



Jack O'Lantern

By Alan Dart

You'll find there's more than meets the eye to this friendly Halloween fellow. Jack has a story to tell and is a delight to knit!

Halloween is on its way again and there's no doubt youngsters around you will want to celebrate. This fun little character combines all the excitement of Halloween with an old legend: "I took my inspiration from the American papier mâché pumpkin Halloween decorations of the 1930s and 40s," says designer Alan Dart.

We asked Alan why he wanted to design a Jack O'Lantern, and this is what he said: "I've always loved Halloween, and when our godson was young, he and his sisters used to come round for a Halloween tea each year and carve about 30 pumpkin lanterns. The day after would be spent picking pumpkin seeds off the

curtains and cushions! We also used to visit one of our very best friends Trina, who lived by the Connecticut River, in

September or October. Every farm stand was piled high with pumpkins and we would buy loads, then spend days hollowing them out and carving faces in them. We would pop lit candles inside and line them up along her wooden porch, which looked magical. So Jack also brings back memories of those happy times spent with Trina."

Jack's story

For thousands worldwide, the pumpkin is the symbol of Halloween. But did you know the tradition originated from the Irish legend of Jack O' Lantern? Jack was a cruel, miserable old drunk who had lived a life of sin. Also known as 'Stingy Jack', he liked to play tricks on those around him, including the Devil.

He once tricked the Devil into climbing up a tree. After he had done so, Jack placed crosses around the base of the tree so the Devil could not climb down. He ordered the Devil not to take his soul once he had died. But when Jack's earthly days ended, he was refused entry to Heaven.

When he tried to enter Hell, the Devil kept his word and refused him, tossing Jack a hot ember to light his path. He placed this inside a hollowed out turnip and from that day on, wandered the earth, lantern shining, in search of a final resting place.

The original Jack O' Lanterns were made from turnips, potatoes and beetroots and lit on Halloween to ward off Jack's spirit. When Irish immigrants took the tradition to the US, they used pumpkins instead. Now you can knit your own Jack and bring him out every year.

Sirdar Bonus and Toytime work beautifully for knitting toys.







Pattern info

You will need...

Sirdar, Bonus Toytime DK (25g/75m)

Orange (981), 2 balls
Black (965), 1 ball
Mink (946), 1 ball
White (961), 1 ball
Primrose (957), 1 ball

Sirdar, Bonus DK (100g/280m)

Oatmeal (964), 1 ball
Tangerine (930), 1 ball
Dark Chocolate (917), 1 ball

A pair of 3mm needles

A stitch holder

75g of washable toy stuffing

100g of PVC beanbag granules

A 9 3/4in (25cm) diameter circle of white muslin

White sewing thread

A 1 1/2in (4cm) diameter circle of stiff card

Long tweezers (helpful for stuffing)

Clear adhesive

For where to buy, turn to page 112

Jack O'Lantern

Start knitting here...

NOTE: Use 3mm needles throughout, cast on by using the cable (two needle) method, and begin all pieces with a K row, unless otherwise stated.

BODY (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 24 sts using 3mm needles and White.
St st 2 rows.

SHAPE SIDE

1st inc row K5, (inc 1) twice, K9, (inc 1) twice, K6.
[28 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd inc row (K5, inc 1, K2, inc 1, K4) twice, K2.
[32 sts]

Next row Purl.

3rd inc row (K5, inc 1, K4, inc 1, K4) twice, K2.
[36 sts]

St st 17 rows.

Change to Mink and cont in stripe pattern of 4 rows Mink, 4 rows Orange, working as follows:
St st 2 rows.

4th inc row (K1, inc 1, K1) to end. [48 sts]
St st 3 rows.

5th inc row (K1, inc 1, K2) to end. [60 sts]
St st 3 rows.

6th inc row (K2, inc 1, K2) to end. [72 sts]
St st 15 rows.

SHAPE BASE

1st dec row (K2, k2tog, K2) to end. [60 sts]
St st 3 rows.

