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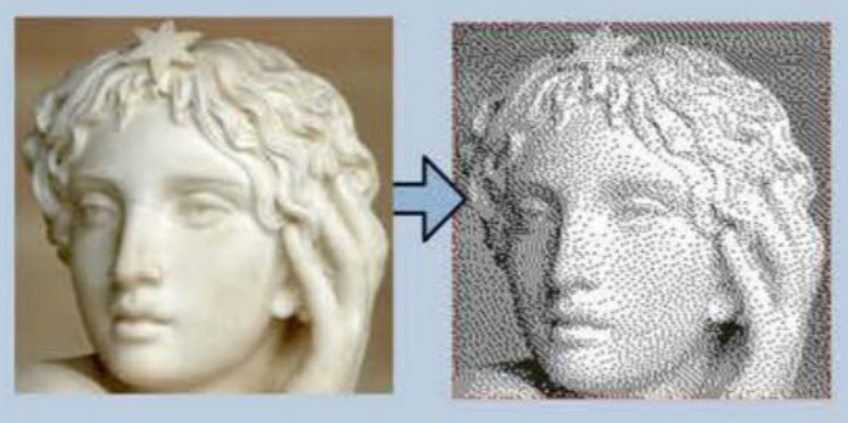

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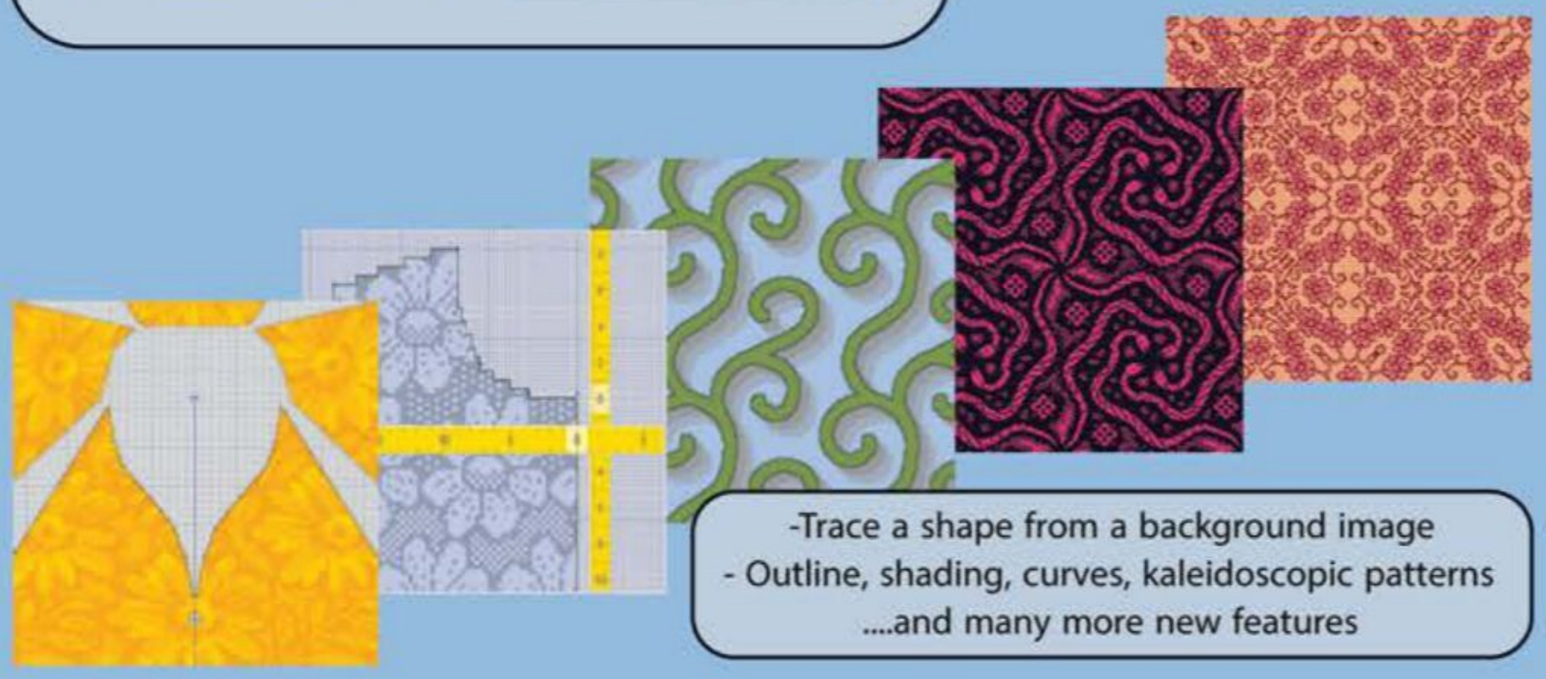

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Soft Byte LTD

Hello!

OK, truth time. The fact that this issue's **adorable knitted mouse** is the perfect proportion to our crocheted cleaning supplies was a total fluke. Clearly it was meant to be! But it reminded us at Let's Get Crafting HQ that there's so much you can do to **take your crafts to the next level**: something we strive for. You can always elevate our toys to tell a story and add accessories to bring them to life... that's the fun bit.

Which leads me nicely onto page 51. There you'll find a medley of Let's Get Crafting makes, perfectly engineered and tweaked by you, **our wonderful readers**. As always, you continue to inspire us every day. Also on the customisation front is part two of Heather Gibbs' **dress-up doll crochet-along**, plus Hannah Cooper's amigurumi owl has two hat options that are far too cute.

There truly is so much to celebrate in this edition; I'm finding it hard to focus on a favourite. Your **exclusive variegated yarn**, Meadow Mix, is a true highlight. Then there's a Star Wars BB-8 baby blanket (that's right!) and Lambkin from CBeebies' *Moon and Me*. We've got **70 bonus Easter patterns** (p40) that you'll want to download. Oh, and everyone's fallen in love with cardigans again, which we are fully on board with.

As always, I'm merely scratching the surface. We hope there's plenty here to keep you busy, entertained and cheered. Amongst the uncertainty, at least you can always rely on knitting and crochet.

Rosie

ROSIE SAVAGE, EDITOR

WE BACKED BIPOC in fiber

SHOP MEN'S PATTERNS ON P23

YOUR *Fleur* YARN KIT

FLOWER DOLLS P32

MARKET BAG P10

MEET OUR EXPERTS

HEATHER GIBBS
Complete my dress-up doll crochet-along (p20)

TANIS GRAY
Discover my *Star Wars* knits on page 44

HANNAH COOPER
Crochet a dinky owl with me on page 16

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SEE P24 FOR MORE DETAILS

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LET'S GET CRAFTING

KNITTING & CROCHET

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ROSIE SAVAGE, EDITOR

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Newsflash!

Treat yourself to something crafty!

World-changing women

This is one crochet club you're going to want to join! Making Women Who Made History is a subscription doll-making club from TOFT that immortalises inspirational women in amigurumi form. Every four months, a new doll is released celebrating a remarkable woman who's changed the world. Previous dolls include suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst and pilot Amelia Earhart, and the latest addition is civil rights activist Rosa Parks. Each subscription box includes all the yarn, tools and instructions you'll need to make your doll. **toftuk.com**

Baby hues

We can't get enough of Stylecraft's latest baby patterns for its brand new cotton blend yarn. Naturals Bamboo Cotton DK is available in 43 knock-out shades from bolds, to pastels and neutrals. The blend of bamboo and cotton gives fantastic stitch definition and the natural fibres mean the fabric is soft and kind to sensitive skin. If you love knitting and crocheting for tiny ones, make sure you check out the accompanying designs; each one is cuter than the last! **stylecraft-yarns.co.uk**

The best of British

We love adding a touch of cosy Bluefaced Leicester to our knits, especially when it comes in such glorious colours. This beautiful British 4-ply sock yarn is hand-dyed using natural botanical dye and is available in a selection of vibrant shades that are ideal for your spring projects. The construction and twist of the yarn ensures good durability, meaning there is no need for nylon if you're making socks. See the full range at **felinfach.com**.

Let's knit together

Did someone say... party?

Get your party poppers at the ready, it's time to celebrate Let's Knit Together's first birthday! The UK's friendliest knitting community has been going for a whole year now, and what an amazing 12 months it has been. You're invited to join the party online where there will be a month-long celebration kicking off on 22nd March. Sign up to the club for £1 to access exclusive patterns, virtual birthday events, giveaways, knit-alongs and so much more. **letsknit.co.uk/together**

Wardrobe update

If you love creating knitwear with a unique touch, don't miss *KIY: Knit-It-Yourself* by Emma Wright (£14.99, Quadrille). It features 15 contemporary designs and encourages you to add your own personal touch to garments. First, Emma helps you to master three basic sweater shapes: square, raglan and set-in-sleeve. You'll then progress to mixing and matching styles, shapes, necklines and colours to create clothing that is one of a kind and super stylish! **hardiegrant.com**

Legacy knits to love

Rowan's latest collection of miniature knits is brimming with 15 patterns for children aged 3-12, and we can't decide which we adore the most! Created in cosy fibres with a touch of luxe, these makes will keep your little ones super snug and looking cuter than ever. *Mode Mini Knits* features everything from beanies and scarves to chunky jumpers and cardis that you'll love to make, and that they'll cherish for years to come. **knitrowan.com**

MAKE A GARLAND WITH

Stuart Hillard

Welcome to our new and wonderful yarn pack. It's called Fleur, which I think is such a pretty name – it's French for 'flower' of course. There are lots of lovely floral colours in the six-ball kit, including the sunniest Daffodil Yellow, definitely a colour to lift your spirits! You also have five other colours in your pack. Petunia Pink is gorgeously rich and vibrant and would work really well with the yellow to create crochet flowers. I think it would be a lovely idea to use Blossom Pink and Orchid Green to create a corsage to wear on your lapel. There are plenty of stunning floral crochet patterns in our archives at **topcrochetpatterns.com** or you could make a spring garland like I'm going to! Pick a colour – I'm going to use Wheat Brown – and cut three long strands. They need to be about one and a half times longer than the garland you're making. Knot the ends together then plait the strands 'til you're almost at the end, knot the other end and set aside; this will form the foundation of your garland. Use the other yarns to make pom-poms. You'll want to make nice, fat, squishy ones that are about the size of a golf ball. I'm making more in the gorgeous Meadow Mix because I just love variegated yarn! Leave a tail on each pom-pom when you tie it off and use this to attach them tightly to your foundation plait. Leave spaces between the pom-poms and just keep going until you're happy with the effect. These garlands look great hung from shelves or along the front edge of a window sill and will bring a bit of springtime colour to your home.

Stu x

USE YOUR *Fleur* YARN KIT

PLUS
tapestry needle, stuffing, thin cardboard

SIZE
Length: 18cm
Height: 16cm

Take the next step

ALL ABOARD! CREATE A TOY TO TREASURE FOREVER WITH OUR

Choo choo train

Knit a version of a classic toy that kids will love. Whether your needles move at intercity speed or are more akin to a slow freight train, just stay on track and eventually you'll arrive at your destination. Designed by **ÁINE MARRIOTT**, we adore the colourful effect created by our gorgeous variegated yarn. Take your time with the cute finishing touches like the windows and funnel to ensure a final result that's first class!

CHOO CHOO TRAIN

base

Using 3mm needles and Wheat Brown cast on 23 sts
Rows 1-51: starting with a k row work in st st
Row 52: k, to mark turning point
Rows 53-102: starting with a k row work in st st
Cast off

cab

Note: reverse side of st st is RS
Using 3mm needles and Orchid Green cast on 71 sts
Row 1: k10, p1, k14, p1, k19, p1, k14, p1, k10
Row 2: p10, k1, p14, k1, p19, k1, p14, k1, p10
Rows 3-16: rep Rows 1-2 seven times
Change to Petunia Pink
Rows 17-32: rep Rows 1-2 eight times
Change to Orchid Green
Rows 33-48: rep Rows 1-2 eight times
Row 49: cast off 25 sts, k21, cast off rem 25 sts. 21 sts
Change to Petunia Pink
Note: now working top of Cab
Rows 50-74: k
Cast off

engine

Using 3mm needles and Petunia Pink cast on six sts
Row 1: (kfb) to end. 12 sts
Row 2 and every even-numbered row: k
Row 3: (k1, kfb) to end. 18 sts
Row 5: (k2, kfb) to end. 24 sts
Row 7: (k3, kfb) to end. 30 sts
Row 9: (k4, kfb) to end. 36 sts
Row 11: (k5, kfb) to end. 42 sts
Row 13: (k6, kfb) to end. 48 sts
Row 15: (k7, kfb) to end. 54 sts
Row 17: (k8, kfb) to end. 60 sts
Change to Meadow Mix
Rows 18-52: starting with a p row work in st st
Cast off

funnel

Using 3mm needles and Daffodil Yellow cast on 15 sts
Rows 1-9: starting with a k row work in st st
Row 10: k
Row 11: (k3, k2tog) to end. 12 sts
Row 12: k
Row 13: (k2, k2tog) to end. Nine sts
Row 14: k
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

cab roof

Using 3mm needles and Daffodil Yellow cast on 29 sts
Rows 1-42: k
Cast off

front window

Using 3mm needles and Wheat Brown cast on 15 sts
Rows 1-7: starting with a k row work in st st
Cast off pwise

side window

Make two
Using 3mm needles and Wheat Brown cast on ten sts
Rows 1-9: starting with a k row work in st st
Cast off pwise

wheel

Make six
Using 3mm needles and

"Cardboard is used to define the shape but this can be omitted if the train will be used for play and needs to be washed!"

ÁINE MARRIOTT, DESIGNER

'Love' THIS PATTERN?

WE HAVE A CROCHET VERSION TOO – FIND IT AT **TOPCROCHETPATTERNS.COM**

Blossom Pink cast on six sts
Row 1 and every odd-numbered row: p
Row 2: (kfb) to end. 12 sts
Row 4: (k1, kfb) to end. 18 sts
Row 6: (k2, kfb) to end. 24 sts
Row 8: (k3, kfb) to end. 30 sts
Row 10: (k4, kfb) to end. 36 sts
Rows 11-13: starting with a p row work in st st
Row 14: (k4, k2tog) to end. 30 sts
Row 15 and every odd-numbered row: p
Change to Daffodil Yellow
Row 16: (k3, k2tog) to end. 24 sts
Row 18: (k2, k2tog) to end. 18 sts
Row 20: (k1, k2tog) to end. 12 sts
Row 22: (k2tog) to end. Six sts
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

wheel connector

Make two
Using 3mm needles and Meadow Mix cast on 42 sts
Row 1: k
Cast off

to make up

Fold Base in half so cast-on and cast-off edges meet. Seam cast-on and cast-off edge and one row edge. Cut two pieces of cardboard to 8cm x 15cm, rounding off corners. Insert in Base and sew up rem row edge. Seam long row edges of Cab. Fold down top of Cab and sew in place. Insert cardboard sized 6cm x 8cm, stuff well. Pin cast-on edge to one end of Base and sew in position. Seam row edges of Engine remembering reverse side of st is RS. Cut circle of cardboard, 8cm in diameter. Place into end of Engine, stuff well, sew to front of Cab. Seam row edges of Funnel. Stuff well and sew to top of Engine. Weave in Roof loose ends, place over top of Cab so it overhangs and sew in place. Stitch Windows on front and sides of Cab. Seam row edges of Wheels and stuff lightly. Use Daffodil Yellow to work a few sts through centre of Wheel to flatten it. Sew three Wheels to each side of Base, anchoring to Cab and Engine where possible. Sew Wheel Connector across Wheels on either side. Weave in all ends

TOP TIP
NO CARDBOARD? USE A CEREAL BOX TO CREATE YOUR TRAIN STRUCTURE

USE YOUR *Fleur* YARN KIT

PLUS
tapestry needle

SIZE
Base diameter: 17cm

YIPPEE! THERE'S NO SEWING UP WITH OUR

Market bag

This cheery shopper by **JACKIE CARREIRA** is made in one piece, which is music to our ears. Quite frankly, trips to the supermarket were some of our 2020 highlights – oh wow, other humans! – and this project's sure to elevate the experience even more. Not only that, you'll be doing your bit for the environment by saying no to plastic bags.

Take the next step

MARKET BAG

Using 3mm hook and Meadow Mix make 4ch, join with a sl st to first ch to make a ring

Rnd 1: 3ch (counts as first tr throughout), 11tr in ring, join with a sl st in top of first 3ch. 12 sts

Rnd 2: 3ch, 1tr in same sp as last sl st, 2tr in each st to end, join with a sl st in top of first 3ch. 24 sts

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

Rnd 4: 3ch, 1tr, (2tr in next st, 2tr) to last st, 2tr in next st, join with a sl st in top of first 3ch. 48 sts

Rnd 5: 3ch, 2tr, (2tr in next st, 3tr) to last st, 2tr in next st, join with a sl st in top of first 3ch. 60 sts

Rnd 6: 3ch, 3tr, (2tr in next st, 4tr) to last st, 2tr in next st, join with a sl st in top of first 3ch. 72 sts

Rnd 7: 3ch, 4tr, (2tr in next st, 5tr) to last st, 2tr in next st, join with a sl st in top of first 3ch. 84 sts

Rnd 8: 3ch, 5tr, (2tr in next st, 6tr) to last st, 2tr in next st, join with a sl st in top of first 3ch. 96 sts

Rnd 9: 3ch, 6tr, (2tr in next st, 7tr) to last st, 2tr in next st, join with a sl st in top of first 3ch. 108 sts

Change to Blossom Pink

Rnd 10: 3ch, 1tr in each st to end, join with a sl st in top of first 3ch. 108 sts

Rnd 11: (1ch, 1dc) in next st, (9ch, miss three sts, 1dc) to last three sts, 4ch, miss three sts, join with 1dtr in first dc. 27 ch sps

Work in foll stripe sequence: three rnds Blossom Pink, four rnds Wheat Brown, four rnds Petunia Pink, four rnds Daffodil Yellow

Rnds 12-26: (9ch, 1dc in next ch sp) to last ch sp, 4ch, 1dtr in top of dtr

Change to Orchid Green

Rnd 27: (9ch, 1dc in next ch sp) to last ch sp, 9ch, sl st in top of dtr

Rnd 28: sl st in next ch sp, 1ch, 4dc in same ch sp, 5dc in each of next 2ch sps, 4dc in next ch sp, 3dc in each of next 6ch sps, 5dc in each of next 3ch sps, 6dc in next ch sp, 5dc in each of next 3ch sps, 3dc in each of next 6ch sps, 4dc in next ch sp, 5dc in each of next 2ch sps, 4dc in last ch sp, join with a sl st to first dc

Rnd 29: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end, join with a sl st to first dc. 108 sts

Rnd 30: 1ch, 1dc in same sp as last sl st, 18dc, 60ch (first handle made), miss 18 sts, 36dc, 60ch (second handle made), miss 18 sts, 1dc in each st to end, join with a sl st to first dc

Rnd 31: 1ch, 1dc in same sp as last sl st, 18dc, 60dc in 60ch sp, 36dc, 60dc in next 60ch sp, 1dc in each st to end, join with a sl st to first dc

Fasten off

to make up

Weave in all ends

Run out of yarn?

TRY MARRINER DK, £1.20 PER 100G (300M) BALL, **MARRINERYARNS.COM**

TOP TIP

TO MAKE A LARGER VERSION, USE COTTON DK YARN AND A 4MM HOOK

GO ECO!

A few small changes can make all the difference when it comes to living an eco-friendly lifestyle. Replacing the single-use plastics in your everyday routine with reusable options is a great place to start. Armed with a crochet hook and some yarn, you can enjoy creating some useful products while also being kind to Mother Nature – it's a win-win! Visit our blog at **topcrochetpatterns.com** for ten top suggestions.

LET'S GET CRAFTING

KNITTING & CROCHET

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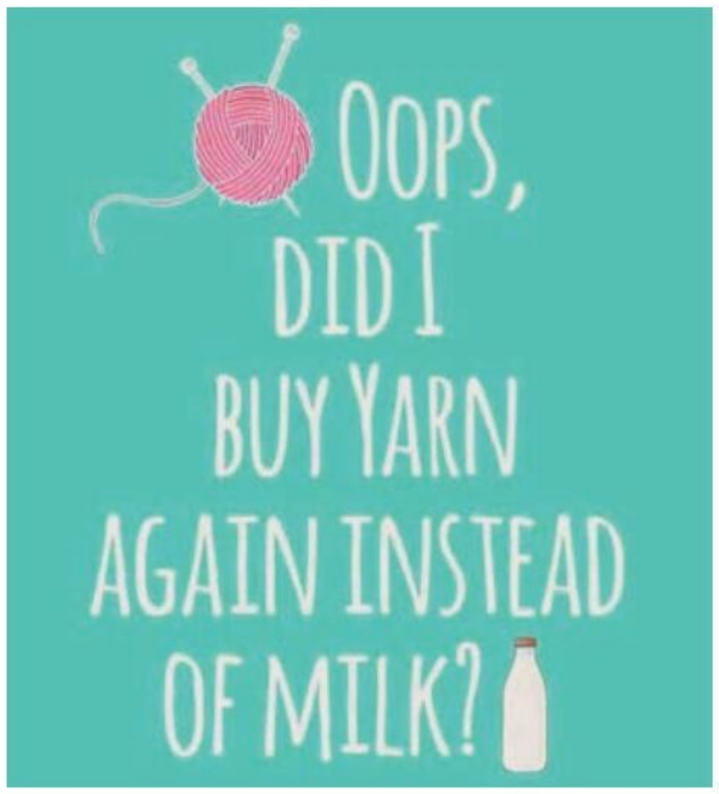

Instagram

See what the Let's Get Crafting team get up to behind the scenes! See new issue sneak peeks, unpacking videos, share your makes, have a giggle with us and win extra yarn packs!

