

Christmas cheer

Take a peek through a Victorian window and meet our extended family of Dickensian mice, designed by the dexterous fingers of Alan Dart

Some of you may remember our original collection of mice designed by Alan Dart, which are still as a leaflet available from Sirdar Spinning Ltd. For stockists, call 01924 371501.

Measurements

Mice: 15 cm/6 in tall.

Christmas tree: 27 cm/10½ in tall.

Materials

For the set: 2 x 25 g balls of Sirdar Bonus Toytime DK in Bottle (973), 1 ball in Mink (946) and small amount in each of Lilac (959), White (961), Silver Cloud (968), Black (965), Chocolate (947), Signal Red (977) and Shiraz (945). 1 x 100 g ball of Sirdar Bonus DK in Oatmeal (964), Walnut (927) and oddments in each of Dark Chocolate (917), Plum (918), Cerise (984), Navy (971), Denim (994), Violet (985), Aran (993), Mint (956) and Blueberry (952). Small amounts of Sirdar Country Style DK in Greystone (408) and Mustard (537). Small amounts of Sirdar Snuggly DK in Khaki (378). Oddment of Coral Pink tapestry yarn. No. 11 (3 mm) knitting needles; 100 g washable toy stuffing; scraps of stiff card; 1 m of silver bead trimming; 10 mm and 15 mm pompons in assorted colours; dark green sewing thread; long tweezers; clear adhesive; hair spray. For stockists, write to: Sirdar Spinning Ltd, Flanshaw Lane, Alverthorpe, Wakefield, West Yorkshire



WF2 9ND
(01924 371501).

Tension

26 stitches and 36 rows to 10 x 10 cm, over stocking stitch using No. 11 (3 mm) needles.

Abbreviations

K, knit; **p**, purl; **st**, stitch; **sl**, slip;

tog, together; **dec**, decrease (by taking 2 sts tog); **inc**, increase (by working twice in same st); **ss**, stocking st (k on right side and p on wrong side); **rss**, reverse stocking st (p on right side and k on wrong side); **gst**, garter st (every row k); **pssso**, pass sl st over; **skpo**, (sl1, k1, pssso); **yf**, yarn forward to make a st.

Note

Begin all pieces worked in stocking stitch with a k row, unless otherwise stated. Figures in square brackets are worked as stated after 2nd bracket.



Basic mouse

Lady mouse body

Dress: With dress shade, cast on 52 sts. K 2 rows. Beginning with a k row, ss 18 rows.

Shape waist: 1st dec row: K1, [k2tog, k2] to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1 — 39 sts. P 1 row.

2nd dec row: [K1, k2tog] to end — 26 sts. Ss 9 rows.

Shape shoulders: 3rd dec row: K3, [k2tog] 4 times, k4, [k2tog] 4 times, k3 — 18 sts. P 1 row. Cast off.

Dress base: With right side facing and fur shade, pick up and k39 sts along cast-on edge of dress. Beginning with a p row, ss 3 rows.

1st dec row: [K1, k2tog] to end — 26 sts. Ss 3 rows.

2nd dec row: [K2tog] to end — 13 sts. Break off yarn, leaving a long end. Thread end through sts, draw up tightly and secure.

Gentleman mouse body

Right trouser leg: With trousers shade, cast on 12 sts. Ss 2 rows.

1st inc row: [K1, inc] to end — 18 sts. P 1 row.

2nd inc row: K1, [inc, k2] to last 2 sts, inc, k1 — 24 sts. P 1 row. ** Leave these sts on a st holder.

Left trouser leg: Work as right trouser leg to **.

Joining row: K22, skpo across sts of left leg, then k2tog, k22 across sts of right leg — 46 sts. Mark each end of last row. Ss 17 rows.

Shape waist: 1st dec row: [K2, k2tog] 5 times, k6, [k2tog, k2] 5 times — 36 sts. P 1 row.

2nd dec row: [K1, k2tog] 5

times, k6, [k2tog, k1] 5 times — 26 sts. P 1 row.

Change to waistcoat shade. Ss 8 rows.