2nd dec row (K2, k2tog, K1) to end. [48 sts]
St st 3 rows.

3rd dec row (K1, K2tog, K1) to end. [36 sts]
St st 3 rows.

4th dec row (K1, K2tog) to end. [24 sts]
St st 2 rows.

5th dec row (P2tog) to end. [12 sts]
Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

HEAD (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 21 sts using 3mm needles and Orange for neck edge.
St st 2 rows.

SHAPE BASE

1st inc row (K1, inc 1, K1) to end. [28 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd inc row (Inc 1, K1) to end. [42 sts]

Next row Purl.

3rd inc row (K1, inc 1, K1) to end. [56 sts]
St st 3 rows.

4th inc row (K1, inc 1, K2) to end. [70 sts]
St st 5 rows.

5th inc row (K2, inc 1, K2) to end. [84 sts]
St st 11 rows.

SHAPE TOP

1st dec row (K2, k2tog, K2) to end. [70 sts]
St st 5 rows.

2nd dec row (K2, k2tog, K1) to end. [56 sts]
St st 3 rows.

3rd dec row (K1, k2tog, K1) to end. [42 sts]
Next row Purl.

4th dec row (K1, k2tog) to end. [28 sts]
Next row Purl.

5th dec row (K2tog) to end. [14 sts]
Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

STALK (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 14 sts using 3mm and Oatmeal for base edge.

Row 1 K2, (P1, K2) to end.

Row 2 P2, (K1, P2) to end.

Repeat rows 1 and 2 three more times.

Dec row K2, (k2tog, K1) to end. [10 sts]
Knit 2 rows.

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

With his big beaming smile,
this Jack O'Lantern
is a happy looking chap!





EYES (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 14 sts using 3mm needles and White.

Next row Knit.

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

NOSE (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 7 sts using 3mm needles and Tangerine for base edge.

St st 2 rows.

Next row Dec 1 st at beg and end.

Next row Purl.

Repeat the last 2 rows once more. [3 sts]

Next row Sl 1, k2tog, pssso, break yarn and draw through st.

MOUTH (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 22 sts using 3mm needles and White.

Cast off.

LEGS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 20 sts using 3mm needles and Orange for ankle edge and cont in stripe pattern of 4 rows Orange, 4 rows Mink, working as follows:

St st 42 rows.

Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row. [22 sts]

St st 11 rows.

Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row. [24 sts]

St st 9 rows.

Cast off for top edge.

BOOTS

UPPERS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 48 sts using 3mm needles and Dark Chocolate for base edge.

St st 2 rows.

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next 10 rows. [28 sts]

SHAPE HEEL

Next row Skpo, K8, (skpo, k2tog) twice, K8, k2tog. [22 sts]

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row. [20 sts]

St st 4 rows.

Cast off for ankle edge.

SOLES (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 7 sts using 3mm needles and Dark Chocolate for back edge.

St st 2 rows.

Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row.

Next row Purl.

Repeat the last 2 rows once more. [11 sts]

St st 7 rows.

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row.

St st 4 rows.

Repeat the last 5 rows two more times. [5 sts]

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row. [3 sts]

Next row Purl.

Cast off for front edge.

CUFFS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 30 sts using 3mm needles and Dark Chocolate for top edge.

St st 3 rows.

Dec row (P2tog, P1) to end. [20 sts]

Cast off for ankle edge.

WAISTCOAT (MAKE 1 PIECE)

LEFT SIDE

***Cast on** 4 sts using 3mm needles and Tangerine for shoulder edge.

St st 2 rows.

Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row.

Next row Purl.

Repeat the last 2 rows once more. [8 sts]**

Inc 1 st at beg of next row.

Next row Purl.

Repeat the last 2 rows three more times. [12 sts]

Break yarn and slip sts on to a stitch holder.

RIGHT SIDE

Work as given for left side from * to **.

Inc 1 st at end of next row.

Next row Purl.