HE'S CASUAL, HE'S COOL...
HE'S THE ONE AND ONLY

Tucker mouse

USE ALL SIX YARN COLOURS!

Thanks go to Pat Wiczulis on Facebook for naming our fine fella – we think it's a spot-on fit!

USING YOUR *Fleur* YARN KIT

PROJECT OVERLEAF

USE YOUR **Fleur** YARN KIT

PLUS
two 10mm black safety eyes, small amount of dark brown DK, stuffing, tapestry needle, stitch holder

SIZE
Height: 24cm

Take the next step

SACHIYO ISHII has blown us away yet again, this time with a magnificent mouse that's sure to be passed on for generations. Don't forget her three golden rules for toymaking: leave long ends at the beginning and end for sewing; sew the seams with the right side facing out, using mattress stitch; and if you're making it for a tot, embroider or create large French knots for the eyes instead.

SACHIYO ISHII'S TOYMAKING TIP OF THE MONTH

"I've really focused on details with this mouse. Rolled-up trouser hems, delicate whiskers, crossed-at-the-back straps, the hands in the pockets... why not see what characteristics you can apply? You could try adding an emblem to the dungarees. Or make it more feminine with a flower by one of its ears!"

TUCKER MOUSE

legs & body

* Using 3mm needles and Blossom Pink cast on 14 sts
Rows 1-19: starting with a p (WS) row work in st st *
Cut yarn, keep sts on holder
Rep from * to * for second Leg
Change to Orchid Green
Row 20: k14 (Leg from needle), k14 (Leg from holder). 28 sts
Row 21: p
Row 22: (k3, kfb) to end. 35 sts
Row 23: p
Row 24: (k4, kfb) to end. 42 sts
Rows 25-35: starting with a p row work in st st
Change to Meadow Mix
Rows 36-43: starting with a k row work in st st
Row 44: (k4, k2tog) to end. 35 sts
Rows 45-51: starting with a p row work in st st
Row 52: (k3, k2tog) to end. 28 sts
Rows 53-55: starting with a p row work in st st
Row 56: (k2, k2tog) to end. 21 sts
Row 57: p
Row 58: k
Cast off

head

Using 3mm needles and Wheat Brown cast on 12 sts
Row 1 (WS): p
Row 2: (k1, kfb) to end. 18 sts
Row 3 and every odd-numbered row: p
Row 4: (k2, kfb) to end. 24 sts
Row 6: (k3, kfb) to end. 30 sts
Row 8: (k4, kfb) to end. 36 sts
Row 10: (k5, kfb) to end. 42 sts
Rows 11-23: starting with a p row work in st st
Row 24: k6, (k2tog, k1) ten times, k6. 32 sts
Rows 25-31: starting with a p row work in st st
Row 32: (k2, k2tog). 24 sts
Rows 33-37: starting with a p row work in st st
Row 38: (k2tog) to end. 12 sts
Cast off

ear

Make two
Using 3mm needles and Wheat Brown cast on 30 sts
Note: colour in brackets foll instruction indicates which yarn to use
Row 1 (WS): p17 (Wheat Brown), p13 (Blossom Pink)
Note: keep colours correct as set and cross yarn at colour change to avoid any holes
Rows 2-7: starting with a k row work in st st
Row 8: k3, (k2tog, k2) six times, k3. 24 sts
Rows 9-15: starting with a p row work in st st
Row 16: (k2tog) to end. 12 sts
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

nose

Using 3mm needles and dark brown DK cast on eight sts
Row 1 (WS): p
Row 2: k
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

sleeve

Make two
Using 3mm needles and Meadow Mix cast on 16 sts
Rows 1-15: starting with a p (WS) row work in st st
Row 16: k2tog, k to last two sts, k2tog. 14 sts
Rows 17-20: starting with a p row work in st st
Rows 21-23: (k1, p1) to end
Cast off in rib

paw

Make two
Using 3mm needles and Wheat Brown cast on ten sts
Rows 1-5: starting with a p (WS) row work in st st
Row 6 (shape thumb): k4, (kfb) twice, k4. 12 sts
Row 7: p4, cast off next four sts, p to end. Eight sts
Row 8: k
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

dungarees

Note: starting with right leg
* Using 3mm needles and Orchid Green cast on 28 sts
Rows 1-4: starting with a p (WS) row

CAST OFF IN RIB

You'll be using this technique when you finish off the sleeves. Unsure how to do it? You'll find a fantastic video at Let's Knit Together, our members-only knitting club. With experts at your side, you'll watch the technique from start to finish. To find out more and subscribe, visit **letsknit.co.uk/together**.

work in st st
Change to Petunia Pink
Rows 5-13: starting with a p row work in st st *
Cut yarn, keep sts on holder
Rep from * to * for left leg
Row 14: k26, k2tog of left leg sts and from holder, k2tog, k to end, connecting both legs. 54 sts
Rows 15-29: starting with a p row work in st st
Row 30: (k7, k2tog) to end. 48 sts
Rows 31-35: starting with a p row work in st st
Rows 36-38: (k1, p1) to end
Row 39: cast off 16 sts, p15, cast off to end. 16 sts
Note: now working chest section
With RS facing, join yarn
Row 40: k
Row 41: k2, p12, k2
Rows 42-49: rep Rows 40-41 four times
Rows 50-52: k
Cast off kwise

dungaree pocket

Make two

Using 3mm needles and Orchid Green cast on 12 sts
Row 1 (WS): p
Row 2: kfb, k to last st, kfb. 14 sts
Rows 3-8: starting with a p row work in st st
Rows 9-10: k
Cast off kwise

dungaree button

Make two

Using 3mm needles and Daffodil Yellow cast on 12 sts
Row 1 (RS): (k2tog) to end. Six sts
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

dungaree strap

Make two

Using 3mm needles and Orchid Green cast on four sts
Rows 1-50: k
Cast off

shoe

Make two

Using 3mm needles and Daffodil Yellow cast on 20 sts
Row 1 (WS): p
Row 2: (k1, kfb) to end. 30 sts
Row 3: p
Row 4: k
Row 5 (edge): k
Rows 6-11: starting with a k row work in st st
Row 12: k5, (k2tog) ten times, k5. 20 sts
Row 13: p
Row 14: k6, (k2tog) four times, k6. 16 sts
Row 15: p
Row 16: k
Cast off

tail

Using 3mm needles and Wheat Brown cast on 12 sts
Rows 1-34: starting with a p (WS) 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

With cast-on yarn end of Body, sew each Leg to crotch. Sew Body seam up to neck edge and stuff Legs and Body. Wrap Body with Dungarees and sew each Dungaree leg to crotch and roll up hem. Stitch hem to trouser leg. Sew Dungarees back seam, leaving 2cm for Tail hole. Secure Dungarees to Body at waist. Sew Pockets to Dungarees. Fold Paw in half lengthways, sew edges and stuff lightly. Wrap Hand with Sleeve and secure with sts around cuff. Sew Sleeve seam and stuff. Attach Sleeves to Body. With cast-on yarn end of Head, work gathering thread along cast-on edge and draw tightly. Sew Head seam halfway. Fold cast-off end in half and sew Nose ends tog. Sew up seam a little further, insert safety eyes and stuff. Close seam. Seam Ears and attach Ears to Head. Seam and stuff Nose. Attach Nose to Head. With dark brown DK, embroider mouth. With Blossom Pink, embroider whiskers. Attach Head to Body. Sew Straps to Dungarees, crossing them at the back. Sew Buttons to Dungarees. Seam and stuff Tail. Attach Tail to Body through Dungarees tail hole. Weave in all ends

Run out of yarn?

TRY PATONS 100% COTTON DK, £5.20 PER 100G (210M) BALL, **KNITPATONS.COM**

PLUS
two 5mm black safety eyes, tapestry needle, stuffing, stitch markers

SIZE
Height (excl tassels): 9cm

Perfect for beginners

YOU'LL HAVE A HOOT MAKING WISE, HAT-LOVING

Monica owl

Let your hook and yarn take flight with our tufty-eared miniature owl. Designed by **HANNAH COOPER**, our beautiful bird comes with two interchangeable hat designs, each with perfect sized gaps to display her colourful head plumes. Don't wing it when you're making up your owl; ensure each piece is carefully positioned before you stitch it and create a feathered friend who looks im'peck'able!

MONICA OWL

eye patch

Make two

Using 3mm hook and Blossom Pink make a magic ring, work 8htr into ring. Eight sts
Fasten off

head & body

Using 3mm hook and Wheat Brown 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
Note: when working Rnd 5, pm in sts 10 and 14 for eyes
Rnds 4-8: 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 9: 6dc, (1dc, 2dc in next st) six times, 6dc. 30 sts
Rnds 10-13: 1dc in each st to end
Insert safety eyes in Eye Patch and through marked sts and sew to front of face
Rnd 14: (4dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 36 sts
Rnds 15-19: 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 20: (4dc, dc2tog) to end. 30 sts
Rnd 21: (3dc, dc2tog) to end. 24 sts
Rnd 22: (2dc, dc2tog) to end. 18 sts
Stuff firmly
Rnd 23: (1dc, dc2tog) to end. 12 sts
Rnd 24: (dc2tog) to end. Six sts
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

tummy patch

Using 3mm hook and Blossom Pink 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: 1dc, 2htr, 2tr in next st, (2dtr in next st) three times, 2tr in next st, 2htr, 1dc, join with a sl st
Fasten off

wing one

Using 3mm hook and Wheat Brown make 4ch, turn
Row 1: starting in second ch from hook, 1dc in each st to end, turn
Rows 2-3: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end, turn
Rows 4-5: 1ch, 1dc, 2dc in next st, 1dc, turn. Five sts
Work in foll one-row stripe sequence: Petunia Pink, Wheat Brown
Row 6: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end, turn
Row 7: 1ch, 1dc, 2dc in next st, 3dc, turn
Row 8: rep Row 6
Row 9: 1ch, (dc2tog, 1dc) in next st, 2htr in next st, 2tr in next st, 2dtr in next st, 1tr. Nine sts
Fasten off

wing two

Using 3mm hook and Wheat Brown make 4ch, turn
Rows 1-4: rep Rows 1-4 of Wing One
Row 5: 1ch, 2dc, 2dc in next st, 1dc, turn. Five sts
Work in foll one-row stripe sequence: Petunia Pink, Wheat Brown
Row 6: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end, turn
Row 7: 1ch, 3dc, 2dc in next st, 1dc, turn. Six sts
Row 8: rep Row 6
Row 9: 2ch (counts as 1tr), 2dtr in next st, 2tr in next st, 2htr in next st, (1dc, dc2tog) in next st. Nine sts
Fasten off

beak

Using 3mm hook and Daffodil Yellow make a magic ring, work 3dc into ring. Three sts
Rnd 1: 2dc in each st to end. Six sts
Fasten off

foot

Make two

Using 3mm hook and Daffodil Yellow make 7ch
Row 1: starting in fourth ch from hook, sl st, (4ch, sl st in fourth st from hook) twice, 1tr in third ch from starting ch, 1htr in next ch, (1dc, sl st) in last ch
Fasten off

tail

Using 3mm hook and Wheat Brown make 7ch, turn
Row 1: starting in second ch from hook, 1dc in each st to end, turn. Six sts
Rows 2-3: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end, turn
Work in foll

GREAT ADVICE

CRAB STITCH (ALSO CALLED REVERSE DOUBLE CROCHET)
Insert hook in next st to the right, from front to back, pull up a loop. Two loops on hook. Yoh, pull through both loops on hook

one-row stripe sequence: Petunia Pink, Wheat Brown
Row 4: 1ch, 2dc in next st, 4dc, 2dc in next st, turn.
Eight sts
Row 5: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end, turn
Row 6: 1ch, 2dc in next st, 6dc, 2dc in next st, turn.
Ten sts
Row 7: 1ch, 1dc, 1htr, 2tr, 2dtr, 2tr, 1htr, 1dc
Fasten off

HATS

green hat

Using 3mm hook and Orchid Green 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, 4ch, miss two sts, 1dc, 2dc in next st, 4ch, miss two sts, (1dc, 2dc in next st) twice.
12 sts
Rnd 3: 2dc, 2dc in next st, 4dc in ch, 2dc, 2dc in next st, 4dc in ch, (2dc, 2dc in next st) twice.
24 sts
Rnds 4-5: 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 6: working in FLO, (3dc, 2dc in next st) to end.
30 sts
Change to Meadow Mix
Rnd 7: one sl st in each st to end
Fasten off

pink hat

Using 3mm hook and Petunia Pink make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring.
Six sts
Rnds 1-6: rep Rows 1-6 of Green Hat.
30 sts
Rnd 7: (4dc, 2dc in next st) to end.
36 sts
Change to Daffodil Yellow
Rnd 8: one crab st (see Great Advice) in each st to end
Fasten off

to make up

Use yarn tail to sew up rem six sts of Body. Sew Tummy Patch to front of Body and Beak to face. Sew Wings to sides and Tail to back. Sew Feet to bottom of Body. Cut a strand of each colour, fold in half, insert hook in any st on Row 3 of Head in line with Wing. Pull folded yarn through, creating a loop, pull yarn end through loop created. Rep for all colours and on other side, ensuring ears fit through Hat holes. Use Petunia Pink to embroider a flower on Green Hat, add two French knots either side and one in middle of flower using Daffodil Yellow. Rep on Pink Hat using Meadow Mix. Weave in all ends

See our visual guides on page 64 if you need assistance with trebles and half trebles!

"Pin all your pieces in place before you sew them to make sure you're happy with the placement"

HANNAH COOPER, DESIGNER

All about you

Your amazing projects make us so happy!

You're obsessed with... our toys!

MADE WITH LOVE

It's been years since I've knitted but I couldn't resist making this penguin from issue 125 after my daughter-in-law gave me a copy of Let's Get Crafting magazine! I made him for Rupert, my brand new grandson.

Sheila Cresswell, Essex

NEWBIE PROJECT

I bought your magazine one dreary Saturday, to help me learn a new skill. Many false starts and YouTube videos later, I finally completed Rudolph from issue 126. Thank you for inspiring me to try something new!

Sarah Logan, Berkshire

COLOURFUL HERD!

I knit for charity and decided to make the large unicorn. I then adapted your horse pattern by Sachiyo Ishii from issue 90 to make mini versions by changing the colours and adding a horn. I love these wee guys!

Caroline Smith, Scotland

I started this blanket in lockdown after years of not touching my needles. It kept me sane when life had changed a lot: I'd moved out of my parents, was living alone, started a new job and started degree study! But every evening I could put that away, and work on my blanket. I love your magazine, it brings me so much joy and I love waiting for it to arrive each month!

Verity McClelland, Bournemouth

Your blanket is amazing, Verity! We bet it's kept you warm this winter

This is my Remembrance Day cushion by Sarah-Jane Hicks. It was hard to buy poppies for the 2020 appeal, so buying this pattern was a good way of making a contribution to the Royal British Legion. I used Marriner Yarns chunky rather than DK to make a larger, firmer cushion.

Maddy Howard, Lancaster

A very cosy cushion, Maddy, and for a wonderful cause too!

I crocheted this owl in lockdown for my daughter following my own pattern. I love any craft and have done them all: I've painted stones; made hand warmers and blankets for local care homes; created baby hats, gloves and blankets for nearby baby units, and ear protectors for NHS staff. Lockdown gave me more incentive to make different things and I'll carry on as long as the wool keeps coming!

Josie Hall, Sutton Coldfield

You're a very talented crafter Josie, we love your owl

"Lockdown gave me more incentive to make different things and I'll carry on as long as the wool keeps coming!"

Which is your favourite charity to craft for?

"I make six-inch squares for a lovely group called Blanket Friends. They are then put together to make beautiful blankets and donated to children's hospices, foster homes and care homes"

Val Ashpool

"I'm a volunteer crocheter for Australian Angel Babies. I make blankets, beanies and bootie sets for little angels, and I find it very rewarding"

Pauline Brown

"My local animal shelter. I make toys for puppies and sleeping pads for the kitties"

Chris Harrop

"The Yorkshire Air Ambulance"

Rosemary Wood

"At the moment, Canberra knitters and crocheters are making squares for Wrap In Love. We are hoping to make 1,500 which represents one square per online member"

Lucy Jane

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USE YOUR *Fleur* YARN KIT

Expand her wardrobe with YOUR 2-PART

PLUS: stitch markers, tapestry needle, three small buttons

SIZE: Dress height: 11cm
Bag width: 5.5cm
Hat circumference: 30cm

HEATHER GIBBS, DESIGNER

"Welcome back to my dress-up doll crochet series. In this concluding part, you'll learn to make two more dresses – well, a girl's got to have options hasn't she? – plus a handy shoulder bag and stylish floppy hat. Don't forget, many sections in these patterns are worked without joining in continuous rounds, so make sure you place a stitch marker in the top of the first stitch to mark the start of the round. I've also included some advice in case you're new to all of this and need assistance in changing colours. Teamed with part one's makes, your doll now has a six-piece wardrobe. But why stop there? Use the patterns and skills you've learned to create even more garments and extras. Go for it!"

Take the next step

HAT

Using 3mm hook and Wheat Brown 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 6-10: 1dc in each st to end
Change to Petunia Pink
Rnd 11: 1dc in each st to end
Change to Wheat Brown
Rnd 12: 2dc in each st to end. 72 sts
Rnd 13: (11dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 78 sts
Fasten off

bow

Using 3mm hook and Petunia Pink make 6ch
Row 1: starting in second ch from hook, 1dc in each st to end. Five sts
Rows 2-3: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off
Wrap length of Petunia Pink around centre of crochet strip eight times
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

more dresses & accessories

CROCHET-ALONG

strap

Using 3mm hook and Petunia Pink make 41ch

Row 1: starting in second ch from hook, 1dc in each st to end. 40 sts
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

VARIEGATED DRESS

Using 3mm hook and Petunia Pink make 25ch

Row 1: starting in second ch from hook, 1dc in each st to end. 24 sts

Row 2: 2dc in each st to end. 48 sts

Row 3: 1dc in each st to end
Change to Meadow Mix

Row 4: (7dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 54 sts

Note: now working in rnds, use a st marker to mark first st

Rnd 1: 8dc, miss 12 sts (for armhole), 2dc in next st, 12dc, 2dc in next st, miss 12 sts (for second armhole), 1dc in each st to end. 32 sts

Rnds 2-9: 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 10: (7dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 36 sts

Rnds 11-16: 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off

* **Note:** now working short sleeves
Attach Meadow Mix to armhole

Rnds 17-19: 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off
Attach Meadow Mix to second armhole

Rnds 20-22: 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off

To make button loop, reattach Petunia Pink to edge of Row 1, 5ch, miss row, sl st to end of Row 4
Fasten off *

HANDBAG

Using 3mm hook and Petunia Pink make 10ch

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

Rows 2-7: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end

Row 8: 1ch, dc2tog, 5dc, dc2tog. Seven sts

Row 9: 2dc in next st, 5dc, 2dc in next st. Nine sts

Rows 10-15: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off

catch

Using 3mm hook and Petunia Pink make 4ch

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

Rows 2-10: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end

Row 11: 4ch, miss one st, sl st in last st (creates buttonhole)
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

bow

Using 3mm hook and Petunia Pink make 8ch

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

Rows 2-4: 1ch, 1dc

CHANGING COLOUR

IF YOU'RE NEW AROUND HERE, DON'T WORRY – HERE WE GUIDE YOU ON CHANGING YARNS WHEN TAKING ON COLOURWORK

1 Before working that final stitch of the first colour, grab the second colour with your hook

2 Pull up a loop with your second colour – you might have to tug gently on the yarn end of your first colour to keep the loops from getting too big

3 If you're using the first colour again within the next few rows or rounds, don't cut the yarn; leave it attached so that you can carry it up the sides and avoid having to weave in more ends. If you don't have to use the first colour again any time soon (or simply prefer not to carry the yarn up the sides) then cut the first colour, leaving a long tail approximately 15cm long

4 Now that you have brought your second colour through, you can begin working with it!

CONTINUE CROCHETING

Missed part one with the doll? It's at topcrochetpatterns.com

in each st to end
Fasten off
Wrap length of Petunia Pink around centre of crochet strip eight times
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

STRIPED DRESS

Using 3mm hook and Orchid Green make 25ch
Rows 1-3: rep Rows 1-3 of Variegated Dress. 48 sts
Change to Daffodil Yellow
Note: now working in rnds, use a st marker to mark first st
Work in foll stripe sequence: two rnds Daffodil Yellow, three rnds Orchid Green, three rnds Daffodil Yellow, eight rnds Orchid Green
Rnd 1: 8dc, miss 12 sts (for armhole), 2dc in next st, 12dc, 2dc in next st, miss 12 sts (for second armhole), 1dc in each st to end. 32 sts
Rnds 2-9: 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 10: (7dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 36 sts
Rnds 11-16: 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off
Note: now working short sleeves
Rep from * to * of Variegated Dress, using Daffodil Yellow for short sleeves and Orchid Green for button loop

to make up

Sew Bow to Hat.
For Handbag, use tail ends to sew up both sides, leaving top of bag open. Attach Row 1 of Handbag Catch to middle of back of bag. Attach button to front of Handbag, to match buttonhole size. Sew Strap to both sides of Handbag. Attach buttons to Dresses, to match buttonhole size. Sew Bow to Variegated Dress. Weave in all ends

The Friendship Blanket Project

We've got something very exciting indeed on the horizon. For the first time ever, we have a series that includes both knitting and crochet – yippee! Make sure you pick up a copy of issue 130 from 1st April for a mega four-part blanket-along, featuring same-texture knitted squares by Nicola Valiji and crocheted squares by Zoë Potrac, that you can make with a pal. Bring it on!

