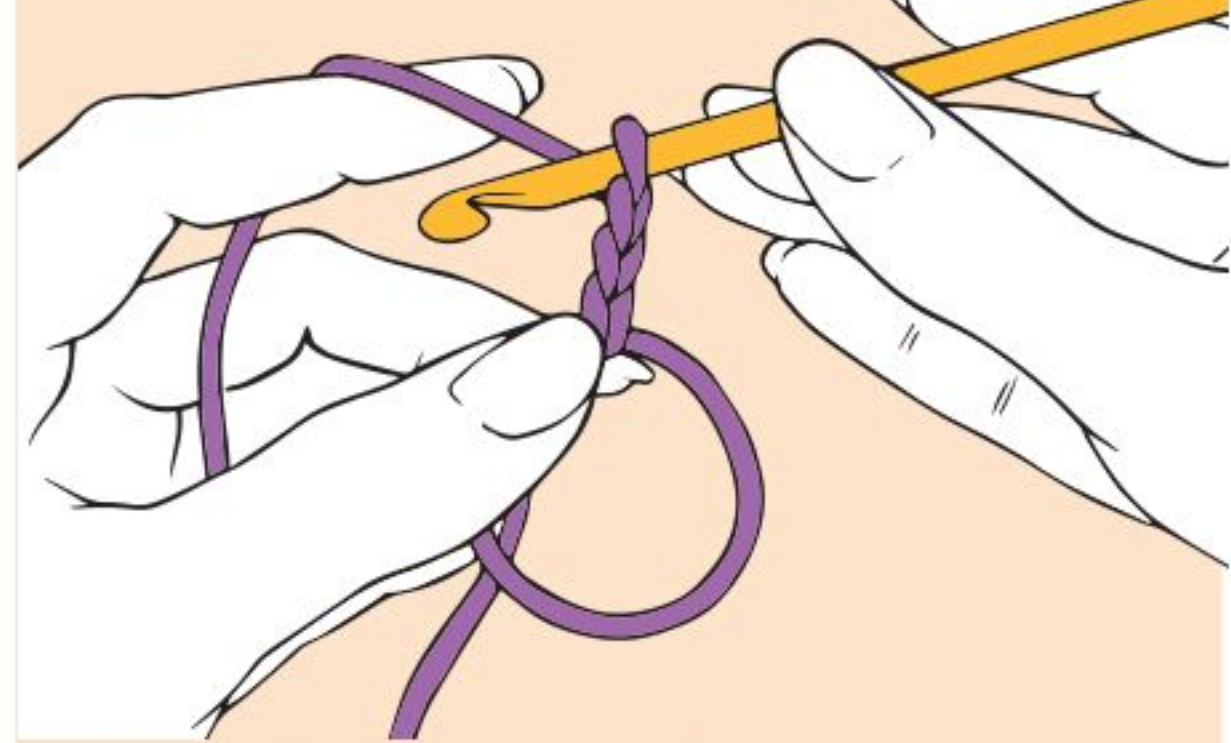
The magic ring is an easy way of beginning to work in the round. It is often used when making amigurumi toys



1 Make a large loop by putting the yarn tail behind the working yarn.



2 With your hook, draw the working yarn through the loop, so you have one loop on the hook.



3 Make three chain stitches (counts as first treble), work a treble into the loop, crocheting over the tail.

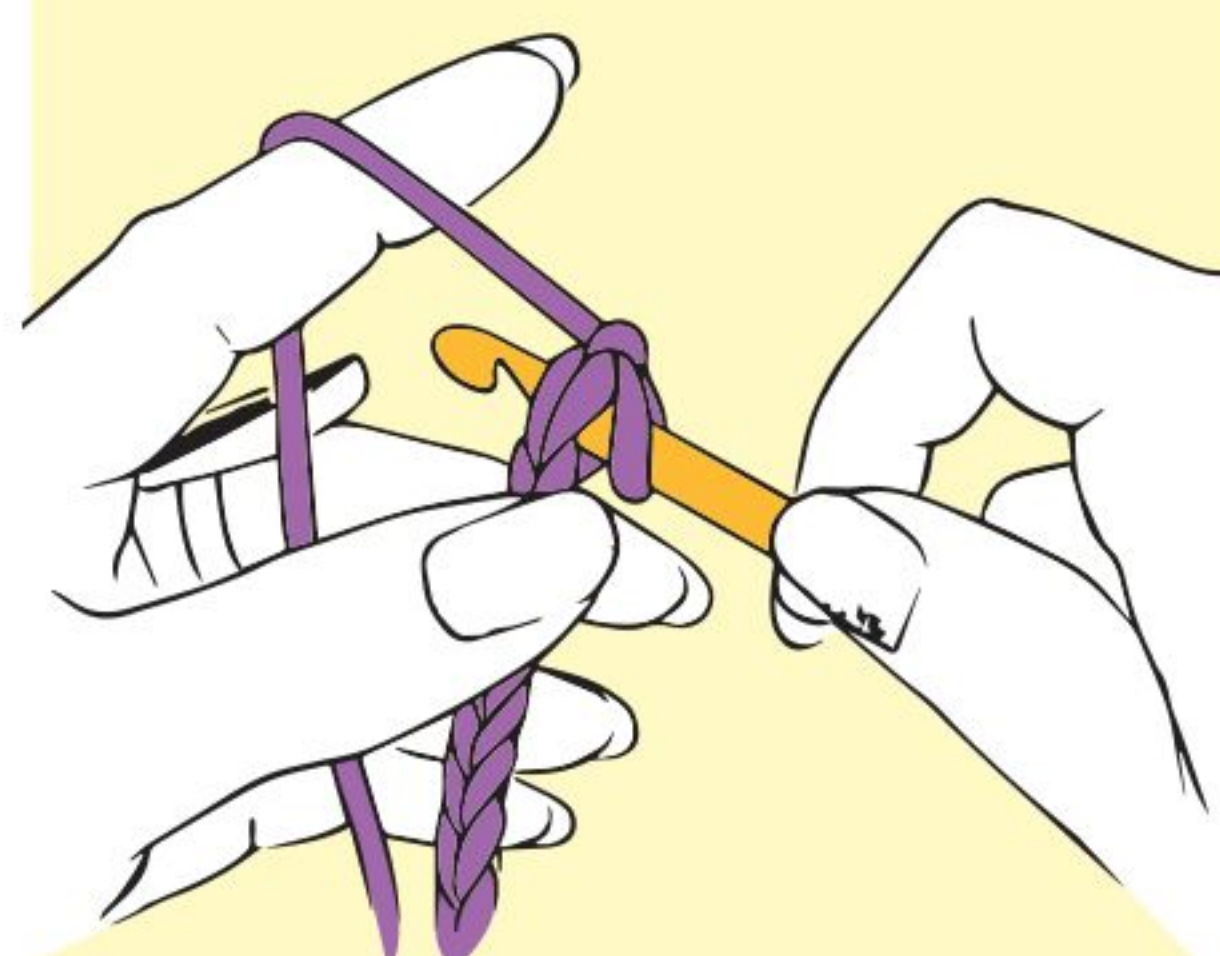


4 Continue to work as many stitches as needed into the loop. Once finished, untwist the tail if necessary and then pull to close the loop.

