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Opening Extract from...

Hello Knitting!

Simple Knits to Have You in Stitches

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Hello KNITTING!

= *Easy
Projects
for
Beginners*

Simple knits to have you in stitches

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Introduction

In this book we aim to introduce you to the versatility of the craft of knitting. Whether you are a relative beginner or an experienced crafter looking to broaden your range of skills, you should be able to find a project here that will inspire you to take up your needles and cast on.

The projects include some small-scale, simple pieces that are quick to make, such as the elegant Beaded jewellery (page 38) and the quirky Animal ears (page 32). We then progress to more complex and larger items that require more investment of time and skill to produce, such as the Toddler's sweater (page 73) - a great introduction to garment knitting if you haven't tried this before - and the Textured cushion (page 104), which incorporates a number of different techniques to gorgeous effect.

We have also tried to offer a variety of projects that will fulfil different purposes, whether you want to make some stylish accessories for yourself, knit some booties to keep a special baby's feet warm or make an eye-catching piece of décor for your home.



Tweed Gloves

Accessories can be both fun and practical. Flirty frills accent the cuff of these stylish gloves, while tweedy wool yarn will keep your hands toasty all winter long.

Materials

50g ball of DK (light worsted) wool, alpaca and viscose blend tweed yarn in apple green (A)
25g ball of 4ply (sport-weight) kid mohair and silk blend yarn in lime green (used double) (B)
50g ball of DK (light worsted) cotton yarn in gooseberry green (C)
Pair of 3.25mm (US: 3) needles
Pair of 4mm (US: 6) needles
Tapestry needle

Size

To fit average-size adult woman's hand

Tension (gauge)

22 sts and 30 rows over 10cm (4in) square in st st on 4mm (US: 6) needles.

Right hand

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn B, cast on 173 sts. Change to yarn C.

Row 1 (RS): K1, (k2, lift first of these sts over second and off needle) to end. (87 sts)

Row 2 (WS): P1, (p2tog) to end. (44 sts)
Change to yarn A.

Row 3: (K1, p1) to end.

Rep last row 23 more times, ending with a WS row.

Change to 4mm needles.

Next row: K7, m1, knit to last 7 sts, m1, k7. (46 sts)

Next row: Purl.

Next row: Knit.

Next row: Purl.

*SHAPE THUMB

Next row: K23, m1, k3, m1, knit to end. (48 sts)

Next row: Purl.

Next row: K23, m1, k5, m1, knit to end. (50 sts)





Loulou the Elephant

Share all your secrets with Loulou, a gentle woolly giant, who will never forget them. This sturdy creature is a delight to knit.

Materials

4 x 50g balls of DK (light worsted)
 wool tweed yarn in grey (A)
 Small amount of 4ply (sport-weight)
 cotton yarn in white (B)
 Pair of 3mm (US: 2) needles
 Pair of 4mm (US: 6) needles
 Toy stuffing
 Tapestry needle

Tension (gauge)

22 sts and 30 rows over 10cm (4in)
 square using yarn A in st st on 4mm
 (US: 6) needles.

Note

Use 4mm needles and yarn A for all
 parts of elephant except for the tusks.

Head – side sections (make 2)

Cast on 25 sts. Knit 1 row.
 Cont in st st throughout.
 Inc 1 st at each end of next 2 rows.
 (29 sts)
 Work 11 more rows without shaping.

Next row: Inc 1 st at each end of row.
 (31 sts)

Work 12 more rows without shaping.

Next row: Dec 1 st at each end of row.
 (29 sts)

Work 14 more rows without shaping.
 Rep the dec row 5 more times. (19 sts)
 Cast off.

Head – centre gusset, top

Cast on 7 sts.

Work 7 rows in st st.

Next row: Inc 1 st at each end of row.
 (9 sts)

Rep last 8 rows 7 more times. (23 sts)
 Work 30 more rows without shaping.

Next row: Dec 1 st at each end of row.
 (21 sts)

Work 11 more rows without shaping.
 Rep the dec row 8 more times. (5 sts)
 Cast off.

Head – centre gusset, under trunk

Cast on 7 sts.

Work 11 rows in st st.

Lucky Cat

Known as the *maneki-neko*, this traditional Japanese cat figure is not waving, but in fact beckoning. Pop this cheeky fellow in your window to greet passers-by and beckon in some good luck.

Materials

25g balls of 4ply (sport-weight) viscose and metallized fibre blend yarn:

2 x gold (A)

1 x red (B)

1 x green (C)

1 x black (D)

Set of five 3.25mm (US: 3) double-pointed needles (DPNs)

Pair of 3.25mm (US: 3) straight needles

Toy stuffing

Tapestry needle

Sewing needle

Black cotton thread

Pair of 6mm (¼in) black toy eyes

Gold bead

Size

Base: 9 x 7.5cm (3½ x 3in)

Height from base to tip of ears:

approx. 17cm (6½in)

Circumference at widest point:

approx. 30cm (12in)

Tension (gauge)

Achieving a specific tension is not required for this project as long as a consistent tension is maintained for each section.

Note

The colourwork for the ears and the coin are worked using the Fair Isle method (see page 25). When working longer stretches of a single colour, twist the yarn at the back every four or five stitches to create a float. Try to keep the floats at an even tension or the finished fabric may be puckered.

Head and body

Worked from the top of the head down. Using DPNs and yarn A, cast on 8 sts. Divide the sts evenly over four DPNs and join to work in the round.

Round 1: Knit.

Round 2: Kfb of each st. (16 sts)



Anyone can learn to knit and make a selection of cute and simple projects with this brilliant guide for beginners. So pick up your needles and yarn and give it a go – it really is that easy!



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