Repeat the last 2 rows three more times. [12 sts]

JOIN SIDES

Next row K10, skpo from right side sts, then k2tog, K10 from held left side sts. [22 sts]

St st 5 rows.

Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row. [24 sts]

St st 7 rows.

WORK RIGHT BASE POINT

Next row Skpo, K8, k2tog, turn and work on these 10 sts only.

*Dec 1 st at beg and end of next 4 rows. [2 sts]

Next row Skpo, break yarn and draw through last st.**

WORK LEFT BASE POINT

Next row Rejoin yarn to remaining 12 sts, skpo, K8, k2tog. [10 sts]



How to...

Skpo

Some patterns call for you to decrease using this method.



1

Insert the point of the right-hand needle into the next stitch as if you were to knit it, but instead of winding the yarn around the needle, just slip the stitch off and on to right-hand needle.



2

Knit the next stitch as normal.



3

Now insert the left-hand needle into the slipped stitch on the right-hand needle and lift it over the knitted stitch.

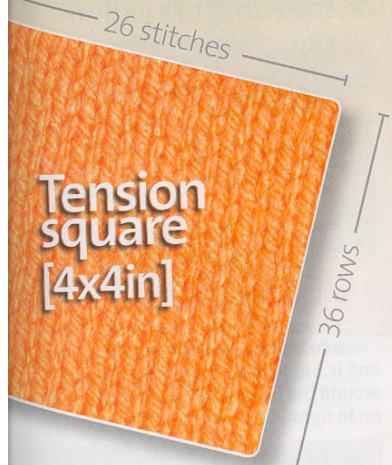


4

Continue knitting until the end of the row, and your slipped stitch should look like this.



Pattern info



Tension
Yarn used knits as DK to this tension:
26 sts and 36 rows to measure 4x4in
(10x10cm) in st st using 3mm needles.

Finished measurements
Height: 18in (46cm)

Abbreviations

beg beginning	psso pass slipped stitch over
cont continue	sl slip
dec decrease (by working 2 stitches together)	st st stocking stitch
inc increase (by working into front and back of stitch)	st(s) stitch(es)
K knit	skpo slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over
P purl	tog together.



KNIT TIP

You can use miniature buttons instead of chain stitched ones.

Work as given for right base point from * to **.

SHIRT COLLAR (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 46 sts using 3mm needles and White for top edge.

Row 1 Knit.

1st dec row P2, (p2tog, P2) to end. [35 sts]

Next row Knit.

2nd dec row P2tog, (P1, p2tog) to end. [22 sts]

Cast off for neck edge.

NECKTIE (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 60 sts using 3mm needles and Dark Chocolate.

Cast off.

JACKET (MAKE 1 PIECE)

LEFT TAIL

***Cast on** 3 sts using 3mm needles and Black for base edge.

St st 2 rows.

Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row.

St st 5 rows.

Repeat the last 6 rows five more times. [15 sts]**

Break yarn and slip sts on to a stitch holder.

RIGHT TAIL

Work as given for left tail from * to **.

JOIN TAILS

Next row K13, skpo from right tail sts, then k2tog, K13 from held left tail sts. [28 sts]

Cast on 8 sts at beg of next 2 rows. [44 sts]

St st 10 rows.

1st dec row (K5, k2tog, K4) to end. [40 sts]

St st 7 rows.

MARK LAPELS

Inserting marker threads at beg and end of next row, st st 4 rows.

2nd dec row (K4, k2tog, K4) to end. [36 sts]

St st 3 rows.

SHAPE SHOULDERS

3rd dec row Skpo, K6, k2tog, K16, skpo, K6, k2tog. [32 sts]



Keep track of knitted pieces by pinning paper to each saying what they are.

Next row Purl.

4th dec row Skpo, K4, k2tog, K16, skpo, K4, k2tog. [28 sts]

Next row Purl.

5th dec row Skpo, K2, k2tog, K16, skpo, K2, k2tog. [24 sts]

Next row Purl.

6th dec row Skpo, k2tog, K16, skpo, k2tog. [20 sts]

Cast off for back neck.