HAPPY FEET

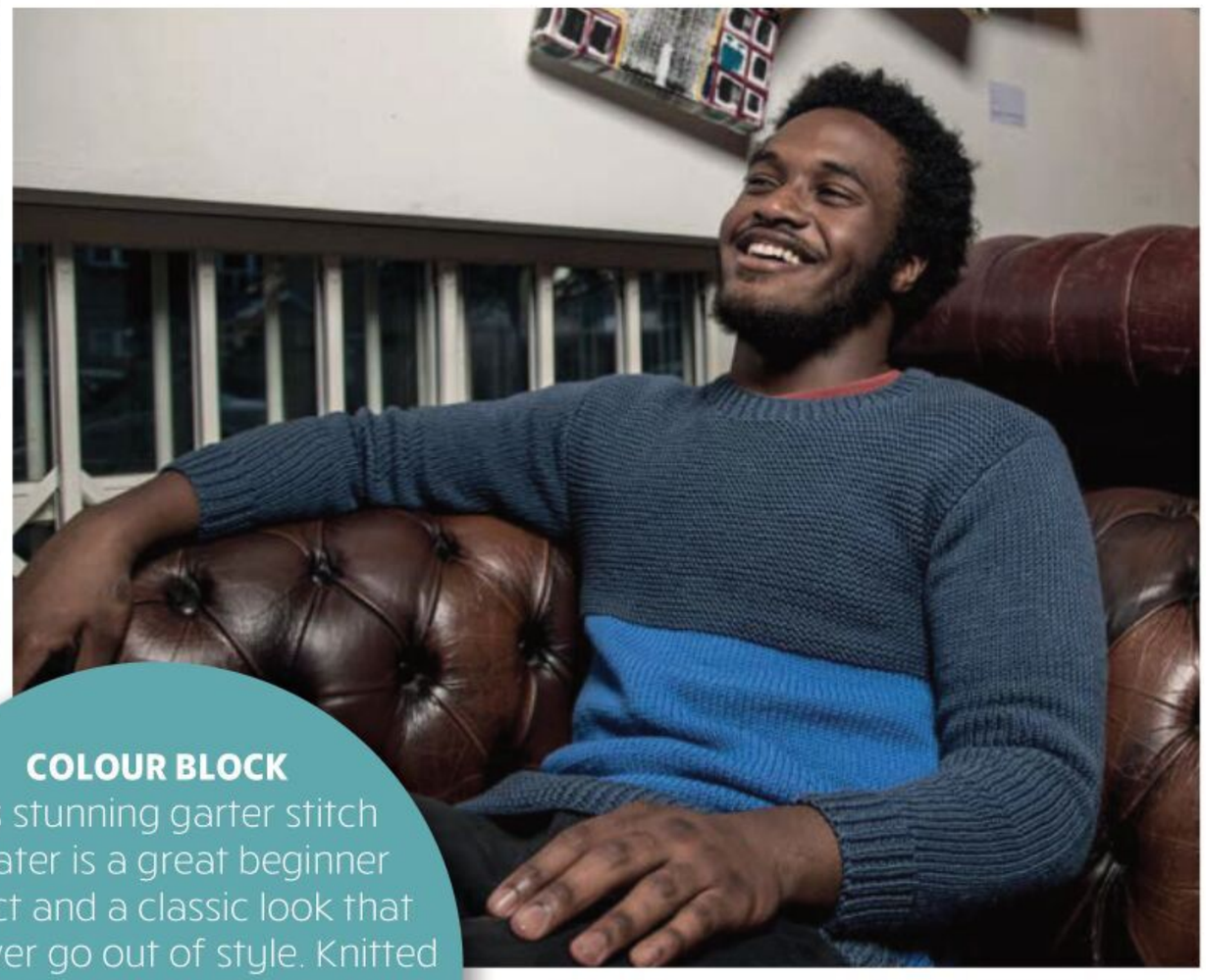
Knitted socks are the ultimate way to keep feet toasty and we love Opal yarn for its comfort and durability. Opal Beauty 4-ply with Edelweiss and Vitamin E is the latest range from Opal and comes in a stunning range of shades. Find them all at **sockyarnshop.com**

KEEP IT CASUAL

We adore this cardigan and hoodie combo that has trendy dad written all over it! The intermediate project by Martin Storey for Rowan is knitted in recycled yarn, Denim Revive. Search 'Barton' at **knitrowan.com** to buy this nautical design

A GUY THING

From cosy jumpers and colourful scarves and hats, there's a wealth of patterns out there for men, and now is the time to knit classic garments or snuggly staples that can be worn year after year. When making accessories, we advise using a fibre that's soft and warm, such as alpaca or merino, and we especially love making anything with a cable detail using thicker aran weight yarns that create added warmth and texture. Take a look at our pick of the masculine bunch.



COLOUR BLOCK

This stunning garter stitch sweater is a great beginner project and a classic look that will never go out of style. Knitted in Sublime Extra Fine Merino Worsted and designed by James McIntosh, you can buy the pattern at **knitmcintosh.com**

ALL WRAPPED UP

Worked in rib stitch, this beginner project combines simplicity, colour, and cosy texture. Knitted in alpaca yarn, this stripy number is warm and soft to wear and adds a gorgeous dash of colour to any outfit. Download this pattern at **letsknit.co.uk**

MATCHING SET

For the man who loves the outdoors, this hat and scarf set will stave off chilly weather and look super trendy. Knitted in King Cole Drifter Aran, the cable details and variegated shades are unique details that we love. Buy King Cole pattern number 5558 at **woolwarehouse.co.uk**

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ROSIE SAVAGE, EDITOR

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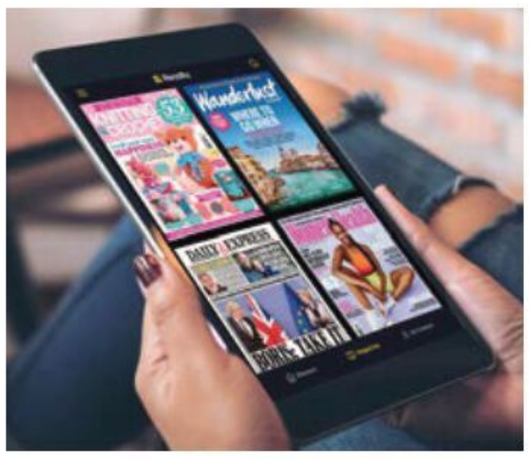

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TOPCROCHETPATTERNS.COM

POP OF COLOUR

Add five balls of Paintbox Yarns Recycled Cotton Worsted to your stash and whip up something beautiful and eco-friendly! Made from 100% recycled materials, this colourful fibre is great for the planet and extremely versatile too. Knit or crochet some fabulous homewares, blankets, dishcloths, or update your wardrobe with gorgeous eco-friendly garments. This yarn comes in 100g ball weights and we have 50 balls to give away! See the full gorgeous range at lovecrafts.com.

WIN 500g OF YARN

CRAFTY ESSENTIALS

MAKE THE CUT

Sharp scissors are a crafter's must-have and this new range from Clover offers soft, easy grip handles, and a clean, neat cut through fabric. Perfect for righties, lefties and the ambidextrous alike, each pair comes in a leather case to protect the blades. Two lucky winners will receive a crafty bundle worth £134 featuring a pair of 13cm and 20cm Clover Bordeaux Scissors, plus a sturdy pom-pom maker set featuring four sizes. For stockist enquires email clover@stockistenquiries.co.uk.

ENTERING IS EASY!

1 Visit our website **topcrochetpatterns.com**

2 Hover over 'More', then click **'Giveaways'**

3 Select a giveaway and **enter details**

CLOSING DATE: 8TH APRIL 2021

The BIG Cardigan Revival

How Harry Styles and Taylor Swift made us fall in love with cardigans all over again

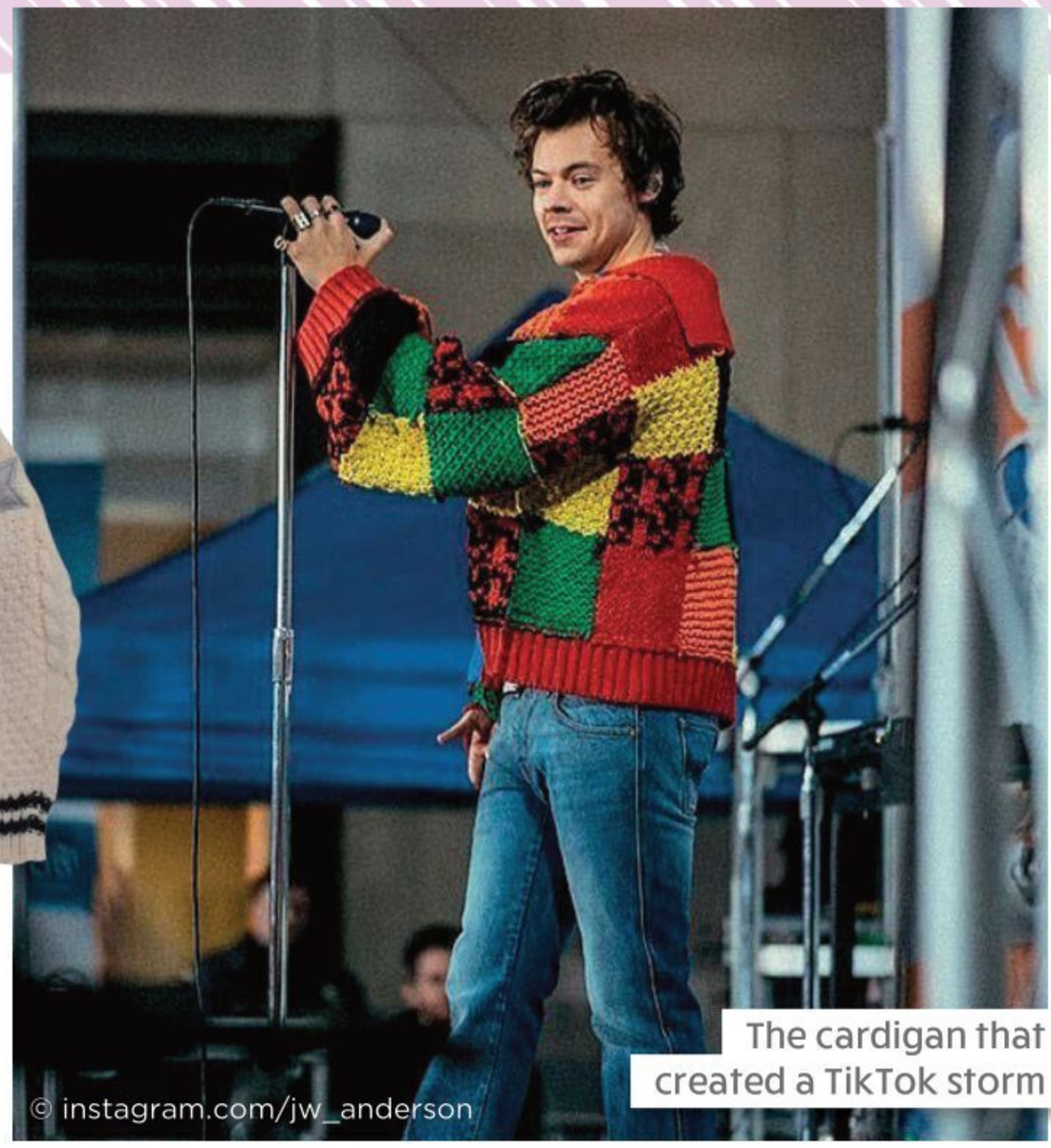
WORDS BY HEIDI WILKINS

We've all got one. That reliable, snug wardrobe staple that when wrapped around us, gives an instant feeling of comfort and security. We've recently been turning to our beloved cardigans more than ever before because – as well them being thrust into the spotlight by two rather famous millennials – they're super comfy. Even more than that, wrapping a squishy cardi around you can feel like a hug from an old friend which, let's be honest, is something we all need right now.

Pattern 939, knitted in Rico Design Fashion Modern Tweed Aran, **lovecrafts.com**

Taylor Swift reinvented the cardigan for 2020

The limited edition 'cardigan', £35, store.taylorswift.com



The cardigan that created a TikTok storm

SWIFTLY DONE

Taylor Swift echoes our sentiment about a cardigan feeling extra comforting right now in her 2020 single *Cardigan*. "When I felt like I was an old cardigan under someone's bed," she sings, "you put me on and said I was your favourite." We don't advise keeping your precious handknits under your bed but we love the idea of having them close by at any time – ready to be grabbed and worn.

The stylish singer then further elevated global love for the cardigan by sending her favourite celebrity friends their very own Taylor Swift cardi. The coveted garment became a celebrated knit and the cable details and cricket stripes soon appeared in high street fashion, as fans sought to emulate Swift's casual style.

A CARDI OF MANY COLOURS

In February 2020, singer and style icon Harry Styles sparked a cardigan-related crafting phenomenon by casually throwing on a patchwork knitted cardigan during a rehearsal for *The Today Show*. The colourful £1,250 sweater by British designer Jonathan Anderson went viral on Twitter, TikTok and Instagram, and before you could say 'knitted squares', recreations of the eye-catching cardi were appearing throughout social media.

Fans quickly got to work learning how to crochet or knit the fashionable top and the hashtag #HarryStylesCardigan received over 40 million views on TikTok. This crafty revolution led to Anderson publishing the knitting pattern for free: "I am so impressed and incredibly humbled by this trend and everyone knitting the cardigan," he said. "I really wanted to show our appreciation so we are sharing the pattern with everyone. Keep it up!" Oh the power of craft.

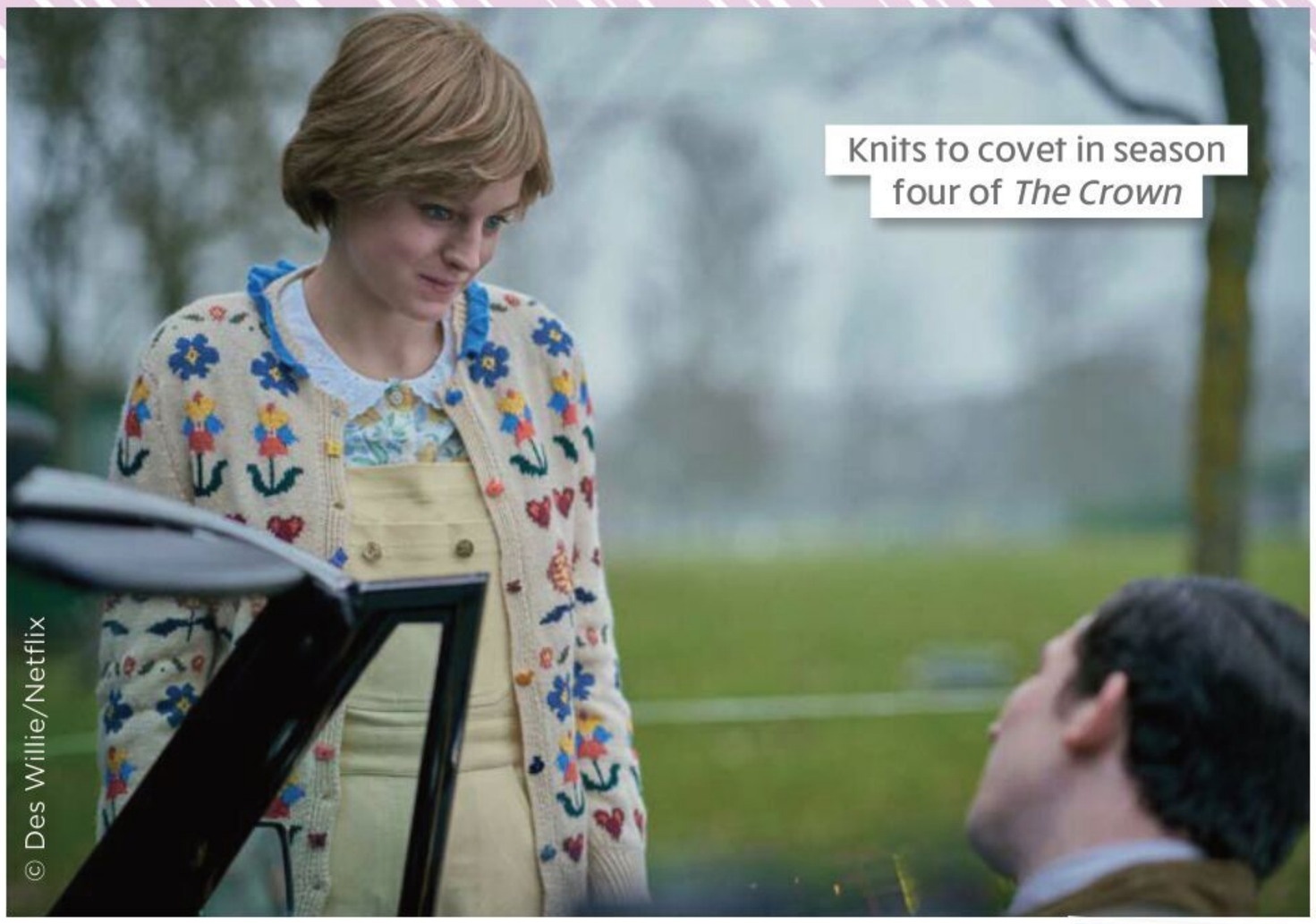
The original Harry Styles number is now forever committed to knitty history in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, praised by the institution as a "cultural phenomenon that speaks to the power of creativity and social media in bringing people together in times of extreme adversity." Another recent notable high profile cardigan includes the stained, cigarette-burned knit worn by Kurt Cobain during the band's *MTV Unplugged* performance in 1993; the distinctive piece sold at auction for an incredible £260,000 in 2019.

HARRY'S STYLE

CLEVER CRAFTERS AND THEIR CARDIGAN TRIBUTES

ON THE BIG SCREEN

Popular television shows have likewise provided us with memorable cardigan eye candy. The stylish outfits in *The Crown* and *The Queen's Gambit* were the talk of our at-home offices in 2020 as we were treated to vintage twinsets, gorgeous intarsia and cosy traditional knitwear. Princess Diana, played by actor Emma Corrin in the fourth series of *The Crown*, was well-known for her playful knits that often conveyed more than just her impeccable sense of style – remember that 'black sheep' sweater? The wardrobe department on the hit Netflix show recreated key standout pieces including this floral cardigan that demonstrates Diana's youth and exuberance when meeting a young Prince Charles.



Knits to covet in season four of *The Crown*

MAKE IT YOURS

We could talk about cardigans forever and that just shows what diverse garments they are. They come in every style you could imagine from plain, understated designs to bright Harry Styles-esque standout pieces. From the loose-fitting chunky replacement for a coat, to form-fitting twinset style. From a patchwork rainbow of colour to muted, subtle tones.

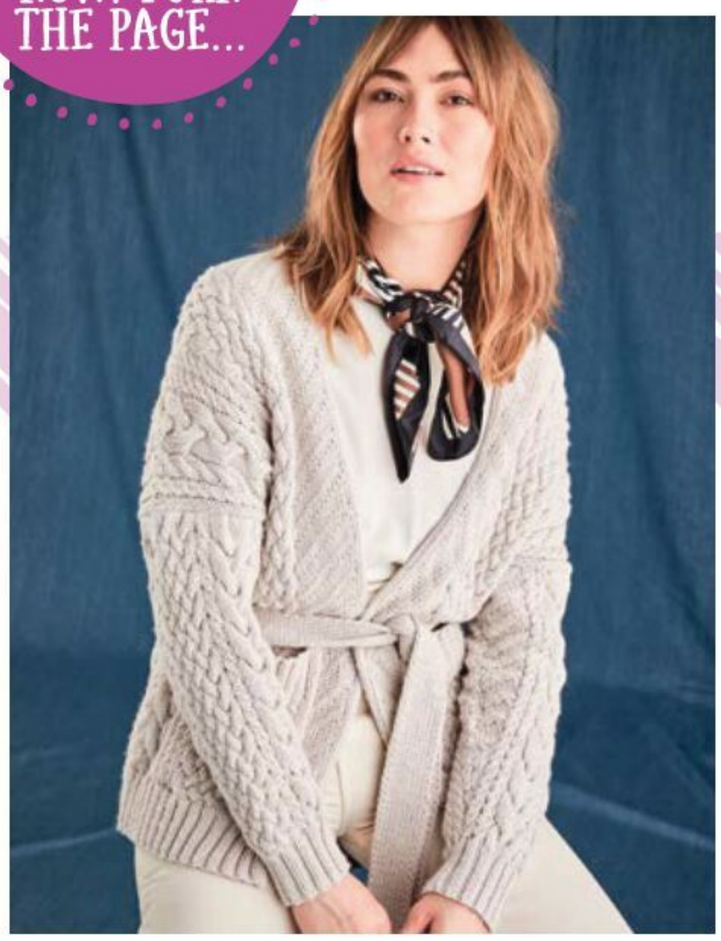
They're a great project to knit or crochet and you can easily add personal touches to make yours unique, like eye-catching buttons or patterned pockets. Unlike your chunky jumper, the cardigan is a year-round staple to layer up in winter or throw on with shorts in summer when the sun has gone down.

