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Christmas
GRANNY
SQUARES

321 festive PATTERNS

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Crafty
gift tags



TOP TIPS FOR
FLUFFY YARN



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aceville

Inside! Tea cosy, gnomes, men's scarf, nativity, kid's socks + more



we need your woolpower

Knit or crochet us a little hat (or three). We'll pop it onto one of our smoothie bottles, and give 25p to Age UK for each behatted bottle sold. You can find a whole load of patterns of all shapes and sizes at www.bigknit.co.uk



6 good reasons to knit or crochet us some tiny hats:

1. They're adorable
2. Good way to use up all your spare bits of wool
3. They raise money for Age UK
4. Something to do while you're watching Corrie
5. They can be any colour, pattern or animal you like
6. They raise money for Age UK (so important we wrote it twice)

Please send any hats you make to:

**The innocent Big Knit
Fruit Towers
342 Ladbrooke Grove
London
W10 5BU**





Hello!

This new edition is packed with patterns to make a **really memorable Christmas**. Spend time crocheting crafty gift tags for your loved ones on page 26, enjoy a cup of candy cane tea with our cosy on page 10, and decorate your home with a **festive sausage dog cushion** (p36). Not forgetting our toy offering of course, which is as busy as ever.

Let's start with the big man himself: Santa Claus. Use every colour in your all-new and exclusive **Mistletoe yarn kit**, including that super soft fluffy skein, to crochet him in all his glory on page 49. We've also got charming gnomes, a squish-worthy snowman, darling dolls, and an **adorable polar bear**. Don't say we don't treat you!

There are wearable knits for you and yours too, starting from page 52. Follow our charts to make a pair of **stylish kid's socks**, then create a cosy woman's vest (perfect for layering this winter) and a suave men's scarf. Won't you all be looking swish this season?

Elsewhere this issue, enjoy hearing from knitwear designer **Lily Kate** (p66) and shop our selection of fluffy yarns on page 33. We remind ourselves of the importance of **making for charity** over on page 39; it's a must-read. We've also got freebies, top reader makes (as always) and even more greatness!

From me and the team, we hope you enjoy this jam-packed issue and have the **best ever season of Christmas crafting**. Until next time, you lovely lot.

Rosie

ROSIE SAVAGE, EDITOR



SHOP
SUPER SOFT
YARNS ON
P33



YOUR Mistletoe YARN KIT

TEA COSY P10



CHILLY THE
SNOWMAN P8

MEET OUR EXPERTS



SACHIYO ISHII

Knit my fluffy polar bear on page 30



STUART HILLARD

I talk through this issue's yarns (p7)



SARAH-JANE HICKS

Take part in my crochet-along (p20)



**SUBSCRIBE TODAY
FOR YOUR FREE* GIFT**

SEE P24 FOR MORE DETAILS

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We hear from inspiring knitwear designer Lily Kate

OUR FLUFFY YARN MIGHT BE THE SOFTEST THING WE'VE EVER TOUCHED

YOUR Mistletoe YARN KIT

Let your Christmas
crafting take off with
our classic colours

4MM
METAL
HOOK

YAY!
FLUFFY
YARN

4MM
BAMBOO
NEEDLES

Mistletoe Felt Christmas Wreath, lights4fun.co.uk



"Use your all-new yarns to craft festive favourites. Father Christmas, a snowman, gnomes, a nativity scene... we've got it all! Plus, we know you love a tea cosy, so flick to page 10 for our present-themed design"

ROSIE SAVAGE, EDITOR

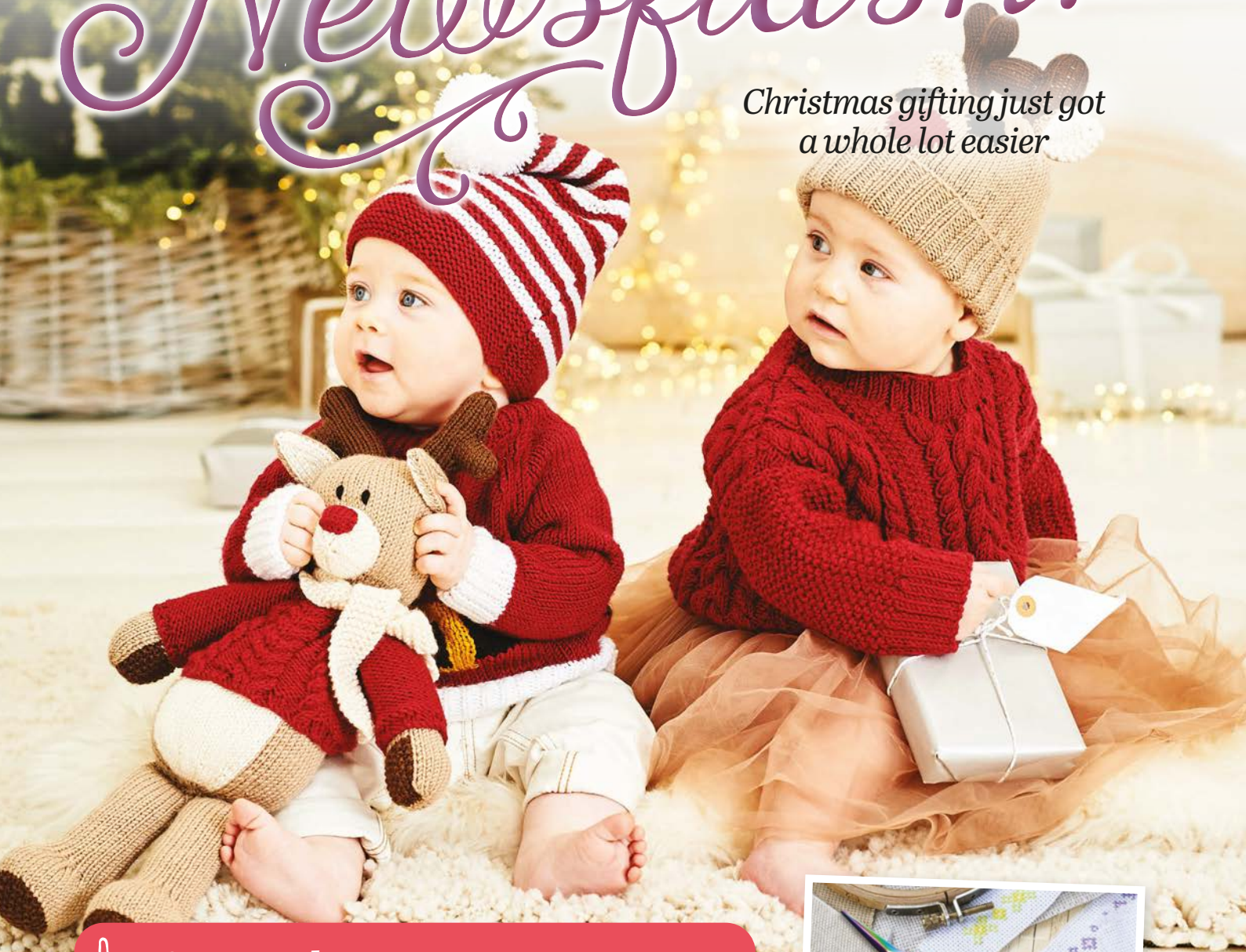
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TOUCH



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Newsflash!

*Christmas gifting just got
a whole lot easier*



Cute as a button

Get little ones ready for the big day with adorable new festive patterns from Stylecraft that include sweet outfits, hats and huggable Christmas toys to be cherished forever. Knitted in soft, cosy Stylecraft Special DK and Bellissima, choose from a mini Santa or mini Rudolph set. Pattern prices start at £3.15 from **fabrics-plus.co.uk** where you can buy all the yarn you need too.



Socks & chocs

This ingenious club, a collaboration between Peak District Yarns and Yohan's Chocolate Shop, marries together two of our favourite things: sock yarn and chocolate! Every two months, subscribers will receive a 100g skein of hand-dyed yarn and six handmade, hand-painted chocolates, the colour palette of which will match your yarn. You can also opt to have your skein caked for you for no extra charge. A six-month subscription costs £81 from **peakdistrictyarns.co.uk**.



Snip snip

Treat yourself to some pretty choppers and cut your yarn in style with this beautiful pair of stork-shaped scissors. The small size measures 94mm by 42mm and boasts high-quality blades, a wonderfully smooth finish and a dazzling rainbow shimmer. Made from stainless steel, the Stork sewing scissors cost £4.09 from FirstStepsUK on **etsy.com**.



Pretty in pink

The new Rosarium Mega Chunky collection from King Cole is a dream come true for lovers of big yarns and quick knits. Simple yet effective, this baby pink jumper is a great first garment for a newbie knitter. Featuring a wide rib, high neck and simple stocking stitch, this chunky knit will fly off your needles in no time! Why not make one to keep and one to gift? Pattern number 5754 costs £2.99 from woolwarehouse.co.uk.

Winter warmers

If you're looking to start a festive project, this Poinsettia wrist warmer kit is a great way to get stuck in. Jolly and colourful, these cosy accessories from Uradale Yarns were designed by Hilly van der Sluis and feature beautiful three-shade festive colourwork. Inside your kit you'll find three 25g balls of yarn with the pattern, and you'll need your 3.5mm needles. Get yours for £13 from uradale.com.



Ooh la la

Sophie's hat knitting kit is part of a collaboration between Stitch & Story and universally loved baby brand Sophie La Girafe. The sizes range from newborn to 24 months, each kit includes 60g of S&S The Lil' Merino Wool in two shades, a pair of 5mm short bamboo needles, a Sophie woven label, tapestry needle, knitting instructions and the hat pattern. It costs £26 from stitchandstory.com.



A KISSING BOUGH WITH

Stuart Hillard

As the year progresses into autumn, I know I can justifiably call it 'almost Christmas' and throw myself into my festive crafting. This issue's yarn pack, Mistletoe, is such an inspiring collection of colours. For me, Merry Red, Leaf Green and Bright Yellow are essential Christmas shades. Combined with the special fluffy yarn, I can imagine all kinds of crocheted and knitted mistletoe, poinsettias and holly. There are lots of Christmas traditions around mistletoe, including the 'Mistletoe service' at York Minster where any wrong-doers in the city can go to get pardoned... very useful! Another favourite is the kissing bough, an ancient English tradition where a bunch of mistletoe was hung, either in a doorway or at the centre of a dance floor, to encourage everyone to kiss their sweethearts, or possibly find a brand new friend! In 1843 *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens featured an illustration showing people kissing under the mistletoe, which may have done much to popularise the act of stealing a kiss under a bunch of this parasitic plant. Older customs held that a berry had to be removed from the plant for every kiss and once the berries were gone, the fun stopped! My knitted and crocheted version will last forever and would make a great decoration to bring out every year. I'll use thick cardboard and trace around plates to create the ring, before winding a mixture of Rich Purple and Blush Pink yarns around for a striped effect. Then I'll hang an assortment of knitted and crocheted leaves and berries from the ring. I'll suspend it in my hallway, like a Christmas kissing mobile, and welcome my guests with a hug!

Stu X



PLUS
stitch markers,
tapestry
needle,
stuffing, two
9mm black
safety eyes,
small amount
of orange
yarn, 4cm
pom-pom
maker
(optional)

SIZE
Height (inc
hat): 16.5cm

Chilly the snowman

Fluffy yarn advice and fancy half treble stitches... what a treat!

Snow is a rarity in the UK, so when it comes tumbling down you feel like a big kid. Well, we do at Let's Get Crafting HQ. You never know how long it'll last, so making a snowman feels like a sprint.

HEATHER GIBBS' amigurumi creation can be made at a more leisurely pace – and if our real-life versions look anywhere near as cute this year, we'll be very happy indeed.



CHILLY THE SNOWMAN head & body

Using 4mm hook and Fluffy 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. Insert safety eyes between Rnds 4-5, approx three sts apart

Rnd 6: (1dc, dc2tog) to end. 12 sts

Rnd 7: 2dc in each st to end. 24 sts

Rnd 8: (3dc, 2dc in

next st) to end. 30 sts

Rnd 9: (4dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 36 sts

Rnds 10-11: 1dc in each st to end

Note: stuff as you go

Rnds 12-13: (dc2tog) to end. Nine sts
Fasten off

nose

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

Rnd 1: 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 2: 2dc in next st, 1dc in each st to end. Five sts

Rnds 3-4: rep Rnds 1-2. Six sts
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

hat

Note: 1ch at start of rnd does not count as a st

Using 4mm hook and Merry Red make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring. Six sts

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

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

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

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

Rnds 5-7: 1dc in each st to end. Change to Blush Pink

Rnd 8: 1ch, 1htr in each st to end, join with a sl st at top of first st

Rnd 9: (FPhtr, BPhtr [see Skill Up]) to end, join with a sl st at top of first st
Fasten off

scarf

Note: work over ends of yarn as

you go, taking colour changes up sides of Scarf. Using 4mm hook and Leaf Green make 4ch

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

Three sts
Work in foll three-row stripe sequence: Leaf Green, Bright Yellow

Rows 2-63: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end, turn. Fasten off

to make up

Using yarn tail, sew Head and Body closed. Use Rich Purple to embroider buttons on Body. Attach Nose on Rnd 5 between eyes. Attach small pom-pom to top of Hat. Weave in all ends



SKILL UP!

Front post half treble (FPhtr): Yoh, insert hook

from front to back to front around post of corresponding st below, yoh, pull up a loop. Three loops on hook. Yoh and pull through all loops on hook

Back post half treble (BPhtr): Yoh, insert hook from back to front to back around post of corresponding st below, yoh, pull up a loop. Three loops on hook. Yoh and pull through all loops on hook

GREAT ADVICE

When working with fluffy yarn, you may find you need to crochet more loosely and more slowly than you are used to. This sort of yarn can also make it a little tricky to count stitches; try using more than one stitch marker to help you count rounds. You could also insert your hook between the posts of the stitches instead of inserting your hook into the stitch – as you work along each row, you can feel for the gaps with your finger



USE ALL
SIX
YARN
COLOURS!