LAPELS AND COLLAR (MAKE 1 PIECE)

LEFT LAPEL

Cast on 2 sts using 3mm needles and Black for base edge.

St st 2 rows.

Inc 1 st at beg of next row.

Next row Purl.

Repeat the last 2 rows three more times. [6 sts]

St st 2 rows.

Next row Purl.

Cast off 4 sts, cast on 4 sts, K to end. [6 sts]

WORK COLLAR

St st 33 rows.

Next row Cast off 4 sts, cast on 4 sts, K to end. [6 sts]

WORK RIGHT LAPEL

St st 3 rows.

Dec 1 st at beg of next row.

P 1 row.

Repeat the last 2 rows three more times. [2 sts]

Cast off for base edge.

SLEEVES (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 6 sts using 3mm needles and Black for top edge.

St st 2 rows.

Inc 1 st at beg of next 8 rows. [14 sts]

Cast on 3 sts at beg of next 2 rows for underarm. [20 sts]

St st 8 rows.

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row.

St st 7 rows.

Repeat the last 8 rows once more. [16 sts]

K 2 rows for sleeve edge.

Change to White for cuff and K 1 row.

P 2 rows for wrist edge.

Cast off.

Take your time when you're working tiny areas like hands and the lantern.



HANDS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 16 sts using 3mm needles and Oatmeal for wrist edge.

St st 4 rows.

Cast on 6 sts at beg of next 2 rows for thumb. [28 sts]

St st 2 rows.

Cast off 5 sts at beg of next 2 rows. [18 sts]
St st 2 rows.

INC FOR FINGERS

Next row K2, inc 1, (K1, inc 1) twice, K3, inc 1, turn and work on these 15 sts only.

WORK LITTLE FINGER

Next row P6, turn and work on these sts only. St st 5 rows.

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off, then join finger seam.

WORK RING FINGER

Next row With 9 sts on right-hand needle, rejoin yarn to work and K1, inc 1 from sts on left-hand needle. Turn and work on these 12 sts only.

Next row P6, turn and work on these sts only. St st 7 rows.

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off, then join finger seam.

WORK MIDDLE FINGER

Next row With 6 sts on right-hand needle, rejoin yarn to work and K1, inc 1 from sts on left-hand

needle. Turn and work on these 9 sts only.

Next row P6, turn and work on these sts only. St st 8 rows.

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off, then join finger seam.

WORK INDEX FINGER

Next row With 3 sts on right-hand needle, rejoin yarn to work and K remaining 3 sts from left-hand needle. [6 sts]

St st 8 rows.

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off, then join finger seam and round thumb, stopping at wrist edge.

LANTERN (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 8 sts using 3mm needles and Black for base edge.

1st inc row Inc into every st to end. [16 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd inc row (Inc 1, K1) to end. [24 sts]

Next row Purl.

3rd inc row (K1, inc 1, K2) to end. [30 sts]
Purl 3 rows.

Change to Primrose and st st 5 rows, beg with a K row.

Change to Black and P 1 row.

Repeat the last 6 rows two more times.

Cont in Black and P 2 rows.

WORK TOP

St st 2 rows, beg with a K row.

1st dec row (K2, k2tog, K1) to end. [24 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd dec row (K1, k2tog, K1) to end. [18 sts]

Next row Purl.

3rd dec row (K1, k2tog) to end. [12 sts]

Next row Purl.

4th dec row (K2tog) to end. [6 sts]

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

LANTERN LOOP (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 12 sts using 3mm needles and Black.
Cast off.

TO MAKE UP

For best results, sew seams and join pieces using mattress stitch, working with right side of knitting uppermost. A one stitch knitted seam turning has been allowed on all pieces to accommodate this method.

First make beanbag by sewing a line of large running stitches round edge of muslin circle. Draw up slightly and fill with granules, then gather tightly and fasten off securely. Should you



How to...

Stuff your toy

The shape of your toy depends on the way that it is stuffed.



