



STOCKING
STITCH



DK
WEIGHT



3MM

Alan Dart
exclusive
design!



Mrs. Claus

A festive treat for the whole family by Alan Dart.

MATERIALS

YOU WILL NEED

- Hayfield Bonus Toytime DK
 - 1 x 25g ball of each:
 - Signal Red (977)
 - White (961)
 - Chocolate (947)
 - Hayfield Bonus DK
 - 1 x 100g ball of each:
 - Bottle Green (839)
 - Flesh Tone (963)
 - Walnut (927)
 - Mint (956)
 - Aran (993)
 - Oddments of black and dusky pink DK yarns
 - Sirdar Snuggly Snowflake DK,
 - 1 x 25g ball of Milky (630)
 - A pair of 3mm needles
 - 100g of washable toy stuffing
 - Stiff card
 - A pair of compasses
 - Prym plastic pom-pom maker
 - A red pencil
 - Clear adhesive
 - Long tweezers
- For yarn stockists
Sirdar & Hayfield
01924 231682
sirdar.co.uk

TENSION

Yarn used knits as DK to this tension: 26 sts and 36 rows to measure 4x4in (10x10cm) over stocking stitch using 3mm needles

MEASUREMENTS

2½in (32cm) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

For full list see page 100

You'll probably be up to your ears in shopping, wrapping and cooking over the holiday period. Knit Mrs Christmas to inspire you to be a Christmas domestic goddess yourself, or make her as a table decoration for the family to enjoy.

She's got a Scandinavian pattern on her pinny, and if you love making toys but have never tried your hand at stranded colourwork, this is your chance to get to grips with the technique. "Always bring one colour over the top and the other from the bottom so your yarns won't get tangled. That's all there is to it," advises technical editor Kirstie McLeod.

Note Use 3mm needles throughout and cast on by using the cable (two-needle) method. This is most important when knitting the smaller pieces. Begin all pieces with a K row, unless otherwise stated, and treat purl side of all pieces knitted in Snowflake as right side.

Start knitting here...

SKIRT AND BODY (MAKE 1)

Cast on 13 sts with White for base edge and st st 2 rows.

1st inc row Inc into every st to end. [26 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd inc row (Inc 1, K1) to end. [39 sts]

St st 3 rows.

3rd inc row (K1, inc 1, K1) to end. [52 sts]

Next row Purl.

4th inc row (K1, inc 1, K2) to end. [65 sts]
St st 3 rows.

5th inc row (K2, inc 1, K2) to end. [78 sts]

Next row Purl.

6th inc row (K2, inc 1, K3) to end. [91 sts]

St st 3 rows.

7th inc row (K3, inc 1, K3) to end. [104 sts]

Next row Purl.

Change to Bottle Green for skirt and K 3 rows for hem fold line.

St st 19 rows, beg with a P row.

1st dec row K2, (K1, k2tog, K3) to end. [87 sts]

St st 11 rows.

2nd dec row K2, (K1, k2tog, K2) to end. [70 sts]

St st 7 rows.

3rd dec row K2, (k2tog, K2) to end. [53 sts]

St st 3 rows.

4th dec row K2, (k2tog, K1) to end. [36 sts]

Next row Purl.

Change to Signal Red for jacket bodice and

st st 10 rows.

SHAPE SIDES

1st dec row (K5, SKPO, K5, k2tog, K3)

twice, K2. [32 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd dec row (K5, SKPO, K3, k2tog, K3)

twice, K2. [28 sts]

Next row Purl.

3rd dec row (K5, SKPO, K1, k2tog, K3)

twice, K2. [24 sts]

Next row Purl.

Cast off for shoulder edge.

HEAD (MAKE 1)

Cast on 12 sts with Flesh Tone for neck edge and st st 4 rows.

1st inc row Inc into every st to end. [24 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd inc row K6, (inc 1) twelve times, K6.

[36 sts]

St st 15 rows.



Cut out the formers for the boots carefully so that Mrs Claus can stand up properly.



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

Next row Purl.