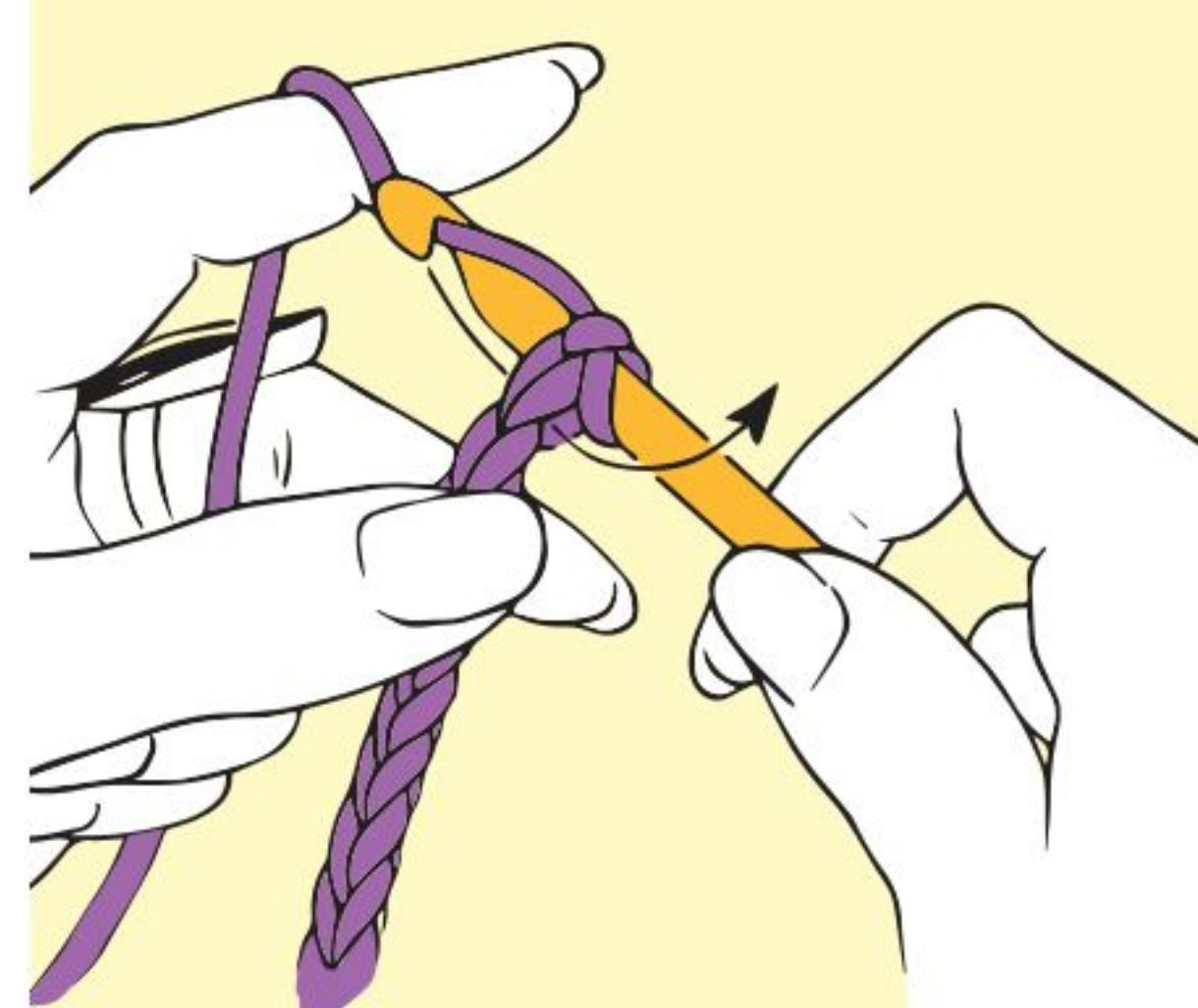
THE BASIC STITCHES

double crochet (dc)

