ALAN DART'S, spring chicks

THE UK'S NO.1 KNITTING M

DESIGNS

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COSY WRAP P16



STEP INTO SPRING FRESH LOOKS & NEW TRENDS

DIGITAL ISSUE 119

TRENDY MAKE FOR YOUR MAN

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CUTE AS A BUTTON

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Country Style DK - fabulous new designs & colours for Spring for all the family for stockists telephone: 01924 371501 * enquiries@sirdar.co.uk * knitting-helpline@sirdar.co.uk * www.sirdar.co.uk

EDITOR'S LETTER

Stylish and simple, you'll love this slash neck jumper, p26.



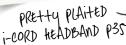


ight, lacy garments and fun accessories to inject new life into your wardrobe. You'll be inspired for the season with our new guide to on-trend shopping (p36)

and our round-up of Easter gadgets (p77) – and that's before you've even got to the knitting! I've got my eye on the sparkly lace cardigan in our booklet (below) – so pretty.

Don't miss out next month on our bumper issue – on sale Friday 25 April. As well as your usual treats, we'll bring you a wonderful doll, patterns to make to celebrate the World Cup, and with all the summer festivals kicking off too (sorry!), a great selection of fun designs to make for days out and cool camping.











ck in rt with a Fair Isle on on p53.

PERFECT PATCHWORK EVERYDAY BAG PS6



Did you know you can subscribe digitally from just £3.99? See page 31 for details.



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Model wearing pattern 8948

For your nearest stockist telephone 01535 609798



Stay up-to-date



www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk dis



KNITTING IDEAS & INSPIRATION FOR THE MONTH AHEAD



This handmade shawl pin (£11.06) is a real talking piece when worn on an open knitted or crocheted garment, and doubles up as a hair pin or brooch. **Designers** Felice Luftschein and Nicholas Carter work together in their Oregon workshop, and craft these pins from hammered and swirled nine-gauge aluminium wire, carefully smoothing the edges so they won't catch on your delicate garments. See their designs at www.nicholas andfelice.etsy.com.



Delicious knitwear

This fab boat neck, stepped-hem sweater offers a flattering take on the knitted cotton top, and the striped version will add a nautical edge to your outfit! The pattern (7081) uses Sirdar Cotton DK and lends itself to a variety of colourways. For more details, call 01924 231682 or visit www.sirdar.co.uk



Knitting on Radio 4

We'll be tuning in to Radio 4 at 11am on 23 April to hear Woman's Hour presenter Jane Garvey's journey into the world of knitting – from Brazilian prisoners who knit for fashion to the composer whose scores are derived from her patterns, all interspersed with knitting-related musical numbers.

HERDY POT GIVEAWAY!

This fabulous Herdy sheep pot, which is hand cast and decorated by a family-run pottery in Sri Lanka, is perfect for stashing all your crafting goodies in. See www.herdy.co.uk or call 01539 739202 for more. What's more, we've got one to give away to a lucky reader! See page 81 to enter, using code SK119POT.

IdMags.net

New season knits

Here in the Simply Knitting office we're dreaming of sunny days and lighter layers, and with that in mind we've been looking at designs for simple cardis and tees in lightweight yarns. We love the Truesilk Collection by Martin Storey, featuring 15 beautiful designs in timeless shapes and colours using 100% silk yarn. Visit www.knitrowan.com or call 01484 681881 for more.





TAPE MEASURES Splurge or save with these handy tape measures.



2.95 SAVE Simple and stylish

Simple and stylish Cotton East Of India fabric tape measure, £2.95. www.through thebarndoor.co.uk



SPEND Margaret Annie print Fabric tape measure with delicate Liberty of London print, £6.95.

www.liberty.co.uk





SPLURGE Retractable tape Handmade cotton retractable tape with button, £9.25. www. pinkprairies.etsy.com

You can subscribe to *Simply Knitting* digitally from just £3.99. See myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/digital-magazines for more.



BLOG TO WIN!

UK craft bloggers could be in with a chance to win £500 worth of goodies from Deramores! In the new competition, a panel of celebrity judges, including our very own Kirstie, will choose the best post that teaches a knitting skill or shares a top tip. To find out more, and to enter, visit www.deramores.com/ blog-awards. Good luck!



Handmade with Kirstie!

This September sees the launch of Kirstie Allsopp's Handmade Fair at Hampton Court, in association with Hobbycraft. Tickets will go on sale in May, but sign up now for the exciting newsletter to receive the latest news and a free craft project. Visit www.thehandmadefair.com and we'll keep you up to date!



QUICK QUESTION MIRROR IMAGE

I am left-handed and have always thought it would be difficult to learn to knit! Would I 'mirror' the instructions for right-handed knitters? Elizabeth Lawrence, Andover

A Knitting is a skill that uses both hands, so you may not actually want to 'knit left-handed', as this will flip your knitting the other way round. You can hold the yarn in your right or left hand, so get some scrap yarn and needles and work out what feels comfortable for you. Ask a knitter friend if they have any tips, visit your local yarn store or find a video online.



The Best of this Month's WORKSHOPS & SHOWS

3-5 MAY Craft and Design Show, Tonbridge 01425 277988 www.ichfevents.co.uk

7 MAY Knitting socks, The Fibreworks, Chipping Norton 01608 645970 www.thefibreworks.co.uk

15 MAY-1 JUNE Yarns in the Cathedral Exhibition, Norwich Cathedral, Norwich www.wsd.org.uk

17 MAY Scotland's Knitting Only Show, Fife www. scottishmachineknitters.org.uk

19-24 MAY The ABC of Gardening in Stitch, Lincoln Central Library, www. lincolnstitchers.blogspot.co.uk

FIVE OF THE BEST... BAGS, TOTES AND PURSES

Stylish patterns you'll love to knit.



HANDY SHOPPER

Stylecraft 8819, a handy shopping bag in Allsorts Super Chunky. www.stylecraftyarns.co.uk, 01535 609798.



CABLE KNIT SLOUCH BAG Thomas B Ramsden 9211

Ramsden 9211, chunky knit bag in Freedom Alfresco. www. tbramsden.co.uk, 01943 878689



FLUFFY STUNNER

Wendy Chic 121, an eye-catching and fun party bag in eyelash yarn. www. tbramsden.co.uk, 01943 878689



KNIT AND FELT BAG

Twilleys 9049, a knitted and felt bag in Twilley's Freedom Wool. C'est chic! www. tbramsden.co.uk, 01943 878689



PATCHWORK POWER Don't miss our

Don't miss our collection of knitted bags – a shoulder bag, a shopper and two handbags. Turn to page 51.



⁵ MINUTES WITH... PAT MENCHINI

This month we chat to prolific knitwear designer Pat Menchini about her knitting passions.

Favourite knitting technique? Any type of cables.

Design style? Classic with a twist.

Metal or wooden needles? Mostly metal.

Desert island yarn? I love any beautiful pure wool DK.

Biggest knitting ambition? I would like to get more people inspired to start knitting.

Must-have knitting gadget? A selection of tapestry needles for sewing up.

Good tips on choosing yarn?

Try to stay with what has been recommend for the design. Otherwise choose an exact tension match in another yarn.

Favourite yarn?

I have three – I love Sirdar Soukie, King Cole Popsicle and Rico Fashion Pixel. They're all really lovely yarns to design with.

Best part of designing?

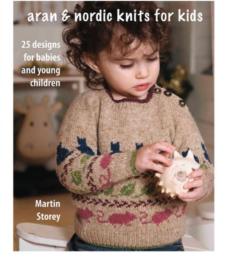
Creating a garment from an idea I have initially and then seeing it through to full completion.

Worst knitting habit?

Driving my family mad by never shutting up about yarn and leaving design ideas all over the place!

This month Pat has designed a simple, attractive men's Fair Isle jumper. Turn to page 61.

BEAUTIFUL BOOKS



ARAN & NORDIC KNITS FOR KIDS Martin Storey (Rowan, £14.99)

With 25 great knits for little girls and boys, this Scandinavian-inspired collection of designs by Martin Storey has a range of delightful projects. They include traditional patterns and those with a contemporary twist, and feature a range of garments plus accessories. The garments are sized from six months to four years old – we particularly love the unisex Petra sweater (pictured).

CRAFT SHOW & SELL

Jayne Torie (Search Press, £12.99) With step-by-step tutorials and profiles of successful crafters, Craft Show & Sell

gives you advice on how to take your brand or business forward, and offers tips on how to merchandise and sell items online, at craft fairs, markets or in shops.



SPINNING AND DYEING YARN

Nikki Van De Car (Kyle Books, £14.99) A great contemporary resource for all home spinners, knitters,

crocheters and fibre enthusiasts. If you are looking to explore the creative possibilities offered by designing, spinning, and dyeing their own yarns, this book is a must-have.





Monica Russel (Classical Publishing, £6.99) This book features 30 knitting patterns for mums and babies, all using UK Alpaca yarns. With

projects including gorgeous hats, scarves, cardigans and many more, you're spoilt for choice! Most of the projects can be finished in a weekend, and there's something for experienced knitters and beginners alike.

5 SUPER TIPS ON... YARN CHOICE

1. Is it colourfast? Certain yarns – particularly denim yarns – will fade in appearance over time.

2. Personal service When knitting for friends, check that they don't have any allergies or material preferences first.

3. Practical choices A yarn may look gorgeous, but is it practical for the project? Can it be machine washed?

4. Caught short! Save the pain of getting near the end of a project and running out of yarn by overestimating amounts.

5. Keep the ball band You may well need it to check the care instructions or to refer to the yarn type.



NATURAL BEAUTY

Spun on restored Victorian machinery at the Knockando Woolmill in Moray, Scotland, this gorgeous 3-ply, aran weight, undyed Norwegian Dala wool is available in 100g/146m hanks (£9.50). The quirky production method means the yarn lengths may vary. Visit www.knockandowoolmill. co.uk or call 01340 810345.

YOUR FREE GIFT! with your Spring issue...

LIGHT & LACY CARDI PATTERN



* Treat yourself to an elegant lacy cardigan, with a subtle sparkle that will take you anywhere.



ENJOY A FREE GIFT EVERY MONTH WITH SIMPLY KNITTING – TURN TO PAGE 48 FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO **SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**





DIAMOND LACE JUMPER



Show off your knitting skills and whip up this flattering and versatile jumper by **Sirdar**. It's perfect for every spring occasion.





YOU WILL NEED

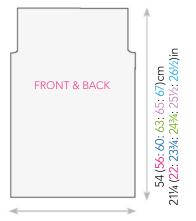
 Sirdar, Click DK (70% acrylic, 30% wool, 50g/150m)
 A pair of 3¼mm needles
 A pair of 4mm needles
 For yarn stockists contact
 Sirdar 01924 231682
 www.sirdar.co.uk

TENSION

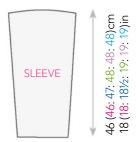
Yarn used knits as DK to this tension: 22 sts and 28 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over lace pattern using 4mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 92



45 (51: 55½: 60½: 65: 71)cm 17¾ (20: 21: 24: 25¾: 13¼)in



elicate and feminine, this slash-neck sweater features a diamond lace pattern, and the lightweight yarn makes it perfect for spring weather. Easy to wear, dress it up or down depending on the occasion, pairing it with a cute skirt or adding a softer touch to denim jeans. The acrylic content means you can machine wash this yarn, for easy everyday style.

K BACK AND FRONT (BOTH ALIKE)

Cast on 139 (157: 169: 187: 199: 217) sts using 3¼mm needles and thumb method.

Row 1 *K1tbl, P2; rep from * to last st, K1tbl.

Row 2 P1, *K2, P1; rep from * to end. These 2 rows will now be referred to as 1x2 twisted rib.

Work 15 rows more in 1x2 twisted rib. **Row 18** P4 (4: 7: 4: 7: 7), p2tog, (P1, p2tog) 43 (49: 51: 59: 61: 67) times, P4 (4: 7: 4: 7: 7).

[95 (107: 117: 127: 137: 149) sts]

LACE ZIGZAG AND LACE DIAMOND PATTERN

Change to 4mm needles.

Row 1 K3 (4: 4: 4: 4: 5), (yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K3) 5 (6: 7: 8: 9: 10) times, yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K9, (k2tog, yfwd, K1) 3 times, (yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K1) twice, yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K9, k2tog, yfwd, (K3, k2tog, yfwd) 5 (6: 7: 8: 9: 10) times, K3 (4: 4: 4: 4: 5).

Row 2 and every alt row Purl. Row 3 K4 (5: 5: 5: 5: 1), (yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K3) 5 (6: 7: 8: 9: 11) times, yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K7, (k2tog, yfwd, K1) twice, k2tog, yfwd, K3, yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, (K1, yfwd, sl1, K1, psso) twice, K7, (k2tog, yfwd, K3) 5 (6: 7: 8: 9: 11) times, k2tog, yfwd, K4 (5: 5: 5: 5: 1). Row 5 K5 (1: 1: 1: 1: 2), (yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K3) 5 (7: 8: 9: 10: 11) times, yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K5, (k2tog, yfwd, K1) twice, k2tog, yfwd, K5, (yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K1) twice, yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K5, (k2tog, yfwd, K3) 5 (7: 8: 9: 10: 11) times, k2tog, yfwd, K5 (1: 1: 1: 1: 2). Row 7 K1 (2: 2: 2: 3), (yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K3) 7 (8: 9: 10: 11: 12) times, (k2tog, yfwd, K1) twice, k2tog, yfwd, K7, (yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K1) twice, yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, (K3, k2tog, yfwd) 7 (8: 9: 10: 11: 12) times, K1 (2: 2: 2: 2: 3). Row 9 K2 (3: 3: 3: 3: 4), (yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K3) 6 (7: 8: 9: 10: 11) times, yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, (K1, k2tog, yfwd) 3 times, K9, (yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K1) 3 times, (k2tog, yfwd, K3) 6 (7: 8: 9: 10: 11) times, k2tog, yfwd, K2 (3: 3: 3: 3: 4). Row 11 K2 (3: 3: 3: 3: 4), (k2tog, yfwd, K3) 6 (7: 8: 9: 10: 11) times, k2toq, yfwd, (K1, yfwd, sl1, K1, psso) twice, K1, yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K9, (k2tog, yfwd, K1) 3 times, (yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K3) 6 (7: 8: 9: 10: 11) times, yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K2 (3: 3: 3: 3: 4). Row 13 K1 (2: 2: 2: 2: 3), (k2tog, yfwd,

K3) 7 (8: 9: 10: 11: 12) times, (yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K1) twice, yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K7, (k2tog, yfwd, K1) twice, k2tog, yfwd, (K3, yfwd, sl1, K1, psso) 7 (8: 9: 10: 11: 12) times, K1 (2: 2: 2: 2: 3). **Row 15** K5 (1: 1: 1: 1: 2), (k2tog, yfwd, K3) 5 (7: 8: 9: 10: 11) times, k2tog,

yfwd, K5, (yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K1) twice, yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K5, (k2tog, yfwd, K1) twice, k2tog, yfwd, K5, (yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K3) 5 (7: 8: 9: 10: 11) times, yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K5 (1: 1: 1: 1: 2).

| SIZE | | 8-10 | 12-14 | 16-18 | 20-22 | 24-26 | 28-30 |
|--|----|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| TO FIT BUST | cm | 81-86 | 91-97 | 102-107 | 112-117 | 122-127 | 132-137 |
| | in | 32-34 | 36-38 | 40-42 | 44-46 | 48-50 | 52-54 |
| ACTUAL BUST | cm | 90 | 102 | 111 | 121 | 130 | 142 |
| | in | 351/2 | 40 | 43¾ | 47¾ | 511⁄4 | 56 |
| LENGTH | cm | 54 | 56 | 60 | 63 | 65 | 67 |
| | in | 211⁄4 | 22 | 23¾ | 24¾ | 251/2 | 261⁄2 |
| SLEEVE LENGTH | cm | 46 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 48 | 48 |
| | in | 18 | 18 | 18½ | 19 | 19 | 19 |
| YARN Sirdar, Click DK (50g/150m balls) | | | | | | | |
| Stormy Blue (198) | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 10 |

To make this pattern easier to follow, we've colour-coded the sizing instructions – simply follow the relevant column.

DIAMOND LACE JUMPER

Row 17 K4 (5: 5: 5: 5: 1), (k2tog, yfwd, K3) 5 (6: 7: 8: 9: 11) times, k2tog, yfwd, K7, (yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K1) twice, yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K3, (k2tog, yfwd, K1) twice, k2tog, yfwd, K7, (yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K3) 5 (6: 7: 8: 9: 11) times, yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K4 (5: 5: 5: 5: 1).

Row 19 K3 (4: 4: 4: 4: 5), (k2tog, yfwd, K3) 5 (6: 7: 8: 9: 10) times, k2tog, yfwd, K9, (yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K1) 3 times, (k2tog, yfwd, K1) twice, k2tog, yfwd, K9, (yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K3) 5 (6: 7: 8: 9: 10) times, yfwd, sl1, K1, psso, K3 (4: 4: 4: 4: 5).

Row 20 Purl.

Rows 1-20 set lace zigzag and lace diamond panel patt. Keeping continuity of patt as set throughout cont until back measures 35 (35: 37: 39: 40: 41)cm, ending with a WS row.

SHAPE ARMHOLES

Work 3 (3: 4: 4: 4: 5) rows, dec 1 st at each end of every row. [89 (101: 109: 119: 129: 139) sts] Cont in patt without shaping until armholes meas 14 (16: 18: 19: 20: 21) cm, ending with a RS row.

Change to 3¼mm needles.

Next row P10 (16: 13: 13: 13: 16), inc in next st, (P1, inc in next st) 34 (34: 41: 46: 51: 53) times, P10 (16: 13: 13: 13: 16). [124 (136: 151: 166: 181: 193) sts] Starting with row 1 of 1x2 twisted rib, cont until armhole meas 19 (21: 23: 24: 25: 26)cm, ending with a WS row. Cast off in rib.

SLEEVES (MAKE TWO)

Cast on 61 (64: 67: 70: 73: 73) sts using 3¼mm needles and thumb method. Work 9 rows of 1x2 twisted rib.

Row 10 P5, p2tog, (P1, p2tog) 16 (17: 18: 19: 20: 20) times, P6. [44 (46: 48: 50: 52: 52) sts]

Change to 4mm needles. **Row 1** Knit.

Row 2 Purl.

These 2 rows will now be referred to as st st.

Working in st st throughout inc 1 st at each end of 3rd and every foll 6th (6th: 4th: 4th: 4th: 4th) row to 56 (74: 58: 64: 72: 90) sts.

Inc 1 st at each end of every foll 8th (8th: 6th: 6th: 6th) row to 74 (80: 88: 92: 96: 102) sts.

Cont without shaping until sleeve meas 46 (46: 47: 48: 48: 48)cm, or length required, ending with a WS row.

SHAPE SLEEVE TOP

Work 3 (3: 4: 4: 4: 5) rows, dec 1 st at each end of every row.
[68 (74: 80: 84: 88: 92) sts]
Work 1 (1: 0: 0: 0: 1) rows more without shaping.
Cast off 3 sts at beg of next 8 (2: 6: 2: 16: 4) rows. [44 (68: 62: 78: 40: 80) sts]
Cast off 4 sts at beg of next 8 (14: 12: 16: 6: 16) rows.

[12 (12: 14: 14: 16: 16) sts] Cast off rem 12 (12: 14: 14: 16: 16) sts.

TO MAKE UP

Join shoulder seams leaving 24 (24: 26: 26: 28: 28)cm open for neck. Fold sleeves in half lengthways then, placing folds to shoulder seams, sew sleeves in position. Join side and sleeve seams. Pin out garment to the measurements given. Cover with damp cloths and leave until dry. See ball band for washing and further care instructions.



The shaping in this design is minimal so you can concentrate on the lace pattern.

NEXT MONTH Keep off the cold breeze this spring with a long-sleeved cardigan. Issue 120, May, is in the shops from Friday 25 April.



This boat neck jumper is from Sirdar pattern leaflet 7047, which also includes a threequarter length sleeved version. For stockists, go to www.sirdar.co.uk or call 01924 231682.

STEP-BY-STEP YF HOW TO MAKE A YARN FORWARD



1 Bring the yarn to the front before you work the next stitch.



2 Insert the needle into the next stitch and take the yarn from front to back over the right needle, then wrap it around the needle as usual.



3 Pick up the yarn and pull it through the stitch on the needle.



4 Slip the stitch off the needle. You will notice that the yarn forward forms an extra loop to the right of the stitch just worked. When you purl back across the row, it will create a hole.



LACE WRAP



CHERRY PIE

Easy to knit and even easier to wear, you'll soon wonder how you ever lived without **Mary Henderson**'s stunning shawl.

Do you want to have a go at lace? This is a great pattern to start with. Lace is a joy to knit with chunky yarn on big needles – it's far less fiddly and knits up really quickly so you'll have results in no time. Just remember to block it well at the end for the best finish.



YOU WILL NEED

 Rowan, Creative Focus Worsted (75% wool, 25% alpaca, 100g/200m) 2 balls of Carmine (02055)
 A pair of 6mm needles

3 metal clasps
 For yarn stockists contact
 Rowan 01484 681881
 www.knitrowan.com

TENSION

Yarn used knits as chunky to this tension: 15 sts and 24 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over lace pattern using 6mm needles

Yarn used knits as chunky to this tension: 13 sts and 21 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over rib using 6mm needles

MEASUREMENTS 75cm long

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 92



his versatile wrap is a real musthave. Pop it on top of your coat or pair it with a sweet spring dress for extra warmth and style. The yummy yarn comes in 24 shades so you are sure to find the perfect one for you.