2nd dec row (K2tog) to end. [12 sts]

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

NOSE (MAKE 1)

Cast on 6 sts with Flesh Tone for base edge and st st 3 rows.

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

BOOTS (MAKE 2)

Cast on 20 sts with Walnut for base edge and P 1 row.

1st inc row (Inc 1) twice, K6, (inc 1) four times, K6, (inc 1) twice. [28 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd inc row (Inc 1, K1) twice, K6, (inc 1, K1) four times, K6, (inc 1, K1) twice. [36 sts]

Next row Purl.

3rd inc row (K1, inc 1, K1) twice, K7, (inc 1, K2) four times, K5, (inc 1, K2) twice. [44 sts]

P 3 rows for fold line.

SHAPE FRONT OF BOOT

Row 1 K33, yf, sl 1, yb, turn.

Row 2 Sl 1, P22, yb, sl 1, yf, turn.

Row 3 Sl 1, K16, yf, sl 1, yb, turn.

Row 4 Sl 1, P10, yb, sl 1, yf, turn.

Row 5 Sl 1, K to end.

Row 6 P across all sts. [44 sts]

1st dec row K14, (k2tog, SKPO, K2) three times, K12. [38 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd dec row K1, SKPO, K10, (k2tog, SKPO) three times, K10, K2tog, K1. [30 sts]

St st 2 rows.

Cast off for top edge.

SLEEVES AND HANDS (MAKE 2)

Cast on 6 sts with Signal Red for top edge and st st 2 rows.

Inc 1 st at beg of next 6 rows. [12 sts]

Cast on 2 sts at beg of next 2 rows for underarm. [16 sts]

St st 6 rows.

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row. [14 sts]

St st 7 rows.

Change to Flesh Tone for hand and st st 8 rows.

1st dec row (K2, SKPO, k2tog) twice, K2. [10 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd dec row K1, (SKPO, K2tog) twice, K1. [6 sts]

Next row Purl.

Cast off.

THUMBS (MAKE 2)

Cast on 4 sts with Flesh Tone for base edge and st st 3 rows.

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

SLEEVE CUFFS (MAKE 2)

Cast on 16 sts with Snowflake and st st 3 rows.

Cast off.

STEP-BY-STEP YF, SL 1, YB FOR THE BOOTS



1 Bring the yarn to the front of your knitting by bringing in between the needles.



2 Then insert the left-hand needle into the next stitch as if to knit and slip the stitch on to the right-hand needle



3 After working the slipped stitch, take the yarn to the back of the knitting between the needles. This is also known as a wrapped stitch.

Remember to treat the purl side of pieces knitted in Snowflake yarn as the right side.



JACKET PEPLUM (MAKE 1)

Cast on 88 sts with Snowflake for base edge and st st 3 rows.

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

St st 3 rows, beg with a P row.

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

St st 3 rows.

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

Next row Purl.

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

Cast off for waist edge.

JACKET FRONT EDGING (MAKE 1)

Cast on 24 sts with Snowflake and st st 3 rows.



Use very neat back stitches to attach the peplum to the jacket.



If you're not keen on French knots, use beads for the berries instead.

Cast off.

JACKET COLLAR (MAKE 1)

Cast on 28 sts with Snowflake for base edge and st st 2 rows.

Next row K3, (k2tog, K1) to last st, K1. [20 sts]

Cast off for neck edge.

APRON (MAKE 1)

Cast on 33 sts with White for base edge and st st 2 rows.

Work border in Fair Isle, using a ball of yarn for each colour, and stranding yarn not in use loosely across purl side of work.

1st pattern row K 3 White, (K 1 Signal Red, K 1 White) to last 2 sts, K 2 White.

2nd pattern row P 2 White, (P 1 Signal Red, P 1 White) to last st, P 1 White.

St st 2 rows White.

3rd pattern row K 4 White, (K 1 Signal Red, K 3 White) to last st, K 1 White.

4th pattern row P 3 White, (P 1 Signal Red, P 1 White) to last 2 sts, P 2 White.

5th pattern row K 2 White, (K 1 Signal Red, K 3 White) to last 3 sts, K 1 Signal Red, K 2 White.

