

Handmade GIFT IDEAS

CROCHET • PRINTING • SEWING • BAKING • POTTERY • SOAP MAKING & MORE



INSIDE!
QUICK & EASY CREATIONS
NEW CRAFTS TO TRY
BRILLIANT RESULTS



Handmade GIFTING





BRING IDEAS TO LIFE!

There's a simple thrill in saying, "I made this." In a world of instant clicks and fast deliveries, taking time to create something by hand feels wonderfully satisfying. It's not about perfection, it's about bringing an idea to life and adding a little of yourself along the way.

This great read is full of projects to spark your imagination. You might be shaping a cat yarn bowl, baking peach and salted caramel blondies, printing a bold pineapple cushion, pouring scented candles, or trying your hand

at planter making. From knitted blankets to playful homewares, there's something for every mood and craft.

The magic of these makes is in the personal touches, colours, scents, flavours, and little details that make someone smile. The process itself is just as rewarding, full of fun, creativity, and happy accidents. So gather your materials, enjoy the making, and share something special.

The Mollie Makes team x

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In Bloom

Welcome summer by hanging Delia Randall's beautiful felted faux flower wreath in your home to add warmth, colour, and cheerful charm







HOW TO MAKE... FELTED FLOWER WREATH

MATERIALS

- Sheets of felt in various shades of green and whatever colours you want your flowers
- Craft scissors
- Green wire for the floral stems
- Wire cutter or pliers
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks
- Small alligator-style hair clips
- Flexible 12 gauge floral wire
- Green floral tape

We love filling our houses with gorgeous spring flowers, but they do have an annoying habit of wilting on us a little too quickly. So this year, we'll be ringing the changes with a striking felt floral wreath instead. Each flower is clustered together with leaves and white filler blooms, then fixed to a versatile clip, which you can attach to the wreath or use other ways – we're sure little girls will love playing dress-up with them in their hair.

When buying your felt, select a variety of different, yet complementary, green shades for the leaves. Get a dark tone, a mid tone and a slightly lighter one, to add some depth to your piece. Tease the petals and leaves out with your fingers and curl them in various ways to imitate natural flowers.

Making the leaves

- 01 Trim the green wire to the size you'd like your stems.
- 02 Cut your green felt into simple leaf shapes according to the templates on page 44. Each stem will need between four and six leaves, and you'll need around 20 stems for a 20-23cm (8-9in) wreath, plus some extras for filler flowers.
- 03 Place a small dot of hot glue at one end of a leaf, apply it to the tip of the wire stem, and pinch to attach. Glue and pinch the next leaf about 2.5cm (1in) below the top leaf, then pinch another right below it to create a pair. Repeat until you have your desired number of leaves.

Making the wreath

- 04 Cut some 12 gauge wire to the desired length. Form a circle and

twist the ends together, then wrap floral tape all around.

- 05 Moving in a clockwise direction, wrap the wire ends of each stem around the wreath. Twist each one underneath the leafy ends of the previous stem, until you fill the wreath. Take care to stack them close to hide the wires.

Peony flower

- 06 Cut out jagged-edged petals from the templates on page 42. You will need six or seven small, five or six medium, and five or six large petals in total.
- 07 Glue darts into the small and medium petals by cutting a small slit at the base of each petal. Apply glue to one side of the slit and then overlap the sides together, curving it into a bowl shape.



06 Make a 2.5cm (1in) ball of yarn. Secure the loose end with glue and then attach it to a wire stem. Glue small petals around the ball until it's completely encased. Glue medium petals at the base only, then glue and pinch the base of the large petals around the base of the flower, like you did with the leaves.

Peony bud

09 Make another 2.5cm (1in) ball of yarn. Again, secure the loose end with glue and attach to the end of a wire stem.
10 Cut out small leaves, then cut a small slit at one end. Glue the slit into a dart so the leaf curves into a bowl shape.
11 Cup the leaves around the ball of yarn and secure them with glue at the base of the flower bud.

Anemone

12 Create a small pom-pom for the centre. Leaving a 15cm (6in) tail, wrap the yarn around three of your fingers roughly 20-30 times. Cut the yarn, leaving another 15cm (6in) tail, and then wrap both tails around the middle. Pull the mass from your fingers and tie a tight double knot around the middle. Cut the loops to form the pom.

13 Trim the pom-pom, cutting the middle to a flat, wide, low pile and leaving the bottom and the sides long and sparse.

14 Cut rounded felt petals with wavy tips from the templates on page 42. Cut five small petals and four or five large petals. Cut small slits in the base of the petals and glue the slits into darts, making the petals curve into shallow bowls.

15 Glue the petals to the base of the yarn flower centre, starting with the smallest petals first.

16 Cut out three-pronged anemone leaves from the templates on page 42. Cut minor slits and notches into the ends of the leaves to create a bit of detail, then glue the bases to the wire stem.

Poppy

17 Cut a 10 x 1cm (4 x ½in) strip of yellow or green felt and tie a knot in the middle.

18 Cut a small, irregular circle shape out of yellow felt, slightly larger than the knot. Cut shallow fringe slits around the perimeter and a slit in the centre.

19 Fold the knotted strip in half at the knot and thread the ends through the centre slit. »



HOW TO MAKE... FELTED FLOWER WREATH

20 Cut three small, rounded petals and three or four larger petals from the templates on page 42. Cut two small slits at the base of each petal. Overlap each slit flap at the middle and glue in place, creating a double dart and a very pronounced bowl shape.

21 Glue the base of the petals to the base of the felt knot, starting with the smallest first.

Garden rose

22 Cut out the petals according to the templates on page 42. You need one pointed four-leaf clover shape, five small round petals with wavy tips, four to five medium-sized petals and four to five large petals. If you want, cut a second pointed four-leaf clover shape in green for the base of the rose.

23 Cut a small slit in the centre of the pointed four leaf clover. Insert

one end of a wire stem, apply glue, and pinch the petals inward to create a bud.

24 Cut slits and glue darts into the bases of the smaller petals so they curve into bowl shapes.

25 Glue and pinch the bases of each petal around the base of the flower bud, starting with the smallest and working up to the largest. Glue and pinch leaves onto the stem, if you want.

White flower fillers

26 Cut five flower shapes out of felt or white vinyl, then cut small slits in the centres.

27 Slide one onto a wire stem, apply glue to the centre, and pinch it to the wire stem.

28 Repeat with the other white flowers, spacing them about 2.5cm (1in) apart from each other.

Attaching the flowers

29 Cut down the wire stems of the flowers and leaves and curl the sharp ends inward.

30 Arrange all the leaves and flowers in your desired positions, then glue together.

31 Cut out felt rounds about 3.5-5cm (1½-2in) in diameter.

32 Cut a slit in one side of a felt round and slide the top portion of an alligator-style clip through it.

33 Apply hot glue to the top of the felt round and adhere it to the bottom of the cluster.

34 Clip your clusters in place on the wreath however you like. Experiment with the placement.

The flower and leaf clips also make pretty hair accessories for parties or just for playing dress up.



Delia Randall

Delia likes to tell people she has the two best jobs in the world – being a mother-of-three as well as a professional designer-maker. She dabbles in sewing, crochet, photography and many other creative activities, and blogs about it all at www.deliacreates.com

FLORAL FLOURISH

Turn a gorgeous vintage scarf into an interiors feature with Harriet de Winton's upcycled cushion project

MAKE IT
FOR MOTHER'S
DAY





HOW TO MAKE... SILK SCARF CUSHION

MATERIALS

- Silk scarf
- 0.5m (½yard) backing fabric
- Pattern paper
- Square cushion insert
- Tailor's chalk or white wax crayon
- Tape measure
- Ruler
- Iron and ironing board
- Sewing machine

We're always looking for new uses for those gorgeous silk scarves we find in thrift shops and at vintage fairs. This cushion project is a great way to show them off, and would make a unique Mother's Day present. A little birdy also told us that sleeping on silk pillows can help calm frizzy hair and prevent wrinkles, so this little beauty could work just as well on your bed as on your sofa.

If your vintage scarf is looking a bit threadbare then just back it with some plain cotton fabric. Standard square silk scarves

measure 56 x 56cm (22 x 22in) – very conveniently, a common size for a square cushion insert.

- 01 Iron both your scarf and backing fabric. If the silk scarf is very old and thin, you might want to back it with another piece of cotton fabric.
- 02 Using your scarf as a template, draw around it and cut the shape out of pattern paper.
- 03 Fold both the backing fabric and the pattern paper in half and place the paper on top of the fabric with the fold at the same edge. Pin securely in place.

- 04 Measure 10cm (4in) away from the edge of the pattern paper and mark a vertical line with tailor's chalk and ruler. Join up the top and bottom with horizontal lines to meet the top and bottom edge of the pattern paper.
- 05 Cut out this shape.
- 06 Cut the fabric on the fold to make two rectangular shapes.
- 07 Place the fabric wrong side up. Press and fold 1.5cm (5⁄16in) in along one of the shorter edges. Repeat this process to hide any raw edges. Do this for both pieces.



08 Pin and machine sew a running stitch to secure both hems.

09 Unfold your pattern paper and lay flat. Now place both of your rectangles right side (RS) up, on top, overlapping their hemmed edges in the centre. There should be quite an overlap to create the original square shape of the pattern paper. Pin down the join to prevent the shape from shifting.

10 Place scarf RS down onto the backing fabric and pin the edge.

11 Machine sew a running stitch all the way around the edge, leaving yourself a seam allowance of roughly 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in). We used the border pattern on the scarf to help guide us around.

12 Trim any loose threads, corners and excess raw edges. Turn RS out, paying attention to push the corners right out. Press and insert your cushion. Now find a relaxing place to lay your head.



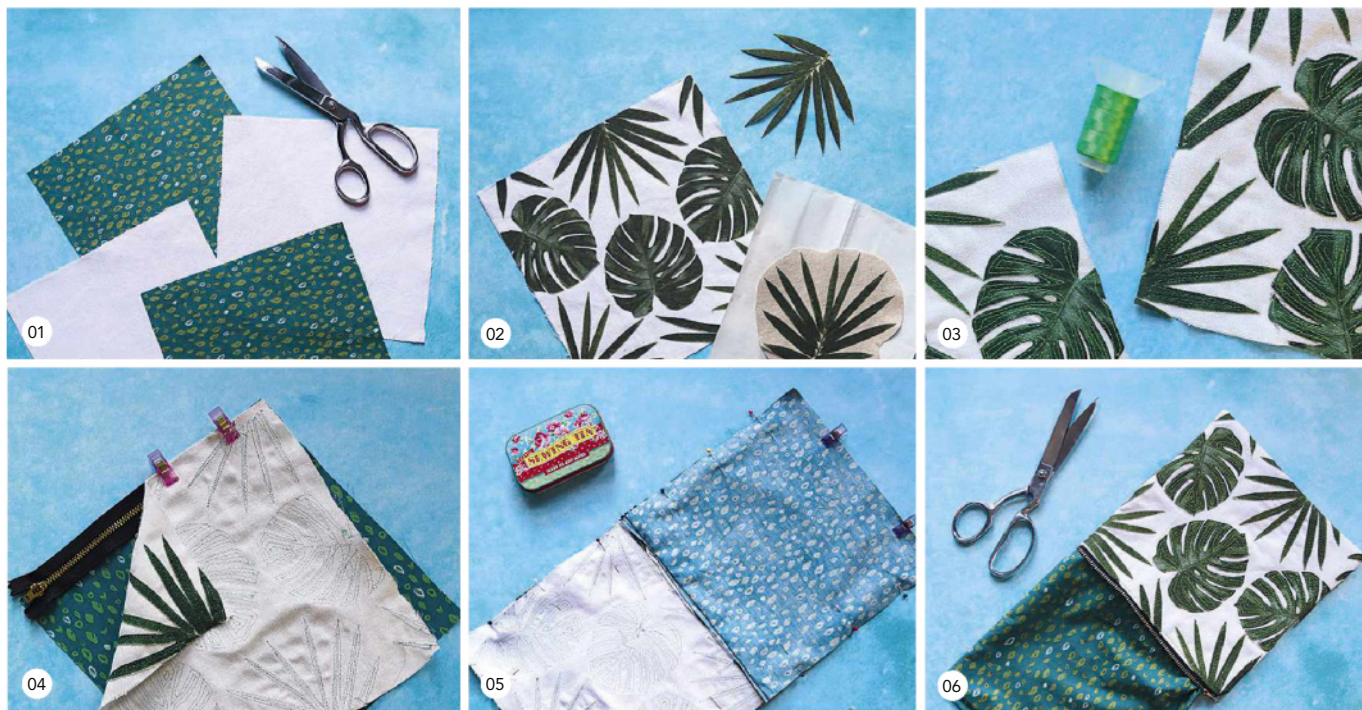
Harriet de Winton

Harriet is a Bristol-based designer, illustrator and stylist. Her blog, Fix Up Look Chic, is full of behind the scenes shoot stories as well as plenty of craft makes and cheats. She dreams of buying a wreck in the countryside and doing it up, one DIY at a time. www.fixuplookchic.blogspot.co.uk

RAINFOREST GALA

Combine free motion machine embroidery with appliqué to create this handy botanical-themed travel pouch





HOW TO MAKE... PROJECT BAG

MATERIALS

- Outer fabric: 40x80cm, white canvas
- Lining fabric: 25x45cm, green print
- Appliqué fabric: green print
- Bondaweb: 25x45cm
- Sewing thread: dark green, light green
- Zip: 20cm
- Basic embroidery kit

NOTES

Find the templates on page 45. Use a 1cm seam allowance unless otherwise stated.
RS = right sides.
WS = wrong sides.
It's best to work with a hoop, especially if you're a beginner. To do this, cut the two outer fabric pieces to 40x40cm and draw a 22x22cm square centrally on the right side of each. Mount the fabric into a hoop and work the appliqué and machine embroidery in the square. Once finished, trim the fabric pieces along the drawn lines.