LACE PATTERN REPEAT

Row 1 Knit. Row 2 Purl. Row 3 K1, *yo, sl1, K2, psso; rep from * to last stitch, K1. Row 4 Purl. These 4 rows form the pattern repeat.

WRAP

Cast on 32 sts using 6mm needles. Knit 2 rows. Work 10 repeats of Lace Pattern, ending with a Row 4 (20cm). **Inc row** (WS) K4, *kfb, K1, yo, K1; rep from * to the end of the row. [50 sts] Purl 1 row.

SEED RIB SECTION

Next row (RS) K4, P2, *K3, P2; rep from * to last 4 sts, K4. Next row K1, *P1, K1, P1, K2; rep from * last 4 sts, P1, K1, P1, K1. These 2 rows form the pattern repeat. Work the repeat for 85cm.

Dec row (WS) K4, *k2tog, K1, k2tog; rep from * to last st, K1. [32 sts] Purl 1 row.

Next row (RS) Starting with row 3 of Lace Pattern work 9 more repeats for a total of 10 repeats. Knit 2 rows.

Cast off loosely.



The basic shape is simple and will grow quickly – so it's good for new knitters.

TO MAKE UP

Soak cowl in cool water with hand wash liquid for 20 mins. Gently squeeze out the excess water. Roll cowl in large towel and, again, squeeze out excess moisture (do not wring). Block by pinning the damp cowl on a flat surface; fanning out the seed rib. Do not remove the pins until the cowl is completely dry.

Sew on 3 metal clasps, positioning so the lace sections overlap.

NEXT MONTH KNIT UP A SET OF BOHO CHIC FESTIVAL ACCESSORIES IN TIME FOR THE SUMMER. ISSUE 120, MAY, IS ON SALE FROM FRIDAY 25 APRIL.

STEP-BY-STEP HOW TO MAKE A YARN OVER



1 Bring the yarn to the front before you work the next stitch.



2 Insert the needle into the next stitch and take the yarn from front to back over the needle and wrap it around the needle as usual.



3 Pick up the yarn and pull it through the stitch on the needle.



4 Slip the stitch off the needle. You will notice that the yarn over forms an extra loop to the right of the stitch you have just worked. When you purl back across the row, it will create a hole.

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CHILD'S JUMPER



CUTE 'N' COSY

Little ones will stay snug in **Debbie Bliss's** cute-as-a-button practical raglan sweater.

This pattern is sized for ages one to eight, but it is always best to work to accurate measurements. Ages are generic, and your little one might be taller, smaller or have longer arms than the average for their age. After all, you want to be sure it will fit!



YOU WILL NEED

- Debbie Bliss, Mia (50% wool, 50% cotton; 50g/100m balls)
- A pair of 3³/₄mm needles
- A pair of 4mm needles

2 buttons

For yarn stockists contact Designer Yarns 01535 664222, www.designeryarns.uk.com

TENSION

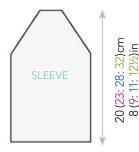
Yarn used knits as DK to this tension: 22 sts and 28 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 4mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 92



14 (15: 15¾: 16¼)in



rendy, warm and strong enough to withstand some rough and tumble, this lovely sweater designed by Debbie Bliss will keep little ones warm whatever the weather. The pattern is really simple, so if you've never knitted a garment before, this is a great place to start. Using basic stitches and very little shaping, it'll be a doddle!

NAKK

📧 BACK

Cast on 82 (86: 90: 94) sts using 3¾mm needles and Yarn B. K 1 row. Change to Yarn A. Row 1 (RS) K to end. Row 2 P2, (K2, P2) to end. Row 3 K2, (P2, K2) to end. Row 4 P2, (K2, P2) to end. Rep the last 2 rows 2 (2: 3: 3) more. Change to 4mm needles. Beg with a K row, work in st st until back measures 20 (23: 27: 32)cm from cast on edge, ending with a WS row.

SHAPE UNDERARM AND RAGLANS Cast off 5 sts at beg of next 2 rows. [72 (76: 80: 84) sts] Next row K3, skpo, K to last 5 sts, k2tog, K3. [70 (74: 78: 82) sts] Next row P to end. Next row K to end. Next row P to end

Rep the last 4 rows 2 (3: 4: 5) times more. [66 (68: 70: 72) sts] ** **Next row** K3, skpo, K to last 5 sts, k2tog, K3. [64 (66: 68: 70) sts] **Next row** P to end. Rep the last 2 rows 16 times more. Leave the rem 32 (34: 36: 38) sts on a holder.

FRONT

Work as given for Back to **. **Next row** K3, skpo, K to last 5 sts, k2tog, K3. [64 (66: 68: 70) sts] **Next row** P to end. Rep the last 2 rows 11 times more. [42 (44: 46: 48) sts]

SHAPE NECK

Next row Cast off 2 sts, skpo, K8, k2tog, K1, turn, and work on these 12 sts for first side of neck. Next row P to end. Next row K1, skpo, K6, k2toq, K1. [10 sts] Next row P to end. Next row K1, skpo, K4, k2tog, K1. [8 sts] Next row P to end. Next row K1, skpo, K2, k2tog, K1. [6 sts] Next row P to end. Next row K1, skpo, k2tog, K1. [4 sts] Next row P to end. Leave rem 4 sts on a safety pin. With RS facing, slip centre 10 (12: 14: 16) sts onto a holder, rejoin yarn to rem sts, K1, skpo, K8, k2tog, K3. [14 sts] Next row P to end. **Next row** K1, skpo, K6, k2tog, K3. [12 sts] Next row P to end. Next row K1, skpo, K4, k2tog, K3. [10 sts] Next row P to end. Next row K1, skpo, K2, k2tog, K3. [8 sts] Next row P to end. Next row K1, skpo, k2tog, K3. [6 sts] Next row P to end.

| AGE | | 1-2 | 3-4 | 5-6 | 7-8 |
|--|----|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| TO FIT CHEST | cm | 53 | 581⁄2 | 631⁄2 | 67 |
| | in | 21 | 23 | 25 | 261⁄2 |
| | cm | 72 | 76 | 80 | 84 |
| ACTUAL CHEST | in | 281⁄4 | 30 | 311⁄2 | 32¾ |
| | cm | 37 | 42 | 47 | 53 |
| LENGTH | in | 141⁄2 | 161⁄2 | 181⁄2 | 21 |
| | cm | 20 | 23 | 28 | 32 |
| SLEEVE LENGTH | in | 8 | 9 | 11 | 121⁄2 |
| YARN Debbie Bliss Mia (50g/100m balls) | | | | | balls) |
| Yarn A Corn (14) | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Yarn B Peach (12) | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | | | | | |

To make this pattern easier to follow, we've colour-coded the sizing instructions – simply follow the relevant column.

CHILD'S JUMPER

Leave rem 6 sts on a safety pin.

RIGHT SLEEVE

Cast on 38 (42: 46: 50) sts using 3¾mm needles and Yarn B. P 1 row. Change to Yarn A. Row 1 P to end. Row 2 K2, (P2, K2) to end. Row 3 P2, (K2, P2) to end. Row 4 K2, (P2, K2) to end. Rep last 2 rows 2 (2: 3: 3) more times.

*** Change to 4mm needles.
Beg with a K row, work in st st.
Work 2 (4: 6: 8) rows.
Inc row K3, M1, K to last 3 sts, M1, K3.
Work 5 rows.
Rep the last 6 rows 7 (8: 10: 11) times more and the inc row again.
[56 (62: 70: 76) sts]
Cont for a few rows straight until sleeve measures 20 (23: 28: 32)cm from ***, ending with a WS row.

SHAPE UNDERARM AND RAGLANS **Cast off** 5 sts at beg of next 2 rows. [46 (52: 60: 66) sts] Next row K3, skpo, K to last 5 sts, k2tog, K3. [44 (50: 58: 64) sts] Next row P to end. Next row K to end. Next row P to end. Rep last 4 rows 6 (6: 5: 5) times more. [32 (38: 48: 54) sts] **** Next row K3, skpo, K to last 5 sts, k2tog, K3. [30 (36: 46: 52) sts] Next row P to end. Rep last 2 rows 8 (10: 14: 16) times more. Leave the rem 14 (16: 18: 20) sts on a spare needle.

LEFT SLEEVE

Work as given for Right Sleeve to ****. Next row K3, skpo, K to last 5 sts, k2tog, K3. [30 (36: 46: 52) sts] Next row P to end. Rep the last 2 rows 3 (5: 9: 11) times more. [24 (26: 28: 30) sts] Next row K3, skpo, K to last 5 sts, k2tog, K3. [22 (24: 26: 28) sts] **Next row** Cast off 2 sts, P to end. [20 (22: 24: 26) sts] Next row K3, skpo, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1. [18 (20: 22: 24) sts] Next row P to end. Rep the last 2 rows 3 times more. Leave the rem 12 (14: 16: 18) sts on a holder

NECKBAND With right side facing, using 3¾mm needles and Yarn A, K4 from left front safety pin, pick up and knit 10 sts down left front neck, K10 (12: 14: 16) sts from centre front holder, pick up and knit 11 sts up right front neck, K5 from right front safety pin, K last st of front tog with first st of right sleeve, K12 (14: 16: 18), K last st of sleeve with first st of back, K30 (32: 34: 36), K last st of back tog with first st of left sleeve, K11 (13: 15: 17). [96 (104: 112: 120) sts]

Next row P3, (K2, P2) to last 5 sts, K2, P3.

Next row K3, (P2, K2) to last 5 sts, P2, K3.

Rep the last 2 rows 3 times more. Leave sts on a spare needle.

BUTTON BAND

Leaving left front raglan open, join both back raglan seams and right front raglan seam. With RS facing, using 3¾mm needles

and Yarn A, pick up and knit 15 sts along left sleeve raglan edge down to the 2 cast off sts. **Row 1** P2, (K2, P2) twice, K2, P3. **Row 2** K3, (P2, K2) to end.

Row 3 P2, (K2, P2) twice, K2, P3.

Leave these sts on a spare needle.

BUTTONHOLE BAND

With RS facing, using 3³/₄mm needles and Yarn A and beg at cast off edge, pick up and knit 15 sts along left front raalan edae. Row 1 P3, (K2, P2) to end. Row 2 K2, (P2, K2) twice, P2, K3. Buttonhole row (WS) P3, yrn, k2tog, P2, K2, p2tog, yrn, K2, P2. Change to Yarn B and work contrast edging as follows: Row 4 (RS) K15, yo, pick up and knit 2 sts from buttonhole band row-ends, then work across neckband sts as follows: k2tog, K to last 2 sts, skpo, then pick up and knit 2 sts from button band row-ends, yo, K15. Cast off knitwise.

TO MAKE UP

Join left front raglan seam, then overlap the buttonhole band with the buttonband and sew in place. Join side and sleeve seams. Sew on buttons.

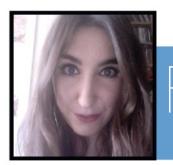


This pattern features a button shoulder opening, perfect for fussy little ones!

NEXT MONTH Cast on a dainty cardigan for all the little girls in your life. Issue 120, June, is in the shops from Friday 28 March.



This pattern is from the *Debbie Bliss Mia* book, a collection of garments for the whole family. For stockists, go to www. designeryarns.uk.com or call 01535 664222.



AMY LAVELLE FASHION FORWARD Amy shows us how easy it can be to knit on trend.

"I'm going to knit myself into fashion!"

e've all been there. "OH MY GOD. [Insert trend] is in. I've always wanted one of those. That is totally my colour! That [painfully-of-the moment-itemof-clothing] will look great on me."

Translation: "OOH SHINY! I've never thought about that trend before, but now that you mention it, why not? It's really not my colour; it would look terrible. I will literally never wear this. I have not thought this through... "

My remedy to this situation? "I'll knit myself into fashion!" I think to myself, gleefully rubbing my hands together, much as I did when I thought I could 'eat myself thin' (I couldn't). I have a bit more control and if I'm still into the project by the time I've finished, it's clearly a winner.

Oh dear reader, if you're anything like me (which I hope, for your sake, you're not) then with every new fashion season comes an exercise in pillaging Topshop. I mean, don't get me wrong: I'm not a complete slave to fashion and the opinion of Vogue. Except that I'm lying. I am a slave to it all and it's time for a change.

You see, this lifestyle is only really obtainable if you are, in fact, Kanye

West – which on a number of levels I am not – so this sad state of affairs has forced me to confront my nefarious spending habits and come to the realisation that I must, for the love of God, stop. And by stop, of course, I mean find a wily way around the problem without confronting it. So, in comes the knitting.

BUT WHERE TO START?

So here we are. For my first foray into knitted fashion, I decided to go for something easy: winter whites. It's also big news for spring and summer, which in Britain, as we all know, is just more winter whites, so we can expect a bit of life in this one.

Obviously as a trend in itself, it's about as impractical as they come. But I like to aspire to a more elegant self that doesn't spill things and, besides that, I believe that white is one of those colours that does actually work on most people, which sort of makes this an easier fashion to follow along with at home. And so this is what I have plumped for.

Now, I'm still retaining a mite of common sense and not planning to go entirely head to toe on this one; I'm starting with my accessories rather than the white mini skirt, on the grounds that it's spectacularly unfeasible, a knitted one would be even worse (and I already have one).

Instead I'm going for a white headband – chic and practical. I loosely followed a pattern I found on www.norththirty-fourth.blogspot.co. uk, ditching some of the literal frills and bows on the grounds of extreme impatience and wanting something a little more simplistic. But there's nothing stopping you from getting a bit more technical with this than I did for a more interesting result.

Best of all, there's plenty of scope here to go for a bigger project. I feel a shawl might be next on my list – something long-desired. I was just waiting for it to come back 'in', which in essence is the beauty of this trend: its versatility. Plus, when fashion moves on (as it is wont to do) you're left with some simple separates. Investment fashion at its best. Or at least, that's my excuse. And I love my beautiful new headband!

Want to read more of Amy's musings and thoughts on life in general? Visit her website at www.amylavelle.com.



From left to right: Amy was inspired by this chic winter trend; The simple stocking stitch headband is under way; Amy loves her headband, but if she were to make another, she would go for chunkier yarn and take more time on the edges to stop them from curling in.



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SLASH NECK TOP



EASYSTYLE

With its flattering neckline, slouchy fit and three-quarter sleeves, you'll stand out from the crowd in this stylish jumper by **Sarah Hatton**.





YOU WILL NEED

- Rowan, Panama (12% linen, 33% cotton, 55% viscose; 50g/135m)
- A 2¾mm circular needle, 40cm long
- A 2¾mm circular needle, 80cm long
- A 3¼mm circular needle, 40cm long
- A 3¼mm circular needle, 80cm long

Stitch markers
 For yarn stockists contact
 Rowan 01484 681881

www.knitrowan.com

TENSION

Yarn used knits as 4ply to this tension: 27 sts and 36 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 31/4mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 92

nitted in a deep luscious pink, this oversized, cape-style top is a real showstopper! Wear it over jeans for an afternoon stroll, or layer it with a smart skirt for the office and meals out. Knitted in the round, with ribbed edgings, this pattern is suitable for the intermediate knitter. If you've mastered a basic design, this is the ideal next step.

See

K BODY

Cast on 244 (268: 300: 336: 372) sts using the 2¾mm circular needle (80cm), and join to work in the round, taking care not to twist sts. Now work in rounds as folls: Round 1 (RS) *K2, P2, rep from * to end. This round forms rib. Cont in rib until work meas 8cm.

Change to 3¼mm circular needle (80cm).

Next round (RS) Knit. This round forms st st. Cont in st st for a further 3 rounds, ending 4 sts before end of last round.

SHAPE ARMHOLES

***Cast off** 8 sts, K until there are 114 (126: 142: 160: 178) sts after cast off, rep from * once more. Break yarn and leave sts on a holder.

RIGHT SLEEVE

Cast on 116 (124: 124: 128: 132) sts using 2¼mm circular needle (40cm), and join to work in the round, taking care not to twist sts. Now work in rounds as folls: Work in rib as given for back until sleeve meas 3cm, inc 2 (0: 2: 2: 2) sts evenly across last round.

[118 (124: 126: 130: 134) sts]**

Change to 3¼mm circular needle (40cm). Work in st st for 4 rounds, ending 4 sts before end of last round. Next round will start here. ***Cast off** 8 sts, K to end. [110 (116: 118: 122: 126) sts] Break yarn and leave sts on a holder.

LEFT SLEEVE

Work as given for Right Sleeve to **. Change to 3¼mm circular needle (40cm). Work in st st for 5 rounds, ending 4 sts before end of last round. Next round will start here. ***Cast off** 8 sts, K to end.

[110 (116: 118: 122: 126) sts] Do not break yarn.

YOKE

With RS facing and using 3³/₄mm circular needle (80cm), slip the 110 (116: 118: 122: 126) sts of left sleeve, place marker, K across one set of 114 (126: 142: 160: 178) sts on holder from body (front), place marker, K across 110 (116: 118: 122: 126) sts on holder from right sleeve, place marker, then K across rem 114 (126: 142: 160: 178) sts on holder from body (back), place final marker. [448 (484: 520: 564: 608) sts] Last marker placed denotes beg and end of rounds and is at left back. Changing to 40cm circular needle when required, cont in st st as given for body as folls: Work 4 (4: 2: 2: 2) rounds.

SHAPE RAGLAN

SIZES 8-10 AND 12-14 ONLY Next round (RS) (SI marker, K2, sl1, K1, psso, K to 4 sts before next marker, k2tog, K2) 4 times. [8 sts dec'd] Work 5 (5: -: -: -) rounds.



| | 8-10 | 12-14 | 16-18 | 20-22 | 24-26 |
|----|-------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| cm | 81-86 | 91-97 | 102-107 | 112-117 | 122-127 |
| in | 32-34 | 36-38 | 40-42 | 44-46 | 48-50 |
| cm | 90 | 99 | 111 | 124 | 138 |
| in | 35 | 39 | 44 | 49 | 54 |
| cm | 55 | 57 | 59 | 61 | 63 |
| in | 211⁄2 | 221/2 | 231⁄2 | 24 | 25 |
| | Rowan Panama (50g/135m balls) | | | | |
| | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| | in cm in cm | cm 81-86 in 32-34 cm 90 in 35 cm 55 in 21½ | cm 81-86 91-97 in 32-34 36-38 cm 90 99 in 35 39 cm 55 57 in 21½ 22½ | cm 81-86 91-97 102-107 in 32-34 36-38 40-42 cm 90 99 111 in 35 39 44 cm 55 57 59 in 21½ 22½ 23½ Rowan Panama (50g/13) | cm 81-86 91-97 102-107 112-117 in 32-34 36-38 40-42 44-46 cm 90 99 111 124 in 35 39 44 49 cm 55 57 59 61 in 21½ 22½ 23½ 24 |

To make this pattern easier to follow, we've colour-coded the sizing instructions – simply follow the relevant column.

SLASH NECK TOP

[440 (476: -: -: -) sts] Rep last 6 rounds a further 10 (2: -: -: -) times. [360 (460: -: -: -) sts]

ALL SIZES

Next round (RS) (SI marker, K2, sl1, K1, psso, K to 4 sts before next marker, k2tog, K2) 4 times. [8 sts dec'd] [352 (452: 512: 556: 600) sts] Work 3 rounds. Rep last 4 rounds a further 9 (26: 32: 27: 23) times. [280 (244: 256: 340: 416) sts]

SIZES 8-10 AND 12-14 ONLY

Next round (SI marker, K2, sl1, K1, psso, K to 4 sts before next marker, k2tog, K2) 4 times. [8 sts dec'd] [272 (236: -: -: -) sts] Work 1 (1: -: -: -) round. Next round (SI marker, K2, sl1, K1, psso, K to 4 sts before next marker, k2tog, K2, sl marker, K to next marker) twice. [268 (232: -: -: -) sts] Work 1 (1: -: -: -) round. Rep last 4 rounds a further 5 (2: -: -: -) times. [208 (208: -: -: -) sts]

SIZES 16-18, 20-22 AND 24-26 ONLY

Next round (SI marker, K2, sl1, K1, psso, K to 4 sts before next marker, k2tog, K2) 4 times. [- (-: 248: 332: 408) sts] Work - (-: 1: 1: 1) round. Next round (SI marker, K to next marker, sl marker, K2, sl1, K1, psso, K to 4 sts before next marker, k2tog, K2) twice. [- (-: 244: 328: 404) sts] Work - (-: 1: 1: 1) round. Rep last 4 rounds a further - (-: 2: 9: 14) times, then rep first 2 of these rounds - (-: 0: 0: 1) time more. [- (-: 220: 220: 228) sts]

ALL SIZES

Break yarn.

Slip first 61 (61: 65: 65: 67) sts onto right needle, then rejoin yarn to rem sts and cast off next 26 sts for front neck. Now working in rows that beg and end at front neck, cont as folls:

SHAPE FRONT NECK

Next row (RS) K13 (13: 15: 15: 17), k2tog, K2, *sl marker, (K2, sl1, K1, psso) 1 (1: 1: 1: 0) time, K to 4 (4: 4: 4: 0) sts before next marker, (k2tog, K2) 1 (1: 1: 1: 0) time, sl marker, K2, sl1, K1, psso; K to 4 sts before next marker, k2tog, K2, rep from * once, K13 (13: 15: 15: 17). [174 (174: 186: 186: 198) sts] Cast off 5 sts, P to end of row. Cast off 5 sts, (K to 4 sts before marker, k2tog, K2, sl marker, K2, sl1, K1, psso) 4 times, K to end.

[156 (156: 168: 168: 180) sts]

Next row P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog tbl. [154 (154: 166: 166: 178) sts] Next row Sl1, K1, psso, (K to 4 sts before marker, k2tog, K2, sl marker, K2, sl1, K1, psso) 4 times, K to last 2 sts, k2tog. [144 (144: 156: 156: 168) sts] Next row Purl.