Shape shoulders: 3rd dec row: K3, [k2tog] 4 times, k4, [k2tog] 4 times, k3 — 18 sts. P 1 row. Cast off.

Sleeves and hands (make 2)

With dress or coat shade, cast on 6 sts for top edge of sleeve. Ss 2 rows. Inc 1 st at beginning of next 4 rows — 10 sts. Cast on 3 sts at beginning of next 2 rows for underarm — 16 sts.

Ss 2 rows. **1st dec row:** K1, [k2tog, k2] to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1 — 12 sts. P 1 row.

2nd dec row: [K1, k2tog] to end — 8 sts. K 1 row.

Change to fur shade and beginning with a k row, ss 6 rows for hand. Break off yarn, leaving a long end. Thread end through sts, draw up tightly and secure.

Feet (make 2)

With fur shade, cast on 8 sts. Ss 14 rows. Break off yarn, leaving a long end. Thread end through sts, draw up tightly and secure.

Head

With fur shade, cast on 8 sts. Ss 2 rows.

1st inc row: Inc in every st to end — 16 sts. P 1 row.

2nd inc row: [K1, inc] to end — 24 sts. P 1 row. **3rd inc**

row: K1, [inc, k2] to last 2 sts, inc, k1 — 32 sts. Ss 7 rows.

Shape front: 1st dec row: K1, [k2tog, k2] to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1 — 24 sts. Ss 3 rows. **2nd dec row:** [K1, k2tog] to end — 16 sts. Ss 3 rows. **3rd dec row:** [K2tog] to end — 8 sts. Ss 3 rows. Break



off yarn, leaving a long end. Thread end through sts, draw up tightly and secure.

Ears (make 2)

With fur shade, cast on 14 sts. Ss 2 rows. **Dec row:** K1, [k3tog] 4 times, k1 — 6 sts. Cast off.

Lady's skirt frill

With dress shade or contrast shade, cast on 106 sts. **1st rib row:** K2, [p2, k2] to end. **2nd rib row:** P2, [k2, p2] to end. Rib another 2 rows for deep frill only. **Gathering row:** K1, [skpo, k2tog] to last st, k1 — 54 sts. P 1 row. Cast off.

Lady's hair ribbon

With bow shade, cast on 30 sts. K 1 row. Cast off.

Gentleman's tailcoat

With coat shade, cast on 10 sts.

1st row: K4, p2, k4. **2nd row:** P4, k2, p4. Keeping centre 2 sts in rss and edge st in ss, inc and work into ss, 1 st at each end of next 15 rows — 40 sts. P 1 row. **Shape waist: 1st dec row:** K4, [k2tog] 16 times, k4 — 24 sts. Beginning with a p row, continue in ss, work 3 rows. Inc 1 st at beginning of next 6 rows — 30 sts. K 1 row. **2nd dec row:** P5, [p2tog] 10 times, p5 — 20 sts. Cast off for top edge.

Gentleman's frock coat

With coat shade, cast on 40 sts. **1st row:** K19, p2, k19. **2nd row:** P19, k2, p19. Repeat 1st and 2nd rows, twice more, then 1st row again. P 1 row. **Shape waist: 1st dec row:** K4, [k2tog] 16 times, k4 — 24 sts. Beginning with a p row, continue in ss, work 3 rows. Inc 1 st at beginning of next 6 rows — 30 sts. K 1 row.

2nd dec row: P5, [p2tog] 10 times, p5 — 20 sts. Cast off for top edge.

Gentleman's shirt collar

With White, cast on 18 sts. Ss 2 rows. Cast off.

Bow-tie

With tie shade, cast on 6 sts. K 1 row. Cast off kwise.