GET STARTED

Freemotion machine embroidery can be worked on any sewing machine as long as you're able to lower the feed dogs so you can move your fabric around freely. Your manual will tell you if this is possible and whether you need a darning or a freemotion foot. A medium to heavy weight fabric such as curtain

weight fabrics or calico is ideal.

To keep the fabric flat and give an even tension, stretch it taut in an embroidery hoop which will fit under your machine. Practise first on a piece of spare fabric. Mount your fabric into the hoop the other way round to normal. Undo the screw just a little on the outer hoop, then place your base fabric centrally on top of it, right side up. Place the inner hoop on top and push it down so it fits snugly inside. Adjust the screw, then pull the fabric outside the hoop all the way round so your fabric is drum-like. Lift the machine presser foot and ease the hoop underneath it, lower the needle and start stitching. To begin with you'll feel like the machine is running away with you as the feed dogs aren't keeping it in one place. Hold the edges of the hoop and move it around to practise working straight lines, curved lines and swirls. You may need to adjust your tension

and settings until your stitches are just right and neither too tight nor too loose.

01 Cut the outer fabric into two pieces measuring 22x22cm each for the pouch outer front and pouch outer back. Repeat with the lining fabric to make the pouch lining front and back and put these to one side.

02 Place the Bondaweb, paper side up, on top of the template and trace round as many leaves as you want; there are two different styles. Roughly cut around the edges, leaving a slight border around each one. Press the traced leaves, paper side up, onto the WS of the appliqué fabric and press into place. Cut carefully around the edge of each leaf, then peel off the paper backing. Position the leaves onto the pouch outer front and back. You can place them overlapping the edges for an all-over print effect. Press into place, then trim any overhanging



leaves to match up with the edge of the canvas fabric.

03 Use freemotion embroidery to hold the leaves securely in place and to decorate. Lower the machine feed dogs, then sew inside the edge of each leaf, following the contours of the shapes intuitively as you go. Stitch where you want to, until every leaf has been embellished and worked over with a variety of lines and designs. Use different shades of green to add depth and variety. Remember that machine embroidery isn't supposed to look neat and perfect

04 Lay the lining front RS up with the zip RS up along the top edge, with the teeth positioned centrally. Place the outer front RS down on top matching raw edges with the

zip tape and pin. Using a zip foot, stitch together close to the zip teeth. Repeat this process on the opposite side of the zip tape using the lining back and outer back fabric square. Open all the layers so they are RS out and press. With the outer fabric facing upwards, topstitch along both seams.

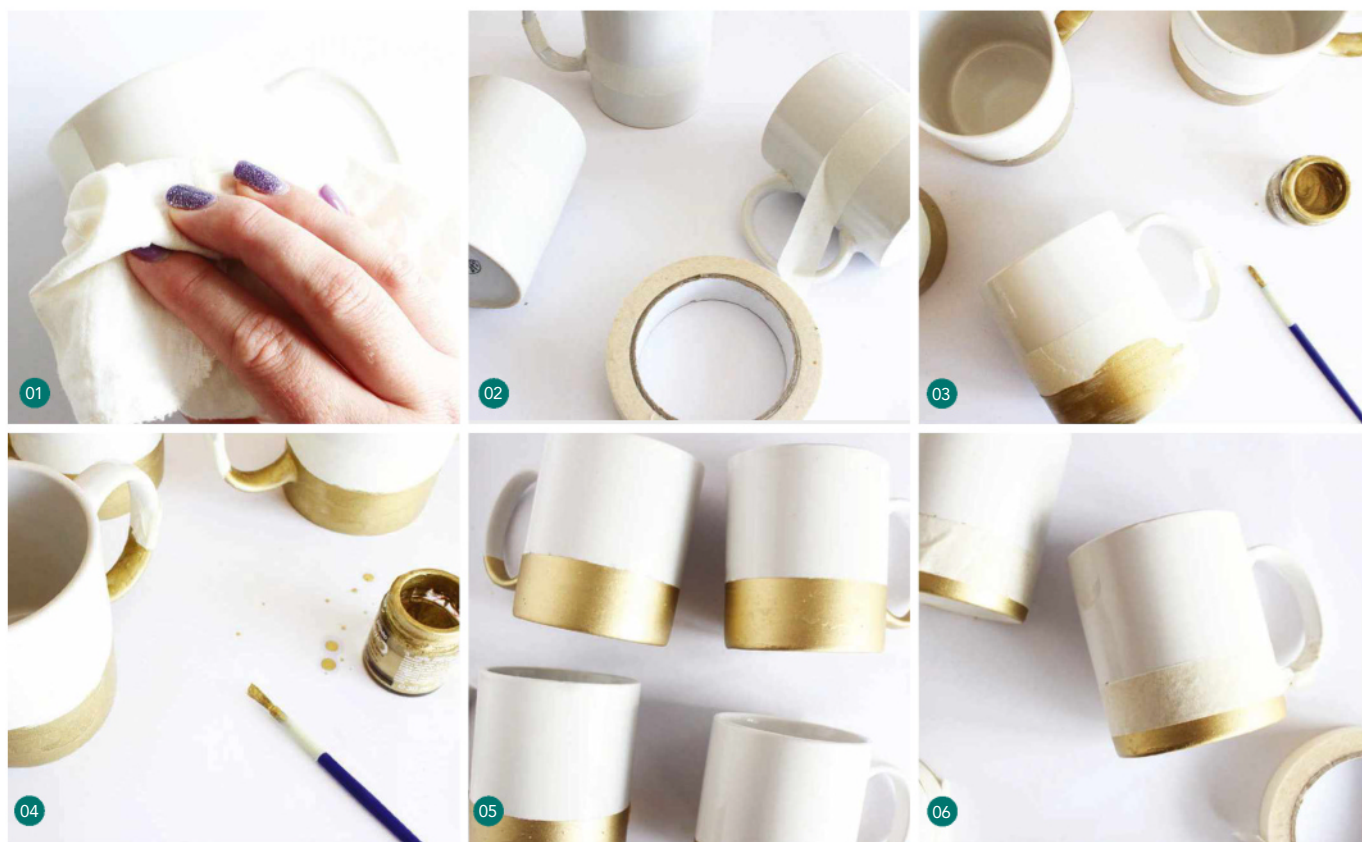
05 Open the zip halfway, then pin the outer fabric pieces RS together and the lining fabric pieces RS together, matching raw edges. The ends of the zip should face the lining fabric. Stitch together all the way around, leaving a 10cm turning gap in the centre of the bottom edge of the lining. When you reach the edges of the zip, stitch close to the teeth taking care not to stitch over them.

06 Clip the corners, then turn RS out, pushing out the corners. Fold the edges of the turning gap to the inside and press, then machine or hand stitch closed. Push the lining inside the bag and press to finish.

SIPPING PRETTY

Emma Jewell's gold-dipped marble mugs
definitely deserve the good biscuits





HOW TO MAKE... MARBLE MUGS

MATERIALS

- Plain white mugs
- Nail varnish
- Gold gilding paint
- Black porcelain pen
- Large bowl
- Cocktail stick
- Nail varnish remover
- Masking tape
- Clear gloss finishing spray

Got a few last-minute gifts still to sort out? Make one of these mugs for each of your besties, marbling with their favourite shades, then wrap them up together with fancy loose leaf tea or hot chocolate.

We're loving the all-out teabreak glamour of that splattered marble effect dipped in gold and reckon these would go down an absolute storm as 'congrats on your new job' mugs, too. And now our ridiculous hoard of nail varnishes is completely justified.

You could go one step further with personalising your mugs by writing a message on the base of each one using the porcelain pen. To preserve your beautiful marbled handiwork, you'll want to keep these mugs out of the microwave and the dishwasher.

01 Prepare the mugs by giving them a thorough wash, then make

sure they're all completely dry before you begin.

02 Mask each mug with masking tape to create a crisp line one third up from the bottom of the mug, as shown. Don't forget to mask the bottom of the handle too.

03 Paint the bottom third of each mug with gold gilding paint.

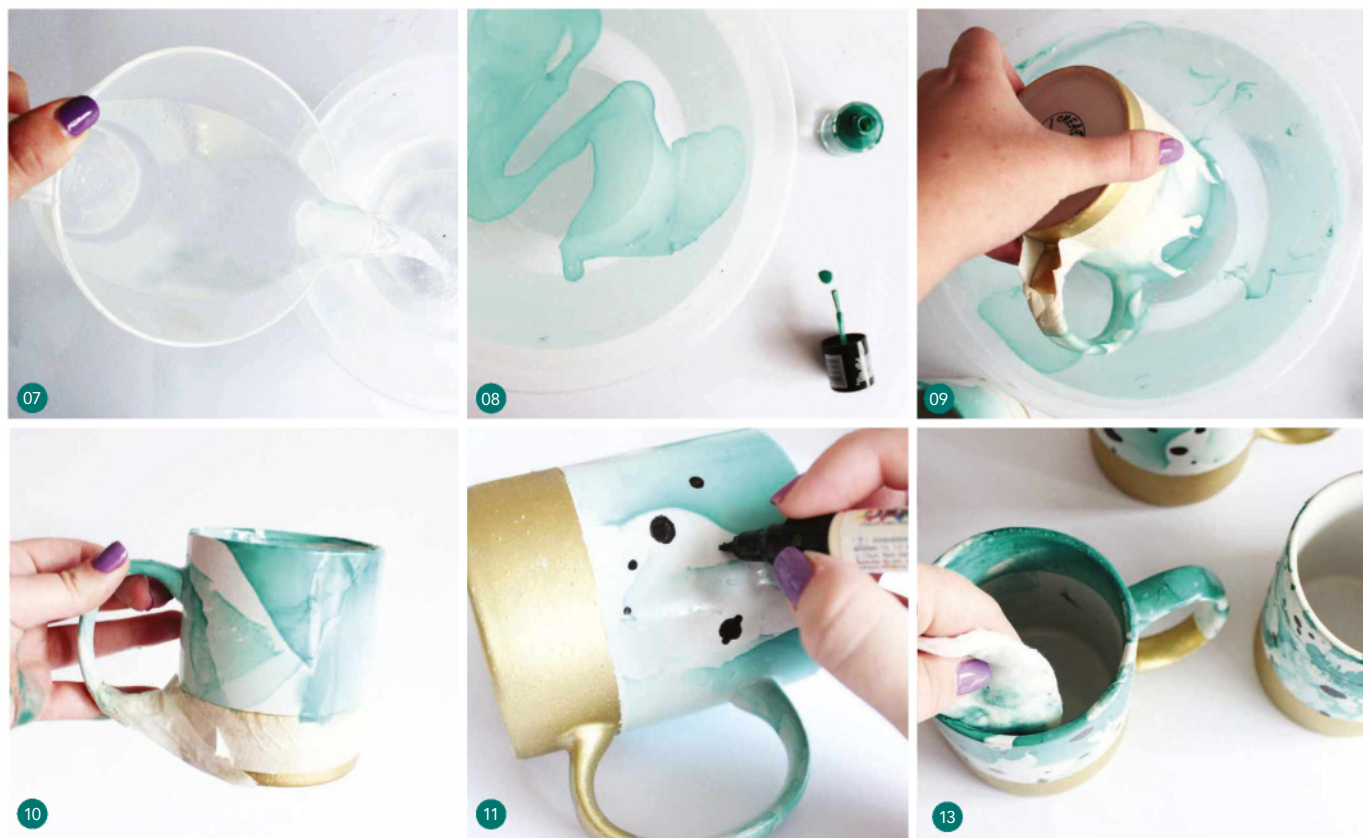
04 Once they're dry, paint a second layer of gold paint ensuring the mug has an even coverage of gold.

05 When the paint is completely dry, remove the masking tape and clean up any lines.

06 Next, to prepare for marbling, stick masking tape all around the top of the gold sections of the mugs, as shown.

07 Fill a mixing bowl with cold water, making sure it's deep enough to submerge the top two thirds of a mug.

08 Carefully drip your chosen nail



varnish onto surface of the water – don't swirl it, just let it spread across the water. Less is more when pouring the nail varnish into the bowl – a little goes a long way, and using less will give a much cleaner finish overall.

09 Hold the first mug upside down by the base and dip it vertically into the water, as shown, then pull it back out ensuring the nail varnish covers the outside of the mug. Dip again if needed.

10 Remove any remaining nail varnish from the surface of the water with a cocktail stick, then drip in the nail varnish again as per Step 8 in between dipping each mug. If you want to add a second colour to the marbling, dip each colour separately and allow the mug to dry between each dip for the best results. Repeat Steps 8-10 for each of the mugs.

11 Leave the mugs to dry. You can use nail varnish remover to remove

any parts of the marbling you want to re-do.

12 Use a black porcelain pen and refer to the image as a guide to draw different-sized dots randomly all over the marbled sections of the mugs, keeping each of the dots irregular so they look like ink splatters.

13 Wipe the inside of each mug with nail varnish remover to remove any remaining nail varnish. The inside should be completely clean.

14 To finish and seal the mugs, follow the manufacturer's instructions to apply the clear gloss finishing spray and leave to dry.