So if you're thinking of knitting a cosy garment, we highly recommend the cardigan. What was once the stuffy staple of your grandma's wardrobe has made its way back to the mainstream and it certainly ticks all of our boxes. It's more formal than a jumper, lighter than a coat, as warm as a blanket and it's the ultimate option for chic at-home layering for your 9am Zoom call. And let's face it, there's no greater answer to the question, "ooh I love your cardigan, where did you get it?" than, "oh this? I made it!"

GET OUR LACE POCKET CARDIGAN ON YOUR NEEDLES NOW! TURN THE PAGE...

BRING YOUR DESIGNS TO LIFE

Love the idea of designing your own cardigan? The DesignaKnit9 program from SoftByte is the ultimate design and charting system for knitters. There are 200 stitch symbols to choose from and the Graphic Studio offers a detailed conversion of photos and graphics to stitch patterns, so you can transfer special captured moments onto garments. Order today for home delivery at **softbyte.co.uk**.



Channel Taylor Swift vibes in this classic design; we can't get enough of the cable details and luxurious drape. This brand new pattern from Sirdar is number 10213 and it's knitted in Sirdar Cashmere Merino Silk DK. **sirdar.com**

For the more experienced knitter looking to pay homage to Harry Styles, this bold design from Martin Storey is a real statement piece. Knitted in Rowan Brushed Fleece, it's guaranteed to keep you snug! Search 'Usk' at **knitrowan.com**.

Let's knit together

This garter stitch cardi is the ideal cosy knit to throw on for instant comfort. The lace details and tweed-effect yarn give it a classic country look that we adore. Search 'garter stitch cardigan' at **letsknit.co.uk/together** to discover this pattern and a friendly knitting community!

YOU WILL NEED

YARN
Rico Essentials Soft Merino Aran, shade 014 Dusky Pink, 11 (12, 13, 14, 15, 16) 50g balls

PLUS
4mm and 5mm needles, stitch holders, tapestry needle

SIZE
Dress size (approx): 8 (10, 12, 14, 16, 18)
To fit chest (cm): 82 (86, 92, 97, 102, 107)
Actual chest (cm): 93 (102, 110, 120, 128, 137)
Length to back neck (cm): 74 (75, 76, 77, 78, 79)
Sleeve length: 46cm

TENSION SQUARE
18 sts x 24 rows
10cm x 10cm
Stocking stitch
5mm needles

Challenge yourself

LEARN TO ADD PRETTY DETAILS WITH OUR

Lace pocket cardigan

If you've been inspired by our love of cardigans on the previous page, then why not get your needles out and make one? **SIAN BROWN'S** design is an excellent introduction to lace knitting as it just features on the pockets, while the rest is worked in stocking stitch. It can be knitted in six different sizes, and the classic style means this garment will go with any outfit.

BACK

Using 4mm needles cast on 86 (94, 102, 110, 118, 126) sts

first, fourth & fifth sizes only

Row 1: p2, (k2, p2) to end
Row 2: k2, (p2, k2) to end

second, third & sixth sizes only

Row 1: k2, (p2, k2) to end
Row 2: p2, (k2, p2) to end

all sizes

Last two rows form Rib patt
Work eight rows more in Rib patt
Change to 5mm needles
Starting with a k row work in st st until Back meas 71 (72, 73, 74, 75, 76) cm from cast-on edge, ending after a p row

shape shoulders

Cast off seven sts at beg of next two rows and 7 (8, 9, 10, 11, 12) sts at beg of foll six rows. 30 (32, 34, 36, 38, 40) sts
Cast off

POCKET LINING

Make two
Using 5mm needles cast on 23 (23, 23, 30, 30, 30) sts
Rows 1-40: starting with a k row work in st st
Place sts on holder

LEFT FRONT

Using 4mm needles cast on 39 (41, 45, 47, 51, 53) sts

first, fourth & fifth sizes only

Row 1: (p2, k2) to last 11 sts, p2, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, skpo, k1, p2
Row 2: p2, p2tog tbl, yrn, p3, yrn, p2tog, p2, (p2, k2) to end
Row 3: (p2, k2) to last 11 sts, p2, k1, yfwd, skpo, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k1, p2
Row 4: p4, yrn, p3tog, yrn, p4, (p2, k2) to end

second, third & sixth sizes only

Row 1: k2, (p2, k2) to last 11 sts, p2, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, skpo, k1, p2
Row 2: p2, p2tog tbl, yrn, p3, yrn, p2tog, p4, (k2, p2) to end
Row 3: k2, (p2, k2) to last 11 sts, p2, k1, yfwd, skpo, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k1, p2
Row 4: p4, yrn, p3tog, yrn, p6, (k2, p2) to end

all sizes

Last four rows form Rib and lace patt
Work a further six rows in Rib and lace patt, inc 0 (1, 0, 1, 0, 1) st at centre of rib section on last row. 39 (42, 45, 48, 51, 54) sts

main patt

Change to 5mm needles
Row 1: k28 (31, 34, 37, 40, 43), p2, k1, yfwd, skpo, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k1, p2
Row 2: p4, yrn, p3tog, yrn, p4, p to end
These two rows form Main patt
Work a further four rows in Main patt

pocket section

Row 1: k2 (5, 8, 4, 7, 10), p1, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, skpo, (k2, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, skpo) 2 (2, 2, 3, 3, 3) times, k1, p1, k3, p2, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, skpo, k1, p2
Row 2: p2, p2tog tbl, yrn, p3, yrn, p2tog, p5, k1, (p2tog tbl, yrn, p3, yrn, p2tog) 3 (3, 3, 4, 4, 4) times, k1, p2 (5, 8, 4, 7, 10)
Row 3: k2 (5, 8, 4, 7, 10), p1, k1, yfwd, skpo, k1, k2tog, yfwd, (k2, yfwd, skpo, k1, k2tog, yfwd) 2 (2, 2, 3, 3, 3) times, k1, p1, k3, p2, k1, yfwd, skpo, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k1, p2
Row 4: p4, yrn, p3tog, yrn, p7, k1, p2, yrn, p3tog, yrn, (p4, yrn, p3tog, yrn) 2 (2, 2, 3, 3, 3) times, p2, k1, p2 (5, 8, 4, 7, 10)
These four rows form Pocket Section patt
Work 36 rows more in Pocket Section patt

place pocket

Next row: k2 (5, 8, 4, 7, 10), place next 23 (23, 23, 30, 30, 30) sts on holder, k across 23 (23, 23, 30, 30, 30) sts of Pocket Lining, patt to end
Next row: patt 11, p to end
Cont in Main patt until front meas 71 (72, 73, 74, 75, 76) cm from cast-on edge, ending after a WS row

shape shoulder

Cast off seven sts at beg of next row and 7 (8, 9, 10, 11, 12) sts at beg of three foll RS rows. 11 sts
Cont in patt on these 11 sts until panel fits halfway across back neck
Cast off

RIGHT FRONT

Using 4mm needles cast on 39 (41, 45, 47, 51, 53) sts

first, fourth & fifth sizes only

Row 1: p2, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, skpo, k1, p2, (k2, p2) to end
Row 2: (k2, p2) to last 11 sts, p2, p2tog tbl, yrn, p3, yrn, p2tog, p2
Row 3: p2, k1, yfwd, skpo, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k1, p2, (k2, p2) to end
Row 4: (k2, p2) to last 11 sts, p4, yrn, p3tog, yrn, p4

second, third & sixth sizes only

Row 1: p2, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, skpo, k1, p2, k2, (p2, k2) to end
Row 2: p2, (k2, p2) to last 11 sts, p2, p2tog tbl, yrn, p3, yrn, p2tog, p2
Row 3: p2, k1, yfwd, skpo, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k1, p2, k2, (p2, k2) to end
Row 4: p2, (k2, p2) to last 11 sts, p4, yrn, p3tog, yrn, p4

all sizes

Last four rows form Rib and lace patt
Work six rows more in Rib and lace patt, inc 0 (1, 0, 1, 0, 1) st at centre of rib section. 39 (42, 45, 48, 51, 54) sts

main patt

Change to 5mm needles
Row 1: p2, k1, yfwd, skpo, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k1, p2, k28 (31, 34, 37, 40, 43)
Row 2: p to last 11 sts, p4, yrn, p3tog, yrn, p4
These two rows form Main patt
Work a further four rows in Main patt

pocket section

Row 1: p2, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, skpo, k1, p2, k3, p1, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, skpo, (k2, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, skpo) 2 (2, 2, 3, 3, 3) times, k1, p1, k2 (5, 8, 4, 7, 10)
Row 2: p2 (5, 8, 4, 7, 10), k1, (p2tog tbl, yrn, p3, yrn, p2tog) 3 (3, 3, 4, 4, 4) times, k1, p5, p2tog tbl, yrn, p3, yrn, p2tog, p2
Row 3: p2, k1, yfwd, skpo, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k1, p2, k3, p1, k1, yfwd, skpo, k1, k2tog, yfwd, (k2, yfwd, skpo, k1, k2tog, yfwd) 2 (2, 2, 3, 3, 3) times, k1, p1, k2 (5, 8, 4, 7, 10)
Row 4: p2 (5, 8, 4, 7, 10), k1, p2, yrn, p3tog, yrn, (p4, yrn, p3tog, yrn) 2 (2, 2, 3, 3, 3) times, p2, k1, p7, yrn, p3tog, yrn, p4
These four rows form Pocket section patt
Work 36 rows more in Pocket section patt

place pocket

Next row: patt 14, place next 23 (23, 23, 30, 30, 30) sts on holder, k across 23 (23, 23, 30, 30, 30) sts of Pocket Lining, k2 (5, 8, 4, 7, 10)
Next row: p to last 11 sts, patt 11
Cont in Main patt until front meas 71 (72, 73, 74, 75, 76) cm from cast-on edge, ending after a RS row

shape shoulder

Cast off seven sts at beg of next row and 7 (8, 9, 10, 11, 12) sts at beg of three foll WS rows. 11 sts
Cont in patt on these 11 sts until panel fits halfway across back neck
Cast off

SLEEVES

Using 4mm needles cast on 46 (50, 54, 58, 62, 66) sts
Row 1: k2, (p2, k2) to end
Row 2: p2, (k2, p2) to end
Last two rows form Rib patt
Work eight rows more in Rib patt
Change to 5mm needles
Starting with a k row work four rows in st st
Inc row: k3, m1, k to last three sts, m1, k3
Work seven rows in st st
Rep last eight rows 11 times more and inc row again. 72 (76, 80, 84, 88, 92) sts
Cont without shaping until Sleeve meas 46cm from cast-on edge, ending after a p row

shape sleeve top

Cast off five sts at beg of next 12 rows. 12 (16, 20, 24, 28, 32) sts
Cast off

finish pocket

Rejoin yarn to pocket sts on holder
K three rows
Cast off
Sew edges of Pockets to Fronts

to make up

Join shoulder seams. Join cast-off edges of lace panels. Sew panel to back neck sts. Sew on Sleeves. Join side and sleeve seams. Block to size. Weave in all ends

USE YOUR *Fleur* YARN KIT

PLUS
four 5mm black safety eyes or beads, black cotton thread, stuffing, tapestry needle, stitch holder, pink blusher

SIZE
Height: 13cm

Take the next step

ADD A TOUCH OF CROCHET TO YOUR SKILL SET WHEN MAKING OUR

Flower dolls

Our twin miniature dolls were designed by **SACHIYO ISHII**, they're just the right size for little hands, and their bright, colourful details are bound to be a hit with youngsters too. The really fun part is seeing your dolls coming together as you sew up each section. Then you can think about how to give your toys unique finishing touches – like different hairstyles – to ensure you can tell them apart!

FLOWER DOLLS

body & head

Make two
Using 3mm needles and Daffodil Yellow (Petunia Pink) cast on 12 sts
Row 1 (WS) and every odd-numbered row: p
Row 2: (k1, kfb) to end. 18 sts
Row 4: (k2, kfb) to end. 24 sts
Row 6: (k1, kfb) to end. 36 sts
Row 8: k
Row 9 (edge): k
Rows 10-17: starting with a k row work in st st
Row 18: (k4, k2tog) to end. 30 sts
Rows 19-29: starting with a p row work in st st
Row 30: (k3, k2tog) to end. 24 sts
Row 31 (edge): k
Change to Orchid Green
Rows 32-39: starting with a k row work in st st
Row 40: (k2, k2tog) to end. 18 sts
Row 41: p
Row 42: (k1, k2tog) to end. 12 sts
Change to Blossom Pink
Row 43: p
Row 44: (kfb) to end. 24 sts
Rows 45-57: starting with a p row work in st st
Row 58: (k2, k2tog) to end. 18 sts
Row 59: p
Row 60: (k1, k2tog) to end. 12 sts
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

sleeve

Make four
Using 3mm needles and Orchid Green cast on 18 sts
Rows 1-4: starting with a k (RS) row work in st st
Row 5: k2, (k2tog, k2) to end. 14 sts
Rows 6-10: starting with a p row work in st st
Row 11: k2, (k2tog, k2) to end. 11 sts
Row 12: p
Cast off

hand

Make four
Using 3mm needles and Blossom Pink cast on six sts
Rows 1-6: starting with a p (WS) row work in st st
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

hat

Make two
Using 3mm needles and Orchid Green cast on 12 sts
Row 1 (WS): p
Row 2: (k1, kfb) to end. 18 sts
Row 3: p
Row 4: (k2, kfb) to end. 24 sts
Row 5: p
Row 6: (k3, kfb) to end. 30 sts
Rows 7-9: starting with a p row work in st st
Cast off

strap

Make four (two in each colour)
Using 3mm hook and Daffodil Yellow (Petunia Pink) make 20ch
Fasten off

hat flower

Make two
Using 3mm needles and Petunia Pink (Daffodil Yellow) cast on 24 sts
* **Row 1:** p4, turn
Note: now work on this set of four sts
Rows 2-5: starting with a k row work in st st
Row 6: k1, k2tog, k1. Three sts
Row 7: p1, p2tog. Two sts
Row 8: k2tog. One st
Row 9: pfb. Two sts
Row 10: k1, kfb. Three sts
Row 11: p1, pfb, p1. Four sts
Rows 12-17: starting with a k row work in st st *
Keep these sts on RH needle and move on to next set of four sts, rep from * to * five times
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

hat flower centre

Make two
Using 3mm needles and Daffodil Yellow (Petunia Pink) cast on six sts
Row 1 (WS): p
Row 2: (kfb) to end. 12 sts
Rows 3-5: starting with a p row work in st st
Row 6: (k2tog) to end. Six sts
Fasten off

skirt flower

Make two
Using 3mm hook and Petunia Pink (Daffodil Yellow) (make 4ch, sl st in fourth ch from hook) six times
Fasten off

skirt flower centre

Make two
Using 3mm needles and Daffodil Yellow (Petunia Pink) cast

Love THIS PATTERN?

OUR CROCHETED DOLLS HAVE A MIX AND MATCH WARDROBE! FIND THE TUTORIALS AT **TOPCROCHETPATTERNS.COM**

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

to make up

With fastened-off yarn end of Body, sew Head to neck. With cast-on yarn end, work gathering thread along cast-on edge and draw tightly. Sew base and back seam, leaving an opening. Stuff Head and Body, avoiding neck area. With Blossom Pink, work gathering thread along neck and draw tightly. Close opening. Seam Hat and attach to Head. Seam Hand, wrap with Sleeve and secure. Sew Sleeve seam and attach Sleeve to Body. Rep for other arm. Sew Straps to Body. Sew each side edge of Hat Flower on Hat and work gathering thread along cast-on edge, attach to Hat. Seam and stuff Hat Flower Centre, attach to Hat. With Wheat Brown, create hair with straight sts. Leave long yarn ends at sides of face, plait or leave as pigtails. Stitch ends of Skirt Flower to make circle and attach Flower Centre, sew to skirt. Colour cheeks with pink blusher. Weave in all ends

There's a tiny amount of crochet in this project; turn to page 64 to learn how to chain stitch

USE YOUR Fleur YARN KIT

PLUS
stitch markers, tapestry needle, stuffing, two 6mm black safety eyes

SIZE
Height: 17cm

USE YOUR VARIEGATED YARN TO CREATE A VIBRANT RUG FOR

Sheila alpaca

This cheerful lady has got her sunhat on and she's gearing up for spring! We love a cuddly alpaca and this design by **HEATHER GIBBS** is extra cute with her smiling face and floral decorations. When stuffing your critter, roll small pieces between your fingers before inserting each one. Use your hook to poke stuffing into small parts, ensuring an even look and a huggable toy that won't go out of shape.

Perfect for beginners

SHEILA ALPACA

hat

Using 3mm hook and Daffodil Yellow 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
Rnds 3-4: 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 5: (3ch, miss next st, 8dc) to end. 16 sts, two 3ch sps
Rnds 6: 2dc in each st to end, including in each 3ch sp. 36 sts
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

flower

Make three
Using 3mm hook and Petunia Pink make a magic ring, (3ch, sl st) five times into ring. Five petals
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

leg

Make four
Using 3mm hook and Blossom Pink make a magic ring, work 8dc into ring. Eight sts
Rnds 1-7: 1dc in each st to end
Change to Wheat Brown
Rnds 8-9: 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

body

Using 3mm hook and Wheat Brown 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 5-14: 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 15: (3dc, dc2tog) to end. 24 sts
Note: stuff as you go
Rnd 16: 1dc, MB (see Great Advice), dc2tog, (2dc, dc2tog) to end. 18 sts
Rnd 17: (1dc, dc2tog) to end. 12 sts
Rnd 18: (dc2tog) to end. Six sts
Fasten off

head & neck

Note: working from top down
Using 3mm hook and Wheat Brown make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring. Six sts
Rnds 1-3: rep Rnds 1-3 of Body. 24 sts
Rnds 4-9: 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 10: (2dc, dc2tog) to end. 18 sts
Rnd 11: (1dc, dc2tog) to end. 12 sts
Insert safety eyes between Rnds 6-7, approx four sts apart
Rnds 12-16: 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

snout

Using 3mm hook and Blossom Pink make a magic ring, work 8dc into ring. Eight sts
Rnd 1: 2dc in each st to end. 16 sts
Rnds 2-3: 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

ear

Make two
Using 3mm hook and Wheat Brown make a magic ring, (2ch, 1htr, 3dc, 2ch, 3dc, 2htr) into ring, join with a sl st to first st
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

rug

Using 3mm hook and Meadow Mix make 8ch
Row 1: starting in second ch from hook, 1dc in each st to end. Seven sts
Row 2: 1ch, 2dc in next st, 5dc, 2dc in next st. Nine sts
Rows 3-19: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end
Row 20: 1ch, dc2tog, 5dc, dc2tog. Seven sts
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

to make up

Using Petunia Pink, embroider nose and mouth on Snout. Stuff Snout and attach to Head underneath eyes over Rnds 8-10. Sew Flowers to front of Hat. Stuff Head and Neck, add Ears to top of Head, making sure Hat holes line up with Ears. Use yarn tail to sew up rem six sts of Body. Attach Neck to front of Body with face pointing sideways, over Rnds 3-7. Attach Rug to back of Body. Stuff Legs and attach to underside of Alpaca. Check Alpaca stands up before fixing in place. Weave in all ends

"I usually use the bobble stitch for noses, but here I've used it to make Sheila's little tail!"

HEATHER GIBBS, DESIGNER

GREAT ADVICE

MAKE BOBBLE (MB)
(Yoh, insert hook in indicated st and pull up a loop. Three loops on hook. Yoh and pull through first two loops) four times. Five loops on hook. Yoh and pull through all loops on hook

TOP TIP

MANY SECTIONS ARE WORKED WITHOUT JOINING IN CONTINUOUS ROUNDS – PLACE A STITCH MARKER IN THE TOP OF THE FIRST STITCH TO MARK THE START OF THE ROUND

USE YOUR Fleur YARN KIT

PLUS
two 10mm black safety eyes, small amount of white DK, stuffing, stitch markers, tapestry needle, pink and brown blusher (optional)

SIZE
Height: 18.5cm

Take the next step

CRAFT A BOLD BLOOM TO LIFT YOUR SPIRITS WITH OUR Sunflower

There's nothing like a mood-boosting sunflower to lift the spirits, and our smiley version by **SARAH LOUISE READ** fills us with optimism and pure joy. Once you've made the petals, you'll attach them to the flower centre with double crochets and then work the stalk. So your tapestry needle is only needed to add cheery details at the end. Why not rummage in your stash, find all your yellows and make a full, beaming bouquet?

