Your perfect HANDMADE

CHRISTMAS



Try these quirky cake pops!

HAND MADE WITH LOVE...

- Bunting
- Table settings
- Baubles
- Sweets & treats
- Pretty cards
- Gift wrapping
- Decorations
- Chic candles
- Flavoured oils



149 EASY CHRISTMAS PROJECTS & IDEAS

Start tonight!



UNIQUE TOYS & GIFTS TO MAKE



CROCHET A PUD!

Get creative with fab festive ideas from the high street

GIFTS TO GIVE & MAKES FOR YOUR HOME

Future



PRETTY CARDS



STYLISH GIFTS



DECORATIONS



SWEET TREATS



TABLE SETTINGS

Go ahead… get creative!



JP760 A ¾ size machine that is light enough to carry to classes, yet packed with 60 stitches and full of computerised features to make sewing easy.



DXL603 With built in stitches for quilting and heirloom as well as general sewing this is an excellent all round machine. Stitch selection and settings are so easy on the large information LCD screen.



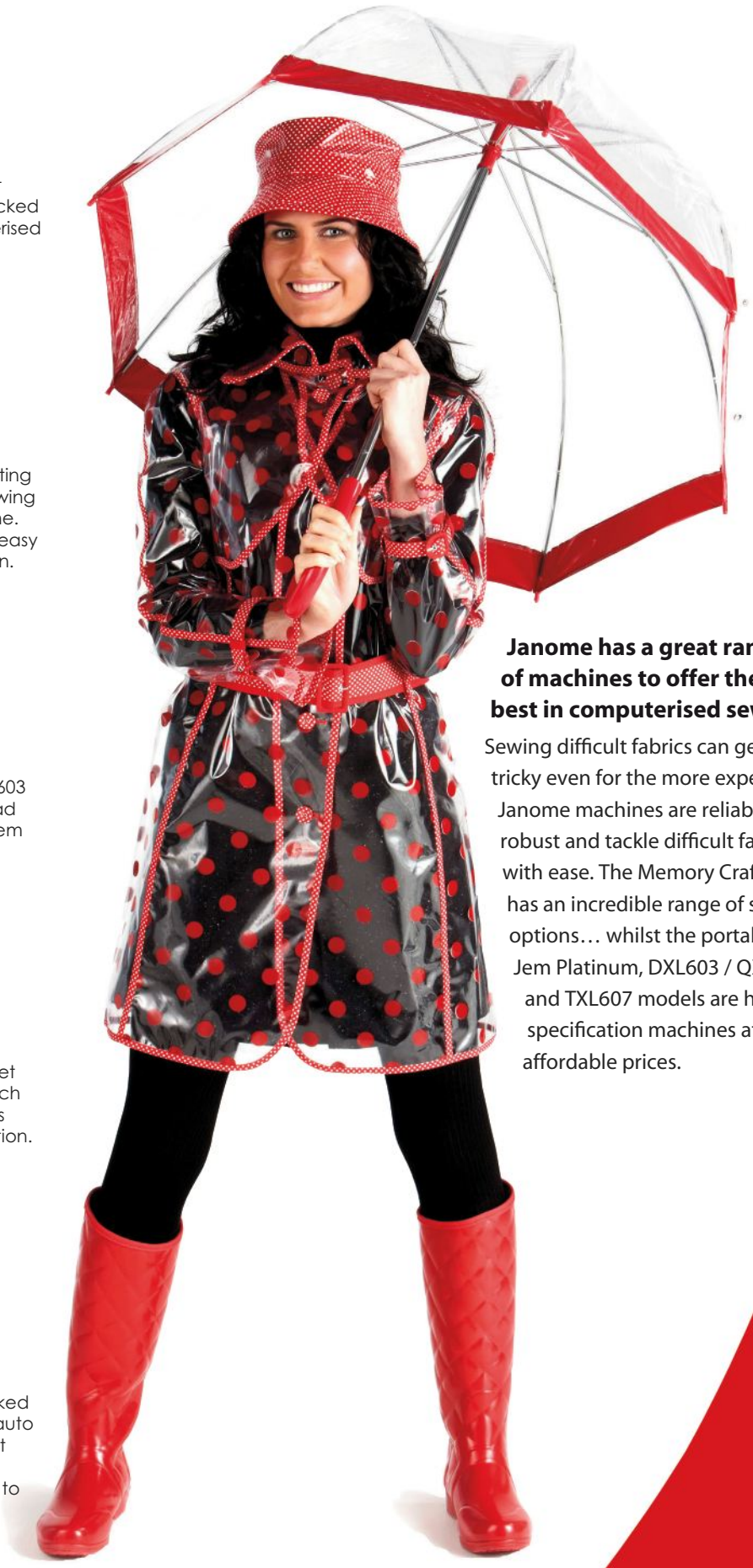
QXL605 All the features of the DXL603 but with an automatic built-in thread cutter and advanced feeding system for precise stitching.



TXL607 Our first model with alphabet & memory facilities. It has direct stitch selection for the most useful stitches and a handy panel for quick selection.



MC5900QC This machine has computerised precision and is packed with over 500 stitches including 10 auto 1-step buttonholes. Type in and edit lettering from 3 full alphabets and create custom combinations of up to 50 stitches, it's all in the finer detail.



Janome has a great range of machines to offer the very best in computerised sewing.

Sewing difficult fabrics can get really tricky even for the more experienced. Janome machines are reliable and robust and tackle difficult fabrics with ease. The Memory Craft 5900QC has an incredible range of stitch options… whilst the portable Jem Platinum, DXL603 / QXL605 and TXL607 models are high specification machines at affordable prices.

For further information:
Telephone 0161 666 6011 or visit our website www.janome.co.uk

The World's leading sewing machine manufacturer

JANOME

WorldMags.net

Your perfect HANDMADE CHRISTMAS

Editor **Amanda Robinson**
Art Editor **Nick Cornwell-Menzies**
Production Editors **Jenny Forsyth, Vicki Guerrero, Siobhan Kelly**
Contributors **Vicki Atkinson, Abigail Barker, Rebecca Bradshaw, Lou Cassell, Lucy Evans, Rachel Nott, Becky Oliver, Jo Ryan, Helen Self**

And special thanks to Tricia Ball

ADVERTISING
Call: 01225 442244
Senior Advertising Manager **Penny Stokes**

MARKETING
Group Marketing Manager
Lyndsey Mayhew
Marketing Executive **Alayne Latham**

CIRCULATION
Head of Trade Marketing **James Whitaker**
Trade Marketing Manager **Janine Smith**
International Account Manager
Rebecca Richer

PRODUCTION
Production Manager **Mark Constance**
Production Controller **Stephanie Smith**
Digital Support Supervisor **Sarah Harrison**
Digital Support Technician **Marc Watson**

LICENSING
Licensing and Syndication Director
Regina Erak regina.erak@futurenet.com
Tel +44 (0)1225 732359

PUBLISHING
Head of Lifestyle **Katherine Raderecht**
Group Senior Editor **Julie Taylor**
Group Art Director **Matt Hunkin**
Managing Director, Future Women **Jo Morrell**

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Subscriptions Manager **Elizabeth Daly**
Call 0844 848 2852 or go to
www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk

Future produces high-quality multimedia products which reach our audiences online, on mobile and in print. Future attracts over 50 million consumers to its brands every month across five core sectors: Technology, Entertainment, Music, Creative and Sports & Auto. We export and license our publications.

Future plc is a public company quoted on the London Stock Exchange (symbol: FUTR).
www.futureplc.com

Chief executive Mark Wood
Non-executive chairman Peter Allen
Chief financial officer Graham Harding
Tel +44 (0)207 042 4000 (London)
Tel +44 (0)1225 442 244 (Bath)

© FUTURE PUBLISHING LTD 2013
All rights reserved. No part of this magazine may be used or reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. Future Publishing Limited (company number 2008885) is registered in England and Wales. The registered office of Future Publishing Limited is at Beauford Court, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW. All information contained in this magazine is for information only and is, as far as we are aware, correct at the time of going to press. Future cannot accept any responsibility for errors or inaccuracies in such information. Readers are advised to contact manufacturers and retailers directly with regard to the price of products/ services referred to in this magazine. If you submit unsolicited material to us, you automatically grant Future a licence to publish your submission in whole or in part in all editions of the magazine, including licensed editions worldwide and in any physical or digital format throughout the world. Any material you submit is sent at your risk and, although every care is taken, neither Future nor its employees, agents or subcontractors shall be liable for loss or damage.
Handmade Christmas is the trademark of Future Publishing Limited.
All rights reserved.
Future Publishing Ltd,
30 Monmouth Street, Bath, BA1 2BW



Welcome to *Handmade Christmas!*

Don't you think there's just something about Christmas that makes even the most reluctant crafter decide to add just a few handmade touches to their home or make a few gifts for special people? I think it tells your friends and family that you care enough to spend time making them something special – and that's what really matters at this time of year.

But of course, the one thing most of us don't have at this time of year is enough hours in the day – which is why we've packed the magazine with loads of quick festive ideas and creative inspiration to help you style up your Christmas with minimum fuss and maximum effect. Take a look at the high street trends and our pick of what's new in the shops this year from tree decorations to presents for foodies, kids, your home and lots more… And with a huge choice of gifts to make too – from cute beanie hats and easy-make toys to delicious infused oils and stunning candles, I declare this Christmas a stress-free zone!

Happy handmade Christmas,



Amanda Robinson, Editor



Add creative touches to your home this Christmas with loads of bright ideas and crafty inspiration









Get the cover look
We think these are fab – and so easy to make! Find out how on page 58
Image © www.waitrose.com

NOTE TO READERS

The projects in this magazine are protected by copyright belonging to Future Publishing Limited or its designers and contributors.

Do not re-sell, reproduce or distribute the projects without permission from the copyright owner. Copyright law protects creative work and unauthorised copying is illegal. However making a single copy for the purposes of personal use is allowed.

FSC www.fsc.org MIX Paper from responsible sources FSC® C007184

We are committed to only using magazine paper which is derived from well managed, certified forestry and chlorine-free manufacture. Future Publishing and its paper suppliers have been independently certified in accordance with the rules of the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council).

recycle
When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

Your perfect HANDMADE CHRISTMAS









Getting ready

07 Christmas countdown
We have 25 brilliant Christmas ideas to do and make with your friends and family

12 Christmas planner
Craft this marvellous planner to keep everything in one place this Christmas

14 Stitched advent calendar
Make this beautiful, patchwork-style advent calendar for your home

19 Count the days
More crafty ideas for advent calendars

Trim the tree

22 Snowflake decorations
Decorate your tree with these delicate felt embroidered snowflakes

24 Paper angel
This cheery fairy decoration is a must for the top of your tree, and easy to make

28 Ring the bells
Crochet these delicate bells for your tree. They'll be the envy of your friends!

29 Gingerbread boys
These adorable stitched felt gingerbread men are great fun to make

32 Deck the halls
Easy festive ideas to dress up your home

34 Knitted angel
Make an angel for your tree, complete with glittering halo and gossamer wings

36 Top of the tree
Add the wow factor with fab tree decorating tips

Style your home

40 Get the rustic look
Natural textures, muted hues and antique baubles

43 Sumptuous table runner
This gold and bronze voile runner will add a touch of glamour to your table

46 Under the mistletoe
Pucker up for Christmas kisses with this quick and easy mistletoe bunting!

47 Home sweet home
Create stylish spaces for Christmas entertaining

49 Christmas at home
We revel in the rituals of Christmas as five friends share their favourites

54 Get the red & white look
Style your home the Scandi way

Cards & wrapping

59 Gift tag savvy
Add unique touches

60 All wrapped up
Create this eye-catching festive wrap from parcel paper with ric-rac braid

66 Lacy-look heart cards
These stunning cards are deceptively easy to make – just use mini punches!

WorldMags.net





Create gifts made with love for your family & friends













70 **Wrap it up in style**
Ideas to make your gifts look extra personal

72 **Great gifts for gardeners**
Gifts the green-fingered folks in your life will love…

73 **Keeping up tradition**
The handmade origins of Christmas traditions

Gifts to make

78 **Great gifts for the home**
Treat your loved ones (and even yourself!)

79 **Tea cup candles**
Make your own scented offerings using pretty vintage tea cups

84 **Seasonal sampler**
Cross stitch this classic country-chic sampler with Christmas motifs

89 **Get a hat!**
Turn heads with these lovely knitted beanies

92 **Crochet Xmas pud**
Have fun crocheting this cute little pud then fill it with goodies

94 **Great gifts for kids**
From stocking fillers to main pressies…

95 **Layered heart brooches**
Textured felt brooches decorated with vintage buttons – simply irresistible

98 **Put a sock in it**
These cheeky chimp sock monkeys make a great gift for kids of all ages!

Gifts to eat

104 **French fancies**
These colourful macarons really have the wow factor

107 **Trio of oils**
Homemade infused oils are so simple to make and make super presents

111 **Sweet treats**
Four fab festive bakes – cupcakes and cookies

115 **Festive baking**
Cakes make great gifts when you know how

116 **Great gifts for foodies**
Savoury delights and sugary treats for food lovers everywhere

117 **Christmas hampers**
A selection of the best hampers to give as a gift

118 **Pop goes the pudding**
These Christmas pudding cake pops are fun to make – and yummy to eat!

122 **Fabulous fudge**
A mouthwatering recipe for proper butter fudge

124 **Christmas classics**
You can't have Christmas without mince pies – these are truly delicious

126 **Project templates**
Everything you need to make the crafty projects

129 **Where to buy**
Your complete festive shopping directory

WorldMags.net

SENSATIONAL FESTIVE SAVINGS!

GIVE THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE THE PERFECT GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS!

SAVE UP TO 45%

PERFECT PRESSIE IDEA



Mollie Makes is a lifestyle and craft magazine which brings you the best of craft online, a look inside the homes of the world's most creative crafters, tutorials on inspiring makes and round ups of the most covetable stash. Plus, receive a free gift and a bonus project with every issue!

£19.49 every 6 months (40%), £41.99 1 year (35%)



The Simple Things – How to live the simple life. Recipes to share, making the most of your home, growing your own vegetables, city guides and great outdoor escapes. Plus intriguing interviews, curious collectors and fascinating facts in the Miscellany section.

£19.49 every 6 months (40%), £41.99 1 year (35%)



Simply Crochet is a monthly craft magazine from the makers of *Simply Knitting* and *Mollie Makes*. This new title is a celebration of all things crochet and is packed with inspiring patterns, gorgeous photos and helpful advice. Plus there's a free gift with every issue!

£19.49 every 6 months (40%), £41.99 1 year (35%)

✪ The perfect Christmas gift that lasts all year long ✪ Receive great savings off the cover prices ✪ Inclusive of delivery ✪ **PLUS 'Includes FREE gift card to send your personal message'**

2 EASY WAYS TO ORDER

myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/Z411

Or call us on 0844 848 2852 quote Z411

Lines open Mon to Fri 8am – 9.30pm and Sat 8am – 4pm

*Savings compared to buying 2 year's worth of full priced issues from UK newsstand. This offer is for new print subscribers only. You will receive 13 issues in a year. Full details of the Direct Debit guarantee are available upon request. If you are dissatisfied in any way you can write to us or call us to cancel your subscription at any time and we will refund you for all unmailed issues. Prices correct at point of print and subject to change. For full terms and conditions please visit: www.myfavm.ag/magterms Offer ends: 31st January 2014

Your countdown to Christmas starts here…



Image © Retreat Home www.retreat-home.com

WorldMags.net

Preparing for Christmas is a fun opportunity for getting family and friends together to share the merry tasks. We've got 25 brilliant ideas for making the most of the time leading up to the Big Day…

1 It's a wrap!

Raid your stash to inject fun into gift wrapping. It's a great way to use up scraps of paper, spare buttons, baker's twine and more. Fill in any gaps in your hoard with wrap and trim from **www.hobbycraft.co.uk**



2 To market, to market…

Visit a Christmas market, in the UK and further afield to pick up artisan-crafted gifts and soak up some mulled wine-infused festive atmosphere. Check out details and dates online at **www.christmasmarkets.com**





3 Give a little bit more

Know someone who'd value a charitable gift made on their behalf? Find the perfect idea at **www.goodgifts.org** and send an e-card message to share the good news.



4 Fold your own fancies

Get out your patterned papers and have a fun evening making your own Christmas decorations – anything from simple punched shapes to folded origami stars looks fantastic. You'll find bags of ideas and inspiration at **www.pandurohobby.co.uk**



5 Box it up

Got quirkily-shaped gifts to give? Don't wrap, box them up! Tiny gifts can even go in cute boxes from Pipii to hang on the tree. Strictly no peeking till 25th December, though!

6 Wonderful waves

Jumbo ric-rac has so much visual impact that it makes a great, eye-catching alternative to Christmas ribbon. Go for two contrasting tones and layer them over a plain wrapping paper. Gorgeous! See page 61 for more wrapping inspiration.



7 Sort your storage Guests coming to stay? Make the obligatory home tidy-up more rewarding by treating yourself to some lovely storage solutions… like these soft, cuddly bins from Lakeland **www.lakeland.co.uk**



8 Go for a seasonal touch Want to keep décor minimal? No need for a space-guzzling tree – instead create a chic 2D alternative such as this pinboard ribbon outline from Panduro Hobby. Add just your favourite hanging decorations.



9 Turn down the lights December can be so hectic, but make sure you find time to switch off and relax from time to time. Turn off your room lamps, light some candles and BREATHE… **www.giselagraham.co.uk**

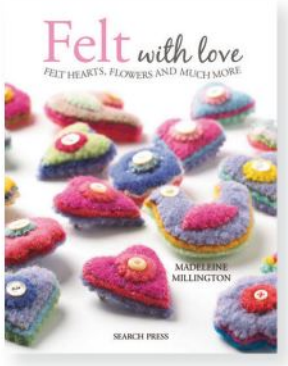




10 Ready, steady, bake People love foodie gifts, so make goodies to delight at a baking session. For friends that love to bake themselves, a kit in a jar (**www.hobbycraft.co.uk** for the bits you need) is a perfect treat!

11 Let it glow, let it glow, let it glow… It wouldn't be Christmas without some sparkle – OK, a LOT of sparkle! Go to town with fairy lights, and transform your hallway into a gorgeous grotto to make visitors' faces light up too. We got these twinklers from **www.habitat.co.uk**





12 Felt with love Even in December there's still time to make small last-minute gifts – accessories such as brooches (p95), corsages, purses and bags in lovely colours are just the job!

WorldMags.net

13 Wrap up warm Venture out on crisp winter days by snuggling in knits like our cosy hats on p89 or there are loads of great high street looks too. These are from **www.catherinetough.co.uk**





14 Make a wreath Wreaths are a longstanding creative tradition at Christmas, so enjoy the ritual, but make it your own by using any materials you like. From the conventional to the quirky, anything goes.

15 Top for the table Make a show-stopping centrepiece for your table in no time by displaying fresh flowers and greenery in a glass globe. Or if time's running out, take the short-cut and order one from **www.interflora.co.uk**



16 Yule Britannia! There's a new trend for British-themed tree decorations, so have fun with it! Make your own from red, white and blue felt or paper, or get these cool London icons from **www.pipii.co.uk**



17 Break with tradition Instead of the usual tree, strings of cards and sprigs of holly dotted about, decorate your home with chunky wooden ornaments. Aren't these keys, from **www.retreat-home.com**, fab?





18 Make your party pop Throwing a party? Make some fun favours to hand out and send your guests on their way with extra Christmas cheer. Cake pops are all the rage and fun to make too!

WorldMags.net



19 Crafty stocking fillers

Santa heartily approves of stocking fillers that encourage people to get creative… you could inspire the next generation of artists! Children will love making pictures with this natty finger-printing set from **www.waitrose.com**

20 Finger puppet fun

Keep kids busy while you get on with your Christmas preparations. These temporary tattoos from Waitrose will provide loads of story-telling fun – and not just for the kids… get grown-ups out from under your feet, as well!





21 Anyone for cocktails?

Ooh, yes please! Mix up your own Christmas cocktails with a twist on classics like mojitos, cosmopolitans and more from Lakeland. Using a palette of red and green keeps things festive



22 Party food dazzlers

Making your own party food? Keep things simple yet striking with easy ideas such as open puff pastry tarts. Combine ingredients like beetroot and salmon for eye-feasting colour combos.



23 Just hanging around…

Putting up the stockings is a highlight of the festivities. Make sure everyone's got their own special one – whiz them up on your sewing machine in bright fabrics, or buy plain stockings ready for embellishing from **www.hobbycraft.co.uk**



24 Dare to be different

Want a change from stringing Christmas cards up or poising them on bookshelves? Challenge convention this year… make a cool card tree like this from Panduro Hobby.

25 Fabulous felties

For last-minute makes, felt is your best friend. Easy to cut, non-fray and colourful, you'll create decorations or gifts in no time. Turn to page 29 to check out these spice boys!



WorldMags.net

Let's get this party started!

Bin the to-do lists and craft this marvellous planner to keep everything in one place this, and every, Christmas

We all try to get organised ahead of Christmas – but in the midst of card making, gift buying and cake nibbling, it's hard to keep track of everything you want to get done! Do you cut out a recipe you want to try, only to lose it? Or jot down ideas for handmade decorations, then forget them? To help you out, we have the perfect Christmas planner. Easy to make and small enough to carry around, it keeps all your seasonal notes and lists in one place.

Your planner starts life as an A5 ring binder, so you can just add more pages or shuffle them around as you like. This binder is simply decorated with a patterned paper panel and a luggage tag, plus washi tape and a star paperclip. Download the Scrapbook Printables 'Christmas Ideas' word art for your tag, on the Papercraft inspirations website.

As an extra treat, you'll find the fantastic Scrapbook Printables patterned papers and labels as free downloads on the Papercraft inspirations website, too. You can print them out as many times as you like.

Choose a simple binder and get started today on your route to a super-organised Christmas. Just don't lose your planner!



Download your free Scrapbook Printables papers and tags!

www.papercraftinspirations magazine.co.uk



You will need

You will need:

- Basic card kit
- Coloured card and patterned papers
- Scrapbook Printables downloads – Tag graphic, Diamond paper, Graph paper, Star border paper, Gift list, Food list, Card list, Mini rule, Arrow tabs, all from the Papercraft inspirations website
- Kraft binder
- Star paperclip
- Luggage tags
- Sticky notes
- Washi tape
- Kraft sticky labels, all from Paperchase
- Washi tape, from Washi Tapes
- Patterned transparency
- Tag, from WHSmith
- Glitter letter stickers
- Envelopes
- Large paperclips, from Grays Office Supplies
- 1½in circle punch
- Hole punch
- Stapler and staples

For stockists turn to page 128

WorldMags.net

Create colourful pages and bold tabs

Print patterns on to card and trim to A5 to create pages, then punch circle tabs.