Emma Jewell

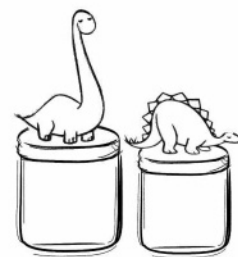
Emma lives for glitter and sequins so it seems completely natural that, aside from creating her own sparkly makes, she also runs subscription box The Glittery Hands Box and monthly craft night The Craft and Cocktail Club. www.emmajewellcrafts.co.uk





JURASSIC JARS

Transform old jars into cool storage containers that friends and family will love to open on their birthday



HOW TO MAKE... JURASSIC JARS

MATERIALS

- Jars of various sizes
- Pack of plastic dinosaurs
- Plasti-Kote Fast Dry Enamel 100ml Aerosol in Buttercup Yellow, Lavender, Sky Blue and Sunshine Yellow
- Rust-oleum surface primer
- Strong glue (Evo Stik)
- Old cardboard box
- Pencil
- Sandpaper

By Claire Watkins

Jars are such a versatile upcycling gift. Not only are they plentiful and low-cost, but with very little effort something plain can look really fantastic. These jars took just a couple of hours to rustle up and their designer-esque look means they'll look great on any shelf – animal-lid jars are so on-trend right now! It's best to spray-paint the lids outside or in a well-ventilated area, and use a box to protect furnishings from overspray. Make sure you leave them to dry completely before selling as the paint is non-toxic when dry.

- 01 Wash the glass jars and lids in warm soapy water and dry thoroughly.
- 02 Position the plastic animal where you want it to sit on the lid, and mark the spot with a pencil.
- 03 Sand the feet of the animal and

apply a small amount of glue. Stick where the pencil marks have been made on the lid and leave to dry, being careful not to move the animal while the glue is still wet.

04 Use an old box to contain any overspray – place the lid inside and spray with a coat of primer. Leave to dry, then repeat to give a second coat.

05 Once the primer is dry, lightly spray the lid in the colour of your choice. Leave to dry, then repeat two or three times until you are happy with the finished effect.

SHINE A LIGHT

Brighten up your homewares with these cool egg cup candles – they're perfect for decorating your party tables all year round





HOW TO MAKE... EGG CUP CANDLES

MATERIALS

- Egg cups
- 500g container candle wax (makes roughly 12 egg cup candles)
- 7.5cm (3in) pre-waxed wire wicks with 15mm clips
- Coloured dye
- Saucepan
- Double boiler insert
- Scales
- Old spoon for stirring wax
- Scissors
- Measuring jug

By Claire Watkins

Candles are always great gifts for loved ones, and these pretty egg cup versions are so easy to make that you can whip them up in an evening.

01 First, you need to work out how much wax you'll need for your candle. To do this, pour water into the egg cup filling it up to the point where you want the wax to sit, then tip the water into a measuring jug. Measure the amount of water in the jug, then extract 10% from this measurement – this is how much wax you will need.

02 Put the wax into the double boiler and place over a saucepan of water. Turn the water down to a low heat so that it starts to steam the wax (never place the wax directly

into a saucepan as it may catch fire).

03 Once the wax has completely melted, then add the dye. A 10p size piece of dye is enough for around 100g (3½oz) of wax. Stir the dye into the wax and add scent at this point if making scented candles.

04 Pour just a small amount of wax into the bottom of the egg cup and pop the pre-waxed wick tab into it. Make sure the tab is central in the bottom of the egg cup and upright. This wax will fix the tab in place. Once the wax is dry (it should take about five minutes), then pull the wick to check it's in place, but don't pull too hard or you'll dislodge it. As we're using pre-waxed wire wicks they should

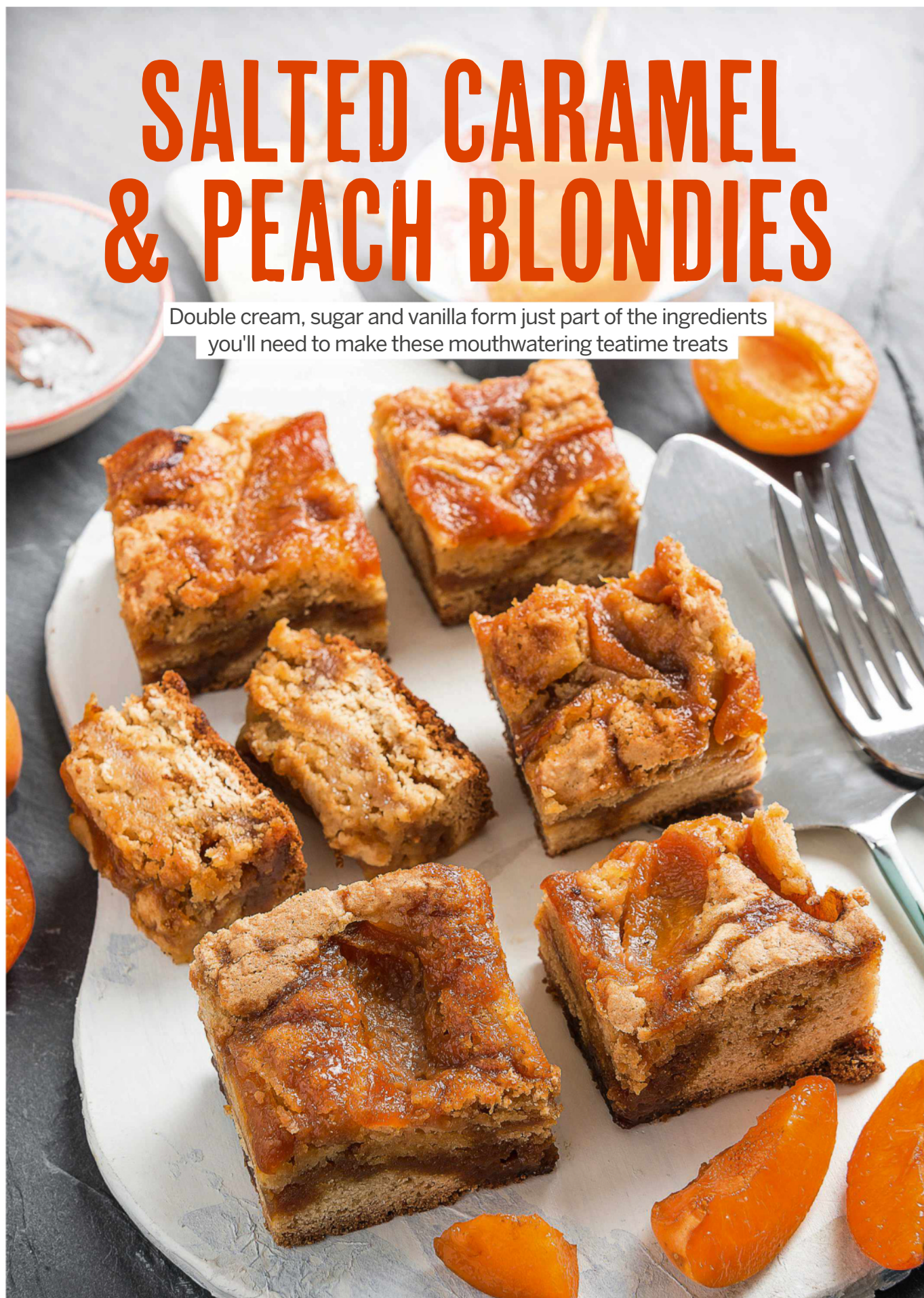
stand straight, so just make sure that the wick isn't bent and that it sits centrally in the circumference of the top of the egg cup.

05 Pour the wax into the egg cup until it is about 1cm (½in) short of the rim. You should have a small amount of wax left – this is so the candle can settle and allows you to make a second pour, as the wax from the first pour will dry into a dip around the wick.

06 Once the wax has set – this should take around two hours or so – then you can make the second pour of the wax, which will give your candle a nice smooth finish. Trim the wick to about 1cm (½in) long, then put the candle to one side for a day so the wax can set completely before lighting.

SALTED CARAMEL & PEACH BLONDIES

Double cream, sugar and vanilla form just part of the ingredients
you'll need to make these mouthwatering teatime treats





HOW TO MAKE... 9 PEACH BLONDIES

INGREDIENTS

For the salted caramel:

- 50g (5½oz) caster sugar
- 125ml double cream
- 10g (½oz) butter
- 1 level tsp salt

For the blondies:

- 1 tin of sliced peaches, drained
- 300g (10½oz) plain flour
- 2 tps baking powder
- Pinch of salt
- 70g (2½oz) unsalted butter, melted (plus extra, for greasing and frying)
- 300g (10½oz) brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla

Special equipment:

- 23 x 23cm (9 x 9in) square cake tin
- Frying pan

With a delicious topping of sliced peaches, these blondies look, at first glance, like a delightful summery treat, yet they have a secret twist of indulgence, thanks to a devilishly good layer of salted caramel. If you've never made them before, the blondie is essentially the brownie's vanilla-rich cousin. The delicious salted caramel centre really enhances the traybake's butterscotch flavours, while the peach slices pack in a little taste of sunshine.

- 01 Drain peaches and pat dry with kitchen paper. Fry gently in a little butter until each side starts to colour. Set aside.
- 02 Preheat the oven to 180°C, 170°C Fan, Gas Mark 4, and then grease and line your cake tin.
- 03 To make the caramel, gently heat the sugar in a large saucepan until melted and brown in colour. Remove from the heat, and stir in the salt and half of the cream – the mixture will bubble ferociously. When the bubbling

dies down, stir in the rest of the cream and the butter. Set aside.

For the blondies

- 01 Sieve the flour, baking powder and salt together into a large bowl.
- 02 In a separate bowl, whisk the sugar, melted butter and vanilla extract together until the mixture is pale and fluffy, then whisk in the eggs.
- 03 Fold the dry ingredients into the wet mix until just combined to form a cookie dough-like consistency. Be careful not to overwork the mixture at this point.
- 04 Press half of the mixture into the bottom of the cake tin. Pour three-quarters of the caramel on top and leave to set for a moment, then carefully spread the rest of the blondie mix on top of this. Lightly press the peach slices into the top of the mixture, and then drizzle over the remaining caramel. Bake for around 40-45 minutes, until an inserted skewer comes out with just a few moist crumbs.

- 05 Leave the blondies to cool in the tin, and then use a sharp knife to cut them into nine evenly-sized squares.

ALLERGY ADVICE

When you are baking homemade treats like our blondies as a gift, make sure you label all products with clear allergy warnings and a list of the ingredients used.

HOUSE PLANT CLUB

Update your home with Terian Tilston's
quick upcycled cane webbing planter



HOW TO MAKE... A CANE WEBBING PLANTER

MATERIALS

- Four picture frames
- Cane webbing
- Wood glue
- Wooden dowel
- Plywood
- Saw
- Sandpaper

Whether you're looking for an excuse to buy a new plant baby, or you just want to make a throne for your one and only, you'll love this modern homeware creation.

Terian's clever planter may look straight out of the 70s, but it's actually made from old photo frames. Give those lying around a new lease of life, or hit up your local charity shop instead.

Before you start, roll out the cane webbing and place something heavy on top for a few hours – this'll help flatten it out. And, to protect the inside of the planter from water damage, line the bottom with an old plastic bag.

01 Take out the glass insert and backing board from each frame.

02 Place the glass insert onto the cane webbing. Draw around the outside of the glass with a pencil, then carefully cut the webbing to size using a pair of scissors.

03 Remove any picture legs from the backing board by slowly wiggling them back and forth – they should just snap off leaving minimal damage.

04 Lay out the frame wrong side (WS) up, then insert the webbing into the frame, pushing it firmly down around the edges. Replace the backing board on top and secure it in place.

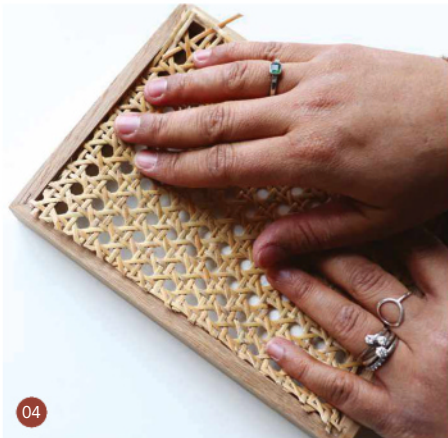
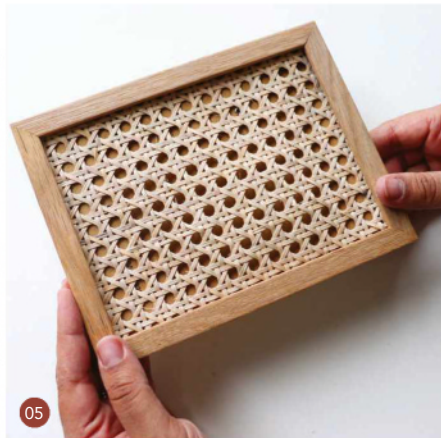
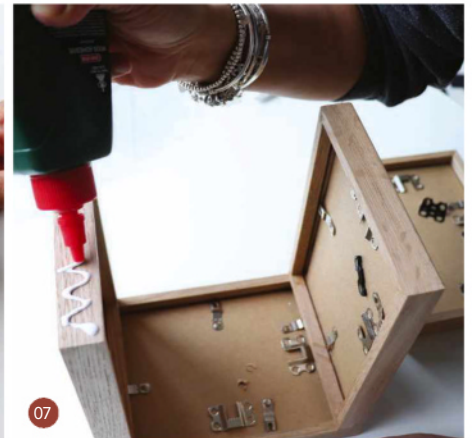
05 Repeat Steps 1-4 three more times with the remaining frames, creating four cane webbing frames. These will be used to create the sides of the planter.