6th pattern row P 3 White, (P 1 Signal Red, P 1 White) to last 2 sts, P 2 White.

7th pattern row K 4 White, (K 1 Signal Red, K 3 White) to last st, K 1 White.

St st 2 rows White.

8th pattern row P 2 White, (P 1 Signal Red, P 1 White) to last st, P 1 White.

9th pattern row K 3 White, (K 1 Signal Red, K 1 White) to last 2 sts, K 2 White.

Continue in White and st st 5 rows.

1st dec row K1, (K3, k2tog, K3) to end. [29 sts]

St st 9 rows.

2nd dec row K1, (K2, k2tog, K3) to end. [25 sts]

St st 7 rows.

3rd dec row K1, (K2, k2tog, K2) to end. [21 sts]

St st 5 rows.

4th dec row K1, (K1, k2tog, K2) to end. [17 sts]

Next row Purl.

Cast off for waist edge.

HAT (MAKE 1)

Cast on 40 sts with Snowflake for front edge and st st 3 rows.

Change to Bottle Green and st st 12 rows, beg with a K row.

1st inc row K18, inc 1, K1, inc 1, K19. [42 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd inc row K19, inc 1, K1, inc 1, K20. [44 sts]

Next row Purl.

3rd inc row K20, inc 1, K1, inc 1, K21. [46 sts]

Next row Purl.

Cast off for back edge.

HAT HEM EDGING (MAKE 1)

Cast on 25 sts with Snowflake and st st 3 rows.

Cast off.

PLATE (MAKE 2)

Cast on 50 sts with Mint for outside edge and st st 2 rows.

1st dec row (K2, k2tog, K1) to end. [40 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd dec row (K1, k2tog, K1) to end. [30 sts]

Next row Purl.

3rd dec row (K1, k2tog) to end. [20 sts]

Next row Purl.

4th dec row (K2tog) to end. [10 sts]

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

CHRISTMAS PUDDING (MAKE 1)

Cast on 10 sts with Chocolate for base edge and st st 2 rows.

1st inc row Inc into every st to end. [20 sts]



Editor Debora Bradley

"If you've never tried stranded colourwork before, the pattern on the apron is simple enough for a Fair Isle beginner."

Next row Purl.

2nd inc row (Inc 1, K1) to end. [30 sts]

St st 3 rows.

3rd inc row (K1, inc 1, K1) to end. [40 sts]

St st 6 rows.

Work sauce in Fair Isle, using a ball of yarn for each colour, and stranding yarn not in use loosely across purl side of work.

1st pattern row (P 1 Aran, P 6 Chocolate, P 1 Aran) to end.

2nd pattern row (K 2 Aran, K 4 Chocolate, K 2 Aran) to end.

3rd pattern row (P 2 Aran, P 4 Chocolate, P 2 Aran) to end.

4th pattern row (K 3 Aran, K 2 Chocolate, K 3 Aran) to end.

Continue in Aran and P 1 row.

1st dec row (K1, k2tog, K1) to end. [30 sts]

St st 3 rows.

2nd dec row (K1, k2tog) to end. [20 sts]

Next row Purl.

3rd dec row (K2tog) to end. [10 sts]

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

HOLLY LEAVES (MAKE 2)

Cast on 2 sts with Bottle Green for base edge and g st 4 rows.

Next row SKPO, break yarn and draw thought st.

TO MAKE UP

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. Remember to treat purl side of pieces knitted in Snowflake as right side. Join skirt seam from base edge, stopping $\frac{1}{2}$ in (12mm) above hem fold line, then work a gathering thread through every stitch along

base edge, draw up tightly and fasten off.

Use compasses to draw a $5\frac{1}{2}$ in (14cm) diameter circle on to card, then cut this out and glue to wrong side of work inside base, matching edge to knitted fold line.

Continue to join skirt seam, stopping at first knitted row of jacket bodice and stuff skirt firmly, then join remainder of seam and stuff jacket bodice firmly. With this seam running down centre back, fold shoulder edge flat and sew across.