PLUS
tapestry
needle, two
stitch holders

SIZE
To fit: small
teapot



Perfect for
beginners

CHRISTMAS BREW

cosy

Make two

Using 4mm needles
and Rich Purple
cast on 34 sts,
leaving a short tail

Row 1 (RS): k1, (k2,
p2) to last st, k1

Row 2: p1, (k2, p2)
to last st, p1

Rows 3-4: rep
Rows 1-2

Work in foll stripe
sequence: (two
rows Bright Yellow,
four rows Leaf
Green, two rows
Bright Yellow, four
rows Rich Purple)
twice, two rows
Bright Yellow, two
rows Leaf Green
Rows 5-32: starting
with a k row work
in st st
Cont in Leaf Green,
carry other yarns
alongside

Row 33: k1, (k6,
k2tog) to last st, k1.
30 sts

Row 34: p
Change to Bright
Yellow, cut Leaf
Green, carry Rich
Purple

Row 35: k1, (k5,

k2tog) to last st,
k1. 26 sts

Row 36: p
Change to Rich
Purple

Row 37: k1, (k4,
k2tog) to last st,
k1. 22 sts

Row 38: p

Row 39: k1, (k2,
k2tog) to last st,
k1. 17 sts

Row 40: (p2tog) to
last st, p1. Nine sts
Cut yarn leaving a
long tail, thread
tail onto tapestry
needle and thread
through rem sts,
fasten off

long ribbon

Make two

Using 4mm
needles and Merry
Red cast on five
sts, leaving a long
tail

Row 1 (WS): k1, (p1,
k1) to end
Rep Row 1 until
piece meas 38cm
from cast-on
edge, leave on st
holders with long
tails (see Great
Advice)

handle ribbon

Using 4mm

needles and Merry
Red cast on five
sts, leaving a
long tail

Row 1 (RS): k1, (p1,
k1) to end

Rep Row 1 until
piece meas 2cm
from cast-on
edge, then work
as folls:

Row 1a: k1, p1, kfb,
pass fourth st
back to LH needle
(six sts on needles
in total), turn to
work on first three
sts as folls:

Row 2a: k1, p1,
k1, turn
Rep Row 2a until
piece meas 9cm
from cast-on
edge. Cut yarn
and rejoin to work
rem three sts on
LH needle by rep
Row 2a until piece
meas 9cm from
cast-on edge and
all sts are on same
needle. Next, work
across whole row
as folls:

Row 1b: k1, p1,
k2tog, p1, k1.
Five sts

Row 2b: k1, (p1, k1)
to end
Rep Row 2b for
5cm more from

Row 1b

Cast off in patt,
leaving a long tail

spout ribbon

Using 4mm
needles and Merry
Red cast on five
sts, leaving a
long tail
Rep Rows 1-2a of
Handle Ribbon
Rep Row 2a until
piece meas 8cm
from cast-on
edge. Cut yarn

and rejoin to

work rem three
sts on LH needle
by rep Row 2a
until piece meas
8cm from cast-on
edge and all sts
are on same
needle
Rep Rows 1b-2b of
Handle Ribbon
Rep Row 2b for a
further 6cm from
Row 1b
Cast off in patt,
leaving a long tail

to make up

Place Cosy pieces tog with WS
facing. Use tapestry needle and yarn
tail to join one side tog from top
down until fourth Bright Yellow band
(from bottom upwards) to create
spout side. Rep for other side, joining
two pieces tog to fifth Bright Yellow
band. Use long cast-on tails to join
each side tog from base up to first
Bright Yellow band. Use tapestry
needle and yarn tails, join Spout
Ribbon to spout side of Cosy, using
running st along each outside edge
of ribbon. Join inside edges and base
of this ribbon section to Cosy. Rep
for Handle Ribbon, then graft tops
of Handle and Spout Ribbons tog for
a neat finish. Attach both Long
Ribbons to Cosy using running st up
to last Bright Yellow band, tie ribbons
in a bow (see Great Advice). Weave
in all ends

Christmas brew

Pop the kettle on and whip up this festive treat

Your morning cuppa should always be a mini celebration and this tea cosy by **DAWN FINNEY** is ideal for your Yuletide festivities. It's a wonderful project for beginners looking to hone their stripes, and when you work the ribbon you'll be splitting your stitches to make way for the handle and spout – that's another trick to add to your repertoire!

GREAT ADVICE

Once all the
ribbons are joined
to the finished
Cosy, tie the Long
Ribbons in a bow,
then unravel
them as required
or pass the
stitches back onto
a needle and knit
more ribbon, until
you get the
perfect finish. If
desired, you can
lightly tack your
finished bow with
a few stitches to
keep it in place.

You can easily
adapt this pattern
to fit your own
teapot – just
measure the
teapot before you
get started to
ensure the spout
and handle
openings,
including the
decorative ribbon
element, will be
located correctly



♥ Love THIS PATTERN?



WE'VE GOT CROCHETED COSIES
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PATTERN TODAY!

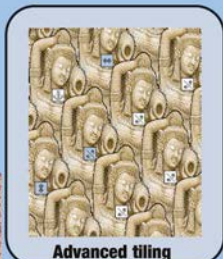


DesignaKnit 9

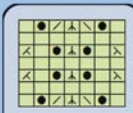
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Joseph, Mary & Jesus

Use every colour in your Mistletoe yarn pack to knit this nativity trio



USE ALL
SIX
YARN
COLOURS!



PLUS

small amount of black yarn, stuffing, tapestry needle

SIZE

Joseph height: 16cm
Mary height: 15cm
Jesus height: 7cm
Crib length: 7.5cm



MARY ONLY body & head

Using 4mm needles and Rich Purple cast on eight sts

Row 1 and every odd-numbered row: k

Row 2: (kfb) to end. 16 sts

Row 4: (k1, kfb) to end. 24 sts

Row 6: (k2, kfb) to end. 32 sts

Row 8: (k3, kfb) to end. 40 sts

Note: change to Leaf Green after Row 13

Rows 10-15:

starting with a k row work in st st Change to Rich Purple

Row 16: (k3, k2tog) to end. 32 sts

Rows 17-21: starting with a p

Celebrate the story of Christmas with these classic creations from **AINE MARRIOTT**. Use predominantly basic stitches to whip them up, yet stretch your skills by doing a spot of colour changing, working with our fluffy yarn, and even implementing a smidgen of crochet. Our favourite part? Using garter stitch for Joseph's beard – it creates the ideal texture. Let's begin...



row work in st st

Row 22: (k2, k2tog) to end. 24 sts

Rows 23-27: starting with a p row work in st st

Row 28: (k1, k2tog) to end. 16 sts

Rows 29-33: starting with a p row work in st st

Row 34: (k2tog) to end. Eight sts

Row 35: p

Change to Blush Pink

Row 36: (kfb) to end. 16 sts

Row 37: p

Row 38: (kfb) to end. 32 sts

Rows 39-47:

starting with a p row work in st st

Row 48: (k2, k2tog) to end. 24 sts

Row 49: p

Row 50: (k1, k2tog) to end. 16 sts

Row 51: p

Row 52: (k2tog) to end. Eight sts

Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread

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

JOSEPH ONLY

body & head

Work as for Mary Body & Head, but with foll colour amends:

Rows 1-9: Leaf Green

Rows 10-35: work in two-row stripe sequence: Merry Red, Bright Yellow, Leaf Green

Rows 36-52: Blush Pink (same as Mary)

beard

Using 4mm needles and Bright Yellow cast on 20 sts

Row 1: k

Rows 2-9: k2tog, k to last two sts, k2tog. Four sts

Cast off

waistcoat

Using 4mm needles and Merry Red cast on 24 sts

Rows 1-11: k

Row 12: (k4, k2tog) to end. 20 sts

Rows 13-17: k

Row 18: (k3, k2tog) to end. 16 sts

Row 19: k4, turn

Cont on these four sts, k7, cast off

Rejoin yarn to rem sts

Row 19: k8, turn

Cont on these eight sts, k7, cast off

Rejoin yarn to rem four sts, k8, cast off

belt

Using 4mm needles and Rich

Purple cast on 32 sts
Cast off

BOTH head covering

Make two

Using 4mm needles and Rich Purple (Leaf Green) cast on 24 sts

Rows 1-4: k

Row 5: k2, p20, k2

Rows 6-31: rep Rows 4-5 13 times

Row 32: k2, (k2tog) ten times, k2. 14 sts

Row 33: k2, p10, k2
Cast off

headband

Using 4mm needles and Bright Yellow (Rich Purple) make 32ch
Fasten off

arm

Make four (two in each colour)

Using 4mm needles and Rich Purple (two-row stripe sequence: Bright Yellow, Merry Red, Leaf Green) cast on six sts

Row 1-11: starting with a k row work in st st

Row 12: k

Change to Blush Pink

Rows 13-16:

starting with a k row work in st st
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

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

blanket

Using 4mm needles and Fluffy cast on two sts

Row 1: kfb, k1. Three sts

Row 2: kfb, k1, kfb. Five sts

Rows 3-8: kfb, k to last st, kfb. 17 sts

Rows 9-13: k
Cast off

CRIB

Using 4mm needles and Merry Red cast on 12 sts

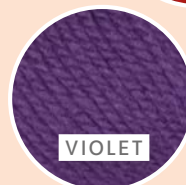
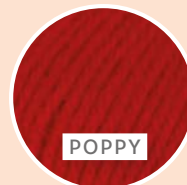
Rows 1-8: k

Row 9: cast on six sts, k to end. 18 sts

Row 10: cast on six

Run out of yarn?

TRY MARRINER YARNS DK, £1.25 PER 100G (300M) BALL, MARRINERYARNS.COM



sts, k to end. 24 sts

Rows 11-22: k

Rows 23-24: cast off six sts at beg of next two rows. 12 sts

Rows 25-32: k

Cast off

to make up

Seam row edges of Body and Head, leaving a gap for stuffing. Stuff well. Close rem hole in seam. Gather around neck with matching yarn to further enhance shape. Use Blush Pink to embroider four to five sts on top of one another for a nose in middle of face. Use black yarn to embroider eyes. Use Merry Red to embroider small v-shape for Mary's mouth. Place Beard on Joseph's face just below nose and sew in place. Fold cast-off edge of Head Covering in half and sew. Place on Head, with sewn edge along top of Head. Sew in position. Sew Headband into circle shape. Place on Head over Head Covering and sew. Seam row edges of each Arm, leaving a small gap at the top for stuffing. Stuff lightly. Oversew across cast-on sts, then sew to sides of Body, just below neck edge. For Joseph's waistcoat, catch very top corner of each armhole with

a few sts. Place Waistcoat on Body. Put Belt over Waistcoat and sew in place to hold everything. Seam row edges of

Jesus' Body, leaving a gap for stuffing. Stuff well. Gather around cast-on sts, pull up tightly and fasten off. Use Blanket to swaddle Jesus'

Body. Catch in place with a few sts. Fold up edge of Crib to form shape and sew edges tog. Weave in all ends



"You'll be using basic crochet to make the headbands – turn to page 64 for our helpful visuals for chain stitch"

ROSIE SAVAGE, EDITOR



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PLUS
tapestry
needle, small
amount of
black yarn,
black
embroidery
thread

SIZE
12cm square



Perfect for
beginners

OWL SQUARE owl

Using 4mm hook
and Fluffy make a
magic ring, work
8dc into ring.

Eight sts

Rnd 1: 2dc in each
st to end. 16 sts

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

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

Change to Rich
Purple

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

Rnd 5: 3ch (counts
as first tr), 1tr in
same st, 3ch, 2tr in
next st, (2htr, 5dc,
2htr, [2tr, 3ch, 2tr]
in next st) three
times, 2htr, 5dc,
2htr, join with a
sl st to top of first
ch. 52 sts

Rnd 6: 3ch, ([2tr,
3ch, 2tr] in next st,
13tr) four times,
12htr, join with a
sl st to top of first
ch. 68 sts, four
3ch sps
Fasten off

eye

Make two

Using 4mm hook
and Black make a
magic ring, work
6dc into ring.
Six sts
Change to Bright
Yellow

Rnd 1: 2dc in each
st to end. 12 sts
Fasten off, leaving
a long tail

CLASSIC SQUARE

Using 4mm hook
and Blush Pink
make 4ch, join
with a sl st to first
ch to make a ring

Rnd 1: sl st into
ring, 3ch, 2tr into
ring, 3ch, (3tr into
ring, 3ch) three

times, join with a
sl st to top of first
3ch. 12 sts, four
3ch sps
Change to Rich
Purple

Rnd 2: 3ch, (2tr,
3ch, 3tr) in same
sp (first corner
made), ([3tr, 3ch,
3tr] in next 3ch sp)
(second corner
made) three times,
join with a sl st to
top of first 3ch. 24
sts, four 3ch sps
Change to Merry Red

Rnd 3: 3ch, (2tr,
3ch, 3tr) in same
sp, (3tr in sp
between Rnd 2
clusters, [3tr,
3ch, 3tr] in next
3ch sp) three
times, 3tr in sp
between Rnd 2
clusters, join with
a sl st to top of
first 3ch. 36 sts,
four 3ch sps
Fasten off

to make up

Attach Eyes to
Owl just above
centre of fluffy
centre circle.
Use Black to
embroider a

beak and
wings. Use
Bright Yellow
to embroider
two sets of
toes. Weave
in all ends

Festive grannies

Our Yuletide spin on a crochet classic

Twit twoo! We love that **HEATHER GIBBS** has used our fluffy
yarn to create an adorable snowy owl for one of our festive
granny squares. Have fun embroidering the cute details and
take a look at Heather's tips for working with furry yarn on page
8 to get your owl looking its most strokable! Once you've
mastered it, why not tackle our jolly snowman too?

'Tis the season...



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COLOURS!





All about you

Your crafty skills never fail to wow us



BOVINE BEAUTY

After years of knitting, I started crocheting two years ago and love making amigurumis like this cow. Her name is Bleuett and the pattern is from a website called crocsbetty.com.

Sandrine Lemair, France

You're obsessed with... cute critters!

AMIGURUMI LOVE

I started crocheting in April of this year. Mia the Monkey from issue 131 is the first amigurumi toy I've made. I really enjoyed creating her and I can't wait to make more!

Lucy Smith, Newcastle



FANTASTIC FOXES

Here are the foxes I made from Knitting vs Crochet in issue 131. I've been making lots of things for my sister who is expecting her first baby!

Avril Mason, Southampton



I've been loom knitting for around three years now. Some of my patterns are self-taught but I also follow tutorials from YouTube. During lockdown I became more motivated to loom and set up a business page on Facebook called Liv's Loom. The idea to design a koala bear snuggle blanket came to me while I was making a koala cuddly toy for my six year-old niece. I had previously made a different design of baby snuggle and thought a koala one would look very cute.

Liv George, Lincolnshire

💎 We love your looming, Liv! This is so cute and looks super snuggly

I am 23 and was taught how to knit by my grandma. I've been doing it for a few years now and love making toys and dog coats for my greyhound, Loki.

This picture is of a mini me doll I've made wearing my favourite Daz Games jumper. I've also knitted a mini Loki to go with the mini me.

Emily Kendall, Hampshire

💎 Wow Emily, you're a fantastic knitter! We love the details you've included in your miniature version of yourself



My five year-old daughter is sheep mad, so when I came across a foot stool in my local charity shop I decided it needed to come home with me to be transformed! I started knitting, making up the pattern as I went along, and ended up turning it into a cute little sheep for her bedroom. She loves it and I'm very proud of my upcycling project.

Kelly Rankin, Scotland

💎 This is baa-riliant, Kelly! Your daughter must be thrilled with her new woolly friend



"I came across a foot stool in my local charity shop. I decided it needed to come home with me to be transformed!"



What's your favourite thing to knit or crochet for Christmas?

"I seem to knit a lot of mini stockings"

Jacqui Randall



"I'm knitting a Santa but in dark blue, and have got some ideas for tree decorations"

Andrea Mitchell



"I like to design and knit my own Christmas wreaths. My latest is based on The Brambly Hedge Winter Story"

Susan Evans



"Chocolate orange covers"

Tracy Louise Roach



"Santa of course. You can't get more Christmassy than him!"