SUNFLOWER

petal

Make six

Using 3mm hook and Daffodil Yellow 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
Rnds 3-5: 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 6: (4dc, dc2tog) to end.
15 sts
Rnds 7-9: 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 10: (3dc, dc2tog) to end.
12 sts
Rnd 11: 1dc in each st to end, pinch edges tog and dc across to close.
Six sts
Fasten off

centre & stem

Using 3mm hook and Wheat Brown 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
Insert safety eyes between Rnds 3-4, approx five sts apart
Note: stuff as you go
Rnd 6: working in BLO, 1dc in each st to end
Note: now joining Petals
Rnd 7: 1dc through each Petal st and Centre st to end. 36 sts
Rnd 8: 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 9: (4dc, dc2tog) to end.
30 sts
Change to Orchid Green
Rnd 10: (3dc, dc2tog) to end.
24 sts
Rnd 11: (2dc, dc2tog) to end.
18 sts
Rnd 12: (1dc, dc2tog) to end.
12 sts
Rnds 13-46: 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 47: (dc2tog) to end. Six sts
Cut yarn, leaving a long tail

face trim

Using 3mm hook and Wheat Brown attach yarn to FLO of Rnd 6 of Centre
Rnd 1: (3ch, sl st to next st) to end
Fasten off

to make up

Sew up rem six sts of Stem.
Embroider a smile and lines under eyes with white DK and a tapestry needle. Add pink blusher to cheeks and brown blush inside flower.
Weave in all ends

TOP TIP
LEAVE SMALL TAILS WHEN MAKING YOUR PETALS TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR YELLOW YARN

Love THIS PATTERN?

FIND MORE HAPPY FLOWERS AT
TOPCROCHETPATTERNS.COM

Let's knit together

EXCLUSIVE PATTERN!

Follow Sachiyo Ishii's charts to make these glorious Fair Isle eggs. They're the ideal project if you fancy trying knitted colourwork, but want to start with something small. Decorating the home in spring is our favourite way to apply a pop of gorgeous colour indoors when everything is blooming outside, so whip up these stunning eggs and you'll bring them out year after year to celebrate Easter. Sign up to **letsknit.co.uk/together** for this exclusive pattern!

USE YOUR Fleur YARN KIT

PLUS
3.5mm hook, grey and orange yarns, stitch markers, tapestry needle, stuffing, six 6mm black safety eyes

SIZE
Large Chick height: 8cm
Small Chick height: 6cm

Perfect for beginners

SAY 'HAPPY EASTER' WITH OUR TREMENDOUS

Chick family

Nothing says Easter like a clutch of chirping chicks. This cute trio by **HEATHER GIBBS** makes a fantastic gift and it's a nice-sized project if you're just getting into amigurumi. Make sure you stuff your chicks well to make them look suitably plump. You might find it useful to pin the beaks, legs and wings in place before attaching them to the bodies for precise positioning and maximum cuteness!

LARGE CHICK

body

Make two

Using 3.5mm hook and Daffodil Yellow 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
Rnds 4-7: 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 8: (2dc, dc2tog) to end. 18 sts
Insert safety eyes between Rnds 5-6, approx four sts apart
Rnd 9: (2dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 24 sts
Rnd 10: (3dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 30 sts
Rnds 11-15: 1dc in each st to end
Note: stuff as you go
Rnd 16: (3dc, dc2tog) to end. 24 sts
Rnd 17: (2dc, dc2tog) to end. 18 sts
Rnd 18: (1dc, dc2tog) to end. 12 sts
Rnd 19: (dc2tog) to end. Six sts
Fasten off

SMALL CHICK

body

Using 3.5mm hook and Grey 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
Rnds 3-6: 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 7: (1dc, dc2tog) to end. 12 sts
Insert safety eyes between Rnds 4-5, approx three sts apart
Rnd 8: (1dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 18 sts
Rnd 9: (2dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 24 sts
Rnds 10-13: 1dc in each st to end
Note: stuff as you go
Rnd 14: (2dc, dc2tog) to end. 18 sts
Rnd 15: (1dc, dc2tog) to end. 12 sts
Rnd 16: (dc2tog) to end. Six sts
Fasten off

ALL CHICKS

wing

Make six (four in Daffodil Yellow and two in Grey)
Using 3.5mm hook and chosen yarn make a magic ring, work 5dc into ring.
Five sts
Rnd 1: 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 2: 2dc in each st to end. Ten sts
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

beak

Make three

Using 3.5mm hook and Orange make a magic ring, work 3dc into ring.
Three sts
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

leg

Make six

Using 3.5mm hook and Orange make 8ch
Row 1: sl st in fourth ch from hook, (3ch, sl st in fourth ch from hook) twice
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

to make up

Use yarn tail to sew rem six sts of Body closed. Oversew sides of Wings tog and attach on either side of Body on Rnd 11 for Large Chick and Rnd 9 for Small Chick. Attach Beak between eyes on three sts only so tip of Beak points upwards. Sew Legs to bottom of Body. Weave in all ends

Run out of yarn?

TRY DERAMORES STUDIO DK, £1.95 PER 100G (250M) BALL, **DERAMORES.COM**

TOP TIP

PLACE A STITCH MARKER IN THE TOP OF THE FIRST STITCH TO MARK THE START OF EACH ROUND

70 FREE EASTER CROCHET PATTERNS

Oh yes! You can get your Easter fix at ***topcrochetpatterns.com***

Lucky the lamb awaits your company... and if you're wondering how the cream sections look so much like lambswool, we'll let you in on a little secret – it's puff stitch! Why not give it a go this season?

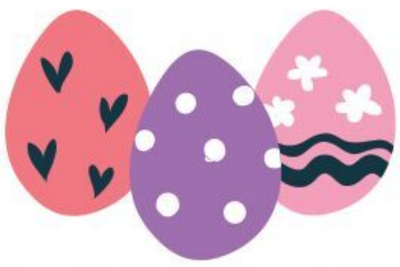
Grab your mini me and embrace the festivities with these bunny headbands. We've crocheted the covers in fluffy yarn, but if you don't have any, simply adhere the completed ears and blooms to an unmodified headband.

With regular colour changes and a mix of stitches, these Easter eggs are pure escapism. Focus on the task at hand and revel in the end result. You could hang them from their loops on an Easter tree or omit the loops and set up an egg hunt instead.

Warning! This pattern is far too cute. Betty the bunny doll and her collection of daffodils are a joy to behold, and the pattern's pleasingly simple too. We're certain lots of little ones would love to be her friend this Easter.

Is it even Easter without some handmade egg cosies? Nope! We love the simple striping on these designs, which also come with a matching mug hug. Coordinate the colours to your home and enjoy a family breakfast in style.

Try corner-to-corner crochet and make a pixel Easter egg motif. This clever square is worked in diagonal rows of blocks, starting at the bottom-right corner. Use our chart to help with the colour changes, then apply the technique to placemats, cushion covers or blankets.



A miniature bunny to sit in the palm of your hand... we thought you'd like it! Don't forget to keep your tension tight as it ensures your amigurumi toys have that signature neat look. A fluffy white pom-pom makes for the ultimate flourish.

Cute springs to mind! Little Dylan looks utterly wonderful in our Easter bunny bonnet and the pattern is really simple to follow. It's initially worked in the round and mainly in trebles, so once you get going you'll have this whipped up quicker than you can say "chocolate egg".

These bobtail besties are top of our to-make list. Featuring classic amigurumi stitches and techniques, they're made in exactly the same way. So once you've created one, the other will quickly follow.

Prepare the family for an egg hunt with Lynne Rowe's exclusive patterns. Ideal for little hands, these pom-pom trimmed baskets will enhance the festivities and can be used as storage for the rest of the year – win win!

USE YOUR *Fleur* YARN KIT

PLUS
tapestry needle

SIZE
Length: 40cm

Perfect for beginners

LEARN BASIC INCREASING AND DECREASING WITH OUR

Mini scarves

What better way to add a pop of colour to your hair or favourite handbag than with a mini knitted scarf? **NICOLA VALIJI'S** project is for you if you're a newbie knitter and once you've got the basic pattern you can make these fab accessories in all colours from your stash! Why not add buttons, sequins or even a bit of embroidery to personalise your creation?

MINI SCARF

Make two

Using 3mm needles and Petunia Pink (Meadow Mix) cast on six sts

Rows 1-3 (RS): k

Row 4: k2, p2, k2

Row 5: k3, yfwd, k3. Seven sts

Row 6: k2, p3, k2

Row 7: k3, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k3. Nine sts

Row 8 and every even-numbered row: k2, p to last two sts, k2

Row 9: k4, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k4. 11 sts

Row 11: k5, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k5. 13 sts

Row 13: k6, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k6. 15 sts

Row 15: k7, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k7. 17 sts

Row 17: k6, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k2tog, k6. 17 sts

Row 18: k2, p to last two sts, k2

Rows 19-26: rep Rows 17-18 four times

Row 27: k2, k2tog, k2, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k2. 15 sts

Row 28 and every even-numbered row: k2, p to last two sts, k2

Row 29: k2, k2tog, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k2. 13 sts

Row 31: k2, (k2tog) twice, yfwd, k1, yfwd, (k2tog) twice, k2. 11 sts

Row 33: k3, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k2tog, k3

Row 34: k2, p to last two sts, k2

Rows 35-36: rep Rows 33-34

Row 37: k1, (k2tog) twice, yfwd, k1, yfwd, (k2tog) twice, k1. Nine sts

Row 38: k2, p to last two sts, k2

Row 39: k2, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k2tog, k2

Row 40: k2, p to last two sts, k2

Rows 41-72: rep Rows 39-40 16 times

Row 73: k4, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k4. 11 sts

Row 74: k2, p to last two sts, k2

Row 75: k3, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k2tog, k3. 11 sts

Row 76: k2, p to last two sts, k2

Rows 77-78: rep Rows 75-76

Row 79: k5, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k5. 13 sts

Row 80 and every even-numbered row: k2, p to last two sts, k2

Row 81: k6, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k6. 15 sts

Row 83: k7, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k7. 17 sts

Row 85: k6, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k2tog, k6. 17 sts

Row 86: k2, p to last two sts, k2

Rows 87-94: rep Rows 85-86 four times

Row 95: k2, k2tog, k2, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k2. 15 sts

Row 96 and every even-numbered row: k2, p to last two sts, k2

Row 97: k2, k2tog, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k2. 13 sts

Row 99: k2, (k2tog) twice,

"You won't use any Daffodil Yellow, Orchid Green or Wheat Brown in this project, so why not have a go at making our sunflower on page 36?"

HEIDI WILKINS, DEPUTY EDITOR

yfwd, k1, yfwd, (k2tog) twice, k2. 11 sts

Row 101: k1, (k2tog) twice, yfwd, k1, yfwd, (k2tog) twice, k1. Nine sts

Row 103: (k2tog) twice, yfwd, k1, yfwd, (k2tog) twice. Seven sts

Row 105: k2tog, k3, k2tog. Six sts

Rows 106-108: k

Cast off

to make up

Gently press with medium heat iron. Use Blossom Pink to embroider spots on Petunia Pink scarf. Weave in all ends

TOP TIP

GENTLY PRESS THE SCARF WITH A MEDIUM HEAT IRON SO IT LIES FLAT AND DOESN'T CURL

THE FORCE IS STRONG WITH THIS ONE

Because who doesn't want to cuddle up with the Death Star while dressed as Darth Vader?

"I'M JEALOUS THAT MY KNITTING NEEDLES DON'T LIGHT UP OR MAKE COOL WHOOSHING SOUNDS LIKE A LIGHTSABER!"

An Ewok hood: the cutest make this side of Endor

Tanis Gray chats to us about creating the Star Wars universe in yarn

WORDS BY HEIDI WILKINS

If, as a young child, you sat in awe watching Luke Skywalker battle the evil Sith Lord and (spoiler alert!) his father Darth Vader, then you have something in common with Tanis Gray. The queen of cult knitting is a huge fan of the films, especially the original trilogy. "*The Empire Strikes Back* has always been my favourite," she tells us. "I still get goosebumps when the music starts, and the opening credits begin to scroll." Her passion for the films has meant that creating a book filled with *Star Wars* projects has always been on her "nerdy fandom" wish list. Following the success of her previous title, *Harry Potter Knitting Magic*, she knew she wanted to do this one next. "I've always loved the films and try to work on books that I, as a knitter, would want on my shelf." This is the book we've been looking for.

A LONG TIME AGO IN AN EDITOR'S OFFICE...

The book took around 18 months to complete. "It started by having the initial conversation about what characters and locations we would like to see represented," Tanis explains. "Then we got more specific with project ideas and costume replicas that are must-haves." These conversations are always interesting, Tanis quips, because her editor is not a knitter. "Sometimes we have totally different thoughts because I'm thinking more about construction and fibre, and choosing the perfect yarns and colours." After the initial ideas are firmed up, there's plenty of time-consuming work that follows. "Getting approval from Lucasfilm, negotiating with designers, knitting time, research, writing time, photoshoots, tech editing, layout, marketing..." she lists. This is the side of knitting that we rarely see. "Books are massive projects with a lot of talented people involved. It's trite to say, but it truly takes a village to make a book."

CREATING AN INCLUSIVE SPACE

When putting ideas together, it was important to Tanis that this book be approachable. "I like all skill levels to be incorporated," she says. "From beginner knitters finding projects to start with and build their skills on, to projects for the advanced knitter and everything in between." Tanis also wanted all garment patterns offered in a wide range of sizes and insisted on models that look like everyone. "Knitting is for ALL," she emphasises. "And I want every single knitter who opens up this book to find something they can relate to."

The book features over 25 patterns, but which are Tanis' favourites? In short, she can't just pick one because they're all so cherished. "There's an amazing sparkly and massive Death Star plush that was very hard to pack up and send to the publisher!" she exclaims. She also loves the costume replicas, particularly Princess Leia's Hoth snow vest. "Also top of my list are the adorable Yoda mittens and an Ewok hood that I want to make for myself, a stunning lace Starbird Alliance shawl, the Darth Vader pullover, and R2-D2 mittens!" We cannot wait to start making!

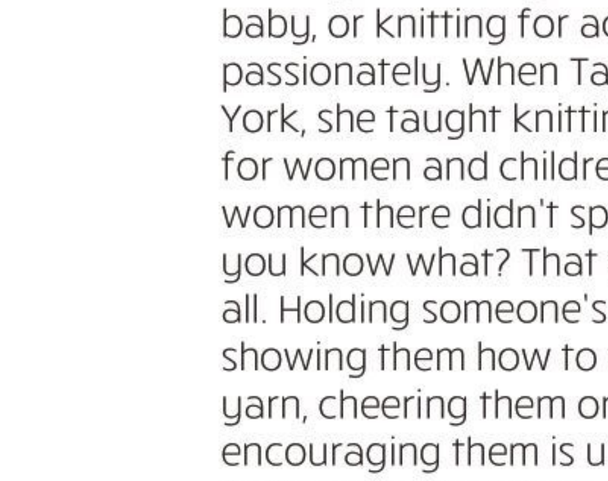
Cheeky droid BB-8 also makes an appearance. "My son went through a very serious BB-8 phase, so the baby blanket in the book was designed as an ode to him," says Tanis, who loves the pairing of such an expressive little droid with Rey, her favourite human character. "I love how real and relatable she is and how she's just trying to find her place in the universe, like we all are,"

Mittens for a feisty little one

she notes. "She's so complex and a total badass. I love seeing a strong female character." Indeed, we all have a little Rey in us, don't we?

FEEL THE FORCE FLOWING THROUGH YOU

Tanis regularly draws similarities between knitters and Jedi knights. "I'm a bit jealous that my knitting needles don't light up or make cool whooshing sounds like a lightsaber," she laughs, reminding us that like a Jedi using the force, we too can use our crafty powers for good or evil. "We can help by giving gifts, teaching someone how to knit, knitting for charity, knitting for a new baby, or knitting for activism," she says passionately. When Tanis lived in New York, she taught knitting at a shelter for women and children. "Most of the women there didn't speak English, and you know what? That didn't matter at all. Holding someone's hands and showing them how to work needles and yarn, cheering them on and encouraging them is universal." It's what Tanis loves about our craft. "No matter what language you speak, where you are on the globe, what you look like, or who you are, knitting is for everyone and we can use it to change the world."



Star Wars: Knitting The Galaxy by Tanis Gray (£22.99, Pavilion) is available to buy now! **pavilionbooks.com**

Knit all the creatures from the *Star Wars* universe

Princess Leia's Hoth vest is one of Tanis' favourite patterns

YOU WILL NEED

YARN
Berroco Comfort: (A) 9731 Kidz Orange, (B) 9734 Liquorice, four 100g balls of each; (C) 9701 Ivory, three 100g balls; (D) 9770 Ash Grey, one 100g ball

PLUS
5mm needles, tapestry needle

SIZE
87cm x 118cm

TENSION SQUARE
16 sts x 37 rows
10cm x 10cm
Garter stitch
5mm needles

Perfect for beginners

WE'VE GOT A GOOD FEELING ABOUT THIS! WHIP UP A

BB-8 baby blanket

Our favourite little droid from the *Star Wars* universe has been created in cosy blanket form by **TANIS GRAY**. This brilliantly mindful project is ideal for padawan knitters because you'll just use knit stitch to make long vertical strips. Each one is then stitched together, creating a pixelated version of this cheeky droid. Create a smaller or larger version by changing your needle size and yarn weight up or down – may the force be with you!

BB-8 BABY BLANKET

strip one

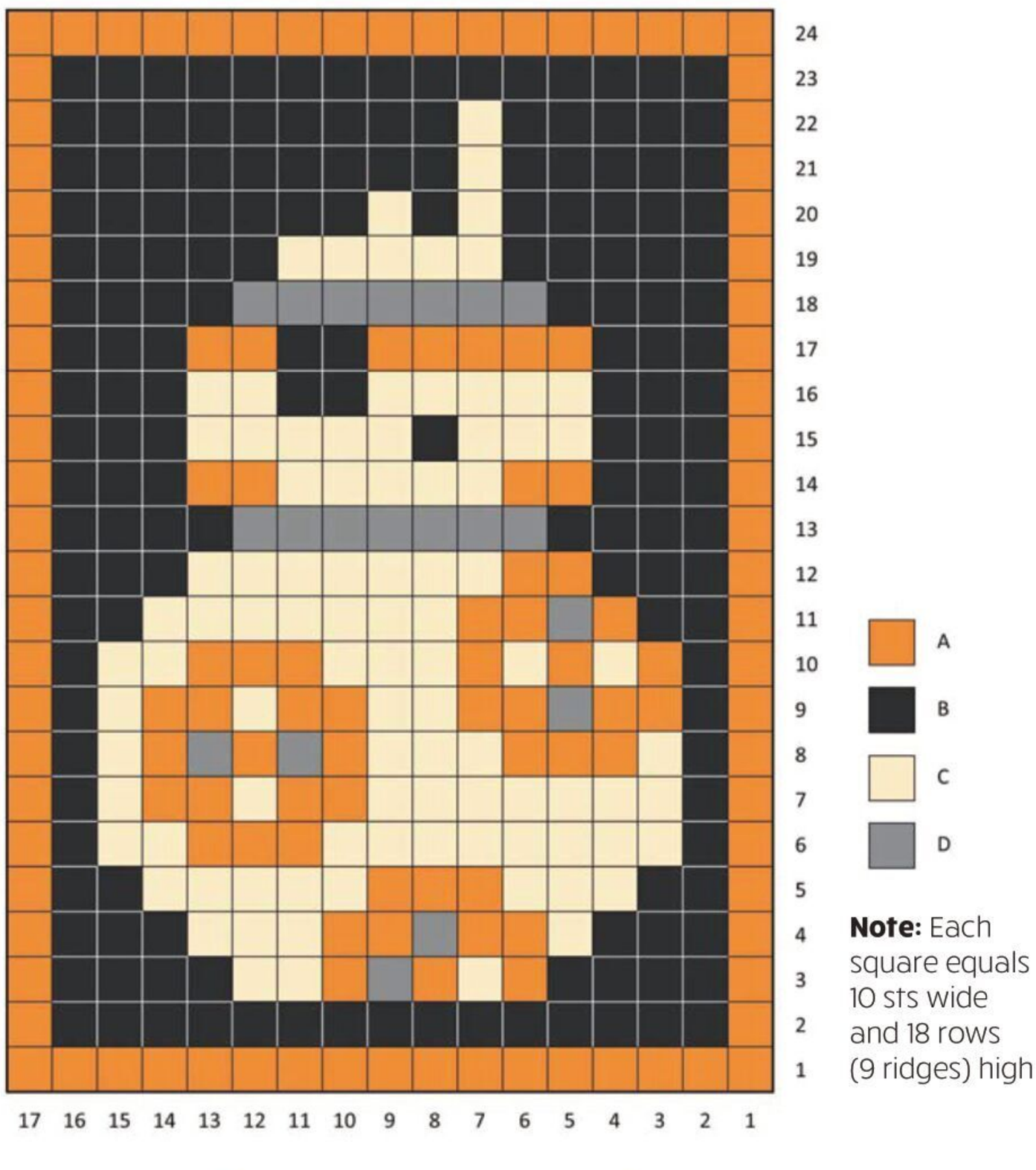
Using 5mm needles and Yarn
A cast on ten sts
Follow column 1 from block 1, work through each block to 24 at top of chart
Rows 1-432: k
Cast off pwise

strips 2-17

Note: label each strip when finished to make assembly much easier
Using 5mm needles and Yarn
A cast on ten sts
Change yarn colour as specified on chart from block 1 to 24
Rows 1-432: k
Cast off pwise

to make up

Sew strips tog in order as shown in chart using mattress st. Block to measurements. Weave in all ends