Join side edges of jacket peplum, then fit over jacket bodice and push down to waist. With seam at centre front, sew in place by working backstitch over every stitch along cast-off edge.

Starting at gathered top point, join head seam, stopping 1in (2.5cm) away from neck edge. Stuff head firmly and join remainder of seam, then use tweezers to stuff neck firmly. With seam running down centre back, position and sew neck edge of head to top of body.

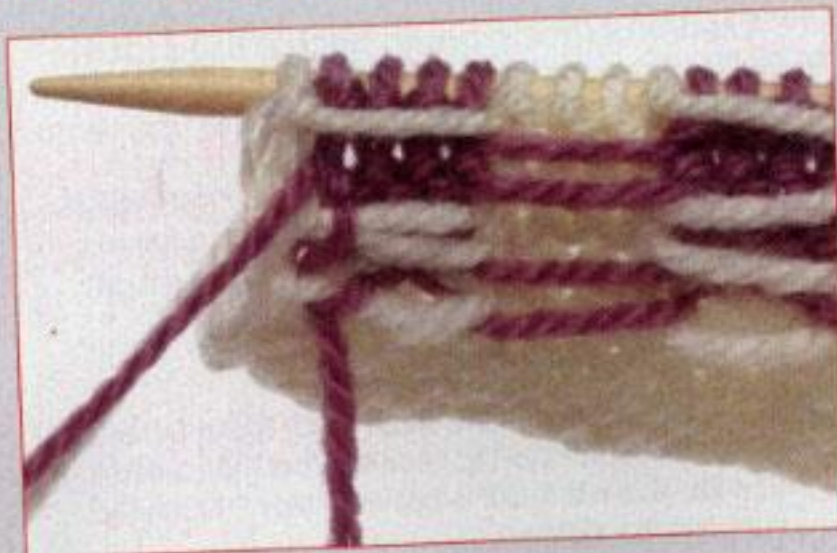
Fold base edge of each boot piece in half and sew across, then join sole seam, starting at

Tip

Use small stitches and matching yarn when sewing the seams of the toy together.



STEP-BY-STEP FAIR ISLE TECHNIQUE



When working a Fair Isle pattern, join the new colour at the beginning of the row. Knit to the colour change, stop working with that yarn, change to the new colour, bringing it over the the yarn not in use.

Tip Don't pull the yarn too tight when working across the row, keep the stitches spread out on the right-needle so you can keep the tension even as you go.

Alan Dart toy

base edge and stopping just above knitted fold line. To make each sole former, draw a 7cm x 4cm rectangle on to card and curve off each corner by drawing round a 1in (2.5cm) diameter coin, then cut out and glue to wrong side of boot sole, matching edge to knitted fold line. Join remainder of seam up to top edge, then stuff boot firmly. Pin boots in position on base of skirt, spacing 2cm apart, then sew in place and remove pins. Join seam on each sleeve and hand piece, sewing from underarm to cast-off edge of hand. With this seam in centre, fold cast-off edge flat and sew across. Leaving hands unstuffed, use tweezers to stuff sleeves, then position and sew sleeve heads to sides of body so arms point forward. Oversew side edges of each sleeve cuff together, then fit over hand and sew in place with a few stitches, covering base edge of sleeve. Starting at gathered top point, oversew side edges of each thumb together, then position and sew to side of hand.

Pin jacket edging down centre front of jacket and peplum, then sew in place. Wrap collar round neck, with edges meeting at centre front, and catch together at this point with a couple of stitches.

Following instructions printed on ball band, press apron lightly on wrong side, then lift up peplum and sew waist edge of apron to skirt, placing 2 knitted rows below waist edge of skirt and working backstitch over every stitch along cast-off edge. Fold back peplum to cover top of apron.