06 To assemble the planter, place one frame right side (RS) down onto a flat surface. Take one of the other frames, apply a generous amount of glue to one of the short edges, then press this onto the short edge of the previous frame. Press down and hold for a few seconds, then wipe away any excess glue with a clean cloth.

07 Repeat Step 6 to glue on the second side of the frame, then glue on the final side in the same way. Leave to dry.

08 Place the box frame on top of the plywood. Draw around the base using a pencil to mark where the wood will need to be cut.

09 Use the saw to carefully cut the plywood to size, then sand down any rough edges.

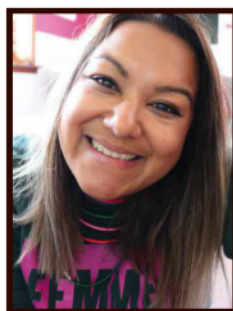


10 Place the planter frame WS up and apply glue around all four edges of the base. Sit the piece of plywood on top, aligning the edges, and press down firmly.

11 To make the planter legs, measure and mark out four sections along the dowel to your preferred length. We created shorter legs roughly 5.5cm (2¼in) long, but you could increase the length to create a taller planter.

12 Cut the legs to size by sawing along the marked lines, then sand down the rough edges, making sure either end of the legs are flat.

13 To finish, apply wood glue to one end of each leg and attach them to the four corners of the planter base. Leave to dry completely before using.



Terian Tilston

Terian is an interior designer and DIY enthusiast living in Fife with her husband and two children. She loves brightening up people's homes, and shares pics on her Insta @terian_tilston_interiordesign. www.teriantilston.com



DOT-TO-DOT

Knit Mariah Rockwell's pom-pom
blanket for baby's playtime or your own
precious lounging hours





HOW TO MAKE... A KNITTED POM-POM BLANKET

MATERIALS

■ Lion Brand
Hometown USA,
100% acrylic,
142g/74m per ball

For blanket

Five balls in
Yarn D Dallas Grey

For pom-poms

One ball each in
Yarn A Sleepy Hollow
Sporit
Yarn B Joliet Iris
Yarn C Oklahoma
City Green

Yarn D Phoenix Azlea

■ 9mm (US 13) circular
knitting needle
approx 100cm long
■ Tapestry needle
■ Medium pom-pom
maker (65mm)
■ Scissors

ABBREVIATIONS

k knit
p purl
WS wrong side
yo yarn over
k2tog knit two together
p2tog purl two
together

MEASUREMENTS

Finished size measures
6 x 81cm (30 x 32in)
approx

TENSION

Approx 9.5sts and
12 rows over
the pattern

More knitting advice on
page 51

Little ones will love to snuggle up with this super-textured, cosy, blanket – and the cool combination of grey and neons means grown-ups won't be averse to throwing it over their laps, too. The addition of the pom-poms creates a fun finishing touch as well as adding an extra dose of colour. The super bulky yarn knits up in no time too, making this blanket great for last-minute baby shower or first birthday gifts. Phew!

Of course you're free to switch up shades as you see fit, but bear in mind that the basketweave pattern will show up better on

Big, bright pom-poms will bring a colourful boost to your home furnishings



Mariah Rockwell
Mariah lives in Midwest City, Oklahoma, with her husband and three children where she works as a photographer, blogger, and creator of gorgeous knitwear for little ones and their mums. She's obsessed with coffee and Instagram.

a solid colour. When fastening the pom-poms, be sure to check that they're tied securely to avoid any safety hazards if gifting to children. If you're a particularly tight knitter, you may find you need to switch to larger needles in order to achieve the textured basketweave pattern.

NOTES

The piece is knitted back and forth on the circular needles.

Using the medium pom-pom maker, make three pom-poms each in Yarns A, B, C and D, so that you have 12 in total.

Pattern

Using Yarn M, cast on 78 sts using the long-tail cast on method.

Row 1 *Yo, k2tog; repeat from * to end of row (78sts)

Row 2 (WS) P1, yo, p2tog, p until last 3 sts, p2tog, yo, p1.

Row 3 K3, *p2, k1; repeat from * until last 3 sts, k3

Row 4 (WS) P1, yo, p2tog, p until last 3 sts, p2tog, yo, p1.

Row 5 K all

Repeat rows 2-5 until you have used four full balls and about three quarters of the fifth ball, and end after Row 3.

Next Row *K2tog, yo; repeat from * until last 2sts, k2tog.

Next Row (WS) cast off purlwise

Finishing

Tie the pom-poms using a reef (or surgeon's) knot in the following colour sequence: A, B, C, D, using the image as a guide. Tie them through the holes made by the yarn overs along each edge. On the longer side of the blanket, place the pom poms at approximately 29cm and 54cm and on the shorter side, tie them at approximately 26cm and 52cm. Trim the end of the pom poms close to the knots.

BLOOMING BEAUTY

Pretty up a corner of your home with
Jane Gois' floral embroidered lampshade



PHOTOGRAPHY: DAVE CAUDERY; STYLING: SARAH MALONE



HOW TO MAKE... A FLORAL LAMPSHADE

MATERIALS

- Floral patterned fabric, 66.5 x 30cm (26¼ x 11⅞") (we used Painted Floral Fabric)
- Lampshade kit, 20cm (or 30cm (ours was from www.dannells.com))
- Embroidery hoop, 18cm (7")
- Embroidery threads (we used DMC Stranded Cotton in E1010 (neon pink), 3846 (turquoise), 444 (yellow), 718 (purple), E3852 (gold), 608 (orange), 3790 (brown) and Blanc (white))
- Embroidery needle
- Double-sided sticky tape
- Fine-toothed comb

Standard homewares, but with a creative textured twist? Sign us up. This project elevates the basic lampshade to a mini work of art, adding freestyle embroidery to fabric and bringing it to life.

Not only will you personalise a print with nifty stitching, you'll also build your very own lampshade from scratch. Follow along with our version using this pretty watercolour cotton, or use up fabric from your own stash. Geometric prints also work well with this idea, and you can match or contrast thread shades depending on the effect you want to go for.

- 01 Place the fabric right side (RS) up, then position the lampshade liner on top – this will give you an idea of the area of fabric you'll need to embroider. You can lightly mark around this with a pencil if you prefer, making sure to leave a wide border so the marks don't show on the finished lampshade.
- 02 Place the fabric in the

embroidery hoop, positioning the working area in the centre, and keeping the fabric taut. Start by embroidering the large pink flowers. Using all six strands of embroidery thread, fill in the centre with brown thread and satin stitch, following the stitch guide on page 47, then work a small ring around the centre with white thread and satin stitch. Fill in the petals using neon pink thread and a combination of long and short stitches, keeping the effect more freestyle than neat and tidy.

- 03 Work your way around the fabric, moving it around the hoop to embroider as many pink flowers as you like within the section of fabric visible on the lampshade.
- 04 Next, add texture to the blue flowers using six strands of turquoise thread and woven wheels, referring to the stitch guide on page 47. Centre the fabric in the hoop and work across the piece as before, making sure not to group the woven wheels too closely together, and to keep them small

– ours were just under 1cm (⅜in). To help, we used three spokes instead of five for each stitch.

- 05 To embroider the light green leaves, work fishbone stitches in a combination of yellow and gold thread. Stitch the top half of the leaves using six strands of yellow thread, then the remaining section using six strands of gold thread. We only embroidered three or four leaves on each stem, but you can embroider each one if you prefer.

- 06 On the purple flowers, add roughly six to eight French knots using three strands of orange thread. For the yellow flowers, add six French knots using three strands of gold thread.

- 07 For the darker green leaves, add four or five straight stitches running from the base of the leaf to the centre to create a vein-like effect. We used six strands of orange thread for some leaf clusters, and six strands of yellow for others.

- 08 Finally, embroider small straight stitches in a fan shape onto the brown flowers using six strands of



gold thread, starting at the base and fanning them out.

09 Next, create pom-poms to sit next to the large pink flowers. Wrap 4m (157½in) of purple thread around two fingers, then tightly tie a 30cm (11½in) length of purple thread around the centre of the bundle, as shown. Remove it from your hand, then cut either end of the bundle. Separate the thread strands with the fine-toothed comb to fluff up the edges, creating a round pom-pom shape.

10 Sew the pom-pom onto the fabric using the ends of the centre strand, then repeat Steps 9-10 to add pom-poms to all the embroidered pink flower areas.

11 Now the decoration is complete, lay out the fabric wrong side (WS) up. Place the self-adhesive lampshade liner over the embroidered section of the fabric, positioning it sticky side down. Slowly start to peel back about 7cm (2¾in) of the liner backing and adhere it to the fabric.

12 Carefully turn the fabric RS up,

keeping the lampshade liner in place. Peel away the backing a small amount at a time, smoothing out the fabric as you go to avoid any creases, and making sure you're happy with the positioning. Continue until the fabric is completely stuck down.

13 With the fabric RS down, trim away any excess along the two long edges and one short edge of the liner, leaving one short edge untrimmed. Measure a 1cm (¾in) seam allowance from the remaining short side and cut. Next, fold both long edges along the score mark on the lampshade liner, then carefully pull the liner away from the fabric.

14 Stick a length of the tape along the short edge of the liner next to the fabric seam allowance. Peel away the backing, then fold the fabric to the WS and stick it to the liner. Place another length of tape over this fabric edge.

15 Take the two lampshade rings and stick a length of tape around the outside of each one. Remove

the tape backing, then carefully place the rings along either long edge of the liner, making sure the base with the bulb fitting is placed at the bottom.

16 Roll the rings towards one end of the fabric, making sure they stick to the liner, and not to the fabric itself. Roll back towards the other end, then once rolled fully, remove the backing from the tape along the short edge and press it down to secure it in place.

17 Cut slits in the excess fabric at the top and bottom of the lampshade in line with the spokes. Starting at the top of the lampshade, roll the excess fabric to the WS, in between the spokes, and over the ring. Repeat along the bottom of the lampshade.

18 Using the finishing tool, carefully push the fabric behind the rings to neaten up the edges. The lampshade is now ready to be fitted to a base.



Jane Gois

Jane is the creative aficionado behind Tea and Crafting, with a mission to pass on making at her Covent Garden workshop venue. Follow her on Insta @teaandcrafting for craft inspo. www.teaandcrafting.co.uk



FEELING FRUITY

Welcome the summer into your home and keep it there all year round with this bold, printed cushion





HOW TO MAKE...PINEAPPLE CUSHION

MATERIALS

- Soft cut printing block 300 x 200 x 3mm (from fredaldous.co.uk)
- Lino cutting tools
- Scissors
- Bench hook
- Ink roller (brayer)
- Speedball fabric block printing ink in yellow
- 1 metre of fabric
- Rotary cutter
- Cutting mat
- Sewing machine
- Thread
- Black marker pen
- Soft pencil

- 01 Copy the pineapple template on page 46 using a black marker pen. On the reverse side draw over the black lines with a soft pencil. Place the design, marker side up, onto the soft cut lino block and draw over the black lines. This is to transfer the design to the block. Go back over any lines that are faint so you can see them when cutting.
- 02 Cut away all the black line areas using the cutting tools. It's best to start with a thin cutter to work around the outline first to create an edge, then cut into the lines on the design. Use a thicker cutter to cut away larger areas on the outside. Take your time as slipping could mean ruining your design.
- 03 Trim around the stamp with scissors leaving 3cm (1¼in) of board to enable you to hold and position it when stamping.
- 04 Cut a piece of fabric 3cm (1¼in)

larger than the cushion pad for the front of your cushion. To find the middle of the cushion, place the stamp onto the centre of the right side of the fabric and mark the top, bottom and sides with tailor's chalk. This will help you position the stamp correctly when you're ready to print.