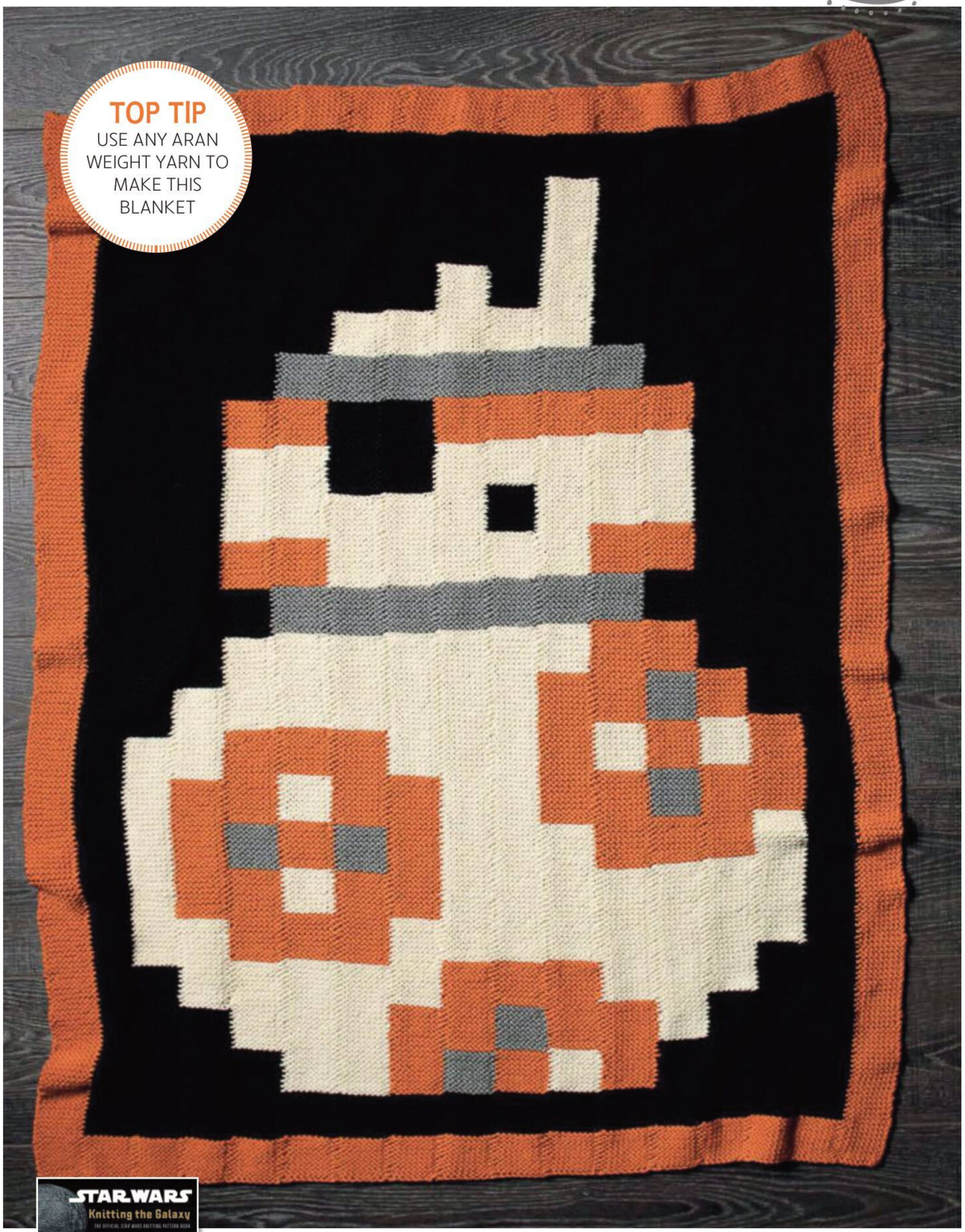
Note: Each square equals 10 sts wide and 18 rows (9 ridges) high

GREAT ADVICE

This blanket is worked in 17 separate garter-stitch strips, each from the bottom up. Every square on the chart represents 18 rows of garter stitch, or nine ridges. Cut the yarn every time you change colour and do not carry it up the sides. Each knitted strip should measure approximately 5cm wide after seaming, so be sure to check your tension throughout

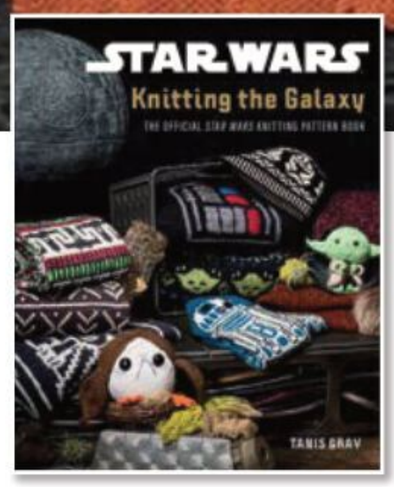
"I named him BB-8 because it was almost onomatopoeia. It was sort of how he looked to me, with the 8, obviously, and then the two Bs"

J.J. ABRAMS, DIRECTOR OF *STAR WARS: EPISODE VII THE FORCE AWAKENS*



TOP TIP

USE ANY ARAN WEIGHT YARN TO MAKE THIS BLANKET



This pattern has been adapted from *Star Wars: Knitting The Galaxy* by Tanis Gray. Reprinted by permission of Pavilion Books. © & TM 2021 Lucasfilm Ltd. Photography by Tyler Chartier. £22.99, **pavilionbooks.com**

BEHIND THE SCENES:

BB-8 stands at about 66cm tall and has tiny lights on his frame that on-set technicians could blink faster or slower depending on what emotion they wanted to convey.

USE YOUR *Fleur* YARN KIT

PLUS stuffing, tapestry needle

SIZE
Bucket height (excl handle): 6cm
Mop height: 15cm
Sponge length: 5cm
Bottle height: 6cm

Perfect for beginners

THINK YOU'RE THE NEXT MRS HINCH? THEN YOU'LL LOVE OUR MINI

Cleaning set

Ah, life in miniature, does it get any cuter? If you love nothing more than a spot of housework and you appreciate the tiny things in life, we think **SARAH-JANE HICKS'** cleaning supplies are the project for you! These mini makes are a wonderful stashbuster, great for improving intricate making up skills and – better still – turn the page to see what you can pair them with...

BUCKET

Using 3mm hook and Orchid Green make 2ch
Rnd 1: 6dc in second ch from hook. Six sts
Rnd 2: 2dc in each st to end. 12 sts
Rnd 3: (1dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 18 sts
Rnd 4: (2dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 24 sts
Rnd 5: (3dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 30 sts
Rnd 6: working in BLO, 1dc in each st to end
Rnds 7-9: 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 10: (9dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 33 sts
Rnds 11-14: 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 15: (10dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 36 sts
Rnd 16: 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 17: working in FLO, 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off

water

Using 3mm hook and Meadow Mix make 2ch
Rnd 1: 6dc in second ch from hook. Six sts
Rnd 2: 2dc in each st to end. 12 sts
Rnd 3: (1dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 18 sts
Rnd 4: (2dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 24 sts
Rnd 5: (3dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 30 sts
Rnd 6: (4dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 36 sts
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

handle

Using 3mm hook and Petunia Pink, join with a sl st to top of Bucket, make 24ch, join with a sl st to other side of Bucket, turn. 24 sts
Row 1: 1dc in each st to end, sl st in same st as first sl st
Fasten off

MOP

handle

Using 3mm hook and Wheat Brown make 2ch
Rnd 1: 6dc in second ch from hook. Six sts
Rnds 2-24: 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off

head

Using 3mm hook and Meadow Mix, join with a sl st to any st around bottom of Handle, (11ch, 1dc in second ch from hook, 9dc, sl st in same st, 11ch, 1dc in second ch from hook, 9dc, sl st in next st) six times. 12 strands
Fasten off

SPONGE

base

Using 3mm hook and Daffodil Yellow make 7ch
Rnd 1: 2dc in second ch from hook, 4dc, 3dc in next ch, work along other side of ch as folls: 1dc in next ch, 3dc, 1dc in same ch as first. 14 sts
Rnd 2: (2dc in next st) twice, 4dc, (2dc in next st) three times, 4dc, 2dc in next st. 20 sts
Rnd 3: (1dc, 2dc in next st) twice, 1dc, two sl sts, 1dc, (1dc, 2dc in next st) three times, 1dc, two sl sts, 2dc, 2dc in next st. 26 sts
Rnd 4: working in BLO, 1dc in each st to end
Rnds 5-6: 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off

top

Using 3mm hook and Daffodil Yellow make 7ch
Rnds 1-2: rep Rnds 1-2 of Base. 20 sts
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

SMALL BOTTLE

Using 3mm hook and Blossom Pink make 5ch
Rnd 1: 2dc in second ch from hook, 2dc, 3dc in next ch, work along other side of ch as folls: 1dc in next ch, 1dc, 1dc in same ch as first. Ten sts
Rnd 2: (2dc in next st) twice, 2dc, (2dc in next st) three times, 2dc, 2dc in next st. 16 sts
Rnd 3: working in BLO, 1dc in each st to end
Rnds 4-10: 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 11: ([dc2tog] three times, 2dc) to end. Ten sts
Note: stuff as you go
Rnd 12: (dc2tog) to end. Five sts
Change to Petunia Pink
Rnds 13-14: 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off

LARGE BOTTLE

Using 3mm hook and Petunia Pink make 5ch
Rnds 1-3: rep Rnds 1-3 of Small Bottle. 16 sts
Rnds 4-8: 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 9: (dc2tog) three times, 1dc in each st to end. 13 sts
Rnd 10: (dc2tog) twice, 1dc in each st to end. 11 sts
Note: stuff as you go
Rnd 11: (dc2tog) five times, 1dc. Six sts
Change to Daffodil Yellow
Rnds 12-13: 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off

handle

Using 3mm hook and Petunia Pink, join with a sl st to side of Large Bottle between Rnds 8-9, 6ch, join with a sl st to side of Bottle, just under lid
Fasten off

label

Make two
Using 3mm hook and Petunia Pink (Daffodil Yellow) make 3ch
Rnd 1: 2dc in

TOP TIP

STARTING WITH 2CH THEN WORKING INTO THE SECOND CHAIN FROM THE HOOK IS A NEAT ALTERNATIVE TO A MAGIC RING

CONTINUE CROCHETING

second ch from hook, 3dc in next ch, 1dc in same ch as first. Six sts

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

Fasten off, leaving a long tail

to make up

Stuff Bucket and sew Water to unworked back loops of Bucket between Rnds 16-17 and through back loops of Water. Gather top of Mop Head tog, secure with a few sts. Sew Sponge Top to Base through both loops of Base and back loops of Top, stuff before closing. Sew Petunia Pink Label to Small Bottle. Using Daffodil Yellow, embroider lightning bolt. Sew Daffodil Yellow label to Large Bottle using Orchid Green. Embroider W or motif of your choice. Weave in all ends

Love THIS PATTERN?

FIND MORE ADORABLE MINI MAKES AT **TOPCROCHETPATTERNS.COM** – search 'doll's house furniture'

These cleaning supplies were made for Tucker mouse! Find out how to knit him on page 13

Make it MODIFIED

Hats off to creativity! We hear from readers who've adapted our patterns

I think the best thing I've adapted is a set of dolls I made for my nieces and nephews for Christmas. I used the Peaches doll pattern from issue 93 as a base, then I've been adapting the clothes to make them into various characters. You will see one of the dolls is a bit of a blend between Peaches and the knitted backpacking doll from issue 122 – I'm much more comfortable with crochet than knitting so I amended it. I did knit her boots though. I'm gradually trying to improve my knitting skills!

Laura Cole, London

I made this doll for my best friend Mel. I've missed her so much in lockdown. We've been friends for 25 years and I even delivered one of her children when I was a midwife. Mel mentioned how she loved handmade dolls when I started creating Faith from issue 121 for my neighbour's little girl. So I changed the pattern up slightly and made her a Christmas elf. Mel is a key worker in safeguarding and has had a very challenging year but is always there for her clients and friends. She really is the best!

Kathy Walters, Kent

I've been crocheting for just over a year, originally being inspired by all the cute amigurumi I saw in Let's Get Crafting! Since I subscribed, I've made all kinds of things. Seeing your festival bag pattern inspired me to turn it into a wall hanging to send to my friend who is currently living abroad in Sweden. I thought it would be a lovely happy reminder of home and the colour combination of the wools was so pretty that I couldn't help myself!

Roshni Mistry, Leicestershire

I've been following the Knitting vs Crochet series in your magazine. In issue 121, the knitted doll named Hope and the crocheted doll named Faith took my fancy. I just couldn't make up my mind which to do, so I put the two together! The body is crochet and the clothes are knitted. I then thought she would look sweet with some flowers, so I crocheted them. I love how it's come together.

Deborah Owens, Thornton-Cleveleys

HAVE YOU SWITCHED UP ANY OF OUR PATTERNS? SHARE THEM WITH US ON FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM!

USE YOUR *Fleur* YARN KIT

PLUS
two 6mm black safety eyes or beads, black cotton thread, stuffing, tapestry needle, sewing needle

SIZE
Height (sitting): 12cm

Take the next step

THIS PATTERN WILL PUT A SMILE ON YOUR FACE, IT'S

Moonbeam the unicorn

This is the ultimate feelgood project because, let's be honest, who doesn't love a unicorn? This colourful creation by **SACHIYO ISHII** is such a straightforward pattern, you'll have Moonbeam made in no time. We always recommend embroidering the eyes if you're giving your finished toy to a young child, and make sure all appendages are sewn on securely. Don't forget to share your fantastic makes with us at **facebook.com/knitandcrochet**.

MOONBEAM THE UNICORN

head

Using 3mm needles and Petunia Pink cast on 12 sts
Row 1 (WS): p
Row 2: (k1, kfb) to end. 18 sts
Row 3: p
Row 4: (k2, kfb) to end. 24 sts
Row 5: p
Row 6: (k1, kfb) to end. 36 sts
Rows 7-11: starting with a p row work in st st
Change to Blossom Pink
Rows 12-13: starting with a k row work in st st
Row 14: (k4, k2tog) to end. 30 sts
Rows 15-19: starting with a p row work in st st
Row 20: (k3, k2tog) to end. 24 sts
Rows 21-27: starting with a p row work in st st
Row 28: (k4, k2tog) to end. 20 sts
Row 29: p
Row 30: (k2tog) to end. Ten sts
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

body

Using 3mm needles and Petunia Pink cast on 12 sts
Rows 1-25: rep Rows 1-25 of Head. 24 sts
Row 25: (k2, k2tog) to end. 18 sts
Cast off

front leg

Make two
Using 3mm needles and Petunia Pink cast on six sts
Row 1 (WS): p
Row 2: (kfb) to end. 12 sts
Row 3: p
Row 4: k
Row 5 (edge): k
Rows 6-9: starting with a k row work in st st
Row 10 (ankle): k4, (k2tog) twice, k4. Ten sts
Change to Blossom Pink
Rows 11-19: starting with a p row work in st st
Cast off

back leg

Make two
Using 3mm needles and Petunia Pink cast on seven sts
Row 1 (WS): p
Row 2: (kfb) to end. 14 sts
Row 3: p
Row 4: k
Row 5 (edge): k
Rows 6-9: starting with a k row work in st st
Row 10 (ankle): k5, (k2tog) twice, k5. 12 sts
Change to Blossom Pink
Rows 11-19: starting with a p row work in st st
Cast off

ear

Make two
Using 3mm needles and Blossom Pink cast on 12 sts
Note: colour in brackets foll instruction indicates which yarn to use
Row 1 (WS): p7 (Blossom Pink), p5 (Petunia Pink)
Note: keep colours correct and cross yarn at colour change to avoid any holes
Rows 2-5: starting with a k row work in st st
Row 6: (k2tog, k1) to end. Eight sts
Row 7: p
Row 8: k2tog, (k1, k2tog) to end. Five sts
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, with Blossom Pink, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

nostril

Make two
Using 3mm needles and Blossom Pink cast on eight sts
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

horn

Using 3mm needles and Daffodil Yellow cast on ten sts
Rows 1-3: starting with a p (WS) row work in st st
Row 4: k2, (k2tog, k2) to end. Eight sts
Row 5: p
Row 6: (k2, k2tog) to end. Six sts
Row 7: p
Row 8: (k1, k2tog) to end. Four sts
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry

Run out of yarn?

TRY MARRINER DK, £1.20 PER 100G (300M) BALL, **MARRINERYARNS.COM**

needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

front hair

Using 3mm hook and Meadow Mix (make 14ch, insert hook in first ch, yoh, pull yarn through both loops) three times Fasten off

wing

Make two

Using 3mm needles and Orchid Green cast on 15 sts

Row 1 (WS): p6, turn

Note: work on this set of six sts

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

Row 14: k2tog, k2, k2tog. Four sts

Row 15: p

Row 16: k2tog. Two sts

Row 17: p2tog. One st

Row 18: kfb. Two sts

Row 19: p

Row 20: (kfb) twice. Four sts

Row 21: p

Row 22: kfb, k2, kfb. Six sts

Rows 23-35: starting with a p row work in st st

Note: move on to next set of sts

Row 1: p5, turn

Note: work on this set of five sts

Rows 2-11: starting with a k row work in st st

Row 12: k2tog, k1, k2tog. Three sts

Row 13: p

Row 14: k1, k2tog. Two sts

Row 15: p

Row 16: k2tog. One st

Row 17: pfb. Two sts

Row 18: k1, kfb. Three sts

Row 19: p

Row 20: kfb, k1, kfb. Five sts

Rows 21-29: starting with a p row work in st st

Note: move on to next set of sts

Row 1: p4, turn

Note: work on this set of four sts

Rows 2-9: starting with a k row work in st st

Row 10: (k2tog) twice. Two sts

Row 11: p

Row 12: k2tog. One st

Row 13: pfb. Two sts

Row 14: k1, kfb. Three sts

Row 15: p

Row 16: k1, kfb, k1. Four sts

Rows 17-23: starting with a p row work in st st

Cast off across row to connect all sections

to make up

With cast-on yarn end of Body, work gathering thread along cast-on edge and draw tightly. Sew seam up to neck edge and stuff Body. With fastened-off yarn end of Head, sew seam halfway. With cast-on yarn end, work gathering thread along cast-on edge and draw tightly. Sew up a little further, stuff, and close seam. Seam and attach Ears. Attach eyes and Nostrils. With black yarn, embroider eyelashes and mouth. Attach Front Hair. Seam and stuff Horn, attach to Head. With cast-on yarn end of Leg, work gathering thread along cast-on edge and draw tightly. Sew base of foot, Leg seam and stuff. With Petunia Pink, pierce foot from centre sole, take needle out from ankle and rep. Pull yarn to flatten sole and shape foot. Rep for all Legs. Attach Legs to Body. Attach Head to Body. Fold Wing in half and sew all edges tog. Connect each Wing section at side edges. Attach Wings to Body. Make tail by cutting Petunia Pink to 40cm and tie ends. Fold into two so you have four strands lying parallel. Hold both ends and twist yarn tightly until it folds up on itself, insert one end through other to secure. Tie end with another piece of yarn. Cut loop of tied end and trim. Sew tail to Body. Weave in all ends

TOP TIP

SEW YOUR SEAMS WITH THE RIGHT SIDE FACING OUT USING MATTRESS STITCH

USE YOUR *Fleur* YARN KIT

PLUS
tapestry needle, two small decorative buttons, embroidery needle, embroidery thread

SIZE
Height: 7cm

Take the next step

PRESENT JEWELLERY OR TRUFFLES IN OUR TEENY TINY

Gift bags

Wouldn't it be wonderfully thoughtful to present small presents in one of these drawstring pouches by **DAWN FINNEY**? Or even just a sentimental note! If you'd rather fit slightly bigger gifts inside, you can easily scale this quick-knit pattern up by using larger needles. Gifting has definitely gone up a gear in the last year, so we've also saved you a job with our shopping guide below.

