



Deck the halls



Finished size: Baubles roughly 6cm diameter

Needles: 3mm DPNs or straight needles if knitting flat

Notions: Tapestry needle for weaving in ends

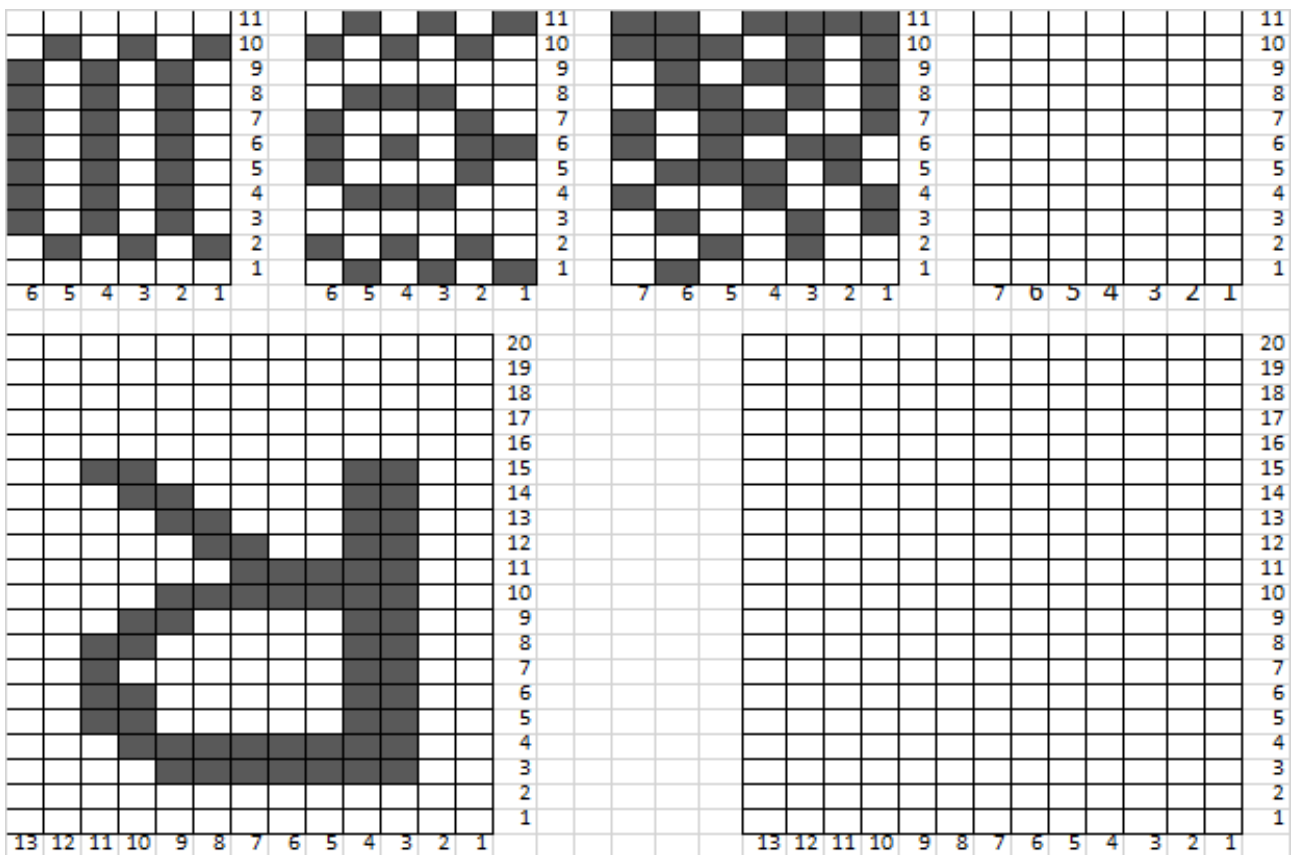
Stitch marker

Stuffing

Yarn: Oddments of 4ply yarn. Samples made with JC Rennie Miniballs (10g/50m each).
Each decoration uses no more than 25m of main colour.

Tension: 28 sts to 10cm on 3mm needles - as long as you get a tight fabric that the stuffing won't show through then other gauges will just result in a slightly smaller/larger decoration.