To make up

Join dress seam on lady mouse from gathered end to cast-off edge. Join each inside leg seam of trousers on gentleman from cast-on edge to markers, then join back seam of trousers and waistcoat. Gather round cast on edge of each leg, draw up tightly and fasten off. Make tail thus: fold 70 cm length of fur shade in half. Hold cut ends together in left hand, insert

right index finger into folded end and twist yarn tightly, keeping taut. Bring ends together and allow yarn to twist into cord, then tie a knot 10 cm in from folded end. Using large needle, thread cord throughout dress or trousers seam about 3 cm down from waist. Stuff body firmly, then with seam at centre back, fold cast-off edge flat and join. Work a gathering thread through every stitch at waist, draw up to shape, then tie end securely and darn into body. Starting at gathered nose end, join head seam within 3 cm of cast-on edge. Stuff head firmly and join remainder of seam. Run gathering thread along cast-on edge, draw up tightly and fasten off. Position and sew head to body.

Using Coral, embroider three satin stitches for nose then work single straight stitch for mouth, drawing up slightly to indent and fasten off yarn. Mark eye positions with pins, then

embroider a circle of four Black chain stitches for each eye. With White, work tiny stitch on each eye for gloss. Fold cast-off edge of each ear in half and join, then oversew row ends together to form base edge. Position and sew ears to top of head except on Santa, Cook and Maid.

Join seam on each foot then work gathering thread along cast-on edge, pull up and fasten off. Position and sew feet to base of skirt or trouser legs. Wrap shirt collar round gentleman's neck, with ends meeting at centre front and sew in place. Sew bow tie in position, working a few satin stitches in matching yarn round centre to form knot.

Wrap coat round gentleman, leaving 6 stitches of waistcoat showing at front and pin in place. Turn back each top corner of coat at front for lapels and secure in place. Join hand and sleeve seams, then use tweezers to stuff lightly. Sew on sleeves following photo for each character's pose, sewing through both coat and waistcoat layers on gentleman. Remove pins. Pull tail through centre of coat tails.

Join ends of lady's skirt frill or frills and pin in place on dress. Work backstitch over every stitch on cast-on edge to secure in position. Remove pins.

Mistletoe Kissers

Make lady mouse with Oatmeal fur, Cerise dress, Plum hair ribbon, deep skirt frill in Cerise with cast-on edge in Violet and four Plum bow ties.

Make gentleman mouse with Mink fur, Navy trousers, Mustard waistcoat, Denim tailcoat and Bottle bow-tie.

Dress sash

With Violet, cast on 26 sts. Cast off.

Sash bow

With Violet, cast on 40 sts. Cast off.

Fan

With Lilac, cast on 11 sts.

1st rib row: K1, [p1, k1] to end.

2nd rib row: P1, [k1, p1] to end. Rib another 2 rows.

Change to Mustard.

Dec row: K1, [k2tog] to end — 6 sts. P 1 row.

Break off yarn, leaving a long end. Thread end through sts, pull up and secure.

To make up

Wrap sash round lady's waist and join ends at centre back.

Tie sash bow into bow and sew knot to back of sash.

Wind matching yarn round centre of each bow tie to form bows and secure then sew to top of skirt frill, spacing evenly.

Embroider a line of chain stitches in Mustard up both

sides of fan, then spray with hair lacquer, lay flat and leave to set. When fan has hardened, sew to lady's left hand, then bend arm and catch edge of fan to side of nose with a few stitches.

Use Khaki yarn to embroider two loops for mistletoe leaves on gentleman's right hand and leave a 1 cm end of yarn pointing upwards. Stiffen this end with glue, rolling between fingers and leave to set. Embroider two French knot berries between leaves with Aran yarn.

Position and catch gentleman's right leg to lady's dress with a few stitches.



Tree decorators

Make lady mouse with Mink fur, Violet dress, Lilac hair ribbon and deep skirt frill in Blueberry with cast off edge in Shiraz. Make gentleman mouse with Oatmeal fur, Dark Chocolate trousers, Cerise waistcoat, Plum tailcoat and Denim bow-tie.

Dress bodice frill

With Blueberry, cast on 50 sts.

1st rib row: K2, [p2, k2] to end.

2nd rib row: P2, [k2, p2] to end.

Gathering row: K1, [skpo, k2tog] to last st, k1 — 26 sts. P 1 row.

With Shiraz, cast off.

Christmas tree

Tree: With Bottle, cast on 72 sts. K 18 rows. **1st dec row:**

K2, [k2tog, k4] to last 4 sts, k2tog, k2 — 60 sts. K 15 rows.