Ultimate Christmas card list!

Make sure no one gets forgotten. Keep a card list in your planner and update it every year.



Busy bees

Keep the children happily involved – cut out luggage tags from old envelopes and ask children to write their wish lists on them.



Shop smart and shop fast

Keep festive recipes, shopping lists and last year's receipts all together in one place.

Keep track

Record all your creative ideas and inspirations with notes, sketches and photos. Seen the perfect stamp, shoes or sunset? Don't lose the memory!





WorldMags.net

You'll need a big piece of cream felt to make your calendar. We've finished the edges with blanket stitch to give a lovely, rustic look

Christmas starts here!

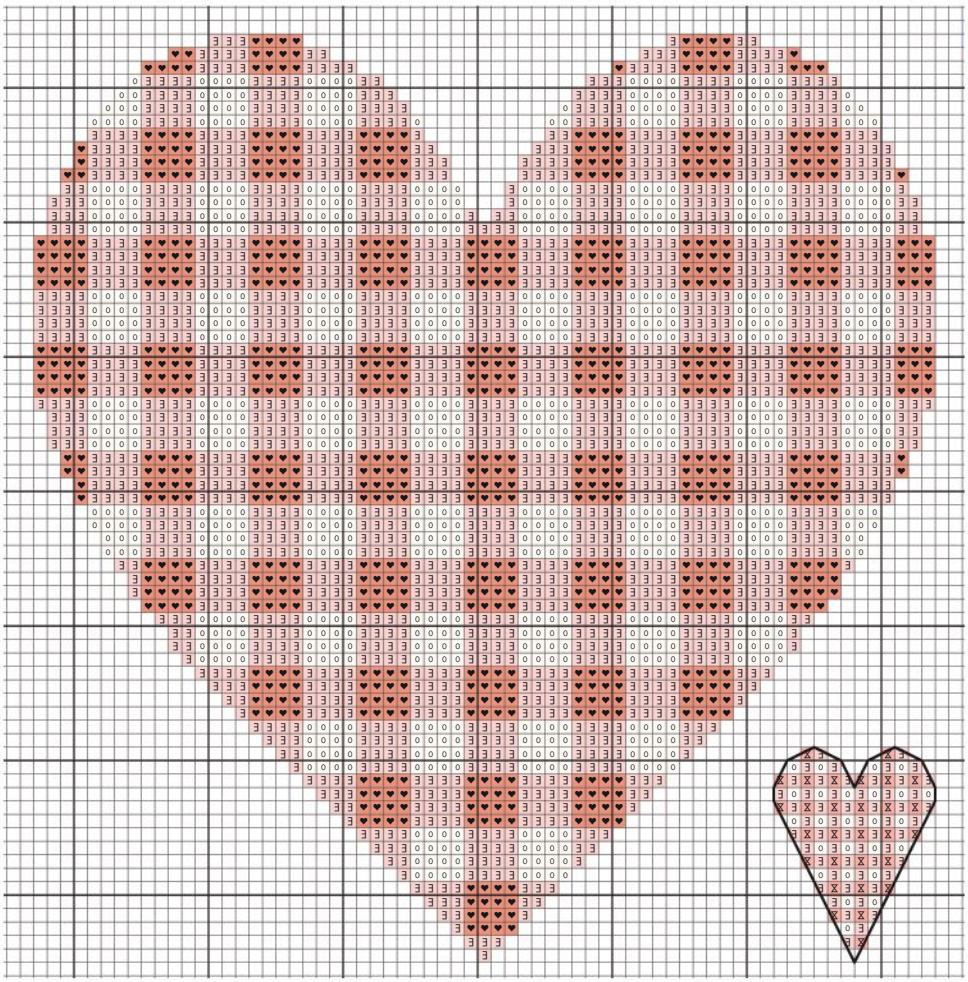
This beautiful, patchwork-style Advent calendar is a must for every home this holiday season

Say goodbye to shop-bought Advent calendars – this gorgeous stitched version is one you'll be getting out every year for decades to come, and you wouldn't believe how much fun it is to make. It's colourful enough for the kids to enjoy, and oh-so stylish you'll be tempted to organise your Christmas scheme around it! Oh, and we took extra care to make sure the pockets are just the right size for foil-wrapped chocolate coins. Yum!





WorldMags.net



You will need

To make the advent calendar

- 25-count red evenweave, nine 16x16cm pieces
- 25-count lime green evenweave, eight 16x16cm pieces
- 25-count sage green evenweave, seven 16x16cm pieces
- 14-count soluble canvas, 18x18cm piece for large heart, 6x40cm strip for row of small hearts
- Red felt, 8.5x41cm strip for row of small hearts, 34x34cm piece for roof
- Cream felt, two 40x85cm pieces
- Thick ribbon for hanging, 50cm

For a how-to guide to cross stitch, turn to page 84

Finishing touch

Stitch six gingham hearts along the middle of your red felt strip, leaving about 4.5-5cm of space between each one and about 3cm of space beyond the right and left-hand edges.

DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in three strands		
165	278	1414
350	011	0213
352	009	0303
437	362	2012
503	876	1702
666	046	0210
712	926	2101
741	304	0203
3799	236	1713
Backstitch in two strands		
666	046	0210
snowflakes		
712	926	2101
numbers, snowflakes		
Backstitch in one strand		
3799	236	1713
all other details		
French knots in one strand		
310	403	2400
snowmen		

To make the advent calendar



1 On your cream felt pieces, make a mark at the top centre and at 23.5cm down on each side. Join the marks to form the roof and cut out both pieces. Stitch the heart.



2 Sew the sides of your felt pieces using blanket stitch. Sandwich a ribbon loop between the two felt layers at the top. Sew the roof and bottom with a straight stitch.



3 Hem the edges of the red and green pieces, creating 8x8cm squares. Arrange on your felt and stitch the sides and bottoms to create pockets.



4 Attach the red felt strip to the bottom using fabric glue. Using the large scallop template, create roof gables. Trace onto red felt, cut out and attach using fabric glue.

WorldMags.net

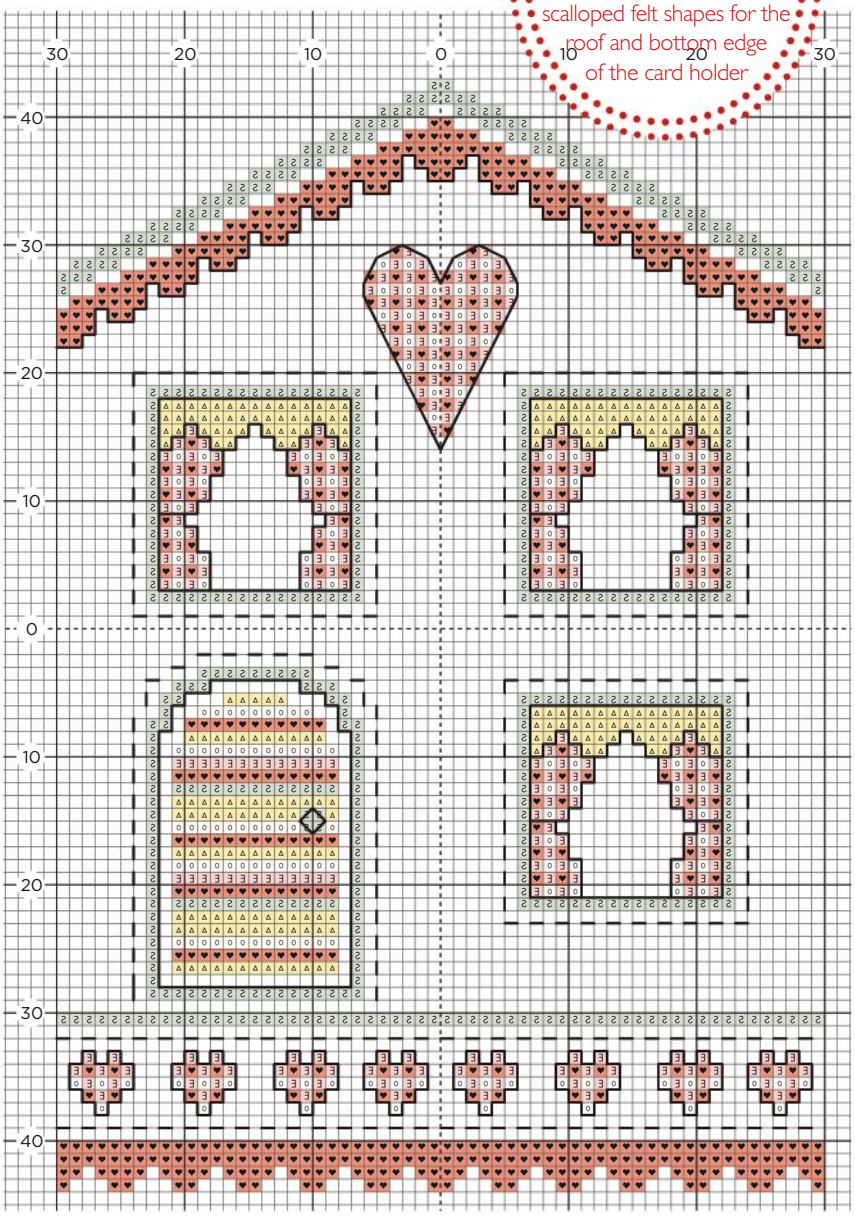

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12



WorldMags.net

Make it!

Turn to page 126 for the templates to create the scalloped felt shapes for the roof and bottom edge of the card holder



	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in three strands			
△	165	278	1414
⧖	350	011	0213
∃	352	009	0303
+	437	362	2012
2	503	876	1702
♥	666	046	0210
0	712	926	2101
☆	741	304	0203
⋈	3799	236	1713
Backstitch in two strands			
—	666	046	0210
	snowflakes		
—	712	926	2101
	numbers, snowflakes		
Backstitch in one strand			
—	3799	236	1713
	all other details		
French knots in one strand			
●	310	403	2400
	snowmen		

You will need

Card holder

- 25 count putty evenweave, 27x35cm
- Red felt
- Thick ribbon, 1m
- Mini wooden pegs

For stockists turn to page 129



Make a card holder

1. Trim your stitching 2cm beyond the outside edge all the way around. Cut a piece of red felt to the exact same size and shape.
2. Right sides in, pin together, sandwiching a 1m length of thick ribbon at the bottom and a felt loop 1x20cm at the top.
3. Machine sew together, leaving an opening for turning. Turn, fill with stuffing and slip stitch closed. Use the templates on page 126 to create your roof and base. Use a glue gun to attach mini wooden pegs along both sides of the ribbon.

How to use soluble canvas

Avoid traditional waste canvas when you come to stitch the large heart. Soluble canvas dissolves completely in water and is much easier to use. To see how to stitch with soluble canvas, go online to **www.themakingspot.com/cross-stitch/step-by-step/how-to-stitch-soluble-canvas**

WorldMags.net



Count the days

Who needs shop-bought chocolate advent calendars when you can have fun making one yourself? Try one of these fast and fab ideas and let the countdown commence…

Make Paper Cones



Adventurous advent idea Make this and you've got an eye-catching feature in your home for the whole of December. Make 24 paper cones from rectangles of thin card, number them up and make loops of ribbon or twine to hang them on a small twiggy branch. Spray it white, gold or silver for maximum wow and fill with tiny treats.

Main image Hobbycraft. Other images Waitrose, Notonthehighstreet, Panduro Hobby

Light a Candle



Moving on from the Blue Peter-style metal coat hanger and tinsel combo (yes, we've all been there…), a quartet of numbered church candles make an elegant Christmas countdown. This idea is from Panduro Hobby but you could add tiny number tags, charms or buttons to your candles. Page 83 has another easy idea for you.



Bunting with a twist Not just a decorative hanging for the walls of your living room, this clever bunting has 24 tiny pockets for 24 tiny pressies. If you're sewing machine savvy, have a go at making your own – or if time is short, you'll find this Sew Sweet Violet one at Notonthehighstreet or the cute stocking bunting (*top*) at Waitrose.

WorldMags.net



Image Dobbies © Sussie Bell

WorldMags.net



Make your tree the festive centrepiece with handmade decorations

Enjoy dressing the tree with the kids even more this year with handcrafted decorations! Create sparkling baubles, pretty trees, festive hearts or other imaginative seasonal motifs. Work with traditional colours like red, green and gold, or pick a contemporary theme of silver with white – the choice is yours, just have fun and make it twinkle!

WorldMags.net



WorldMags.net

Stitched in style

Dress your tree with delicate falling snowflakes, stitched in tiny embroidery hoops. These pretty felt decorations are quick and easy to make with simple embroidery stitches. Choose threads to suit your Christmas theme – metallics for sparkle or classic red and white for a Scandi look.



Instead of a pattern you could embroider a festive phrase, or how about a name and date – to create a very special gift for a baby's first Christmas?

You will need

To make your dcorationss

- Mini wooden embroidery hoops, 7.5cm or 10cm (3 or 4in) are ideal
- 12x12cm (4¾x4¾in) of felt per hoop
- Contrasting embroidery cotton
- 16cm (6¼in) of hessian string or fine ribbon per hoop
- Fabric and embroidery scissors
- Embroidery needle
- Chalk
- Pencil

How to make your hoop snowflakes

1 Place an embroidery hoop on a piece of felt and draw around it with a faint chalk line. Remove the hoop and cut your felt about 0.5cm (¼in) bigger than the chalk circle.

2 On the clean side of the felt, draw your chosen pattern using a faint pencil line – find the centre first by folding your circle in half and half again.

3 Open the embroidery hoop by unscrewing the tightening screw and place your felt (design side up) on top of the inner hoop. Place the outer hoop on top with the tightening screw at the top. Push it down to fit around the inner hoop, trapping the felt in between. Make sure the felt is stretched then tighten the screw.

4 Embroider your design. Use two or three strands of cotton to achieve finer results with simple stitches such as backstitch, chain stitch and French knots.

5 To finish, thread a piece of hessian string or fine ribbon into the tightening screw and tie a knot to make a loop. Your snowflake is now ready to sparkle on your tree!

READER OFFER



Twenty to Make: Felt Christmas Decorations by Corinne Lapierre from Search Press (ISBN 9781844489435) is packed with loads of fab festive makes! The book costs just £4.99 and readers can get their copy with free post and packing. Just call ☎ 01892 510850 and quote 'Handmade Christmas' when you place your order.

WorldMags.net

Kids will love her!

Add curls to her hair by winding the strands around a wooden skewer

Don't forget to give your fairy hands by looping the pipe cleaner around and then leaving a little extra for a thumb

Bend the fairy's hand so she can hold a wand



Our sweet fairy comes from *Make Your Own Gifts* – packed with fun projects for kids from 8-12, it would make a great gift. £9.99, published by DK, **www.dk.co.uk**.

WorldMags.net

Paper angel

Super-simple to make, this cheery fairy is a must for the top of your tree. Get the kids involved with this one – she's lots of fun! Hang her from silver-sprayed twigs for an original festive table setting – and who knows, she might even make your Christmas wishes come true…

You will need

To make your Christmas fairy

- 22x28cm (8½x11in) sheet coloured card stock
- 2 sheets of patterned paper
- 22x28cm (8½x11in) sheets coloured paper
- ribbon
- strong glue
- wooden skewer
- stapler
- coloured pipe cleaners
- black felt-tip pen
- large paper scissors

Dress her up

Raid your stash box for your fairy's hair and dress. Use festive fabric, paper, ribbons – even feathers!



1 Wrap a 22x28cm (8½x11in) piece of mauve coloured card into a cone shape and use a strong glue to glue down the edge. For extra hold, staple it in place.



2 Cut off the top end of the cone shape with scissors, leaving the length you want the fairy's body to be. Don't forget that she will have legs, too!

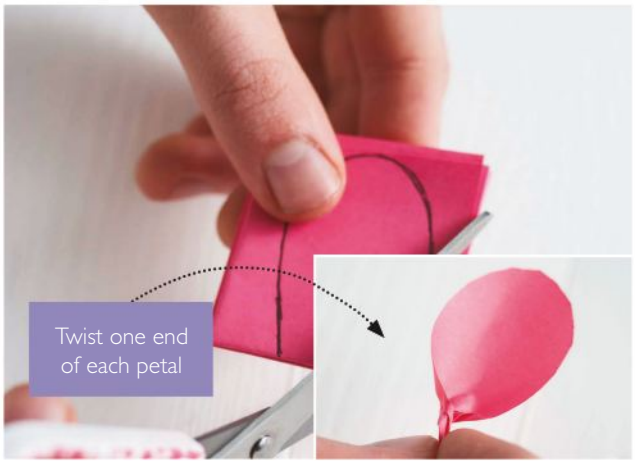


3 For the fairy's legs, bend one end of a pipe cleaner to make a foot. Thread beads onto the pipe cleaner, then bend the other end to make the other foot. Bend the pipe cleaner in half and glue the middle to the inside back of the body.



4 Using a wooden skewer, make a hole through both sides of the card cone. Point the skewer away from your body when doing so. Feed through a pipe cleaner to make your fairy's arms.

WorldMags.net



5 For the fairy's skirt, cut a sheet of A4 paper into squares and stack them in piles of two or three. Draw a petal shape on the top piece of paper in each pile and use sharp scissors to cut out the petal shapes.



6 Use strong glue to stick the petals on for your fairy's skirt. Build up two layers of the skirt around her body, starting with the bottom layer. Twist one end of each petal. Curl the end of each strand around a wooden skewer.



7 Make the top layer of your fairy's skirt from a long strip of patterned paper. Ask an adult to help cut the curves for you, then glue this above the petals. If you want, make a belt for her too, from a strip of ribbon.



8 Fold a piece of coloured paper into 4 columns. Cut a square off the end of the folded paper about 6cm (2½in) long. Cut a rectangular chunk from either side of the square, then cut in about 8 lines to make the strands of your fairy's hair.



9 For your fairy's face, cut a circle from a piece of pink paper. To give her rosy cheeks, use two circles from a piece of darker pink paper. Draw a nose, eyes, and a mouth in black pen. Use strong glue to fix your fairy's face to her head.



10 Fold over the pointy top of your fairy's head, make a hole and tie some string through it to suspend her. Stick on your fairy's hair, framing her face. Finally, cut a crown and sleeves and glue them on. Your fairy is dressed and ready to go!

WorldMags.net

Make a Santa fairy too!

You can use the same method to make a Santa Claus to keep your fairy company. Just add a hat, a beard, and a sack of toys!

Cut Santa a rectangular face and make small cuts in one of the long ends for his beard and hair at the back. Wrap around the top of his body.

For Santa's hat, just fold over the top of the cone and add a pom-pom on the end to cover the point.



Give your fairy glittery wings for a really festive look



There's more!

Check out these cute tree toppers



£7.95 Vintage fabric fairy
www.giselagraham.co.uk



£2.50 Clay dough Santa
www.waitrose.com



69p Fairy tree topper
www.themakingspot.co.uk

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net



Make it!

Stitch a tiny metal bell inside to make it even more Christmassy – you can find them in good craft shops or online

Ring the bells

Crochet these delicate lacy bells for your tree and tie them to the branches with loops of festive ribbon

To start

Ch 4, leaving a long tail (25cm) of yarn before you make the first slip knot, and ss to join into a ring.

Round 1 Ch 4 (counts as 1 tr and 1 ch), *1 tr into the ring, ch 1; rep from * another 8 times, ss to the rd ch at the beg of the round to join. [10 ch sps]

Round 2 Ss into the first ch sp, ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), 2 tr into the same ch sp. In each of the rem 9 ch sps work 3 tr. Ss to the third ch at the beg of the round to join. [30 sts]

Round 3 Ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), *skip 2 tr from previous round, (1 tr, ch 2, 1 tr) in next tr; rep from * another 8 times, skip 2 tr, (1 tr, ch 2) in last st, ss to the third ch at the beg of the round to join. [10 2-ch sps]

Round 4 Ss into first 2-ch sp, ch 6 (counts as 1 tr and 3 ch), tr 1 in same ch sp. *(1 tr, ch 3, 1 tr) in next 2-ch sp; rep from * another 8 times, ss to the third ch at the beg of the round to join. [10 3-ch sps]

Round 5 Ss into first 3-ch sp, ch 2 (counts as htr), tr and htr into same ch sp, skip 1 tr from previous round, dc into next tr. *(Htr, tr, htr) in next 3-ch sp, dc into second tr from previous round; rep from * 8 more times, with the last dc in the joining ss of the previous round, ss to the 2nd ch at the beg of the round to join. [40 sts]

Round 6 Ch 1 (does not count as st), *dc into the next tr of previous round, ch 6; rep from * 9 more times, ss to the top of the first dc of the round to join. [10 6-ch sps]

Round 7 Ss into the first 6-ch sp, ch 1 (does not count as st), in that ch sp work *(dc, htr, tr, htr, dc); rep from * in each of the next 9 ch sps, ss to the ch 1 at the beg of the round to join. [50 sts]

Round 8 Ss 2 across the first htr and tr of the previous round. Ch 6 (counts as tr and 3 ch), tr into the st at the base of the ch, ch 1. *Tr in the next tr of the previous round, ch 3, tr in the same st, ch 1; rep from * 8 more times, ss to the third ch at the beg of the round to join. [10 3-ch sps and 10 1-ch sps]

Round 9 Ss into the first 3-ch sp, ch 6 (counts as tr and 3 ch), tr into the same ch sp, ch 2. *(Tr, ch 3, tr, ch 2) in the next 3-ch sp; rep from * 8 more times, ss to the third ch at the beg of the round to join. [10 3-ch sps and 10 2-ch sps]

Round 10 Ss into the first 3-ch sp, ch 3 (counts as tr), 4 tr into the same 3-ch sp, dc into the next 2-ch sp.*5 tr in the next 3-ch sp, dc in the next 2-ch sp; rep from * 8 more times, ss to the third ch at the beg of the round to join. [60 sts] Fasten off and weave in end at the base of the bell.