Double crochet is the shortest and most commonly-used crochet stitch



1 Insert hook through both strands of the next stitch.



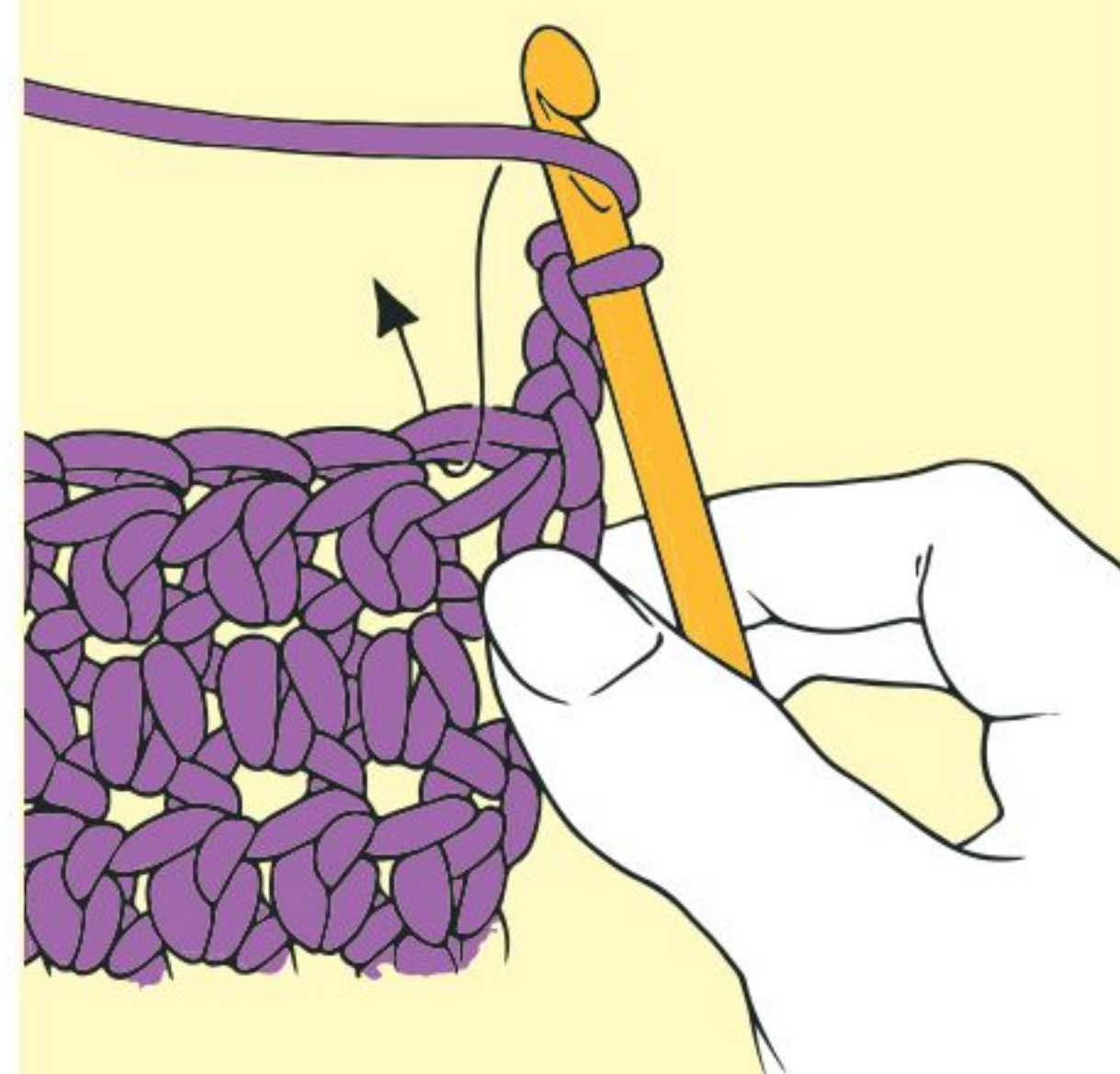
2 Yarn over the hook and draw back through the work. There will be two loops of yarn on the hook.



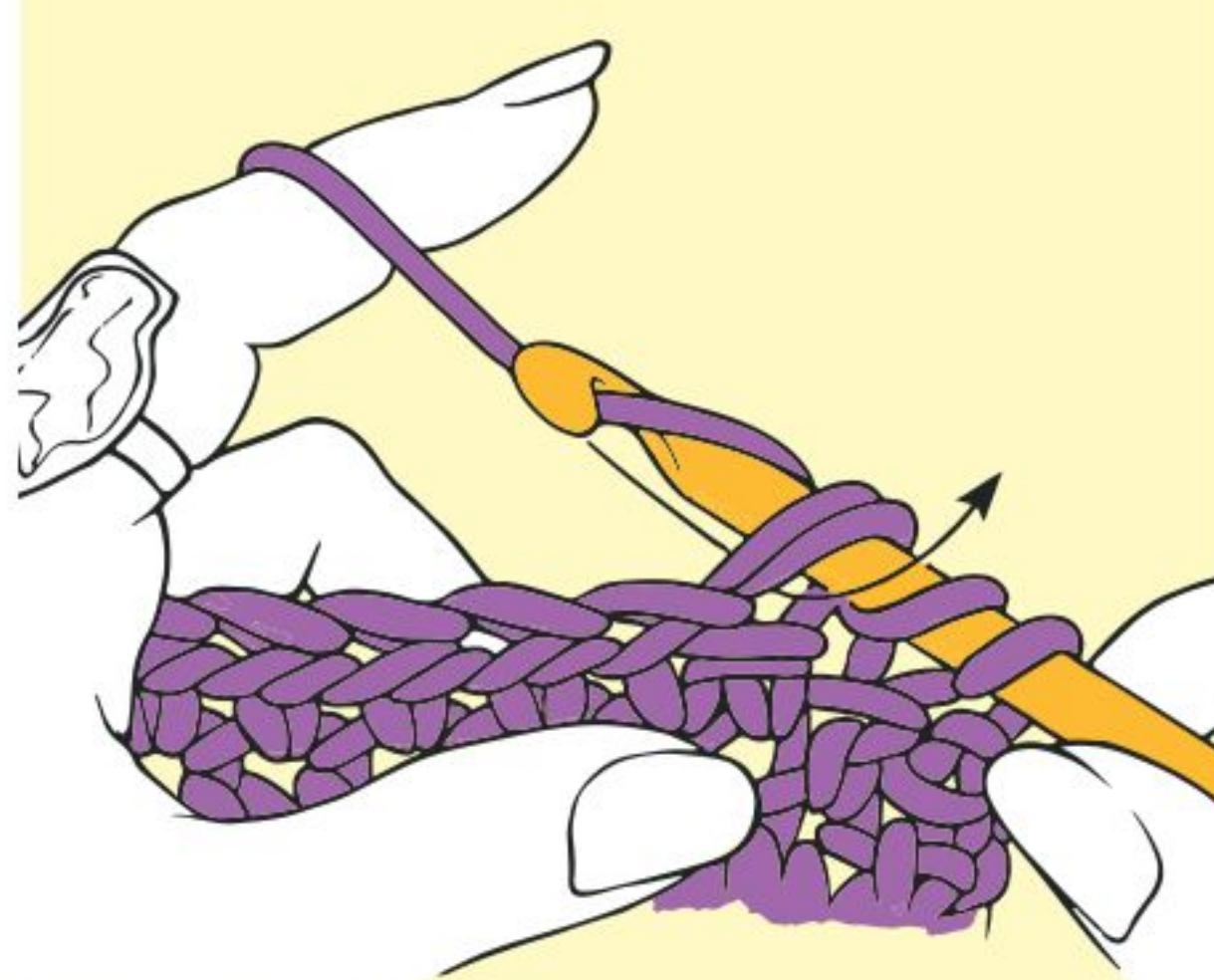
3 Yarn over the hook again and draw through both loops.

half treble (htr)