Ann Graham



"I love making tree decorations"

Em Day



"Gift bags and wall decorations"

Nancy Hall

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LGC Knitting & Crochet, 1 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JY



@knitcrochet

Fluffy mice doing YOUR 3-PART



PLUS: stuffing, four 5mm black safety eyes, tapestry needle
SIZE: Height: 15.5cm



SARAH-JANE HICKS,
DESIGNER

"These fluffy white mice are cute enough as it is, but throw in the festive touches and wow! Celebrating one of the most heartwarming aspects of the season by exchanging presents, this duo is just desperate to get on your hook. Use your bespoke fluffy yarn to crochet the head and base of the body, then reach for the other colours in your pack for everything else. The Blush Pink shade is spot-on for the ears, tail and feet, don't you think? You should have enough yarn left to make even more stockings and presents should you wish to. These mice are part of a larger gang, and we hope you enjoy crocheting each and every one of them over the course of this crochet-along. Happy crafting!"



Perfect for
beginners

MERRY MICE head

Make two
Using 4mm hook and Fluffy 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: 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 5: (2dc, miss one st) to end. 12 sts

Rnd 6: 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 7: (3dc, miss one st) to end. Nine sts

Rnd 8: 1dc in each st to end
Insert safety eyes, between Rnds 5-6, approx five sts apart

Rnd 9: (2dc, miss one st) to end. Six sts
Fasten off

body

Make two
Using 4mm hook and Fluffy 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: 1dc in each st to end
Change to Merry Red (Rich Purple)

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

Rnd 6: 1dc in each st to end

Change to Leaf Green (cont in Rich Purple)

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

Rnd 8: (6dc, dc2tog) to end. 21 sts

Rnd 10: 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 11: (5dc, dc2tog) to end. 18 sts

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

Rnd 13: (2dc, dc2tog) to end. Nine sts
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

ear

Make four
Using 4mm hook and Blush Pink make 2ch

Rnd 1: 8dc in second ch from hook. Eight sts

Rnd 2: 2dc in each st to end. 16 sts
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

foot

Make four
Using 4mm hook and Blush Pink make 5ch, sl st in second ch from hook, three sl sts. Four sts
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

tail

Make two

Using 4mm hook and Blush Pink make 16ch, sl st in second ch from hook, 14 sl sts. 15 sts
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

arm

Make four (two in each colour)

Using 4mm hook and Leaf Green (Rich Purple) make 2ch

Rnd 1: 4dc in second ch from hook. Four sts

Rnds 2-8: 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

first hat

Using 4mm hook and Merry Red make 2ch

Rnd 1: 6dc in second ch from hook. Six sts
Work in foll one-row stripe sequence: Leaf Green, Merry Red

Rnd 2: 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 3: (1dc, 2dc in next st) to end. Nine sts

Rnd 4: 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 5: (2dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 12 sts

Rnd 6: 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

first hat bobble

Using 4mm hook and Leaf Green,

join to top of First Hat, 2ch, (yoh, insert hook in same st, yoh, pull through, yoh, pull through first two loops on hook) four times, yoh, pull through all five loops on hook, sl st in same st
Fasten off

second hat

Using 4mm hook and Rich Purple make 2ch

Rnds 1-5: rep Rnds 1-5 of First Hat, ignoring colour changes. 12 sts
Change to Bright Yellow

Rnd 6: 1dc in each st to end
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

second hat bobble

Using 4mm hook and Bright Yellow make as for First Hat Bobble, joining to Second Hat

first collar

Using 4mm hook and Merry Red make 14ch

Row 1: 1dc in second ch from hook, miss 1ch, sl st in next ch, (2ch, 1dc in second ch from hook, miss 1ch, sl st in next ch) five times. Six points made
Fasten off, leaving a long tail

second collar

Using 4mm hook and Bright Yellow

Christmassy things? Yes please!

CROCHET-ALONG

Merry
MICE



Share your progress with us at
facebook.com/knitandcrochet

CONTINUE
CROCHETING



make 13ch
Row 1: starting in second ch from hook, 1dc in each ch to end. 12 sts
 Fasten off, leaving a long tail

PRESENT

Using 4mm hook and Bright Yellow make 5ch

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

Rows 2-4: 1ch, 4dc, turn

Row 5: 1ch, working in BLO, 4dc, turn

Row 6: 1ch, 4dc, turn

Row 7: 1ch, working in BLO, 4dc, turn

Rows 8-10: 1ch, 4dc, turn

Row 11: 1ch, working in BLO, 4dc, turn

Row 12: 1ch, 4dc, turn
 Fasten off, leaving a long tail

Sew Row 12 to base ch of Row 1 through BLO to form box shape

first side

Join Bright Yellow to edge of Row 7 of Present

Row 1: 1ch, work 1dc in ends of Rows 7-10, turn. Four sts

Row 2: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end
 Fasten off, leaving a long tail

second side

Join Bright Yellow to edge of Row 10 of Present on opposite side

Row 1: 1ch, work 1dc in ends of

Rows 10-7, turn.

Four sts

Row 2: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end
 Fasten off, leaving a long tail

STOCKING

Using 4mm hook and Merry Red make 2ch

Row 1: 6dc in second ch from hook. Six sts

Work in foll one-row stripe sequence: Leaf Green, Merry Red

Row 2: (1dc, 2dc in next st) to end.

Nine sts

Rows 3-4: 1dc in each st to end

Note: now working heel
 Change to Merry Red

Row 1: 3dc, miss six sts, turn. Three sts

Row 2: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end
 Fasten off
 Fold Stocking flat and fold heel in half

Sew across top of Row 2 to join two halves

Join Merry Red to first st on Rnd 5

next to heel

Rnd 5: 1ch, 1dc in each unworked st of Row 4, work 3dc around edge of heel in ends of rows. Nine sts
 Work in foll one-rnd stripe sequence: Leaf Green, Merry Red
Rnds 6-11: 1dc in each st to end
 Fasten off

to make up

Stuff Head. Sew gap closed and use Blush Pink to embroider nose.

Stuff Body and sew to Head. Sew Ears, Feet, Tail, Arms and Collar to Body. Sew Hat to Head. Rep for other mouse. Sew sides of Present in place, stuffing before finishing. Add bow with Rich Purple and sew Present to hands of green mouse. Sew Stocking to hands of purple mouse. Weave in all ends



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6 CUDDLY
CRITTERS
INSIDE

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Perfect for
beginners

BAUBLE

Note: join end of
each rnd with a
sl st

Using 4mm hook
and Rich Purple
make 4ch, join
with a sl st to
make a ring

Rnd 1 (RS): 1ch, 6dc
into ring

Rnds 2-3: 1ch, 2dc
in each st to end.
24 sts

Change to
Merry Red

Rnd 4: 3ch (counts
as 1tr), beg cl (see
Skill Up) in same
place, 2ch, miss
next st, (cl in next
dc, 2ch, miss next
dc) to end. 12
clusters made
Attach Bright
Yellow to any
2ch sp

Rnd 5: 3ch (counts
as 1tr), beg cl in
same 2ch sp, 3ch,
(cl in next 2ch sp,
3ch) to end

Rnd 6: 1ch, 3dc in
top of beg cl, 3dc
in next 3ch sp,
(3dc in top of next
cl, 3dc in next 3ch
sp) to end

Next row: 1ch,
4dc, turn, leave
rest of rnd
unworked

Rows 2-3: rep
previous

row twice
Fasten off

STOCKING

Note: join end of
each rnd with a
sl st

Using 4mm hook
and Blush Pink
make 2ch

Rnd 1 (RS): starting
in second ch from
hook, 6dc. Six sts

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

Rnd 3: 1ch, (1dc,
2dc in next st) to
end. 18 sts

Change to
Merry Red
Rnds 4-7: 3ch
(counts as 1tr), 1tr
in each st to end.
18 sts

Note: now
working heel, next
two rnds are

worked across
only some sts
in row

Change to Blush
Pink, do not cut
Merry Red

Rows 8-9: 1ch, 1dc
in same place as
1ch, 1htr, 6tr, 1htr,
1dc, turn leaving
rem sts unworked

Change to Merry
Red, cut Blush Pink
Rnd 10: 3ch
(counts as 1tr),
miss first dc, 1tr in
first htr, 6tr, 1tr in
next htr, 1tr in
next dc, 8tr.
18 sts

Rnds 11-14: rep
Rnd 4 four
times

Change to
Blush Pink

Rnd 15: 1ch, 1dc
in each st to end.
18 sts

Fasten off

FIR TREE trunk

Using 4mm hook
and Rich Purple
make 6ch

Row 1 (WS):
starting in second
ch from hook, 5dc.
Five sts

Rows 2-4: 1ch, 1dc
in each st to
end, turn
Fasten off



SKILL UP!

Cluster (cl): 3tr in same
place, leaving last part of
each tr unworked. Four loops on hook.
Yoh, pull through all four loops

Beginning cluster (beg cl): 3ch, 2tr in
same place, leaving last part of each tr
unworked. Three loops on hook. Yoh,
pull through all three loops



tree

Using 4mm hook
and Leaf Green
make 5ch

Row 1 (WS): 1dc in
each dc of Row 4
of Trunk, 6ch, turn

Row 2: starting in
second ch from
hook, 1dc in each
of next 5ch, 1dc in
each of next 5dc,
1dc in each of last

5ch, turn. 15 sts

Row 3: 1ch, dc2tog,
1dc in each st to
last two sts,
dc2tog, turn. 13 sts

Rows 4-8: rep
Row 3 five times.
Three sts

Row 9: 1ch,
dc3tog, turn

Row 10: 1ch, 1dc in
top of dc3tog
Fasten off





TOP TIP
KEEP YOUR
TENSION LOOSE
ENOUGH SO
THAT YOUR
TAGS DON'T
CURL

CANDY CANE
Wishes AND
PEPPERMINT
Kisses

CONTINUE
CROCHETING

edge

Using 4mm hook and with RS facing join Merry Red to last dc at top of Tree. Work one row of dc evenly around Tree and Trunk, working 3dc in every outside corner. Join with a sl st to first dc. Fasten off

STAR

Using 4mm hook and Bright Yellow make 4ch, join with a sl st to make a ring

Rnd 1: 3ch (counts as first tr), 14tr into ring, join with a sl st to top of 3ch

Rnd 2: (3ch, tr2tog, 3ch, sl st through top front loops of tr2tog just made, 3ch, sl st in next dc) to end, working last sl st in same place as base of 3ch at start of rnd. Fasten off

MINI JUMPER

Using 4mm hook and Leaf Green make 12ch

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

Rows 2-7: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end, turn. Change to Merry Red

Row 8: 3ch (counts as first tr), 1tr in each st to end, turn. Change to Leaf Green

Row 9: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end, working last dc in top of 3ch from last row, 8ch, turn. 11dc, 8ch

Row 10: starting in second ch from hook, sl st across next 7ch and next 11dc, 8ch, turn

Row 11: starting in second ch from hook, 1dc in each st to end, turn. 25 sts

Rows 12-14:

1ch, 1dc in each st to end, turn

Row 15: 1ch, 10dc, 5ch, miss next five dc (for neck opening), 1dc in each st to end, turn

Rows 16-20: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end, turn. 25 sts

Row 21: sl st across first 7dc,

1ch, 11dc, turn leaving last seven sts unworked. 11 sts

Row 22: rep Row 8

Rows 23-29: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end, turn. Fold Jumper in half along neck opening with RS facing inwards, sl st front and back tog along sides of jumper body and bottom of sleeves. Fasten off

collar

Join Merry Red to centre back of neck opening. Work one row of dc around opening. Fasten off

to make up

Cut baker's twine to required length, tie to middle of last row/rnd of each tag. Leave ends open to tie tag to gift.

Alternatively, use contrast yarn to make ch and tie to top of each tag. Weave in all ends



FESTIVE MINI MAKES

CHECK OUT THESE FUN PROJECTS THAT CAN BE WHIPPED UP IN AN EVENING

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Search 'Christmas chains'



Search 'Candy canes'



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TOP CROCHET PATTERNS

BORN TO DYE

Ever fancied trying your hand at yarn dyeing? With this new kit from We Are Knitters, you'll be able to create four of your very own hand-dyed skeins with up to four different 100% natural tints including Indigo, Brazilwood, Indian Barberry and Alkanet. Each one has the exact measurements needed to colour 400g of yarn. A set of four 100g yarns and four dyes costs £95 from weareknitters.co.uk



THIS MONTH WE'RE LOVING Crafty Kits

These hands-on kits would make wonderful stocking fillers... or a great gift from you to you!



HEAD IN A SPIN

Give yarn spinning a go with this beginner's kit, which includes a wooden drop spindle with metal hook, along with 100g of mixed two-colour roving (bundle of unspun wool). A simple and accessible way to get introduced to spinning, the spindle is made from Ash wood on a pine dowel, and is 300mm long with a high gloss beeswax finish. It costs £25 from ThomasWoodandWool.com on etsy.com

DIP YOUR TOES IN

Put your best foot forward and wow everyone with your own woolly footwear! The Let The Yarn Shine kit is suitable for newbie sock knitters, containing detailed instructions with photos and links to video tutorials to guide you through every step. You get to choose a hand-dyed sock yarn and use the pretty stitch marker that comes with the kit, plus add double-pointed needles for a little extra. It costs £15 from undertheolivetreeknits.com



BRILLIANT BREWS

Get into the spirit of the spooky season with this Pumpkin Tea Cosy Knitting Kit. Perfect for decorating the home at Halloween, and able to be reused year after year, the kit includes 150g of Vivid Orange merino yarn, a small amount of dark brown for the stalk and a pair of beautifully handcrafted Albizia wooden knitting needles. It costs £22.95 from thelittleknittingcompany.co.uk



SOCIAL MEDIA STARS

1 [@northernknitsandpurl](https://www.instagram.com/northernknitsandpurl/)
For lots of knitting tips and tricks, follow this nature-inspired YouTuber on Instagram

2 [@oldrustedchair](https://www.instagram.com/oldrustedchair/)
This indie yarn dyer's bright feed will give you lots of colourway inspiration - trust us!

3 [@pinksheepdesign](https://www.instagram.com/pinksheepdesign/)
Evelyn describes herself as a Bulky Yarn Addict and we love her happy, technicolour feed

NEXT-GEN KNITTERS

Give the gift of knitting to a young person and set them up with a hobby for life! The Knitters of Tomorrow kit is aimed at children aged eight and above. It covers all the basics to help youngsters with no prior skills start their knitting journey with confidence and make their own hat and scarf. The kit includes two 100g balls of The Wonder Yarn, a pair of 8mm bamboo needles, a beginner's guide pattern booklet and a plastic sewing needle. It costs £19.99 from stitchandstory.com





PLUS

two 8mm black eye beads or safety eyes, small amount of dark brown 4-ply, stuffing, tapestry needle, stitch holder

SIZE

Height: 19cm

Polar pal

Intarsia, fluffy yarn, a pom-pom... there are lots of skills to be learned with this cutie

SACHIYO ISHII has gone all-out with our exclusive fluffy yarn, making an endearing polar bear named Roger. If you're new to this type of speciality yarn, don't be intimidated. It's almost impossible to see the stitches, but you'll soon get a feel for it.

And don't be too concerned if you're out by a stitch.

Unless you're three or four off, you won't notice it.