Rep last 2 rows a further 1 (1: 2: 2: 3) times. [134 (134: 136: 136: 138) sts]

Next row Sl1, k2tog, psso, K2, (sl marker, K2, sl1, K1, psso, K to 4 sts before next marker, k2tog, K2) 3 times, sl marker, K2, k3tog.

[124 (124: 126: 126: 128) sts] Next row Purl.

Next row Sl1, k2tog, psso, (sl marker, K2, sl1, K1, psso, K to 4 sts before next marker, k2tog, K2) 3 times, sl marker, k3tog. [114 (114: 116: 116: 118) sts] Next row P1, remove marker, P to last marker, remove marker, P1. Cast off 5 sts at beg of next 2 rows,

then cast off 3 sts at beg of foll 8 rows and at same time working raglan decreases as before by dec 1 st at each side of rem 2 markers on next and every foll alt row.

Cast off rem 60 (60: 62: 62: 64) sts.

NECKBAND

With RS facing, using 2¾mm circular needle (40cm), pick up and knit 30 sts from top of left sleeve, 8 (8: 9: 9: 10) sts down left side of neck, 25 sts from front, 8 (8: 9: 9: 10) sts up right side of neck, 30 sts from top of right sleeve, then 36 (36: 38: 38: 40) sts from back. [137 (137: 141: 141: 145) sts]

Next round (RS) Purl.

Next round Knit.

These 2 rounds form garter st. Work in garter st for a further 2 rounds. **Cast off** purlwise (on RS).

TO MAKE UP

Join cast off edges at underarm. Using the instructions on the ball band, block the garment to the dimensions given on the diagram.

> NEXT MONTH Just in time for the warmer weather, knit a short-sleeved cardigan. Issue 120, June, is on sale from Friday 25 April.



This pattern by Rowan is from *Simple Shapes Panama Collection*, featuring eight ladies' knits in lovely Panama yarn. For more info and for stockists visit www. knitrowan.com or call 01484 681881.



The oversized cape style makes this top really unusual – expect compliments!



The deep ribbed hem cinches in at the hips to balance out the batwing sleeves.

Follow us @ www.twitter.com/SimplyKnitMag



Patons pattern and fab Millward needles where to send your prize!



Star letter

For the past 25 years I have suffered from schizophrenia, and I have been sectioned twice. I took up knitting again out of frustration at 'not having a life' and as a sort of therapy. The sense of achievement it provides is just delightful! It means I can define myself as a knitter and not as a schizophrenic. Now my 85-year-old mum has put some of my work on Etsy for me under the name 'madwomanknits'. A percentage of every single sale is donated to charity. Kathryn Trust, Luthrie What a wonderful story, Kathryn, we're so glad knitting has helped you.









schizophrenia define her, and is moving on.

OUR LETTER OF THE MONTH WRITER WINS A FANTASTIC £50 worth of yarn from Rico Designs. Rico produce loads of beautiful yarns, including fun and funky pom-pom and ruffle yarns, soft and classic baby yarns and bright and strong sock yarns. www.rico-design.de/en

AU NATURELLE

I thought you might like to see the blanket I recently finished knitting. It was a bit of an experiment, made entirely from a variety of pure undyed wools, including alpaca, angora and a number of different sheep wools, collected on holidays (mostly in Anglesey) over the years. Ruth Davis, Quinton

What a beautiful blanket, Ruth. It's lovely to see the natural colours that animals provide us with. The cats clearly approve of it as well!

MIGHTY MEDUSA

I have just finished a Medusa hat for my grandson's fifth birthday. At the age of three he was enthralled by

The Gruffalo, with its Fox , Owl and Snake, so I bought the book Animal Hats by Vanessa Mooncie and knitted him a fox hat. Then I adapted the pattern to create Medusa. He says he will not put it on until after his party so as not to turn his friends into stone, but did not say the same for his brother and sister! I knitted for





We love the natural colours in Ruth's blanket – it was worth all the hard work!

SK READER TIP

If you need to substitute a yarn, remember to buy your amounts in metres rather than grams. Not all fibres are the same weight, so you might not have enough! Sally Jay, Bristol

Erica's Medusa hat is frightfully fun! Don't make eye-contact...

each of my children and now that I'm a grandma I have more time – not just to knit but to create my own patterns as well, with lots of inspiration from your magazine. Erica Down, Carlisle That's the first myth-inspired hat we've seen, Erica, and we love it. Maybe his siblings need some as well, to defend themselves!

A WELCOME SURPRISE

I simply must send a huge thank you to Simply Knitting for my giveaway prize of beautiful sari yarn. I have never won anything before, and this came through the door just as I had been struggling with Seasonal Affective Disorder and the prospect of a rather grim Parents' Evening (I'm a teacher). There's so much yarn, I think it'll have to be knitted up into the Labyrinth rug – I'll make sure to send you photos when it's done. Thank you again! Sue Gilbert, via email

You're welcome, Sue. Glad to hear the yarn put a smile on your face!

A PLEA FOR YARN!

I run a knitting club within a primary school and our supply of yarn has



run down to practically nothing! I have sent out letters to parents and grandparents requesting oddments of wool, but have had very little response. I wonder if any of you lovely *Simply Knitting* readers have some spare yarn you can part with? If so, could you contact me via email at carolbircham@sky.com. Thank you! *Carol Bircham, Thornaby* Our readers are a lovely bunch, so we're sure someone out there has a few bits and bobs that they can share with you, Carol.

A DOLL FOR ZOE

I really enjoy knitting toys and, wondering what to knit next, my daughter asked me out of the blue if I would knit her friend! So with part of one pattern, part of another, and a large helping of imagination, I knitted Zoe with her cat. Here's a photo of the doll and Zoe together. My daughter was really pleased with how my efforts turned out. Shirley Langston, Rutland What amazing attention to detail, Shirley! You've even got Zoe's eye make up just right. She must love the knitted version of herself.

FELTING FANDANGO

A friend of mine presented me with a beautiful handknitted tutu at my baby shower, and I was distraught when I shrank it the first time it was washed. I set out to make a new one in the next size up, putting the original skirt on a toy bunny. In the picture is seven-month old Elisabeth



Yarn donated to Carol's club will be well used by schoolchildren.



This is me and my daughter-inlaw Sophia. Our son and Sophia live in Athens. We visited them and spent a traditional Greek Easter with all her family in the village of Arachova (in the background), 1000m above sea level and 7km from Delphi. Sophia is wearing the shawl I knitted for her from issue 84. Madeline Mason, Keighly



We'd love to see more pictures of you with Simply Knitting (or even just your knitting!) in foreign lands. The sender of every letter will receive a circular needle from Coats Crafts UK.





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MYBEST

IDEA

Whenever I'm

knitting a cardi,

I knit both fronts

at the same time.

using two balls of

yarn. This way, I

know they will be

exactly the same

length in the end.

Pat Stevenson,

Keele



with her favourite toy, both modelling their matching tutus. Emma Jenkinson, Sheffield What a great use for the felted tutu, Emma. It's so cute on the rabbit!

CLOWNING AROUND

I buy your magazine every month as I love Alan Dart's patterns. Another favourite is Jean Greenhowe, especially her clown patterns. Here's a selection of the ones I've knitted. I think I only have two more to do to complete the family. I started knitting two years ago to keep my fingers nimble as I have chronic arthritis – it's such a lovely hobby. Samantha Price, Llanidloes What a cheery cupboard that is, Samantha! It's clear how much hard work has gone into each clown.



Samantha has an impressive collection of knitted clowns!

WONDERFUL HUSBAND

My husband has put his life on hold to help me regain my life again; he has supported me in so many ways, and recently he opened up a new world for me with the simple act of buying me a copy of Simply Knitting. I haven't knitted for over 30 years this lovely pastime had been superseded by quilting, patchwork and sewing, all of which I have thoroughly enjoyed. But things are different now and your magazine has reminded me of a whole world of craft that I had neglected.

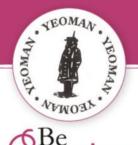
I had spinal surgery in January which did not go to plan and has left me with disabilities, therefore I no longer have the independence I had simply taken for granted. Ian, my husband, has to do everything now and as well as all the shopping, cooking, housekeeping etc he is constantly encouraging me to keep occupied and not to dwell on all the things I can no longer achieve, hence the idea of your knitting magazine. Sally Whatmore, via email We're so glad you have such a loving husband to look after you, Sally, and that you've been able to find something good out of such a



We love hearing from you. If you'd like to get in touch, you can write to us at 'Talking Points', Simply Knitting, Future, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW or email us at simplyknitting@futurenet.com.

When you include a photo, please make it as clear as possible, and take it somewhere with plenty of light so your knitting really looks its best. Please don't resize or edit the photo before sending it to us - we can make your pictures smaller here, but we can't make them larger, so if you make it too small we won't be able to use it.

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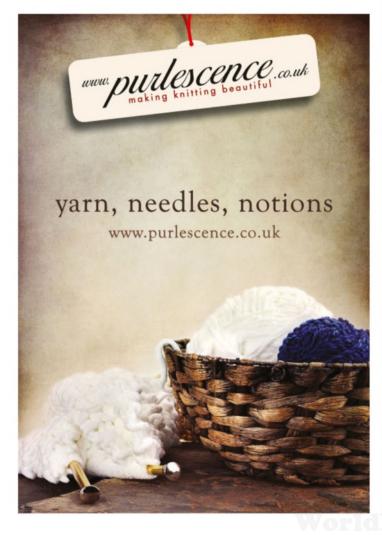
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BRAIDED HEADBAND



YOU WILL NEED

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 Adriafil, New Zealand Aran Mutlicolour (75% wool, 25%)

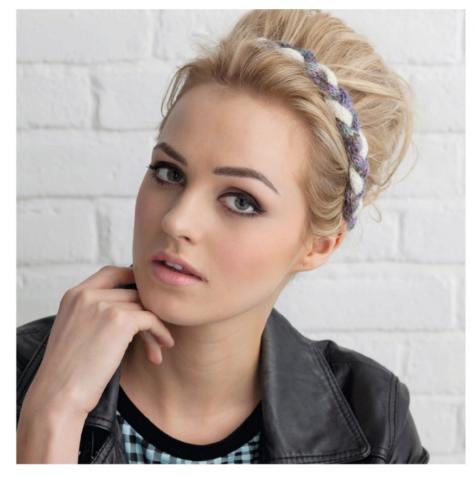
acrylic, 100g/200m) 1 ball of Yarn B Purple Blue Grey (44) 4mm double pointed needles

One metal clasp
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ABBREVIATIONS For a full list see page 92

This is a great stashbusting project. You don't even need to have full balls – if you've got little bits of variegated yarn left over from bigger projects, they would work perfectly for this design. Bargain!



PRETTY PLAIT Lizzie McCauley's simple but effective headband is the perfect spring accessory.

eadbands are a really versatile addition to any outfit – use them to style your hair, add some warmth on a chilly day or just to show off some stunning yarn. The construction couldn't be simpler – knit a few lengths of i-cord, plait them together and you're done! Perfect for last-minute gifts or a fun little weekend project.

Segos

HEADBAND

I-CORD (MAKE 3 – 1 IN YARN A, 2 IN YARN B)

Cast on 5 sts using 4mm double pointed needles.

Row 1 *Knit 1 row, slide these 3 sts to other end of needle, do not turn work*. Rep from * to *, pull yarn tight across the back of i-cord each time you start a new row.

Work cord until it measures 55cm. **Next row** Sl2, k3tog, psso.

Fasten off yarn.

TO MAKE UP

Knot the 3 i-cords together, then plait them. Knot together at the other end as well and weave in all loose ends. Attach the clasp, by sewing on each half like a button.

MONTH

Treat your golf

fanatic to some stylish

and fun covers for his

clubs. lssue 120, May, is on sale from Friday

25 April.



Use one of your free metal clasps for a pretty detail and the perfect fastening.

INSTANT UPDATE...

The easy way to shop on trend! Here are all our favourite buys this season.

病

This year, spring is all about bright candy tones. It's a simple trend to follow – just opt for a statement shade in your new accessories. This Matthew Williamson bedding (from £22) will add instant wow factor to your home. Find it at www.debenhams.com or call 0844 800 8877.

and and

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Spring 2014 Simply Knitting 37



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WEETYBIRD

Spring is in the air! Celebrate the season with Alan's charming family of blue tits.

EXCLUSIVE ALAN DARt DESign!

the texture of the nest is REALLY SIMPLE to CREATE, AND gives such An effective finish This design is great for kids. The birds are made without any plastic elements so there are no choking hazards. Simply omit the Velcro on the nest and the parent's feet and you've got peace of mind while the little ones play with their family of birds.



YOU WILL NEED

- Sirdar, Click Chunky (70% acrylic, 30% wool, 50g/75m balls) 1 ball of Heath (196)
- Hayfield, Bonus DK (100% acrylic, 100g/280m) 1 ball of each: Orchard (904), Flint (778), Dark Grey Mix (790), Cream (812), Walnut (927), Moss Green (792) and Bright Lemon (819)
- Sirdar, Country Style DK (40% nylon, 30% wool, 30% acrylic, 50g/155m) 1 ball of Honey (399)
- 1m of black DK yarn
- 15cm of beige DK yarn
- A pair of 3mm knitting needles
- A pair of 4mm knitting needles
- 40g of washable toy stuffing
- 2cm of Velcro
- Matching sewing threadClear adhesive

For yarn stockists contact Sirdar on 01924 231682 www.sirdar.co.uk

TENSION

Hayfield Bonus knits as DK to this tension: 26 sts and 36 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 3mm needles

Sirdar Click knits as chunky to this tension: 20 sts and 26 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 4mm needles

MEASUREMENTS

The nest is 7.5cm deep and 14cm wide, the baby birds are 12.5cm tall, and the parent bird is 18cm tall from top of head to tip of tail.

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 92

re you ready for Easter? These adorable little birds will be the perfect addition to your spring celebration, whether you keep things small or go all out. "You could even fill the nest with foil-covered chocolate eggs," says Alan, "and when they've been eaten, secretly replace them with the baby birds." What a great idea!

Seres

NOTE Cast on by using the cable (two needle) method. This is most important when knitting the smaller pieces. Also begin all pieces with a K row, unless otherwise stated, and always work 'inc 1' by knitting into the front and back of the stitch.

Unless otherwise specified, 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 most pieces to accommodate this method.

NEST (MAKE 1 PIECE) WORK LINING Cast on 11 sts with 4mm needles and Heath for base edge and st st 2 rows.

Heath for base edge and st st 2 rows. **1st inc row** Inc into every st to end. [22 sts] P 1 row. **2nd inc row** (Inc 1, K1) to end. [33 sts] St st 3 rows. **3rd inc row** (K1, inc 1, K1) to end. [44 sts] St st 3 rows. **4th inc row** (K1, inc 1, K2) to end. [55 sts] St st 3 rows.

5th inc row (K2, inc 1, K2) to end. [66 sts]. **5t st 3 rows**. **6th inc row** (K2, inc 1, K3) to end. [77 sts]

WORK OUTSIDE

Purl 2 rows. **7th inc row** (K3, inc 1, K3) to end. [88 sts]. St st 7 rows.

1st dec row (K3, k2tog, K3) to end. [77 sts]

St st 5 rows.

2nd dec row (K3, k2tog, K2) to end. [66 sts].

St st 5 rows.

3rd dec row (K2, k2tog, K2) to end. [55 sts].

St st 3 rows.

4th dec row (K2, k2tog, K1) to end. [44 sts].

St st 3 rows.

5th dec row (K1, k2tog, K1) to end. [33 sts]

St st 3 rows.

6th dec row (K1, k2tog) to end. [22 sts] P 1 row.

7th dec row (K2tog) to end. [11 sts] Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

Starting at gathered base edge, and treating purl side as right side, join seam on outside section, then join first 2.5cm of lining, with knit side as right side. Lightly line inside of nest with a



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ALAN DART TOY

small amount of stuffing to create a 12mm thick layer, then join remainder of lining seam. Work a gathering thread through every stitch along cast-on edge, draw up tightly and fasten off. Catch gathered points of outside and lining together loosely with a couple of stitches.

Using Walnut yarn, embroider long, straight stitches at random over outside section of nest to resemble twigs.

BABY BIRDS

Worked with DK on 3mm needles throughout. Instructions refer to making one baby bird. You can make as many baby birds as you like – our nest has three.

BODY AND HEAD (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 10 sts with Orchard for base edge and st st 2 rows. 1st inc row (Inc 1) nine times, K1. [19 sts] P 1 row. 2nd inc row K1, (inc 1, K1) to end. [28 sts] St st 11 rows.

SHAPE NECK

1st dec row (K1, k2tog, K1) to end. [21 sts] St st 5 rows. **2nd dec row** (K1, k2tog) to end. [14 sts] St st 3 rows. Change to Dark Grey Mix and st st 2 rows.

SHAPE HEAD

Inc row (Inc 1, K1) to end. [21 sts] P 1 row.

WORK FACE MARKINGS Use a separate ball of yarn for each colour change, and twist yarns where colours meet to prevent a hole from forming.

Row 1 K7 Dark Grey Mix, K7 Cream, K7 Dark Grey Mix.

Rows 2, 4 & 6 P6 Dark Grey Mix, P9 Cream, P6 Dark Grey Mix.

Rows 3, 5 & 7 K6 Dark Grey Mix, K9 Cream, K6 Dark Grey Mix. Row 8 P7 Dark Grey Mix, P7 Cream, P7

Dark Grey Mix.

WORK INSIDE OF BEAK

1st dec row Change to Honey and (K2, k2tog) to last st, K1. [16 sts]
P 1 row.
2nd dec row K1, (k2tog, K1) to end.
[11 sts]
Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

WINGS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 6 sts with Orchard for body edge and st st 2 rows. 1st inc row Inc 1, K3, inc 1, K1. [8 sts] P 1 row. 2nd inc row Inc 1, K5, inc 1, K1. [10 sts] St st 2 rows. Dec 1 st at beg and end of next 3 rows. [4 sts] Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

BEAK (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 9 sts with Honey for base edge and st st 1 row. Dec 1 st at beg and end of next 3 rows. [3 sts] **Dec row** Sl 1, k2tog, psso, break yarn and draw through st.



The body is made in two pieces – front and back to allow for lifelike shaping.



Tiny chain stitches create the eyes and a length of yarn makes the grub – simple!

STEP-BY-STEP KFB KNIT INTO THE FRONT AND BACK OF STITCH



1 Insert the tip of the right-hand needle into the front of the stitch and knit as normal, but don't drop it from the left-hand needle.



2 Then take the right-hand needle behind the left and insert the tip of the needle down through the back of the stitch on the left-hand needle.



3 Wrap the yarn round the tip of the right-hand needle to knit the stitch. Bring the needle through to make the stitch, keeping it on the right-hand needle.



4 Take the stitch off the left-hand needle. You will have increased one stitch by knitting twice into the original stitch, first at the front, then at the back.

VorldMags.net

This is a great project to tackle if you are new to knitting with a few different shades at the same time. The pieces are small and the colour changes are simple so you can get to grips with the technique without having to worry about tricky motifs.

FEET (MAKE 2 PIECES) Cast on 5 sts with Flint. Cast off 3 sts, sl st on right-hand needle on to left-hand needle. *Cast on 4 sts.

Cast off 3 sts, sl st on right-hand needle on to left-hand needle.** Work from * to ** two more times. [5 sts]

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

TO MAKE UP

Darn in ends of yarn on head markings. Starting at gathered top edge, join head and body seam, stopping 2.5cm away from base edge. Stuff head and body firmly, join remainder of seam, then work a gathering thread through every stitch along base edge, draw up tightly and fasten off.

Position and sew beak pieces to top of head, matching base edges to first row knitted in Honey on head, working backstitch over every knitted stitch along cast-on edge.

When embroidering eyes, fasten off ends of yarn at side of body, between first and second neck decrease rows where they will be hidden by wings. Mark eye positions with pins, placing 2 knitted stitches inside grey section on each side and 3 knitted rows down from beak. Draw out a single strand from a length of black yarn, remove pin, then use the remaining 2 strands to embroider a circle of 5 very tiny chain stitches for eye. Use 2 strands of Cream yarn to embroider a tiny straight stitch in the centre of each eye for gloss. Fold each wing in half and, starting at gathered edge, oversew side edges together. Position and sew wings to sides of body, with folded edge uppermost and covering ends of embroidery yarn.

Make feet by oversewing cast-on and cast-off edges of each toe together to make them firmer and thinner. You should now have a cross shape, and if you bend the two side toes forward this will form a bird's foot shape. Position and sew feet to base of body with a couple of stitches.

PARENT BIRD Worked with DK on 3mm needles throughout.

BODY FRONT (MAKE 1 PIECE) Cast on 17 sts with Flint for neck edge.

WORK CHEST MARKINGS

Use a separate ball of yarn for each colour change, and twist yarns where colours meet to prevent a hole from forming.

Row 1 K6 Bright Lemon, K5 Flint, K6 Bright Lemon.

Row 2 P7 Bright Lemon, P3 Flint, P7 Bright Lemon.

Rows 3, 5, 7, 9 & 11 K8 Bright Lemon, K1 Flint, K8 Bright Lemon. **Rows 4, 6, 8, 10 & 12** P8 Bright Lemon, P1 Flint, P8 Bright Lemon.

SHAPE UPPER CHEST

Row 1 Continue in Bright Lemon and K15, YF, sl1, YB, turn.
Row 2 Sl1, P13, YB, sl1, YF, turn.
Row 3 Sl1, K11, YF, sl1, YB, turn.
Row 4 Sl1, P9, YB, sl1, YF, turn.
Row 5 Sl1, K7, YF, sl1, YB, turn.
Row 6 Sl1, P5, YB, sl1, YF, turn.
Row 7 Sl1, K to end.
Row 8 P across all sts [17 sts].
St st 4 rows.
1st dec row (K2, k2tog) to last st, K1.
[13 sts]
P 1 row.