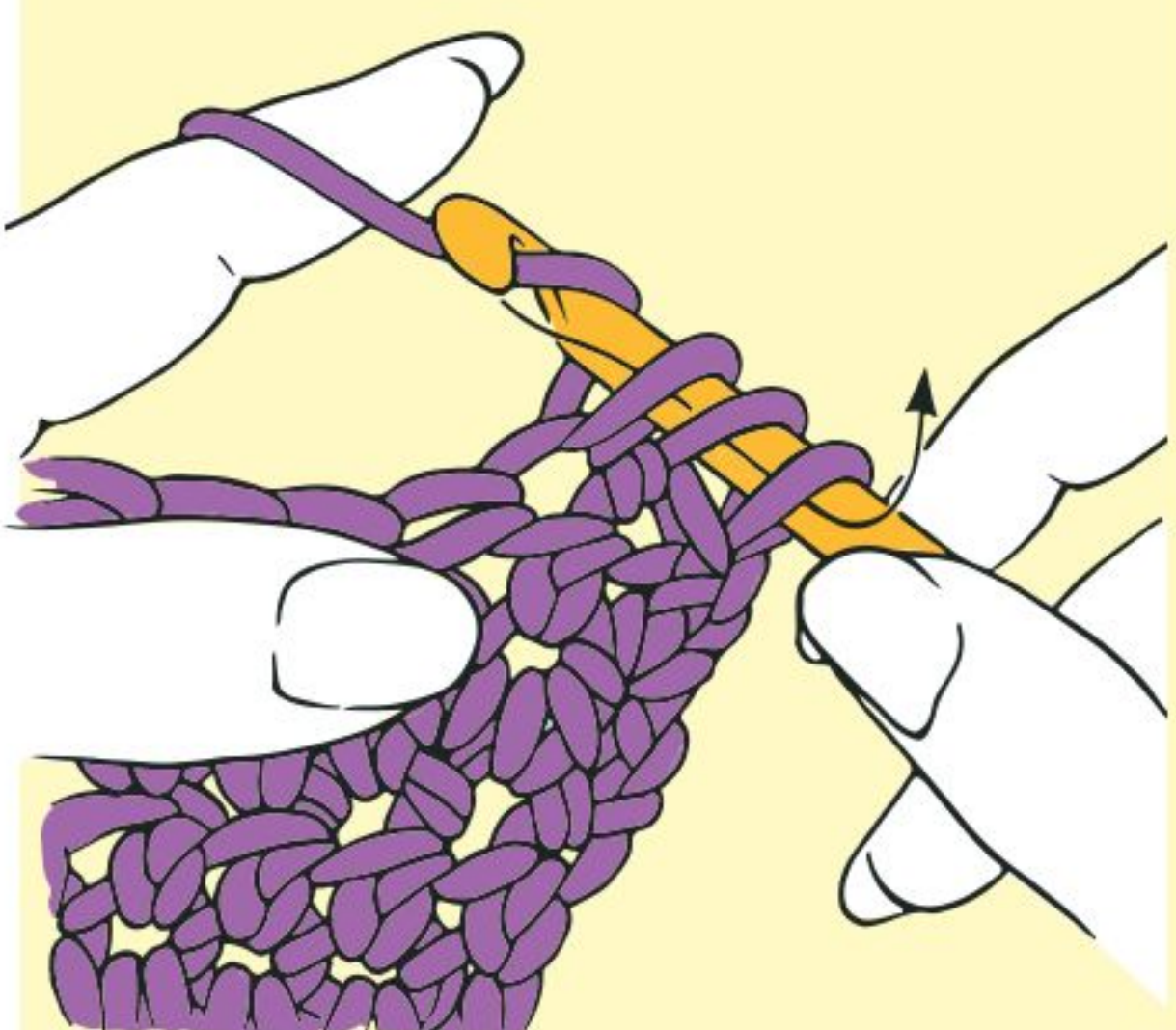
This stitch is longer than a double crochet and involves one extra step



1 (You will need a turning chain of two stitches.) Yarn over the hook and insert through the stitch.