Take the next step

POLAR PAL legs & body

Note: working right Leg first
* Using 4mm needles and Fluffy cast on eight sts

Rows 1-4: k *
Cut yarn, keep sts on holder
Rep from * to * for left Leg and cont to Body

Row 5: k8 (left Leg), k8 (right Leg), connecting both legs. 16 sts

Row 6: kfb, k6, (kfb) twice, k6, kfb. 20 sts

Row 7: k

Row 8: (k2, kfb) three times, (kfb, k2) to end. 24 sts

Row 9: k

Change to Merry Red

Rows 11-15: starting with a k row work in st st
Row 16: (k4, k2tog) to end. 20 sts

Rows 17-19: starting with a p row work in st st
Cast off

head

Using 4mm needles and Fluffy cast on 12 sts

Row 1 (RS): (k1, kfb) three times, (kfb, k1) to end. 18 sts

Row 2: k

Row 3: (k2, kfb) three times, (kfb, k2) to end. 24 sts

Row 4: k

Row 5: (k3, kfb) three times, (kfb, k3) to end. 30 sts

Rows 6-14: k

Row 15: (k3, k2tog) to end. 24 sts
Change to Blush Pink

Rows 16-22:

starting with a p row work in st st

Row 23: (k2tog) to end. 12 sts
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

ear

Make two
Using 4mm needles and Fluffy cast on nine sts

Note: colour in brackets foll instruction indicates which yarn to use

Row 1 (WS): p5 (Fluffy), p4 (Blush Pink)

Note: keep colours correct as set, cross yarn at colour change

Row 2: k

Cont in Fluffy

Row 3: p2tog, p1, (p2tog) to end. Five sts

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

hand

Make two
Using 4mm needles and Fluffy cast on seven sts

Rows 1-4: k
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

jumper

Using 4mm needles and Leaf Green cast on 36 sts

Rows 1-2: (k1, p1) to end

Change to Merry Red

Row 3: k

Note: colour in brackets foll instruction indicates which yarn to use

Row 4: p2 (Merry Red), (p1 [Bright Yellow], p1 [Merry Red]) 16 times, p2 (Merry Red)

Cont in Merry Red

Row 5: k

Row 6: p3 (Merry

Red), p1 (Leaf Green), p2tog, p2 (Merry Red), p1 (Leaf Green), p1, p2tog, p1 (Merry Red), p1 (Leaf Green), p2, p2tog (Merry Red), p1 (Leaf Green), p3 (Merry Red), p2tog (Leaf Green), p3 (Merry Red), p1 (Leaf Green), p2tog, p2 (Merry Red), p1 (Leaf Green), p1, p2tog (Merry Red). 30 sts

Row 7: k3 (Merry Red), (k1 [Leaf Green], k1 [Merry Red]) to last st, k1 (Merry Red)

Row 8: p3 (Merry Red), (p1 [Leaf Green], p3 [Merry Red]) to last three sts, p1 (Leaf Green), p2 (Merry Red)

Cont in Merry Red

Row 9: k

Row 10: rep Row 4 Cont in Merry Red

Row 11: k

Row 12: p

Change to Leaf Green

Row 13: k

Row 14: (k3, k2tog) to end. 24 sts

Rows 15-17: starting with a p row work in st st

Cast off

sleeve

Make two
Using 4mm needles and Leaf Green cast on 14 sts

Note: change to Merry Red after Row 4

Rows 1-6: starting with a p (WS) row work in st st

Row 7: p2 (Merry Red), (p1 [Bright Yellow], p1 [Merry Red]) five times, p2 (Merry Red)

Cont in Merry Red

Row 8: k

Row 9: p

Row 10: k2, (k2tog, k2) to end. 11 sts

Row 11: p

Row 12: k

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

hat

Using 4mm needles and Leaf Green cast on 20 sts

Rows 1-5: (k1, p1) to end

Change to Merry Red

Rows 6-8: starting



"Knitting my polar bear for a little one? Make large French knots for eyes instead of using beads or safety eyes"

SACHIYO ISHII, DESIGNER



CONTINUE
KNITTING >>



BEAR BRIGADE

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CHRISTMAS DELIGHTS AT
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BY SEARCHING 'BEAR'

TOP CROCHET PATTERNS

Winter bear



Christmas bear



Festive bear



with a p row
work in st st

Row 9: k2 (Merry Red), (k1 [Bright Yellow], k1 [Merry Red]) eight times, k2 (Merry Red)
Cont in Merry Red
Row 10: p
Row 11: (k3, k2tog) to end. 16 sts
Row 12: p
Row 13: k2, (k2tog, k2) to end. 11 sts
Row 14: p1, (p2tog) to end. Six sts
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

tail

Using 4mm needles and Fluffy cast on eight sts
Rows 1-4: k
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 and stuff Legs and Body. Wrap Body with Jumper and

sew seam at back. Seam Arms and stuff. Seam Sleeve, roll up hem and lightly stuff. Insert Hand in Sleeve and secure with sts. Rep for other Arm. Attach Sleeves to Body. Seam and stuff Tail. Attach to Body. With fastened-off yarn end of Head, sew muzzle seam. With cast-on yarn end, work gathering thread along cast-on edge and draw tightly. Sew

seam to centre, stuff, and close seam. Seam Ears and attach to Head. Attach eye beads. With dark brown 4-ply, embroider nose and mouth. Seam Hat. Wind Leaf Green around two fingers 20 times, sew centre, cut loops and trim to make small pom-pom. Attach to Hat. Lightly stuff Hat and attach to Head. Sew Head to Body. Weave in all ends

Soft focus

We know we're not the only ones who have stood in a yarn shop, gently pressing a soft skein against our cheek... it's intimate, but understandable. We just love fluffy, squishy, textured yarns. So we've rounded up five of our faves for you to ogle, from a brilliant bouclé to a thick-and-thin masterpiece. Take your pick!



Sirdar Alpine, shade Lynx, £3.49 per 50g (33m) ball, woolwarehouse.co.uk



James C. Brett Chinchilla, shade CHO4, £6.59 per 100g (66m) ball, deramores.com



King Cole Opium, shade Silver, £4.26 per 100g (250m) ball, lovecrafts.com



Scheepjes Softy, shade 477, £1.99 per 50g (145m) ball, woolmania.co.uk



Rowan Cosy Merino, shade Macaroon, £5.95 per 50g (90m) ball, knitblissyarns.co.uk



PLUS
tapestry
needle,
stuffing,
cardboard
(optional),
stones or other
weights
(optional)

SIZE
Tall height:
20.5cm
Medium height:
17.5cm
Short height:
14.5cm

Diwali candles

Celebrate the festival of lights with
our knitted display

This five-day festival honours Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. Lamps are lit and windows and doors are left open to help Lakshmi find her way into people's homes. Other ways to celebrate include cleaning the home, wearing new clothes, exchanging gifts, and preparing festive meals. If you or someone you know is celebrating Diwali, we hope **DAWN FINNEY'S** knitted lights are the perfect gesture.



Take the
next step

DIWALI CANDLES tall

Using 4mm
needles and Rich
Purple cast on 12
sts, leaving a
short tail

Row 1 (RS): k1,
(kfb) ten times, k1.
22 sts

Row 2: p

Row 3: k1, (kfb, k3)
five times, k1.
27 sts

Rows 4-6: starting
with a p row work
in st st

Work in foll
two-row stripe
sequence: Leaf
Green, Rich Purple,
Merry Red, Rich
Purple, Leaf Green

Rows 7-16:
starting with a k
row work in st st
Cut Leaf Green,
leaving a short tail,
and cont working
in st st using Rich

Purple until piece
meas 18cm from
cast-on edge,
ending with a
p row

Row 1a: k1, (k3,
k2tog) five times,
k1. 22 sts

Row 2a: p

Row 3a: k1, (k2tog)
ten times, k1. 12 sts
Cut yarn leaving a
long tail, thread
tail onto tapestry
needle and thread
through rem sts,
fasten off

medium

Using 4mm
needles and Leaf
Green cast on 12
sts, leaving a
short tail

Row 1 (RS): k1,
(kfb) ten times, k1.
22 sts

Row 2: p

Row 3: k1, (kfb, k1,
kfb, k2) four times,
k1 times. 30 sts

Rows 4-6: starting
with a p row work
in st st
Work in foll
two-row stripe
sequence: Merry
Red, Leaf Green,

Rich Purple, Leaf
Green, Merry Red
Rows 7-16:
starting with a k
row work in st st
Cut Merry Red,
leaving a short tail,
and cont working
in st st using Leaf
Green until piece
meas 15cm from
cast-on edge,
ending with a
p row

Row 1a: k1, (k1,
k2tog, k2, k2tog)
four times, k1.
22 sts

Row 2a: p

Row 3a: k1, (k2tog)
ten times, k1. 12 sts
Cut yarn leaving a
long tail, thread
tail onto tapestry
needle and thread
through rem sts,
fasten off

short

Using 4mm
needles and Merry
Red cast on 13 sts,
leaving a short tail

Row 1 (RS): k1,
(kfb) 11 times, k1.
24 sts

Row 2: p

Row 3: k1, (kfb, k1)

11 times, k1. 35 sts

Rows 4-6: starting
with a p row work
in st st

Work in foll
two-row stripe
sequence: Rich
Purple, Merry Red,
Leaf Green, Merry
Red, Rich Purple

Rows 7-16:
starting with a k
row work in st st
Cut Rich Purple,
leaving a short tail,
and cont working
in st st using Merry
Red until piece
meas 12cm from
cast-on edge,
ending with a
p row

Row 1a: k1, (k1,
k2tog) 11 times, k1.
24 sts

Row 2a: p

Row 3a: k1, (k2tog)
11 times, k1. 13 sts
Cut yarn leaving a
long tail, thread
tail onto tapestry
needle and thread
through rem sts,
fasten off

flame

Make three

Using 4mm

needles and Bright
Yellow cast on
three sts, leaving a
long tail

Row 1 (RS): (kfb)
twice, k1. Five sts

Row 2: k

Row 3: kfb, k2, kfb,
k1. Seven sts

Row 4: k

Row 5: kfb, k4, kfb,
k1. Nine sts

Rows 6-8: k

Row 9: k7, k2tog.
Eight sts

**Row 10 and every
even-numbered
row:** k

Row 11: k6, k2tog.
Seven sts

Row 13: k5, k2tog.
Six sts

Row 15: k4, k2tog.
Five sts

Row 17: k3, k2tog.
Four sts

Row 19: k2, k2tog.
Three sts

Row 21: k1, k2tog.
Two sts

Row 22: k2tog.
One st

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



GREAT ADVICE

To make your
candles more
stable, insert a
cardboard disc at
the base before
sewing the
stuffed candle
closed. Taller
candles may also
benefit from the
insertion of a
washed stone
or other weight
to prevent
them from
overbalancing.
Alternatively,
you can simply
join the candles
together in
your desired
formation with a
few stitches



to make up

For each candle
secure all yarn
ends. Using
tapestry needle,
work gathering st
through cast-off
sts, pull tightly,



"These Diwali candles are sure to bring light and joy to your home and, featuring soft woollen flames, they're the ideal decoration if you have small children or active pets to consider"

DAWN FINNEY, DESIGNER



then join top and sides tog using mattress st. Stuff. Join base tog by working gathering st through

cast-off sts (see Great Advice), pulling tightly and securing firmly. Pass long length of yarn through

top of candle, then pull this yarn through to middle of candle and pull tightly to create dip in top of

candle. Using tapestry needle, weave cast-off tail down to base of Flame. Use short length of Merry

Red to join each Flame to top of candle using a couple of sts at base of Flame, at centre, then

secure this tail. Embroider stars onto candles using long tails of Bright Yellow. Weave in all ends

YOU WILL
NEED

YARN

Deramores
Studio DK:
(A) Pearl, two
100g balls;
(B) Gingerbread,
(C) Ruby,
(D) Peridot,
(E) Chocolate,
one 100g ball
of each

PLUS

4mm needles,
tapestry needle,
34cm x 40cm
cushion pad,
small and
medium
pom-pom
makers

SIZE

Width: 40cm
Length: 34cm

TENSION
SQUARE

22 sts x 28 rows
10cm x 10cm
Over patt
4mm needles



Perfect for
beginners

CUSHION
COVER

Make two

Using 4mm
needles and Yarn
A cast on 90 sts
Starting with a k
row work in st st
until piece
meas 34cm
Cast off

SAUSAGE
DOG
APPLIQUÉ
body

Using 4mm
needles and Yarn
B cast on 15 sts
Row 1 (WS): p
Row 2: k1, m1, k to
last st, m1, k1. 17 sts

Row 3: p

Row 4: rep Row 2.
19 sts

Rows 5-11: starting
with a p row work
in st st

Row 12: skpo, k to
last two sts, k2tog.
17 sts

Rows 13-15: cont in
st st

Row 16: rep Row
12. 15 sts

Rows 17-33: cont
in st st

Change to Yarn D

Row 34: k

Row 35: (k1, p1) to
last st, k1

Row 36: (p1, k1) to
last st, p1

Row 37: rep

Row 35

Work in foll
two-row stripe
sequence: Yarn C,
Yarn D

Rows 38-63:

starting with a k
row work in st st

Change to Yarn B

Row 64: k

Row 65: p2tog, p
to last two sts,
p2tog. 13 sts

Row 66: skpo, k to
last two sts, k2tog.
11 sts

Rows 67-68: rep
Rows 65-66.

Seven sts

Cast off



leg

Make two

Using 4mm
needles and Yarn
B cast on five sts

Row 1 (WS): p

Row 2: k1, m1, k to
last st, m1, k1.

Seven sts

Row 3: p

Row 4: rep Row 2.
Nine sts

Row 5-7: starting
with a p row work
in st st

Row 8: skpo, k to
last two sts, k2tog.

Seven sts

Row 9: p

Row 10: rep Row 8.

Five sts

Rows 11-13:

starting with a p
row work in st st

Row 14: cast on
five sts, k to end.

Ten sts

Row 15: p

Row 16: k9, m1, k1.
11 sts

Row 17: p

Row 18: k

Row 19: p2tog, p
to last two sts,
p2tog. Nine sts

Row 20: skpo, k to
last two sts, k2tog.

Seven sts

Cast off

tail

Using 4mm
needles and Yarn
B cast on six sts

Row 1 (RS): k

Rows 2-8: starting
with a p row work
in st st

Row 9: skpo, k2,
k2tog. Four sts

Rows 10-14:
starting with a p
row work in st st

Row 15: skpo,
k2tog. Two sts

Cast off

head

Using 4mm
needles and Yarn

B cast on eight sts

Row 1 (WS): p

Row 2: k1, m1, k to
last st, m1, k1.

Ten sts

Row 3: p

Rows 4-7: rep
Rows 2-3 twice.

14 sts

Rows 8-13:

starting with a k
row work in st st

Row 14: skpo, k to
last two sts, k2tog.
12 sts

Rows 15-17:

starting with a p
row work in st st

Row 18: rep Row
14. Ten sts

Row 19: p

Rows 20-25: rep
Rows 18-19 three
times. Four sts

Row 26: skpo,
k2tog. Two sts

Row 27: p

Cast off

ear

Using 4mm
needles and Yarn
E cast on four sts

Row 1 (WS): p

Row 2: k1, m1, k to
last st, m1, k1.