To make up

Thread the long tail of yarn at the top of the bell onto a needle and through one of the treble sts of the first round, to bring out the yarn on the right side as near the top of the bell as possible. From the right side, unthread the needle and insert the hook through the tr st near where the yarn emerges and pick up the yarn, drawing it through the stitch to make a loop on your hook. Ch 6 and fasten off. Re-thread the yarn onto the needle and take it back down through the top of the bell opposite where it comes out. Fasten off on the wrong side to make a small loop for hanging, and weave in the end.

Pack out the bell firmly with paper kitchen towel, moulding it into the required shape. Cover a blocking board with cling film to protect it and pin the stuffed bell upright to the blocking board, with the final round of the bell almost flat against the board. Paint the bell with a mixture of equal parts of PVA and water. Leave to dry. Take out the paper packing and repeat the process on the inside.

You will need

- DMC Natura Just Cotton
- 1 ball of Ibiza No1
- Needles
- A 3mm crochet hook
- Paper kitchen towel
- PVA glue
- Paintbrush

Crochet abbreviations
ch chain
ch sp(s) chain space(s)
dc double crochet
htr half treble
ss slip stitch
tr treble

For stockists, see page 129

Design by Cara Medus

WorldMags.net



Make it!

Stitch as many gingerbread as you need for your home or just stitch one to hang on the tree if time is short!

Gingerbread boys

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

Stitch, stitch, as fast as you can! These adorable felt gingerbread men are so easy to bring to life, whether they sit on the mantelpiece or hang as bunting from your wall. Make these spice boys a fun addition to your Christmas décor this year.

These sweet little dudes would make cute gifts for older children and great stocking fillers too. And why not turn them into tree decorations – just attach a ribbon loop to the top of each one. For more easy-make felt bunting, turn to page 46.

You will need

To make a garland of four gingerbread men

- 2 pieces of felt, 13x11cm (5x4¼in) per gingerbread man – use a different shade of brown for each figure
- 6 small beads
- 30cm (11¾in) of white 6mm (¼in) ric-rac per figure
- 40cm (15¾in) of 6–9mm (¼-½in) wide gingham ribbon per figure
- 80cm (31½in) of narrow ribbon or string
- Brown and red embroidery cotton
- About 20g (¾oz) of toy filling
- Paper, fabric and embroidery scissors
- Pencil
- Embroidery needle
- Beading needle
- Dressmaking pins

How to make your gingerbread men

1 Enlarge the template on page 126 and cut it out. Transfer the outline to the felt to cut two body pieces per gingerbread man.

2 For each figure, draw the face on one body piece. Semi-circles are great for smiley or sleepy eyes, or small cross stitches also work well. Embroider the features on using back stitch.

3 Sew three beads down the front of two of your gingerbread men as buttons.

4 Use the ric-rac to decorate the other two figures as you would use icing on a gingerbread man biscuit. Make cuffs around the arms and legs or the hem of a skirt. Cut the pieces of ric-rac slightly bigger than needed so that you can fold the edges underneath to keep them neat. Secure the ric-rac in place at the edges with very small stitches.

5 Use the gingham ribbon to make a scarf or a tie. Simply knot it at the front or tie it in a bow.

6 Lay all of the back pieces in a row, right side down, in the order in which they will be strung on the garland and approximately 5cm (2in) apart. Lay the ribbon or string across them, level with the ends of the arms. For each figure, place the front piece on top of the back piece, wrong sides facing, and pin them together, ensuring that the ribbon is held in place securely.

7 Stitch the first figure together with blanket or overhand stitch, making sure you stitch around and not through the ribbon at the ends of the arms. This will hold the gingerbread man in place, but still allow him to be moved along the ribbon if necessary. When you get to the ric-rac edges, make sure they are folded neatly inside and secure. Leave a small gap for stuffing.

8 Fill your gingerbread man with the stuffing and close the seam completely. Repeat for all of the gingerbread men.



READER OFFER!

Twenty to Make: Felt Christmas Decorations by Corinne Lapierre from Search Press (ISBN 9781844489435) is packed with loads of fab festive makes! The book costs just £4.99 and readers can get their copy with free post and packing. Just call ☎ 01892 510850 and quote 'Handmade Christmas' when you place your order.



WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

DIY your Christmas...



Box of delights Fill clear baubles with bijou objets like ribbons, sequins, dried petals, love notes… Keep it light so they don't fall off the tree and break your heart! All these pretties from **www.notonthehighstreet.com**

WorldMags.net



Main image Interflora **Other images** (clockwise from top right) Talking Tables, Gisela Graham, Dobbies at Tesco, The Contemporary Home, Simply Add Style

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

On trend
Snowflakes
in Paper



Deck the halls

It's surprising how effective the simplest decorations can be. Here's our pick of sweet festive goodies to adorn your home for the winter season.

Fold it Delicate pleated paper decorations like your grandmother used to hang have kitsch appeal and, worked in purest white, are undeniably chic. Grab your tissue paper and scissors and get busy folding and snipping those snowflakes.

♥ **Heart of glass** Like little icy droplets, these elegant crystal and frosted glass beads will reflect candlelight around a room. The fine, delicate strands could be wound around the Christmas tree or used to accent mirrors, picture frames and mantelpieces. You could even try manipulating the wire to make your own silvery wreath.



★ **Spell it out** A garland with a festive phrase is fun. This idea can be created in many ways – sew letters with printed cotton or cut them from felt. Embellish the garland with red gingham ribbon for a warm, homespun look.





★ **Pearly queen** This gorgeous heart-shaped wooden wreath is rustic with a hint of shimmer. The pearl beads add a subtle touch of frost. Why not create your own version with twigs or willow for a more organic feel?

♥ **Follow the star** A single bold shape or motif repeated or hung en masse can make a real style statement. These simple multi-faceted, super-sized stars are wonderfully graphic and would work well with understated interiors. Use them to create a focal point on a chimney breast or feature wall.



WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net



Make it!
Knit your own heavenly host, changing the colours to suit your Christmas tree colour scheme

WorldMags.net

Top of the tree!

You will need

- Blue or pink fingering (4-ply) yarn
- Small amount of cream and silver lurex fingering (4-ply) yarn
- Fine laceweight cream yarn
- Small amount of pink and blue embroidery thread and embroidery needle
- Fine wire
- Toy filling
- 1 pair 2.75mm (US 2, UK 12) double-pointed knitting needles recommended)

Everyone needs an angel watching over them at Christmas – and here she is, pretty in pink (or blue) complete with glittering halo and gossamer-light wings. Quick to make, she'll crown the top of your tree or why not give her as a gift?

How to make your angel

Head

Using cream yarn cast on 14 sts, P 1 row.

Work inc rows as follows:

K1, (K1fb, K1, K1fb) to last st, K1. P 1 row [22 sts].

K1, (K1fb, K3, K1fb) to last st, K1. P 1 row [30 sts].

Work 4 rows in SS. Work dec rows as follows:

K1, (K2tog, K3, ssk) to last st, K1.

P 1 row [22 sts].

K1, (K2tog, K1, ssk) to last st, K1.

P 1 row [14 sts].

Thread yarn through rem sts, fasten.

Dress

Using blue yarn cast on 30 sts.

Work picot edging as follows:

K1, (cast off 2 sts, K2) five times, cast off 2 sts, K1 [18 sts].

P1 row.

Next row: K3, (M1, K4) three times, M1, K3 [22 sts].

P1 row.

Next row: K3, (M1, K4) four times, M1, K3 [27 sts].

P1 row.

Next row: K3, (M1, K4) five times, M1, K3, M1, K1 [34 sts].

P1 row.

Next row: K3, (M1, K5) five times, M1, K4, M1, K2 [41 sts].

P1 row.

Work lace edging as follows:

Next row: K2, *(K2tog) four times, (K1, YO) four times.

Rep from * three times. K3.

K 3 rows.

Rep these 4 rows twice more.

Cast off.

Sleeves

Using blue yarn, cast on 20 sts.

K 2 rows.

Starting with a K row, continue in SS for 4 rows.

Next row: K1, K2tog, K to last 3 sts, ssk, K1 [18 sts].

P 1 row.

Rep the last 2 rows a further three times until you have 12 sts left.

K 2 rows. Cast off.

Wings (make two)

Using fine cream yarn, cast on

5 sts.

K 2 rows.

Next row: K1, M1, to last st, M1, K1 [7 sts].

K 1 row.

Rep these 2 rows three more times [13 sts].

K 6 rows.

Next row: K2tog, K to last 2 sts, K2tog [11 sts].

K 1 row.

Rep the last 2 rows three more times until 5 sts rem.

Cast off.

Legs (make two)

Using cream yarn, cast on 4 sts. Work an i-cord (see page 8) 3½in (9cm) long, or adjust the length so that the legs show beneath the dress.

Arms (make two)

Using cream yarn, cast on 4 sts. Work an i-cord long enough to stick out of the sleeves.

Making up

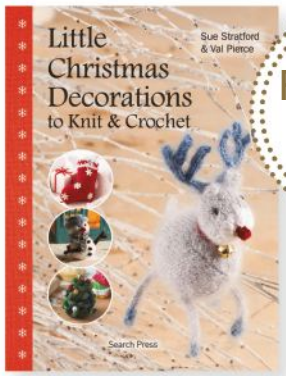
Stuff and sew up the head. Embroider French knots on to the head to make hair using silver lurex yarn. Embroider the eyes and a mouth using embroidery thread.

Attach the legs to the bottom of the head. Lightly press the dress as the shape will distort slightly when you work the lace edging.

Sew up the back seam of the dress and gather it at the top, then sew it to the base of the head.

Sew up the sleeve seams, attaching the arms as you go. Using the laceweight yarn, oversew a length of fine wire to the edges of the wings.

Tuck the wire inside the dress at the back of the angel's head and sew the wings in place. Bend a length of wire into a halo shape and wrap it in silver lurex yarn. Attach it to the angel's head.



READER OFFER

Little Christmas Decorations to Knit & Crochet (ISBN 9781844488704) by Val Pierce and Sue Stratford is published by Search Press and costs £9.99. Readers can get their copy with free p&p – just call ☎ 01892 510850 and quote 'Handmade Christmas' when you place your order.

WorldMags.net



Main image Cross Stitcher **Other images** (clockwise from top right) Retreat Home, Panduro Hobby, Lakeland, Poundland, The Oak Room

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

Full of Festive Charm

Top of the tree

Ring the changes on your tree (and around your home) with some of this year's festive ideas – simple little touches will add a wow factor to your Christmas themes and colour schemes



Charming Christmas Give your festive charms and embellishments a new lease of life by artfully arranging them to create a classic Christmas image. This bell wall hanging looks utterly impressive, yet takes just minutes to put together.



♥ **Santa stop here!**
Spell out a fun festive message on a sign made from thick red card or felt, then add a loop of craft wire for hanging. Complete with a tied bow made using any ribbon scraps you have to hand.

♥ **Christmas countdown**
Create treat cones from gift wrap and tissue paper and fill with sweets. Add ribbons to hang and a date to each for an advent calendar with a tasty twist.





♥ **Add a sparkle** Create Christmas magic by grouping decorations and garlands together in the same colourway – it maximises the festive effect of delicate snowflakes and tinsel like these.



♥ **Woolly wonders**
These mini jumpers are easy to create if you're handy with a pair of needles. Or for a speedier option, cut scraps from old knitwear to make your miniatures. If you don't have mini hangers, use small wooden clothes pegs to display them.

♥ **Bring out the bunting**
Rustle up festive bunting in just a morning. Simply snip out flags, add felt letters and sew on to bias tape to hang. on the tree – makes a change from tinsel!



WorldMags.net



Image *Christmas Crafts* by Caroline Woram © CICO Books 2013

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net



Warmly welcome guests to your home with a stunning festive display

Set the scene in your home with seasonal set pieces that will dazzle your guests – add touches of yuletide spirit to coffee tables and window sills with frosted mini trees, branches or floral displays. And for especially happy memories, make sure your Christmas table is a showstopper with shimmering silver or glittering gold-themed decorations

WorldMags.net



WorldMags.net



Mix and match textures

Get the rustic look

Country cottage chic that never goes out of style… choose textures to give your home festive woodland charm

Hunt for antique-look decorations to hang from your tree and add to your shabby-chic feel – they don't have to match! Or choose these gorgeously vintage blue and silver baubles (in packs of four) by Edi Embossed from Fairwind

♥ **Give your home an elegant feel** with simple ceramic shapes, perfect for hanging or adorning a tied napkin. Try making some with a cookie cutter, air drying clay and varnish. This trio is available from Jo Heckett at Etsy.







★ **Mix and match natural textures** for that cosy rustic feel from hessian and cotton to wood or clay. We love this majestic stag cushion from Marks & Spencer, the cute twig hedgehog from Chelsea Gardener and pine cone garland (below) from House of Fraser.







★ **Light up your rooms** with pretty candles – paint small jars and ramekins with crackle glaze to suit your colour scheme or see what's already out there – this sweet votive is from Nordic House, the hessian-look candle from Gisela Graham and twinkly woodland tea light holder from Red Lilly.



Images (clockwise): House of Fraser (main), Fairwind, The Chelsea Gardener, Marks & Spencer, Red Lilly, Gisela Graham, Nordic House, Jo Heckett

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

DIY your Christmas...



Image © www.houseoffraser.co.uk

Colour pop Warm up a cool white tree with subtle pastel accents. We love these pretty paper pompoms and glitzy chic silver and pink wrappings. All available from House of Fraser stores nationwide

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

Gold and sequin table runner



Make in one evening!

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

This sumptuous table runner made from gold and bronze voile fabric, will add a touch of glamour to any Christmas table. You can make the runner to fit the length of your dining table or, alternatively, make two or three shorter runners that can then be laid across the width of your table. Either way, this runner is guaranteed to impress your guests. And if you can sew in a straight line, that's all the expertise you need to make this in an evening!

You will need

To make your table runner

- Bronze voile fabric, 22in (55cm) wide by the length of your table
- Gold voile fabric, 14in (35cm) wide by the length of your table
- 2 lengths of gold braid (to fit the length of your table)
- 39in (1m) gold beaded fringing
- 39in (1m) gold sequinned braid
- Iron
- Needle and thread (white and gold)
- Sewing machine
- Tape measure
- Scissors
- Pins



1 Lay the bronze voile flat on your work surface and fold the longer edges to the inside by 2in (5cm). Press flat using a warm iron. Lay the gold voile on top of the bronze voile, so that the raw edges meet and pin it into position.



2 Lay the gold braid along the raw edges of the voile fabrics to cover them and then pin into place. Tack the braid to the fabrics with a needle and thread.



3 Use the sewing machine to topstitch the gold braid neatly into place along both long edges of the runner and remove the tacking stitches by hand.

WorldMags.net

A rustic look

If you want to… you can adapt these step-by-step instructions to make a linen table runner to accompany a traditional country-style table setting. Just take a length of linen fabric and replace the sequin trim and fringing with ribbon or braid and miniature pompoms.





4 Fold the hem of the fabric toward the inside by about ½in (1cm) at the top and bottom of the runner and tack into place. Lay the gold beaded fringing along these shorter edges and tack into position. Use the sewing machine to stitch the beaded fringing to the runner along both edges. Again, remove the tacking stitches.

5 Handstitch the gold sequinned braid on top of the beaded fringing, using the holes in each sequin as the marker for sewing. Tuck the raw edges of the braid to the inside of the fabric to finish.



Colour match
Choose fabrics to suit your own home décor. Soft greys and silver trim make a stunning combination too.



READER OFFER



Christmas Crafts by Catherine Woram is published by CICO Books at £14.99 and available from all good bookshops or call ☎ 01256 302699 quoting GLR 8UE to buy your copy at the special price of £10.99, including free p&p.

For further details, please visit **www.cicobooks.co.uk**

WorldMags.net



Under the mistletoe

Pucker up for Christmas with this super-quick felt mistletoe bunting. Hang it around your home and let the kisses begin…

How to make your bunting

1 Fold the bias binding in half lengthwise, and press with an iron. Machine sew a medium straight stitch along the bias strip, close to the edge. Finish the ends with a satin or zigzag stitch and trim.

2 Mark the position of each sprig of mistletoe with a fabric marker, about 13cm (5in) apart. Count the marks.

3 Transfer the mistletoe template on page 126 on to card and use it to cut out one light green and one dark green felt leaf. Cut the same for each mistletoe sprig.

4 Fold the sprigs of mistletoe at an angle to create the effect of a cluster. By hand, sew the leaves into position along the bias strip. Hand stitch three large pearl beads to the centre of each cluster.

You will need

To make your bunting

- Card for template
- Dark and light green felt for leaves
- Large pearl sewing beads for the fruits, 10mm (⅜in) diameter
- Red cotton bias binding 2cm (¾in) wide, measure to the required length of the bunting, plus ties at the ends
- Red sewing thread
- Pencil
- Fabric marker
- Scissors, both paper and fabric
- Iron
- Sewing machine
- Hand sewing needle



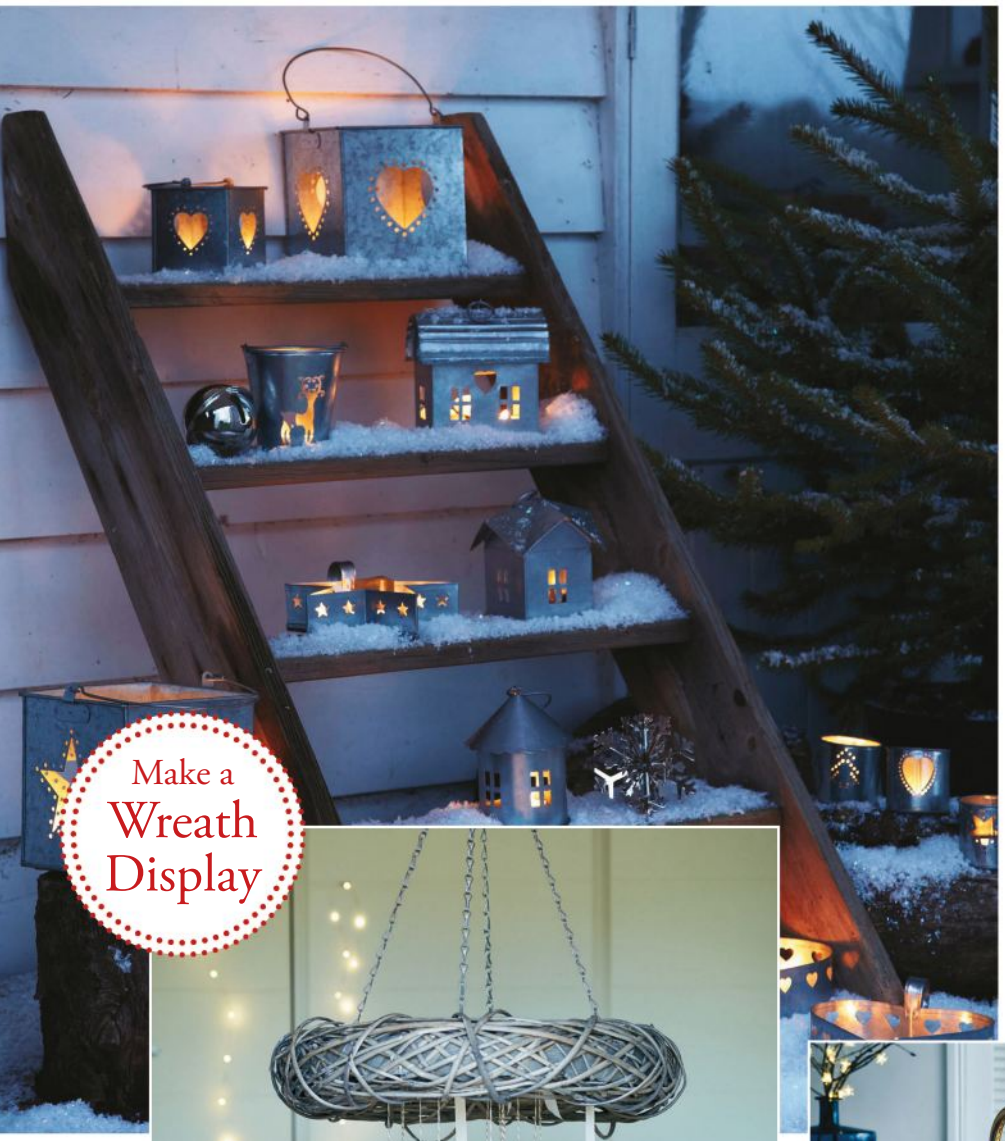
20 To Make: Mini Bunting by Alistair Macdonald is published by Search Press. The book costs £4.99 and readers can get a copy with free p&p. Just call ☎ 01892 510850 and mention 'Handmade Christmas' when you place your order.

ISBN 9781782210047

WorldMags.net

Home sweet home

Instantly create stylish spaces for entertaining inside and out with these three easy and affordable ideas that'll transform any home into a picture of festive elegance



Glowing garden An old wooden ladder really is all you need to turn your outdoor space into a Christmas wonderland. Simply lean it securely against a wall and stack the steps with night lights in pretty holders for pure rustic chic. It may be cold outside, but you'll want to stay in the garden all evening to watch this flickering array.

Make a Wreath Display



Not just for front doors... Putting a fresh spin on the Christmas wreath, this elegant decoration is perfect for hanging over your dining table or in your hallway. Simply string co-ordinating baubles and ornaments from the willow, then suspend it from the ceiling on four chains or wires for an eye-catching arrangement.

Drape Twinkling Lights



Illuminate your bike Nowhere to tidy away your bicycle when friends come round? Make it into a focal point by winding fairy lights loosely round its frame then standing it prominently on display. Love the idea but don't have a bike? Try it with an old hat stand, floor lamp or any other interestingly-shaped furniture...

Images from Retreat Home, John Lewis and Cox and Cox

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

DIY your Christmas...



Gold and velvet Style your table settings with glamour by blending subtle colours, glorious textures and golden accents. Mix it and match it with Caroline Woram's stunning gold table runner on page 43.

Image from *Christmas Crafts* by Caroline Woram © CICO Books

WorldMags.net



Christmas *at home…*

Photography Chantelle Grady & James Lampard **Styling** Chantelle Grady & Freya Lampard

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

Oh Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree… Join us as we untangle the tinsel, wrap gifts and fill the house with festivity. Five writers share their handmade Christmas traditions

BRINGING HOME **THE TREE**

Words by **JENNY DIXON**

The annual trip to Vincent's Nursery was every bit as good as a visit to a forest. We walked the rows of cut trees, sized up the contenders and then my Dad applied his 'expert' eye to make the perfect height selection. Even so, I don't remember a Christmas when less than 2ft had to be lopped off the top in order for it to stand in the living room.