2 Yarn over the hook and draw back through the work. There will be three loops of yarn on the hook.

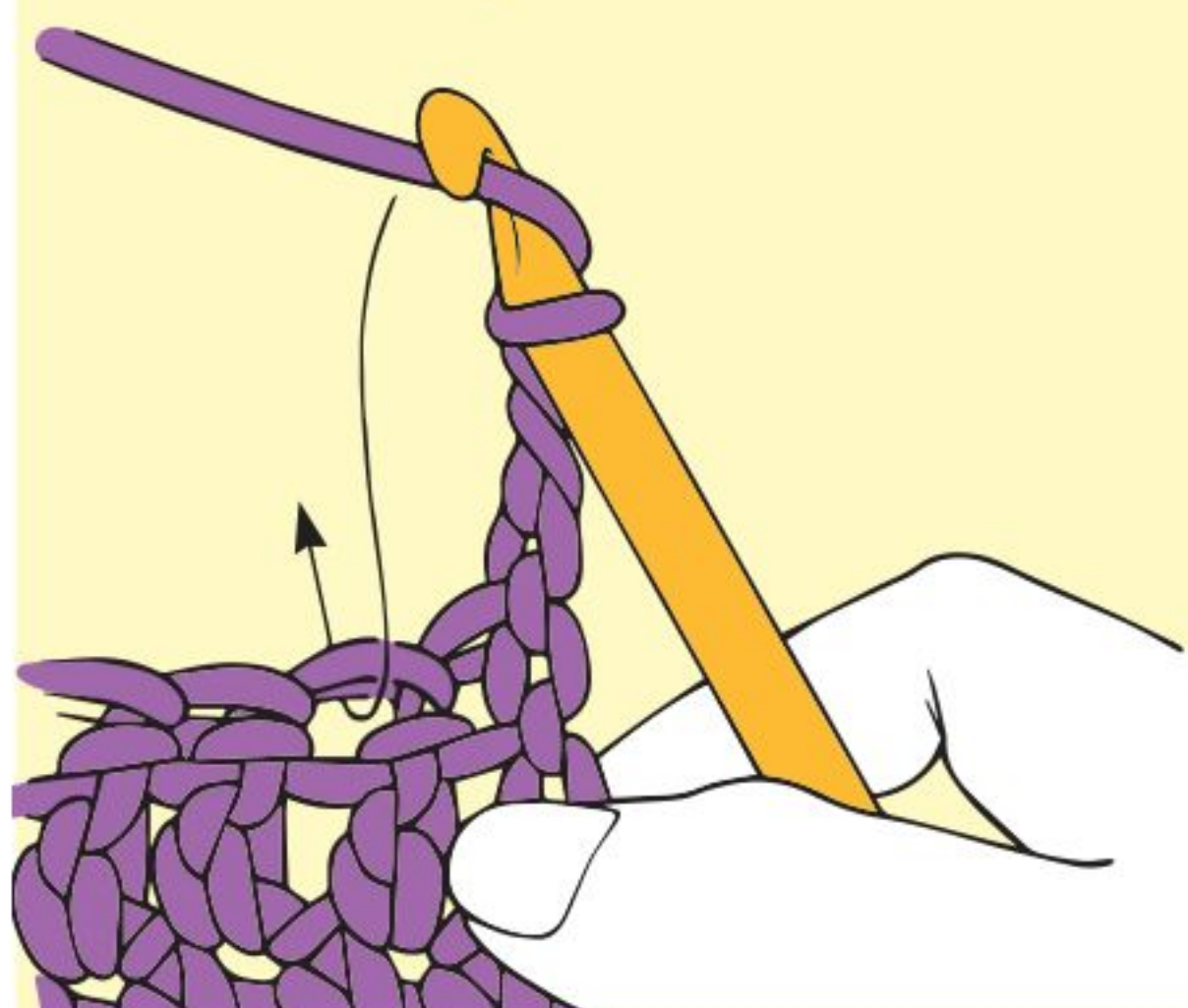


3 Yarn over the hook and draw through all three loops.

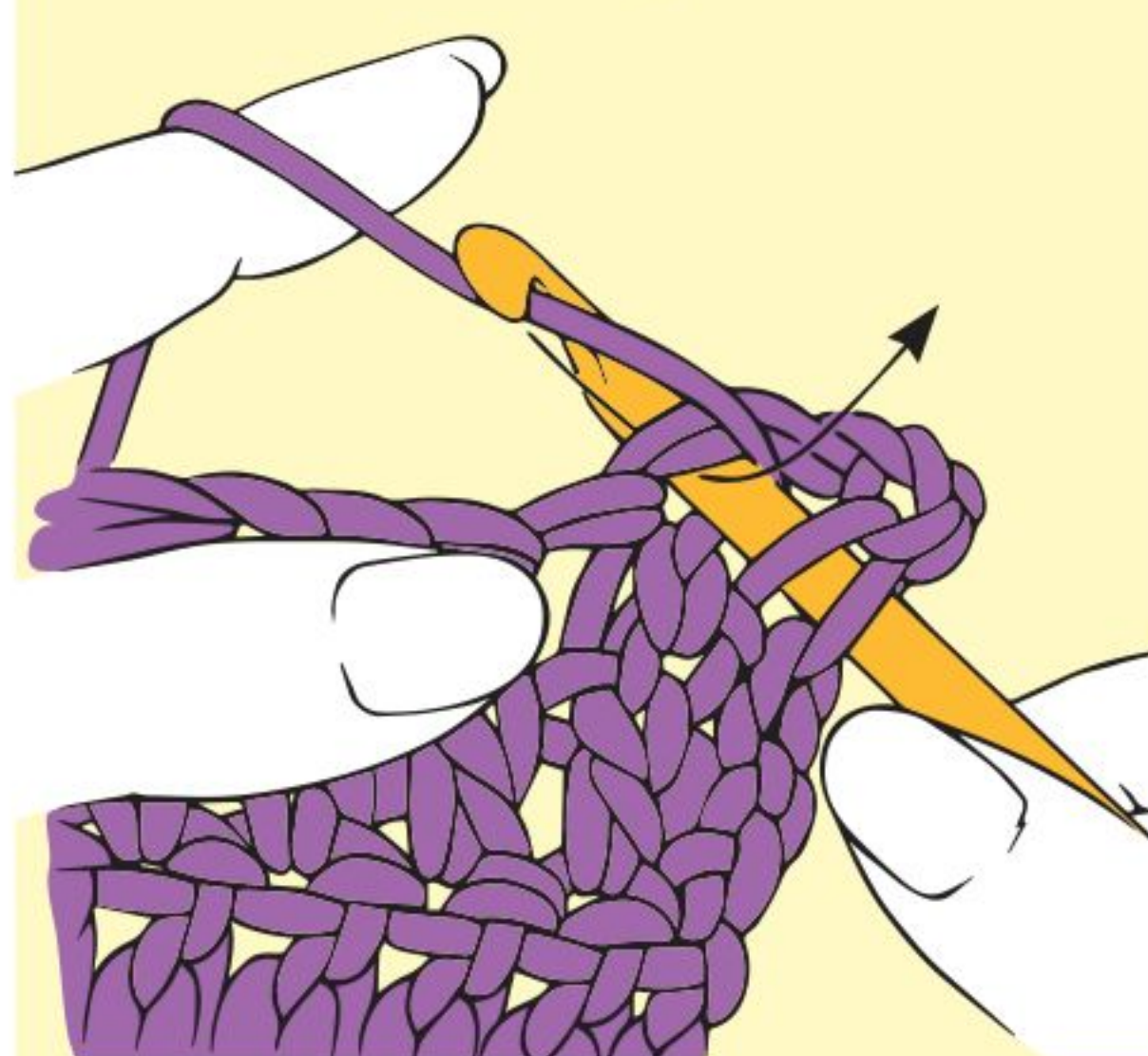
For free crochet patterns visit topcrochetpatterns.com

treble (tr)