2nd dec row: K2, [k2tog, k3] to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1 — 48 sts. K

15 rows. **3rd dec row:** K1, [k2tog, k2] to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1 — 36 sts. K 15 rows. **4th dec row:** [K1, k2tog] to end — 24 sts. K 15 rows. **5th dec row:** [K2tog] to end — 12 sts. K 7 rows. Break off yarn, leaving a long end. Thread end through sts, draw up tightly and secure.

Base: With right side facing and using Bottle, pick up and k72 sts from cast-on edge of tree and p 1 row. **1st dec row:** K1, [k2tog, k2] to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1 — 54 sts. Ss 3 rows. **2nd dec row:** [K1, k2tog] to end — 36 sts. P 3 rows for tub placement line. **3rd dec row:** [K1, k2tog] to end — 24 sts. Ss 3 rows. **4th dec row:** [K2tog] to end — 12 sts. K 7 rows. Break off yarn, leaving a long end. Thread end through sts, draw up tightly and secure.

Tub

With Walnut, cast on 36 sts.

Ss 6 rows. **1st dec row:** K4, [k2tog, k7] to last 5 sts, k2tog, k3 — 32 sts. Ss 3 rows. **2nd**

dec row: K3, [k2tog, k6] to last 5 sts, k2tog, k3 — 28 sts. P 3 rows for fold line. **3rd dec row:** K1, [k2tog, k1] to end — 19 sts. P 1 row. **4th dec row:** K1, [k2tog] to end — 10 sts. Break off yarn, leaving a long end. Thread end through sts, draw up tightly and secure.

To make up

Pin dress bodice frill round back of neck of lady mouse, forming a V-neck at front and work back stitch in every stitch along cast-off edge. Remove pins. Form bow from hair ribbon and hold in place with a few stitches. Sew to back of head with several satin stitches to make knot. Join row-ends of tub together. Cut 3 cm-diameter circle of card and glue to wrong side of tub base. When dry, stuff tub firmly. Join tree base seam, then sew cast-on edge of tub to right side of tree base along placement line. Cut a 9 cm-diameter circle of card and glue to wrong side of tree base. Join tree seam to within 4 cm of base. Stuff tree firmly then join remainder of the seam.

Position gentleman mouse next to tree, then catch left hand and left leg to tree with a few stitches. Loop swags of bead trimming round tree, sewing in place with Bottle yarn and sew end of swag between



Comfort and Joy

Make lady mouse with Mink fur, Shiraz dress, Denim hair ribbon and two shallow skirt frills in Shiraz with cast-off edge in Denim.

Make gentleman mouse with Walnut fur, Greystone trousers, Denim waistcoat, Bottle frock coat and Violet bow-tie.

Shawl

With Cerise, cast on 45 sts. Ss 1 row. Dec 1 st at each end of next 21 rows — 3 sts. **Next row:** Sl1, k2tog, pssso and fasten off.

Holly wreath

With Bottle, cast on 9 sts. K 50 rows. Cast off.

Wreath bow

With Signal Red, cast on 30 sts. Cast off.

Yule log

With Oatmeal, cast on 9 sts.

Inc row: Inc in every st to end — 18 sts. P 1 row.

Change to Chocolate. K 2 rows. Beginning with a k row, ss 21 rows. K 1 row.

Change to Oatmeal. K 1 row.

Dec row: [P2tog] to end — 9 sts.

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

Branch

With Chocolate, cast on 8 sts.

K 1 row and p 2 rows.

Change to Oatmeal.

P 1 row. Break off yarn, leaving a long end. Thread end through remaining sts, draw up tightly and fasten off.

To make up

Press shawl as given on ball band. With right side of shawl to ladies back, catch cast-on edge to back of lady's waist with few stitches, fold 1 cm in from cast-on edge and wrap ends round arms. Hold in place with couple of stitches at underarms. Join short ends of wreath to form band, then join side edges, drawing up sewing yarn slightly to form ring. Form bow from wreath bow and hold in place with a few stitches and sew to base of wreath. Position wreath and sew to hands and front of skirt with a few stitches. Join side edges of log together within 2 cm of cast-on edge. Stuff firmly and join remainder

of seam. Work a gathering thread along cast-on edge, draw up tightly and fasten off. Join branch seam, then sew branch to log. Position and sew log in place between gentleman's hands.