ROSE BAG

Using 3mm needles and Blossom Pink cast on 26 sts, leaving a long tail
Rows 1-22: starting with a k row work in st st
Row 23: k2, (yfwd, k2tog, k1) to end
Rows 24-28: starting with a p row work in st st
Cast off, leaving a long tail

BUTTON BAG

Using 3mm needles and Wheat Brown cast on 26 sts, leaving a long tail
Rows 1-20: starting with a k row work in st st
Change to Blossom Pink, leaving a long tail of Wheat Brown

rose

Using 3mm needles and Petunia Pink cast on 21 sts, leaving a long tail
Rows 1-3: k
One by one pass each rem st over first st to effectively cast off, leaving a long tail

INTARSIA BAG

Using 3mm needles and Orchid Green cast on 26 sts, leaving a long tail
Rows 1-6: starting with a k row work in st st
Note: colour in brackets foll instruction indicates which yarn to use
Row 7: k3 (Orchid Green), (k1 [Blossom Pink], k3 [Orchid Green]) five times, k1 (Blossom Pink), k2 (Orchid Green)
Row 8: p1 (Orchid Green), (p1 [Blossom Pink], p1 [Petunia Pink], p1 [Blossom Pink], p1 [Orchid Green]) six times, p1 (Orchid Green)
Row 9: rep Row 7
Row 21: k
Row 22: p
Row 23: k2, (yfwd, k2tog, k1) to end
Change to Petunia Pink, leaving short tails
Rows 24-28: starting with a p row work in st st
Cast off, leaving a long tail

drawstring

Make three (two in Orchid Green and one in Petunia Pink)
Using one 3mm needle or crochet hook and chosen yarn cast on one st, leaving a short tail
Work single st ch (see Great Advice) for 20cm
Cut yarn, leaving a short tail, and pull through st to cast off

GREAT ADVICE

SINGLE STITCH CHAIN
To create a single st ch, cast on one st, yon and pass first st over to create a new st. Rep until ch reaches desired length

GIFT GUIDE

Lifeology Grapefruit & Ruby Orange Soap, £4, **marksandspencer.com**, Bee and Flower Pearl Detail Brooch Pack, £22, **oliverbonas.com**, The Gift Label Reed Diffuser in You Are Awesome, £27, **amara.com**, Inspirational Women Trivia Game, £8, **skinnydiplondon.com**

to make up

Using long cast-off tail and tapestry needle, join sides of Bag tog using mattress st, changing colour where appropriate, then graft bottom closed. Weave Drawstring through Bag holes and tie in a bow at front. If necessary, shorten bow tails by unravelling Drawstring, then re-secure Drawstring yarn ends and weave in tails. For Rose Bag, use long cast-off tail and tapestry needle to join Rose to Bag, then use Orchid Green to embroider a few leaves around Rose in ch st. For Button Bag, use embroidery thread and embroidery needle to join buttons to front of Bag. Weave in all ends

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ISSUE 130

ON SALE **1ST APRIL 2021**

Coming next issue

Knit & crochet with your

Flopsy

colour pack

BONUS Let's Knit Together club magazine with your copy!

8 BALLS OF YARN!

KNITTING VS CROCHET RETURNS!

- **The Friendship Blanket Project**: all-new blanket-along for knitters and crocheters
- Bonus project! Make **Harry Potter mug cosies** with us
- **Shop sock yarns**, then make your very own pair

SACHIYO ISHII EXCLUSIVES

BOBBLE STITCH CUSHION

SUBJECT TO CHANGE // *JUST PAY POSTAGE, UK ONLY

YOU WILL NEED

YARN
King Cole Truffle: (A) 4365 Coconut, (B) 4373 Blue Ice; King Cole Pricewise DK: (C) 1741 Fudge, (D) 009 Red; King Cole Comfort DK: (E) 1963 Admiral

PLUS
3mm hook, tapestry needle, sewing needle, stitch markers, two 13mm safety eyes, small amount of dark brown DK, stuffing, four wooden bobbins (20mm diameter, 30mm long), cardboard, red acrylic paint, blue paper, paintbrush, glue, transparent thread

SIZE
Length: 21cm

IF YOU LOVED PEPI NANA AND MOON BABY, YOU'LL ADORE

Lambkin

Continuing our exclusive *Moon and Me* series, this cute member of the CBeebies gang has arrived just in time for Easter! Her rolling wheels are made with bobbins and make her great fun to push around while saying her favourite catchphrase – baaa! She loves playtime adventures with her friends and **SACHIYO ISHII** has used fluffy yarn to create Lambkin, making her extra cuddly for when bedtime comes.

Take the next step

LAMBKIN

Note: join end of each rnd with a sl st throughout. Beg 1ch does not count as a st throughout

body

Using 3mm hook and Yarn A make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring.
Six sts
Rnd 1: 1ch, 2dc in each st to end. 12 sts
Rnd 2: 1ch, (1dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 18 sts
Rnd 3: 1ch, (2dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 24 sts
Rnds 4-17: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 18: 1ch, (dc2tog) twice, 16dc, (dc2tog) to end. 20 sts
Rnd 19: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 20: 1ch, dc2tog, 14dc, dc2tog. 18 sts
Fasten off

head

Using 3mm hook and Yarn C make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring.
Six sts
Rnds 1-3: rep Rnds 1-3 of Body. 24 sts
Rnd 4: 1ch, (3dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 30 sts
Rnd 5: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end Change to Yarn A
Rnd 6: 1ch, 9dc, 2dc in next st, 10dc, 2dc in next st, 9dc. 32 sts
Rnds 7-11: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end
Rnds 12-13: 1ch, (2dc, dc2tog) to

end. 18 sts
Insert safety eyes
Note: stuff as you go
Rnd 14: 1ch, (1dc, dc2tog) to end. 12 sts
Rnd 15: 1ch, (dc2tog) to end. Six sts
Fasten off

leg

Make four
Using 3mm hook and Yarn B make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring. Six sts
Rnd 1: 1ch, 2dc in each st to end. 12 sts
Rnds 2-3: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end
Change to Yarn A
Rnds 5-9: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off

ear

Make two
Using 3mm hook and Yarn B make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring. Six sts
Rnds 1-9: rep Rnds 1-9 of Leg, including colour change. 12 sts
Rnds 10-11: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off

nose

Using 3mm hook and Yarn C make a magic ring, work 5dc into ring. Five sts
Rnd 1: 1ch, 2dc in each st to end. Ten sts
Rnd 2: 1ch, (dc2tog) to end. Five sts
Fasten off

tail

Using 3mm hook and Yarn A make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring. Six sts
Rnd 1: 1ch, (2dc, 2dc in next st) to end. Eight sts
Rnd 2: 1ch, (3dc, 2dc in next st) to end. Ten sts
Rnds 3-4: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 5: 1ch, (3dc, dc2tog) to end. Eight sts
Rnds 6-9: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end
Rnd 10: 1ch, (2dc, dc2tog) to end. Six sts
Fasten off

flower

Make two
Using 3mm hook and Yarn E make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring. Six sts
Change to Yarn B
Rnd 1: (5ch, sl st in next st) six times
Fasten off

collar

Using 3mm hook and Yarn D make 5ch
Row 1: starting in second ch from hook, 1dc in each st to end, turn. Four sts
Rows 2-33: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off

bow

Using 3mm hook and Yarn D make 5ch
Row 1: starting in second ch from hook, 1dc in each st to end. Four sts
Rows 2-16: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off

knot

Using 3mm hook and Yarn D make 5ch
Row 1: starting in second ch from hook, 1dc in each st to end. Four sts
Rows 2-8: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off

TOP TIP
MARK THE FIRST STITCH OF EACH ROUND WITH A MARKER

to make up

Stuff Body. Stuff Legs and attach to Body. Attach Tail. Sew Nose to face. Sew Head to Body. Embroider mouth with dark brown DK. Sew Ears to Head. Sew Flower to each side of Body. Wrap neck with Collar and sew short edges tog. Wrap Bow with Knot and secure with a few sts. Attach Bow to Collar. Cut out eight 2.5cm diameter cardboard circles. Paint bobbins and circles with red paint. Once paint is dry, glue circles to both ends of bobbins. Cut out eight 5mm diameter circles from blue paper, glue to centre of cardboard circles. Sew bobbins to Legs using transparent thread. Weave in all ends

MAKE THE WHOLE *MOON AND ME* GANG!
Search 'Pepi Nana' and 'Moon Baby' at **topcrochetpatterns.com**

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STITCH SCHOOL

New to knitting or crochet? You'll get the hang of it in no time with our certified visual guides

TOOLKIT ESSENTIALS

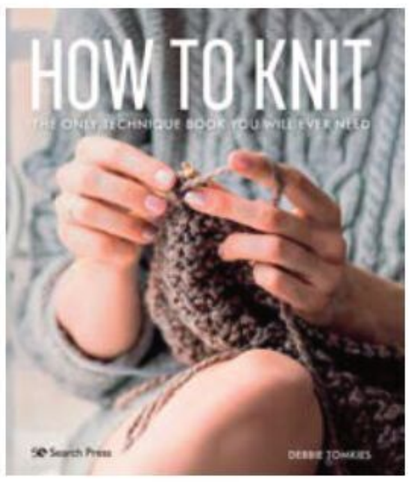
Tapestry needle A blunt needle with a large eye, perfect for threading with yarn, that's used for weaving in ends, sewing seams and embroidery – a must-have!

Stitch marker Used to identify an important place in your knitting or crochet so you don't forget – there are ring stitch and locking stitch markers available

Stuffing We're all about the toys, so you'll need stuffing to turn them from 2D to 3D

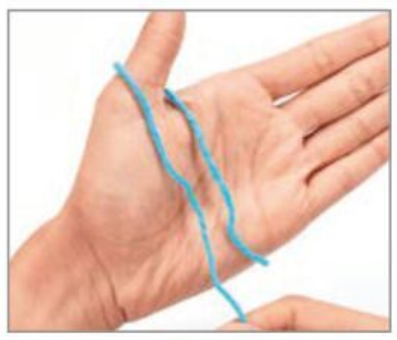
Safety eyes Bring your toys to life with a pair of eyes, but don't let the name fool you – they're not suitable for youngsters

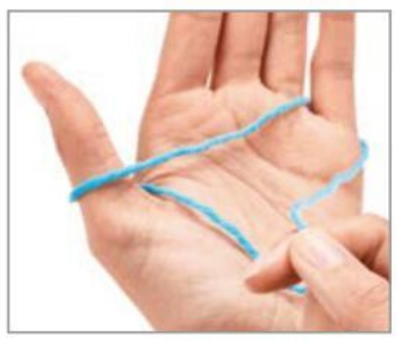
Stitch holder Used by knitters to hold open stitches when not being used by the needles



BEGINNER BUY

Taking you through a range of techniques including lace, cables and colourwork, this comprehensive knitting manual has everything you need to start your knitting journey as a beginner. There's also a link at the back of the book to 25 video tutorials to help you along the way. *How To Knit* by Debbie Tomkies, £12.99, **searchpress.com**





WINDING A BOBBIN

You can either buy ready-made plastic bobbins, make your own out of cardboard or wind the yarn around your fingers to create a centre-pull bobbin, also known as a butterfly.

Step 1: Lay the end of the yarn across your palm, then wrap it around your thumb.

Step 2: Take the yarn between your ring and little finger, and wrap it around your little finger – if you want a more compact bobbin, wrap the yarn around your ring finger instead.

Step 3: Continue to wrap the yarn around your thumb and little finger in a figure-of-eight motion until you have enough for your colour section.

Step 4: Cut the yarn and wrap the tail around the centre of your bundle, making sure you wrap it around the starting end, slide it off your fingers and tuck in the end to secure. You can now begin knitting from the starting end of the yarn.

Turn over for our classic stitch illustrations

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This month's video course highlights:

- ▶How to: change yarn
- ▶How to: work a French knot
- ▶How to: add fringing

Let's knit together

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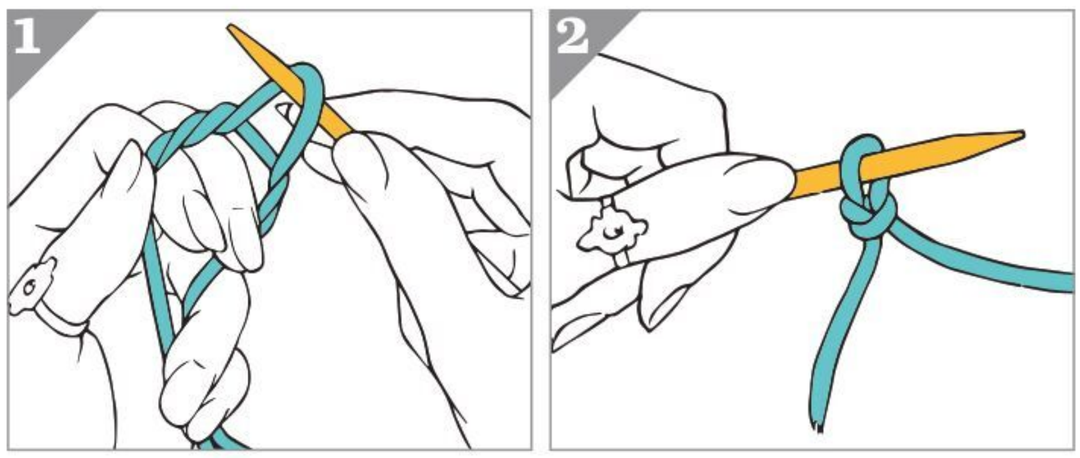
START HERE

slip knot

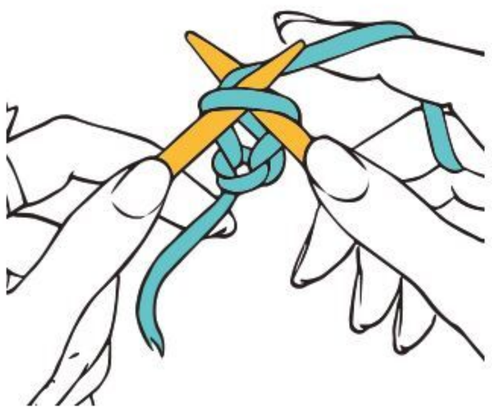
You need to make a slip knot on your needle before casting on. It counts as your first cast-on stitch



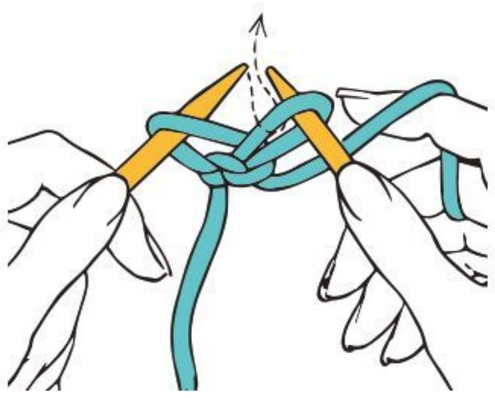
1 Hold the yarn under your left thumb, wrap it twice around your left index and middle fingers, with the second loop closer to the base of the fingers. With the backs of the fingers uppermost, insert the tip of the needle beneath the first loop and over the second, then pull the second loop under the first.
2 Remove your two fingers and gently tug on both ends of yarn to tighten the slip knot around the needle.

cast on

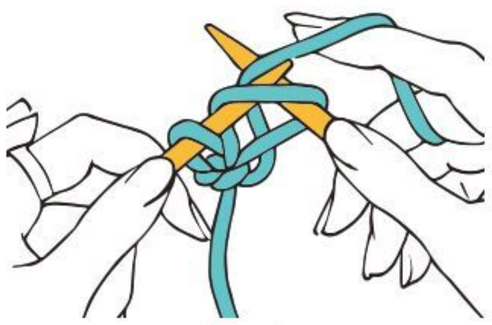
This method, also called the 'two-needle method', is great for beginners



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.



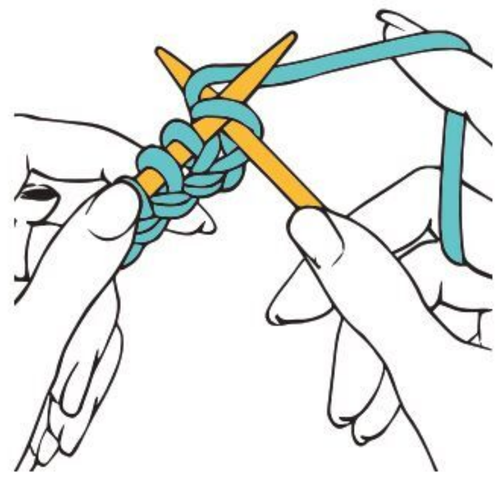
2 Pull the loop that forms back through the original stitch and insert the tip of the LH needle into the new stitch from underneath to transfer from the RH to LH needle. There should now be two stitches on the LH needle.



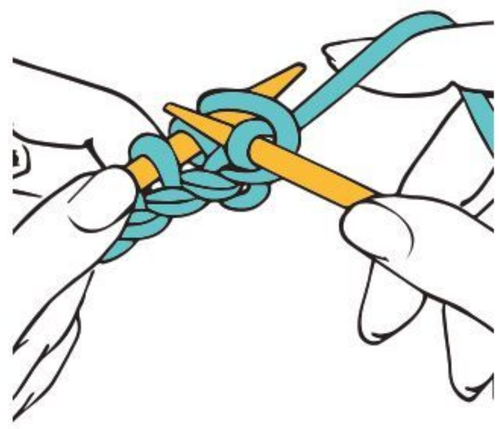
3 Repeat the above steps, knitting into the top stitch on the LH needle and returning the new stitches from the RH to the LH needle until you have the required number of stitches.

knit stitch (k)

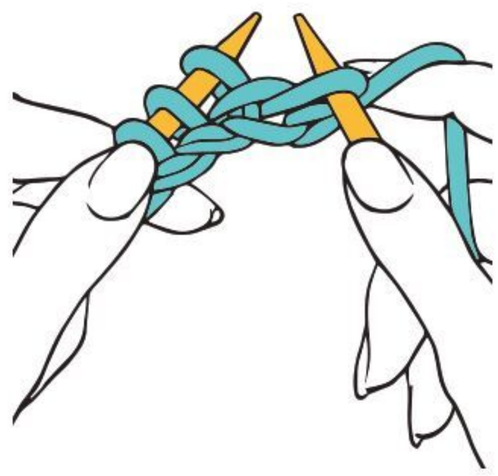
Also known as garter stitch, the knit stitch is the foundation of knitting



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.

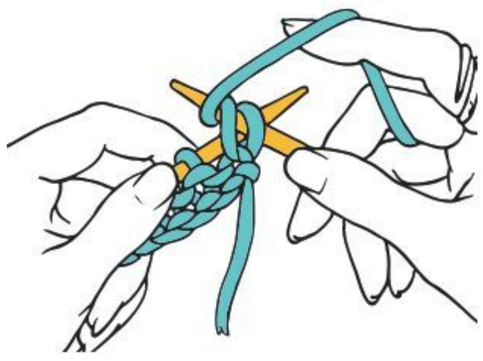


3 Slide the original stitch off the LH needle. Repeat from step 1.

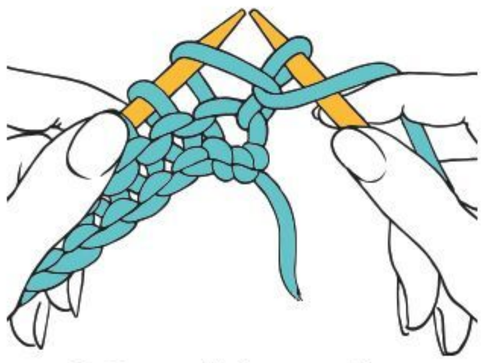
INCREASING & DECREASING

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 purled and you have completed the row.

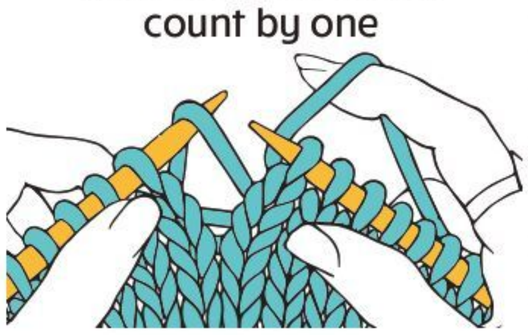
knit two together (k2tog)

Decrease two stitches to one by knitting them together

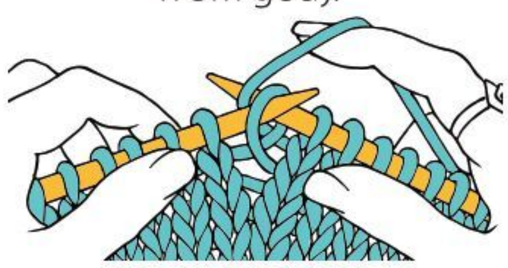
Insert the RH needle into the front loops of the next two stitches on the LH needle. Then wrap the yarn anti-clockwise around the tip and knit both stitches at the same time.

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).

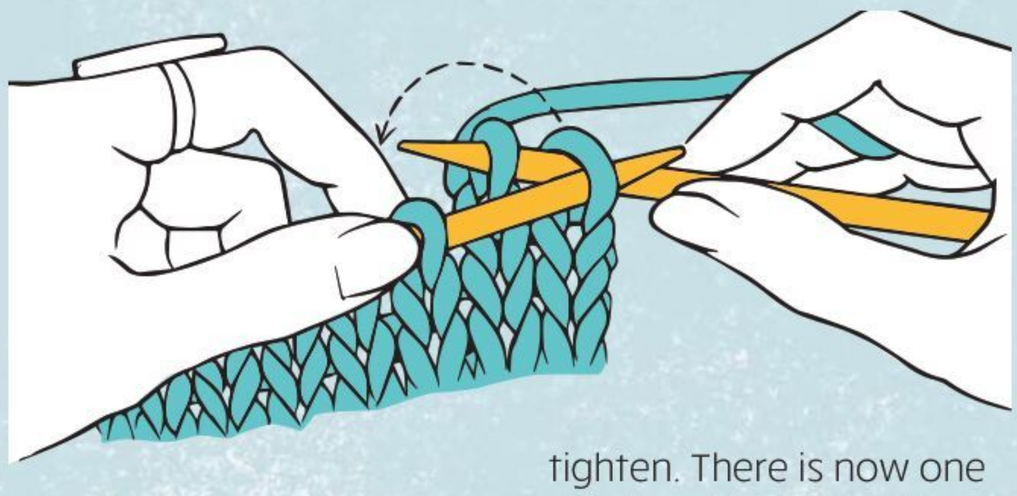


2 Push the RH needle into the back part of the loop that now lies over the LH needle and knit this stitch. You will now have an additional stitch on the RH needle.