Six sts

Row 3: p

Row 4: rep Row 2.
Eight sts

Rows 5-7: starting
with a p row work



in st st

Row 8: skpo, k4, k2tog. Six sts
Rows 9-13: starting with a p row work in st st
Row 14: k1, m1, k to last st, m1, k1. Eight sts
Row 15: p
Row 16: k
Row 17: p2tog, p4, p2tog. Six sts
Row 18: k2tog, k2, k2tog. Four sts
 Cast off

hat

Using 4mm needles and Yarn A cast on 12 sts
Rows 1-4: k

Change to Yarn C
Rows 5-8: starting with a k row work in st st

Row 9: skpo, k8, k2tog. Ten sts
Row 10: p
Row 11: k
Row 12: p2tog, p4, p2tog. Eight sts
Row 13: k
Row 14: p2tog, p4, p2tog. Six sts
Row 15: skpo, k2tog. Four sts
Row 16: (p2tog) twice. Two sts
 Cast off

tree

Using 4mm needles and Yarn

D cast on 15 sts
Rows 1-8: k
Row 9: skpo, k to last two sts, k2tog. 13 sts
Rows 10-14: k
Rows 15-32: rep Rows 9-14 three times. Seven sts
Row 33: rep Row 9. Five sts
Rows 34-36: k
Row 37: rep Row 9. Three sts
Rows 38-39: k
Row 40: sl 1, k2tog, pssso. One st
 Fasten off

tree trunk

Using 4mm needles and Yarn

B cast on six sts
Rows 1-6: starting with a k row work in st st
 Cast off

collar

Using 4mm needles and Yarn C cast on 12 sts
Row 1: k
Row 2: p
 Cast off

scarf

Using 4mm needles and Yarn C cast on 42 sts
Row 1: k
Row 2: p
 Cast off

to make up

Sew Back and Front of Cushion Cover tog on WS, leaving a gap large enough to fit pad. Turn RS out, insert cushion pad and sew up hole. Sew Body and Head to cushion first, lightly stuffing each piece. Using Yarn E, embroider nose and eye on Head. Position Hat on top of Head and sew in place. Sew Ear to Head, add Collar around neck. Fold longer

section of Scarf in half and sew to collar. Make small pom-poms in Yarn A and add to top of Hat and to each end of Scarf. Sew Legs and Tail to Body. Sew Tree in place. Add long lengths of Yarn E and sew these from bottom of Body around Tree. Make two larger pom-poms in Yarns C and D and add to corners of cushion. Weave in all ends



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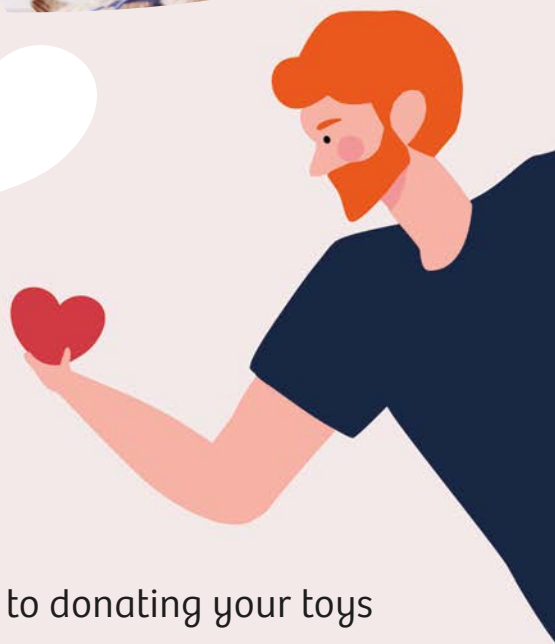
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ALL
FOR A

GOOD cause!



Put your skills to good use with our guide to donating your toys

WORDS BY SOPHIE TARRANT



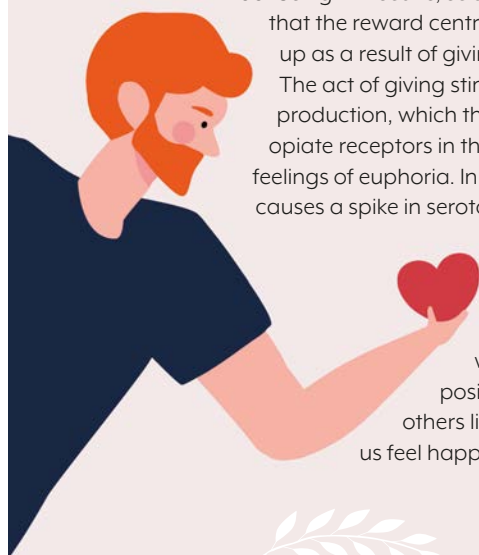
With so much time spent at home over the past year, many of us have turned to sewing, knitting and other crafty pursuits in an effort to keep our hands busy and our days filled. For lots of crafters, it was an opportunity to use up all those random stash items that had otherwise sat unloved in cupboards and drawers for months, or even years. Small, quick projects such as dolls, teddies and toys were top of the to-make list for many – but now that we're easing back into regular life, what can we do with all those finished items? Some of them will be kept and cherished for years to come, whilst others will be given as gifts to family and friends. But there's another option, too – what about donating those items to those in need? We've taken a look at why donating might just be the best idea for all those new makes – and how you too can get involved with charitable making drives.

Five Reasons Why...

We all know that it feels good to donate – but why is that? Here are five reasons why we think giving to charity is a worthy way to spend your time.

1 IT MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD

Studies have long shown that donating to others makes us feel good, not just generally but also on a biological level, too. Using MRI scans, scientists have observed that the reward centres of the brain light up as a result of giving to people in need. The act of giving stimulates endorphin production, which then reacts with opiate receptors in the brain, leading to feelings of euphoria. In addition to this, it causes a spike in serotonin – the 'happy hormone' which, when produced, gives us feelings of happiness, warmth and positivity. Giving to others literally makes us feel happier.



2 IT USES UP YOUR STASH

Almost all crafters are guilty of building up a stash of supplies. We just can't resist the allure of pretty fabrics and soft yarns! This was particularly true over the course of last year's lockdowns, when some crafty retailers reported sales booms of up to 300%. This is fantastic news for the craft industry, but perhaps not so great for our home storage solutions. Making toys for charity is a fabulous

way of using up random materials, such as yarn leftover at the end of other projects, or smaller lengths of fabric that you've purchased on a whim. Next time you've got a free afternoon, why not sort through your supplies and see if there's anything you could spare? Not only will your stash feel newly organised (and you'll be reminded of what's in it) but you might find something you can use for a charitable make too.



3 IT'LL BRUSH UP YOUR SKILLS

Working on small-scale projects such as dolls, toys and teddies is the perfect way to practise your skills and learn new techniques. Better still, you can make multiples of the same item if you want to really get the hang of what you're doing. The more you make, the quicker you'll see your work improve – and the more finished items you'll have to donate to a good cause.

4 IT'S GREAT FOR KIDS

Making items for charitable causes is not only fun for children, but it's the perfect opportunity to advance their crafty talents, or teach them a completely new technique. Giving the finished items to a good cause takes this one step further, introducing them to the concept of charity and teaching them the importance of generosity and kindness – all things that will prove beneficial throughout their entire lives.



5 IT HELPS OTHERS

Of course, one of the main reasons to make for charity is the simple fact that it benefits other people. Whatever it is you're creating, you can rest assured that the person who receives the item – or the proceeds of it, should you choose to sell your makes and donate financially instead – will appreciate the effort, time and love that's gone into your creation. Many children around the world don't have access to the same toys, games and comforts that our own little ones do, and the simple act of donating one stuffed toy could bring immeasurable companionship and joy to a child's life.





Get Involved...

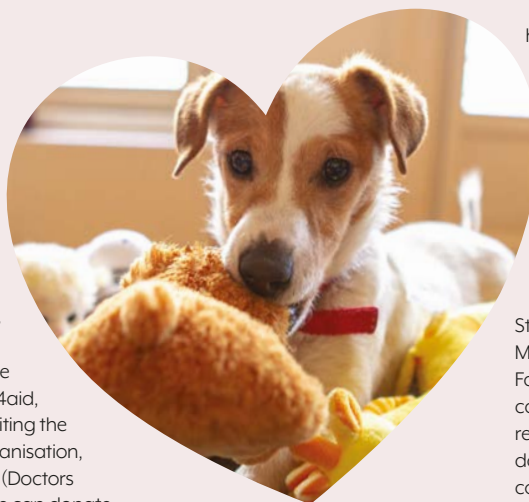
With so many charities to choose from, it's hard to pick just one. Here are five of our favourites, all of which are looking for donations right now. So grab your yarn or fabric, pick a pattern, and let's get stitching for a good cause!

Made4aid

This non-profit first launched in June 2009, when a number of different online crafty communities came together in an effort to contribute to charity and aid work. Launching first as a blog and then in 2010 as an Etsy shop, items donated from all over the world are sold by made4aid, with the proceeds benefiting the charity's designated organisation, Médecins sans Frontière (Doctors without Borders). Anyone can donate suitable items to the project, which include almost anything handmade alongside supplies for arts and crafts too. For more information on how to donate or to see the latest items for sale, visit made4aid.org

Dolls of Hope

US-based organisation Dolls of Hope was started in 2016 when founder Sarah Carmichael Parson heard first-hand accounts of children in refugee camps having nothing to play with. Knowing how much comfort stuffed toys brought to her own children, Sarah was inspired to



start Dolls of Hope in an effort to raise money, awareness and supplies for those in need. Since then, the charity has sent over 52,000 handmade dolls, bears and matchbox cars to children in 41 countries. To find out more, donate and download free Dolls of Hope patterns, visit dollssofhopeco.org

Battersea Dogs and Cats Home

If you're an animal-lover, perhaps you'd like to donate to our four-legged friends instead. The Battersea Dogs and Cats Home is always in need of donations, including bedding, treats and toys. The charity even recently launched a 'Made in Battersea' craft series online, which teaches how to make cheap, easy and enriching

homemade toys for dogs and cats, just like the volunteers and staff do at Battersea. To find out more about the charity and watch the new series, visit battersea.org.uk

The Billion Bears Charity Teddy Drive

Started by toy designer Pauline McArthur of the Funky Friends Factory, the Billion Bears project first came into being after Pauline kept receiving requests for charitable donations. Being a one-woman company, she didn't have the time or resources to donate as much as she wanted to, so instead decided to design a free teddy bear pattern that others can use to create their own toys for charity instead. Once the pattern has been used, makers can get in touch with Pauline to tell her how many stuffed animals they've created, all of which contributes to the final aim of making (and donating) one billion bears. To find out more and download your own Billion Bears pattern, visit funkyfriendsfactory.com

Closer to Home

As the old saying goes, charity begins at home – and perhaps you'd rather donate locally instead. Contact your local charity shops to find out what they are particularly in need of. Oxfam stores nationwide actively encourage makers to create handcrafted items to donate to their local stores, and we're sure other organisations would be just as pleased to receive them too. For more information about your local Oxfam store, visit oxfam.org.uk



PATTERN finder

There are hundreds of free toy patterns online that are just perfect for making charitable donations. Here are a few places to gather inspiration.

TOP CROCHET PATTERNS

Of course our first port of call will always be our own library of makes – we've got hundreds of FREE toy patterns online right now. topcrochetpatterns.com



SEW MAGAZINE

If sewing's your craft of choice, don't forget to check out sewmag.co.uk. The projects from our sister titles Make & Sew Toys and Sew find their forever home on the website, so there are tons of free toy patterns for you to enjoy.

PINTEREST

As always, Pinterest is chock-full of toymaking inspiration, downloadable patterns and how-tos. Just search for the sort of project you'd like to make, then have a scroll. pinterest.com





PLUS

four 6mm black eye beads or safety eyes, small amount of dark brown 4-ply, pink pastel, stuffing, two red wooden beads, two green wooden beads, cotton buds (optional), tapestry needle, stitch holder

SIZE

Height: 16cm



Take the next step

MOLLY & MAISY legs, body & head

Make two

* Using 4mm needles and Blush Pink cast on nine sts

Rows 1-13: starting with a p (WS) row work in st st * Cut yarn, keep sts on holder

Rep from * to * for second Leg Change to Merry Red (Leaf Green)

Row 14: k9 (Leg from needle), k9 (Leg from holder). 18 sts

Row 15: p

Row 16: (k2, kfb) three times, (kfb,

k2) three times. 24 sts

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

Row 24: (k2, k2tog) to end. 18 sts

Rows 25-31: starting with a p row work in st st

Row 32: (k1, k2tog) to end. 12 sts Change to Blush Pink

Row 33: p2tog, p to last two sts, p2tog. Ten sts

Row 34: k

Row 35: p

Row 36: (kfb) to end. 20 sts

Row 37: p

Row 38: (k1, kfb) to end. 30 sts

Rows 39-43: starting with a p row work in st st

Row 44: k8, (k2tog, k2) three times, k2tog, k8. 26 sts

Rows 45-49: starting with a p row work in st st

Row 50: k2, (k2tog, k2) to end. 20 sts

Row 51: p

Row 52: (k2tog) to end. Ten sts

Cut yarn leaving a

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

boot

Make four

Using 4mm needles and Rich Purple cast on 12 sts

Row 1 (WS): p

Row 2: (k3, kfb) to end. 15 sts

Rows 3-7: starting with a p row work in st st

Row 8: k5, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k to end. 13 sts

Row 9: p

Row 10: k4, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k to end. 11 sts

Row 11: p

Change to Fluffy Cast off

dress

Make two

Using 4mm needles and Fluffy cast on 40 sts

Change to Leaf Green (Merry Red)

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

Row 11: (k2tog) to

end. 20 sts

Rows 12-20:

starting with a p row work in st st Change to Fluffy Cast off

sleeve

Make four (two in each colour)

Using 4mm needles and Fluffy cast on 12 sts

Change to Leaf Green (Merry Red)

Row 1 (RS): k

Row 2: p

Row 3: k2tog, k to last two sts, k2tog. Ten sts

Rows 4-10:

starting with a p row work in st st Cast off

hand

Make four

Using 4mm needles and Blush Pink cast on eight sts

Rows 1-5: 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



SKILL UP!

French knots: This simple embroidery stitch results in a fun 3D bobble that's perfect for noses. First, bring your needle and yarn up through your knitted fabric and wrap your yarn two to four times around your needle, depending on how big you want the French knot to be. Then pierce back through your fabric, very close to where you came out but not at exactly the same spot, and pull the yarn tight. You now have a French knot!

hat

Make two

Using 4mm needles and Fluffy cast on 36 sts

Change to Leaf Green (Merry Red)

Rows 1-4: starting with a k (RS) row work in st st

Row 5: (k4, k2tog) to end. 30 sts

Row 6: p

Row 7: (k3, k2tog) to end. 24 sts

Rows 8-12:

starting with a p row work in st st

Row 13: (k2, k2tog) to end. 18 sts

Rows 14-16:

starting with a p row work in st st

Row 17: (k1, k2tog) to end. 12 sts

Rows 18-20:

starting with a p row work in st st

Row 21: (k2tog) to end. Six sts

Row 22: p

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

bobble

Make two

Using 4mm needles and Fluffy cast on ten sts

Row 1: (k2tog) to end. Five sts

Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread

Traditional knits are a big hit with us at Let's Get Crafting and these sweet dolls, designed by **SACHIYO ISHII**, make wonderful gifts or decorations for the Christmas festivities. You'll make excellent use of your fluffy yarn in this project, using it to add a wintry trim to your doll's outfit and making them look extra cosy!