In later years, the village greengrocer turned seasonal tree seller so we had only to walk down the road to perform the tree audition ritual; twirling to assess symmetry, pushing at springy branches to visualize how they'd look laden. (No net bags to limit imagination back then.) Tree selected, it was labeled and left behind. Later that day the greengrocer did his rounds in an open truck, his assistant stood in the back tossing trees into front gardens, US paperboy-style.

Trees seemed to part with needles rather more easily in those days, so the journey from garden to living room was a fraught procession of manly lifting, children dancing and my Mum with her strongest Hoover attachment. One year my Dad had the brainwave of pulling the tree in through a window to save on mess. It looked like it had been through a shredder by the time it was fully indoors. No matter, there was nothing my Mum couldn't cover up with tinsel.

Today a 10ft tree is beyond the scope of my home but I will always buy a real Christmas tree. And damn the lady who sniggered at my tiny tree as I proudly carried it home last year.





DECORATING **WITH STYLE**

Words by **MELISSA BLEASE**

My family always put the Christmas tree up on Christmas Eve. Dad – an artist who, at the time, was largely influenced by Japanese stylings and inspirations – took tree decorating very, very seriously; there had to be, he said, 'balance' and 'beauty' in every step of our efforts, and 'respect' had to be paid to every single dark green frond. He may have unwittingly been an early advocate of Feng Shui, but he was also father to two over-excited daughters under the age of 10, for whom less couldn't possibly, ever mean more.

Mum, meanwhile, saw the world through our eyes, and completely understood why a Sindy doll's sparkling stiletto shoe, a false eyelash that had inadvertently attached itself to a pink feather on her dressing table or a mint cracknel wrapper deserved a place on the tree. So, despite dad's 'arty' pretensions, he never, ever won the festive mini-battle. While he artfully placed wind chimes and Hakata dolls on the upper branches of the tree, the lower levels swiftly became weighed down with random ephemera (as long as it sparkled, it earned a place), resulting in a wild collaboration of high art and distinctly trashy clutter.

My own, grown up Christmas tree has never really grown up at all – last year's effort could, in a low light, have been mistaken for a drag act slumped in the corner of my flat. Dad approves, though; he says I could have been Damien Hirst.

WorldMags.net







THE **SOUNDS** AND **SMELLS**

Words by **JULIAN OWEN**

This year, last year, any year of the 20 since I left home, Yuletide begins at the front door. Specifically, sighting the tattered 'gold' HAPPY CHRISTMAS sign (WH Smiths circa 1979) pinned inside the porch. It's there because Mum is under the impression I'll sulk if it isn't. Mum knows her son well.

For Christmas offers annual, reassuring, bet-your-house-on-it routine in otherwise chaotically passing years. That's why I'm pleased I can already hear the wassailing album pa-rup-a-pum-pumming away in the back room. I tried to introduce 'A Motown Christmas' one year. And I was a fool. Like choc chip Weetabix, just because something is more palatable doesn't make it right. It's our wassailing album, our Christmas – to change it would be as point-missing as upgrading baby Jesus' birth from barn to bijou B&B.

I can smell Dad in the kitchen, recognise the heady aromatic mix of mincemeat and self-righteousness, the belief that today's mince pie making tallies the entire annual food preparation ledger between he and Mum. He will have his second moment when curtains are drawn for the entrance of the Christmas pudding, drenched in brandy, blazing bright blue like a currant-filled Bunsen burner. Somewhere inside, the alloy of a twenty-pence piece is melting into constituent elements, and at the table a whimpering grandchild buries his head in his mother's bosom. He could be me, 35 years ago. Dad looks on with satisfaction. All is right with the world.

WRAPPING **THE PRESENTS**

Words by **EUGENE BYRNE**

Don't you love those Christmas catalogues? Pictures of perfect nuclear families – adorable children, lavishly-decorated tree… And the artful heap of beautifully-wrapped parcels. The really posh ones might even theme the wrapping to match the room decor.

This is not any kind of reality I've experienced. The nearest we ever got to fancy wrapping was cutting pictures from old Christmas cards to use as gift tags. This quaint notion probably came from a 1940s' book with a title like 'Handy Hints For the Frugal Housewife'. In our home, the sole purpose of wrapping is to conceal the nature of the gift. So there's no point wrapping a bicycle or puppy. Or the case in point when my daughter exclaimed "Santa has brought you a surf-board!"

"Bless you child, but no amount of paper can hide the fact that it's an ironing board, which Mummy has bought for me ironically. It's a battle-of-the-sexes thing."

"Like when my little brother doesn't do as I tell him and says I'm bossy?"

"Exactly, sweetheart. Now help me wrap this hilarious book I'm giving Mummy about why feminism is rubbish."

The payoff from one's labours should be the look of delight, hilarity or horror on the recipient's face, which is why I film every unwrapping ceremony. Because when there are small children around, the moments of excitement and joy on their faces are a million times better than any Christmas catalogue picture.

Pick your tree

❄ **Tree types** The Norway Spruce was once first choice, but it's been supplanted by the Nordmann fir with its unbeatable needle retention. A bushy shape and strong scent make the Scots Pine a nice alternative, or, for a little more money, there's the versatile Noble Fir, from whose surplus branches you can craft wreaths and garlands.

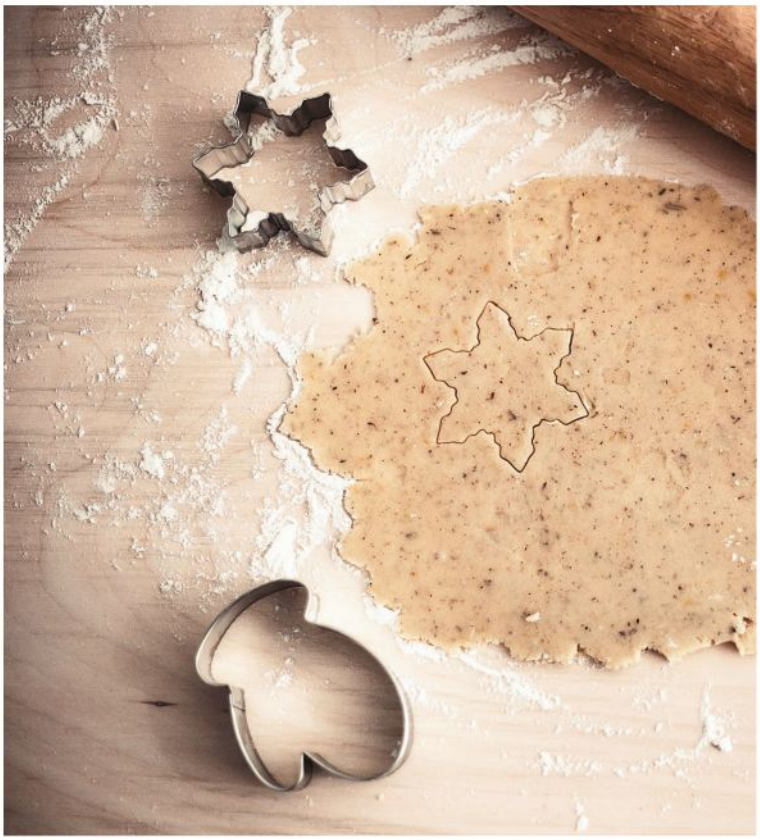
❄ **Living trees** Container-grown Christmas trees are a great sustainable investment. Pick a small one and check it's spent all its life in a pot (trees dug up and containerised may have damaged roots). Don't keep it indoors for more than 12 days. A healthy container-grown tree will last for years in the garden if lovingly treated. **www.rhs.org.uk**

❄ **Approved suppliers** Look for members of the British Christmas Tree Growers Association (BCTGA). Your tree should be locally sourced and from a site with a nine-year harvest cycle, where each cut tree is replaced with a new sapling. Be wary of cheap trees – they're probably poor quality. **www.christmastree.org.uk**

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

"Seeing eyes light up as I place them on the worktop before them, the wonderful golden sugary smell filling the kitchen"





BAKING **CHRISTMAS BISCUITS**

Words by **CHANTELLE GRADY**

As a child I always loved the lead up to Christmas. The smell of a real tree. The feel of magic as lights flicker gently around the room. The familiar decorations that would tatter a little more year after year. And more than anything it was the smell of freshly baked biscuits that lingered in the air.

There is nothing else quite like it. Notes of vanilla and pecan, brown sugar and dark chocolate. The kitchen worktop a mess of spilt sugar and sifted flour. With two siblings there was always the careful analysis of the mixing bowl and wooden spoon and the precise separation into equal thirds. Our hands were covered in lumps of sweet dough and the tray soon full of uneven dollops of mixture. Then we would take turns staring into the oven waiting patiently for the timer to ring through the house and for Mum to place them before us on the kitchen counter. "Careful you don't burn your fingers" she would say, since she knew waiting for them to cool wasn't going to happen. After all, biscuits are best enjoyed when warm and gooey.

As an adult I've kept up the tradition of baking Christmas biscuits. It's something I look forward to sharing with my little one; seeing eyes light up as I place them on the worktop before them, the wonderful golden sugary smell filling the kitchen.

For something so simple as a few ingredients mixed together, they leave us with the richest of memories.

You will need

Makes about 30 biscuits

- 200g caster sugar
- 2 tbsp dried lavender, plus extra to serve
- 2 tbsp lemon zest
- 245g plain (all purpose) flour
- ¼ tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp salt
- 180g butter, chopped
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 egg yolk
- ½ tsp vanilla extract
- Icing sugar, to serve

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

LEMON & LAVENDER SUGAR BISCUITS

Dig out the novelty cookie cutters for Chantelle Grady's delicately-flavoured Christmas cookies…

❄ **Butter soft** Cold butter is the biscuit's worst enemy. But a microwave will only melt it – so wrap it in greaseproof paper and flatten it with a rolling pin.

❄ **On the sheet** Pretty biscuits need space. Since they spread out when baking, don't crowd your dough shapes together on the baking sheet unless you want lots of odd, blunt edges.

❄ **Dealing with surplus** Freeze what you don't need in an airtight container, or wrap them up in ribbon for those neighbours you didn't invite in for eggnog.



1 Put the sugar and lavender in a bowl. Rub the mixture together with your hands to bruise the lavender petals. Set aside for 20 minutes to infuse. Add the lemon zest to the bowl and mix.

2 In a food processor or blender, add the flour, baking powder and salt and pulse to combine. Add the sugar mixture and pulse again. Add the cubes of butter and pulse until mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Transfer to a large bowl.

3 In a small bowl, whisk together the lemon juice, egg yolk and vanilla extract. Add the egg mixture to the flour mixture and stir until ingredients come together to form a dough. Roll dough into a cylinder and cover tightly with plastic wrap, ensuring dough is completely sealed. Chill in the fridge for two hours.

4 Preheat oven to 175°C (345°F). Line two baking trays with baking paper.

5 Remove dough from the fridge and discard plastic wrap. Allow to sit for five minutes to soften slightly and make it easier to roll out. Dust the work surface with a bit of flour and using a rolling pin, roll out the dough into a circular shape, about 5mm thick. Use a cookie cutter to cut out shapes and carefully transfer to the baking tray ensuring a little space is left between each.

6 Bake for 10-15 minutes or until cookies are slightly golden. Remove from oven and allow to cool. Dust with icing sugar and scatter a few dried lavender petals onto each before serving.

WorldMags.net



Main image www.houseoffraser.co.uk

WorldMags.net

Style a
Scandi theme



Red and white

Choose red and white as your colour theme this Christmas – just simple touches and easy makes will create the look in every room of your home

Add an instant festive feel in red and white with some well chosen bunting or a 'Merry Christmas' Garland like this one from Gisela Graham. The kids will love making some good old paperchains too – alternate red and white chains for maximum effect.

♥ Twinkle, twinkle little star

Your tree will sparkle like never before if you hang up some twinkling hand crafted stars. Folk style is a hot trend, so scraps of red felt are the perfect material to use. Embellish with simple stitching in a contrasting white and hang on silky ribbon. These felted must-haves are from Jan Constantine.





★ Sew special

Make a red and white cushion – you'll need simple sewing and cross stitch skills to create a festive greeting or pick a design online at **www.themakingspot.co.uk.** Use bright red thread against soft white or cream evenweave and add scarlet piping. You'll find this one at Kate Sproston Designs.



★ What a show

Attach cards to long threads of red cord or ribbon with decorated pegs or use them to clip place cards to table settings. Hand paint festive motifs on red and white card and stick to tiny red pegs. This set of eight is from **www.tch.net**

♥ Table talk

Sweet little finishing touches to your Christmas table can be as simple as tying red and white gift tags to rolled cotton napkins. You could even use a rich velvet or satin ribbon tied in pretty bows. Takes a minimum of effort for maximum effect! You'll find these fab tags at **www.talkingtables.co.uk**



WorldMags.net



Image www.waitrose.com

WorldMags.net



Make Christmas giving special with handmade cards and wrapping

Think of a heartfelt message for your friends and family this Christmas and send it in a handcrafted card. Handmade paper to wrap your gifts in will make any gift unique too. Choose embellishments and decorations that mean something to you and make sure your cards and paper sparkle with festive motifs and colour

WorldMags.net

Gift tag savvy

Handmade gift tags add a unique finishing touch to your presents and make them so much more personal too. Even better, with these clever ideas you can rustle up original gift tags in mere minutes…



These tags look very fancy but couldn't be easier – just assemble pretty tree decorations – such as this fabulous array from Waitrose – to suit your Christmas theme. Then take plain gift tags and stick a section of paper doily to the bottom edges. Attach the decorations with loops of matching ribbon. And that's all there is to it!



Make it Natural

Mix up different materials and textures – paper, card, felt, fabrics, dried autumn leaves and tiny pine cones – and complementary colours. They're quick and simple to make – just cut out around a template and embellish with pen if you're feeling artistic.



Style it Vintage

Be inspired by these beautiful vintage-style fabric tags by Gisela Graham. Perfect for using up scraps of material, and to save time stitching you could cut them out with pinking shears and use fabric pen to write your message. It's not cheating, honest…

Images © Waitrose, Hobbycraft/Sussie Bell, Gisela Graham

WorldMags.net

Make your own party décor, cards, gifts & much more with our gorgeously simple paper projects. Plus inspiration, interviews & free printables!



ON SALE NOW!

In the UK: Available from WH Smith & all good newsagents

In the US: Available from Barnes & Noble, Booksamillion & JoAnns

Apple Newsstand: www.molliemakes.com/digital *(find it under 'Special Editions')*

Or buy a print copy from www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk



Simple giftwrap ideas

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

All wrapped up

Make it!
The beauty of brown paper is that any mix of colours will go with it. Use satin or velvet ribbons to change the look

Looking for a quick, festive, eco-friendly gift wrap? Go natural with this eye-catching brown parcel paper and ric-rac braid combination. It's amazing how you can transform the pretty practical into the pretty gorgeous with just one sheet of brown paper and a little creativity…

You will need

- Sheet of brown parcel paper
- Sticky tape
- Scissors
- Lengths of red and natural-coloured ric-rac braid in both a narrow and wider width (enough to fit the size of your gift)
- Hot glue gun (or all-purpose glue)



1 Wrap your gift, making sure that the edges and corners are folded neatly into place.



2 Cut lengths of ric-rac to fit around the whole present, allowing an extra ½in (1cm) for overlap. Glue the ric-rac to the back of the gift: start with a band of narrow ric-rac, then two bands of wider ric-rac, and then another narrow band, with each band spaced approximately ½in (15mm) apart.



3 Next cut two lengths of narrow, natural-coloured ric-rac, lay them at right angles to the first bands of ric-rac, and tuck them under one of the bands. Glue the two lengths of ric-rac to the back of the parcel, using strong glue.



4 Write the name of the lucky recipient on the matching gift label (see overleaf) and tie the label with a knot or bow to one of the rows of ric-rac.

WorldMags.net

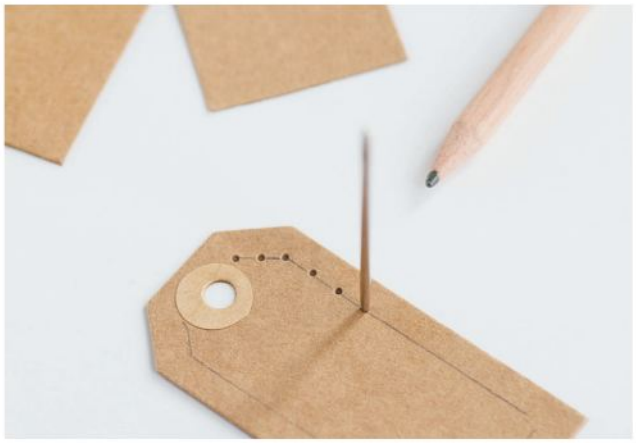
WorldMags.net

Add a quick gift tag

These are the perfect gift tags to go with your ric-rac wrapping. So easy to make, just give plain parcel labels a festive makeover with a simple hand-stitched border and pretty buttons. Choose your Christmas colour scheme and have fun personalising these labels with your crafty finds!

You will need

- Ruler and pencil
- Brown parcel label
- Foam board (for piercing and stitching holes)
- Large needle
- Eraser
- Red embroidery thread
- 2 red buttons for each label
- Hot glue gun (or all-purpose glue)
- 12cm (4¾in) narrow red ric-rac braid (for the loop)



1 Draw a soft line, about 3mm from the edge, all around the parcel label. Place the label on the foam board and, using the large needle, pierce holes along the pencil lines, equally spaced. These will form the stitching holes. Rub out the pencil lines.



2 Thread the needle with the red embroidery thread and work a row of running stitches around the edges of the parcel label.



3 Glue two buttons to the centre of the label. It is better to glue the buttons than sew them on, so you can write on the back.



4 Thread the ric-rac braid through the hole at the top of the parcel label and tie securely. Attach the ends of the braid to your parcel to finish.

WorldMags.net

Keep it simple
You'll find even more easy gift tag ideas on page 58



READER OFFER

Christmas Crafts by Catherine Woram is published by CICO Books at £14.99 and available from all good bookshops or call ☎ 01256 302699 quoting GLR 8UE to buy your copy at the special price of £10.99, including free p&p.

For further information, please visit **www.cicobooks.co.uk**

WorldMags.net

START YOUR FREE TRIAL TODAY!

Buy your digital copy for iPhone, iPod touch and iPad today

www.thesimplethings.com/digital

The Simple Things

Featuring a gorgeous blend of food, interiors, gardening, travel and wellbeing, it's about taking time to enjoy the simple pleasures in life.

Our readers say

"The whole issue is a joy! I found myself fully engrossed from start to finish."

@thegreengal

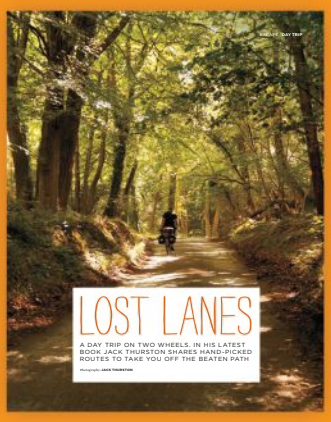
Available on the App Store











PRINTED MAGAZINE AVAILABLE AT WHSmith AND ALL GOOD SUPERMARKETS

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

DIY your Christmas...



Image, inspiration and products © www.notonthehighstreet.com

Especially for you! Make quick chic handmade cards for special people – take a plain card blank, stamp a festive motif or choose an embellishment and stick it all together. Super-simple and very classy!

WorldMags.net



Make it easy...
If time is short, go online to **www.themakingspot.co.uk** for free patterned papers to download and loads of quick festive ideas

WorldMags.net

Handmade in red and white

Send Christmas wishes with these exquisite lace-effect cards – they will look stunning on the mantelpiece and are sure to impress

Knock spots off shop-bought laser-cut Christmas cards with these delicate handmade creations. They're deceptively easy to make using acetate and a few pretty punches. Choose some simple shapes like a heart, daisy and snowflake, and punch patterns to create your own set of stunning, lace-effect cards. Use just two colours for the cards – try this classic red and white combo or, for a more striking look, contrast pink and orange. Turn to page 128 to find out where to buy the materials and follow our step-by-step guide overleaf to make your cards.

You will need

To make the red and white cards

- Red and white card
- Acetate, from Handy Hippo
- Tonic Studios Mini punches – Traditional Heart Slider, Daisy and Snowflake; Regular punches – Snowflake and Daisy, and Multi Detail punch – Heart, all from Crafty Devils Papercraft
- Martha Stewart Punch Around The Page Set – Eyelet Lace, from Sir Stampalot
- Assorted circle punches
- Ribbon
- Eyelet setting tool
- Needle and invisible thread
- Fineliner pens

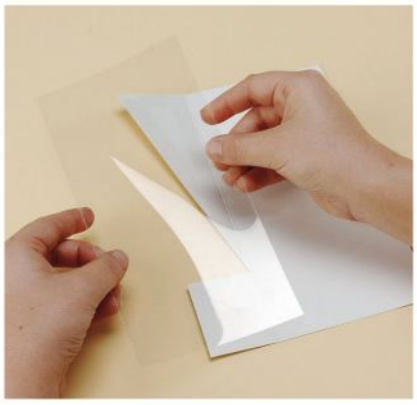


WorldMags.net

Step-by-step to a stylish cut-out card



1 Cut a Christmas tree shape from thin red card then punch out snowflakes. Use an eyelet tool to punch rows of tiny circles to look like hanging tinsel.



2 Trim the front of your card to shape, with a notch for the tree to tuck into. Fix a panel of acetate to the card front with double-sided tape.



3 Stick the Christmas tree to the acetate using a little PVA glue. Leave the card flat until the glue is dry.



4 Punch two red hearts and write 'joy' on one with a white pen. Punch a pattern, then layer the hearts with foam pads. Mount onto a white scalloped circle.



5 Use an eyelet setting tool to punch a few circles above the heart. Add a white bow to the top of the scalloped circle.



6 Fix the greeting to the card with foam pads. To finish, punch a flurry of snowflakes from the back of your card – you'll see them through the acetate.



Top tip

Choose thin card for punching. Paper is a little too thin and slightly transparent, and you may find that your punches struggle to cut very thick card.



Clever edges…

Make a tag to match the dove card. Punch one side of a circle with hearts, then flip it over to punch the other side – the hearts will mirror each other.