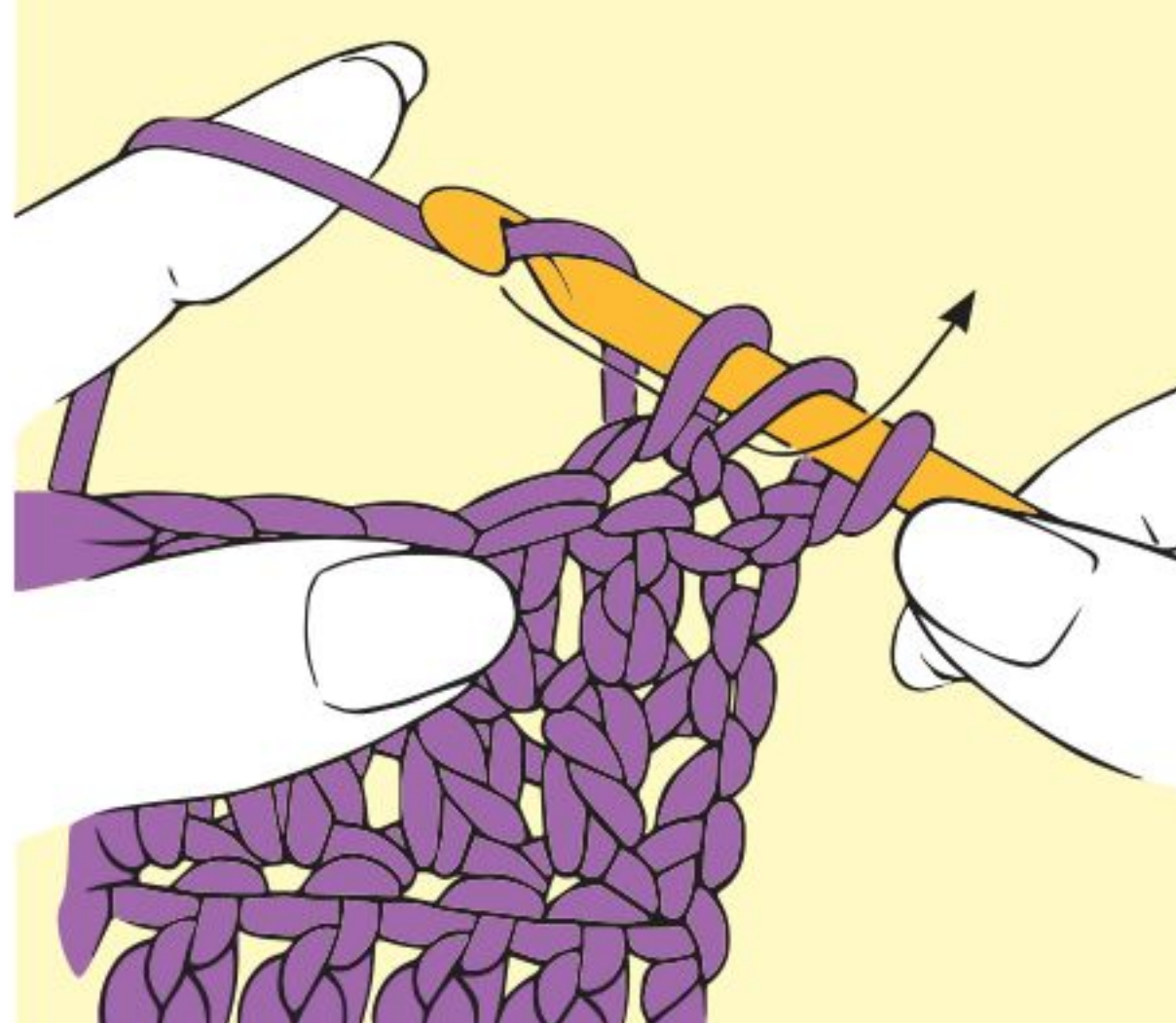
Treble crochet is slightly taller than half treble crochet but is made in a similar way



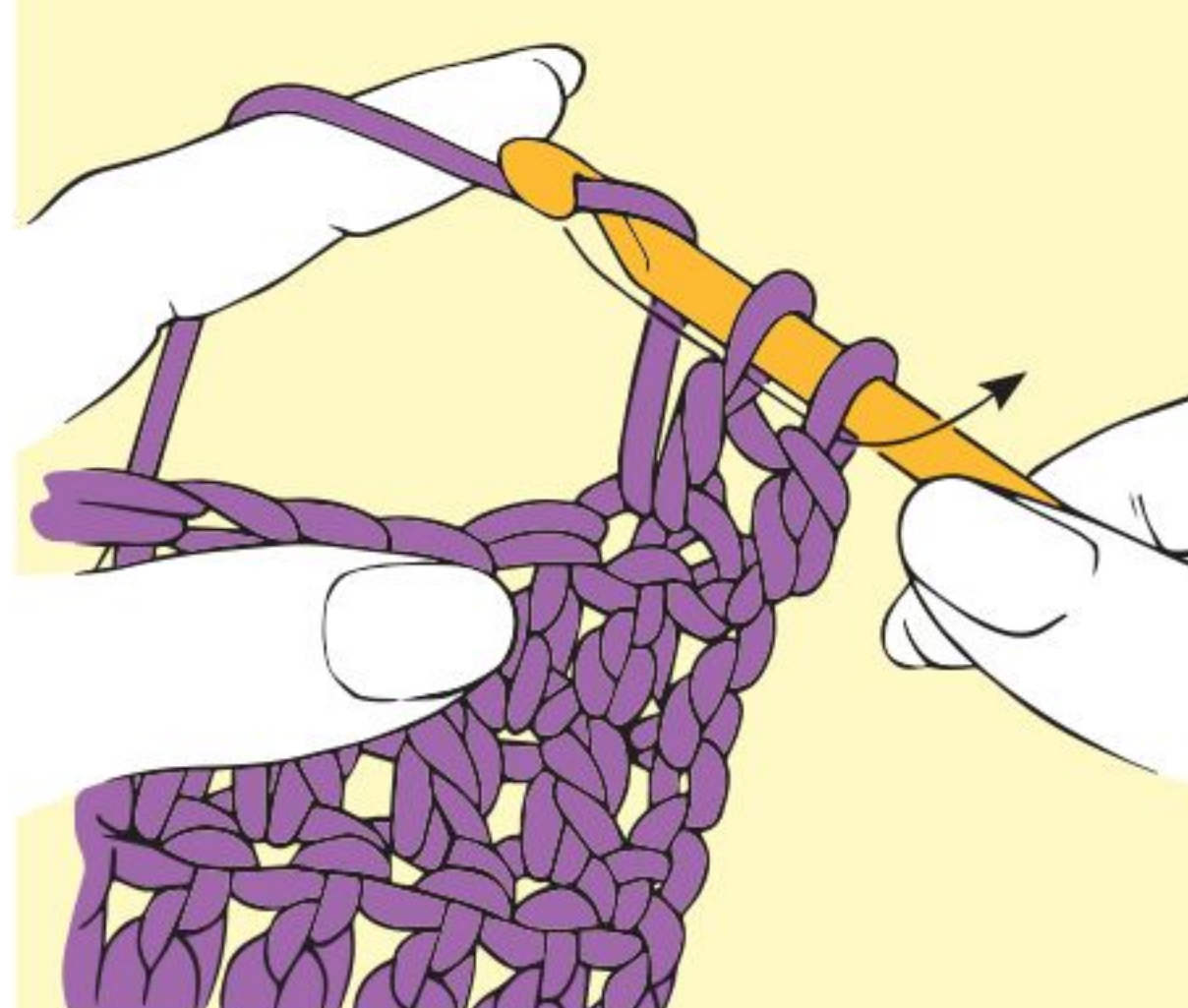
1 (You will need a turning chain of three stitches). Yarn over the hook. Insert the hook through the stitch.