TOP TIP

IF YOU'RE
USING SAFETY
EYES WITH
WASHERS,
ATTACH THEM
BEFORE
STUFFING THE
HEAD

USE ALL
SIX
YARN
COLOURS!

**THIS
IS FOR
YOU**

CONTINUE
KNITTING



through rem sts,
fasten off

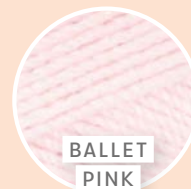
to make up

With cast-on yarn end of Body, sew each Leg to crotch. Sew Body seam halfway. With fastened-off yarn end, sew Head to neck. Stuff Head and Body, insert cotton bud in neck for extra strength (optional), and close seam. With Blush Pink, work gathering thread along neck and draw tightly. Seam Boot, stuff toe, and insert Leg. Secure Boot to Leg with sts all around. Rep for other Leg. Wrap Body with Dress and sew seam at back. Seam Hands. Seam Sleeve and lightly

stuff. Insert Hand in Sleeve and secure to Sleeve with sts at cuff. Attach Sleeves to Body. Attach eye beads. With Blush Pink, make large French knot (see Skill Up) for nose. With dark brown 4-ply, embroider mouth. With Bright Yellow, make straight sts to front and sides of face. Leave long ends at sides of face and make plaits. With Merry Red (Leaf Green), tie plait ends. Seam Hat and Bobble. Attach Bobble to tip of Hat. Attach Hat to Head. Sew wooden beads to Dress. Colour cheeks with pink pastel. Weave in all ends

Run out of yarn?

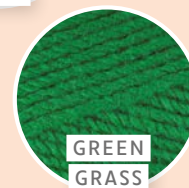
TRY PAINTBOX YARNS SIMPLY DK, £2.25 PER 100G (276M) BALL,
LOVECRAFTS.COM



BALLET
PINK



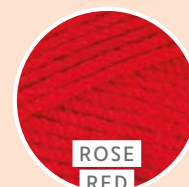
BUTTERCUP
YELLOW



GREEN
GRASS



PANSY
PURPLE



ROSE
RED

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*Look for the sign-up bar on the giftstoyou.com homepage **Excludes free offers



PLUS
tapestry
needle, small
amount of
black yarn,
stuffing, small
amount of
cardboard

SIZE
Boy height:
19cm
Girl height:
21cm

Mr & Mrs Gnome

This loved-up pair is the definition of couple goals!

The Nordic gnome has become a much-loved decorative addition to festive households in recent years. Our cute duo was designed by **NICOLA VALIJI** and we're sure you'll agree the extra details such as the embroidered flowers and buttons on Mrs Gnome are simply adorable. And don't get us started on that fluffy yarn beard... it's the cutest!



Perfect for
beginners

MR & MRS GNOME

body & head

Make two

Using 4mm needles and Bright Yellow cast on nine sts

Row 1 (RS): k1, (kfb) to end. 17 sts

Row 2 and every even-numbered row: p

Row 3: k1, (kfb, k1) to end. 25 sts

Row 5: k1, (kfb, k2) to end. 33 sts

Row 7: k1, (kfb, k3) to end. 41 sts

Change to Merry Red

Rows 9-11: k

Rows 12-18: starting with a p row work in st st

Row 19: k1, (k8, k2tog) to end. 37 sts

Row 20: p

Row 21: k1, (k7, k2tog) to end.

33 sts

Row 22: p

Row 23: k1, (k6, k2tog) to end. 29 sts

Rows 24-32: starting with a p row work in st st
Row 33: k1, (k2tog) to end. 15 sts

Change to Blush Pink

Row 34: p

Row 35: (kfb) to end. 30 sts

Rows 36-51: starting with a p row work in st st
Row 52: (p2tog) to end. 15 sts

Row 53: k1, (k2tog) to end. Eight sts
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

nose

Make two

Using 4mm needles and Blush Pink cast on three sts

Row 1 (RS): (kfb) to end. Six sts

Rows 2-4: starting with a p row work

in st st

Row 5: (k2tog) to end. Three sts
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

ear

Make four

Using 4mm needles and Blush Pink cast on five sts

Row 1: k
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread tail onto tapestry needle and thread through rem sts, fasten off

beard

Using 4mm needles and Fluffy cast on two sts

Row 1: (kfb) to end. Four sts

Row 2: p

Row 3: kfb, k to last st, kfb. Six sts

Row 4: p

Rows 5-10: rep Rows 3-4 three times. 12 sts

Rows 11-16: starting with a p

row work in st st
Cast off

hat

Make two

Using 4mm needles and Merry Red cast on 31 sts

Rows 1-3: k
Work in foll four-row stripe sequence: Leaf Green, Rich Purple, Bright Yellow

Rows 4-12: starting with a p row work in st st

Row 13: k1, (k2tog, k3) to end. 25 sts

Rows 14-16: starting with a p row work in st st

Row 17: k1, (k2tog, k3) to end. 19 sts

Rows 18-20: starting with a p row work in st st

Row 21: k1, (k2tog, k1) to end. 13 sts

Rows 22-28: starting with a p row work in st st

Row 29: (k2, k2tog) three times, k1. Ten sts

Row 30: p

Row 31: (k2tog) to end. Five sts

Cut yarn leaving a

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

arm

Make four

Using 4mm needles and Leaf Green cast on 11 sts

Work in foll two-row stripe sequence: Leaf Green, Rich Purple, Bright Yellow

Rows 1-16: starting with a k row work in st st

Change to Merry Red

Rows 17-18: k

Change to Blush Pink

Rows 19-21: starting with a k row work in st st

Row 22: p1, (p2tog) five times. Six sts

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

collar

Using 4mm

needles and Rich Purple cast on 20 sts

Row 1: k
Cast off

apron

Using 4mm needles and Bright Yellow cast on five sts

Row 1 (RS): kfb, k to last st, kfb. Seven sts

Row 2: p

Rows 3-6: rep Rows 1-2 twice. 11 sts

Rows 7-9: starting with a p row work in st st

Cast off

apron strap

Using 4mm needles and Bright Yellow cast on 40 sts

Row 1: k
Cast off

to make up

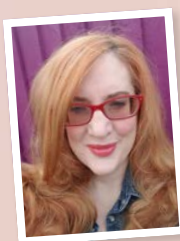
Gather cast-on sts of Body to form circle, sew up row edges to top of fastened-off sts on WS. Turn RS out, place

TOP TIP

PLACE A SMALL
ROUND DISC OF
CARDBOARD IN
THE BASES OF
YOUR GNOMES
TO MAKE THEM
STAND UPRIGHT

**CONTINUE
KNITTING**

cardboard disc in base, stuff firmly, close and secure sts. Gather neck sts and pull tightly. Embroider eyes with black yarn. Gather fastened-off sts of Arms, sew on WS up row edges. Turn RS out and stuff. Sew Arms to Body. Gather fastened-off Nose sts, sew around row edges and cast-on edge, pulling tightly to make round shape. Sew Nose to front of face. Gather fastened-off Ear sts to make half circle, sew Ears to Head. Gather fastened-off edges of Hat, sew down row edges to cast-on edge on WS. Turn RS out and place small amount of stuffing in tip of Hat. Sew Hat on Head. Sew Beard underneath Nose of Mr Gnome, use Fluffy to embroider two eyebrows. Use Merry Red to embroider mouth on Mrs Gnome. Embroider flowers to front of Apron. Sew Apron bib to Strap, place it on Body and sew in place. Attach Collar around neck. Use Rich Purple to embroider two buttons below Collar. Cut six 20cm lengths of Fluffy and make two plaits, secure with a bow of Merry Red at ends. Sew plaits to side of Head behind Ears, tucking them under Hat. Weave in all ends



"My cute gnomes are a wonderful project for beginner knitters. The pattern is mainly worked in stocking stitch with simple increases and decreases. Take your time when sewing your pieces together to get your gnomes looking identical, and most of all, just have fun!"

NICOLA VALIJI, DESIGNER



Saint Nick



USE ALL
SIX
YARN
COLOURS!

Make the man himself with our
easy-to-follow amigurumi pattern

USING YOUR *Mistletoe* YARN KIT



PROJECT
OVERLEAF





PLUS

two 6mm black eye beads or safety eyes, stuffing, tapestry needle, stitch marker

SIZE

Height: 21.5cm



Take the next step

SAINT NICK

Note: this pattern is worked in joined rnds, join with a sl st to first st after each rnd

legs & body

Note: working left Leg

* Using 4mm hook

Use your exclusive Mistletoe yarns to crochet the one and only Father Christmas. As ever, **SACHIYO ISHII** has added plenty of character – just look at that round nose and his bushy eyebrows! If you're new to working with fluffy yarn, this is a great place to start, because it's used as an accent rather than for large body parts. What are you waiting for?



and Rich Purple make a magic ring, work 8dc into ring. Eight sts

Rnds 1-4: 1dc in each st to end Change to Merry Red

Rnd 5: working in BLO, 2dc, (2dc in next st, 2dc) to end. Ten sts

Rnd 6: 2dc in next st, 1dc in each st to last st, 2dc in next st. 12 sts

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

Rep from * to * for right Leg and cont to Body

Rnd 9: insert hook in left Leg and 1dc in each st around left Leg sts, insert hook in right Leg, 1dc in each st around right Leg. 24 sts

Rnds 10-12: 1dc in

each st to end

Rnd 13: (3dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 30 sts

Rnd 14: (4dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 36 sts

Rnds 15-17: 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 18: (4dc, dc2tog) to end. 30 sts

Rnd 19: 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 20: (3dc, dc2tog) to end. 24 sts

Rnds 21-25: 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 26: (2dc, dc2tog) to end. 18 sts

Fasten off

head

Using 4mm hook and Blush 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: (3dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 30 sts

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

Rnds 6-13: 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 14: (4dc, dc2tog) to end. 30 sts

Rnd 15: (3dc, dc2tog) to end. 24 sts

Rnd 16: (2dc, dc2tog) to end. 18 sts

Rnd 17: (1dc, dc2tog) to end. 12 sts

Stuff

Rnd 18: (dc2tog) to end. Six sts

Fasten off

jumper piece below belt

Using 4mm hook and Merry Red make 36ch, join with a sl st in first ch. 36 sts

Rnd 1: 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 2: 1dc in each st to end

Change to Fluffy

Rnd 3: 1dc in each st to end Fasten off

boot

Make two

Using 4mm hook and Rich Purple 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: 6dc, 6htr, 6dc

Rnd 4: 6dc, (htr2tog) three times, 6dc. 15 sts

Rnd 5: 5dc, (htr2tog) twice, 5dc. 13 sts Fasten off

sleeve

Make two

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

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

Rnds 2-8: 1dc in each st to end

Change to Fluffy

Rnd 9: 1dc in each st to end Fasten off

hand

Make two

Using 4mm hook and Blush Pink make a magic ring, work 5dc into ring. Five sts

Rnd 1: 2dc in each

st to end. Ten sts

Rnds 2-3: 1dc in each st to end

Rnd 4: 2dc, (dc2tog, 2dc) to end. Eight sts Fasten off

beard

Using 4mm hook and Fluffy make 15ch

Row 1: starting in second ch from hook, 1dc in each st to end, turn. 14 sts

Rows 2-5: dc2tog, 1dc in each st to last two sts, dc2tog, turn. Six sts Fasten off

moustache

Using 4mm hook and Fluffy make a magic ring, work 3dc into ring. Three sts Fasten off and pull ring tightly

nose

Using 4mm hook and Blush Pink make a magic ring, work 5dc into ring. Five sts

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

Rnd 2: (dc2tog) to end. Five sts Fasten off

hat

Using 4mm hook and Rich Purple make a magic ring, work 6dc into ring. Six sts

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

Rnd 2: (3dc, 2dc in next st) twice. Ten sts

Rnd 3: (4dc, 2dc in next st) twice. 12 sts

Rnd 4: (5dc, 2dc in next st) twice. 14 sts

Rnd 5: (6dc, 2dc in



SMALL OSBY STAR WINDOW LIGHT. LIGHTS4FUN.CO.UK

next st) twice.
16 sts

Rnd 6: (7dc, 2dc in next st) twice.
18 sts

Rnd 7: (8dc, 2dc in next st) twice.
20 sts

Rnd 8: (9dc, 2dc in next st) twice.
22 sts

Rnd 9: (10dc, 2dc in next st) twice.
24 sts

Rnd 10: (11dc, 2dc in next st) twice.
26 sts

Change to Merry Red
Rnd 11: (12dc, 2dc in next st) twice.
28 sts

Rnd 12: (13dc, 2dc in next st) twice.
30 sts

Rnd 13: (14dc, 2dc in next st) twice.
32 sts

Rnd 14: (15dc, 2dc in next st) twice.
34 sts

Rnd 15: (16dc, 2dc in next st) twice.
36 sts

Rnd 16: (17dc, 2dc in next st) twice.
38 sts

Rnd 17: (18dc, 2dc in next st) twice.
40 sts

Change to Fluffy
Rnd 18: 1dc in each

st to end
Fasten off

bobble

Using 4mm hook and Fluffy make a magic ring, work 6htr into ring.
Six sts
Fasten off

belt

Using 4mm hook and Leaf Green make 3ch
Row 1: starting in second ch from hook, 1dc in each ch to end, turn.
Two sts
Rows 2-24: 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc in each st

to end, turn
Fasten off

buckle

Using 4mm hook and Bright Yellow make 16ch
Fasten off

to make up

Stuff Body and Legs. Join Fluffy to front loop of Rnd 5 of Leg and, working in FLO, 1dc in each st to end. Join and fasten off. Hide yarn ends in Legs. Stuff toe of Boot, insert Leg in Boot and secure Boot to Leg. Rep for

other Leg. Sew Jumper to Body. Attach Belt and Buckle. Stuff hand and Sleeve, insert hand in Sleeve, and secure hand to Sleeve. Rep for other Arm. Attach Arms to Body. Attach Beard, Nose and Moustache. Attach eye beads. With Fluffy, embroider eyebrows. Attach Bobble to Hat, then Hat to Head. Sew Head to Body. Weave in all ends



"Use a stitch marker or waste yarn to keep track of the first stitch of each round and leave a long tail for parts that require assembly"

SACHIYO ISHII, DESIGNER

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THAT'S RIGHT! OUR WEBSITE TOPCROCHETPATTERNS.COM IS HOME TO SO MANY FESTIVE PATTERNS FOR YOU TO ENJOY, FROM TOYS TO DECORATIONS AND EVEN GAMES. HERE ARE A FEW OF OUR FAVES...