WorldMags.net

Give them a sneak peek

Apertures in bags give a glimpse of what's inside! Decorate with punched shapes, stuck on with drops of tacky PVA glue.



WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

Wrap it up in style

Make it!
Awkward shaped gifts? Use lightweight or sheer fabrics to wrap them. Another easy option is tissue paper – it comes in every colour, matte and metallic finishes. Layer it fold it – it's up to you!

♥ Cellophane wrapping
The trick to this is layering. Lay a few pieces of cellophane on a flat surface and sandwich sequins, beads and even delicate metallic threads between each layer. Place your gift in the middle, pull the cellophane around and secure with a ribbon. To finish, you might want to trim any excess off the top.



WorldMags.net

Even the simplest Christmas gift can be transformed into something sophisticated or personalised with a bit of wrapping savvy. Start with cellophane, organza and some gorgeous wrapping papers, add glam sequins and ritzy trims and away you go…

♥ Organza gift pouch You'll need two rectangular scraps of organza or fine linen to make this delicate pouch. Choose an organza with a bit of stiffness, as some varieties can be very silky and difficult to work with. We've sewn our bag together using metallic thread and hand running stitch. For a much speedier alternative you could machine stitch yours.





♥ Button bag
You'll be surprised at how easy it is to make handmade gift bags. The key is to use a nice thick piece of wrapping paper. Finish off with a stitched button, a length of ribbon and you've got a luxurious gift bag that can stand up to being reused.



♥ Bottle bag and tag
For the tag, we've used fluorescent thread and 14-count clear plastic canvas. Cut out your stitched design and glue to a glittery gift tag to complete the look.



♥ Stitched ribbon
Have a go at hand stitching by embellishing a plain coloured ribbon. Don't expect the stitches to be as even – it's all part of the charm. For free hand stitching with a bit more structure, try gingham ribbon instead.

WorldMags.net



£22 Gardener's print
www.letterfest.com



£28 Rusty red hen
www.coxandcox.co.uk



£25 Indoor allotment
www.thegreatgiftcompany.com



£22 Owl cottage doorstop
www.lakeland.co.uk

Gifts for gardeners

There's nothing better than growing stuff and enjoying the fresh air, so we've found some great gifts for green-fingered gardeners of all ages



£15 Rubber stamp set
www.oakroomshop.co.uk



£10 each Botanical mug
www.tch.net



£15 Red compost bin
www.lakeland.co.uk



£20 Garden kneeler
www.johnlewis.com



£15 Gardening journal
www.johnlewis.com



£16 Box of 23 twine spools
www.oakroomshop.co.uk



£13 Mushroom grow kit
www.wowthankyou.co.uk

All prices correct at time of going to press

WorldMags.net



Handmade Christmas traditions…

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net



The joy of making your own Christmas crafts is that you're adapting age-old traditions to make something truly unique for your own home and family. Many of them are centuries old and have symbolic meanings which are a delight to know when creating a handmade Christmas – they add richness to your own story of sharing in the festivities.

1 Mistletoe

It was thought that if you kissed someone under the mistletoe then you would marry them – each time a person was kissed, a berry was removed until none were left. In Norse mythology it was a sign of love and friendship but today we welcome friends under a bunch hung in the doorway.

2 Christmas tree

The tradition of bringing evergreen trees inside and decorating them began in Germany in the 1600s. Prince Albert brought the first Christmas tree to England in the 1840s but in wartime England it was forbidden to cut trees down for decoration. Thankfully, decorating a tree inside today brings cheer to chilly winter nights and scents the home beautifully. Read more about the Christmas tree on page 49.

3 Evergreen garlands

Garlands of evergreen branches were used to ward off malevolent spirits (those spoilsports!) and remind people that green plants would grow again in spring when the Sun God was strong again. Traditionally, they were hung over doorways, but nowadays you can use any mixture of evergreens such as pine, cypress, ivy or fir to decorate any room in your house.

4 Wreaths

In ancient Rome, hanging a wreath on your door was used as a sign of victory, but later in Eastern Europe they were made to signal hope for the arrival of the lighter days of spring. The Advent wreath was originally made by Christians as a horizontal decoration with four candles placed in it.

5 Stockings

The tradition of hanging stockings dates back to the 4th century when St Nicholas filled socks with gold coins on Christmas Eve. In some countries, shoes are filled and socks in others. Traditionally, they were filled with fruit, nuts and sweets, but nowadays, anything that fits in goes in! And, it's a lovely touch to stitch the child's name on each stocking.

6 Christmas cards

The first Christmas card was sent in 1843 by Henry Cole. His friend, John Horsley, designed it for him because Henry to inspire ordinary people to use the new Penny Post which began just three years before. 'Merry Christmas' was written inside because 'merry' was a spiritual word meaning 'blessed'.

7 Baubles

The first glass baubles were made in the 17th century in Lauscha, a small glass blowing town in Germany. Hans Greiner made glass ornaments in the shape of fruits and nuts. Then in 1880 FW Woolworth visited the town, was sold on the idea, and made a fortune by importing them to America where they became popular Christmas tree decorations.

8 Advent candles

The four advent candles each represent a different theme and one is lit on each Sunday leading up to Christmas. Three are purple and one is pink. The first candle to be lit symbolises hope, the second, laso purple, is for love, the third is pink for joy and the fourth is purple for peace. On Christmas Eve a central white candle, representing purity is lit.

9 Christmas presents

The giving of gifts is symbolic of the gifts given by the Three Wise Men to the infant Jesus. His gifts of gold, which represented kingship, frankincense and myrrh, both perfumes used in Jewish worship are a far cry from today's store-bought presents, but the sentiment of giving to loved ones is the same.

10 Christmas pudding

Dating back to at least medieval times, the beloved Christmas pud – or plum pudding – may be a feast of fruit and spices today, but originally it contained meat as well. In the 17th century it was banned by the Puritans for being too luxurious! Thankfully for us, King George I re-established it in 1714.
For stockists visit **www.alansilverwood.co.uk**

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net



Images from www.poundland.com

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net



Image www.panduro hobby.com

WorldMags.net



Make unique gifts for family and much loved friends

Show how much you love someone with a gift you've made just for them. It is so rewarding to make something close to someone's heart, which reminds of a hobby, passion or favourite sport. Decorate or embellish a frame, cushion or bag – just use your imagination and you'll create something that will be long treasured

WorldMags.net



£9 Brit storage box
www.lakeland.co.uk



£19 Wooden Puzzle coasters
www.boconcept.co.uk



£10 Grey felt heart cushion
www.sainsburys.co.uk



£225 Mongolian lambskin rug
www.nordichouse.co.uk

Gifts for the home

Whether it's for a house that's someone's brand new home, or a much-loved, lived-in-forever home that needs a refresh, we've got it covered!



£12 Matte glass tealight holder,
www.nordichouse.co.uk



£14 Gold metal bowl
www.sainsburys.co.uk



£19 Watch Out wall clock
www.boconcept.co.uk



£20 Fox draft excluder
www.sainsburys.co.uk



£99 Mad Millie cider kit
www.lakeland.co.uk



£19 Brissi Valerie cake stand
www.johnlewis.com



£23 Pasta machine
www.lakeland.co.uk

All prices correct at time of going to press

WorldMags.net



Tea cup candles

Forget shop-bought candles – vintage china teacups, beautiful beads and pretty-shaped ramekins make your own scented offerings

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

You will need

Teacup candle

You will need:

- double boiler (or large saucepan and heatproof bowl)
- craft thermometer
- heat-resistant mat or rack
- metal spoon
- 2 wooden skewers
- 2 elastic bands
- teacup
- soy wax flakes (the weight of wax in grams = the volume of water the container holds in ml)
- wax dye
- wick
- wick sustainer



1 Boil water in the lower pan of a double boiler and add wax flakes to the top pan. Alternatively, use a heatproof bowl placed over a saucepan. Heat the wax, stirring occasionally.



2 When the wax has melted and reached a temperature of 70°C (158°F), take the pan off the heat and add the dye – 1g (1/16oz) for each 100g (3½oz) of wax. Stir until dissolved.



3 While the wax is heating, prepare the wick. Attach the wick sustainer (a metal tab) to a length of wick and place in your chosen teacup. Secure the ends of the two skewers with elastic bands and insert the wick between them. Rest the skewers on the rim of the teacup and gently pull the wick gently to ensure it is taut and centred in the cup (*see above*).



4 Pour the melted wax into the cup and tap it with a spoon to release air bubbles. Allow the candle to cool, add more wax if it has shrunk, then trim the wick when the candle has set.

Add a fragrance to your scented candles

There are two types of fragrance oil: candle fragrance oil (a synthetic blend) and essential/aromatherapy oil (extracted from plants and flowers and 100% natural). Both types are stirred into the hot wax just before pouring. Try these different aromatherapy scents to enhance your mood:

Pine or clove To increase energy

Lavender or neroli To calm, soothe, and relax

Jasmine or bergamot To uplift the mood and spirit

Cinnamon or eucalyptus To promote concentration

Sandalwood or lemon To relieve stress

WorldMags.net



Travel candles

Handy travel candles can be made in small tins or glass jars with lids. Create them in the same way as the teacup candle (see *opposite*). If you are using different colours or scents, divide the hot wax into batches before stirring in the dye or fragrance oil for each tin. After the candle has set, decorate the container. These tins have each been decorated with beads threaded on a wire and a label made out of thick foil and embossed from the other side.

More candle inspiration

Pretty ceramic bowls or long, narrow plant containers can also be used for multi-wick candles.

Create darker shades of the same colour by increasing the quantity of dye used in each batch. Layer them up – wait for the wax to set on one before adding the next.

Layered candles

To make these layered candles, follow the instructions for the teacup candle (see *opposite*). Divide the melted wax into batches – one for each colour you want – and stir in the dyes. With the wick in place, pour the first layer of wax into the glass, tap to release air bubbles, and allow to set. When it is solid, reheat the next batch of wax and pour in, and repeat for each layer. Leave for 24 hours until fully set.



Make it!

Charity shops and car boot sales are a great source for containers of all shapes and sizes for your candles

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

Three-wick candle

This impressive three-wick candle can be created in the same way as the teacup candle (see page 80), but you will need another set of skewers to hold the third wick (you should be able to get two wicks into the first set). Multi-wick candles give off more fragrance as well as more light.





Candles in ramekins

Ramekins are ideal for making a set of candles to give as a gift. The ramekins can be washed and reused as long as the candles have been made with soy wax flakes. (Alternatively, pop them in a freezer for a few hours and the wax should drop out.) Use the method for making the teacup candle on page 80.



These pretty container candles are taken from *Handmade Gifts* £16.99, published by DK Publishing **www.dk.co.uk**

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

DIY your Christmas...



Bejewelled and bedazzled It's a good thing wax is soft – it's so easy to decorate candles with charms, earrings and anything you can stick with on with a pin. Make your own twinkly Advent Calendar… easy!

© www.inspiration and products from Nordic House © www.nordichouse.co.uk

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net



Design by Gail Bussi

Make it!

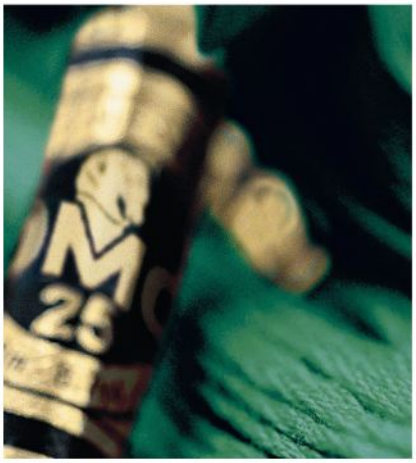
To change the colourway, choose one shade for the cross stitch and a darker one for backstitch

WorldMags.net

Red and white heart

A cross-stitched sampler is a gift to treasure forever – worked in red on natural linen, this traditional design expresses the true sentiment of the festive season

What a joyous way it would be to while away the winter evenings in the run up to Christmas by stitching this continental-style sampler. Filled with heart-warming motifs, such as a bird on a wooden fence, hearts and Christmas trees, it is sure to have pride of place in the home. Worked in red and white, it would be easy to personalise yours by changing the colour scheme, or scripting a different motto.





1 How to start

Fold your fabric in half both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point. While working, check constantly against the chart, or cross the stitches off on the chart as you go. Working in rows helps to split your work into manageable sessions.

2 Stitching the design

All of the cross stitch is worked in two strands of stranded cotton. It's all worked in red and if you look at the chart you will see (2) beside the colour description, which means you need two skeins.

Working from the centre out, stitch the heart in rows to ensure that the pattern stays even. When you have finished stitching the heart, count outwards to work the border – counting carefully to make sure it joins up at the corners. Finally, work the two bird and leaf motifs in the bottom corners of the design.

3 Adding the details

When you have finished the cross stitch, add backstitch using one strand: red for the windows and the birds' legs and ruby for the rest of the outlines and details. Algerian eyes are worked in red in a row across the centre of the heart and in ruby in the lower section, on either side of the tree. For your step-by-step guide to backstitch, beading and Algerian eyes, go to www.themakingspot.com/sewing/how-to/embroidery-stitch-library

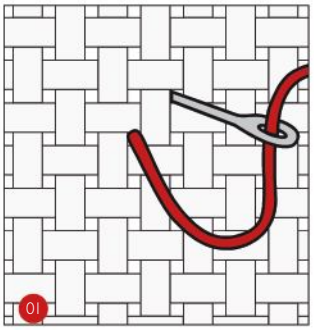
4 Attaching the beads

Stitch white seed beads to the centre of each Algerian eye in the lower part of the heart with a half cross stitch, using white sewing cotton so it doesn't show.

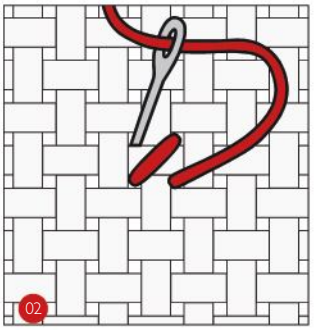
To finish

Frame your handiwork or if you're feeling crafty turn it into a gorgeous cushion.

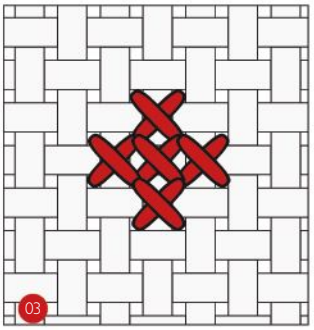
HOW TO CROSS STITCH



1 Pull your needle up through a hole, then down into the hole on the diagonal side of the hole you came up in. This part of the stitch is a half cross stitch.

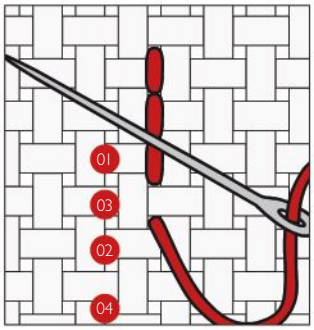


2 Bring your needle up into one of the remaining two holes in the 'square' of four holes, and back down on its diagonal to form a cross stitch.



3 To make sure each X is identical, always work your stitches the same direction, bottom to top and left to right, for each and every stitch.

BACKSTITCH



The needle has been brought up at 02, having been previously inserted in 01. Next, insert it into 03 and bring it back up at 04. Continue this way all along.

WorldMags.net

You will need

- 28-count natural linen or 14-count aida, 46x46cm (18x18in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Seed beads as listed in the key
- Frame with a 27x27cm (10¾x10¾in) aperture, limed wood

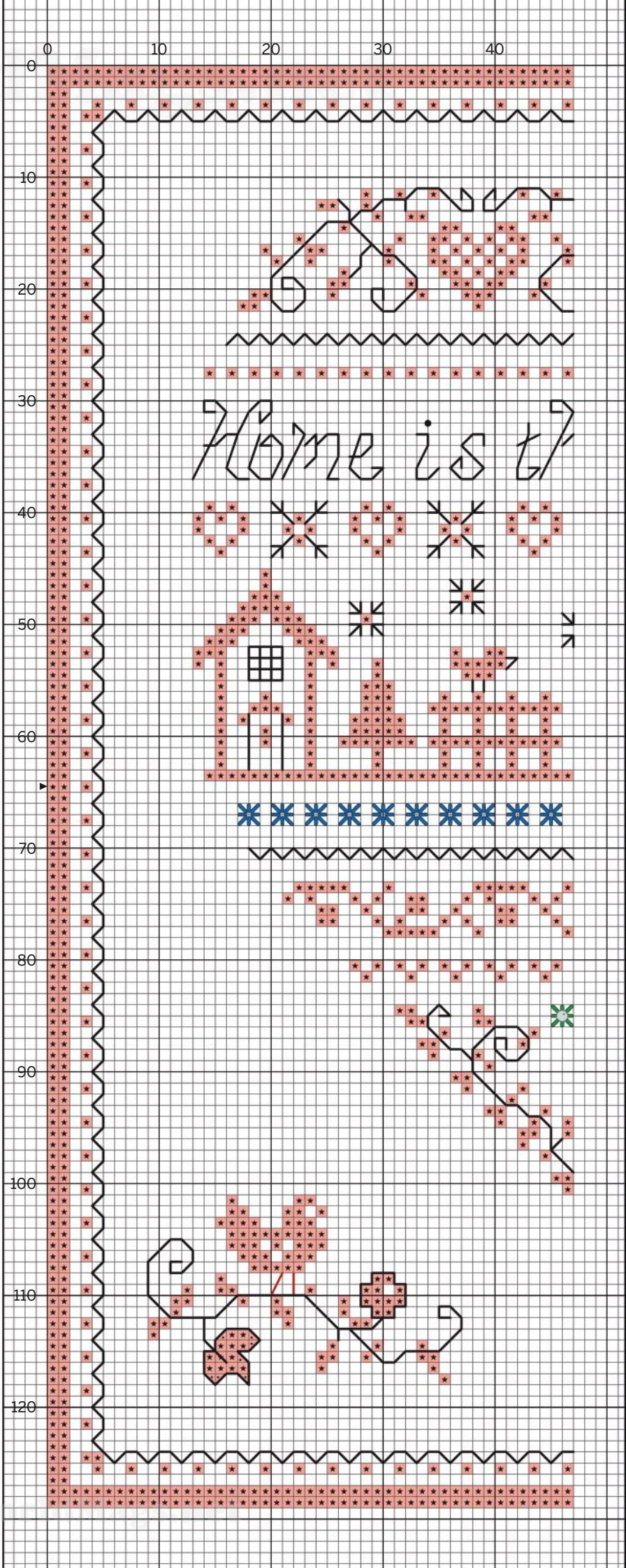
For stockists turn to page 129

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
★	321	047	0510 (2)
Backstitch in one strand			
	321	047	0510
	windows, bird legs		
	816	043	0512
	all other outlines and details		
Algerian eyes in two strands			
	321	047	0510
	middle row		
	816	043	0512
	bottom of heart		
French knots in one strand			
●	816	043	0512
	lettering		
Attach beads with cotton			
	Mill Hill beads 00479		
	bottom of heart		

(2) indicates more than one skein required

Add special details

Download your free matching alphabet chart at crossstitcher.themakingspot.com/blog/free-alphabet-download-0




50
60
70
80
90
100
110
120
e heart of Christmas



www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk
www.theknitter.co.uk/digital

TheKnitterMag TheKnitterMag the knitter magazine

Get a hat!

Quick & easy to make

Turn heads in one of these gorgeous hats – we've adapted one beautiful lace pattern to give three chic variations



WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

You will need

You will need:

- Sublime, Extra Fine Merino DK (100% Merino wool, 50g/116m) Alabaster (03) 2 balls each for: Tube Hat and Beanie Hat; 1 ball for Reverse Lace hat
- A set of 3¾mm double pointed needles (DPNs) or circular needles
- Stitch marker
- Tapestry needle

Tension

Yarn used knits as DK to this tension: 22 sts and 28 rows to measure 4x4in (10x10cm) over stocking stitch using 3¾mm needles

Abbreviations

For a full list of stitch abbreviations, please turn to page 127



Simply tie the top of the tube hat – there's no need to worry about decreasing



Repeat the lace pattern three times when you knit the beanie hat

Look stylish and keep toasty this Christmas in one of these beautiful hats. They'll add the perfect finishing touch to any outfit and even hide a bad hair day! What's more, you may find you can knit yourself one of these gorgeous styles from your leftover yarn. This heavenly lace pattern is a joy to knit – just choose from a funky tube shape or cool beanie style. Why not knit all three, give two as wonderful Christmas gifts, and keep one for yourself…

Lace pattern

Round 1: *Yo, ssk, k2tog, YO, K1; rep from * to end of round.

Round 2: Knit.

Round 3: * K1, YO, ssk, K3, k2tog, YO, K2; rep from * to end of round.

Round 4: Knit.

Round 5: *K2, YO, ssk, K1, k2tog, YO, K3; rep from * to end of round.

Round 6: Knit.

Round 7: *K3, YO, sk2p, YO, K4; rep from * to end of round.

Round 8: Knit.

Round 9: *Ssk, K2, YO, K1, YO, K2, k2tog, K1; rep from * to end of round.

Round 10: Knit.

Round 11: *Ssk, K2, YO, K1, YO, K2, k2tog, K1; rep from * to end of round.

Round 12: Knit.

Round 13: *Ssk, K2, YO, K1, YO, K2, k2tog, K1; rep from * to end of round.

Round 14: Knit.

Start knitting here…

1 Tube hat

Cast on 110 sts using 4mm DPNs or circular enedles. Join into the round, placing a stitch marker at the beg of the round.

Round 1: K1, P1 to end of round.

Cont with the K1, P1 rib for 5cm.

Rep the 14-round lace pattern 4 times, ending on a round 14.

Work 10 rounds in stocking stitch.

Cast off.

Tie

Make an i-cord to measure 20cm:

Cast on 4 sts usinga 4mm DPN. Don't turn your work, but slide the stitches along to the other end of the DPN. You should have the ball yarn coming out of the left side of the stitches, and the stitch furthest right closest to the point of the DPN. Pull the yarn around the back of the stitches, and, with a second DPN, knit the stitches. Where you pull the yarn across the back of the stitches, it will draw the first and last stitches together, which will eventually form a tube. Continue to work like this until the i-cord measures 20cm.

Cast off.

To make up

Weave in all loose ends. Use i-cord to tie up top of hat. Hand wash and reshape while wet. (You could place it over an upturned bowl to dry.)

2 Beanie hat

Cast on 110 sts using 4mm DPNs or circular enedles. Join into the round, placing a stitch marker at the beg of the round.