2 Yarn over the hook and draw back through the work, there will be three loops of yarn on the hook.



3 Yarn over the hook and draw through the first two loops. This will leave two loops on the hook.



4 Yarn over the hook and draw through all the loops. This will leave one loop on the hook.

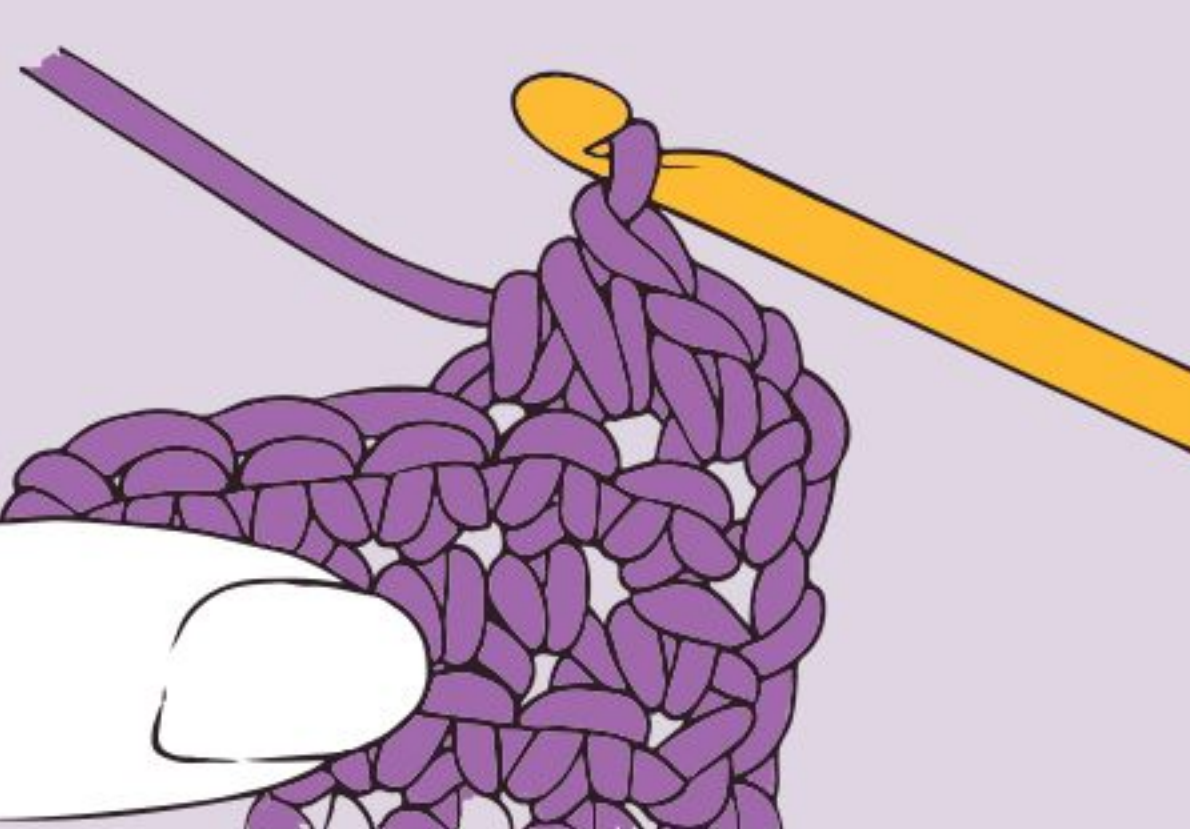
DECREASING

double crochet two together (dc2tog)

Turn two crochet stitches into one with this simple method



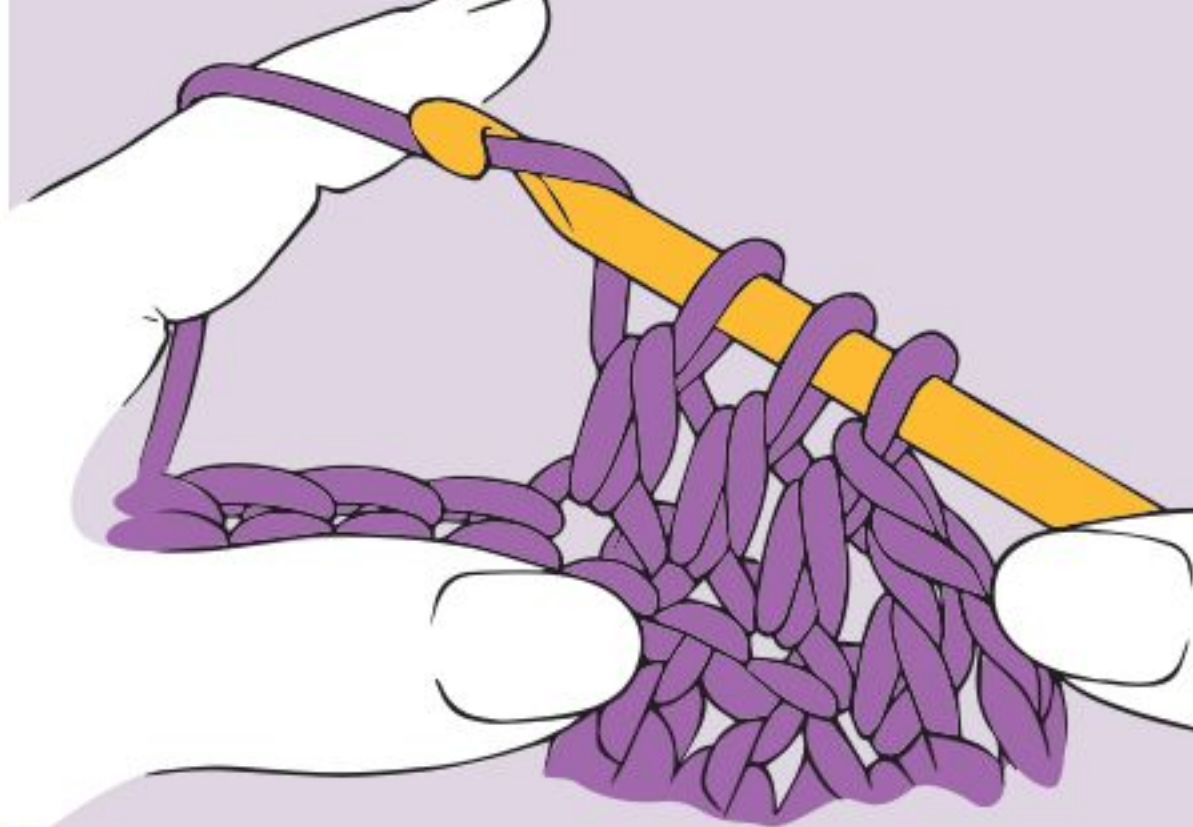
1 Insert hook through next stitch, yarn over hook, draw back through work. Two loops on hook. Insert hook into next stitch, yarn over hook, draw back through. Three loops on hook.