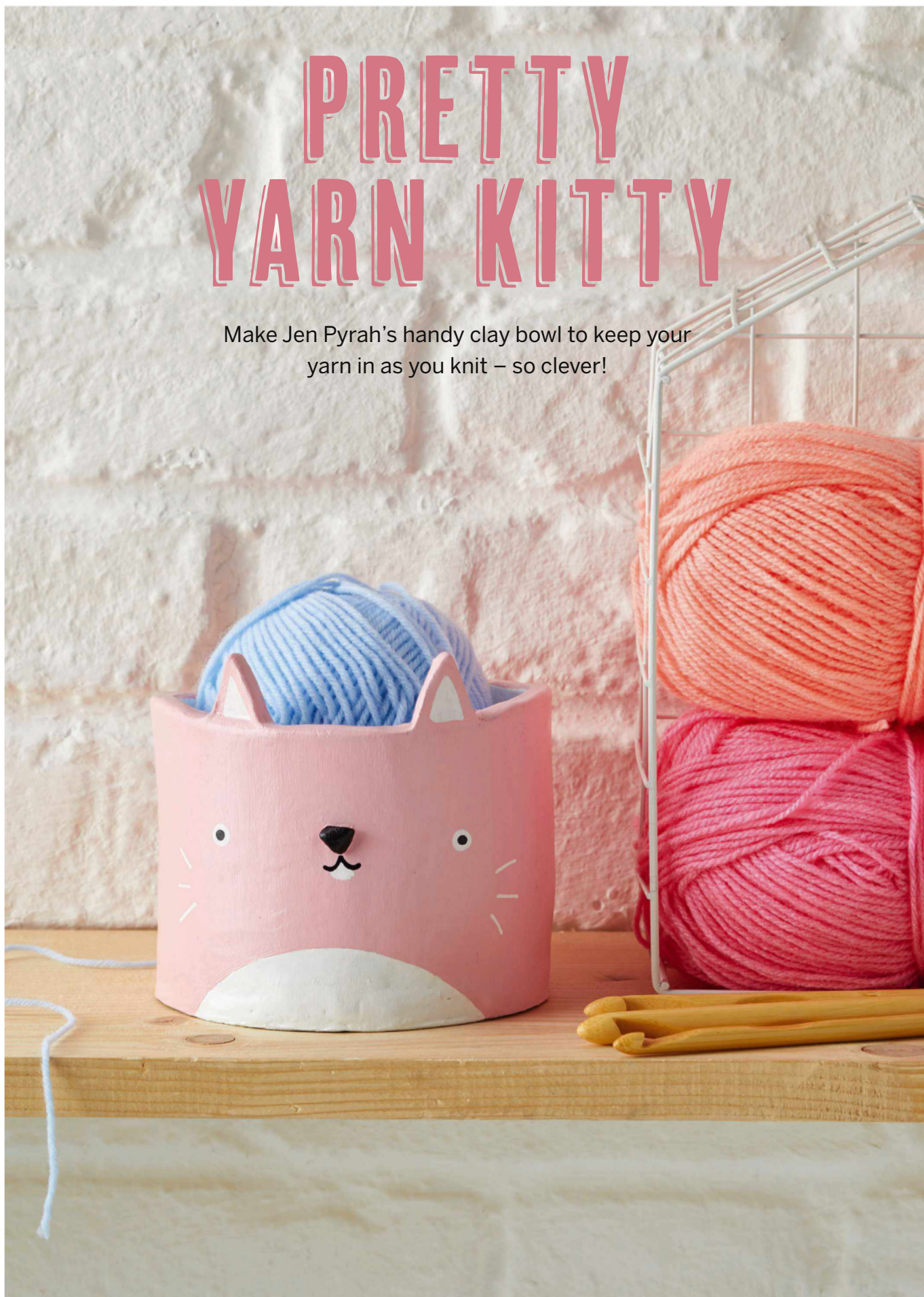
- 05 Cover your workspace in old newspapers and place the bench hook over the table edge. Squeeze out a length of ink about the width of the hook and use a brayer to roll over the ink. You'll need to roll the ink quite a few times until it forms small peaks and the roller is well covered.
- 06 Roll the ink onto the pineapple stamp; you may need to go over this a few times to get a good coverage, but try not to over ink or you'll lose the finer detail. Stamp the image into the centre of the fabric, peel back the stamp and leave the paint to dry. It should be

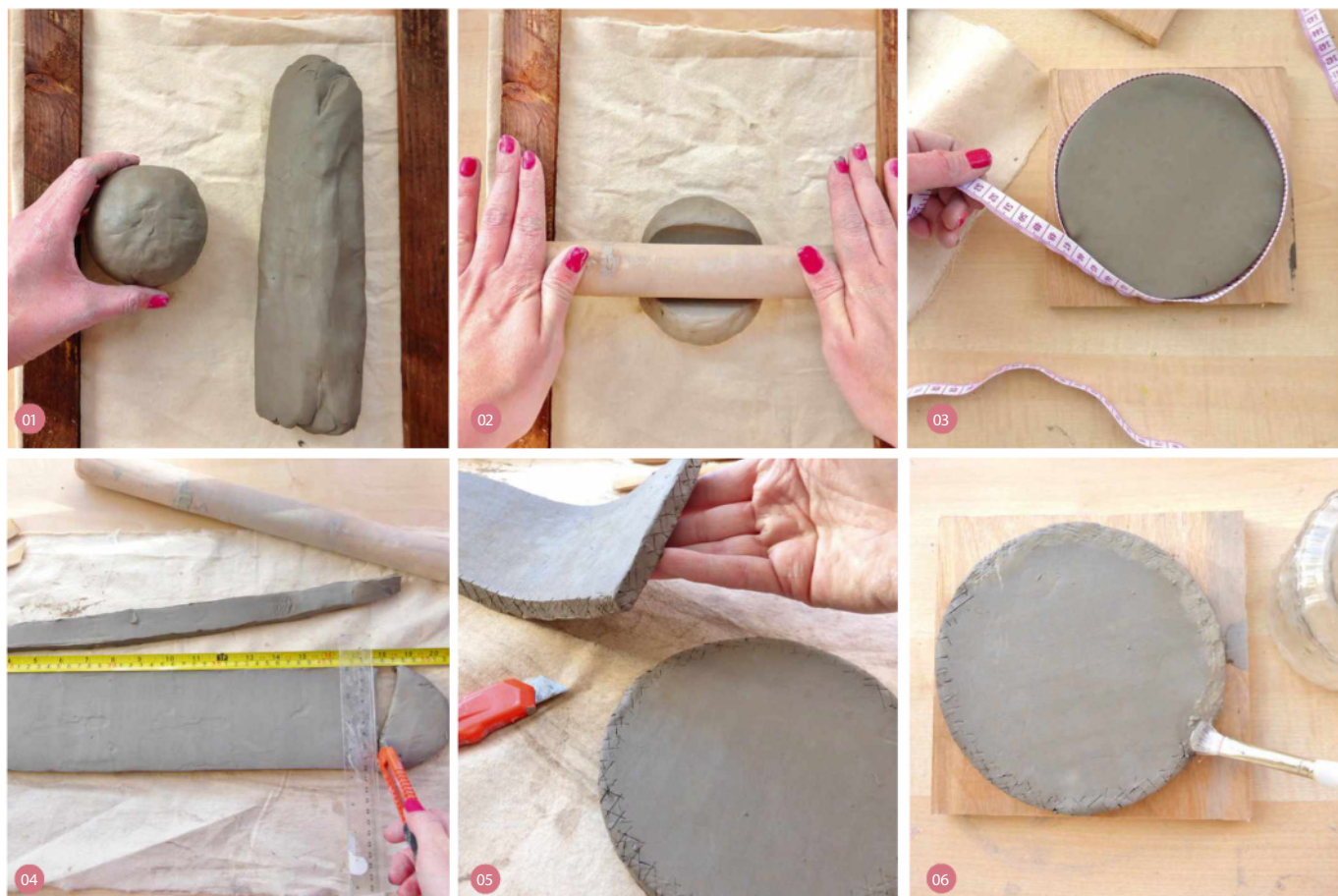
touch dry after 24 hours.

- 07 Cut two pieces of fabric measuring 48 x 29cm (18¾ x 11½in). Fold the long edge over 1.5cm (½in) and sew to make a hem. Fold another 1.5cm (½in) and sew again. This makes an envelope opening edge. Repeat for other long piece of fabric.
- 08 Once the design is fully dry you can sew the cushion together. Place the front of the cushion design side up, then pin the two back envelope pieces onto it right sides down, making sure the 'hole' is horizontal to the design. Sew 3cm (1¼in) in around the edge of the cushion, press out the seams and clip the corners. Turn through, then insert the cushion pad, to finish.

PRETTY YARN KITTY

Make Jen Pyrah's handy clay bowl to keep your
yarn in as you knit – so clever!





HOW TO MAKE... CAT YARN BOWL

MATERIALS

- Air-drying clay
- Craft knife
- Plate approx 14cm (5½in) in diameter
- Tea towel
- Two narrow wooden planks of equal length, approx 1cm (3/8in) wide
- Rubber kidney (or old bank card)
- Bristly paint brush
- Paint brush
- Acrylic paints (in pink, white and black) optional
- Varnish
- Rolling pin
- Plastic bag

Cute pets are pure internet gold. Do you have a four-legged feline that likes 'helping' with your craft projects? What you could really do with is an equally cute but way more practical craft companion. Agreed?

Cue the kitty yarn bowl. Granted, the cuddle factor is somewhat lower, but hook your working yarn through the tail notch on the back and it'll stop your yarn ball from going AWOL.

Made using air-dry clay, it doesn't even require a kiln, so this would make a great project to try with your pals one night. Lay the tea towel out on a flat work surface.

01 Take two lumps of clay and roll one into a fist-sized ball and the other into a cylinder about three times as big. Set the larger piece to one side and cover it with a plastic bag to prevent it from drying out.

02 Place the smaller piece of clay on top of the tea towel, in between the two wooden plank guides. Using the rolling pin, roll out the clay into a large pancake shape. Keep rotating the clay as you roll to make sure it spreads evenly in all directions. Place the plate on top of the clay to use as a template and cut around it with a craft knife.

03 Measure the circumference of the clay circle – this will give you the length of the pot wall. The height of the wall should be tall enough to fit a ball of yarn in comfortably, approximately 10cm (4in). Allow some leeway for shrinkage as the clay dries.

04 Roll the cylinder-shaped piece of clay into a long rectangle the length and height calculated in Step 3. Roll it out larger than you need, then cut it down to size afterwards using a ruler.

05 Using the craft knife, make a cross-hatch pattern on one



long edge and the two short edges of the rectangle. Score the same pattern on the surface of the clay circle, all the way around the edge, about 1cm (3/8in) wide. This cross-hatch pattern will help the two pieces of clay stick to each other.

06 Dip the bristly paint brush into a pot of water and dab it over all the cross-hatched surfaces. Let the water mix with the clay and rough the pattern up a bit.

07 Lower the long cross-hatched edge of the rectangle onto the matching marks on the circle, using your fingers to push the wall to the base edge, and wrap all the way around. Use the craft knife to trim off any excess clay so the two wall edges meet without overlapping.

08 Using your fingers and thumbs, gently pinch both ends of the wall together and lightly press from the top to join the wall to the base. Blur and merge

all the joining lines together on the inside and outside by using a clay tool, or by wetting your thumbs and firmly rotating them over the join.

09 Next, holding the rubber kidney or old bank card at a 45 degree angle against the clay, smooth upwards from the base of the pot, as shown. You can also use your fingers to smooth out the edges.

10 Cut out two small matching triangles for the ears and a little triangular nose from the remaining clay. Decide where you want them on the pot, then cross-hatch and wet all the joining surfaces as per Steps 5 and 6. Lightly push the ears and nose in place on the pot and smooth the joins over.

11 Use the tip of the craft knife to draw out a J-shaped tail on the back of the pot. This will be to feed the yarn through the completed vessel. Once you're happy with the placement and

shape, carefully cut out the tail with the craft knife, as shown, and smooth out the edges of the gap left behind. Allow the pot to dry completely.

12 Using the image as a guide, paint the body, tummy, ears, eyes, nose and whiskers of your cat design. Allow to dry, then apply a coat of varnish to finish.



Jen Pyrah

Jen is the creator and maker behind Wren and Wilson – an online store selling colourful, wearable illustrations. Inspired by nature and pop culture, she creates cheerful designs that will delight you. Check out her Instagram @wrenandwilson. www.wrenandwilson.com

PLANT-BASED BEAUTY

Embrace clean living with
Emily Ashbourn's natural soaps
and crochet soap bags

PHOTOGRAPHY: PHILIP SOWELS; STYLING: SARAH MALONE AND SALLY BUFTON



HOW TO MAKE... SOAP AND CROCHET SOAP BAGS

MATERIALS

For the soap (six bars)

- 600g melt and pour Crystal Shea Butter Base (ours was from www.thesoapkitchen.co.uk)
- 108g Himalayan Pink Rock Salt (ours was from www.thesoapkitchen.co.uk)
- Cherry Blossom Allergen Free essential oil (ours was from www.thesoapkitchen.co.uk)
- Tray of six 7cm (2¾") diameter round silicone moulds
- Kitchen scales
- Sharp knife
- Spatula
- Heatproof Pyrex jug
- Cooling rack

For the soap pouch

- Rico Creative Ricorumi DK, 100% cotton, 57m/63yd per 25g, one ball makes 3 pouches
- 3mm (UK 10, US D/3)

- crochet hook
- Yarn needle

TENSION

Tension is not important for this design

ABBREVIATIONS (UK)

- st(s) stitch(es)
- sp(s) space(s)
- ch chain
- ss slip stitch
- dc double crochet
- ss slip stitch
- tr treble
- rep repeat

Magic ring make a magic ring, hold yarn in your hand and wrap working yarn around forefinger twice to create ring, slip ring off your finger and insert hook to pick up first st, ch2, then work the necessary sts for Round 1 and close the ring tightly by pulling the loose end

FINISHED SIZE

When laid flat, soap pouch measures approx 8 x 10cm (3¼ x 4in)

For more crochet advice see page 48

We're all for making changes for a greener life, and solid soap is such an easy plastic-free switch. Plus if you make your own, you know exactly what's going in it. Pair that with an exfoliating crochet pouch that'll help your bars last longer, and you've got a recipe for a much more planet friendly sink situation. Just another day making Attenborough proud.

These moisture rich soaps, with their delicate scent and scatter of Himalayan pink rock salt, also make gorgeous gifts. We feel a weekend batch coming on.

Soap

- 01 Weigh out the ingredients and divide into six equal parts. You'll need 100g of soap base and 18g of pink rock salt per soap bar.
- 02 Chop the shea butter soap base into roughly 1cm (3/8in) cubes.
- 03 Using a microwave, melt 100g of soap base in a heatproof jug on full power, 10 seconds at a time. Use a spatula to gently stir the soap between each 10 second burst in the microwave. Alternatively, you

CROCHET SOAP BAG



can use the bain marie method to melt the base down on a medium heat. Once the base has melted and is free of lumps, stop the melting process.

04 Add 10 drops of essential oil and 18g of rock salt to the soap base and gently stir.

05 Pour the mixture into the silicone mould, filling one round soap mould close to the top. You'll notice all the salt will have sunk to the bottom of the mixture. Use the spatula to slowly pour out the salt, moving the jug over the top of the soap mould for even distribution.

06 Repeat Steps 3-5 until all the moulds are full, then leave to set for two hours. Turn the soaps out onto a cooling rack and leave to prove for 24 hours.