Starting at gathered end, join nose seam and leave unstuffed, then position and sew to face, placing 4 knitted rows above 2nd increase row on head. When embroidering features, tie off ends of yarn at back of head where they will eventually be covered by hat. Mark eye positions with pins, placing 2 knitted rows above top of nose and spacing 4 knitted stitches apart. Take a length of Walnut yarn and draw out a single

strand. Use the remaining 2 strands to embroider a circle of 5 tiny chain stitches for each eye. Also using 2 strands of dusky pink yarn, embroider a curved line of chain stitch for mouth. Using White yarn, without drawing out a strand, embroider a single straight stitch above each eye for

eyebrow, working over 3 knitted stitches. Use pencil to blush cheeks, working in a circular motion to gradually build up colour.

To make hair, first embroider a vertical line of 5 chain stitches in White yarn for parting, starting on first decrease row at top of head. Now

cut fifteen 40cm lengths of White yarn and use a large needle to sew three through each of the chain stitches, adjusting strands to make even on each side. Take strands on one side to back of head and sew together in a bunch at nape of neck. Repeat with strands on opposite side of head, then sew down all strands together in a bunch 2.5cm above this

Tip

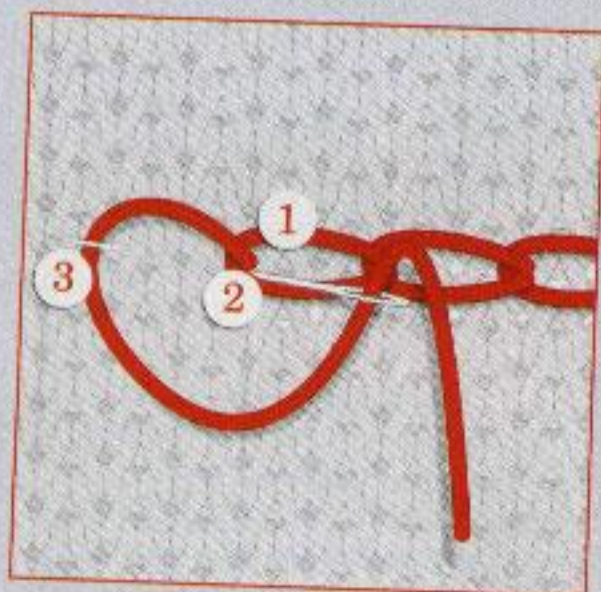
You can practise your embroidery stitches on the tension square using a sharp sewing needle.



point and trim away excess yarn to neaten. Fold cast-off edge of hat in half and sew across to create back seam, then sew hem edging in place. Using the first two centre rings from each half of the pom-pon maker, wind with two layers of Signal Red yarn, then make up as directed on pack, trim to form a 1in (2.5cm) diameter bobble and sew to tip of hat. Fit hat on head and sew in place with a few stitches of Snowflake worked within front edging.

Oversew side edges of each plate piece together to form two circles, then use compasses to draw a 6.5cm diameter circle on to card and cut this out. Placing knitted circles purl sides facing, oversew outside edges together halfway round, then fit card circle inside and oversew remainder of edges together to enclose card. Starting at gathered top point, join seam on pudding, stopping $\frac{1}{2}$ in (12mm) above base edge. Stuff firmly and join remainder of seam, then work a gathering thread through every stitch along base edge, draw up tightly and fasten off. Draw out a single strand from a length of black yarn and use the remaining 2 strands to embroider French knot currants at random over pudding. Darn cast-off yarn remaining at top of each holly leaf down centre to base edge, then use yarn ends to sew leaves to top of pudding. Using Signal Red yarn, embroider three French knot berries between leaves. Sew pudding to plate, following 2nd increase row at base of pudding, then position and sew hands and thumbs securely to each side of plate. ●

STEP-BY-STEP CHAIN STITCH



A series of loops, chain stitch is used for the hair, eyes and mouth of Mrs Claus. Come out of the fabric at 1, where you want to begin, and leaving a loop, go back down again in the same hole at 2. Bring the needle out again at 3, keeping the thread under the needle. Repeat. Make a small stitch over the last loop to secure it.

Tip

When working the chain stitch it may be better to use a sharper sewing needle rather than a darning needle. This will make it easier to sew through the yarn and the stitches

Next issue we've another seasonal knit for you: Alan Dart's snowman. Issue 87, November, on sale 1 November 2011.