SHAPE LOWER CHEST **1st row** K11, YF, sl1, YB, turn.

IT'S ALL IN THE DETAIL



Each of the babies' beaks are made of two pieces sewn carefully together.



The feet are a clever combination of cast off and cast on stitches to make a cross.



The head and body of each baby bird is knitted in one piece with clever shaping.



The wrong side of stocking stitch creates the perfect texture for your knitted nest.



Both wings have ribbed points that make your knitting look even more like feathers.

ALAN DART TOY

2nd row Sl1, P9, YB, sl1, YF, turn.
3rd row Sl1, K8, YF, sl1, YB, turn.
4th row Sl1, P7, YB, sl1, YF, turn.
5th row Sl1, K6, YF, sl1, YB, turn.
6th row Sl1, P5, YB, sl1, YF, turn.
7th row Sl1, K to end.
8th row P across all sts. [13 sts]
Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row.
[11 sts]
P 1 row.
2nd dec row K3, (k2tog, K2) twice.
[9 sts].
P 1 row.
Dec 1 st at beg and end of next 2 rows.

[5 sts] **Cast off** for tail edge.

BODY BACK (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 17 sts with Flint for neck edge. Change to Moss Green and st st 14 rows. Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row. St st 3 rows. Repeat the last 4 rows once more. [13 sts] Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row. P 1 row. Repeat the last 2 rows once more. [9 sts]. Dec 1 st at beg and end of next 2 rows. [5 sts] Cast off for tail edge.

HEAD (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Join body pieces along left-hand side edges with mattress stitch (remember to take a one-stitch seam allowance). With right side of work facing and Flint, K up 16 sts from neck edge of body back, then K up 16 sts from neck edge of body front, making sure 8th stitch on front is in line with centre of body markings. [32 sts] P 1 row.

WORK HEAD MARKINGS

Use a separate ball of yarn for each colour change, and twist yarns where colours meet to prevent a hole from forming.

Row 1 K5 Cream, K7 Flint, K9 Cream, K5 Flint, K6 Cream.

Row 2 P7 Cream, P3 Flint, P11 Cream, P5 Flint, P6 Cream.

Rows 3 & 5 K7 Cream, K3 Flint, K13 Cream, K1 Flint, K8 Cream.
Rows 4 & 6 P8 Cream, P1 Flint, P13 Cream, P3 Flint, P7 Cream.
Row 7 K6 Cream, K5 Flint, K11 Cream, K3 Flint, K7 Cream.
Row 8 P6 Cream, P5 Flint, P9 Cream, P7 Flint, P5 Cream.

Continue in Flint and st st 2 rows.

SHAPE TOP

1st dec row K2, (k2tog, K1) to end. [22 sts]

P 1 row.

2nd dec row (K2tog) to end. [11 sts] Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

LEFT WING (MAKE 1 PIECE)

*Cast on 5 sts With Moss Green for top edge and st st 2 rows. 1st inc row Inc 1, K2, inc 1, K1. [7 sts] P 1 row.

2nd inc row Inc 1, K4, inc 1, K1. [9 sts] Change to Orchard and st st 3 rows. Change to Cream and st st 2 rows. Change to Orchard and st st 4 rows. **1st rib row** K1, (P1, K1) to end.

2nd rib row P1, (K1, P1) to end. Repeat the last 2 rows once more.** **1st dec row** P2tog, (K1, P1) three times, K1. [8 sts]

2nd dec row (P1, K1) three times, p2toq. [7 sts]

3rd dec row P2tog, (K1, P1) twice, K1. [6 sts]

4th dec row (P1, K1) twice, p2tog. [5 sts]

5th dec row P2tog, K1, P1, K1. [4 sts] **6th dec row** P1, K1, p2tog. [3 sts] **Cast off.**

RIGHT WING (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Work as given for left wing from * to **. **1st dec row** (K1, P1) three times, K1, p2tog. [8 sts]. **2nd dec row** P2tog, (K1, P1) three times. [7 sts] **3rd dec row** (K1, P1) twice, K1, p2tog. [6 sts] **4th dec row** P2tog, (K1, P1) twice. [5 sts]. **5th dec row** K1, P1, K1, p2tog. [4 sts]

6th dec row P2tog, K1, P1. [3 sts] Cast off.

TAIL (MAKE 1 PIECE) **Cast on** 16 sts with Orchard for side edge. *K 1 row. **Dec row** K2tog, K to end. [15 sts] K 2 rows. **Inc row** K to last st, inc 1. [16 sts] K 1 row.** Work from * to ** once more. **Cast off** for side edge.



ALAN DART TOY

BEAK (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 5 sts with Dark Grey Mix and st st 1 row.

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

Dec row Sl1, k2tog, psso, break yarn and draw through st.

FEET (MAKE 2 PIECES)

With Dark Grey Mix, work as given for baby birds.

TO MAKE UP

Darn in ends of yarn on markings. Starting at gathered top edge of head, join head and body seam, stopping 2.5cm away from tail edge. Stuff head and body firmly, then join remainder of seam. Using a length of Flint yarn, embroider a line of chain stitches down centre front of chest, starting at base of knitted markings and stopping 4 knitted rows away from tail edge.

Fold tail in half and oversew cast-on and cast-off side edges together, then oversew across shaped edge to form a forked end. Position and sew tail to tail edge of body.

Fold beak in half and, starting at gathered edge, oversew side edges together. With folded edge uppermost, position and sew beak to head. To make grub, thread a needle with length of beige yarn and sew through beak. Dab a spot of glue on yarn and draw into beak, then trim each end of yarn to 12mm and seal cut ends with spots of glue.

When embroidering eyes, fasten off ends of yarn at side of body, where they will eventually be hidden by wings. Mark eye positions with pins, placing on last row knitted in Cream and on 4th knitted Cream stitch away from front head markings, then embroider eyes as given for baby birds.

Pin wings in position, then sew each one in place round stocking stitch section, leaving ribbed section unsewn. Position and sew hooked section of Velcro securely to base of body front, using sewing thread.

Make up feet as given for baby birds, then sew back toes close to each side of Velcro, with centre point of feet in line with top edge of Velcro, leaving front three toes unattached. Position and sew looped section of Velcro to top of nest at one side.

> NEXT MONTH Recreate the roaring twenties with a set of feline flappers! Issue 120, May, is on sale from Friday 25 April.



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We offer advice in store so come and visit us today at, 5 Central Station, Queen Street, Exeter EX4 3SB.

For advertising opportunities call Kate Butterfield on 01225 442244 x 2531

Knit and Natter in Motspur Park

This issue, our club of the month wins a fabulous goodie bag, including some of our favourite knitting products, worth a whopping \pounds , 50!

WITH MEMBERS RANGING in age from five years old to 70, Motspur Park Knitting Group has certainly lived up to its founder's initial aims.

"I'm a life-long knitter and I started the group because I wanted to share my love of knitting and encourage others to learn or continue with the craft," explains Zoë Vine, who established the group at West Barnes Library in Motspur Park in January 2013.

"It was easy to set up," she says. "I spoke with the library manager about the location and suitable times, and had an informal interview before becoming registered as a volunteer. A poster was put up in the entrance to advertise the group and several people came along to the first meeting."

Most of those people have continued to come to the weekly meetings, and more have joined since. "We now have about 10 members," says Zoë, who manages the group as well as her business, Tatyanna (www.tatyanna.co.uk).



"It's a vintage-inspired online clothing store, which will soon include my range of handmade knitwear based on vintage patterns from the 1940s and 1950s," she says.

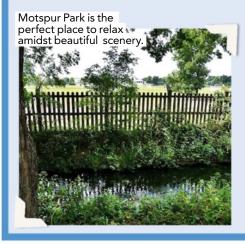
"Running both is challenging at times, but I know that if I stopped leading the group I'd miss it – I'd miss being with others who share my passion and being in the library itself."

West Barnes Library's role in hosting the knitting group helps to ensure that it remains an important part of the community. "We often knit to raise money for the library using donated yarn," says Zoë, adding: "Sometimes members knit for a charity such as the innocent Smoothie campaign for Age UK. We also work on our own individual projects, making a variety of clothing, dolls and toys."

It's free to attend the group, with the library kindly providing the tea and coffee. "We meet in a nice cosy corner," says Zoë. "It's a warm, friendly group and new members of all ages and

Out & about

Great things to see and do in south west London.



GREAT DAYS OUT

In easy reach of central London, and with a variety of attractions nearby, the town sits in the borough of Merton. It's home to Merton Abbey Mills; former textile mill for Liberty's of London. In more recent years it has been converted into an arts and crafts village with shops, a theatre and openair market selling arts and crafts, fresh produce and artisan food. For more, visit www.mertonabbeymills.org.uk.



WATCH THE BALL

Wimbledon is just a short drive away, hosting the world's most famous tennis tournament each summer and the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum all year round. Find out more at www.wimbledon.com.

Merton Abbey Mills is a must-see for its history and arts and crafts market.



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abilities are welcome. I always think knitting transcends age and any other barriers."

The group's age range is one of the most impressive we've encountered. "Our youngest member of the group is fiveyear-old Millie, who is just starting to learn the basics of finger knitting," says Zoë. "Archie is seven years old and he has just started to learn French knitting, while our oldest members are 70 and have been knitting for years."

It is the highly encouraging atmosphere of the group that has benefited many of the members. "Some of our





MEMBERS RANGE FROM just Five years old to fo!

members had not knitted for many years and others were only able to knit simple squares when they joined us," says Zoë. "They've enjoyed progressing and we've all benefited from the wealth of knowledge and skill of the more advanced knitters. Being able to ask for advice and help when you're stuck on a project is such a wonderful privilege."

Zoë comments that simply being with the other knitters is very inspiring. "We share ideas, patterns and our experience and every member adds some value to the group, even if they don't realise it." The Motspur Park Knitting Group meets every Thursday morning at 11am-1pm, at West Barnes Library, Station Road, Motspur Park. If you would like some more details about the club, you can get in touch with Zoë Vine by sending her an email at zoelvine@gmail.com-orjust pop along to the library and speak to a member of staff there about joining in. If your knitting group would like to be featured as our club of the month, write to the usual address on page 32 or email us at: simplyknitting@ futurenet.com.



PS Subscribe and you could save up to 34% off the cover price, get an extra pattern every month and enjoy our free gifts with every issue! Turn to page 48 for more details.

YOUR CLUBS

Chisknits meets on Thurs, 8pm at The Crown & Anchor Pub, 374 Chiswick High Road, W4 5TA. Email Ellen at annwyl21@yahoo. com for more information.

Balham Stitch'n'Bitch meets on Weds, 6pm at Balham Bowls Club, 7-9 Ramsden Road, London SW12 8QX. For more info, email Cynthia at c.bishop@imperial.ac.uk

Sewing and Knitting social club meets on Thurs, 10am at Dundonald Congregational Church, 15 Dundonald Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 3QH. Email Sarah at ella. milliner@gmail.com for more information.



Simply *

Next. mont

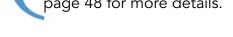
Ladies' stripy jumper Men's cricket sweater Kids' room accessories Feline Flapper toys Father's Day gifts And more...



In next month's special event issue, you'll get 3 fantastic bonus pattern booklets!







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* Free trial not available on Zinio. The digital version of the magazine does not include the cover gift that you would find on newsstand copies, nor does it include access to Craft Circle.



SHEEP KEYRING



YOU WILL NEED

- Rowan, Purelife Boucle (100% British wool, 100g/60m)
 1 ball of Yarn A Ecru (316)
- Rowan, Baby Merino Silk DK (66% superwash wool, 34% silk, 50g/135m) 1 ball of Yarn B Zinc (SH681)
- A set of 3¼mm double pointed needles (DPNs)
- Toy stuffing
- A small black button

Keyring

For yarn stockists contact Rowan 01484 681881 www.knitrowan.com

SIZE Head to tail approx 8cm long

ABBREVIATIONS

MB make bobble Knit into front, back, front, back, front of the next stitch, turn, P5, turn, K5, turn, P5, turn. Slip each newly-made stitch over the original

For a full list turn to page 92





The sheep's feet are made by simply tying a knot at one end of each i-cord leg.



BAA-RILLIANT!

Get your very own spring lamb on your keys, thanks to **Jane Burns'** delightful design.

K BODY

Cast on 17 sts using two 3¼mm DPNs and Yarn A. Rows 1, 2, 4 & 6 Knit. Row 3 K3, (MB, K3) three times, K2. Row 5 K5, (MB, K3) two times, K4. Repeat rows 3–6 four times in total. Row 19 Knit. Cast off.

TO MAKE UP - BODY

Bring the cast-off and cast-on edges together and oversew. Stuff body lightly, use a running stitch around the garter stitch end to close (this is the head end). Use a running stitch around the back end to close.

HEAD

Cast on 10 sts using two 3¼mm DPNs and Yarn B. Starting with a knit row, work 12 rows of st st. **Cast off.**

TO MAKE UP – HEAD

Bring cast-off and cast-on edges together and mattress stitch closed for bottom of head. Stuff, then close side seams using mattress stitch. Pinch top corners of head and wrap yarn around to form ears, secured with a stitch. Darn face, using image as a guide.

LEGS (MAKE FOUR)

Cast on 5 sts using two 3 $^{\text{M}}$ mm DPNs and Yarn B.

Row 1 Knit, slide these five sts to other end of needle, do not turn.

Rep row 1 pulling yarn tight across back of i-cord each time you start a new row. Work until i-cord measures 5.5cm, leave a long tail, thread tail through rem 5 sts and pull tight to close. Tie a knot at this end to form a foot, secure with a stitch. Sew to underside of body. Sew small black button on the backside, and attach keyring to back of neck.

Spring 2014 Simply Knitting 51

Advertising feature

KNITTING GFTAWAYS

Leave your stresses behind and treat yourself to a relaxing, crafty break.

ave you ever thought about trying out a knitting holiday? Set in the beautiful countryside or idyllic little villages, spend time with like-minded people, doing what you love and

having a break from the day-today hassles of life. Explore the hidden treasures of the UK, or venture abroad, while you learn new skills and share your passion with other knitting fans. Sounds pretty perfect, doesn't it?



For the 'Perfect' Knitting Retreat please visit www.woolfish.co.uk

The perfect retreat and holiday! Ive had such a wonderful time and honday ive had such a wonderful time and have really enjoyed the skill sharing, knitting, talking and walking. The hospitality has been out of this world and the scones are sublime! I will return. Caroline Nov 2011





I'm a bit speechless in what to write. Previous messages has said it all, wonderful, relaxing, much laughter & giggles. Glorious food and Louise's cooking is all you need to get a rested soul. New friendships. Location & good weather was a bonus. Can't wait until next year! Lots of love Karin xx Sept 2013



I have had such a lovely time - knitting, eating, drinking (!), chatting & so much laughing. I can't remember laughing so much...... Thank you Louise, it has been great! Looking forward to Sept 2014 & meeting all my new friends again. With much love Janet Sept 2013



Dear Louise Thank you for a lovely few days. The retreat has lived up to every expectation and more. I've loved the chatter, the food and the new skills I've learned. Most of all, meeting you has made me happy! Thank you Marian Nov 2011

'please go to our web site to read lots more comments' t: 07861389224 e: louise@woolfish.co.uk

Westcliffe Knitting Holidays

t: 01253 352943 e: westcliffehotel@aol.com 46 King Edward Avenue, North Shore, Blackpool FY2 9TA



For a full list of holidays available please visit the website

Paula Chew has been providing knitting and crochet holidays at her hotel in Blackpool for seven years and has built a solid reputation for excellent value for money.

The prices range from £130 for a weekend to £350 for a five day course including materials, there are no single supplements and all meals and refreshments are included.



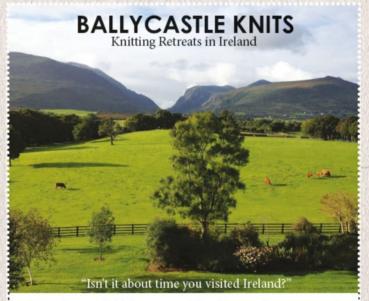


www.westcliffe-knitting.co.uk Paula joins Michele Marshall from Yam Aloud to take Westcliffe Knitting ON TOUR.

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STPRETTY It's easy to combine comfort and style with Mary Henderson's gorgeous Fair Isle treat.

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use your Free cover gift to finish off your cover!

FAIR ISLE CUSHION COVER



YOU WILL NEED

- Debbie Bliss, Blue Faced Leicester (100% superwash wool, 50g/108m)
 2 balls of each:
 Yarn A Ecru (01)
 Yarn E Stone (05)
 1 ball of each:
 Yarn B Midnight (014)
 Yarn C Rose (08)
 Yarn D Fuchsia (09)
- A 3¼mm circular needle (60cm length)
- A 4mm circular needle (60cm length)
- A set of 4mm double-pointed needles (DPNs)
- Tapestry needle or small crochet hook

41cm (16in) cushion pad
 For yarn stockists contact
 Designer Yarns 01535 664222
 www.designeryarns.uk.com

TENSION

Yarn used knits as DK to this tension: 20 sts and 28 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over Fair Isle pattern using 3¼mm needles

MEASUREMENTS

Front: 40x 42cm (15¾x16½in) Backs: 40x19cm (15¾x7½in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 92

air Isle is a traditional knitting technique but we just love this fresh approach. Here you'll use five complementary shades, in simple repeating patterns to create a gorgeous cushion cover. It's the perfect project for you to use this month's free gift too – the pretty metal clasps are ideal for fastening the back of the cover.

Sales

K) FRONT

Cast on 82 sts using a 3¼mm circular needle and Yarn E. Work 2 rows in st st.

*Work rows 1–6 of Chart 1. Work rows 1–13 of Chart 2.

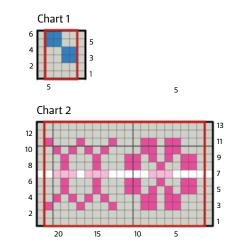
Work rows 1–6 of Chart 3. Work rows 1–12 of Chart 4. Rep from * once more, then rep Charts 1–3 again. **Cast off**.

BACKS

**Pick up and knit 90 sts evenly along one side of the front piece, using 4mm needles and Yarn E.
Work 2 rows in st st.
Work rows 1–5 of Chart 3.
Next row Purl. This ridge forms a fold line.
Work rows 1–48 of Chart 5.
Change to 3¼mm needles, purl 1 row.
This ridge forms a fold line.
Work st st for 8 rows using Yarn A; this forms a facing which will be folded inside.
Cast off.

HOW TO USE OUR CHARTS

Start at the bottom right-hand corner. Read right side rows from right to left and wrong side rows from left to right. A row of squares represents a row of knitting.





Your free clasps are a doddle to attach – just sew them on like a button. Easy!

Repeat from ** for the other side.

TO MAKE UP

Кеу

Yarn A

Yarn B

Chart 3

Chart 4

12

10 8

> 6 4

Yarn C

Block by laying RS down, covering with a damp tea towel and ironing gently. Fold the backs along the ridges and join to top and bottom of front: the back pieces should meet edge to edge. Space clasps evenly so that the edges are held together when the clasps are snapped shut. Sew or tie the clasps into position.

NEXT MONTH, KEEP YOUR TOES COSY AT HOME WITH SOME LOVELY SLIPPERS FOR LADIES. ISSUE 120, MAY, IS ON SALE FRIDAY 25 APRIL.

Yarn D

Yarn E

🔲 Repeat

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THE COLLECTION

IN THE BAG

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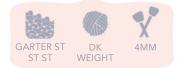
You can never have too many! Tackle cables, patchwork and Fair Isle with these lovely designs.

PATCH PERFECT Simple shapes and strong colours make an on-trend everyday bag. By Amanda Jones.

PERFECT HANDBAG FOR EVERYDAY

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THE COLLECTION



YOU WILL NEED

Blacker Swan, Falklands Merino DK (100% Merino wool, 50g/110m) 1 ball each of: Yarn A Teaberry Yarn B Tussac Yarn C Pale Maiden Yarn D Seagreen Yarn E Gorse Yarn F Oxblood A pair of 4mm needles A 4mm circular needle A pair of 50cm leather handles ■ 38x50cm of lining fabric A 4mm crochet hook For varn stockists contact Blacker Yarns 01566 777635 www.blackervarns.co.uk

TENSION

Yarn used knits as DK to this tension: 20 sts and 30 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 4mm needles

Each square is 7x7cm knitted in garter stitch on 4mm needles

SIZE

37cm wide at the base of the bag and 30cm deep.

ABBREVIATIONS

sl2tog slip 2 sts together as if
to k2tog

For a full list see page 92

e just love this design, with its simple construction – it's so versatile. Amanda Jones says, "You can make the bag any size you like by increasing or decreasing the number of squares you use." Just keep making them until you've had enough! You can also tailor the bag to suit your wardrobe by adjusting the colours to match.

Series

底 PATCHWORK BAG

Make 6 squares in each colour except Yarn F as folls: Cast on 27 sts using 4mm needles. Row 1 (RS) K12, sl2tog, K1, psso, K12. [25 sts] Row 2 K12, P1, K12. **Row 3** K11, sl2tog, K1, psso, K11. [23 sts] Row 4 K11, P1, K11. Row 5 K10, sl2tog, K1, psso, K10. [21 sts] Row 6 K10, P1, K10. Cont to dec in this way until 3 sts rem. Next row (WS) K1, P1, K1, Next row Sl2, K1, psso, fasten off yarn. Sew in ends.