Maid

Make lady mouse with Walnut fur, Lilac dress, working last 2 rows on sleeves in White. With White, work sash and sash bow as given for Mistletoe Kissers lady (above, left).

Apron

With White, cast on 20 sts. Ss 18 rows. **Dec row:** [K2tog] to end — 10 sts. P 1 row. Cast off.

Lace cap

With White, cast on 49 sts.

Eyelet row: K1, [yf, k2tog] to end. P 1 row. **1st dec row:** K2, [k2tog, k3] to last 2 sts, k2 — 40 sts. P 1 row.

2nd dec row: K1, [k2tog, k2] to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1 — 30 sts. P 1 row.

3rd dec row: [K1, k2tog] to end — 20 sts. P 1 row.

4th dec row: [K2tog] to end — 10 sts. Break off yarn, leaving a long end. Thread end through sts, draw up tightly and secure.

Punch bowl

With Silver Cloud, cast on 11 sts. Ss 4 rows.

1st inc row: Inc in every st to end — 22 sts. P 1 row.

2nd inc row: [Inc, k1] to end — 33 sts. Ss 5 rows.

Change to Plum. Ss 2 rows.

1st dec row: [K1, k2tog] to end — 22 sts. P 1 row.

2nd dec row: [K2tog] to end — 11 sts. Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread end through sts, draw up tightly and secure.

Bowl rim

With Silver Cloud, cast on 33 sts. K 1 row. Cast off.

Ladle handle

With Silver Cloud, cast on 3 sts. Cast off.

To make up

Pin cap on head and sew in place with running stitch in Violet, working directly above eyelet row. Tie Violet ends into a bow and trim and seal cut ends and bow knot with spot of glue. Position and sew ears to cap. Press apron as given on ball band. Position and sew in place with few stitches along cast-off edge. Wrap sash round lady's waist and join ends at centre back. Tie bow piece into bow and sew knot to back of sash.

With White, work 2 French knots at centre front of bodice for buttons.

Join seam on Plum section of punch bowl. Cut a 3.5 cm-diameter circle of card, and glue to wrong side of this section. Join remainder of seam. Using tweezers, stuff firmly. Run gathering thread through every stitch 2 rows up

from cast-on edge, draw up tightly and fasten off. Glue rim strip round top of bowl and join ends together. Work vertical stitch of Silver Cloud at each side of bowl for handles and cover both of these with buttonhole stitch. Spread glue over ladle and roll ends of yarn together between fingers to taper. Trim to measure 3 cm, then glue in place to top of bowl and rim. Stiffen handles with glue and spray bowl with hair lacquer. Leave to harden. Position and catch punch bowl to front of apron with few stitches, then glue handles to hands.



gentleman's hands. Position lady mouse to opposite side of tree, then catch right hand and skirt to tree with a few stitches. Using sewing thread to sew pompon to each hand, then remainder over tree.



Cook

Make lady mouse with Oatmeal fur, Mint dress, working last 2 rows on sleeves in White. With White, work sash and sash bow as given for Mistletoe Kisses lady on page 72.

Apron

With White, cast on 20 sts.
Ss 18 rows. **Dec row:** [K2tog] to end — 10 sts. P 1 row.
Shape bib: Dec 1 st at each end of next 2 rows — 6 sts. Ss 4 rows.
Cast off.



Straps (make 2)

With White, cast on 15 sts.
Cast off.

Mob-cap

With White, cast on 72 sts.
Ss 3 rows.
Gathering row: [P2tog] to end — 36 sts.
Inc row: K1, [inc, k2] to last 2 sts, inc, k1 — 48 sts. Ss 7 rows.
1st dec row: K1, [k2tog, k2] to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1 — 36 sts. Ss 3 rows.
2nd dec row: [K1, k2tog] to end — 24 sts. P 1 row.
3rd dec row: [K2tog] to end — 12 sts. Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread end through sts, draw up and secure.