Crochet soap pouch

Round 1 Make a magic ring, ch2 (does not count as a st), 18tr into ring, ss into 1st tr to join, pull ring tight [18 sts]

Round 2 *Ch4, miss 1 st, 1dc into next st; rep from * to end of round, ss to bottom of first ch4 to join, ss

in first ch, 1dc into 4ch-sp ready to start next round.

[9 4ch-sps and 9dc]

Round 3 Ch5, *1dc in next 4ch-sp, ch5; rep from * to end of round, ss into dc to join, ss in first 2 ch sts, 1dc into top of 4ch-sp.

[9 5ch-sps and 9dc]

Rounds 4-7 Ch5, *1dc in next 5ch-sp, ch5; rep from * to end of round, ss into dc to join, ss in first 2 ch sts, 1dc into top of 5ch-sp ready to start next round.

[9 5ch-sps and 9dc]

Round 8 Ch5, *1dc in next 5ch-sp, ch5; rep from * to end of round, ss into dc to join.

Round 9 Ch1 (does not count as st), 3dc in each 5ch-sp around, ss to first dc to join. [27 sts]

Round 10 Ch3 (counts as 1tr), 1tr in each st around, ss to top of ch3 to join.

Round 11 Ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc in each st around, ss to first dc to join, fasten off.

Ch50, fasten off, then use a yarn needle to weave the chain length through the tr sts to make a drawstring. Sew in all ends.



Emily Ashbourn

Emily lives with her husband and two girls in East Sussex. She spends her time creating and making all the things, inspired by her love of the outdoors. Emily also teaches after school art classes aimed at primary aged children. www.makeeshop.com





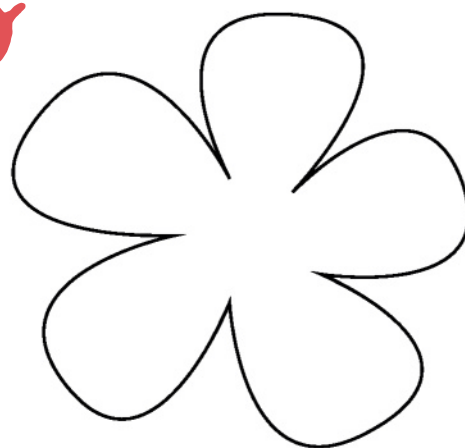
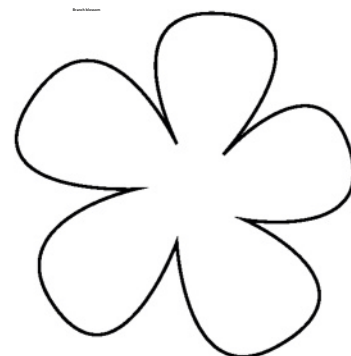
Templates

HERE ARE ALL THE
TEMPLATES YOU NEED
TO MAKE THE PROJECTS

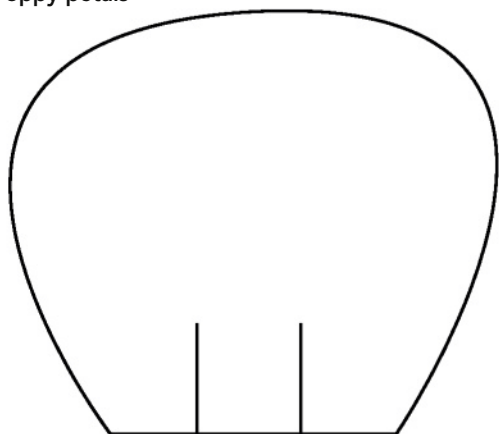
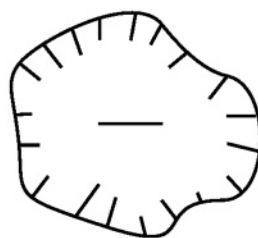
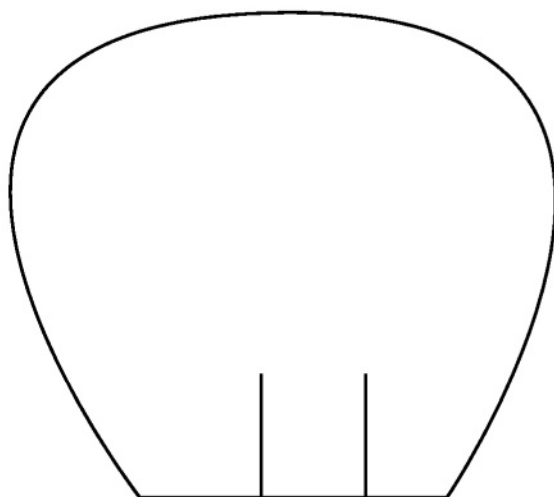
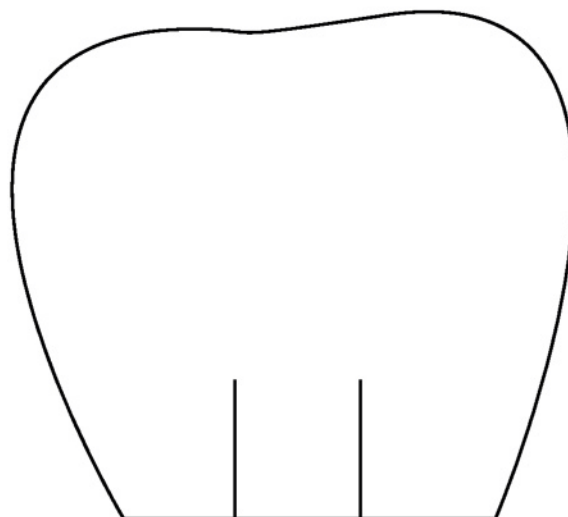
FLOWER WREATH

Page 4

Pattern at 100%

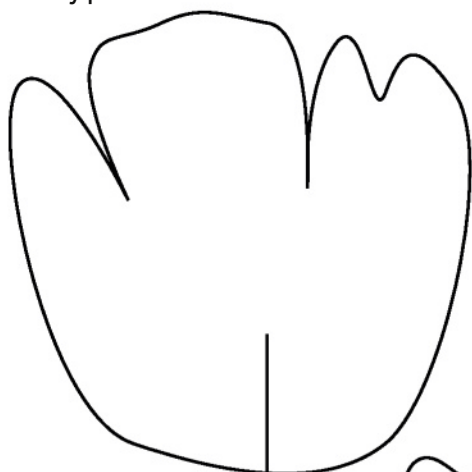
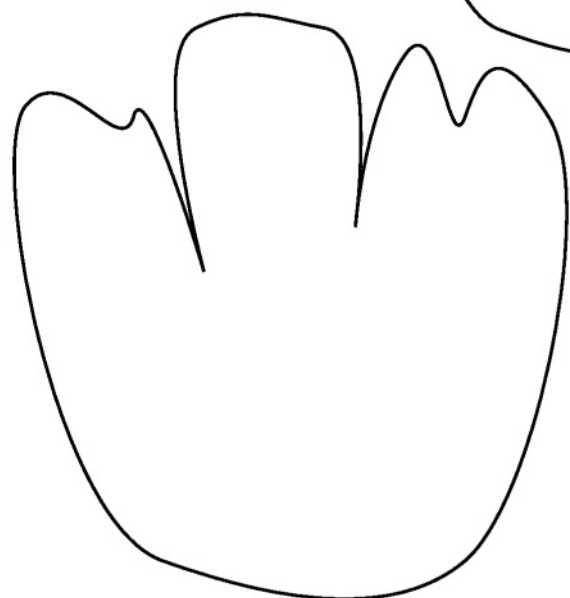


Poppy petals

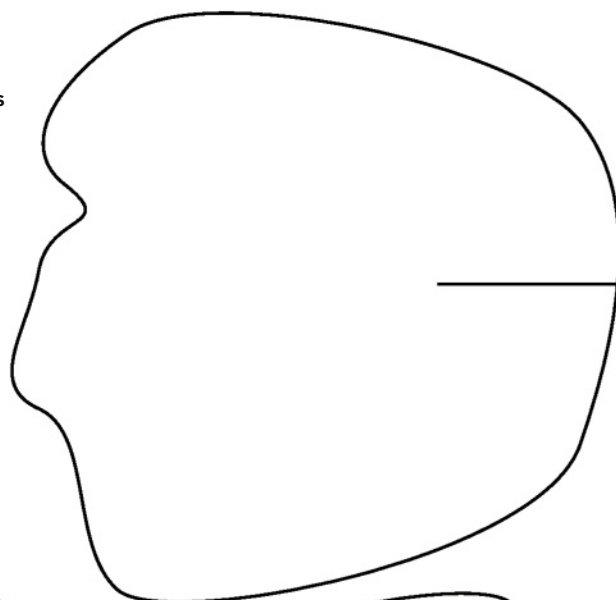
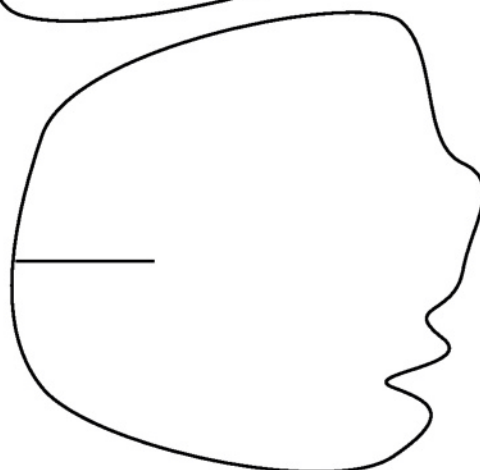
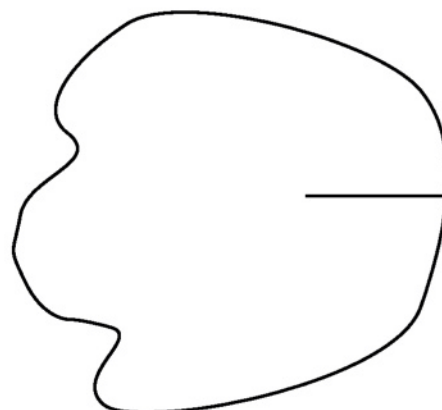