Christmas skittles crochet-along



Christmas kitten



Mini Rudolph



Christmas car



Christmas mice



Retro Christmas stocking

YOU WILL NEED



YARN

Lana Grossa Meilenweit 50, super fine: #1362 Green, #1101 White, #1283 Yellow, #1372 Orange, one skein of each

PLUS

set of five 2.5mm-3mm dpns

SIZE

Child 11-Youth 3 Pattern instructions given are for Child's 11-12, foot length approx 19cm. Changes to stitch counts and variations needed for other sizes are given in panel overleaf

TENSION SQUARE

32 sts x 38 rnds 10cm x 10cm In colourwork pattern 2.5mm-3mm needles



Challenge yourself

KID'S SOCKS

Cast on 56 sts in Yellow, distribute evenly onto four dpns (14 sts per needle), and join into the rnd. For cuff, work ten rnds (2cm) in Cuff Ribbing pattern (see Skill Up). Break working yarn in Yellow. Work leg in stocking stitch

(see Skill Up), beg with five rnds in White. Cont in Stranded Pattern A in White and Orange. Work Rnds 1-3 of chart once. Work three rnds in White. Cont in Stranded Pattern B in White and Green. Work Rnds 1-7 of chart once. Break working yarn in Green, and work three rnds in White. Cont in Stranded Pattern A in White and Orange. Work Rnds 1-8 of chart twice; then work Rnds 1-4 once more. Work one more rnd in White. Break working yarn in White and Orange. Work boomerang heel in stocking stitch over 28 sts of Ndls 4 and 1, following instructions in panel overleaf. Work foot in st st in the rnd over all sts on all 4 dpns, beg with two rnds

in White. Work Stranded Pattern A in White and Orange. Work Rnds 1-8 of chart four times; then work Rnds 1-4 once. Break working yarn in Orange. Work one rnd in White, two rnds in Green, and two rnds in White. Break working yarn in White and Green, and finish sock in Yellow. After 15cm from middle of heel, begin toe decreases. Work toe with paired banded decreases as follows: in Rnd 1, on first and third needle, k tog third-to-last and second-to-last sts (right-leaning), and on second and fourth needles, slip second st, k next

st, and pass slipped st over (left-leaning). Work next two rnds even in st st without decreases. Rep Rnd 1 decreases in Rnds 4, 6 and 8; then work decreases in every rnd until only two sts rem on each needle (eight sts total). Break working yarn, thread end onto tapestry needle and through eight sts, and cinch them tightly. Now thread tail through to WS and weave it in. Break working yarn, and pull end through to inside of sock. Weave in all ends. Work second sock in same way



SKILL UP!

Stocking stitch (st st): In rows, knit on RS, purl on WS. In rnds, knit all sts in all rnds
Cuff Ribbing: Alternate k1, p1

Kid's socks

Learn valuable skills and embrace colourwork with these seasonal socks

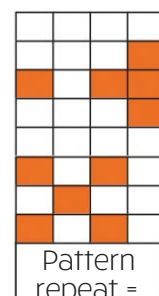
Knit Soxx For Everyone is a book filled with vibrant, beautiful socks for the whole family. Here, we've chosen to share Soxx 4 for kids. New to sock making? Author **KERSTIN BALKE** says it best. "If you don't feel ready to venture into stranded knitting with two colours right now, you can start with simple striped socks and later continue with small colourwork patterns."



STRANDED PATTERNS A & B

Stitch count has to be a multiple of four. Work all rnds in st st from appropriate colorwork chart. Rep patt repeat (four sts wide) around

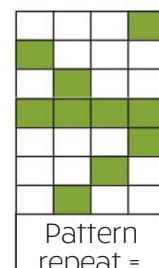
Stranded Patterns A



Pattern repeat = 4 stitches

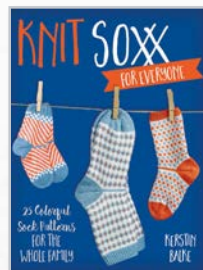
□ - White
■ - Orange

Stranded Patterns B



Pattern repeat = 4 stitches

□ - White
■ - Green



This pattern has been taken from
Knit Soxx For Everyone
 by Kerstin Balke
 (£18.95, Stackpole Books) searchpress.com





STITCH COUNTS & VARIATIONS FOR OTHER SIZES

The leg for Child's 11-12 has a length of 12.5cm and can be made longer or shorter by working a different number of reps for Stranded Pattern A:

• CHILD'S 6-7, foot length approx 16.5cm

Cast on 52 sts (13 sts per needle)

Foot, Stranded Pattern A: work Rnds 1-8 of chart three times; then Rnds 1-4 once. Cont as stated in patt, and after 13.5cm from middle of heel, begin toe decreases

• CHILD'S 8-10, foot length approx 18cm

Cast on 56 sts (14 sts per needle)

Foot, Stranded Pattern A: work Rnds 1-8 of chart four times. Cont as stated in patt, and after 14cm from middle of heel, begin toe decreases

• CHILD'S 13, YOUTH'S 1, foot length approx 20.5cm

Cast on 60 sts (15 sts per needle)

Foot, Stranded Pattern A: work Rnds 1-8 of chart five times. Cont as stated in patt, and after 16.5cm from middle of heel, begin toe decreases

• YOUTH'S 2-3, foot length approx 21.5cm

Cast on 60 sts (15 sts per needle)

Foot, Stranded Pattern A: work Rnds 1-8 of chart five times; then work Rnds 1-4 once. Cont as stated in patt, and after 17.5cm from middle of heel, begin toe decreases

WORKING THE BOOMERANG HEEL

Boomerang heels are worked using the German short rows method with double stitch

German short rows method

After RS rows as well as after WS rows, turn work, and bring working yarn to front of work. Slip first st unworked, simultaneously pulling working yarn away from you until taut. The st is pulled over the needle, with its two legs now sitting on needle

Boomerang heel

Work over sts of fourth and first needle in st st. For this method, combine all sts onto one needle and divide into three parts, using st markers between sections if needed. In the first (upper) part of heel, you work over sts between two double sts only, always turning before double st

Row 1 (RS): k all sts, turn

Row 2 (WS): pull out a double st, p all following sts, turn

Row 3 (RS): pull out a double st, k to double st, turn

Row 4 (WS): pull out a double st, p to double st, turn
Rep Rows 3-4 until all sts in first and last thirds are double st; all sts in middle third should be single sts

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YOU WILL NEED

YARN
Vest: Rowan Big Wool: (A) 001 White Hot, 5 (5, 6, 6, 7) 100g balls, (B) 090 Pumpkin 1 (1, 1, 1, 1) 100g ball
Scarf: Rowan Island Blend: (C) 902 Jet, (D) 905 Marine, three 50g balls of each; (E) 901 Ash 901, one 50g ball

PLUS
9mm needles, 9mm 40cm circular needle, four 5mm double-pointed needles, stitch holders, stitch markers

SIZES
Vest:
To fit bust: 81-86cm (91-97cm, 102-107cm, 112-117cm, 122-127cm)
Actual bust measurement: 105cm (116cm, 127cm, 135cm, 146cm)
Scarf: 20cm x 149cm

TENSION SQUARE
Vest:
11 sts x 14 rows
10cm x 10cm
Stocking stitch
9mm needles
Scarf:
21 sts x 28 rnds
10cm x 10cm
Stocking stitch
4mm needles



Take the next step

Vest & scarf

Give the gift of cosy knits this year

If you're a beginner knitter looking for a step up then look no further! Designed by **JEN GEIGLEY**, these contemporary designs use simple stitches to create chic garments you can either keep or gift. Make sure you block your pieces before stitching them together and take a look at our advice on achieving the three-needle cast-off to give your scarf a doubled-up cosiness that's essential for chilly days.

VEST back

Using 9mm needles and Yarn B cast on 58 (64, 70, 74, 80) sts
Next row (RS): (k1, p1) to end
Last row sets rib patt
Work in rib for a further seven rows
Change to Yarn A
Starting with a k row work in st st until work meas 54 (55, 56, 57, 58) cm, ending with a WS row

shape shoulders

Cast off 21 (23, 26, 27, 30) sts at beg of next and foll row. 16 (18, 18, 20, 20) sts
Leave rem sts on st holder for back neck

front

Work as for Back until 10 (12, 12, 14, 14) rows less have been worked to start of shoulder shaping, ending with a WS row

shape neck

Next row (RS): k25 (28, 31, 33, 36), turn
Leave rem sts unworked
Next row: p

Next row: k to last four sts, k2tog, k2.

24 (27, 30, 32, 35) sts
Next row: p
Rep last two rows until 21 (23, 26, 27, 30) sts rem
Cont straight until Front is same length as Back to start of shoulder shaping, ending with a WS row
Cast off
With RS facing, slip next eight sts on st holder for front neck. Rejoin yarn to rem 25 (28, 31, 33, 36) sts and k to end
Work as for other side of neck, reversing shapings

to make up

Block pieces following

instructions on ball band and press, omitting ribbed section.
Join both shoulder seams using mattress st

neckband

Using 9mm circular needle and Yarn A pick up and k 10 (12, 12, 14, 14) sts down left front neck, k8 sts from front neck st holder, pick up and k 10 (12, 12, 14, 14) sts up right front neck, k 16 (18, 18, 20, 20) sts from back neck st holder. 44 (50, 50, 56, 56) sts
Join to work in rnd, pm at beg of rnd
Next rnd: (k1, p1) to end



Last rnd sets rib
Work in rib until neckband meas 4cm, ending with a WS row
Cast off in rib loosely, pm 20 (21, 22, 23, 23) cm down from shoulders on Front and Back
Using 9mm needles and Yarn

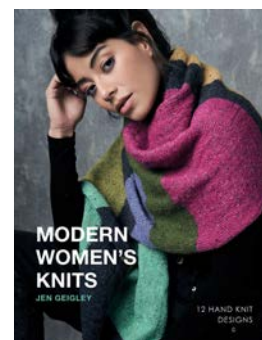
A pick up and k 44 (46, 48, 50, 50) sts between markers
Next row (WS): (k1, p1) to end
Last row sets rib patt
Work in rib patt for a further three rows
Cast off in rib
Join side seams
Weave in all ends



SKILL UP!

The three-needle cast off:

Place each set of sts to be joined on a needle and hold them parallel in your left hand with RS tog. Holding a third needle in your right hand, insert this into first st on front needle and through into first st on back needle, k these two sts tog and slip them off needles at same time. Rep for second st, then insert one LH needle into first worked st on RH needle, pass it over other st and off needle. Cont until all sts have been cast off



This pattern has been adapted from *Modern Women's Knits* by Jen Geigley (£11.99, Quail Studio)



CONTINUE
KNITTING >>

SCARF

Using 4mm circular needle and Yarn C cast on 88 sts, join to work in rnd, taking care not to twist sts, pm for beg of rnd

Rnd 1: k to end

Rnds 2-28: starting with a p row work in st st

Change to Yarn D

Rnds 29-56: cont working in st st

Change to Yarn C

Rnds 57-84: cont working in st st

Change to Yarn E

Rnds 85-87: cont working in st st

Change to Yarn C

Rnds 88-90: cont working in st st

Rnds 91-108: rep Rnds 85-90 three times

Rnds 109-111: rep

Rnds 85-87 once

Rep Rnds 1-111 for stripe patt twice,

then Rnds

1-84 once

Change to Yarn C

Next rnd: k

to make up

Block piece following instructions on ball band and press. Divide sts evenly onto two dpns, using third dpn, work a three-needle cast-off (see Skill Up on prev page) using Yarn C. Rep with cast-on sts. Weave in all ends



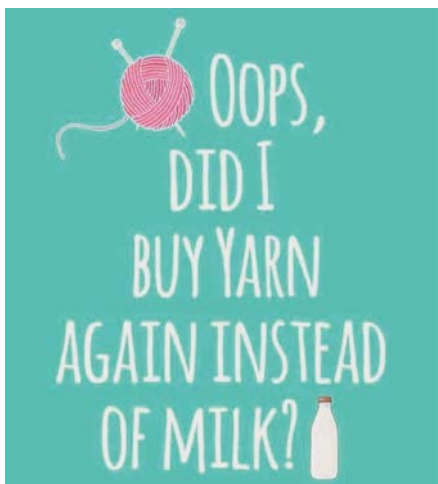
This pattern has been adapted from *Modern Men's Knits* by Jen Geigley (£11.99, Quail Studio)



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KNITTING & CROCHET

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STITCH SCHOOL

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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

This Seams Couturiers Hand Cream is a must-have for any avid crafter. Originally created for seamstresses, the cream sinks instantly into your skin, alleviating dryness without leaving any greasy marks on the project you're working on. Perfect for those who are constantly using their hands and fingers, this paraben-free moisturiser contains nine powerful, natural ingredients to soften skin and condition nails fast. £14, loopknittingshop.com

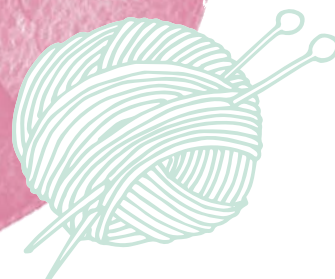
× **CHANGING COLOURS FOR THIN STRIPES**
× OUR COLOUR CHANGES ARE OFTEN
× FREQUENT, LIKE ON THIS ISSUE'S
× JOSEPH PATTERN (P13) – HERE'S
× SOME HANDY ADVICE!



× Carry the yarn up the side of
× the work without cutting it. This
× only works if your stripes are
× worked over an even number
× of rows and it's best if the edge
× will be hidden in a seam

Turn over for our classic
stitch illustrations

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This month's video course highlights:

- ▶ Top five tips for knitting in the round
- ▶ How to: graft two cast-off edges
- ▶ Knit a jumper in easy steps

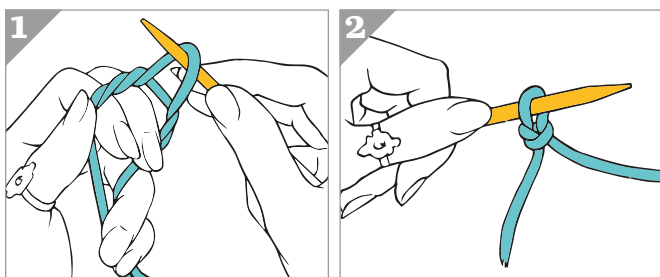
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Let's knit together

START HERE

slip knot

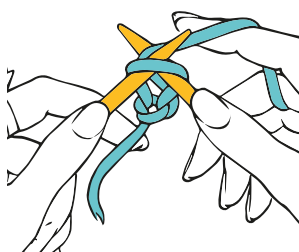
You need to make a slip knot on your needle before casting on. It counts as your first cast-on stitch



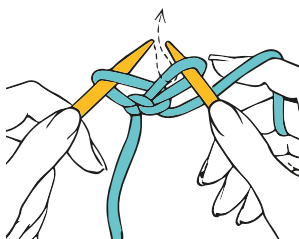
- 1 Hold the yarn under your left thumb, wrap it twice around your left index and middle fingers, with the second loop closer to the base of the fingers. With the backs of the fingers uppermost, insert the tip of the needle beneath the first loop and over the second, then pull the second loop under the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

cast on

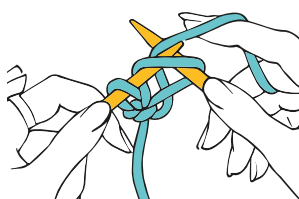
This method, also called the 'two-needle method', is great for beginners



- 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.



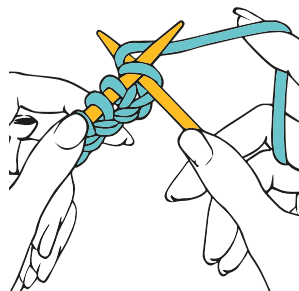
- 2 Pull the loop that forms back through the original stitch and insert the tip of the LH needle into the new stitch from underneath to transfer from the RH to LH needle. There should now be two stitches on the LH needle.