Round 1: K1, P1 to end of round.

Cont with the K1, P1 rib for 2.5cm.

Repeat the 14-round lace pattern 3 times, ending on a round 14.

Crown

Next round (Dec): K2tog, K9; rep from * to end of round. [100 sts]

Next round: Knit.

Next round (Dec): K2tog, K8; rep from * to end of round. [90 sts]

Next round: Knit.

Next round (Dec): K2tog, K7; rep from * to end of round. [80 sts]

Next round: Knit.

Next round (Dec): K2tog, K6; rep from * to end of round. [70 sts]

Next round: Knit.

Next round (Dec): K2tog, K5; rep from * to end of round. [60 sts]

Next round: Knit.

Next round (Dec): K2tog, K4; rep from * to end of round. [50 sts]

Next round: Knit.

Next round (Dec): K2tog, K3; rep from *

WorldMags.net

to end of round. [40 sts]

Next round: Knit.

Next round (Dec): K2tog; rep from * to end of round. [20 sts]

Next round (Dec): K2tog; rep from * to end of round. [10 sts]

Next round (Dec): K2tog; rep from * to end of round. [5 sts]

To make up

Thread yarn through stitches and secure. Weave in all loose ends. Hand wash and reshape while wet.

3 Reverse Beanie hat

Cast on 110 sts using 4mm DPNs or circular needle. Join into the round, placing a stitch marker at the beg of the round.

Round 1: K1, P1 to end of round.

Cont with the K1, P1 rib for 3cm.

Work from the lace pattern once, but do it in reverse, starting with round 14 and working back through the lace pattern to round 1.

Cont in stocking stitch for 5cm.

Crown

Next round (Dec): K2tog, K9; rep from * to end of round. [100 sts]

Next round: Knit.

Next round (Dec): K2tog, K8; rep from * to end of round. [90 sts]

Next round: Knit.

Next round (Dec): K2tog, K7; rep from * to end of round. [80 sts]

Next round: Knit.

Next round (Dec): K2tog, K6; rep from * to end of round. [70 sts]

Next round: Knit.

Next round (Dec): K2tog, K5; rep from * to end of round. [60 sts]

Next round: Knit.

Next round (Dec): K2tog, K4; rep from * to end of round. [50 sts]

Next round: Knit.

Next round (Dec): K2tog, K3; rep from * to end of round. [40 sts]

Next round: Knit.

Next round: (Dec): K2tog; rep from * to end of round. [20 sts]

Next round: (Dec): K2tog; rep from * to end of round. [10 sts]

Next round (Dec): K2tog; rep from * to end of round. [5 sts]

To make up

Thread yarn through stitches and secure. Weave in all loose ends, hand wash and reshape while wet.

Top Tip

If time is short…

If you have an old baby's or child's jumper, make a quick hat by chopping off a section of body. Hem the cut ends, then thread a drawstring or ribbon through one of the ends and pull tight.



Work the lace pattern in reverse for a softer, less defined design



Draw the yarn up tightly to prevent leaving a hole in the top of your hat

Step-by-step guide: Sk2p, Slip1, k2tog, Psso



1. Insert the point of the right-hand needle into the next stitch as if to knit and slip it on to the right-hand needle.



2. For the next stitch, insert the right-hand needle into the next two stitches on the left-hand needle and knit them together.



3. Insert the point of the left-hand needle into the slipped stitch on the right-hand needle and take this stitch back over the k2tog.



4. Take the slipped stitch off the right-hand needle and drop it off the left-hand needle. The slipped stitch will slope towards the left.

WorldMags.net



Here's a surprise!

This little pud reveals something better than a sixpence – it's a basket for Christmas goodies!

Scrumptious enough to eat, this plump mini pudding has a surprise: lift up the brandy sauce top with the velvet ribbon and see what's inside! A versatile little number, this fun crochet pud deserves a star role this Christmas – use it as an alternative to a traditional stocking, fill it with little gifts and hang it at the foot of a child's bed. Or, fill it with wrapped chocolates as a quirky, seasonal alternative to handing around a tin! By using lighter weight yarn and a smaller hook, you could make this pud any size – even small enough for a charming Christmas tree decoration.

This project uses simple stitches and is wonderful for anyone with a basic working knowledge of crochet. With all the increasing and decreasing, if you've ever longed to make an amigurumi – a cute Japanese-style crocheted animal – the skills are the same, so making the pudding is good practice.

You will need

To crochet the Christmas pudding

- Aran-weight yarn: 75g of brown, 25g each of white, dark green and dark red
- 3.5mm crochet hook
- 20cmx12mm (8x¼in) green velvet
- Five buttons

Abbreviations

ch chain

cluster work the required number of sts leaving the last loop of each on hook, yrh, draw the yarn through all the loops

dc double crochet

dtr double treble

dec decrease

foll follow(ing)

htr half treble

inc increase

rep repeat

rem remain(ing)

R(W)SF right (wrong) side facing

st(s) stitch(es)

ss slip stitch

tr treble

t-ch turning chain

yrh yarn round hook

Start crocheting here…

Pudding Bottom

Base

Foundation loop: Using brown yarn, ch 6 and join with a ss to form a ring.

Round 1: 8 dc around the ring.

Round 2: Inc 8 sts evenly (2 dc in each st) to end. [16 sts]

Round 3: Inc 8 sts evenly (1 dc, then 2 dc in next st) to end. [24 sts]

Round 4: Inc 8 sts evenly (2 dc, then 2 dc in next st) to end. [32 sts]

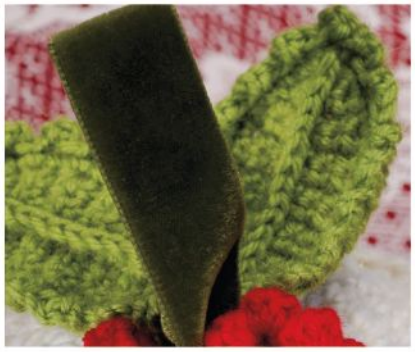
Round 5: Inc 8 sts evenly (3 dc, then 2 dc in next st) to end. [40 sts]

Round 6: Inc 5 sts evenly (7 dc, then 2 dc in next st) to end. [45 sts]

Round 7: Inc 5 sts evenly (8 dc, then 2 dc in next st) to end. [50 sts]

Round 8: Work without increase.

Round 9: Inc 2 sts evenly (24 dc, then 2 dc in next st) to end. [52 sts]



Using velvet ribbon for the loop really says "Christmas". Five buttons hold the 'brandy sauce' top on – try metal buttons that look like coins to mimic the sixpence treasures!



WorldMags.net

Sides

Round 10: Inc 4 sts evenly (12 dc, then 2 dc in next st) to end. [56 sts]

Round 11: Inc 4 sts evenly (13 dc, then 2 dc in next st) to end. [60 sts]

Round 12: Inc 6 sts evenly (9 dc, then 2 dc in next st) to end. [66 sts]

Rounds 13 & 14: Work without increase.

Round 15: Inc 6 sts evenly (10 dc, then 2 dc in next st) to end. [72 sts]

Round 16: Work without increase.

Round 17: Inc 6 sts evenly (11 dc, then 2 dc in next st) to end. [78 sts]

Rounds 18-23: Work without increase.

Round 24: Dec 2 sts evenly (37 dc, then skip 1) to end. [76 sts]

Round 25: Dec 4 sts evenly (17 dc, then skip 1) to end. [72 sts]

Round 26: Work without decrease.

Round 27: Dec 4 sts evenly (16 dc, then skip 1) to end. [68 sts]

Round 28: Work without decrease.

Round 29: Dec 2 sts evenly (32 dc, then skip 1) to end. [66 sts]

Round 30: Work without decrease.

Round 31: Dec 2 sts evenly (31 dc, then skip 1) to end. [64 sts]

Round 32: Dec 4 sts evenly (14 dc, then skip 1) to end. [60 sts]

Round 33: Dec 4 sts evenly (13 dc, then skip 1) to end and fasten off. [56 sts]

Pudding Top

Foundation Loop: Using white yarn, ch 6 and join with a ss to form a ring.

Round 1: 10 dc around the ring.

Round 2: Inc 9 sts (1 tr, then 2 tr in each st) to end, ss to first tr. [19 sts]

Round 3: Inc 9 sts evenly (1 tr, then 2 tr in next st) to end, ss to first tr. [28 sts]

Round 4: Inc 9 sts evenly (2 tr, then 2 tr in next st) to end, ss to first tr. [37 sts]

Round 5: Inc 9 sts evenly (3 tr, then 2 tr in next st) to end, ss to first tr. [46 sts]

Round 6: Inc 9 sts evenly (4 tr, then 2 tr in next st) to end, ss to first tr. [55 sts]

Round 7: Make large fan (skip 2 sts, 8 dtrs in next st, skip 2 sts), then small, fan (skip 1 st, 8 htrs next st, skip 1 st); rep to end. This makes 5 large fans between 5 small fans.

Fasten off.

Leaves (make two)

Row 1: Using green yarn, ch 4. Do not join to form a ring as leaves are worked in rows.

Row 2: 1 dc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch to end. [3 sts]

Inc row 3: (+ 1 t-ch) 1 dc, 2 dc in next st, 1 dc. [4 sts]

Inc row 4: (+ 1 t-ch) 2 dc, 2 dc in next st, 1 dc. [5 sts]

Inc row 5: (+ 1 t-ch) 2 dc, 2 dc in next st, 1 dc. [6 sts]

Rows 6-10: (+ 1 t-ch each row) Work without increase.

Rows 11-16: Work without a turning chain, and start each row from 2nd st. The leaf will naturally decrease to just 1 st.

Round 17: Dc around the leaf to create a smooth edge.

Round 18: Create picot edge around the edge of the leaf by ch 3, dc in next st to end.

Berries

Row 1: Using red yarn, ch 33.

Row 2: 5-tr cluster every 3rd ch starting from 4th ch from hook, ss in the 2 chs between; rep to end.

Fasten off.

Finishing

Sew 5 buttons on the pudding body corresponding to the large fans.

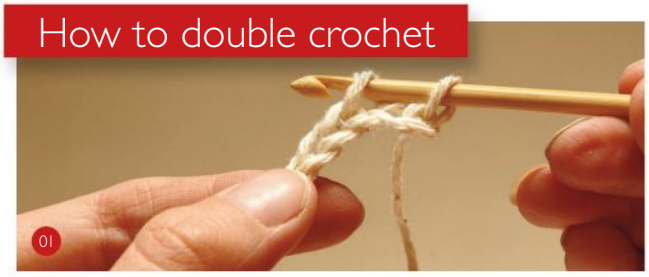
Chain button holes onto the base of the large fans, with a 5-stitch chain.

Arrange leaves and berries on top of pudding and stitch on.

Secure ribbon through hole in top of pudding and stitch or tie in knot.

You can make an inside cover to hide the ribbon and stitching by following rounds 1 to 5 of the pudding base.

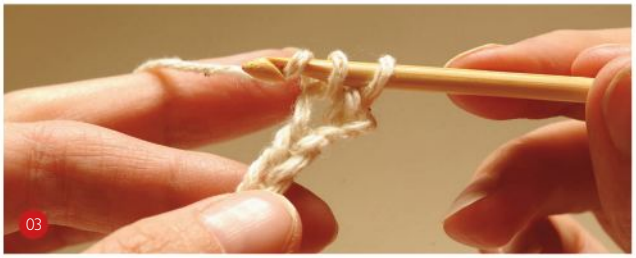
How to double crochet



01 Insert the hook in the stitch to be worked (back of the loop on a chain (as here) or both loops on top of a row of stitches).



02 Wrap the yarn around the hook (yrh) and pull it through the chain loop or stitch, leaving two loops on your crochet hook.



03 Yrh again, then pull the yarn through both loops. There's your double crochet (dc) made and you'll have one loop left on your hook ready to do the next stitch. To do a row of dc, continue in this way to the end of the chain stitches or row of stitches.



04 For further rows of dc, turn work and ch1. This is the turning chain (t-ch) and does not count as a stitch. Work the stitch at the base of the t-ch through both loops, then each stitch to the end. Do not work the t-ch from the previous row.

WorldMags.net



£29.50 Janod Circus Playworld
www.alexandalexa.com



£12 Zip headphones
www.debenhams.com



£13 Wood Worx T-Rex kit
www.whsmith.co.uk



£12 Heart dressing gown,
www.marksandspencer.com

Gifts for kids

Will it be a game? Will it be a toy? Will it be something to cuddle? Ask them and they'll say "All of it!" Luckily, we've got every option sorted… and more!



£12 Badger hat set,
www.littlewoods.com



£30 Mibo Lion backpack,
www.thekidwho.eu



£5 Press-out paper bugs
www.muji.eu



£15 Deadly 60 Tarantula
www.boots.com



£2 Milk chocolate sprouts
www.marksandspencer.com



£13 Toy hippo
www.muji.eu



£7.99 Beano Paper Plane kit
www.lakeland.co.uk

All prices correct at time of going to press

WorldMags.net



From the heart

Soft and rainbow-bright, wear your heart on your sleeve with these textured felt brooches decorated with vintage buttons. Great to give as gifts this Christmas, you can even decorate the tree with them

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

Stitch a perfect pin

These chic layered brooches are quick little stocking fillers and the perfect excuse to treat yourself to some glorious-coloured felt. Keep an eye open for pretty or unusual buttons in charity shops for a unique finishing touch to your gift.

Follow these simple steps to make the heart brooch – you can make the flower and bird brooches in exactly the same way. The templates for all three designs are on page 126.

You will need

To make a felt brooch

- Templates: on page 126
- Felt in orange, purple, yellow and aquamarine
- Thread: cotton perlé thread in lime green and lilac; and silk thread in bright pink
- Sharp chenille needle
- Pins
- Fabric scissors
- Pinking shears
- Thin card
- Small pearl button
- Brooch fastening



1 Cut a 5cm (2in) square of orange felt, and use the templates to cut out a small purple heart and a tiny yellow circle. Pin the heart to the square and overstitch using lime green thread.



2 Pin the tiny yellow felt circle to the centre of the purple heart and overstitch using lime green thread.



3 Using bright pink silk thread, decorate the heart with running stitch around the outside of the circle.



4 Using lilac thread, attach the button to the centre of the yellow circle as an embellishment.



5 Carefully cut out the heart from the orange felt, leaving a narrow orange border.



6 Use the template to cut out a smaller heart from thin card. Place the card heart on the back of the stitched heart.

WorldMags.net



7 Lay the heart on the aquamarine felt, with the card heart sandwiched in between, and stitch the two layers together. Use a running stitch in lilac.



8 Using pinking shears, cut out the heart shape from the aquamarine felt. Leave a narrow border.



9 Stitch the brooch fastening securely to the back of the heart. Keep the pin open to make it easy to get to the holes.

READER OFFER



Felt with Love by Madeleine Millington (ISBN 9781844487691) from Search Press is packed with irresistible felt projects you'll want to make. The book costs just £9.99 and readers can get their copy with free post and packing. Just call ☎ 01892 510850 and quote 'Handmade Christmas'.







WorldMags.net

Put a sock in it…

For kids of all ages!



WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

Kick off your old socks and bring a cheeky chimp (or two) to life with this fun Christmas pressie idea. The ultimate stocking filler for children of all ages, your cheeky monkeys will also enjoy making some of their own (with a little help from mum) For a sweet finishing touch, tie a label with the monkey's name around its wrist!

You will need

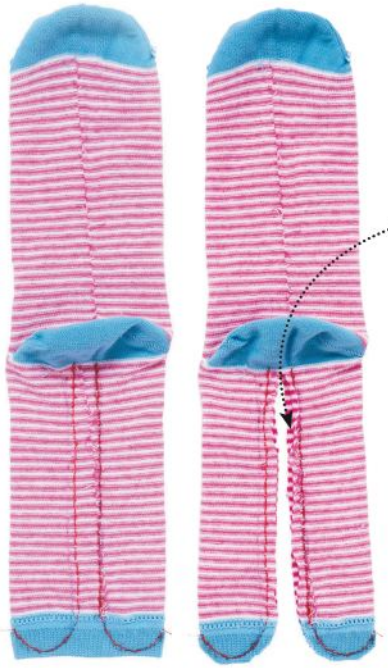
To make a sock monkey

- Socks
- Needle, scissors and thread
- Soft toy stuffing
- Buttons for eyes

Make it!
Simply take a pair of socks like these and turn them into a cute monkey like this!







1 Body and legs

Turn the socks inside out and lay them flat with the heel facing forward.

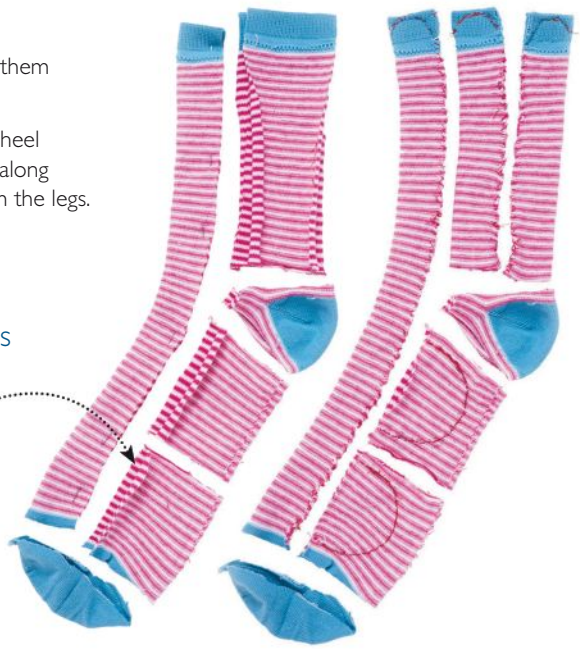
Use backstitch to stitch from the heel down and around as shown. Cut along the centre of the stitching to form the legs.

2 Tail, arms, nose, and ears

Cut out the body pieces as shown above.

Join the sides by overstitching along the edges, leaving openings for stuffing.

Sew in a semicircle for the ears (*see right*)



WorldMags.net



3 Ready to fill

Turn all the body pieces right side out, then fill them. (*See below left*)

Sew up the openings to the ears.

Sew up the body opening using overstitch.

Attach the ears and arms to the sides of the body.



4 Make a mouth

Sew on the bottom of the mouth.

Fill the mouth and attach the rest of the mouth.





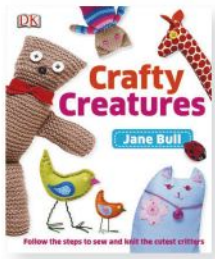
Sew the tail to the base of the monkey's back.

5 Make eyes, a smile, and a tail

Sew on the button eyes.

Make a smile with embroidery thread using backstitch.





These crazy chimps are taken from *Crafty Creatures* by Jane Bull. It costs £12.99 and is published by DK
www.dk.co.uk

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

HANDMADE Christmas

The O2

A ONE OF A KIND CRAFT FAIR IN A ONE OF A KIND VENUE

13TH, 14TH & 15TH DECEMBER 2013

THE O2, LONDON

www.handmadechristmas.co.uk



SPONSORED BY

Mollie MAKES · Simply knitting · Simply Crochet HOOKED ON HANDMADE · THE SIMPLE THINGS · Folkdy · PILGRIMS CHOICE · STYLIST

WorldMags.net



Image www.sainsburys.co.uk

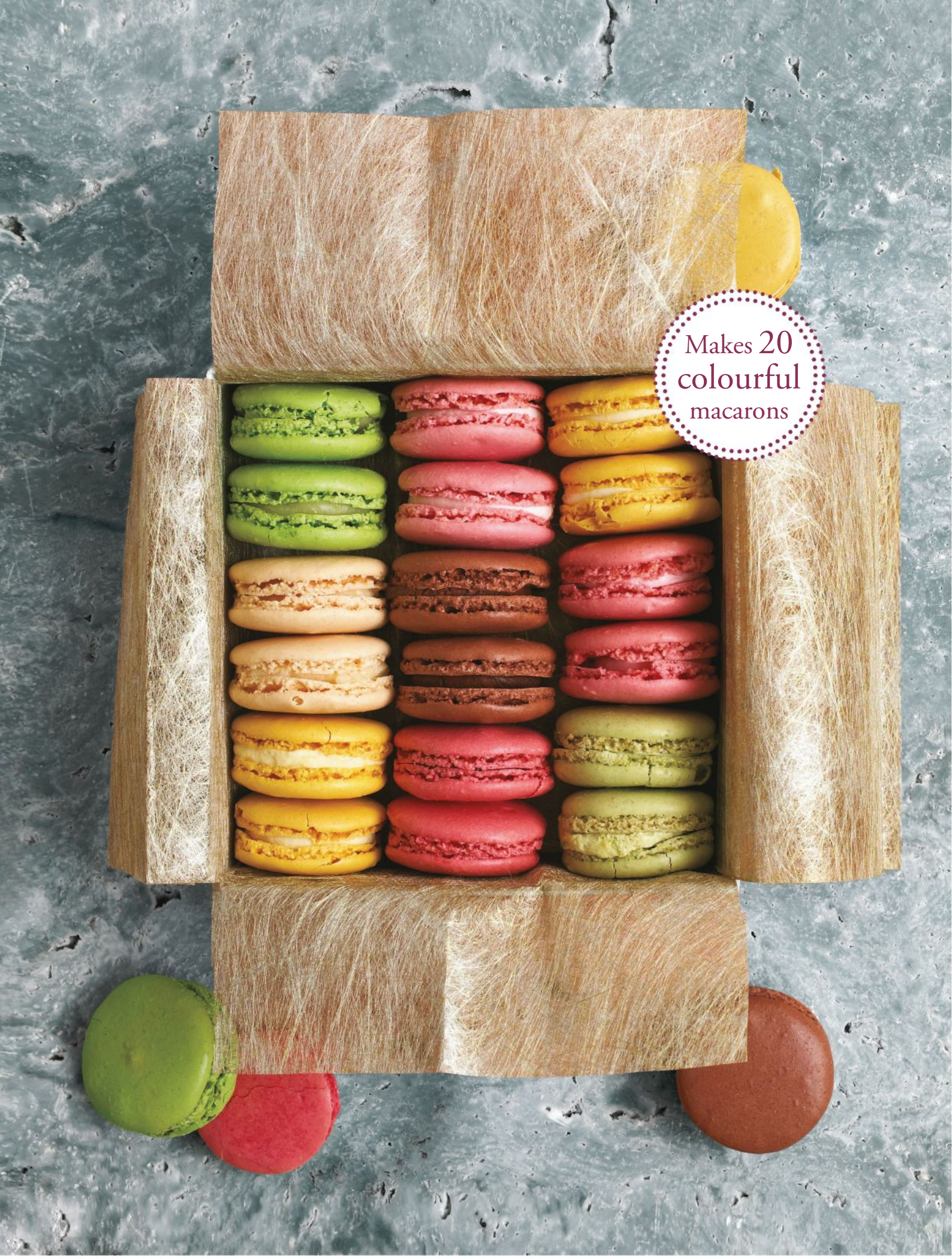
WorldMags.net



Spoil yourself and your family and friends with edible gifts and sweet treats

Food is at the heart of a memorable Christmas, so bake some delicious sweet snacks as presents, decorations or tasty tidbits. Use heady seasonal spices and flavours like cinnamon and rum to flavour cookies, cupcakes or chocolates, and embellish with sweet iced snowflakes or silver sprinkles – sparkling little gifts and treats for very happy visitors

WorldMags.net



WorldMags.net

French fancies

Add the 'wow' factor to Christmas with this indulgent box of rainbow delights – delicate meringue shells and melting centres make a sophisticated combination

These gorgeous macarons really are worth the effort – just follow our step-by-step guide to make a batch of 20. For a multi-coloured array, divide the mixture and add separate food colourings to each batch. These macarons use fresh cream, so keep them chilled.