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Peony petals

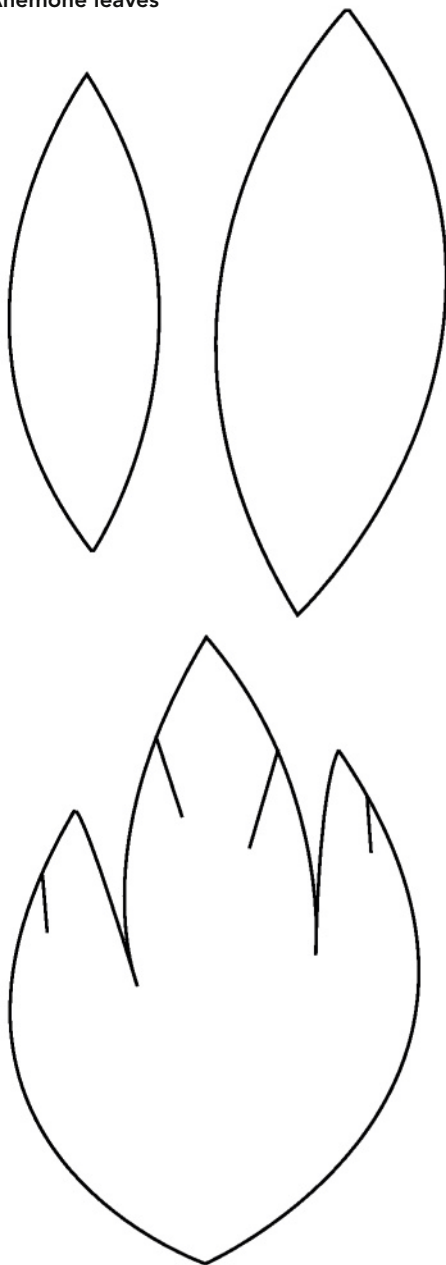


Anemone petals

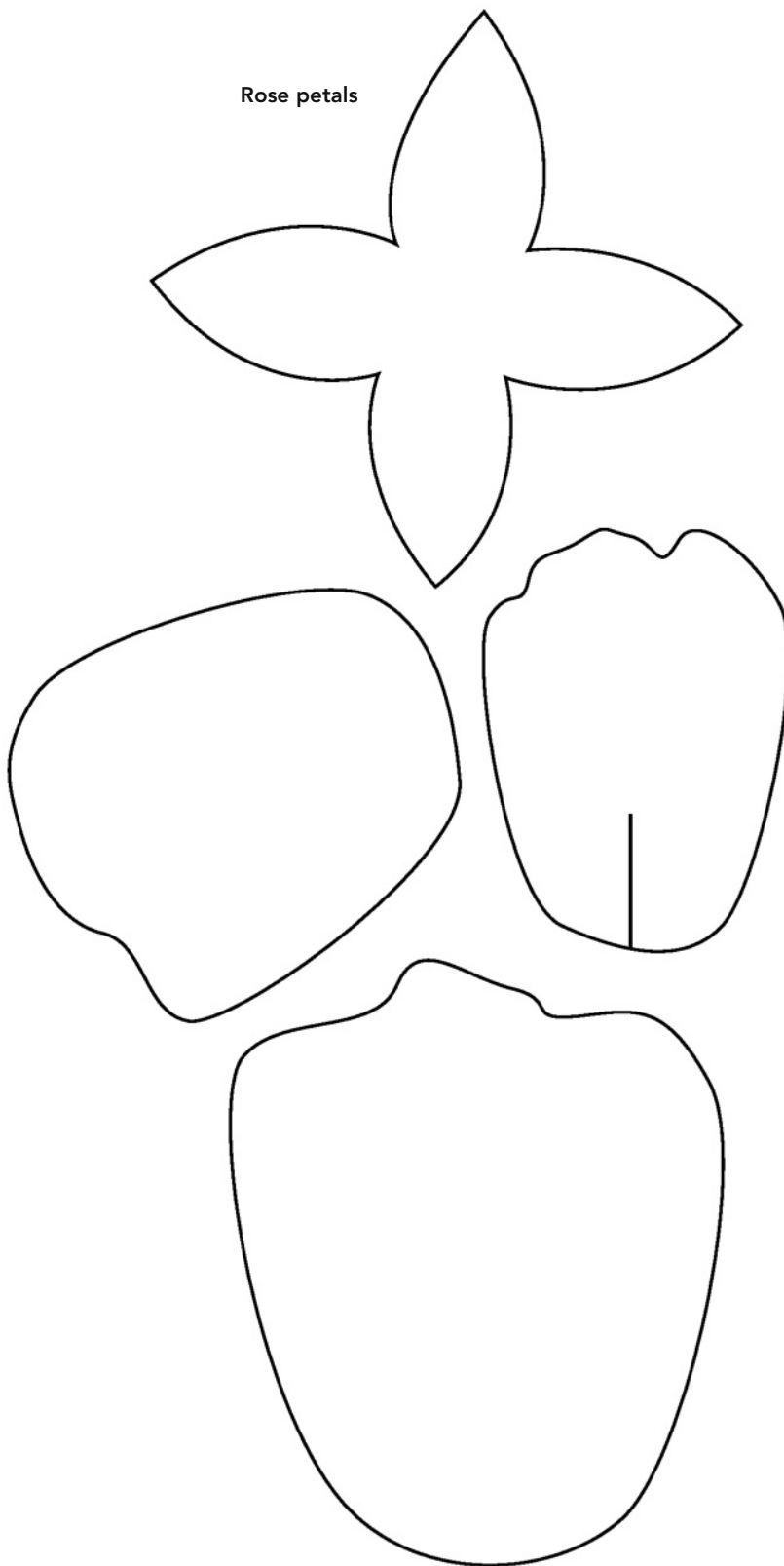


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Anemone leaves



Rose petals

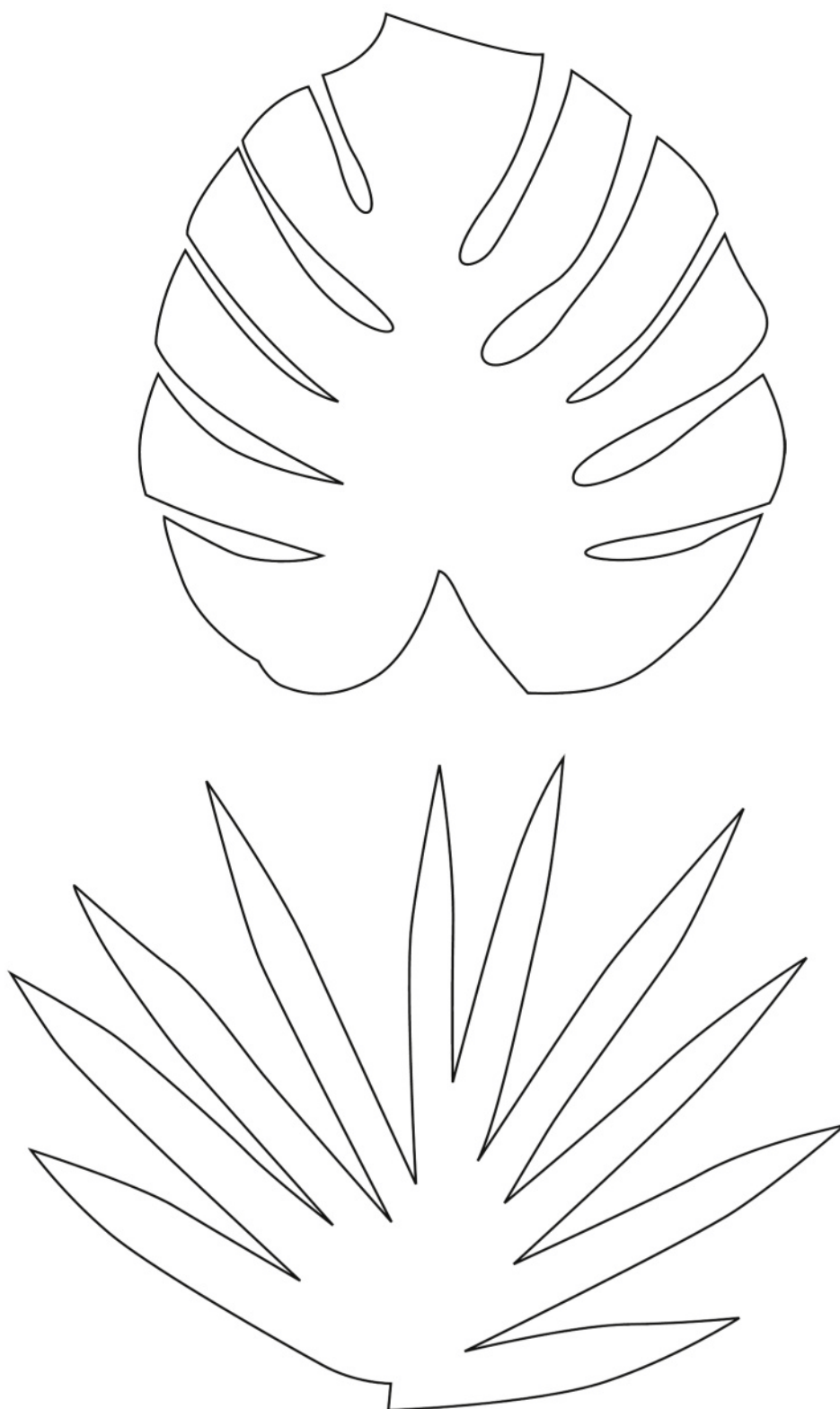


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MACHINE POUCH

Page 13

Pattern at 100%

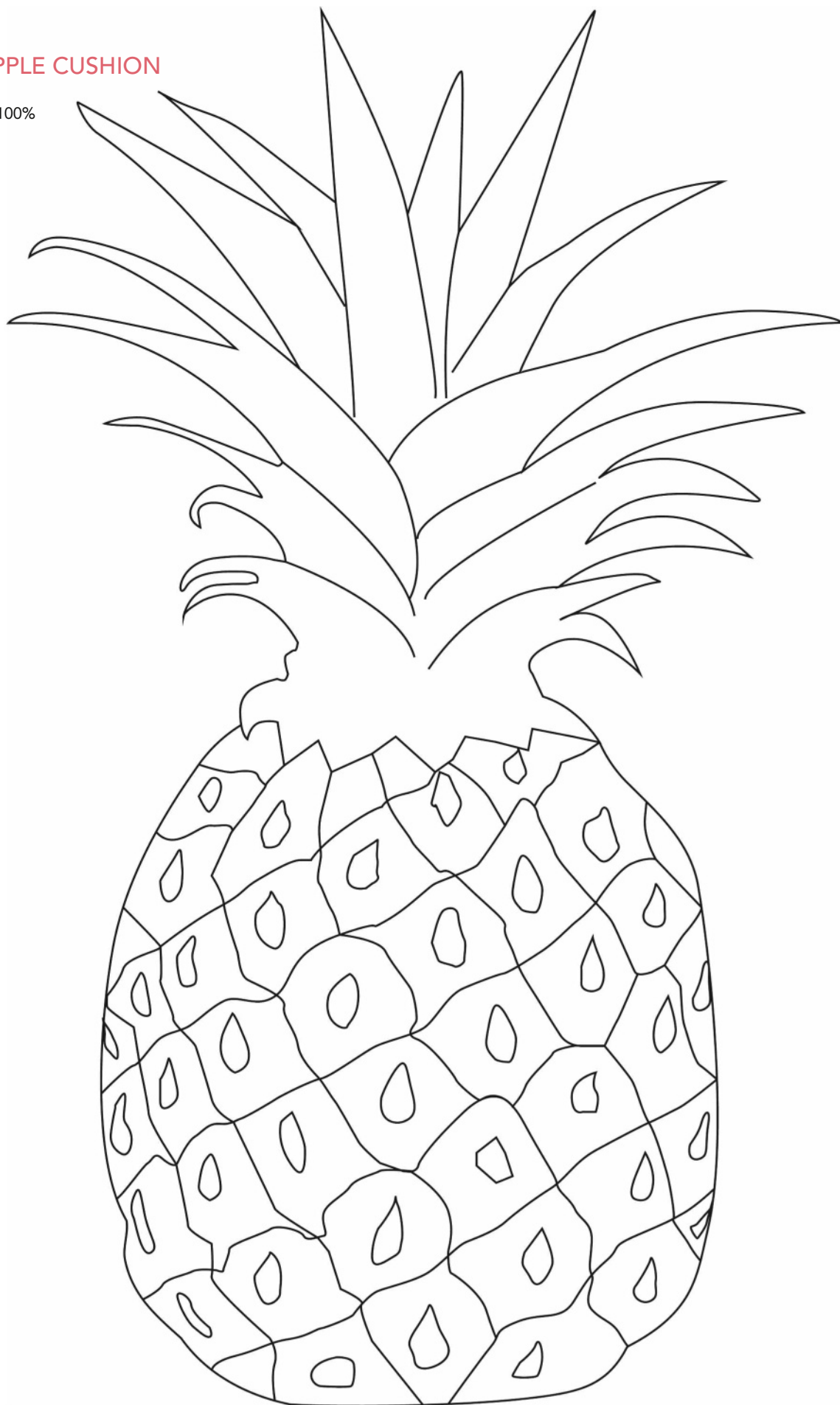


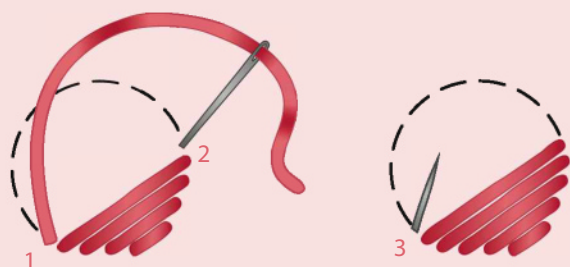
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PINEAPPLE CUSHION

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Pattern at 100%

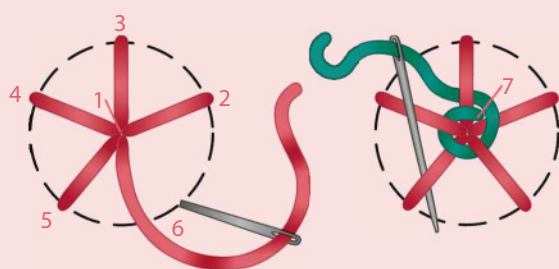




Satin Stitch

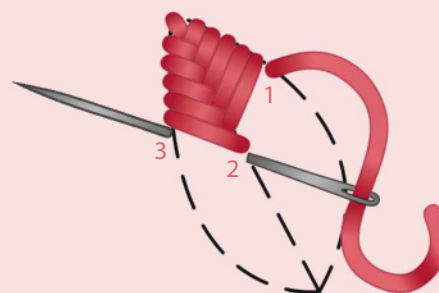
Bring the needle up at 1, down at 2, and up at 3, working stitches close together. Keep stitching in this way, under and over, so that the back of the work looks the same as the front. To maintain an even tension, always take the needle out at the back, then back in at the front in two steps, rather than in and out in one motion.

Stitch Guide



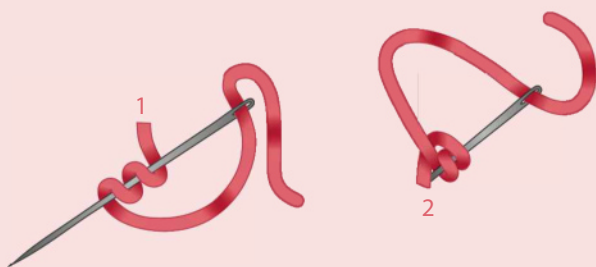
Woven Wheel

Work spokes by coming out of the centre at 1 then in at 2 on the edge of the circle. Come out again at the centre and in at 3 and so on to complete the spokes. Using a blunt needle, bring the thread out under one of the spokes at 7 then weave it under and over each spoke alternately without piercing the spokes or fabric.



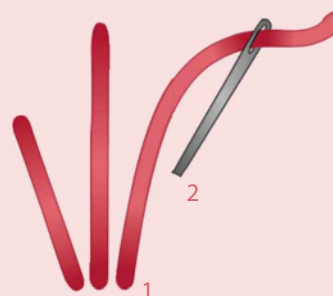
Fishbone Stitch

Bring the needle out at the top of the shape and make a short vertical stitch. Bring the needle up at 1 slightly to the right following the shape outline. Take the needle diagonally down at 2 at the centre line below the first stitch. Bring it up at 3 on the left side and keep alternating these diagonal stitches from right to left.



French Knot

Bring the needle up at 1. Holding the thread with one hand, twist the needle around the thread twice. Insert the point of the needle into the fabric close to where the thread emerged; pull the thread to tighten the knot, then push the needle slowly through the fabric. Make a larger knot by increasing the twists.



Straight Stitch

Straight Stitch is very versatile as it can be worked to any length and in any direction. It is particularly useful in pictorial work for adding details, and it can also be used to outline other areas of stitching, providing that the edges are straight. Bring the needle up at 1, then down at 2 to create the required stitch length.