2 Yarn over hook, draw through all three loops. One loop on hook.

treble two together (tr2tog)

This is similar to 'dc2tog' but is worked with treble stitches



1 Yarn over the hook. Insert the hook through the stitch. Yarn over the hook and draw back through the work. There will be three loops of yarn on the hook. Yarn over the hook and draw through the first two loops. This will leave two loops on the hook. Yarn over the hook and insert through the next stitch, yarn over the hook and draw through the work. There will be four loops of yarn on the hook. Yarn over hook and draw through two loops. This will leave three loops on the hook.



2 Yarn over hook and draw through all three loops on the hook. This will leave one loop on the hook.

VIDEO OF THE MONTH



youtube.com/thecraftschannel

ABBREVIATIONS

Knitting and crochet patterns are full of abbreviations but don't panic, here's a handy list of all the main ones

- alt:** alternate
- approx:** approximately
- beg:** beginning
- ch:** chain
- ch sp:** chain space
- cn:** cable needle
- cont:** continue
- dc:** double crochet
- dec:** decrease
- dtr:** double treble
- fol:** following
- htr:** half treble
- inc:** increase
- k:** knit
- kfb:** knit into front and back of next stitch
- kw:** knitwise
- k2tog:** knit two together
- LH:** left-hand
- m1:** make one stitch by picking up horizontal loop before next stitch and knitting into back of it
- meas:** measures
- p:** purl
- pm:** place stitch marker
- psso:** pass slipped stitch over
- pw:** purlwise
- p2tog:** purl two together
- rem:** remaining
- rep:** repeat
- rev:** reverse
- RH:** right-hand
- RS:** right side
- skpo:** slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over
- sl st:** slip stitch
- sm:** slip stitch marker
- sp(s):** space(s)
- ssk:** one by one, slip next two stitches knitwise, put left-hand needle through front loops of both slipped stitches and knit them together
- st(s):** stitch(es)
- st st:** stocking stitch (knit one row, purl one row)
- tbl:** through back loop
- tog:** together
- tr:** treble
- WS:** wrong side
- wyib:** with yarn in back
- wyif:** with yarn in front
- yb:** yarn back
- yfwd:** yarn forward (between knit stitches)
- yoh:** yarn over hook
- yon:** yarn over needle (between a purl and a knit stitch)
- yrn:** yarn round needle (between purl stitches and between a knit and a purl stitch)

Tea and a chat with...

JOANNE RICKWOOD

John Lewis' haberdashery hero divulges what she looks for in a yarn



"I PARTICULARLY ENJOY YARNS THAT TELL A STORY"



WYS WENSLEYDALE GEMS YARN, AVAILABLE AT JOHN LEWIS

"If I were a yarn, I would be a soft, fluffy one made from a Merino and mohair blend in a beautiful colour!" reveals Joanne. "It's because I enjoy the comfort of being at home with family and friends, and wrapping myself up in soft textures when the weather is cold outside." As John Lewis' Junior Haberdashery Buyer, wool practically runs through her veins.

The haberdashery department has been an integral part of John Lewis since the Partnership was founded over 153 years ago. "The hobby of knitting is constant, so a lot of the time I'm planning the next season or launch ahead," Joanne explains. "My job finds me frequently shopping for yarns, speaking to knitters, visiting spinners and brands. I also work on developing and designing our own brand yarns and pattern books."

QUALITY CONTROL

Much of Joanne's role sees her seeking different qualities at varying price points, to ensure there is enough choice for her customers. "It's important that we hold the mainstay favourites, but I get excited when a new yarn is launched too."

Yarn weights are a key consideration. "Baby knitting means that DK and

4-ply weights are always popular," she explains. "Chunkier yarns have been on trend for a while and are often preferred by those who are beginner knitters, as results can be achieved quickly."

"I also look carefully at yarn composition, quality and durability. Many superior blends of yarn contain silk or cashmere, which feels luxurious but might not be machine washable. We're now seeing a growing number of yarn blends coming to the market which are machine washed and therefore easier to care for."

BRITISH IS BEST

Joanne has been proud to work with two new UK-based brands this year, whose yarns are 100% British wool. "The English Blue Faced Leicester sheep intrinsically offers a softness, drape and shine which makes it ideal for knitting cardigans and shawls. Baa Ram Ewe Dovestone DK is a lovely example." The other is West Yorkshire Spinners' Wensleydale Gems range, which has been dyed in a variety of vibrant colours. "I like to know we're supporting the UK spinning industry. And customers really enjoy learning about the heritage of the wool."

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE...

Christmas is a really busy time for John Lewis. In fact, Joanne is already working on next autumn, whilst still ensuring this year is a big success. "As part of the plans for this season, I'll be supporting our branch Partners with in-store events in the lead-up to Christmas. It's always a great opportunity to meet our customers and find out about their latest knitting projects."

As for the store's predicted Christmas trends, Joanne notes King Cole's Tinsel yarn, TOFT and Hoooked kits, and yarn cakes as the biggest players. "We offer two yarn cakes in a variety of shades, Sirdar's Colour Wheel and Rico's Creative Wool Degrade. They're such a fun choice!"

Visit johnlewis.com to see what you can treat yourself to this Christmas.



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