For 20 pink macarons you will need:

- 2 baking sheets
- greaseproof paper
- 2 large mixing bowls
- hand-held electric whisk
- piping bag
- wire cooling rack
- palette knife
- 2 large egg whites at room temperature
- 75g (2½oz) granulated sugar
- 50g (1¾oz) ground almonds
- 100g (3½oz) icing sugar
- pink food colouring
- 200ml (7fl oz) double cream



1 Preheat the oven to 150°C (300°F/Gas 2). Line 2 baking sheets with greaseproof paper. Trace 20 x 3cm (1¼in) circles, leaving a good-sized gap between them. Turn the paper over.



2 In a large bowl, whisk the egg whites to stiff peaks using an electric whisk.



3 Add the granulated sugar a little at a time, whisking well between additions. The meringue mixture should be very stiff at this point.



4 Mix together the ground almonds and the icing sugar. Gently fold in the almond mixture, a spoonful at a time, until just incorporated into the meringue mixture.

WorldMags.net



5 Add a few drops of pink food colouring to the mixture, folding the mixture carefully, until just mixed in.



6 Transfer the macaron mixture to a piping bag. Using the guidelines, pipe the mixture into the centre of each circle, allowing it to spread and fill out into an even, round shape.



7 Bake in the middle of the oven for 18–20 minutes, until the surface is set firm. Leave for 15–20 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.



8 Pour the double cream into a bowl, and add some more pink food colouring. Whisk the cream until it is thick and the colour is evenly distributed.



9 Using a palette knife, add a blob of whipped cream to the centre of one macaron half. Add the second half and sandwich gently. Serve immediately.



These stunning macarons are from *Handmade Gifts* £16.99, published by DK Publishing **www.dk.co.uk**

WorldMags.net



Trio of oils

Quick and easy, infused oils are a deliciously aromatic gift idea. Choose from chilli, basil or rosemary or make all three – foodie friends will love them!

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

Basil oil

You will need

Essential ingredients for all three oils
- knife
- chopping board
- sterilised glass bottle
- jug and funnel (optional)

For the chilli oil
- 1 litre (1¾ pints) light olive oil
- 100g (3½oz) mix of red bird's eye chillies and regular red chillies



1 Slice the regular chillies in half with a knife, cutting all the way through the stem. Add the sliced chillies, whole bird's eye chillies, and any seeds to the sterilised bottle.



2 Fill up the bottle with 1 litre (1¾ pints) olive oil and stopper it. The oil will keep for up to one month.

Make it!

Filter basil oil after three to four weeks to extend its shelf life. Re-bottle the oil and seal the bottle before storing.



WorldMags.net

Garlic and rosemary oil



Make it!

Try combining rosemary with herbs such as thyme or coriander for other exciting flavour combinations

Basil oil

Fragrant basil oil makes a flavourful base for salad dressings, and can be used to flavour sauces and soups. Bruising the leaves before you pour on the oil releases their delicate aroma.

You will need

- 1 litre (1¾ pints) light olive oil
- 150g (5oz) basil

1 Heat the oil gently in a pan until it reaches 40°C (104°F).

2 Lightly bruise the basil and put it in a warm, sterilised jar or bottle. Pour the warm oil into the jar, then seal. The oil will be ready to use in three to four weeks.

Garlic and rosemary oil

This traditionally flavoured oil can be used as a base for marinades, or to lightly coat vegetables before they are roasted in the oven. The oil keeps for one month.

You will need:

- 1 litre (1¾ pints) light olive oil
- 6 garlic cloves
- 3 stalks rosemary

1 Crush the garlic cloves lightly. Place them in a sterilised jar or bottle with the stalks of rosemary.

2 Add oil to the bottle to cover the herbs, then seal.



These delicious infused oils are taken from *Handmade Gifts* £16.99, published by DK Publishing, **www.dk.co.uk**

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

DIY your Christmas...



Image and creative idea © Hobbycraft www.hobbycraft.co.uk

Let it snow... Bake cookies to your favourite recipe, stamp out snowflakes in white sugarpaste, attach to the cookies with a dab of butter cream and decorate with fondant icing to finish. Simple!

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net





Sweet Treats

You'll love these festive bakes from **Christmas Cupcakes and Cookies** – they'll make irresistible presents for sweet-toothed friends and family





© Ryland Peters & Small 2013

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

Put the Christmas carols on and have yourself a merry little baking session. It's easy to whip up these deliciously decadent cupcakes and cookies – use the basic cake mixture recipe for all the cupcakes and the vanilla cookie dough for the Polka Dot Parcels. You'll find both these recipes on page 114.

You will need

Makes 16 Christmas fancies
- 1 quantity basic cake mixture
- 20-cm square cake pan, greased and lined
- piping bag fitted with small, round nozzle
- silver cake cases

For the buttercream
- 300g icing sugar
- 60g butter, softened
- 1–2 tablespoons milk
- 1 tablespoon hazelnut butter

For the topping
- 800g fondant icing sugar
- food colouring in colours of your choice

Fancy a fancy? Beautifully decorated with a glossy iced piped bow and filled with a melting buttercream centre, make a batch of these little goodies for someone special this Christmas

Christmas fancies

These pretty little parcel cakes have a shiny glazed icing and are piped with bows. They are tiny bites of sweet cake, with a hazelnut buttercream guaranteed to delight everyone. If you cannot find hazelnut butter, substitute peanut butter instead. Preheat the oven to 180°C (350°F) Gas 4.

Keep calm...

...and bake! As good cooks know, being organised is the key so get everything ready on the table before you begin



1 Spoon the cake mixture (*see page 114*) into the prepared cake pan and bake for 20–25 minutes until the cake is golden brown and springs back to your touch. Remove from the oven and allow to cool.

2 To make the buttercream, whisk the icing sugar, butter, milk and hazelnut butter together in a mixing bowl until light and creamy. With a sharp knife, cut the cake in half horizontally. Put the bottom half of the cake on a board small enough to fit in the fridge. Spread over a layer of buttercream. Put the top half of the cake on top of the buttercream layer and cover the whole cake with a thin layer of buttercream. Chill in the fridge for 2 hours until the buttercream is set firm then cut the cake into the 16 equal squares.

3 To make the topping, heat the fondant icing sugar in a saucepan until just warm, adding 125ml water a little at a time. You need a thick icing so you may not need to add all of the water. Reserve a little of the icing to make the bows. Stir in food colouring(s) of your choice.

4 Spoon the warm, white icing over the cakes, making sure that each cake is covered completely. It is best to place the cakes on a cooling rack for this with foil underneath to catch the icing drips. Leave the icing to set. Spoon the reserved, coloured icing into the piping bag and pipe a cross of icing over the top of each iced cake. Pipe a bow in the centre of each cross.

5 Leave to set, then cut the cakes from the rack by sliding a sharp knife underneath them. Put the cakes in pretty silver cake cases to serve.

WorldMags.net

We love these creamy-topped, spicy mini bakes – add a few little gingerbread men and shiny mini silver balls to every one to transform them into really festive creations

You will need

Makes 12 gingerbread men cupcakes
- 1 quantity basic cake mixture
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 tablespoon gingerbread syrup
- 12-hole cupcake pan filled with cupcake cases
- piping bag fitted with a large star nozzle

For the topping
- 60ml buttermilk
- 1 tablespoon gingerbread syrup
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 350g icing sugar, sifted
- 125g butter, softened sugar gingerbread men decorations
- mini silver balls

Gingerbread men cupcakes

Tiny sugar gingerbread men are such a simple yet cute decoration for these festive spiced cupcakes. If you do not have sugar gingerbread decorations, you can buy or make small gingerbread cookies and place one of top of each cake instead.

1 Preheat the oven to 180°C (350°F) Gas 4. Fold the cinnamon, ginger and syrup into the cake mixture (see *page 114*) using a spatula or large spoon. Spoon the mixture into the cupcake cases and bake for 15–20 minutes until the cakes spring back to your touch. Remove from oven and cool the cakes on a wire rack.

2 To make the topping, whisk the buttermilk, syrup, cinnamon, icing sugar and butter together in a mixing bowl until light,creamy and holding soft peaks. Add a little extra icing sugar if the mixture is soft. Spoon the icing into the piping bag and pipe a swirl of icing on top of each cupcake.

3 Top the cakes with the sugar gingerbread men and silver balls. Leave to set before serving.





Polka-dot parcel cookies

These colourful parcels make a lovely Christmas gift. If you don't have time to make fondant bows, simply cover the cookies with rolled fondant and tie real ribbons around them. Make the cookie dough (see *page 114*), roll out

1 Roll out some white icing on a clean work surface dusted with icing sugar to a 3mm thickness. Roll some small balls of red icing between your fingers and squash these down onto the white icing using your thumb. When all the balls are in place, gently roll over the icing with a rolling pin to incorporate the dots into the white icing.

2 Cut out squares of rolled fondant the same size as the cookies. If the icing is not too dry, it will stick to the cookie; alternatively, brush the cookie with edible glue using a damp brush. If the cookie has spread a little in the oven, lightly roll over the icing to stretch it right to the edges of the cookie or cake. Finally, run your finger around the edge of the icing to smooth it on for a perfect finish.

3 Roll out some more red rolled fondant to a 3mm thickness and cut strips of icing about 1 cm wide. Attach 2 strips to each cookie to make the ribbons.

4 To make a bow, cut out a strip of red rolled fondant about 1cm wide and twice the length that you would like the bow to be. Take one end and fold it into the middle, making sure that the curl stands open (you can use the end of a paintbrush to support it). Fold in the other half so that the ends meet in the middle. Lay the bow on another, slightly thinner, strip of rolled fondant. Fold in the ends of this strip and turn the bow over. Finally, gently squeeze the sides to shape the bow.

5 Attach the bows to the top of the cookie on top of the ribbon tails.

You will need

Makes 12 polka-dot parcels
- square cookie cutter
- 12 vanilla cookies made using a square cookie cutter
- icing sugar, for dusting
- 200g white rolled fondant icing
- 200g red rolled fondant icing
- edible glue

WorldMags.net

The combination of chocolate and fresh peppermint makes these cupcakes perfect for a classy after-dinner treat, so make a batch and pop in a box filled with gold tissue paper



Peppermint bark cupcakes

Peppermint bark is an American Christmas tradition and is truly delicious. Rather than making slices of peppermint bark, you can use it as a festive topping for these chocolate chip cupcakes.

1 Preheat oven to 180°C (350°F) Gas 4. Fold the cocoa and chocolate chips into the cake mixture (*see below*). Spoon the mixture into the cupcake cases and bake for 15–20 minutes until the cakes spring back to your touch. Remove from the oven and cool the cakes on a wire rack.

2 Break the white chocolate into small pieces and put it in a heatproof bowl over a pan of barely-simmering water. Take care that no water gets into the chocolate as it can affect the melting properties of the chocolate. Allow the chocolate to melt, stirring occasionally, then mix in the peppermint essence. Finely chop the candy canes into small pieces.

3 Spoon the melted white chocolate over the top of each cupcake and spread out with a round bladed knife. Sprinkle with the candy cane pieces and leave to set before serving.

You will need

Makes 12 peppermint bark cakes

- square cookie cutter
- 12 vanilla cookies made using a square cookie cutter
- icing sugar, for dusting
- 200g white rolled fondant
- 200g red rolled fondant
- edible glue

These delicious cupcakes and cookies all start here! Follow the basic recipe for vanilla cookie dough to make the polka-dot cookies on page 113, and the cake recipe is for the three festive cupcake creations

You will need

Vanilla cookie dough

- 250g plain flour
- 125g self-raising flour
- pinch of salt
- 250g unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 125g unrefined caster sugar
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Basic cake mixture

- 125g, butter, softened
- 115g caster sugar
- 2 eggs
- 115g self raising flour, sifted
- 2 tablespoons buttermilk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Basic cupcake mixture

Preheat the oven to 180°C (350°F) Gas 4.

Put the butter and sugar in a mixing bowl and beat together using a whisk or hand-held mixer until light and creamy. Add the eggs and beat again. Fold in the flour, buttermilk and vanilla using a spatula or a large spoon.

Spoon the mixture into the cupcake cases and bake for 15–20 minutes until the cakes spring back to your touch. Remove from the oven and let cool on a wire rack.

Vanilla cookie dough

This dough makes lovely crumbly, buttery cookies. It is delicious as it is, but if chocolate is your favourite, you can replace 60g of the flour with cocoa powder to make rich, dark chocolate cookies instead.

Sift the flours and salt into a mixing bowl and set aside.

Cream the butter and sugar in another bowl until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg yolk and vanilla extract until they are fully incorporated. Add the flours and mix everything together until all the flour is incorporated and the mixture forms a dough. Stop mixing as soon as the flour is incorporated, as you do not want to overwork the dough.

Put the dough in a sealable food bag and chill in the fridge for at least one hour.

Roll out the cookie dough on a clean, lightly-floured work surface using a rolling pin. Stamp out as many cookies as you can from the dough with a cookie cutter of your choice. Put the cookies on a lined baking sheet and chill in the fridge for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 200°C (400°F) Gas 6. Bake for 12–16 minutes until the cookies are golden and baked.

READER OFFER



If you want to bake more fab festive treats like these, *Christmas Cupcakes & Cookies* (published by Ryland, Peters & Small) is available to *Handmade Christmas* readers for the special price of £7.99 including postage & packaging (rrp £9.9). Just call Macmillan Direct on ☎ 01256 302 699 and quote GLR 8SW.

WorldMags.net



More easy bakes

Home baking is a welcome treat all year round, but especially so at Christmas. Now's the time to get creative and go to town decorating your festive bakes – and the kids will really love experimenting with all the fun decorations you can buy

You can't beat the simple pleasure of biting into an indulgently buttery yet crisp freshly baked cookie still warm from the oven. But try not to devour them all at once because they make great decorations, arranged on plates with holly leaves or nestled among the branches of your Christmas tree.

Fancy a Cupcake



Cupcakes are perfect for Christmas because they practically beg to be decorated, not forgetting the cases and fancy wrappers you can buy too. Let your creativity run wild and make the most of the all edible glitters, sprinkles, decorations and even sparkle gels!

Quick Cookies



These are great fun for kids to make – you can help them with the dough then let them take charge of the icing and decorations. To keep things simple you can buy coloured readymade icing and just use sweets to decorate the cookies. The possibilities are endless!

Images © Hobbycraft, Ochre & Ochre

WorldMags.net



£5 White Stilton Christmas Pudding, **www.waitrose.co.uk**



£8 White Chocolate Horseradish **www.hotelchocolat.com/uk**



£35 Duchy Originals Gift Tray **www.waitrose.co.uk**



£139 Le Creuset tagine **www.johnlewis.com**

Gifts for foodies

They won't need to be a gourmet to devour the delicacies we've collected. Who could resist such deliciously tempting food-inspired treasures?



£45 Basic red teapot **www.shopfolklore.com**



£9 Tea Cup measuring cups **www.sainsburys.co.uk**



£8 Mr.Tea tea infuser **www.thekitchengiftco.com**



£18 Orbit oil & vinegar set **www.lakeland.co.uk**



£30 A Taste of Spain **www.marksandspencer.com**



£24 Tide tapas bowl set **www.lakeland.co.uk**



£25 Thornback & Peel oven glove, **www.johnlewis.com**

All prices correct at time of going to press

WorldMags.net



£225 Winter Wonderland hamper
www.biscuiteers.com



£75 Indulgent hamper
www.marksandspencer.com



£40 Chocoholics hamper
www.lakeland.co.uk



£150 Windermere hamper
www.lakeland.co.uk



£25 Large hamper
www.sainsburys.co.uk



£40 Dobbies Gourmet Goodies hamper, **www.tesco.com**



£75 Vintage Holly Box hamper
www.johnlewis.com

Hamper gifts

Not just for picnics, baskets and boxes crammed to bursting with yumminess are ideal for any indulgent snacking occasion… indoors or out!

All prices correct at time of going to press

WorldMags.net

Pop goes the pudding…



Make it!

Spray edible pearl lustre into the can lid or on to some kitchen paper, leave to dry and use as a dust

WorldMags.net

Whoever said the best things come in small sizes was right! These bite-size cake pops are such fun to make and are a great gift idea – kids love them. Our illustrated step-by-step guide shows you how to make a batch of chocolate-coated Christmas puddings and yummy little Snowmen (overleaf).

Your basic cake recipe (for both cake pops)

1 Crumble the sponge either by hand into a bowl or using an electric mixer until it resembles breadcrumbs.

2 Combine 6 parts of cake crumb to 1 part of buttercream and mix thoroughly (you can add citrus fruit or zest, popping candy or sherbet now) and combine thoroughly. Test that the mixture sticks together well. If it is a little dry, add more buttercream.

3 Fill a tablespoon with the mixture and level out using a palette knife; this will give accurate amounts each time. Different spoon measurements will give different sizes of cake pop.

4 Roll the measured mixture into a ball between the palms of your hands. Chill the ball in the fridge to set it. You could place them in the egg holder in your fridge.

Securing the cake pop to a stick

Melt the melting candy in the microwave, using bursts of 30 seconds on high to avoid it burning. You can also melt it in a bowl over a pan of boiled water.

5 Dip the end of the lollipop stick into the melted candy and push it into the cake pop. Place in a polystyrene block and chill in the fridge for about 10 minutes or until the candy has set.

6 Lower the chilled cake pop into the melted candy and twist the stick until the cake pop ball is fully covered. Lift out and allow any excess to drip away, tapping lightly. Push the stick into the polystyrene and chill in the fridge for 10-20 minutes until set.

How to make your Christmas pudding cake pops

You will need

- Cake pop mixture
- Dark cocoa melting candy
- White modelling paste
- Edible lustre spray in pearl
- Piping gel
- Ready-made holly leaf and berry sprinkles
- Lollipop or cookie sticks
- Measuring spoon (tbsp)
- Fluted circle cutter, 2.5cm (1in)
- Soft dusting brush
- Paintbrush
- Tweezers
- Kitchen paper
- Polystyrene block
- Non-stick board
- Non-stick rolling pin 23cm (9in)

1 Using the cake pop mixture, roll as many balls as you want and chill in the fridge.



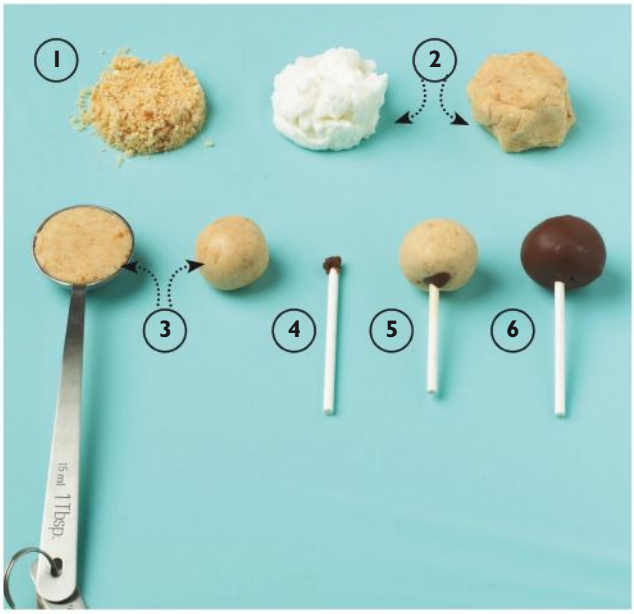
2 Prepare some dark cocoa melting candy and secure the lollipop stick to the pop, as described opposite.

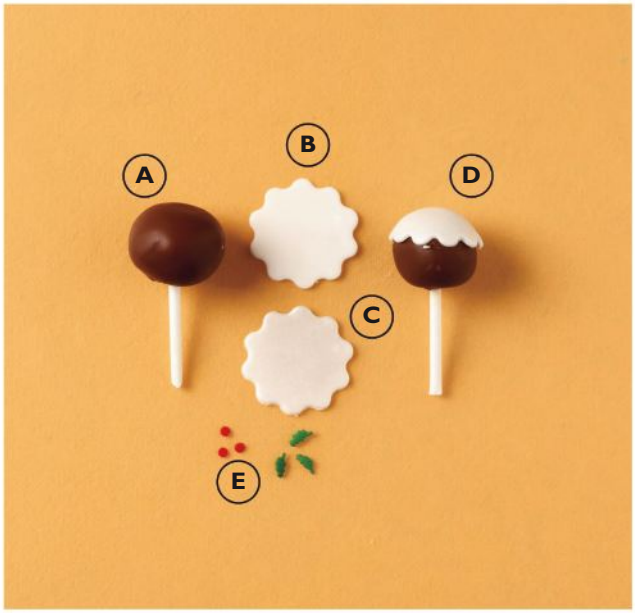
3 Dip each pudding pop into the dark cocoa melted candy and return to the fridge to set (A).

4 Make the brandy sauce by rolling out white modelling paste fairly thinly on a non-stick board. Cut out a wavy-edged circle using the 2.5cm (1in) fluted circle cutter (B).

5 Place on kitchen paper and dust with dry edible lustre spray using a soft brush (C). Paint piping gel onto the reverse and secure to the pudding (D).