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

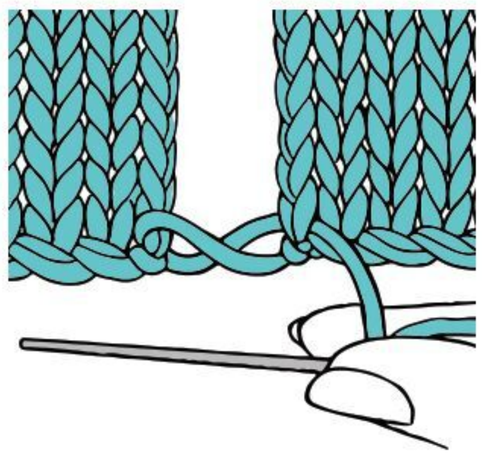


1 Knit two stitches as normal. Insert the tip of the LH needle into the second stitch on the RH needle (the stitch closest to you). Carefully lift it up and over the top stitch, dropping it off the tip of the RH needle and pulling the yarn to tighten. There is now one stitch on the RH needle.

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

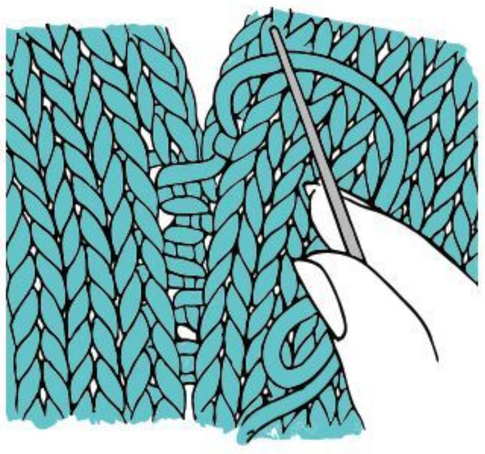
How to start sewing up your project



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.

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.

ABBREVIATIONS

Here's a handy list of the most common abbreviations

alt: alternate
approx: approximately
beg: beginning
BLO: back loops only
ch: chain
ch sp: chain space
cn: cable needle
cont: continue
dc: double crochet
dec: decrease
dtr: double treble
FLO: front loops only
foll: following
htr: half treble
inc: increase
k: knit
kfb: knit into front and back of next stitch
kwise: 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
pfb: purl into front and back of next stitch
pm: place stitch marker
psso: pass slipped stitch over
pwise: 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 1: slip one stitch
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)

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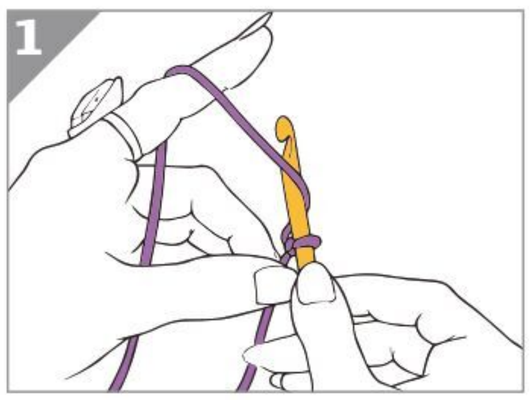
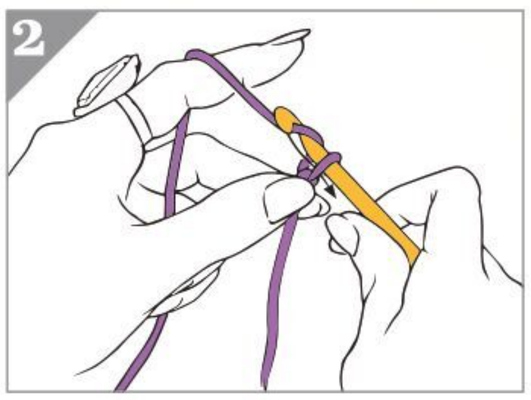
START HERE

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)



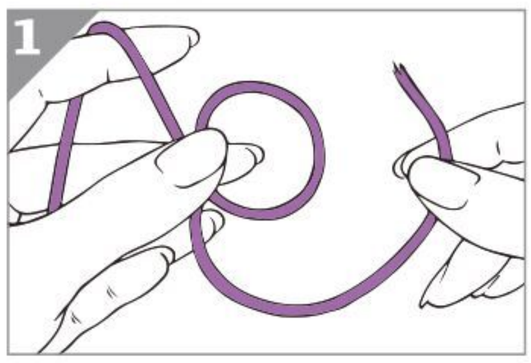
1 Make a slip knot and put it on the neck of the hook – don't pull it too tight or it will be difficult to stitch with. Coming from behind, wrap the yarn around the hook from right to left, across the 'neck'.



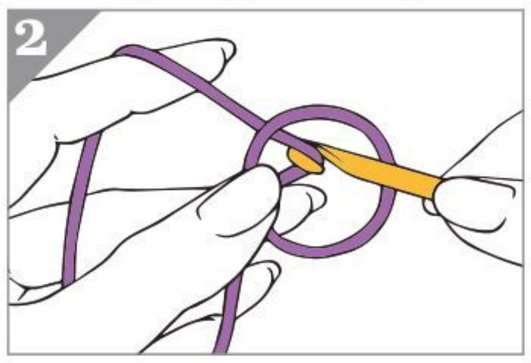
2 Catch the yarn and use the hook to pull it down through the slip knot. You have now made one chain (ch). Continue to make more chains, as directed in the pattern.

magic ring

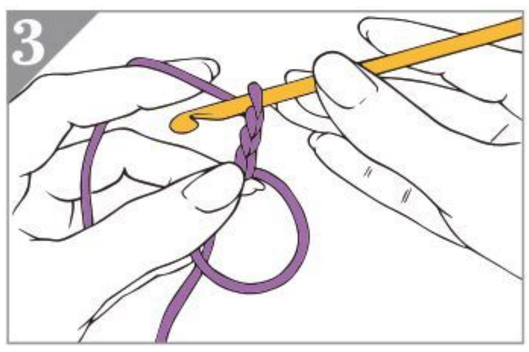
The magic ring is an easy way of beginning to work in the round. It is often used when making amigurumi toys



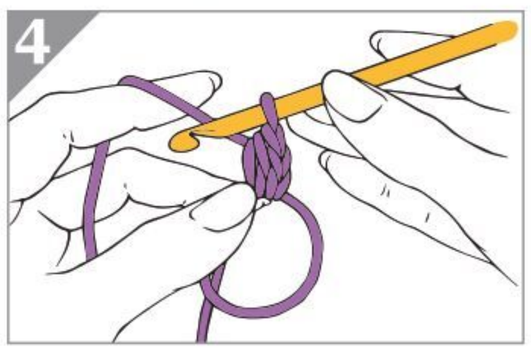
1 Make a large loop by putting the yarn tail behind the working yarn.



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.

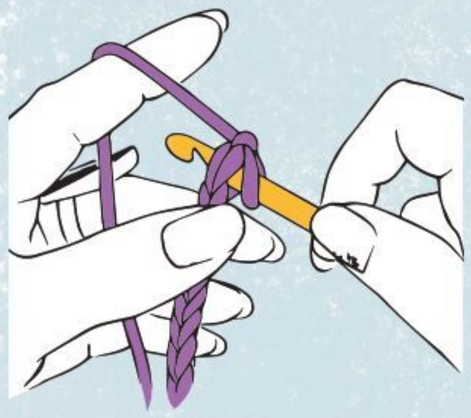


4 Continue to work as many stitches as needed into the loop. Once finished, untwist the tail if necessary and then pull to close the loop.

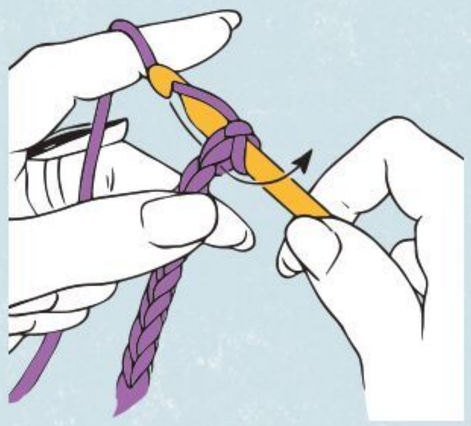
THE BASIC STITCHES

double crochet (dc)

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



1 Insert hook through both strands of the next stitch.

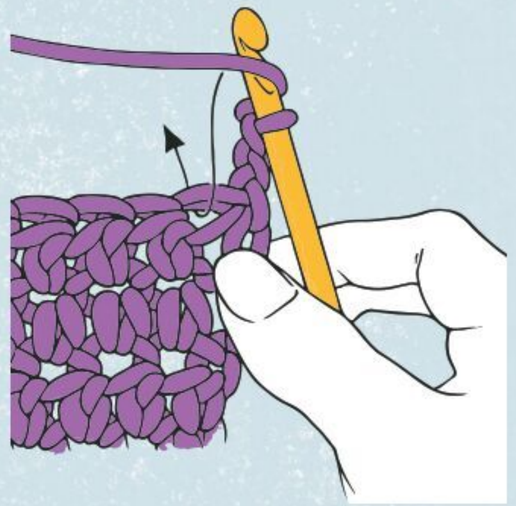


2 Yarn over the hook and draw back through the work. There will be two loops of yarn on the hook.

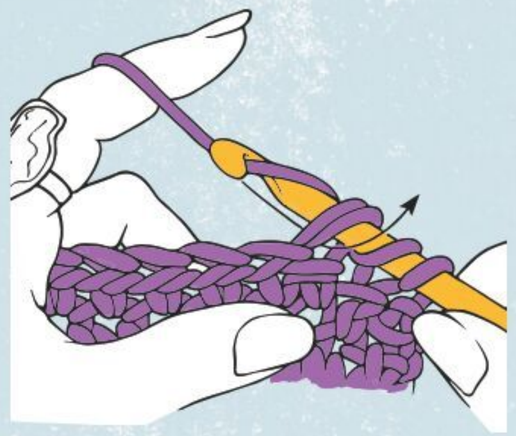
3 Yarn over the hook again and draw through both loops.

half treble (htr)

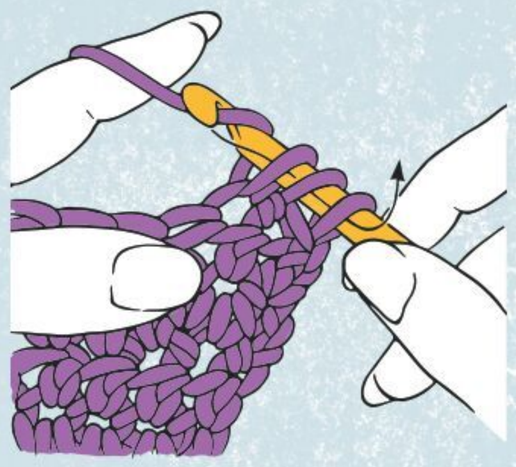
This stitch is longer than a double crochet and involves one extra step



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



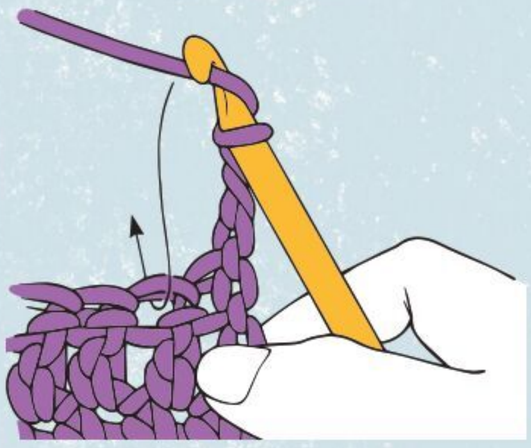
2 Yarn over the hook and draw back though the work. There will be three loops of yarn on the hook.



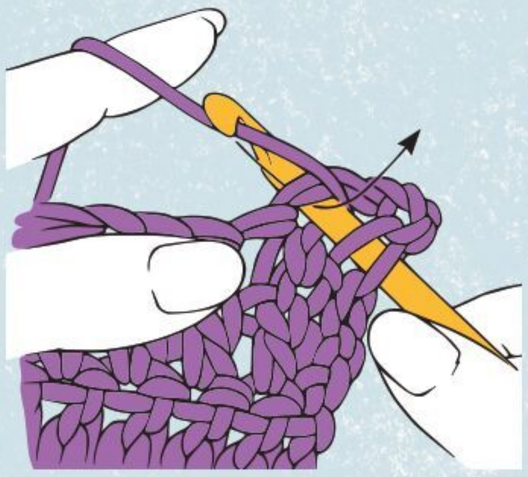
3 Yarn over the hook and draw through all three loops.

treble (tr)

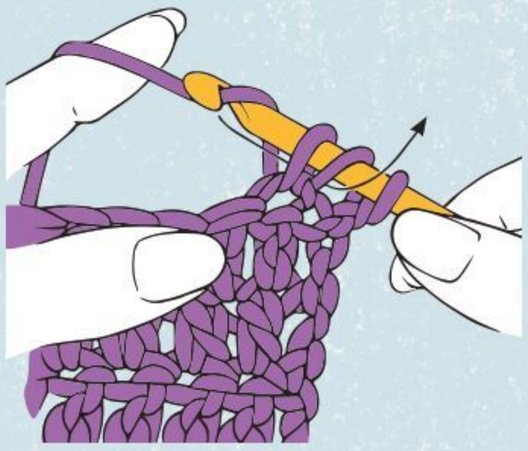
Treble crochet is slightly taller than half treble crochet but is made in a similar way



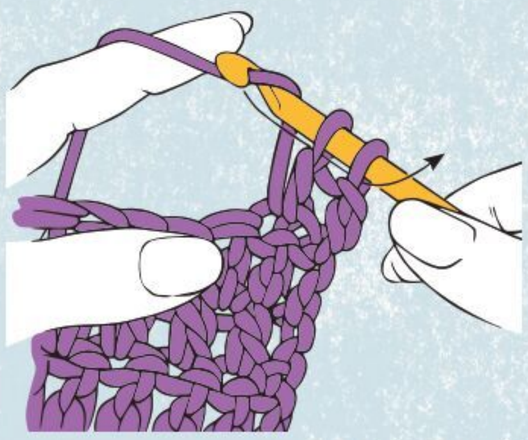
1 (You will need a turning chain of three stitches). Yarn over the hook. Insert the hook through the stitch.



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.

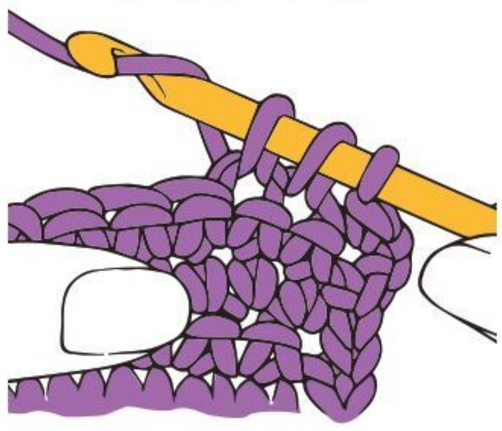


4 Yarn over the hook and draw through all the loops. This will leave one loop on the hook.

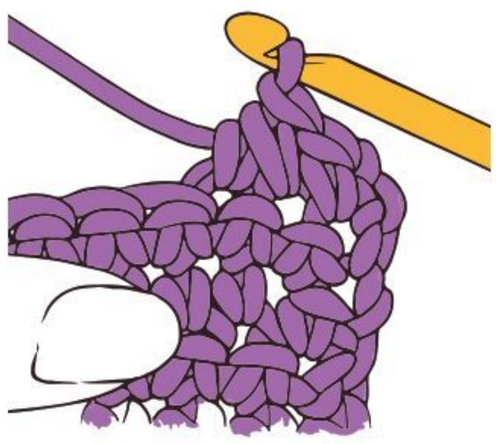
DECREASING

double crochet two together (dc2tog)

Turn two crochet stitches into one with this simple method



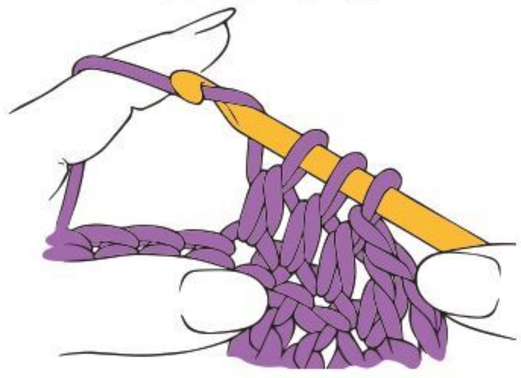
1 Insert hook through next stitch, yarn over hook, draw back through work. Two loops on hook. Insert hook into next stitch, yarn over hook, draw back through. Three loops on hook.



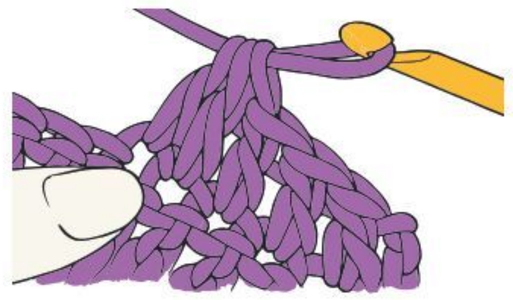
2 Yarn over hook, draw through all three loops. One loop on hook.

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

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LET'S GET CRAFTING

KNITTING & CROCHET

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The family have been a pillar of support

Wendi has worked as a nurse for 15 years

Adding to her yarn stash has been a welcome distraction from work

TEA AND A CHAT WITH...

An NHS hero

Nurse Wendi Forbes has knitted her way through the pandemic – it's been her lifeline, while she's been ours

"A nurse is all I ever wanted to be," Wendi Forbes tells us. She started training when she left school and qualified 15 years ago. She's now a senior charge nurse in the Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology Unit at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness. This means she assists during procedures performed under X-ray, ultrasound and CT scan. "I spend a lot of time in scrubs next to a consultant," explains Wendi. "We perform biopsies, drain fluid collections, insert specialist lines, usually while the patient is awake. It's incredibly interesting and I learn new things every day."

BEST FOOT FORWARD

When her dexterous hands are not involved in medical matters, Wendi loves to knit. "My mum taught me when I was pregnant with my daughter," she tells us. "I love knitting blankets, shawls, scarves, wrist warmers and hats. During lockdown I have obsessively knitted socks. It's helped me throughout the pandemic as I'm so familiar with the pattern and have been able to just knit without having to concentrate too much." She found the beauty of creating socks is that they're worked in the round – "I just work round and round and then I stop when I've had enough." Sock making filled her evenings when she was tired and gave her a reason to sit and relax. "Knitting has been soothing, consistent and distracting from a crazy world," she admits. "Choosing beautiful yarns has filled many evenings when I really just wanted to curl up and cry. Waiting and looking forward to the exciting deliveries of wool has helped me through many weeks at work too." Working practices have changed across the NHS, as Wendi well knows. "We've had to learn how to do our job in new ways to keep us safe." This has meant doing her usual duties but with added layers of uncomfortable PPE. Many of her team were redeployed to work in understaffed areas in the hospital and it was really important to Wendi that they still felt part of her team. "There were lots of phone calls, messages, emails and notes being left in lockers," she explains. "Working as a nurse throughout the Covid pandemic has been challenging and busy and sad and tiring. At times it's taken everything I have to get myself and my team through each day."

FAMILY MATTERS

Thankfully, Wendi has her knitting to come home to, as well as her supportive husband, Mark. "He's made me get out of the car and come inside when I just wanted to sit there in tears. He's cooked meals and made me go for walks to get fresh air and daylight," Wendi says. Her daugher Sophie is at university in Perth and regularly receives knitted items from mum. "If she's upset and missing home I knit her something and mail it as a surprise, and it always makes her feel better. It feels like posting a piece of me to her." Her son Peter is 12 and, according to Wendi, he makes the best cups of tea! "He's been very understanding of how tired I've been." He has even picked up a new skill in lockdown. "I taught him to knit," explains Wendi. "It was lovely to spend time together, sharing my love of knitting and giving him the satisfaction of being able to make something wonderful." As for her socks, Wendi's experienced great joy in gifting them to others. "I've posted them to people I miss, I've given them to people who needed a boost, and I've sent them to people to say thank you for something marvellous they have done." Wendi, you're a true hero – we salute you.

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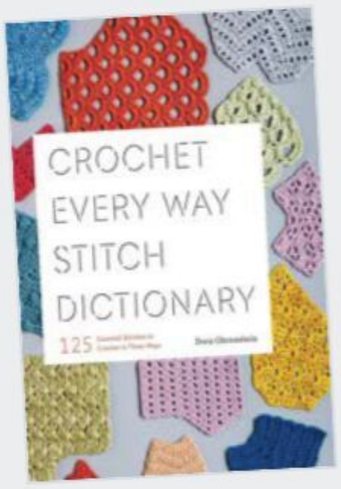

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