When you have completed all the squares lay them out 5 squares wide and 3 deep for each side, in any colour sequence you like.

Join Row 1 with Row 2 using Yarn F and 4mm crochet hook. With WS of squares together work 12dc across the top edge of first square of Row 1 and first square of Row 2 then cont across 2nd squares, cont in this way until you have joined all the squares in the first 2 rows. Then join the Row 3 of squares to the Row 2 in the same way.

Join the squares in the vertical lines in the same way, working 1dc over the join. If you do not want to crochet your squares together, you can use blanket stitch instead.

Complete both sides then join the front and back of the bag.

Using 4mm circular needle and Yarn F, with RS facing *pick up and knit 7 sts across the top of the first square (you will be decreasing the width of the square) pick up and knit 1 st over the join; rep from * to the end. [40 sts on each side, 80 sts in total] Join to work in the round.



Each square is knitted the same way and cleverly positioned to create this pattern.

Round 1 Purl. Round 2 Knit. Rep these 2 rounds once more, then work Round 1 again. Cont working in garter st as set, working 2 round stripes in colour sequence as folls: 2 rounds of Yarn C. 2 rounds of Yarn F. 2 rounds of Yarn B. 2 rounds of Yarn F. 2 rounds of Yarn A. 2 rounds of Yarn F. 2 rounds of Yarn D. 2 rounds of Yarn F. 2 rounds of Yarn E. 2 rounds of Yarn F. Cast off. Do not break yarn. Work a round of reverse dc using 4mm crochet hook.

TO MAKE UP

Sew in all loose ends. Press work lightly. Make the lining by cutting the fabric into a 38x50cm oblong. Then fold the lining in half and join the side seams. Press seams, then gather the top edge to fit into the bag. Sew in place. Attach the handles to the front and back of the bag. Sling on some style with this cable and rib satchel. By **Amanda Jones**.

PERFECT FOR SCHOOL OR COLLEGE

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1119

THE COLLECTION



YOU WILL NEED

- Blacker Swan, Falklands Merino DK (100% Merino wool, 50g/110m) 5 balls of Stone
- A pair of 4mm needles
- A cable needle
- 2 x leather buckles
- 90x36cm of heavy cotton for lining

For yarn stockists contact Blacker Yarns 01566 777635 www.blackeryarns.co.uk

TENSION

Yarn used knits as DK to this tension: 20 sts and 30 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 4mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 92

or toting your laptop around you need a sturdy bag. This strong and stylish design, lined with heavy cotton, is just the thing. The strap is integrated into the body of the bag, so you know it won't break under the weight and the cables add thickness to the fabric for extra protection. It's a great design for both men and women.



🖹 FRONT

Cast on 74 sts using 4mm needles. **Row 1** (RS) P2, *K2, P2; rep from * to end of row.

Row 2 Purl.

Rep these 2 rows until work measures 30cm from beg, ending on a WS row. **Cast off**.

BACK AND FLAP

Cast on 74 sts using 4mm needles. **Rows 1, 3 & 5** (RS) P2, *K2, P2; rep from * to end.

Row 2 and every foll WS row Purl. Row 7 *(P2, K2) twice, C4B, P2, C4F, K2, P2, K2; rep from * to last 2 sts, P2. Row 9 *P2, K2, P2, T4B, K2, P2, K2, T4F, P2, K2; rep from * to last 2 sts, P2. Row 11 *P2, K2, C4B, (P2, K2) twice, P2, C4F, K2; rep from * to last 2 sts, P2. Row 13 *P2, T4B (K2, P2) three times, K2, T4F; rep from * to last 2 sts, P2. Rows 15, 17 & 19 As row 1. Row 21 *P2, C4F, (K2, P2) three times, K2, C4B; rep from * to last 2 sts, P2. Row 23 *P2, K2, T4F, (P2, K2) twice, P2, T4B, K2; rep from * to last 2 sts, P2. Row 25 *P2, K2, P2, C4F, K2, P2, K2, C4B, P2, K2; rep from * to last 2 sts, P2. Row 27 * (P2, K2) twice, T4F, P2, T4B, K2, P2, K2; rep from * to last 2 sts, P2. Row 28 Purl. Rep rows 1-28 until you have completed 6 full patt reps plus rows 1 & 2 once more. Cast off.

GUSSET AND STRAP

Cast on 10 sts using 4mm needles. Work in patt as written for the front until the work measures 185cm. **Cast off.**

TO MAKE UP

With WS of front and WS of gusset facing, starting at the top of the front, pin the gusset evenly around the front side, bottom and other side. Sew in place then pin the back section making sure that it matches the other side of the gusset. There should be 98cm left to form the shoulder strap. Attach the end of the shoulder strap to the edge of the bag.

Lightly press work.

Sew the leather buckles to the front and flap making sure they match. Make the lining and sew in place.

Above: These gently undulating cables are created with a simple alternating combination of C4B, C4F, T4B and T4F.

Left: The buckles are easy to attach. All you have to do is sew through each of the pre-existing holes with a length of yarn. These buckles are from **www.bag-clasps**.

co.uk. tel 01253 590188.

IT'S ALL IN THE DETAIL



Great for kids and adults, this sweet bag is a must-have. By Amanda Jones.

 \subseteq

Quick FAir isle

PROject

The piping gives definition to the design And MAKES the BLUE DETAILS POP!

orldMags.net

HE COLLECTION



YOU WILL NEED

- Blacker Swan, Falklands Merino DK (100% Merino wool, 50g/110m) 1 ball of each: Yarn A Sand Yarn B Teaberry Yarn C Seagreen A pair of 4mm needles
- A set of 4mm double pointed needles
- A 3½mm circular needle
- A 3.5mm crochet hook
- 50x20cm of lining fabric
- A pair of bamboo handles For yarn stockists contact Blacker Yarns 01566 777635 www.blackeryarns.co.uk

TENSION

Yarn used knits as DK to this tension: 27 sts and 24 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over Fair Isle pattern using 4mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 92



The flower is made with simple crochet stitches and attached to an i-cord detail.

ometimes all you need is a little bag for the bare essentials - your purse, phone and keys would fit very happily in this dainty box bag and take you anywhere. The Fair Isle design is graphic and stylish and perfectly suits the rigid structure. The front, back and sides are all knitted in one piece with a separate knitted base to give it shape.

Nais

K) BAG

Cast on 39 sts using 4mm needles and Yarn A.

Purl 1 row.

**Using Yarn A as the background and Yarn B as the contrast, K1A, start patt from first st of Chart on row 1, reading all odd number (RS) rows from right to left and all even number (WS) rows from left to right, cont until all 37 sts of patt have been worked, end K1A. Work rows 2–12 of Chart. These 12 rows set the pattern. Cont until you have completed 3 full patt reps. Work rows 1–11 once more.

Purl 3 rows in Yarn A.

Next row (RS) K1A, *K1B, K1A; rep

from * to end.

Row 2 P1B, *P1A, P1B; rep from * to end.

Rep last 2 rows 3 more times then rep Row 1 again.**

Purl 3 rows in Yarn A. Rep from ** to **. Purl 1 row in Yarn A.

Cast off.

BASE

Cast on 11 sts using 4mm needles and Yarn A.

Row 1 (RS) K1A, *K1B, K1A; rep from * to end Row 2 P1B, *P1A, P1B; rep from * to

end.

Rep these 2 rows until base meas 18cm from beg, ending on a WS row. Cast off.

I-CORD PIPING (MAKE 2)

Cast on 3 sts using 4mm DPNs and Yarn C. Work i-cord until it measures 48cm. Cast off.

I-CORD BORDER AND LOOP

Cast on 3 sts using 4mm DPNs and Yarn A Work i-cord until it measures 85cm.

Cast off.

TO MAKE UP

Join the two edges of the main body of the bag.

Sew the base to the main body.

Using 3¹/₂mm circular needle and Yarn A, with RS facing pick up and knit 106 sts evenly around the top edge of the bag.

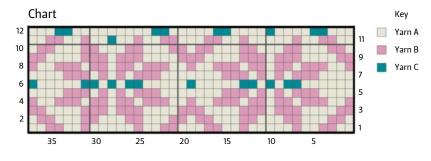
Work 2 rows of K1. P1 rib then cast off. Attach the Yarn C i-cords to the sides along the purl ridge and base of the bag.

Fold the Yarn A i-cord in half and pin the centre of the i-cord to the centre back of the bag at the top of the work along the first row of rib. Pin the i-cord all around the top to the centre front, then make the loop pattern as shown in the photo. Stitch in place.

FLOWER CENTRE

Using a 3.5mm crochet hook and Yarn C, work 4ch and join into ring Round 1 (5ch, 1dc into ring) 6 times, break yarn and fasten off. Attach to centre of loops and work a French knot using Yarn B. Make the lining and attach to the inside

of the bag. Attach handles to each side of bag. 🧶



HOW TO USE OUR CHARTS

Start at the bottom right-hand corner. Read right side rows from right to left and wrong side rows from left to right. A row of squares represents a row of knitting.

$S \parallel$ intricate Big enough for all your essentials, this l great for a day out shopping. By Amanda S nes 0

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ALL LALL

THE COLLECTION



YOU WILL NEED

- Blacker Swan, Falkland Islands Wool (100% Merino wool, 50g/55m) 4 balls of Pale Maiden
- A 5mm circular needle
- A 6mm circular needle
- A 7mm circular needle
- A cable needle (cn)30cm closed zip

36x50cm of lining fabric
 For yarn stockists contact
 Blacker Yarns 01566 777635
 www.blackeryarns.co.uk

TENSION

Yarn used knits as chunky to this tension: 14 sts and 19 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 7mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS

W6 Wrap 6 SI next 6 sts to cn and hold at the front of the work, wrap yarn round these 6 sts 3 times, then K2, P2, K2 sts from cn

For a full list see page 92

pdate your spring wardrobe with this stylish shoulder bag. It's a really useful size, perfect for an everyday handbag, and the strap is long enough to wear across your body for comfort and ease. The textured stitches will keep you engaged as you knit, and look absolutely stunning when they are finished. What more could you want?

Ser and a ser a se

\kappa bag

Cast on 104 sts using 6mm circular needle.

Taking care not to twist sts, join to work in the round.

Round 1 Knit.

Round 2 and every foll alt row Knit. Round 3 *P2, K2; rep from * to end. Round 5 *W6, P2; rep from * to end. Round 7 Knit.

Round 9 K2, P2, *W6, P2; rep from * to last 4 sts, sl next 4 sts plus the first 2 sts from the beg of the round onto cn (6 sts on cn) Wrap yarn round these sts 3 times. Then K2, P2, sl last 2 sts back to left needle.

Round 10 Knit.

Rep these 10 rounds once more. Change to 7mm circular needle. Rep rounds 3 & 4 only until the bag measures 28cm from cast on edge. Turn the work inside out and slip 52 sts to each end of the needle. Using a 3rd needle cast off the 2 sides together. Turn work to right side.

STRAP

Using 5mm needle, with RS facing, pick up 6 sts across the end of the bag. **Row 1** Knit. **Row 2** P2, K2, P2.



Use small stitches when sewing the lining in to make sure it stays in place with use.

Row 3 Wrap the yarn 3 times around all 6 sts, K2, P2, K2.

Cont working in rib only until the strap measure 73cm.

Next row Wrap 6 sts, K2, P2, K2. Work 3 more rows.

Cast off.

Attach this end to the other side of the bag.

TO MAKE UP

Attach a 30cm closed end zip to the top of the bag.

Cut 36x50cm of lining fabric. Fold in half and sew the sides. Press seams, fold a hem at the top of the bag and press. Attach the lining to the bag along the zip. Oversew in place.

> NEXT MONTH Knit a collection of beautiful accessories for your little one's room. Issue 120, May, is on sale from Friday 25 April.

STEP-BY-STEP HOW TO PICK UP STITCHES



1 Holding the knitting you are going to pick the sts up from in your left hand, and starting at the top-right corner, insert the right-hand needle between the first two stitches of the row.



2 Wind your wool around the needle and 'knit' the first stitch...



3 ...And pull the new stitch through between the two stitches.



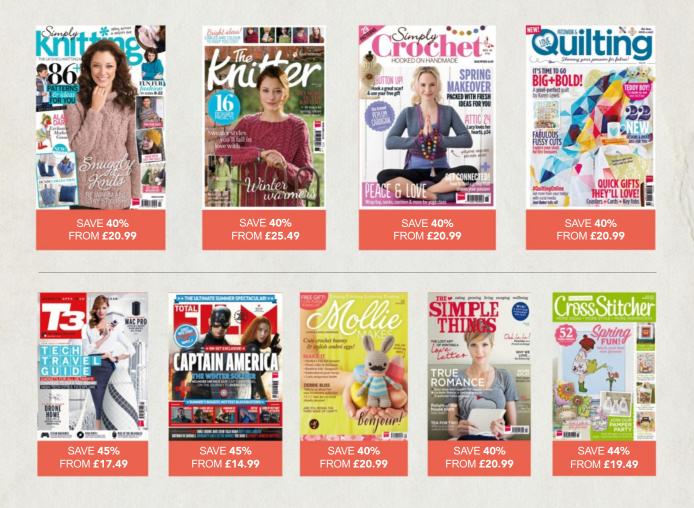
4 Continue to work like this along the row or until you have picked up the necessary amount of stitches. Try to space your stitches evenly.

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Pat Menchini's luxury will keep him snug and warm.

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IDEAL FOR CHANGEABLE WEATHER!

The stitch pattern looks Like it's worked vertically, but is in Fact worked horizontally



EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER! LoveKnitting is offering 15% off Sublime Luxurious Aran Tweed! Just quote SUBLIME15SK when you order. To order your yarn call 0845 5760 007, www.loveknitting.com. Offer closes 30 June 2014.



YOU WILL NEED

 Sublime, Luxurious Aran Tweed (40% wool , 40% cotton , 20% llama, 50g/100m)

- A pair of 4mm needles
- A pair of 5mm needles

2 stitch holders

For yarn stockists contact Sirdar 01924 369666 www.sirdar.co.uk

TENSION

Yarn used knits as aran to this tension: 18 sts and 24 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over pattern using 5mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 92



20 (22: 24: 26: 28)in



here's still a chill in the air, and this cosy Fair Isle crew neck jumper is great for staying snug when the weather turns. He'll love the modern take on traditional Fair Isle. It's a simple two-colour pattern that's quite easy to knit, and it will work equally well for both smart occasions and the odd visit to the local!

Ser and a series of the series

NOTE Carry colour not in use loosely across back of work over not more than 3 sts at a time. Read odd rows as knit from right to left and even rows as purl from left to right as indicated on Chart.

K BACK

Cast on 95 (105: 115: 125: 135) sts using 4mm needles and Yarn A. **Row 1** (RS) K2, (P1, K1) to last st, K1. **Row 2** P2, (K1, P1) to last st, P1. Rep these 2 rib rows for 6cm, ending after a row 1.

Next row P2 (7: 5: 3: 8), *inc pwise in next st, P6 (5: 6: 6: 6); rep from * to last 2 (8: 5: 3: 8) sts, inc in next st, P to end. [109 (121: 131: 143: 153) sts]

Change to 5mm needles and patt as foll:

Row 1 (RS) Working in st st, work last 0 (6: 2: 8: 4) sts from row 1 of Chart, work sts 1-18 of chart 6 (6: 7: 7: 8) times, work first 1 (7: 3: 9: 5) sts from row 1 of Chart.

Row 2 Work last 1 (7: 3: 9: 5) sts from row 2 of Chart, work sts 1-18 of chart 6 (6: 7: 7: 8) times, work first 0 (6: 2: 8: 4) sts from row 2 of Chart. **Rows 3-8** Rep rows 1-2 three times but working rows 3-8 of Chart. These 8 rows form patt. Cont to rep patt until work meas 44cm from beg, measured through centre of work, and ending after a WS row.

SHAPE ARMHOLES

Cast off 6 (8: 9: 10: 11) sts at beg of next 2 rows.

Dec 1 st at each end of next 5 (5: 5: 7: 7) rows, then on every foll alt row until 79 (87: 95: 103: 111) sts rem.

Cont straight until work meas 64 (66: 67: 69: 71)cm from beg, measured through centre of work, ending after a WS row.

SHAPE SHOULDERS

Cast off 8 (9: 10: 11: 12) sts at beg of next 4 rows, then 7 (8: 9: 10: 11) sts at beg of next 2 rows. Slip rem 33 (35: 37: 39: 41) sts on a stitch holder.

FRONT

Work as given for Back until front measures 12 (13: 14: 15: 17)cm from start of armhole shaping, ending after a WS row.

SHAPE NECK

Next row Work across 28 (31: 34: 37: 40) sts, turn.

Cont on sts on needle for left half of neck.

Dec 1 st at neck edge on next 5 rows. Cont straight until front meas same as back to shoulder shaping, ending at armhole edge.

| | XS | S | Μ | L | XL | |
|------|----------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
| cm | 91-97 | 102-107 | 112-117 | 122-127 | 132-137 | |
| in | 36-38 | 40-42 | 44-46 | 48-50 | 52-54 | |
| cm | 102 | 112 | 122 | 132 | 142 | |
| in | 40 | 44 | 48 | 52 | 56 | |
| cm | 64 | 66 | 67 | 69 | 71 | |
| in | 251⁄4 | 26 | 261⁄2 | 271⁄4 | 28 | |
| cm | 47 | 47 | 47 | 47 | 47 | |
| in | 181⁄2 | 181⁄2 | 18½ | 181⁄2 | 181⁄2 | |
| | Sublim | Sublime, Luxurious Aran Tweed (50g/100m balls) | | | | |
| | 9 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 11 | |
| 365) | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 6 | |
| | in cm in cm in cm | cm 91-97 in 36-38 cm 102 in 40 cm 64 in 251/4 cm 47 in 181/2 Sublim 9 | cm 91-97 102-107 in 36-38 40-42 cm 102 112 in 40 44 cm 64 66 in 25¼ 26 cm 47 47 in 18½ 18½ Sublime, Luxuriou 9 9 | cm 91-97 102-107 112-117 in 36-38 40-42 44-46 cm 102 112 122 in 40 44 48 cm 64 66 67 in 25¼ 26 26½ cm 47 47 47 in 18½ 18½ 18½ cm 9 9 10 | cm 91-97 102-107 112-117 122-127 in 36-38 40-42 44-46 48-50 cm 102 112 122 132 in 40 44 48 52 cm 64 66 67 69 in 25½ 26 26½ 27¼ cm 47 47 47 47 in 18½ 18½ 18½ 18½ sublime, Luxurious Aran Tweed (50g/100r 9 9 10 11 | |

To make this pattern easier to follow, we've colour-coded the sizing instructions – simply follow the relevant column.

CREW NECK SWEATER

SHAPE SHOULDER

Cast off 8 (9: 10: 11: 12) sts at beg of next row and foll alt row. Work 1 row. **Cast off** rem sts.

With RS facing slip next 23 (25: 27: 29: 31) sts (centre sts) on a stitch holder and leave. Rejoin yarns to remaining sts and work to end of row. Complete as left half.

SLEEVES

Cast on 37 (39: 39: 41: 41) sts using 4mm needles and Yarn A. Work in rib as given for Back for 6cm, ending after a 2nd row and inc 2 (2: 4: 4: 6) sts evenly on last row. [39 (41: 43: 45: 47) sts]

Change to 5mm needles and beg with a K row work in st st, shaping sleeve by inc 1 st at each end of foll 3rd row, then on every foll 6th (4th: 4th: 4th: 4th) row until there are 59 (47: 55: 69: 77) sts, then on every foll 8th (6th: 6th: 6th: 6th) row until there are 67 (73: 77: 83: 87) sts.

Cont straight until sleeve meas 47cm from beg, ending after a P row.

SHAPE TOP

Cast off 6 (8: 9: 10: 11) sts at beg of next 2 rows.

Work 0 (2: 4: 4: 6) rows straight. Dec 1 st at each end of next row, then on every foll K row until 31 (33: 35: 39: 41) sts rem, then on every row until 21 (23: 25: 29: 31) sts rem. **Cast off** loosely.

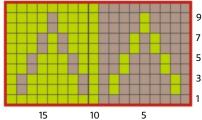
NECKBAND First join left shoulder. Using 4mm needles and Yarn A, with RS facing, K across back neck sts, K 16 (17: 17: 18: 19) sts evenly down left front neck, taking special care to insert needle between 1st and 2nd edge sts when picking up the sts, K across centre front sts, and finally K 17 (18: 18: 19: 20) sts evenly up right front neck. Beg with a row 2, work 6 rows in rib as given for Back. **Cast off** evenly in rib.

TO MAKE UP

Join right shoulder and neckband. Sew in sleeve tops. Join side and sleeve seams. **Q**___









This jumper has simple set-in sleeves that are straightforward to knit and sew up.



Carrying the yarn not in use accross the back keeps your knitting even and neat.

HOW TO USE OUR CHARTS

Start at the bottom right-hand corner. Read right side rows from right to left and wrong side rows from left to right. A row of squares represents a row of knitting.

STEP-BY-STEP HOW TO KNIT FAIR ISLE



1 This is what happens to the yarn that you carry over on the 'wrong side'. Work a stitch in the first colour, then to change colour, twist the two yarns together before working the next stitch.



2 Work the next stitch in the new colour as normal. When working alternating stitches of two colours, try to keep an even tension and do not pull the yarn too tight.



3 Change back to the original colour, but don't forget to twist the two yarns together before you work the stitch.



4 A completed row shows the yarn 'floats' carried across the back of the work. If the floats of one colour always stay above the other colour, your work will look more even.

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NEON YARNS Make a statement – thanks to this new season trend.