1

Sew all the seams and weave in all the loose ends, and work small oversew stitches along most of the seam.



2

Push small amounts of stuffing into the shape you are stuffing, push it down as far as you can, while at the same time moulding the shape of the piece in your hand.



3

Using long tweezers push the stuffing into all the corners and the smaller pieces of knitting like the hands.



Add tiny details such as eyes, lips and buttons using chain stitches.

prefer to omit the beanbag, simply fill entire body with toy stuffing.

Join first 4in (10cm) of body seam, working up from gathered base edge, then fit beanbag into base of body and join rest of seam. Stuff body firmly, then, with body seam running down centre back, fold shoulder edge flat and sew across. Join head seam, leaving neck edge open, then stuff firmly. With seam running down centre back, position and sew head to top of body.

Join seam on each leg, leaving ankle and top edges open. Join front seam on each boot upper, then sew base edge to boot sole, matching front edge of sole to front seam of upper.

Use tweezers to stuff pointed toes, then stuff remainder of boots firmly. With leg seam running down centre back, join ankle edges of legs and boots, matching front seam of boot to centre front of leg. Use tweezers to stuff legs lightly, leaving a space in centre of each unstuffed to allow knee to bend. Position and sew top edges of legs to body, placing within 3rd and 4th Mink stripes up from body base and spacing 7 sts apart.

Press boot cuffs, shirt collar, waistcoat, jacket, and lapels on wrong side. Wrap a cuff piece round top of each boot, with side edges meeting at centre front, and sew in place with backstitch worked along ankle edge.

Wrap shirt collar round neck, with side edges meeting at centre front, and sew in place with backstitch worked along neck edge. Pin waistcoat in position on front of body and backstitch in place, then remove pins.

Matching base edges of lapels to marker threads, place lapels and collar piece on top of jacket and oversew edges together. Remove markers, then pin jacket in position round body.

Use tweezers to stuff fingers and thumbs lightly, then stuff remainder of each hand light. Join each sleeve seam from wrist edge up to underarm, then join wrist edges of sleeves and hands, placing hand seam 4 knitted stitches away from sleeve seam so that thumb will face forward. Use tweezers to stuff arms lightly, the position and sew sleeve heads to body sides, making sure to sew through jacket and body layers of knitting, thus holding jacket in place, and remove pins.

Join seam on stalk piece from gathered top edge down to base edge, then use tweezers to stuff lightly. Position and sew stalk to top of head. Join side edges on each eye piece, then arrange and pin eyes, nose and mouth in place on head, curving mouth piece to form a smile. Sew all these pieces in position and remove pins. Work all embroidery by drawing out a single strand from a length of yarn and using the remaining 2 strands. Embroider eye pupils in Black, working a circle of 7 chain stitches in centre of each eye, then outline mouth in chain stitch with Tangerine.

Again using 2 strands of yarn, embroider the buttons in Primrose down centre front of waistcoat, working a circle of 5 chain stitches for each button. Also work two buttons at back of jacket, placing 1/4in (1cm) above tail joining row and spacing 4 knitted stitches apart, first sewing through to body with a couple of stitches at these points to hold jacket in place; then working a circle of 7 chain stitches in Dark Chocolate for each button. Form necktie into a bow and sew in place at centre front of neck.

Work a gathering thread through every stitch on base edge of lantern, draw up tightly and fasten off, then join seam, starting at gathered base edge and stopping at first row knitted in Primrose. Glue card circle to wrong side of base, then join remainder of seam, stopping 3/4in (2cm) down from gathered top edge. Stuff lantern firmly, then join remainder of seam. Using Black yarn, embroider 7 vertical lines of chain stitch round lantern, spacing each line 4 knitted stitches apart.

Join side edges of lantern loop and sew to top of lantern. Slip index finger of Jack's right hand through loop, then fold down all fingers and tip of each to palm of hand.

Don't miss Alan Dart's hibernating hedgehog next month's *Simply Knitting*. Issue 21 is in the shops from Thursday 12 October 2006.