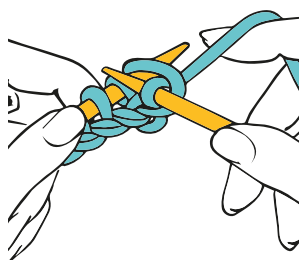
- 3 Repeat the above steps, knitting into the top stitch on the LH needle and returning the new stitches from the RH to the LH needle until you have the required number of stitches.

knit stitch (k)

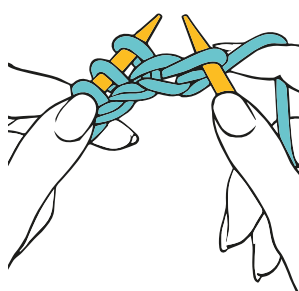
Also known as garter stitch, the knit stitch is the foundation of knitting



- 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.

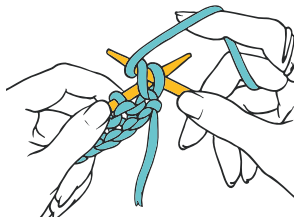


- 3 Slide the original stitch off the LH needle. Repeat from step 1.

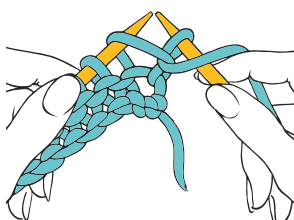
INCREASING & DECREASING

purl stitch (p)

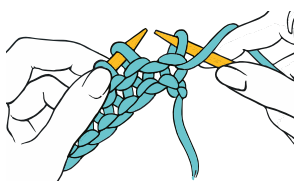
Most frequently seen paired with the knit stitch to create different stitch patterns like stocking stitch and ribbing



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 purred 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).

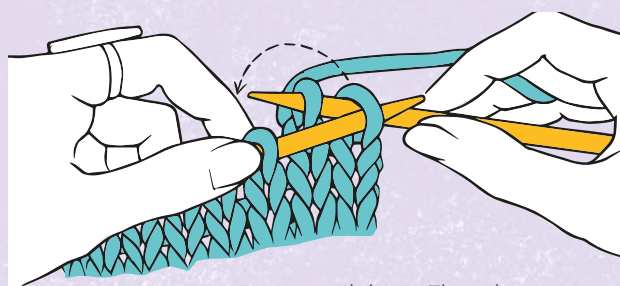


2 Push the RH needle into the back part of the loop that now lies over the LH needle and knit this stitch. You will now have an additional stitch on the RH needle.

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



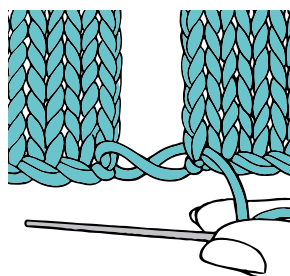
1 Knit two stitches as normal. Insert the tip of the LH needle into the second stitch on the RH needle (the stitch closest to you). Carefully lift it up and over the top stitch, dropping it off the tip of the RH needle and pulling the yarn to

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

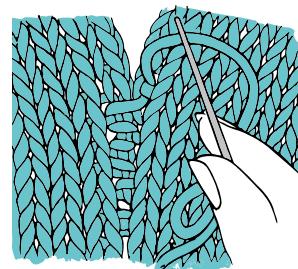
How to start sewing up your project



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
fol: 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)
ym: yarn round needle (between purl stitches and between a knit and a purl stitch)

LEARN TO CROCHET



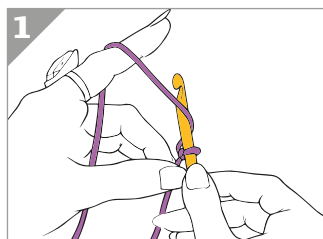
FIND THE PATTERNS FOR
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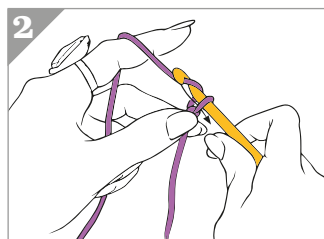
START HERE

slip knot & chain (ch)

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



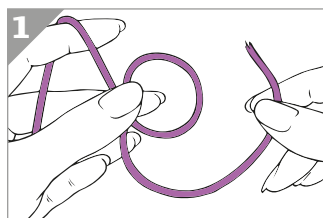
1 Make a slip knot and put it on the neck of the hook – don't pull it too tight or it will be difficult to stitch with. Coming from behind, wrap the yarn around the hook from right to left, across the 'neck'.



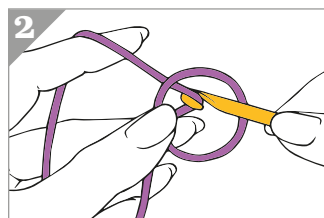
2 Catch the yarn and use the hook to pull it down through the slip knot. You have now made one chain (ch). Continue to make more chains, as directed in the pattern.

magic ring

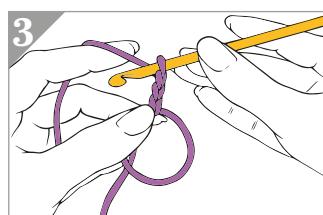
The magic ring is an easy way of beginning to work in the round. It is often used when making amigurumi toys



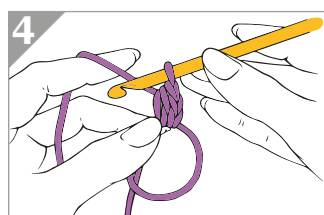
1 Make a large loop by putting the yarn tail behind the working yarn.



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



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

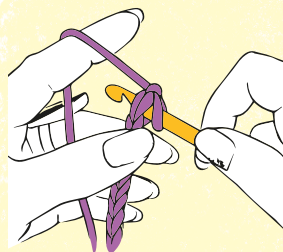


4 Continue to work as many stitches as needed into the loop. Once finished, untwist the tail if necessary and then pull to close the loop.

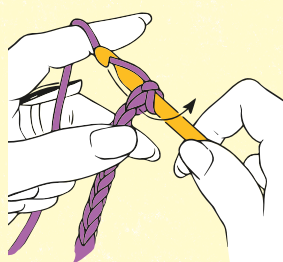
THE BASIC STITCHES

double crochet (dc)

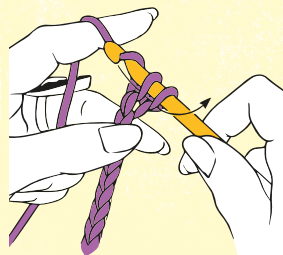
Double crochet is the shortest and most commonly-used crochet stitch



1 Insert hook through both strands of the next stitch.



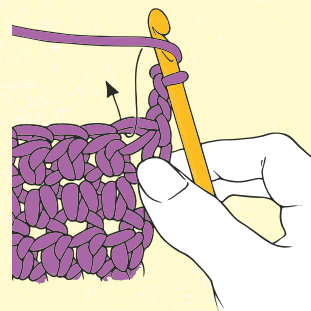
2 Yarn over the hook and draw back through the work. There will be two loops of yarn on the hook.



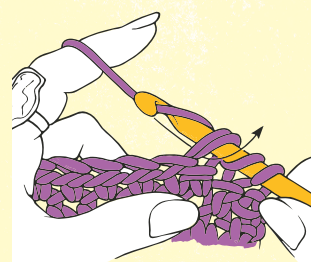
3 Yarn over the hook again and draw through both loops.

half treble (htr)

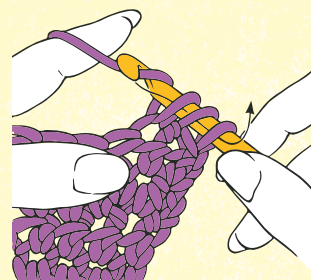
This stitch is longer than a double crochet and involves one extra step



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



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



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

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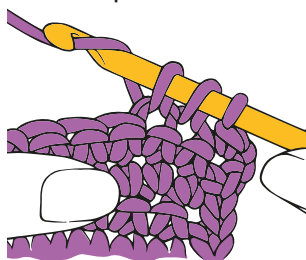
TOY SAFETY

Ensure all elements included in the soft
toymaking process are sewn on securely,
including eyes, buttons and embellishments.
If in doubt, please omit them. Toys with
small parts are not suitable for children
under three years of age. If making a toy
for a very young child, omit fastenings and
embroider the details instead. Never leave
your child unattended with toys. The
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contained within Let's Get Crafting.

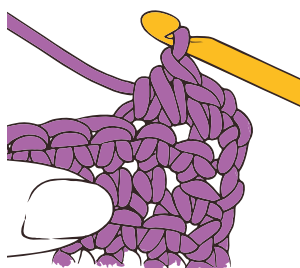
DECREASING

double crochet two together (dc2tog)

Turn two crochet stitches
into one with this
simple method



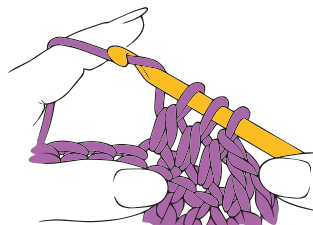
1 Insert hook through
next stitch, yarn over
hook, draw back
through work. Two
loops on hook. Insert
hook into next stitch,
yarn over hook, draw
back through. Three
loops on hook.



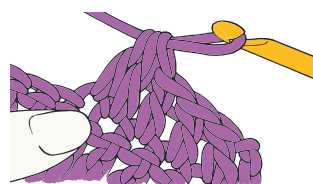
2 Yarn over hook, draw
through all three loops.
One loop on hook.

treble two together (tr2tog)

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



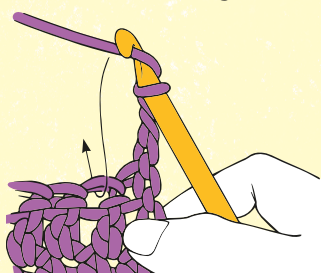
1 Yarn over the hook. Insert
the hook through the stitch.
Yarn over the hook and
draw back through the
work. There will be three
loops of yarn on the hook.
Yarn over the hook and
draw through the first two
loops. This will leave two
loops on the hook. Yarn
over the hook and insert
through the next stitch,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



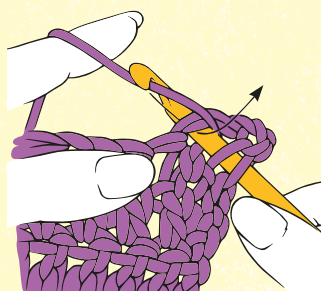
2 Yarn over hook and draw
through all three loops on
the hook. This will leave
one loop on the hook.

treble (tr)

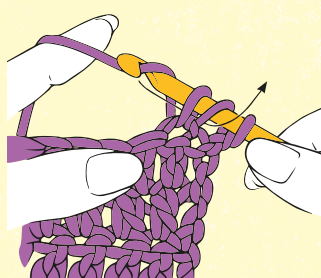
Treble crochet is slightly
taller than half treble
crochet but is made in a
similar way



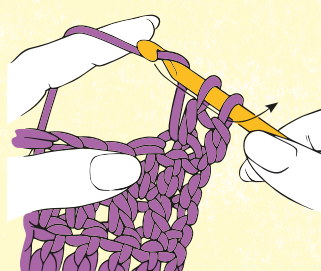
1 (You will need a turning
chain of three stitches).
Yarn over the hook. Insert
the hook through the stitch.



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

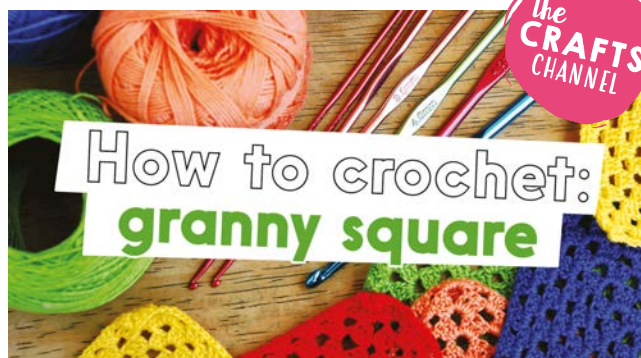


3 Yarn over the hook and
draw through the first two
loops. This will leave two
loops on the hook.



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

VIDEO OF THE MONTH



YOUTUBE.COM/THECRAFTCHANNEL

LIFE ON THE GRID

 @lilykatemakes

Lily Kate is a designer, model, blogger and photographer... with a feed as inspiring as she is!

 jolihouse.com



Hello! I'm Lily Kate France, and I'm a knitwear designer based in Lancashire, UK.

Knitting has been part of my life for almost as long as I can remember; I was taught the basics by my mum at around age 8, from which point I was addicted. After making a couple of questionable toys and super-chunky garments, I realised that patterns for my size and taste did not exist. So, I made my own! Through trial and error and with the help of books and blogs, I taught myself how to design and grade patterns at the age of 12.

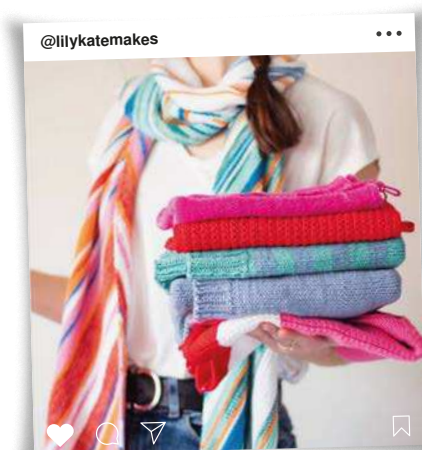


Swatching almost always provides the initial inspiration for my designs - never ever skip the swatch! The way a fabric moves can spark an idea for a whole garment. Knitwear may typically be associated with winter, but I actually love creating summer items. They're quicker to make (hello cute short sleeves) and have more scope for creativity! Fitted garments are 100% my favourite to design as there are so many fun ways in which you can shape a 3D piece of fabric to hug the body. My The One That I Want crop is a perfect example of this.



I took over my mum's knitting blog at age 15.

This led to modelling, photography and designing opportunities. However, I never wanted to study anything creative; I study Astronomy and Planetary Sciences, allowing my creative side to remain on my own terms. Maths and knitting go hand in hand - there's a definite overlap between knitters and women in STEM, interestingly! As for photography, shooting knits is quite different to photographing people, and this set of skills has come in very handy.



We make clothes partly for the enjoyment of working with needles and yarn, and partly to have a unique finished item tailored to our needs. It's important to me to give everyone the opportunity to make something that fits them perfectly - an option that store-bought clothing often doesn't always offer. I want my designs to be accessible to as many people as possible, and that's why I offer nine sizes with additional darts, cup size and length options. My goal is to create designs that make you feel confident!



I spent ages deliberating over whether to start a podcast, but I'm so glad I bit the bullet because (shock horror) I can ramble about knitting for hours! I share my current projects, thoughts on the knitting world, and insights into the life of a designer. Actual knitting is a small part of a designer's job - tasks like planning, grading, formatting, arranging test knits, and answering queries takes up most of my time, but this is the side that most people don't see. You can find my podcast by searching Lily Kate Makes on YouTube.



I'm very excited to be launching my own yarn in collaboration with Fiberspates this autumn! This brand has supported my work from the start when I modelled and designed for their first book back in 2011, so it's lovely to have come full circle. I've spent the summer working on patterns to support this new yarn, so if you like things woolly, worsted weight, and with a little fluff, hopefully there will be something for you in my new collection! With fun sleeves, of course - I will never tire of fun sleeves.



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