Hayfield BONUS DK

BALL WEIGHT 100g BALL LENGTH 280m YARN CONTENT 100% acrylic KNITS AS DK RRP £2.90 REC NEEDLE SIZE 4mm

This is a real old favourite with a fashionable twist, taking the basic staple to a new, fun and modern level.

Best for single colour patterns, this yarn lends itself to a myriad of projects. Start small and choose accessories or go bold with a garment – either way this yarn will rise to the occasion. To top it all, BONUS DK Exervate

the stitch definition is ideal for intricate stitch patterns.

Hayfield Bonus DK is available in over 60 colours, but for a neon statement, Highlighter (pictured) is the one to go for.

Machine washable at 40°C and can be tumble dried. www.sirdar.co.uk, 01924 231682

Wendy FESTIVAL

BALL WEIGHT 100g BALL LENGTH 112m YARN CONTENT 100% acrylic KNITS AS chunky RRP £3.95 REC NEEDLE SIZE 61/2mm

Go for a subtle, all-over variegated look with Wendy's answer to the neon craze.

With one base colour throughout, the accent colours shift every few rows, adding interest as you knit and creating a mottled effect.

The three plies are twisted loosely, forming round stitches for a tactile fabric. Chunky and



snug, this would be a great yarn choice for funky cowls and bobble hats.

Of the eight shades available, there are three neon options that are a bit more unusual than basic solids.

Machine wash this yarn at 30°C and do not tumble dry. www.tbramsden.co.uk, 01943 872264



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www.simplyknitting.co.uk

TRIED & TESTED

Red Heart DETROIT COLOUR

BALL WEIGHT 100g BALL LENGTH 250m YARN CONTENT 100% acrylic KNITS AS DK RRP £1.70 REC NEEDLE SIZE 4-4½mm



If you are going all out with the neon trend, this is the yarn you want to knit with.

In a versatile DK weight, this yarn incorporates all of the traditional neon colours at once. Self-patterning, you don't have to do anything but watch the colours emerge.

Available in seven shades, Fruity (pictured) is the most vivid and neon of the lot, while Clown Colour would be a good choice for a muted alternative.

Great for accessories and garments, Red Heart has plenty of patterns to choose from – we think the infinity cowl would be especially stunning. Machine washable at 30°C. www.redheart.co.uk, 01484 681881

Patons **FAB**

BALL WEIGHT 100g BALL LENGTH 274m YARN CONTENT 100% acrylic KNITS AS DK RRP £1.99 REC NEEDLE SIZE 4mm

This classic yarn is great for injecting some fashion into your usual, familiar knitting.

With 30 shades available, from pastel to bright, Patons have created three neon colours that are perfect for knitting on-trend. You could even pair the brasher colours with something quieter, like grey or cream, if you want a



more subtle take on the current fashion look.

Any of the original Patons Fab DK patterns would work perfectly in these neon shades – it's simply up to you how brave you are feeling!

Machine washable and suitable for tumble drying. www.makeitcoats.com, 01484 681881



DMC MY BOSHI

BALL WEIGHT 50g BALL LENGTH 55m YARN CONTENT 70% acrylic, 30% wool KNITS AS chunky RRP £4 REC NEEDLE SIZE 6-7mm

Originally designed for crocheting beanies, we think there is a lot more to this yarn.

Constructed of 12 tiny plies, this plump yarn knits up into a luscious fabric. Trapping more air between each ply, this will be particularly warm to wear.

Although the yarn will knit up into scrummy hats, it would also be perfect for other



accessories and cold weather garments too.

There are more than 40 shades available, including zingy neon brights as well as plenty of other, more understated, alternatives.

Machine washable at 30°C, do not tumble dry or iron. www.dmccreative.co.uk, 0116 275 4000

Rico Designs FASHION PIXEL

BALL WEIGHT 50g BALL LENGTH 115m YARN CONTENT 65% cotton, 35% polyester KNITS AS DK RRP £3.79 REC NEEDLE SIZE 4mm

If you aren't quite ready to dive in with neon, this is a great way to knit on-trend in more of an understated way.

The solid base colour is marled with a fine thread of neon, wrapped around each ply. This adds a sheen to the knitted fabric and lightens the colour. There are seven base shades to choose from, each



with their own complementary and bright neon flecks.

This yarn has lovely drape and movement that is well suited to garments that will see you through spring and into summer. The cotton content will also keep you cool.

Machine washable at 30°C, dry this yarn flat.

www.rico-design.de/en



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Spring 2014 Simply Knitting 69

Becky Sunter, official crafter in residence at a business park, shares an insight into her working, crafting life.

an you imagine if your working day included some of the things you choose to do in your free time? Sounds heavenly, doesn't it? Becky Sunter, owner of Tabby Textiles (www.tabbytextiles.com), has made this a reality with a role that brings all kinds of crafting into people's busy working lives.

Lingfield Point Business Park in Darlington (www.lingfieldpoint. co.uk) is home to such large companies as Student Loans Company, Four Seasons Healthcare, AMEC and NFU Mutual. It is the day-to-day workplace of around 2,500 people, and Becky is the crafter in residence there.

"I run lunchtime textile workshops in the canteen," she says. "It means workers have the opportunity to take a break from their desk, look up from the screen and do something different. Picking up knitting needles – even for half an hour – can be incredibly relaxing, and it sends people back to work refreshed and more productive for the afternoon's tasks."

"We often hear the phrase 'work hard, play hard' but there aren't many places where you can do both at the same time," Becky adds. "Lingfield Point aims to provide that, and I'm lucky enough to be part of it."

The forward-thinking business development offers a programme of activities to promote health and wellbeing. John Orchard, a director of Marchday, which owns Lingfield Point, explains: "It's about creating a sense of community and culture. Offering employees something extra helps boost productivity and makes for a happy workplace."

With everything from Happy Fit Camps to cycle hire, walking trails, outdoor games, and knitting and gardening classes, there is bound to be something to suit everyone's tastes. We also love the sound of Stash Busters, which invites the hoarders among us to transform all those carefully-saved bits of yarn, ribbon, buttons and embellishments into something attractive, useful and recycled with help from crafting specialists, including Becky.

Becky says: "A lot of people have a secret hoard of bits and pieces that are just too nice to throw away but seem to serve no purpose. We're full of ideas to change that!"

NEW START

I)K

Becky's residency at Lingfield Point came about as a result of the closure of her local arts centre, where she had been running textile workshops. "I needed a new venue and, as I had acquired the weaving looms from the arts centre's weaving department, I needed a permanent space to house nearly 20 looms," she explains. "I'd heard about Lingfield Point, but it wasn't until I looked at their website that I realised what a fantastic venue it would be for me. They had some studio space available which was perfect - just the right size!"

Becky sees her residency as a link between the creative and the





the crafters get through lots of yarn!; Becky relaxes while doing her crafting; the knitting cafes prove very popular; some of the fab items made in the thrift sewing workshops.

business worlds. "The philosophy of Lingfield Point is that it should be a place you enjoy coming to work, and a great deal of effort is made to achieve this," she says. "The courses I run at Tabby Textiles offer workers the opportunity to take up other interests, and get together socially. I run a weaving workshop which starts just after office hours so it is possible to go straight from work and learn a new skill."

Becky has also worked to set up a number of projects on site. "I've organised lunchtime craft fairs, and hosted a World Wide Knit in Public event. I was very involved in the Festival of Thrift, which took place at Lingfield Point in September. A few of the trees now wear knitted tree cosies, and I'm planning other yarn bombing projects!"

She finds the history of the site fascinating. "It's the former home of Patons and Baldwins yarn factory, and it's really not hard to imagine the hustle and bustle of a busy production line, from the fleeces being shipped in one end to the yarn being dispatched at the other."

She adds: "It has occurred to me that yarn from this factory would have been bought by my grandmas and made into the jumpers I wore as a child – bringing the knitting connection around full circle!"

When asked if she believes other business parks should follow Lingfield Point's example, Becky has no doubts: "Absolutely. There are so many events going on all the time here. People leave workshops much more relaxed than when they came. A lot of time is spent at the workplace, so why not enjoy it? It must be better to have workers who are relaxed and engaged and who feel part of something!"

AT THE HEART OF CRAFTING

While Becky dabbles in all crafts, her heart lies with knitting. "Both my grandmothers were great knitters, and it is them I have to thank for my love of knitting," she says. "They both lived in Devon, about 200 miles from where I grew up, so I didn't see them that often. On their visits they would show me a little bit more of the magic of knitting, then they would be gone and I'd be left hanging, so I had to fill in the gaps and teach myself."

This practical approach continues to serve Becky well today. "I was always intrigued about how things were made, and this led me to learning other techniques, and eventually to studying textiles at college. The design crafts course was quite unique, and perfect for me in that it was about making and crafting by hand, rather than designing for mass production."

Tabby Textiles, situated on the Lingfield site, started on a small scale with craft fairs and a stall at Darlington Market, and Becky relishes the opportunities to use her talents to run textile courses and knitting cafés. She simply says of all this, "I get such pleasure from passing on skills to others."

CHAT & MORE

email us simplyknitting @futurenet.com

1. 9 BEZA

Osimplyknitting

GET IN TOUCH THROUGH EMAIL, TWITTER AND FACEBOOK!

PANDA-MONIUM

For Christmas I knitted hoodies for my grandchildren. They were from a booklet that came with the mag some time ago with adorable buttons. I especially like hoodies they are very useful for children. I made a teddy hoodie first and later panda ones. My grandchildren like them very much. Karla Bystrianská, Czech Republic The hoodies are adorable, Karla, well done!

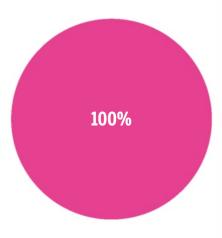




FREE FOR YOU! FIND the LATEST NEWS, COMPS AND TIPS ON our website. This month, embrace your Artistic side with RhiAn DRinkwAter's socks. visit www.simplyknitting.co.uk!

FACEBOOK POLL **GUERILLA STYL**

We asked... have you ever taken part in a yarn bombing project?



100% YES We can't believe it! Every person who responded to our poll has taken part in some kind of guerilla knitting. "I have made a scarf out of all my odds and ends to put around the neck of a local statue." Genius!

THE BEST OF THIS MONTH'S TWEETS FROM YOU

@SKETCHINGKARI @SimplyKnitMagIthinkImight have an Alan Dart addiction lol, another one just cast on.

@KNITTINGMAND

@SimplyKnitMag thank you for the sweet little tape measure in a tin, that came free with this month's copy. You can never have enough tape measures.

@ASTITCHINTIME

It's #fairislefriday and today I'm wearing one of my favourite jumpers in the world.

@CITYOFSCIENCE We've got a mountain of knitted #microbes... but we need more! Can you help? www. glasgowcityofscience.com

You can subscribe to Simply Knitting digitally from just £3.99. See myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/digital-magazines for more.

THREE OF THE BEST... GREAT KNI ON PINTEREST

We love to see all your photos!

BEAR-Y CUTE!



We just love this teddy bear vest! Marina Young has done a beautiful job knittina it - the little spotty buttons are an inspired choice.





BLANKETED IN COLOUR These gorgeous

vivid shades have been chosen and paired perfectly. Betty Annie has clearly got an eye for colour.

THOU SHALL HAVE A FISHY

Look at Flounder! Tina Thevarge has knitted up this super cute little toy. We're very jealous – we want one for the office.

Get in on the woodland trend with **Jane Burns'** adorable, handy little purse.

Quick Easy If you want to make this purse for a small child, omit the button and use your embroidery skills instead. French knots would work perfectly for the eyes, and a few straight stitches would make a cute foxy nose. You'll be done in a flash!



YOU WILL NEED

- Drops, Alpaca (100% alpaca, 50g/167m) 1 ball of each:
 Yarn A Rust (2925)
 Yarn B Cream (1101)
- A pair of 2¾mm needles
- A 3mm crochet hook
- Two 12mm solid black safety eyes with shank
- A 1.5cm diameter black button10cm zipper

For stockists contact Wool Warehouse 0800 505 3300 www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

TENSION

Yarn used knits as 4ply to this tension: 28 sts and 40 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 2¾mm needles

MEASUREMENTS

11cm wide x 14cm long (excluding tail)

ABBREVIATIONS

dc double crochet

For a full list see page 92



ancy a quick project that's bang on trend and won't break the bank? This is the project for you. At just £2.90 per ball, this yarn is great value for money and as this design is so small, it will knit up in no time. Once you've had a go at the fox, why not try other colours to make a badger or a squirrel? You could have a whole woodland set!

Ser and a ser a se

K FRONT & BACK (MAKE TWO) **Cast on** 30 sts using 2³/₄mm needles and Yarn A. Row 1 (RS) Knit. Row 2 Purl. Row 3 K2, M1, K to last 2 sts, M1, K2. [32 sts] Row 4 Purl. Row 5 K2, M1, K to last 2 sts, M1, K2. [34 sts] Row 6 Purl Row 7 Knit. Row 8 Purl. Repeat rows 7&8 14 times in total. Row 35 K2, ssk, K to last 4 sts, k2tog, K2. [32 sts] Row 36 Purl. Row 37 K2, ssk, K to last 4 sts, k2tog, K2. [30 sts] Row 38 Purl. Row 39 Knit. Cast off knitwise.

RIGHT CHEEK

Cast on 14 sts using 2¾mm needles and Yarn B. Row 1 (RS) Knit. Row 2 Purl. Row 3 K2, M1, K to end. [15 sts] Row 4 Purl. Row 5 K2, M1, K to end. [16 sts] Row 6 Purl. Row 7 Knit. Row 8 Sl1, P1, psso, P to end. [15 sts] Row 9 Knit. Row 10 Purl. Row 11 Knit. Row 12 Sl1, P1, psso, P to end. [14 sts] Row 13 Knit. Row 14 Sl1, P1, psso, P to end. [13 sts] Row 15 Knit. Row 16 Purl. Row 17 Knit. Row 18 Sl1, P1, psso, P to end. [12 sts] Row 19 Knit. Row 20 Purl. Row 21 Knit. Row 22 Sl1, P1, psso, P to end. [11 sts] Row 23 Knit. Row 24 Sl1, p2tog, psso, P to end. [9 sts] Row 25 Knit.

Row 26 Sl1, p2tog, psso, P to end. [7 sts] Row 27 Knit. Cast off.

LEFT CHEEK Cast on 14 sts using 2¾mm needles and Yarn B. Row 1 Knit. Row 2 Purl Row 3 K to last 2 sts, M1, K2. [15 sts] Row 4 Purl. **Row 5** K to last 2 sts, M1, K2. [16 sts] Row 6 Purl. Row 7 Sl1, K1, psso, K to end. [15 sts] Row 8 Purl. Row 9 Knit. Row 10 Purl. Row 11 Sl1, K1, psso, K to end. [14 sts] Row 12 Purl. **Row 13** Sl1, K1, psso, K to end. [13 sts] Row 14 Purl Row 15 Knit. Row 16 Purl. Row 17 Sl1, K1, psso, K to end. [12 sts] Row 18 Purl. Row 19 Knit. Row 20 Purl. Row 21 Sl1, K1, psso, K to end. [11 sts] Row 22 Purl. Row 23 Sl1, k2tog, psso, K to end. [9 sts] Row 24 Purl. Row 25 Sl1, k2tog, psso, K to end. [7 sts] Row 26 Purl. Cast off.

EARS OUTER EARS (MAKE FOUR) **Cast on** 17 sts using 2³/₄mm needles and Yarn A. Rows 1, 3 & 5 Knit. Row 2 and all even rows Purl. **Row 7** K1, ssk, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1. [15 sts] Row 9 K1, ssk, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1. [13 sts] Row 11 K1, ssk, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1. [11 sts] Row 13 K1, ssk, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1. [9 sts] Row 15 K1, ssk, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1. [7 sts] Row 17 K1, ssk, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1. [5 sts] Row 18 Purl. Row 19 K1, sl1, k2tog, psso, K1. [3 sts] Row 20 P3tog and fasten off.

INNER EARS (MAKE TWO) Cast on 13 sts using 2¾mm needles and Yarn B.

FOX PURSE

Rows 1 & 3 Knit. Row 2 and all even rows Purl. Row 5 K1, ssk, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1. [11 sts] Row 7 K1, ssk, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1. [9 sts] Row 9 K1, ssk, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1. [7 sts] Row 11 K1, ssk, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1. [5 sts] Row 12 Purl. Row 13 K1, sl1, k2tog, psso, K1. [3 sts] Row 14 P3tog and fasten off. TAIL (MAKE TWO)

Cast on 11 sts using 2¾mm needles and Yarn A. **Row 1** Knit

Row 2 and all even rows Purl.

Repeat rows 1&2 eight times in total. Row 17 K2, M1, K to last 2 sts, M1, K2. [13 sts] Row 19 K2, M1, K to last 2 sts, M1, K2. [15 sts] Row 21 K2, M1, K to last 2 sts, M1, K2. [17 sts] Row 23 K2, M1, K to last 2 sts, M1, K2. [19 sts] Row 24 Purl. Change to yarn B. Row 25 Knit. Row 27 Knit. Row 29 K1, ssk, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1. [17 sts] Row 31 K1, ssk, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1. [15 sts] Row 33 K1, ssk, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1. [13 sts] Row 35 K1, ssk, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1. [11 sts] Row 37 K1, ssk, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1. [9 sts] Row 39 K1, ssk, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1. [7 sts]

Row 41 K1, ssk, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1. [5 sts] **Row 42** Purl.

ROW 42 FUII.

Row 43 K1, sl1, k2tog, psso, K1. [3 sts] Row 44 P3tog and fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

Pin the cheeks in place and sew to front panel. Using a 3mm crochet hook and Yarn A, place front and back pieces together with WS facing, and starting at top corner, work through both layers, dc along the side edge, along the bottom and up towards top corner. If you do not wish to crochet, blanket stitch would work just as well.

Sew zip in place.

Make up ears: with WS facing, sew two ear outers together using mattress stitch. Place inner ear centrally and sew in place. Repeat with pieces for other ear. Sew ears to front panel of purse using the

image as a guide. With WS facing, sew tail pieces together and sew to zip pull. Position eyes and push carefully through both layers of fabric, secure. Sew on the button for a nose.





The purse is closed with a small zip, and the fox's tail is sewn on to the pull.



Take your time when you sew the cheeks on – it's worth the effort for a neat finish.

STEP-BY-STEP DC HOW TO DOUBLE CROCHET



1 To make a double crochet stitch, insert the hook under the top two loops of the first stitch on the previous row.



2 Wind the yarn around the hook and pull it through the stitch, giving you two loops on your crochet hook.



3 Yarn round hook again, then pull the yarn through both loops. You've made one double crochet and have one loop on your hook ready to do the next stitch.



4 For following rows, turn and make one turning chain. The t-ch does not count as a st. Work your first dc in the st at the base of the ch. At the end of the row, work into the top of the t-ch.

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ONE TO READ



Two sisters love knitting so much that they've devoted their craft to a brilliant cause – raising more than \pounds 37,000 for an air ambulance service.

isters Yvonne Smart and Cathy Glear have been knitters since childhood, but they never dreamt that their skills could help keep a helicopter ambulance in the air. But much to their delight, their knitting has become a real lifesaver.

"Creating something unique from a single ball of yarn gives us great pleasure," says Yvonne. "We were taught to knit by our mother, and now Cathy is carrying on the tradition by teaching her children, grandchildren and foster children."

The sisters live in Kingswinford and Netherton, and had previously devoted their knitting time to making items for their friends and family – until eight years ago, when they found out that the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity (MAAC) was looking for fundraisers.

"At first we sold a few items at summer fêtes and so on, but then we discovered the Charity Hub at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley, and we now have a stall there every month," Yvonne says.

The sisters' efforts soon inspired other crafters too, and they now

have more than 20 volunteer knitters working with them. "Many of our volunteers met us at our monthly stall," says Cathy. "They said they enjoyed knitting but didn't have an outlet. Now, we sell their items on our stall."

The sisters say that nothing quite beats the thrill they get when a customer buys something they've knitted. "We're always absolutely delighted!" says Yvonne. "To think that our hard work is appreciated gives us great pleasure, especially knowing that the money raised helps to keep three air ambulances flying in the Midlands."

LOYAL READER

Cathy has been a reader of *Simply Knitting* since the first issue, and says it has encouraged their efforts. "The magazine gives us lots of good ideas, and any ideas from readers would be greatly appreciated in order to help us raise even more funds for the MAAC," Cathy says.

As Russells Hall Hospital has a busy maternity unit, baby clothes are particularly popular on the stall. "We also make all sorts of blankets, scarves, bags and toys," says Cathy. "With the help of our volunteers we always have plenty of new items in time for our next stall. Everyone's efforts are greatly appreciated, no matter how much or how little they've been able to make."

The stall has grown so popular that the sisters recently put out a call for yarn and oddment donations in their local newspaper.

"Because of the ongoing demand for our knitwear, we made a plea to the public for any unwanted yarn and craft items such as beads, buttons, broken jewellery and unwanted gifts," explains Cathy. "So far, they have been very generous but our supplies are always running out."

Yvonne agrees: "We are truly passionate about the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity and really enjoy knitting to fundraise for the service," she says. "We must have used enough yarn over the years to reach the moon and back!" • *Written by Judy Darley*

To donate yarn or find out more about the charity, visit www.midlandsair ambulance.com or call 0800 8402040.





From left to right: David, Cathy and Yvonne man the stall each month at the Russells Hall Hospital Charity Hub in Dudley. The MAAC covers the largest air ambulance region in the UK, so the service needs all the support and funds it can get.

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PUZZLES

PRIZE PUZZLE



We've got five f_{20} shopping vouchers from Abakhan to be won as crossword prizes (www.abakhan.co.uk). Sudoku prize winners can get ready for a handmade celebration – we've got ten copies of Easter Knits by Arne and Carlos, courtesy of Search Press (www.searchpress.com, 01892 510850).