HOW TO CROCHET

If you're new to crochet, or just want to revisit the basics, our crochet guide will help you get it right first time, every time

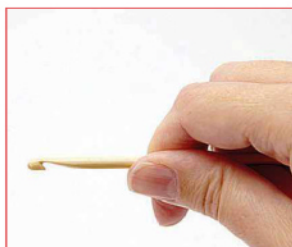
HOLDING THE HOOK

Try these methods and see which works best



PENCIL METHOD

Hold the hook like a pencil, in your right hand (if you're right-handed), about 3-5cm from the hooked end. If your hook has a flat area, you'll find it comfortable to hold it here.



KNIFE METHOD

Hold the hook between your thumb and forefinger, about 3-5cm from the hooked end, resting the end of the hook against your palm. This will give you lots of control.

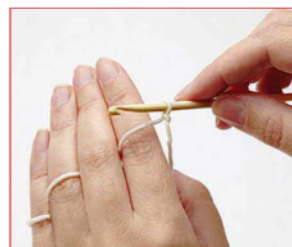
HOLDING THE YARN

Even tension results in even stitches



METHOD ONE

Pass the ball end of the yarn between the little finger and third fingers of your left hand (if you are right-handed), then behind the third and middle fingers, over your index finger.



METHOD TWO

Loop the ball end of the yarn loosely around the little finger of your left hand, then take it over the third finger, behind the middle finger and over your index finger.

MAKING A SLIPKNOT The first loop on the hook



1 Hold the tail of the ball of yarn in your left hand and drape the yarn clockwise over the top of it to form a loose, circular loop.



2 Hold the loop between left thumb and forefinger, then insert the crochet hook through the centre of the loop from front to back.



3 Catch the ball end of the yarn with the hook and pull it back through the centre of the loop, taking the yarn through with it.



Pull both ends of the yarn to tighten the knot, then pull just the ball end to tighten the loop so it's close to the hook, but not touching it.

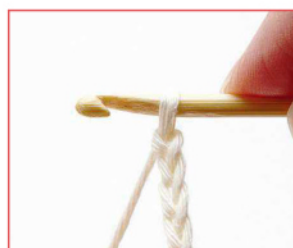
CHAIN STITCH Use this stitch to make your foundation chain



1 Hold the hook in your right hand, and both the yarn end and the working yarn in your left hand. Move the hook under and over the yarn to wrap it around anticlockwise.



2 Pull the hook towards the slipknot, catching the yarn in the hook, and pulling it through the slipknot loop. This forms your first chain (ch) stitch. Repeat steps 1 and 2 to form a chain length.



3 This is what your row of chains will look like. Hold the chain with your left hand near the hook, to keep the tension. Keep going until you have the number of chains that's stated in your pattern.

HOW TO COUNT CHAINS



Each chain or loop counts as one stitch. Never count your first slipknot or the loop on the hook (called the working loop). So that you can be accurate, make sure the chain is not twisted and that the front is facing you.

SLIP STITCH (SS) This stitch has no height – often used to join rounds



1 You can make a slip stitch in any chain or stitch, to join it to the working loop on the hook. To make a slip stitch, simply insert the hook into the stitch indicated, from front to back.



2 Catch the ball end of the yarn with the hook, so the yarn wraps anticlockwise around it (yarn round hook, or yrh).



3 Gently pull the hook, and the yarn wrapped around it, back towards the 2 loops on the hook. Draw the yarn through both the loops on the hook.



4 This will finish the stitch and you'll see how the slip stitch has joined the working loop to the chain or stitch you inserted the hook into. You can also use slip stitch to form a neat edging.

DOUBLE CROCHET (DC) US term: single crochet

One of the key stitches in crochet, doubles are simple, compact stitches that form a dense fabric



1 To make a double crochet stitch, insert the hook under the top 2 loops of the next stitch on the previous row.



2 Wind the yarn around the hook (yrh).



3 Pull the yarn through the stitch, giving you 2 loops on your crochet hook.



4 Yarn round hook again, then pull the yarn through both loops. There's your double crochet made and you'll have one loop left on the hook, ready to do the next stitch.

HALF TREBLE CROCHET (HTR) US term: half double crochet A handy stitch that's between double and treble crochet in size, and it looks slightly looser than double crochet



1 To make a half treble crochet stitch, work to where you want the htr and then wind the yarn round the hook (yrh).



2 Insert the hook under the top 2 loops of the next stitch in the previous row. Wrap yarn around the hook again (yrh).



3 Pull the yarn through the stitch only (3 loops on hook).



4 Yarn round hook again, pull the yarn through all 3 loops. You've made a half treble crochet. Continue working htr into next and following sts to the end of the row.

TREBLE CROCHET (TR) US term: double crochet One of the most popular stitches in crochet, this simple stitch is twice as high as a double crochet stitch



1 To work a treble crochet, start by winding yrh and then insert the hook under the top 2 loops of the stitch on the previous row.



2 Wrap the yarn around the hook (yrh) and pull the yarn through the stitch only.



3 You will now have 3 loops on the hook. Yrh again, and draw the yarn through just the first 2 loops on the hook.



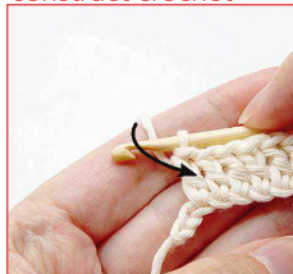
4 You will now have 2 loops on the hook. Yrh again and draw the yarn through the remaining loops on the hook. Your treble crochet is complete.

WORKING IN ROWS

Follow these simple rules to construct crochet



1 The first row is made by working across the foundation chain from right to left. At the end of the chain or row, turn the work so that the yarn is behind the hook.



2 For the next row, first make the turning chain for the stitch you're about to work (see opposite). Now work the next stitch into the top of the stitches on your first row, missing the first stitch.

WORKING STITCHES INTO A RING

To make circles, tubes and other shapes



1 Make a foundation ring and work the t-ch (3ch for treble sts). Work a treble st as usual, but insert hook into centre of ring. For treble sts, yrh, insert hook into ring.



2 Finish the treble, as usual (yrh, pull yarn through ring, yrh, pull yarn through first 2 loops, yrh, pull yarn through 2 loops). Work more sts into the ring as needed.

DOUBLE TREBLE CROCHET (DTR)

US term: treble crochet

This is a stitch regularly used as an elongated version of the treble (described above). It's worked in a very similar way to the treble, as follows:

1 Make a foundation chain. Skip 4ch, *yrh twice, and insert the hook under the top loop of the next ch.

2 Yrh, pull the yarn through the ch loop only (4 loops on hook).

3 Yrh and pull the yarn through 2 loops only (3 loops on hook). Yrh and pull the yarn through

2 loops only (2 loops on hook).

4 Yrh and pull the yarn through the remaining 2 loops. Repeat from * to make more dtr sts.

5 To make the next row of dtr, turn work and ch4. This turning chain counts as the first dtr in a new row. Skip first st at the base of the t-ch, work 1dtr under the top 2 loops of the second stitch in the previous row; continue to the end of the row.

TRIPLE TREBLE CROCHET (TTR)

US term: double treble crochet

This is one of the longest standard crochet stitches and is mainly used in fancy stitch patterns. It's taller than a double treble crochet stitch (described left) and is worked in a very similar way, as follows:

1 Make a foundation ch. Skip 5 ch, *yrh 3 times, insert hook under top loop of next ch.

2 Yrh, pull yarn through ch loop only (5 loops on hook).

3 † Yrh, draw loop through 2 loops only. Repeat from †

3 times more and your triple treble will be finished. Repeat from * to make more ttr sts.

4 To make the next row, turn work and ch5. This turning chain counts as the first triple treble in a new row. Skip first st at base of the t-ch. Work 1 triple treble, inserting hook under the top 2 loops of the second st in the previous row; continue to the end of the row.

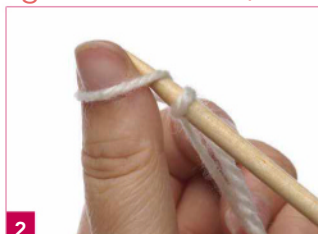
HOW TO KNIT

If you're new to knitting, or just need a little refresher, our knitting guide is here to make sure you get it right first time, every time

THUMB CAST-ON METHOD *A great all rounder, use it to cast on stitches quickly and easily*



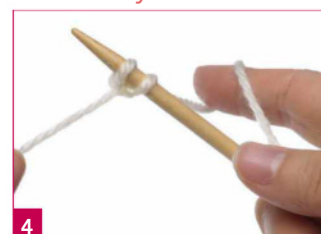
1 Make a slip knot and place it on a needle, leaving a long tail. The tail length depends on the number of stitches you wish to cast on. Try a length about 3 times the width of the project.



2 Hold the tail in your left hand with your thumb sticking up. Make a circle anti-clockwise with your thumb. You should end up with a cross on the front of your thumb.



3 Push the needle tip along the outside of your thumb so it passes through the loop. Wrap the working yarn as if to knit.

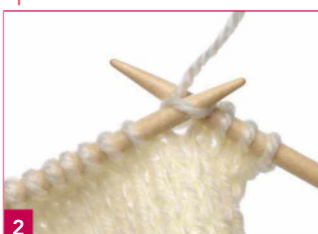


4 Draw the yarn through the thumb loop and then between the arms of the cross. Slip your thumb out and pull to tighten the stitch. Repeat from Step 2.

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



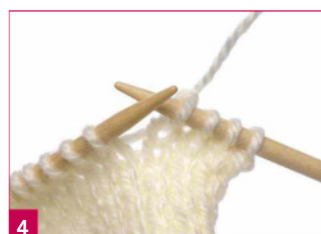
1 Hold the needle with the stitches on it in your left hand. Keeping the yarn in your right hand and at the back of your work, insert the point of the right-hand needle up into the front loop of the first stitch, as shown.



2 Now 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 created one knit stitch. Repeat Steps 1 to 4 across the row.

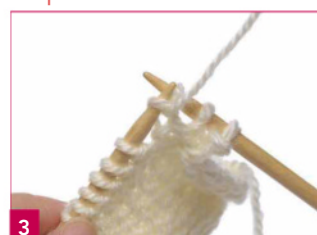
PURL *To make purl stitches, just reverse the action of plain knit stitches*



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 up 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.

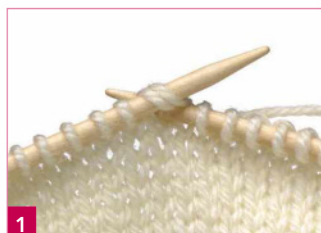


3 Now slip the right-hand needle back through the stitch, ensuring that you catch the yarn that you've already wound around the needle. This creates a stitch on your right-hand needle.

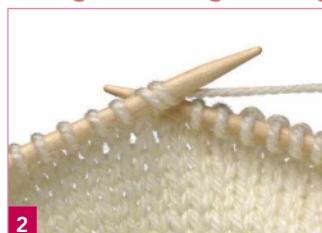


4 Pushing the point of the right-hand needle a little further through the stitch, pull the original loop up and off the left-hand needle. That's your first purl stitch! Repeat Steps 1 to 4 across the row.

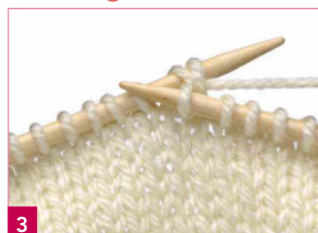
K2TOG Knit two knit stitches together to give a right-leaning decrease



1 Insert the point of the right-hand needle through the loops of the next two stitches as if to knit.



2 Wind the yarn around the tip of the right-hand needle and pull the yarn through the two stitches, knitting them both together.



3 Drop the two stitches from the left-hand needle and keep the new stitch on the right-hand needle.

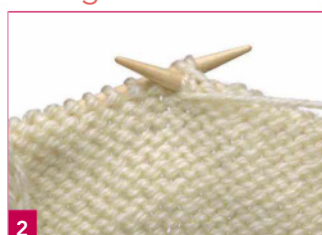


4 Knitting two stitches together decreases your stitch count by one, and the decrease stitch leans to the right. This is how a series looks.

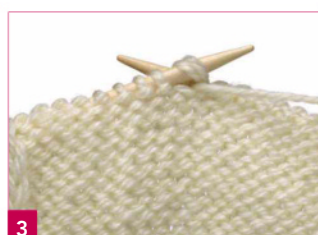
P2TOG Purl two purl stitches together



1 Push the point of your right-hand needle through the first two stitches on your left-hand needle, going from right to left as you would for a purl stitch.



2 Bring yarn anti-clockwise around the needle, between the two needles.



3 Pull the yarn through both stitches, as you would when working a purl stitch, and drop both stitches from the left-hand needle.



4 Purling two stitches together decreases your stitch count by one, and the decrease stitch leans to the right. This is how a series looks on the right side of stocking stitch.

YO (YARN OVER) Yarn over between knit stitches



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



2 Insert the right-hand needle into the next stitch, and wrap the yarn around the right-hand needle to knit the stitch.



3 This will bring the yarn between the needles to the front, and you can then pull it through the stitch as normal.

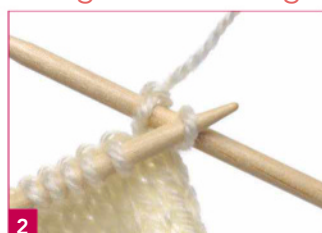


4 Slip the stitch off the needle. You will notice that the yarn over forms an extra loop to the right of the stitch you have just worked.

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



1 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 to 3.



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

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