Shown in Winter White, Tudor, Forest, Smalt, Carnation, Cumin



Plain Stocking

In the round: With 3mm DPNs and contrast colour, cast on 26 sts. Knit 6 rows
 Join in the round and switch to main colour (break off contrast leaving a tail for seaming and loop). Work in stocking stitch (knit every round) for 22 rounds or about 2 ¼ inches/6cm.
 Next round: Knit to last 5 sts of round, change to contrast colour but don't break off the main colour.
 In contrast, K10, turn
 Slip 1, K7, w&t
 K6, w&t
 K4, w&t
 K2, w&t
 K3, w&t
 K5, w&t
 K7, w&t
 K9, w&t
 K10, w&t change to main colour and break off contrast.
 Knit every round (stocking stitch) for 12 rounds

or 1 inch/2.5cm

Change to contrast colour (break off main colour), K1 round
 Next round: Purl
 Next round: K4, SSK, K1, K2tog, K8, SSK, K1, K2tog, K4
 Next round: Purl
 Next round: K3, SSK, K1, K2tog, K6, SSK, K1, K2tog, K3
 Next round: Purl
 Next round: K2tog around (9 sts remaining)
 Break off yarn, thread through remaining stitches and draw up. Seam the garter stitch cuff at the top and make a loop with the seaming yarn to hang the stocking from.

Colourwork Versions

Don't break off the contrast colour after the cuff. Work the chosen 13 stitch chart in the straight leg section. Charts are worked from the bottom up, and from right to left. There is a blank grid to design your own chart if wished.

Baubles

On one DPN with main colour cast on 4 stitches.

Do not join into the round

1:Kfb, K2, Kfb (6st) Join into the round with 2 sts on each of 3 needles.

2 (and all even rounds):Knit

3: Kfb x6 (12st)

5: [K1, Kfb] x6 (18 sts)

7: [K2, Kfb] x6 (24 sts)

9: [K3, Kfb] x6 (30 sts)

11: [K4, Kfb] x6 (36 sts)

13: [K5, Kfb] x6 (42 sts)

Knit straight for 11 rounds - insert a stripe of contrast here or a 6 or 7 stitch colourwork chart.

There is also a blank grid so you can design your own.

25:[K5, K2tog] x6 (36sts)

27:[K4, K2tog] x6 (30sts)

29:[K3, K2tog] x6 (24sts) Lightly stuff the bauble at this point

31:[K2, K2tog] x6 (18sts)

33:[K1, K2tog] x6 (12sts)

35: K2tog x6 (6sts)

After round 35 break the yarn (leaving a tail long enough to make a loop), thread through the remaining stitches and tighten the opening carefully. I like to thread the yarn through the remaining stitches twice round. If using the JC Rennie 4ply yarn then be careful pulling the stitches tight as the yarn can break quite easily. Make a loop with the tail to hang the bauble from. Weave ends into the bauble.

Snowman

Work as for the plain bauble until round 34. This is after the body has been stuffed and you have 12 stitches remaining.

35:[K1, Kfb] x6 (18 sts)

37:[K2, Kfb] x6 (24 sts)

39:[K3, Kfb] x6 (30 sts)

Knit 5 rounds

45: [K3, K2tog] x6 (24 sts)

47: [K2, K2tog] x6 (18 sts)

49: [K1, K2tog] x6 (12 sts)

51: K2tog x6 (6 sts)

Break yarn, thread through remaining sts and pull up as with the bauble.

Scarf: In a contrast colour cast on 40 sts (onto one DPN or straight 3mm needles) and knit 8 rows, cast off. If you want a fringe you can add this on or you can leave an inch length at the start and end of each row and knot this together. Stitch on the scarf and embroider eyes, buttons and a mouth with black yarn or sew on black seed beads.

Santa hat:

Cast on 36 sts in white

6 rows garter stitch, change to red, join in the round and continue in st st

Knit 4 rows

[K4, K2tog] x 6 (30 sts)

Knit 4 rows

[K3, K2tog] x 6 (24 sts)

Knit 4 rows

[K2, K2tog] x 6 (18 sts)

Knit 4 rows

[K1, K2tog] x 6 (12 sts)

Knit 4 rows

K2tog x 6 (6 sts)

Switch to white,

Kfb x6 (12 sts)

K 3 rounds

K2tog x 6 (6 sts)

Break off yarn, thread through remaining stitches and pull up gently. Make a loop and sew in ends. Seam white garter stitch band if this was done knitted flat, sew in ends.

Abbreviations

DPN - double pointed needles

Sts – stitches

K – knit

w&t - wrap and turn - slip the next unworked stitch from left needle to right needle, bring the working yarn around this stitch then slip it back to the left hand needle. Turn the work and continue knitting back the way you came.

SSK - slip stitch, slip stitch, knit these two together off right hand needle.

K2tog – knit two stitches together

Kfb - Knit into the front and back of one stitch - increase 1

Finishing

Miniball yarn still has some of the natural lanolin in it (direct from the sheep, hence the sheepy smell) and also some spinning oils that are helpful when machine knitting. It can be knit directly from the balls and then the finished item washed twice with detergent. To do this soak the item in hot water with some washing up liquid or wool wash for 10-20 mins, then rinse out (this first rinse removes the oils) then repeat the process to achieve a softer handle. There is no need to dry the item between rinses. Avoid too much agitation or extreme changes in water temperature as this will cause the wool to start felting. After the second rinse just roll it in a towel and squeeze out the excess, then allow to dry.



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