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Issue 117 solution Across: 1 Saffron, 5 Thrives, 9 Angry, 10 Portfolio, 11 Leo, 12 Evict, 13 Plaza, 14 Trial, 16 Swatch, 18 Tights, 19 Roast, 22 Flare, 24 Flair, 26 Sin, 27 Edelweiss, 29 Miami, 30 Arsenal, 31 Sixteen. Down: 1 Scarlet, 2 Faggoting, 3 Rhyme, 4 Napkin, 5 Tarot, 6 RAF, 7 Villa, 8 Stomach, 13 Power, 15 Latte, 17 Translate, 18 Taffeta, 20 Tension, 21 Cassis, 23 Abets, 24 Frill, 25 Remix, 28 Win. Prize answer: PISCES.

ENTER OUR COMPS!

To enter a competition, text the code, then a space, then your name and address, to 87474 or visit www.simplyknitting.co.uk and click the 'Competitions' tab. Here are this month's comp codes:

Crossword: SKXWORD119 (then a space followed by the Prize Puzzle Word)

Sudoku: SKSUDOKU119 (then a space followed by the Prize Number)

Project bags: SK119BAG

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- Relaxing body rub

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colour (9) 18 Plant's flower that

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- Yellow dessert sauce (7)
- Respond (5)) Desperate for
- success (9)
- Fuss (3)
- 2 Wash through with water (5)
- 3 Dance performed in a line (5)
- 4 Fantasy (5) 6 Basic knitting stitch (6)
- B Hunting pack dog (6)
- 7 Clean vigorously (5)
- 2 Happen (5) Kids comic (5)
- 5 Large vase (3)
- Fairy tale heroine
 - (4,5)
- 7 Japanese poem (5)
-) Add a stitch (4,3)
- Ideal (7)

own

Half woman, half fish (7)



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TWISTS & TURNS

Add texture and interest to your knits with these cable patterns – fun to knit and stylish to wear.



SLANTED DOUBLE CABLE

Cast on 20 sts, plus some sts for the background of reverse st st. (Try 40 sts.) Work the first half of the background sts in rev st st before each set of row instructions, and the second half after the instructions.

Row 1 (RS) P2, K1tbl, P2, K2, P4, K4, P2, K1tbl, P2.

Row 2 and every alt row knit the knit stitches and purl the purl stitches.
Row 3 P2, K1tbl, P2, LC, P2, K4, P2, K1tbl, P2.
Row 5 P2, K1tbl, P4, C4F, LC, P2, K1tbl, P2.
Row 7 P2, K1tbl, P2, RC, LC, K2, P2, K1tbl, P2.
Row 9 P2, K1 tbl, P2, K2, P4, C4F, P2, K1 tbl, P2.
Row 10 As row 2.

Repeat rows 3-10 to form pattern.

CORDED CABLE RIB

Cast on 32 sts. Row 1 (RS) P6, K6, P8, K6, P6. Row 2 K6, P6, K8, P6, K6. Row 3 P6, K6, P8, K6, P6. Row 4 K6, P6, K8, P6, K6. Row 5 P6, C6B, P8, C6F, P6. Row 6 K6, P6, K8, P6, K6. Repeat rows 1-6 to form the pattern.

BASKET CABLE

Cast on a multiple of 8 sts plus 4 sts. (Try 42 sts.) Row 1 (WS) K2, P to the last 2 sts, K2. Row 2 Knit. Rows 3 and 4 As rows 1 and 2. Row 5 K2, P to the last 2 sts, K2. Row 6 K2, (C8B) to last 2 sts, K2. Rows 7-11 As rows 1-5. Row 12 K6, (C8F) to last 6 sts, K6. Repeat rows 1-12 to form pattern.

ABBREVIATIONS

K knit P purl

C6B slip 3 sts to a cable needle and hold at the back. K3, then K3 sts from the cable needle C6F slip 3 sts to a cable needle and hold in front. K3, then K3 sts from the cable needle C8B slip 4 sts to a cable needle and hold at the back. K4, then K4 sts from the cable needle **C8F** slip 4 sts to a cable needle and hold in front. K4, then K4 sts from the cable needle **C4F** slip 2 sts to a cable needle and hold in front, K2, then K2 from cable needle LC left cross: slip 2 sts to cable needle and hold in front, P2, then K2 from cable needle RC right cross: slip 2 sts to cable needle and hold at back, K2, then P2 from cable needle rep(s) repeat(s) st(s) stitch(es) tbl through back loop NEXT MONTH Have a go at pretty lace, and get yourself in the mood for summer. Issue 120, May, is in the shops from Friday 25 April.



Yarn used is Definition Sock, shade SFN10, Cream Cake.

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Amy Last Marketing Manager

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How is your shop different? We always start and end with what would make our customers smile – the yarns we choose, how those yarns are packaged up and delivered, and what kind of support we provide. We have happy customers – the difference is in the smiles.

Any exciting future plans? We'll keep our customers smiling by finding more great yarns and continuing to improve the service. We are also frantically knitting a swatch from each line so that our customers can see what the yarns look like knitted up. We may have bitten off more than we can chew though – we have over 500 lines in stock!

What is your favourite part of owning a yarn shop? It's a great excuse to keep adding to an already massive stash! We also read and share the feedback from happy customers every day. That's what keeps us passionate about always improving the store.

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MAKE IT EASY

Everything you need to know to help you make the most of the projects in this issue!



STEP-BY-STEP SKPO Slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over



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



 $2^{
m Knit}$ 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. This decrease forms a slant which lies to the right.



BOLD Lines, PS8

STEP-BY-STEP C4F How to cable 4 front



1 Work up to where the cable pattern starts, then take the yarn to the back of the knitting.



 $2 \\ Slip the first 2 stitches knitwise on to \\ a cable needle. Hold these stitches \\ at the front of the knitting.$



3 Knit the next 2 stitches from the Bleft-hand needle, then slide the stitches on the cable needle to the end of the needle and knit them on to the right-hand needle.



4 Bring the yarn to the front of your knitting, and pull the yarn tight to avoid ladders along the side of the cable. Purl the next stitch and continue in the pattern.



Light & LACY, SUPPLEMENT

STEP-BY-STEP Three-needle cast off



1 Hold your knitting so both pieces have the WS facing out. Put the tip of a third needle knitwise through the first stitch on both needles.



2^{Knit} both stitches together, 2^{dropping} them from the needles.



3 Repeat this for the second stitch on both needles.



A Now cast off one of the stitches on the third needle, just as you would when working a regular cast off.

VorldMags.net

How to Knit

CAST ON: CABLE METHOD Use it for a firm edge, and when adding stitches in your work.



1 Make a slip knot. Insert right-hand needle into the stitch as if to knit. Wrap the yarn around the point and pull through, slipping the stitch on to the left-hand needle.



2 Push the point of the right-hand needle between the first and second stitches. Wrap the yarn anti-clockwise round the point of the right-hand needle.



3 Pull the loop out with the right-hand needle, then slip it over the tip of the left-hand needle.



4 Repeat steps 2-3 until you have the number of stitches you require.

KNIT Follow our simple steps to make the most important stitch you'll learn.



1 Hold the needle with the stitches on it in your left hand. Keeping the yarn in your right hand and at the back of your work, insert the point of the right-hand needle up into the front loop of the first stitch, as shown.



2 Wind the yarn anti-clockwise around the point of the right-hand needle using your index finger. It's important to keep the yarn in your right hand relatively taut to maintain an even tension as you go.



3 Bring the right-hand needle down through the loop, making sure that you catch the yarn you wound around the needle. This creates the stitch. Don't pull the free yarn too tightly, let out some slack.



4 Push the point of the right needle further through the stitch you created, then gently pull the right needle up and to your left, taking the original loop with it. You've now created one knit stitch. Repeat points 1-4 across the row.

1 Holding the needle with all the stitches on in your left hand, and ensuring that the yarn is at the front of your work, insert the right-hand needle down through the front loop of your first stitch as shown.



2 Wind the yarn around the tip of the right-hand needle from right to left, in an anti-clockwise motion, constantly keeping a slight tension on the yarn.



3 Now slip the right-hand needle back through the stitch, ensuring that you catch the yarn that you've already wound around the needle. This creates a stitch on your right-hand needle.



4 Pushing the point of the right-hand needle a little further through the stitch you've just created, pull the original loop up and off the left-hand needle. That's your first purl stitch! Repeat points 1-4 across the row.

CAST OFF Finish off your knitting with this straightforward cast-off technique.



Start by knitting the first two stitches of the row as normal, but don't go any further along as you usually would.



2 Insert the left-hand needle through the first stitch, as shown. Lift this stitch over the other stitch on the right-hand needle and over the needle point.



3 Knit another stitch so you have two on the right needle. Lift the first stitch over the second, then repeat steps 1-3.



4 When you get to the last stitch, cut the yarn about 6in (15cm) away, feed it through the loop and pull through firmly to fasten off.

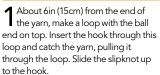
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PURL To make purl stitches, just reverse the action of plain knit stitches.

How to Crochet

CHAIN STITCH This is the foundation of all crochet stitches.







2 With the hook in your right hand, hold the slipknot between thumb and finger of the left hand. Move the hook under and over the yarn.



3 Pull the hook and yarn back through the slipknot loop to form your first chain (ch) stitch. Now repeat steps 1-2 until you've formed a chain.



4 This is what your row of chains will look like. Keep going until you have the number of chains that are stated on your pattern. (Don't count the slipknot.)

SLIP STITCH This stitch won't add height.



1 Insert the hook from front to back under the top of the second chain from the hook. Wrap the yarn round the hook (this is known as yrh).



2 Pull the yarn through both loops on the hook to make a slip stitch (sl st). To carry on working a row of slip stitches, insert the hook into the next chain down and so on, repeating step 2 each time.

FOUNDATION RING Carry on for a spiral.



1 Make a short length of foundation chain as stated in your pattern instructions, for example, ch 5. Insert hook into the first chain.



2 Close the ring with a slip stitch (yarn round hook and pull through). You can continue the spiral. If working in the round, add a stitch marker here.

Get Professional Results! Use our easy-to-follow hints and tips for the perfect finish.

MATTRESS STITCH

Thread your yarn on to a needle, then weave along an edge to where you want to start. Bring it to the front between the first and second stitches of this edge, then insert the needle between the first two stitches of the other edge. Bring it back up through the opposite piece, between the two stitches and below the horizontal strand you just made. Keep stitching in this way, pulling the yarn tight every few stitches.





BACKSTITCH

RUSH the

First, pin your two pieces together and secure the yarn by making a couple of stitches over each other at the base of the seam. Now working from right to left, bring the needle up a couple of stitches away at 1. Take the needle down at 🛯 and up again at 🔳. Repeat, keeping the stitches regular and ensuring you put the needle through the middle of each knitted stitch to avoid splitting the fabric.

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Abbreviations & Useful Info

| | | $\cdot \circ \circ \cdot$ | | | | |
|----------|--|---------------------------|--|--------------|---|-----|
| alt | alternate | P/p | purl | ssp | slip 2 sts one at a time, | UK |
| approx | approximately | patt(s) | pattern(s) | | purl 2 slipped stitches | 14 |
| beg | beginning | patt | | | together through back | |
| C2B | slip next st to cn & | rep(s) | pattern repeat(s) | | of the loops (1 stitch | 13 |
| | hold at back, K1; K1 from cn | PB pfb | place bead purl into front and back | st(s) | decreased) stitch(es) | - |
| C2F | slip next st to cn & | pib | of stitch | stst | stocking stitch | 12 |
| | hold at front, K1; | PM | place marker | tbl | through the back of the | 11 |
| | K1 from cn | P2tog | purl 2 stitches together | | loop | |
| C4B | slip next 2 sts to cn & | D 2. | (1 stitch decreased) | T2B | slip next st to cn & | 10 |
| | hold at back, K2; K2 from cn | P3tog | purl 3 stitches together | | hold at back, K1; P1 from cn | - |
| C4F | slip next 2 sts to cn & | prev | (2 stitches decreased) previous | T2F | slip next st to cn & | 9 |
| • | hold at front, K2; K2 | psso | pass slipped stitch over | | hold at front, P1; | 8 |
| | from cn | p2sso | pass 2 slipped stitches | | K1 from cn | 7 |
| C6B | slip next 3 sts to cn & | (4).1.1 | over | T5L | slip next 3sts to cn & | |
| | hold at back, K3; K3 from cn | p(1)tbl | purl (1) into back loop | | hold at front, P2; K3 | 6 |
| C6F | slip next 3 sts to cn & | pwise | purlwise; by purling the stitch | T5R | from cn slip next 2sts to cn & | 5 |
| 001 | hold at front, K3; K3 | rem | remain/remaining | TOIL | hold at back, K3; P2 | 4 |
| | from cn | rep(s) | repeat(s) | | from cn | 3 |
| cb | cable back | rev st st | | tog | together | 2 |
| CC | contrast colour | RH | right hand | W3 | Wrap 3 stitches – with | |
| cf cn | cable forward cable needle | rib2tog | either k2tog or p2tog dep on what next st in | work sliv | yarn held at back of o next 3 sts to | 1 |
| co | cast on | | ribbing should be | | edle and | 0 |
| cont | continue | | (keeps ribbing looking | | ront of work. | 00 |
| dec | decrease(ing) (by | | neat on buttonholes) | | rn 3 times | 000 |
| | working two stitches | rnd(s) | round(s) (on a circular | | hese 3 sts, | _ |
| est | together) established | RS | needle/DPNs) right side | | reful not to o tight and | |
| DK | double knitting | RT | right twist | | ip with yarnat back of | - |
| DPNs | double-pointed | skpo | slip 1 stitch, knit 1 stitch, | | p the 3 sts to right needle | - |
| e 11.4 | needles | | pass slipped stitch over | without I | knitting them | - |
| foll/s | following/follows | | (1 stitch decreased) | WS | wrong side | |
| g st | garter stitch (knit every row) | sk2po | slip 1 stitch, knit 2 stitches together, pass | wyib wyif | with yarn at back with yarn in front | |
| inc | increase (usually knit | | slipped stitch over (2 | ybk | yarn to the back | |
| | into same stitch twice) | | stitches decreased) | yfwd | yarn forward | HOO |
| K/k | knit | sl | slip | yo | yarn over | |
| kfb | knit into front and back | sl st | slip stitch | yrn | yarn round needle | UK |
| kwise | of stitch knitwise; by knitting the | sm ssk | stitch marker slip 2 stitches one at a | yon * | yarn over needle work instructions | 14 |
| RWISC | stitch | 33K | time, knit 2 slipped | | immediately | 13 |
| k2tog | knit the next two | | stitches together | | following *, then repeat | |
| | stitches together | | (1 stitch decreased) | | as directed | 12 |
| k(1)tbl | knit (1) into back loop | sssk | slip 3 sts one at a time, | | | 11 |
| | left hand left twist | | knit 3 slipped stitches together (two | | | 10 |
| meas | measure(s) | | stitches decreased) | | | 9 |
| M1 | make one by knitting | | | | | 8 |
| | into back of loop | | | | | |
| | between two sts | YARN | WEIGHT UK/US CONVE | RSION | | 7 |
| M1L | (increase 1 stitch) make one twisted to the | | | | | 6 |
| | left (increase 1 stitch) | | 4ply | | Sport | 5 |
| M1R | make one twisted to the | | Double knitting | | Light worsted | 4 |
| | right (increase 1 stitch) | | | | | 3 |
| M1P | make one purlwise by | | Aran | Fish | herman/Worsted | |
| | purling into back of loop between two sts | | | | | 2 |
| | (increase 1 stitch) | | Chunky | | Bulky | 0 |
| MB | make a bobble | | Super chunky | | Extra bulky | 00 |
| MC | main colour | | | | | 000 |
| | | | | | | |

YARN WEIGHTS CHOOSE THE RIGHT YARNS TO KNIT WITH.

1, 2 & 3ply Knit on 2-31/2mm needles. Use for delicate lace knitting and baby garments. Good for socks and gloves.

4ply Knit on 3-4mm needles. Great for baby clothes, heavier socks and lightweight tops.

Double knitting (DK) Knit on 31/2-41/2mm needles. Usually double the weight of 4ply, this is the most widely used weight. Suitable for most garments and quick to knit up.

NEEDLE SIZES

| UK | METRIC | US |
|-----|--------|-------|
| 14 | 2mm | 0 |
| 13 | 2¼mm | 1 |
| - | 21⁄2mm | - |
| 12 | 2¾mm | 2 |
| 11 | 3mm | - |
| 10 | 3¼mm | 3 |
| - | 3½mm | 4 |
| 9 | 3¾mm | 5 |
| 8 | 4mm | 6 |
| 7 | 4½mm | 7 |
| 6 | 5mm | 8 |
| 5 | 5½mm | 9 |
| 4 | 6mm | 10 |
| 3 | 6½mm | 101/2 |
| 2 | 7mm | - |
| 1 | 7½mm | - |
| 0 | 8mm | 11 |
| 00 | 9mm | 13 |
| 000 | 10mm | 15 |
| - | 12mm | 17 |
| - | 15mm | 19 |
| - | 20mm | 36 |
| - | 25mm | 50 |
| | | |

OK SIZES

| UK | METRIC | US US |
|-----|--------|-------|
| 14 | 2mm | B/1 |
| 13 | 2.25mm | - |
| 12 | 2.5mm | C/2 |
| 11 | 3mm | - |
| 10 | 3.25mm | D/3 |
| 9 | 3.5mm | E/4 |
| 8 | 4mm | G/6 |
| 7 | 4.5mm | 7 |
| 6 | 5mm | H/8 |
| 5 | 5.5mm | 1/9 |
| 4 | 6mm | J/10 |
| 3 | 6.5mm | K/10½ |
| 2 | 7mm | - |
| 0 | 8mm | - |
| 00 | 9mm | - |
| 000 | 10mm | - |

Aran Knit on 4-51/2mm needles. Originally created for fishermen's jumpers. Use when DK isn't heavy enough, and chunky is too bulky. Perfect for outdoor or warm clothing.

Chunky Knit on 5½-7mm needles. Associated with outdoor wear and winter jumpers, great for oversized garments.

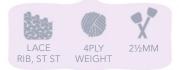
Super chunky Knit on 7-12mm needles. A great weight for beginners, as it produces quick results. Good for furnishings.

Big Knit on 9-20mm needles. Perfect for eye-catching scarves and coats, as well as cosy cushions and throws.

HIGHARCHES Soft and subtle, **Rhian Drinkwater's** socks will be a lovely treat for your feet.

LADies[,] DAinty LACE SOCKS

This YARn is SELF-STRIPING, SO YOU CAN CONCENTRATE ON THE LACE PATTERN For this kind of pattern, it is really worth investing in a pair of sock blockers. These shaped lasts are essential for lace knitting projects – and also handy for projects that aren't lace – when blocking and drying your knitting to make it look the way it's supposed to.



YOU WILL NEED

- Drops, Fabel Long Print (75% wool, 25% polyamide 50g/205m) 2 balls of Rose Mist (623)
- A 2½mm circular needle, 80cm long (for magic loop method) or a set of 2½mm DPNs

For yarn stockists contact Wool Warehouse 01926 882818 www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

TENSION

Yarn used knits as 4ply to this tension: 36 sts and 46 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 2½mm needles

SIZE

To fit foot circumference 21-23cm Length adjustable

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 92



ho ever said socks can't be elegant? Not us! This delicate pair will be the perfect addition to any outfit, whether peeping out under jeans or paired with a chic skirt. They'll be a joy to knit too. With a simple eight row pattern that will be quick to memorise, your needles will soon be clicking away merrily. Bliss.

Ser and a series of the series

LACE PATTERN

Multiple of 8 sts. **Round 1** *K1, ssk, K1, yo, K1, yo, K1, k2tog; repeat from * to end. **Round 3** *K1, ssk, yo, K3, yo, k2tog; repeat from * to end. **Round 5** *K1, yo, K1, k2tog, K1, ssk, K1, yo; repeat from * to end. **Round 7** *K2, yo, k2tog, K1, ssk, yo, K1; repeat from * to end.

K TOE

Cast on 20 sts (10 sts on each needle) using Judy's Magic Cast On – see page 95 for instructions. Knit 1 round using the magic loop method (or transferring all sts evenly to DPNs, if you prefer) ensuring you knit into the back loops of the second 10 sts to re-orient them. **Round 2** *K1, M1R, K8, M1L, K1; repeat from * once more. **Round 3** Knit. **Round 4** *K1, M1R, K10, M1L, K1; repeat from * once more. **Round 5** Knit.

Continue in this manner (adding four sts every other round) until there are 64 sts total; 32 on the top of the foot and 32 on the sole.

FOOT

Work four repeats of the lace pattern across top of foot, then knit straight across all 32 sts on bottom of foot. Continue in this way until sock is 5cm shorter than desired foot length, finishing on a knit round (2, 4, 6 or 8).

HEEL

Row 1 Work lace pattern for 32 sts, K31, wrap and turn.
Row 2 P30, wrap and turn.
Row 3 Knit to 1 st before wrapped st, wrap and turn.
Row 4 Purl to 1 st before wrapped st, wrap and turn.
Repeat rows 3 & 4 until there are 12 sts remaining between the wrapped sts (10 wrapped sts on each side).
Next row Knit to first wrapped st, knit

wrap together with st, wrap and turn. **Next row** Purl to first wrapped st, purl wrap together with st, wrap and turn. **Next row** Knit to first wrapped st, knit two wraps together with st, wrap and turn.

Next row Purl to first wrapped st, purl two wraps together with st, wrap and turn.