Platter

(make 2)
With Silver Cloud, cast on 33 sts.
Ss 2 rows.
1st dec row: [K1, k2tog] to end — 22 sts. P 1 row.
2nd dec row: [K2tog] to end — 11 sts. Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread end through sts, draw up tightly and secure.



Christmas pudding

With Chocolate, cast on 9 sts.
Ss 2 rows. **1st inc row:** Inc in every st to end — 18 sts. P 1 row. **2nd inc row:** [Inc, k1] to end — 27 sts. Ss 5 rows. Change to Aran. Ss 4 rows.
1st dec row: [K1, k2tog] to end — 18 sts. P 1 row.
2nd dec row: [K2tog] to end — 9 sts. Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread end through sts, draw up tightly and secure.

To make up

Sew mob-cap on head, working back stitch in every stitch over gathering row. Sew ears to cap. Press apron as given on ball band. Position and sew in place with few stitches at waist and

along top edge. Sew straps in place, crossing over at back. Wrap sash round lady's waist and join ends at centre back. Tie bow piece into bow and sew knot to back of sash. Join seam on each platter. Cut a 3.5 cm-diameter circle of card, place between platter pieces, then oversew edges together. Join seam on pudding, leaving cast-on edge open. Using tweezers, stuff firmly. Run gathering thread through every stitch on cast-on edge, draw up tightly and fasten off. Sew pudding to platter. With Aran, Swiss darn random stitches below top section to make dribbles of cream. Work 3 loops in Bottle on top of pudding for holly leaves. Embroider 3 French-knot berries in Signal Red in centre of leaves. Position platter and catch edge to hands and front of apron with a few stitches.

Santa

Make Santa as lady mouse with Walnut fur and Signal Red sleeves, working hands in Khaki for mittens. Work gown in Signal Red as given for dress of lady mouse but casting on and working first 6 rows with White in gst, and the 2 rows after 2nd dec row of waist shaping in Black for belt.

Gown front edging

With White, cast on 20 sts.
K 2 rows. Cast off.

Sleeve cuffs

(make 2)
With White, cast on 12 sts.
K 2 rows. Cast off.

Hood

With White, cast on 30 sts.
K 3 rows.
Change to Signal Red.

Beginning with a k row, ss 4 rows.
Shape neck: Dec row: [K1, k2tog] to end — 20 sts. Ss 17 rows. Cast off.
Front edging: Fold hood in half and join cast off edge together. With right side facing and White, pick up and k36 sts evenly from row-ends of hood. K 2 rows. Cast off kwise.

Beard

With Aran, cast on 20 sts.
K 6 rows.
1st dec row: K3, skpo, k2tog, k6, skpo, k2tog, k3 — 16 sts. K 1 row. **2nd dec row:** K2, skpo, k2tog, k4, skpo, k2tog, k2 — 12 sts. K 1 row. **3rd dec row:** K1, skpo, k2tog, k2, skpo, k2tog, k1 — 8 sts. K 1 row. Cast off.

Sack

With Mink, cast on 26 sts.
Ss 26 rows. **Gathering row:** [K2tog] to end — 13 sts. Ss 4 rows. Cast off kwise.

To make up

Sew gown edging down

centre front of skirt and cuffs round base of sleeves then join cuff seams. With Mustard, embroider a square of 4 straight stitches at front of belt for buckle. Join beard seam and with this seam running down centre back, fold cast-on edge flat and join. Position and sew top edge to face in line with mouth. Embroider moustache with Aran, working 3 satin stitches at each side. Fit hood on head and sew in place with few stitches along front edge. Work a gathering thread through every stitch along neck shaping decrease row, draw up to fit neck and fasten off. Position and sew ears to hood. Join row-end

edges of sack together to within 2 cm of cast-off edge. Stuff lightly and join remainder of seam. Work a gathering thread through every stitch along gathering row, draw up tightly and fasten off. Sew sack to right hand and side of gown with a few stitches.