Repeat last two rows until you come to the last st on a knit row. Knit the two wraps together with the st, then continue in the round, continuing the pattern on the top of foot from where you left off, and beginning to work the same round of the pattern on the back of the leg, working the lace pattern eight times in total all the way around the sock.

When you come to the wrapped st on the other side, pick up 1 st before it, then knit the wrap together with the st.

LEG

Continue to work the lace pattern around the whole sock. When you come back around to the picked up st, knit it together with the st after it to bring the st count back to 64. Cont in patt until the leg measures approximately 12cm from the top of the heel, finishing with round 8 of the pattern.

CUFF

Next round K1tbl, P1; repeat to end of round. Repeat this round 11 times more (12 rounds rib in total). Cast off loosely.

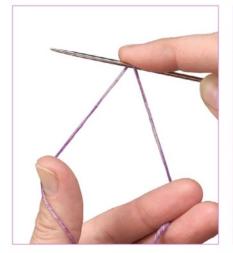
NEXT MONTH Try your hand at knitting socks flat, with

our lovely textured pair. Issue 120, May is on sale from Friday 25 April.

CAST ON MASTERCLASS

STEP-BY-STEP JUDY'S MAGIC CAST ON

A very popular method for starting toe-up socks.



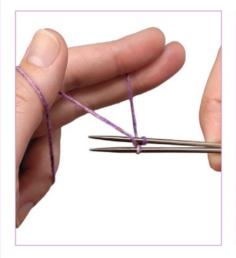
1 Hold needle flat with end pointing left. Loop yarn around needle with tail at front and working yarn at back. With your LH, pick up yarn so tail goes over your index finger and working yarn goes over your thumb. This loop counts as the first stitch.



2 Place second needle underneath first needle with tip pointing left. Hold loop in place with a RH finger, bring tip of bottom needle over strand of yarn on your finger.



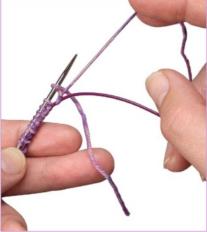
3 Loop yarn around and over bottom needle and down between both needles. Return the needles to starting position. Pull loop snug around needle. You have now cast one st onto the bottom needle.



4 Bring top needle over yarn tail on your thumb. Loop yarn between needles, around and over top needle, and back behind. Return needles to starting position. Pull loop snug around needle.

You have cast one st onto the top needle. There are now two sts on top needle – the st you just cast on, plus first loop. Rep Step 3 to cast a second stitch onto bottom needle. Rep Step 4 to cast a third stitch onto top needle.

Rep Steps 3 and 4 until you have the desired number of sts. You should have the same number of sts on each needle.



5 Round 1, first side. Drop yarn tail. Turn needles so that tips point right, and purl bump side is up. You will knit from needle closest to you. Pull needle furthest away from you to the right until sts lie on the cable. Pick up working yarn.

Be sure that yarn tail lies between working yarn and needle. Hold tail in your LH for the first st or two to keep it stable.



6 Knit row of sts from the needle closest to you. You will see a row of sts appear between the two needles.

Round 1, second side. Turn needles so that the tips point right, and purl bump side is up. Pull needle furthest from you to the right so that the sts you just knitted lie along the cable. Push needle closest to you left so the stitches are on the needle ready to knit.

Knit sts from needle closest to you. You have completed one round. There are two rows of stitches between needles.

JUST FOR FUN

Get a cuppa and enjoy a brainstretcher and a giggle with the Knitall family. Can you find the word that's missing from the list?



WORDSEARCH

All of these weather words can be found in the grid – but there's one that's not listed. Have a go at finding which it is and in the next issue we'll tell you what it was. There's no prize – just satisfaction!

BLIZZARD / CLOUD CYCLONE / FLOOD FOG / GALE / HAIL HOT / HUMID ICE / LIGHTNING OVERCAST / RAIN SLEET / SMOG SNOW / STORM / SUN THUNDER / TORNADO TYPHOON / WINDY

Last issue's word: CHOCOLATE











See more of Malcolm's great art work on his website www.malcolm-bird.co.uk



Next mon

Ladies' stripy jumper Men's cricket sweater Kids' room accessories Feline Flapper toys Father's Day gifts And more...

cute short sleeves in A trendy cropped length, this beautiful 100% silk cardigan has it All!

PLUS Extra patterns for you!

In next month's special event issue, you'll get 3 fantastic bonus pattern booklets!

MAY ISSUE ON SALE FRIDAY 25 APRIL

SPECIAL PATTERNS

for you.





On the hook

THOMAS JAENISCH

From skiing in Japan to co-founding myboshi.

Best colour combinations Bright colours – lime, violet, magenta – with grey so that you have a highlight.

> If I can, I like to get out in nature and go skiing or trekking.



Best crochet aspiration To get young people back to real life, doing something with their hands, to show them it's fun and it's easy.

Best crochet snack We travel so much that we like to eat local food. Pasta in Italy, burgers in the USA, chips in the UK!



BEST CROCHET TEACHER In Germany, where I'm from, every child is taught to crochet a pot holder at primary school, but I didn't crochet again until 2009. I was in Japan for skiing, and some Spanish girls there crocheted every night. When they first asked if we wanted to learn, we said no: "Crochet is not for men!" But we were there for five weeks, so eventually we learned. After the third treble we were hooked!

BEST MOVIE I like a movie that has an unexpected ending, something like *Fight Club* or *The Butterfly Effect*.

BEST CROCHET STORY Last year we set up the World Crochet Championship to see who could crochet a ball of myboshi the fastest. This year we had 100 people from around the world taking part and the world record was beaten – just six minutes and 40 seconds to crochet a ball!

BEST WORST SKILL Knitting! Although I am trying to learn, on a very basic level at the moment.

BEST INSPIRATION Things from all over the world inspire us. We use a lot of old books and patterns for different stitches and to improve our crochet.

BEST CROCHET COMPANION It's cool to crochet with everyone – you can use it to talk to people, to learn things from them and share part of yourself with them.

BEST BEGINNERS ADVICE Crochet is not the easiest thing to learn, and the beginning is the hardest. There are lots of stitches to learn, lots of counting – it's tricky. But do not give up in the first half hour. Keep going, and you will love it.

BEST MOTTO Everything bright and funky!

BEST PLACE TO CROCHET I like to crochet on the train. On a long journey you can look out of the window and carry on crocheting and by the end of it, you have a beanie. And on a really long journey you can have one for someone else too!

BEST ACTOR TO PLAY YOU IN A FILM According to my girlfriend there should be a film of our lives! We watched *The Social Network*, and she said if there could be a film about Mark Zuckerberg there should be a film about us. If there was, I should be played by Jack Black, he looks like me.

BEST BOOK The myboshi book, of course!

For more information and to buy the myboshi books and yarn wisit www.myboshi.co.uk. You can even design your own beanie on the website, using the configurator.



Best place to live It would have to be a ski region, with snow six months of the year and little wooden houses. That would be perfect.



Best crochet tip You don't always need a pattern. If you add a stitch here or miss a stitch there, it's all fine. Crochet is a lifestyle and you can freestyle it.

> Best temptation A Moscow Mule. It's easy to make, with a taste you don't expect and after you drink it you say "That's fabulous", just like myboshi!

www.bergeredefrance.co.uk for your nearest retailer

For trade enquiries, please contact: service.export@bergeredefrance.com

For consumer enquiries, please contact: helloobergeredefrance.com

Pattern taken from our spring/summer Magazine#172

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MISSED AN ISSUE?

Catch up on what you've missed by downloading a recent issue



lssue 118 April 2014

Alpaca jumper * Long cardi * Shawl * Kitchen Collection * Socks * Rib hat * Baby's fox onesie * Collar * Bag * Side table set * Tea towel edges * Egg cosies * PLUS! Easter eggs pattern and Alan Dart gnome pattern





lssue 117 March 2014

Cable jumper ***** Fun fur sweater ***** Boy's waistcoat ***** Man's Fair Isle jumper ***** Storage baskets ***** Phone case ***** Wavy rib socks ***** Cable hat ***** Denim Collection ***** Lacy mittens ***** Tea set ***** Alan Dart's Mother Goose *** PLUS!** Sewing set pattern



lssue 116 February 2014

Angora shrug * Cable waistcoat * Faux fur coat * Child's jumper * Hanging hearts * Tablet case * Tangerine Collection * Lacy socks * Alan Dart's Romeo & Juliet * Trio of heart accessories * Scarf * Capelet set booklet



lssue 115 January 2014

Shimmering Fair Isle jumper * Zip up cabled jacket * Stripy slippers * Sweet girl's dress * Alan Dart's Pantomice part 2 * Oversized jumper * Men's ribbed hat * Colourwork mittens * Felted needle roll * Scarf and cushion



lssue 114 December 2013

Cropped angora cardigan * Cosy lace cowl * Men's scarf and mitts * Cable and lace roll neck * Alan Dart's Pantomice * Vintage Fair Isle cardigan * Baby wrap and bear * Striped socks * Chevron hat * Striped tea cosy * 6 Christmas decorations

TURN FOR MORE BACK ISSUES



Issue 113 November 2013

Bright cape * Long cabled cardigan * Fair Isle jumper * Alan Dart's Snowdrop Baby * Lace striped scarf * Cushion and bag * Lace socks * Child's reversible mittens * Miniature Christmas trees * 6 Christmas gifts * Fun shopper bag



lssue 109 Summer 2013

* Vest * Short sleeved top * Cover-up * Man's waistcoat * Alan Dart's Outback Ossie * Child's sweater * Cable socks * Beach bag * Cushion * Cactus pin cushions * 6 hair accessories * Retro phone case * PLUS! Baby knits book



lssue 112 October 2013

Cable jumper * Kid's pixie hat * Child's horse motif jumper * Boyfriend cardigan * Man's cardi * Alan Dart's Unicorn & Troll * Child's socks * Pumpkin tea cosy * 6 Halloween gifts * Fun simple bag * PLUS! A to Z of Christmas book



lssue 108 July 2013

Colourblock sweater
Self-striping cardi
Baby hat, mitts and bootee set
Crocheted collar
Alan Dart's Triton
Fair Isle tank top
Cable and lace socks
House-shaped keyrings
Quick & Easy garden gifts
Lacy mug hugs



lssue 111 September 2013

Slouchy lace sweater * Wristwarmers * Cabled tank top * Child's school sweater * Alan Dart's Horrid Hulk * Snuggly alpaca cardi * Versatile smock * 6 Quick & Easy school gifts * Tea cosy and lampshade * Fair Isle socks *



lssue 107 June 2013

Striped nautical sweater
Summer top * Baby
cardi * Alan Dart's
Heatwave Hippo * Man's
jumper * Felted satchel *
6 Quick & Easy Father's
Day gifts * Kitchen
cushions * Sunglasses
case * PLUS! Shawl
pattern booklet



lssue 110 August 2013

* Chevron top * Three crochet brooches * Tunic top * Chunky cardi * Hat and tea cosy * Alan Dart's Pinocchio * Little girl's dress * Summer socks * Peg bag * Lacy cowl * 6 Quick & Easy beach accessories * Three bangles



lssue 106 Spring 2013

* Short-sleeved cardigan * Cable bag * Lace cardigan * Baby dungarees * Alan Dart's Kitty's Knit Klub * Modern lacy top * Bed socks * Cupcake pincushion * Fair Isle e-reader cover * 6 Quick & Easy wedding gifts

THE VERY BEST OF THIS SEASON'S STYLE

Simply thing

Light & Lacy Sparkle in style with this gorgeous cardi.

Kriftting

YOU WILL NEED

- Rico, Essentials
 Cotton Lurex 4ply
 (97% cotton, 3%
 polyester; 170m/50g)
- A 3¼mm circular needle
- A 3½mm circular needle
- A pair of 3¼mm needles
- A pair of 3½mm needles
- Stitch holder
- Fastenings of your choice

For yarn stockists, contact Rico Designs www.rico-design.de/en

TENSION

28 sts and 32 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over patt using 3½mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS

K1b knit into the back loop of stitch P1b purl into the back loop of stitch k4tog tbl knit 4 sts together through the back loops k4tog knit 4 sts together For a full list see page 92 of *Simply Knitting* Design by Amanda Jones. Presented with issue 119 of *Simply Knitting*.

IMPORTANT NOTE

When working shaping in pattern, make sure that you always work each decrease with a matching increase, to keep the stitch count correct. For example, in every 18 st pattern repeat there are 6 sts increased and 6 sts decreased. If you don't have enough sts left to work an equal number of each, then work the remaining sts in st st.

KCARDIGAN

Cast on 237 (255: 273: 291: 309: 327: 345: 363) sts using 3¼mm circular needle. The pattern is worked flat, back and forth across all sts, which will form the back and fronts of the cardigan. Start working in patt as folls: **Rows 1**, **5 & 9** (RS) K1, *P1, k1b, P1, k4tog tbl, yo, (K1, yo) 5 times, k4tog, P1, K1b; rep from * to last 2 sts, P1, K1.

Rows 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 & 12 P1, *K1, P1b, K1, P13, K1, p1b; rep from * to last 2 sts, K1, P1.

Rows 3, 7 & 11 K1, *P1, k1b, P1, K13, P1, K1b; rep from * to last 2 sts, P1, K1. Rows 13, 17 & 21 K1, *(K1, yo) 3 times, k4tog, (P1, k1b) twice, P1, k4tog tbl, yo, (K1, yo) 2 times; rep from * to last 2 sts, K2. WS rows 14, 16, 18, 20, 22

& 24 P1, *P7, (K1, P1b) twice, K1, P6; rep from * to last 2 sts, P2. **Rows 15, 19 & 23** K1, *K7, (P1, K1b) twice, P1, K6; rep from * to last 2 sts, K2. These 24 rows form the patt. Cont working until you have

completed one full patt rep.

Change to 3½mm circular needle and cont until the work measures 34 (33: 33: 32: 32: 31: 30)cm from beg ending on a WS row.

SHAPE ARMHOLES AND DIVIDE FOR FRONT AND BACK

Keeping patt correct throughout, work across 55 (58: 63: 67: 72: 75: 80: 84) sts, cast off 10 (12: 12: 12: 12: 14: 14: 14) sts, patt across 107 (115: 123: 133: 141: 149: 157: 167) sts, cast off 10 (12: 12: 12: 12: 14: 14: 14) sts, patt to end.

LEFT FRONT ARMHOLE SHAPING Cont on these 55 (58: 63: 67: 72: 75: 80: 84) sts, leaving rem sts on circular needle. **Cast off** 0 (0: 0: 2: 2: 4: 4: 4) at the beg of next RS row. [55 (58: 63: 65: 70: 71: 76: 80) sts]

Cast off 0 (0: 0: 1: 2: 3: 4: 4) at beg of foll RS row. Work one WS row straight. Dec 1 st at armhole edge on the next 6 (7: 7: 8: 8: 8: 10: 11) rows.

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LACE CARDIGAN

[49 (51: 56: 56: 60: 60: 62: 65) sts] Dec 1 st at the armhole edge of the next 1 (2: 2: 2: 3: 3: 3: 5) foll alt rows. [48 (49: 54: 54: 57: 57: 59: 60) sts]

FRONT NECK SHAPING

Cast off 15 sts for neck, patt to end of row. [33 (34: 39: 39: 42: 42: 44: 45) sts] *Dec 1 st at the end of next RS row, cast off 2 sts at beg of foll WS row; rep from * once more. [27 (28: 33: 33: 36: 36: 38: 39) sts] Dec 1 st at neck edge on every foll row until 18 (18: 20: 20: 22: 22: 22: 24) sts rem, then dec on next 3 foll alt rows to 15 (15: 17: 17: 19: 19: 21) sts. Cont without shaping until

the armhole measures 18 (19: 20: 21: 22: 23: 24: 25)cm from beg, ending on a WS row. Break yarn and leave these sts on a holder to cast off with the back later.

BACK

With WS facing rejoin yarn to back section. [107 (115: 123: 133: 141: 149: 157: 167) sts] Cont in patt to end of row.

ARMHOLE SHAPING Cast off 0 (0: 0: 2: 2: 4: 4: 4) sts at each end of next 2 rows. [107 (115: 123: 129: 137: 141: 149: 159) sts] Cast off 0 (0: 0: 1: 2: 3: 4: 4) at each end of foll 2 rows. [107 (115: 123: 127: 133: 135: 141: 151) sts]



Choose from clasps, buttons or ribbon fastenings.

Dec 1 st at each end of the next 6 (7: 7: 8: 8: 8: 10: 11) rows. [95 (101: 109: 111: 117: 119: 121: 129) sts] Dec 1 st each end of the next 1 (2: 2: 2: 3: 3: 3: 5) foll alt rows. [93 (97: 105: 107: 111: 113: 115: 119) sts] Cont without shaping until the armhole measures 4 rows less than the front shoulder.

| SIZE | | 8 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 16 | 18 | 20 | 22 |
|------------------|----|-------|-----------|------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------|
| TO FIT | cm | 81 | 86 | 91 | 97 | 102 | 107 | 112 | 117 |
| BUST | in | 32 | 34 | 36 | 38 | 40 | 42 | 44 | 46 |
| ACTUAL BUST | cm | 841⁄2 | 91 | 98 | 104 | 110 | 117 | 123 | 130 |
| | in | 33 | 36 | 38 | 41 | 431⁄2 | 46 | 48½ | 51 |
| | cm | 52 | 52 | 53 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 55 | 55 |
| LENGTH | in | 201⁄2 | 201⁄2 | 20¾ | 20¾ | 21¼ | 211⁄2 | 211⁄2 | 211⁄2 |
| SLEEVE LENGTH | cm | 44 | 44 | 44 | 44 | 44 | 44 | 44 | 44 |
| | in | 171⁄4 | 171⁄4 | 171⁄4 | 171⁄4 | 171⁄4 | 171⁄4 | 17¼ | 171⁄4 |
| YARN | | | Rico, Ess | sentials C | otton Lu | irex 4ply | / 170m/5 | 50g balls | |
| Emerald (1 | 0) | 10 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 14 | 15 |

To make this pattern easier to follow, we've colour-coded the sizing instructions – simply follow the relevant column.

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Kriftting

BACK NECK SHAPING Keeping patt correct work across 18 (18: 20: 20: 22: 22: 22: 24) sts, turn, leave rem sts on a spare needle and work each side separately. Dec 1 st at neck edge on the next 3 rows. [15 (15: 17: 17: 19: 19: 19: 21) sts] Break yarn and leave sts on a holder. With RS facing cast off centre 57 (61: 65: 67: 67: 69: 71: 71) sts, patt to end of row then complete to match first side.

900

RIGHT FRONT With WS facing re-join yarn to rem 55 (58: 63: 67: 72: 75: 80: 84) sts. Work armhole shaping as for the left front, working cast offs and decreases on WS rows instead of RS rows

FRONT NECK SHAPING

Cast off 15 sts for neck and work to end. [33 (34: 39: 39: 42: 42: 45: 45) sts] *Dec 1 st at the end of next WS row, then cast off 2 sts at the beg of foll RS row; rep from * once more. [27 (28: 33: 33: 36: 36: 38: 39) sts]

Dec 1 st at the neck edge of every foll row until 18 (18: 20: 20: 22: 22: 22: 24) sts rem then on next 3 foll alt rows to 15 (15: 17: 17: 19: 19: 19: 21) sts. Complete to match Left

front.

SHOULDERS

With RS of front facing RS of back, using three-needle cast off method, cast off 15 (15: 17: 17: 19: 19: 19: 21) sts from front and back shoulders together.

SLEEVES

Cast on 57 sts using 3¼mm needles. Work in patt as written for main body for one full patt rep. Change to 3½mm needles.

Cont working in patt, AT THE SAME TIME inc 1 st at each end of the next and every foll 5th (4th: 4th: 4th: 3rd: 3rd: 3rd: 3rd) row, working the new sts into the patt until there are 91 (95: 99: 105: 113: 117: 121: 127) sts.

Cont without shaping until the work measures 44cm from beg ending on a WS row.

SHAPE SLEEVE HEAD.

Keeping patt correct throughout, cast off 5 (6: 6: 6: 6: 7: 7: 7) sts at beg of next 2 rows. [81 (83: 87: 93: 101: 103: 107: 113) sts] **Cast off** 0 (0: 0: 2: 2: 4: 4: 4) sts at beg of foll 2 rows. **Cast off** 0 (0: 0: 1: 2: 3: 4: 4) sts at beg of next 2 rows. Dec 1 st at each end of the next 12 (12: 11: 12: 14: 12: 12: 13) rows, each end of the next 0 (0: 0: 0: 0: 0: 0: 2: 2) foll 0 (0: 0: 0: 0: 0: 3rd: 3rd) rows then on every foll alt row until there are 43 (43: 41: 43: 47: 43: 43: 45) sts. Dec 1 st at each end of the next 12 (12: 11: 12: 14: 12: 12: 13) rows. [19 sts] **Cast off**.

NECKBAND

Using 3¼mm circular needle, starting at the top of the left front neck, pick up and knit 55 (56: 59: 60: 62: 65: 66: 67) sts evenly to the shoulder seam, pick up and knit 4 sts down the side back neck then pick up and knit 57 (61: 65: 67: 67: 69: 71:71) sts across the back neck, pick up and knit 4 sts to the shoulder seam then pick up and knit 55 (56: 59: 60: 62: 65: 66: 67) sts evenly down to the end of the right front neck. [175 (181: 191: 195: 199: 207: 211: 213) sts] Row 1 (WS) P1, K1, *P1b, K1; rep from * to end, P1. **Row 2** K1, P1, *K1b, P1; rep from * to end, K1. Rep these 2 rows until you have worked 7 rows. Cast off in rib.

TO MAKE UP

Sew your fastenings onto each side of neckband. Gently block to measurements.