6 Using tweezers, dip three holly leaf and three berry sprinkles into piping gel and arrange them on the pudding (E). Leave the pops to dry in the polystyrene block.





WorldMags.net



WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net

How to make your Christmas snowmen cake pops

You will need

- Cake pop mix (see page 00)
- White melting candy
- Pale blue modelling paste
- Orange modelling paste
- Piping gel
- Edible red dust
- Black-coloured buttercream/ frosting
- Edible lustre spray in pearl
- Measuring spoon (tbsp)
- Non-stick board
- Non-stick rolling pin 23cm (9in)
- Disposable piping bag
- Cookie sticks
- Cocktail stick
- Circle cutter: 3.5cm (1¼in)
- Square cutter: 5cm (2in)
- Sharp knife
- Kitchen paper
- No. 2 piping tube
- Soft dusting brush
- Polystyrene block
- Food bag
- Ball tool

1 Roll a tablespoon and a half of cake pop mixture into a ball between the palms of your hands. Make a second, smaller cake pop ball from one tablespoon of cake pop mixture.

2 Prepare some white melting candy and secure the larger pop (the snowman's body) to the stick (A). Leave space for the snowman's head. Place into a polystyrene block and chill in the fridge.

3 Secure the smaller head pop, following the same technique (B). Repeat for as many pops as you require.

4 Dip the whole pop in white melting candy, as described on page 119, and return to the fridge to set (C).

5 Roll out some blue modelling paste on the non-stick board, and cut out a circle using the 3.5cm (1¼in) circle cutter (D). Indent the centre with the small end of a ball tool (E). Mark the outside edge of the circle with short lines using a cocktail stick (F).

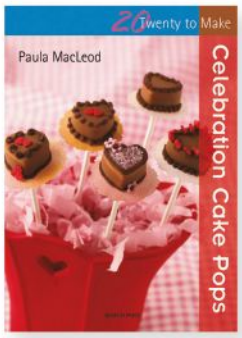
6 Make a hat bobble out of blue paste and secure with piping gel into the indentation (G).

7 Cut out a rectangle from the blue paste, using the square cutter (H) and then dividing this in half (I). Use one half as the scarf and trim to fit. Cut the second half in half again for the two ends of the scarf (J). Cut vertical lines at the ends for the tassels (K). Secure the ends of the scarf, then wrap around the neck.

8 Roll a small ball of orange paste into a cone. Secure to the snowman's face with a little piping gel.

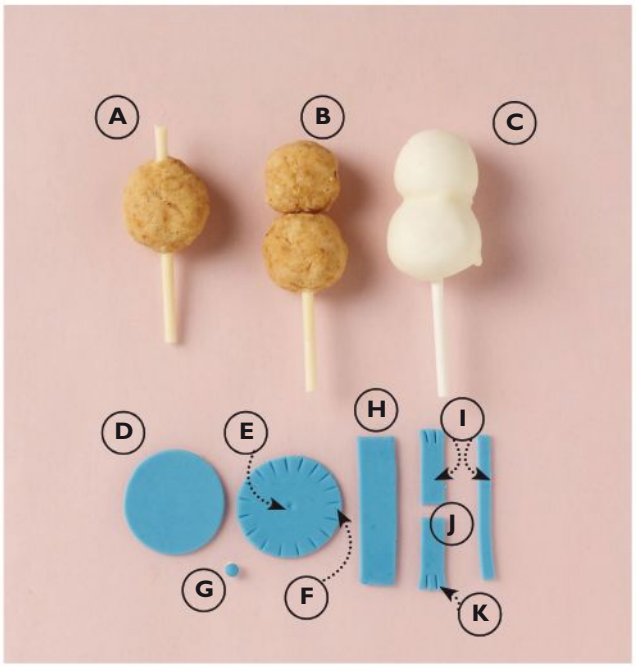
9 Place a little edible dust onto a piece of kitchen paper, load a brush with the dust, tap off the excess and apply to the snowman's cheeks in a circular motion.

10 Prepare a disposable piping bag with a no. 2 piping tube and fill with black buttercream. Pipe on two eyes, a mouth and three buttons. When dry, add a little edible lustre spray in pearl.



READER OFFER

20 To Make: Celebration Cake Pops by Paula MacLeod (ISBN 9781844487639) is published by Search Press and costs £4.99. Readers can get a copy with free p&p. Just call ☎ 01892 510850 and mention 'Handmade Christmas' when you place your order.





WorldMags.net

Butter *fudge*

With its delicious texture, smooth creamy taste, and delicate colour, fudge is a favourite with many people at any time of the year and not just at Christmas. We've added whole blanched almonds to the recipe for a nutty flavour and topped the finished fudge with almonds as well. Wrapped in a cellophane bag tied with a pretty gold ribbon, this fudge would make a delightful Christmas gift.

You will need

To make the fudge

- 400g (14oz) can condensed milk
- 150ml milk
- 450g light Demerara sugar
- 125g butter, plus extra for greasing
- 110g blanched almonds, plus extra to decorate
- Deep baking pan
- Greaseproof paper
- Saucepan





1 Line a deep baking pan, which is approximately 20cm (8in) square, with some greaseproof paper and lightly grease the bottom and sides. Place all the ingredients apart from the almonds in the saucepan and heat gently until the sugar dissolves.



2 Once the mixture comes to a boil, simmer for about 10 minutes, stirring all the time. (You will know that the mixture is sufficiently heated if a small amount poured into a bowl of cold water forms a soft ball.) Remove the pan from the heat and use a wooden spoon to beat the mixture vigorously for about 15 minutes. Fold the almonds into the mixture.



3 Gently pour the fudge mixure into the baking pan, making sure that it settles into the corners and that the almonds are spread evenly throughout the mixture.



4 After about half an hour and before the mixture has set, use a sharp knife to score the fudge without cutting all the way through.



5 Remove the fudge from the tray and press an almond into the centre of each square. Cut the fudge into squares. If you are giving the fudge as a gift, put the pieces in a clear cellophane bag, tie with a sheer gold ribbon, and perhaps decorate with a pretty diamanté decoration..



READER OFFER

Christmas Crafts by Catherine Woram is published by CICO Books at £14.99 and available from all good bookshops or call ☎ 01256 302699 quoting GLR 8UE to buy your copy at the special price of £10.99, including free p&p.

For further details, please visit **www.cicobooks.co.uk**

WorldMags.net

WorldMags.net



© Ryland Peters & Small 2013 Photography by Isobel Wyeld

WorldMags.net

Christmas classics

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without handmade mince pies – whether you eat them yourself or give them to friends, you can whip up a batch in no time with Tori Haschka's festive recipe from *A Suitcase and A Spatula*. And as for the dreamy eggnog custard – it really does come with a kick!

You will need

For the mince pies

- 75 g raisins
- 75 g currants
- 75 g sultanas
- 40 g dried cherries or cranberries
- 40 g dried mixed peel
- 3 tablespoons brandy or dark cooking sherry
- 2 tablespoons marmalade
- 50 g butter, melted, or suet
- 3 teaspoons mixed spice
- grated zest and juice of 1/2 orange
- 1 small cooking apple peeled and grated or diced
- 25 g flaked almonds, finely chopped
- pinch of salt
- 500 g shortcrust pastry
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- muffin pan, greased

Makes around 18

For the eggnog custard

- 250 ml milk
- 250 ml double cream
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1 whole nutmeg
- 100 g caster sugar
- 4 egg yolks
- 2 tablespoons brandy
- 2 teaspoons cornflour

Tori's mince pies

1. The night before serving, mix the dried fruit, brandy and marmalade in a bowl and cover with clingfilm to allow the fruit to absorb the liquid. The next day, combine the boozy dried fruit with the melted butter, mixed spice, orange zest and juice, apple, almonds and salt.
2. Roll out the pastry to 3mm thick. Cut out 8cm diameter circles to line the bases. Scrunch up the remaining pastry and re-roll to cut 7cm lids. You should be able to make around 16–18 lids and 16–18 bases.
3. Line the muffin pan with the pastry bases. Place 1½ tbsp filling in each pastry base. Either place the lids over the top like a jaunty cap, or stretch to fit and crimp the sides with a fork. They don't need to completely meld with the base. Brush the tops and edges with beaten egg and use a fork to puncture the top of each pie.
4. Put the pies in the fridge to rest for 30 minutes. Preheat the oven to 200°C (400°F) Gas 6. Bake for 20–25 minutes until lightly golden. Leave in the pan for 10 minutes to cool, then transfer to a wire rack.
5. Serve the pies at room temperature with the warm custard. If you prefer to serve them warm, put them back in the muffin pan and into the oven at 150°C (300°F) Gas 2 for 15 minutes before serving.

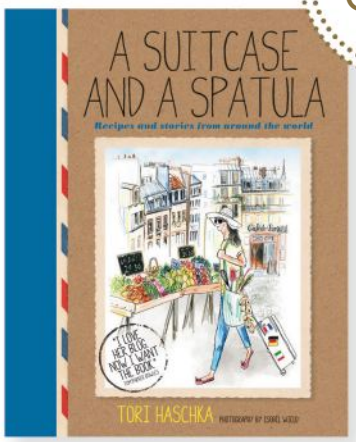
Eggnog custard

1. Put the milk, cream, cinnamon stick and nutmeg in a saucepan and bring to the boil. In a large heatproof bowl, whisk together the egg yolks, cornflour and sugar until they are duckling yellow and fluffy.
2. Pour the boiling milk and cream over the eggs and sugar. Add the brandy. Whisk together until smooth. Fill the saucepan with boiling water and return it to the stove.

   Put the bowl of custard on top of the boiling water. Gently stir and stir and stir, trying not to let the spices splosh out of the bowl.
3. Keep the heat at a gentle level and cook it slowly, stirring and giving it attention. It's ready when it feels thick enough to you. Technically, this is when it coats the back of a spoon and you can swipe through the middle and the lines will stay. Note that it will thicken further in the fridge.
4. Keep the cinnamon and nutmeg in the custard until you serve it – they'll keep leaching out their good flavours over time.

   Cover with clingfilm to prevent the custard from forming a skin.

READER OFFER



A Suitcase and a Spatula by Tori Haschka is a delightful foodie odyssey around the world. – a great read and packed with recipes. It is available to *Handmade Christmas* readers for the special price of £16.99 including p&p (rrp £18.99) by telephoning Macmillan Direct on 01256 302 699 and quoting the reference GLR 7YP.

WorldMags.net

Project templates

Advent calendar

Page 14



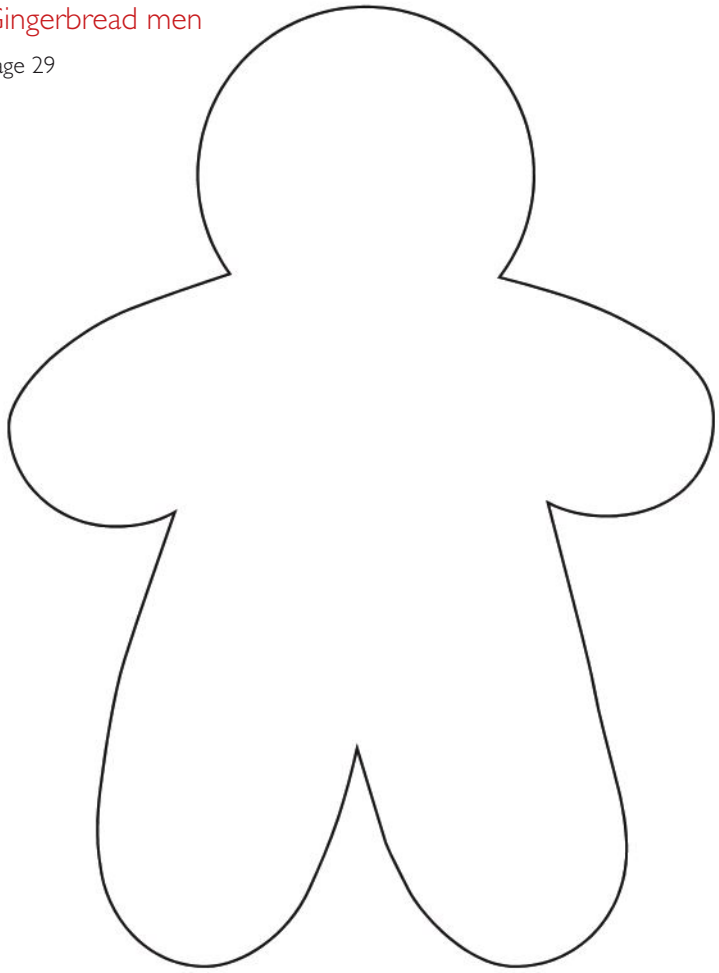


Roof & card holder

Trace these shapes and extend them as much as you need to create scallop shapes in felt for the roof and the bottom edge of the card holder.

Gingerbread men

Page 29



Gingerbread men

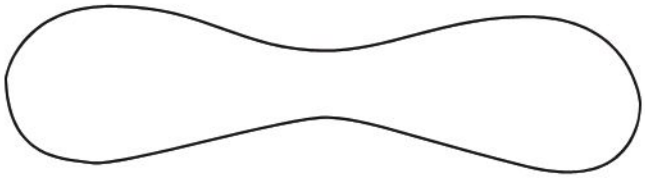
Copy the template on to card and cut it out. Transfer the outline to the felt to cut two body pieces per gingerbread man.



WorldMags.net

Mistletoe bunting

Page 46



Leaf shape

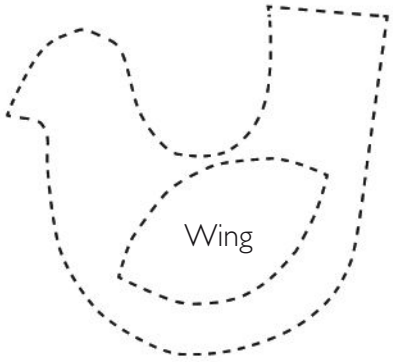
Copy the template on to card and cut it out. This is the shape of the misteltoe leaf for your felt bunting.

Felt brooches

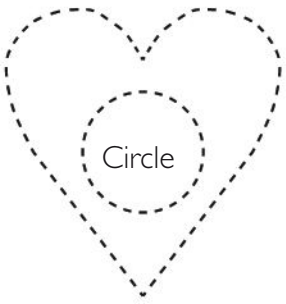
Page 95

Bird, heart, flower

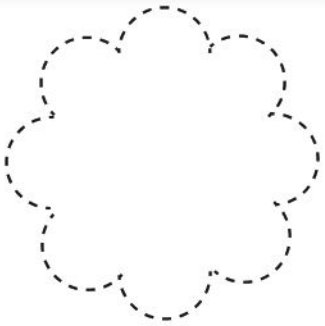
Copy the templates on to card and cut them out. The circle is also used for the flower borooch.



Bird



Heart



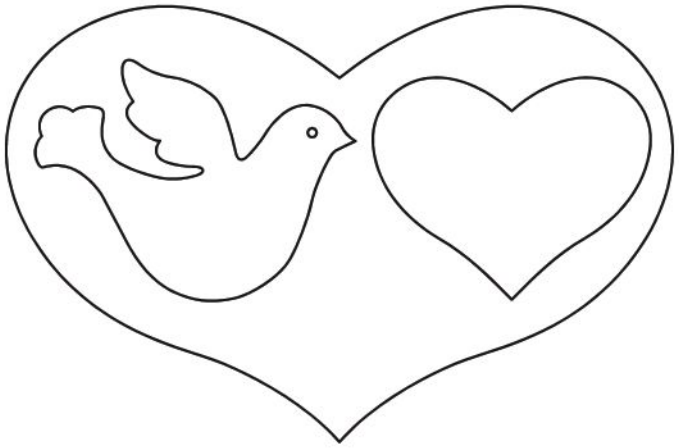
Flower

Cards

Page 66

Red & white heart cards

For your cards, enlarge images by 200%



Knitting abbreviations

cont continue
dec decrease
g st garter stitch
inc increase
K Knit
k2tog knit 2 sts together
kfb knit into front and back of stitch
m1 make (increase) 1 stitch
P Purl
rep repeat
ssk slip 2 sts one at a time, knit 2 slipped sts together
ss stocking stitch
st(s) stitch(es)
yo yarn over

WorldMags.net



NO. 1 FOR GENEALOGY... LET OUR EXPERTS ANSWER YOUR PROBLEMS!

START YOUR FREE TRIAL TODAY*

Now everyone can enjoy *Your Family Tree* magazine on their iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch. Great value single issues and money-saving subscription discounts are available.

Our aim is to make tracing your family history accessible and rewarding for everyone. *Your Family Tree* magazine offers helpful, practical advice, written by experts, on all areas of genealogical research.

www.yourfamilytreemag.co.uk/digital

Don't use Apple? You can still get a *Your Family Tree* digital edition on your favourite Desktop or Kindle device via Zinio at *http://tinyurl.com/yftziniouk*, Nook at *http://tinyurl.com/yftnookuk* and on your Android device via Google Play at *http://tinyurl.com/yftgoogleplay*

*Free Trial not available on Zinio.

Where to buy…

For more information about products in *Handmade Christmas*, to order online or to find your local stockists

Alan Silver www.alansilverwood.co.uk

Biscuiteers www.biscuiteers.com

Catherine Tough www.catherinetough.co.uk

CICO Books www.cicobooks.co.uk

The Contemporary Home www.tch.net

Cox and Cox www.coxandcox.co.uk

Crafty Devils www.craftydevilspapercraft.co.uk

Dobbies www.dobbies.com

DK Books www.dk.co.uk

DMC www.dmccreative.co.uk

Etsy www.etsy.com

Fairwind www.fairwindonline.com

Folksy www.folksy.com

Gisela Graham www.giselagraham.net

GoodGifts www.goodgifts.org

The Great Gift Company www.thegreatgiftcompany.com

Habitat www.habitat.co.uk

Handy Hippo www.handyhippo.co.uk

Hobbycraft www.hobbycraft.co.uk

House of Fraser www.houseoffraser.co.uk

Interflora www.interflora.co.uk

Jan Constantine www.janconstantine.com

John Lewis www.johnlewis.com

Kate Sproston Designs www.katesprostondesign.com

Lakeland www.lakeland.co.uk

Letterfest www.letterfest.com

Love Beetroot www.lovebeetroot.co.uk

Marks & Spencer www.marksandspencer.com

Nordic House www.nordichouse.co.uk

notonthehighstreet www.notonthehighstreet.com

The Oak Room www.oakroomshop.co.uk

Panduro Hobby www.pandurohobby.co.uk

Pipii www.pipii.co.uk

Red Lilly www.redlilly.co.uk

Retreat Home www.retreat-home.com

Ryland Peters & Small www.rylandpeters.com

Sainsbury's www.sainsburys.co.uk

Search Press www.searchpress.com

Simply Add Style www.simplyaddstyle.com

Sir Stampalot www.sirstampalot.co.uk

Talking Tables www.talkingtables.com

Tesco www.tesco.com

Tonic Studios www.tonic-studios.co.uk

Waitrose www.waitrose.com

Willow Fabrics www.willowfabrics.com



WorldMags.net

DIY your Christmas...



And the last word... Don't forget about New Year with all the festive fun you're having! Make or buy metallic garlands and glitzy paper pom-poms to welcome in 2014. We love these from Notonthehighstreet

Image, inspiration and products © www.notonthehighstreet.com

WorldMags.net

Siesta

www.siestaframes.com

Lapman



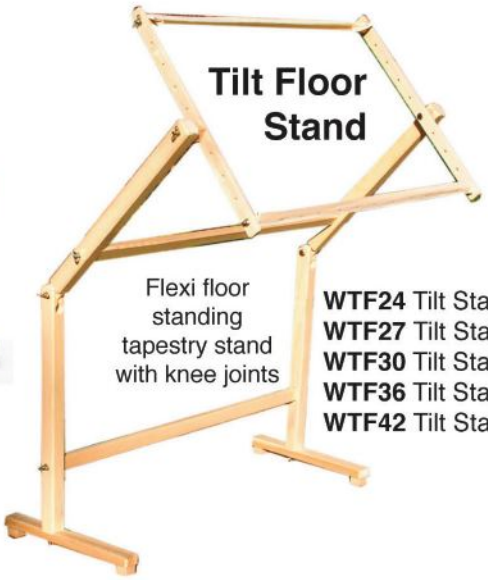
The frame and stand simply folds into the carry case.
Comes with handle and shoulder strap.
12" Lapman (green case) **£45.99**
Code LAPM/1
15" Lapman (burgundy case) **£49.99**
Code LAPM15/1

Vusion2



A table top lamp with a six LED light head on a 10" fully flexible arm with a 3.5" dia. x2 magnifier on a 9.5" flexible arm. An easy access power switch controls the 3 level light. Powered via an AC adaptor (included) or 3 AA batteries (not included) Available in three colours (S) Silver, (P) Purple, (G) Green. State colour required. Code **Vusion2 £39.99**

Tilt Floor Stand



Flexi floor standing tapestry stand with knee joints

WTF24 Tilt Stand 24" **£59.95**
WTF27 Tilt Stand 27" **£61.95**
WTF30 Tilt Stand 30" **£63.95**
WTF36 Tilt Stand 36" **£65.95**
WTF42 Tilt Stand 42" **£68.95**

P&P £4.95 on all orders

Portable Plus Lamp



With its rotating head, direct the light left or right and up and down. Ultra bright 240V 13W bulb with a handy detachable storage box. Price £39.99 Code SB9385.

StitchMaster Lap Stand

The frame simply rests on the two arms of the lap stand and holds frames up to 21".Height and angle are adjustable. (Frame as shown not included). Price **£29.99** Code SMLAP



StitchSmart Floor Stand



This stand has an unique swivel system allowing 360° rotation. Height and working angle are adjustable. Available as complete unit with stand, light,magnifier and chart clamp or the stand on its own.

Complete stand **£149.99** Code D53047 & D24047
Wooden frame as shown NOT included
Stand only **£69.99** Code D53047



Ultimate Floor Lamp Antique Colour

A multi-purpose sewing/craft/reading lampwith magnifier and chart holder. The lamp is height adjustable with a 20W energy saving daylight bulb.

Code D21098 Price **£159.99**

Available from your local stockist or from Siesta at:
Siesta Frames Ltd., Unit D, Longmeadow Ind. Est.,
Three Legged Cross, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 6RD
Tel/Fax 01202 813363, www.siestaframes.com
Other products available at www.coleshillaccessories.co.uk

WorldMags.net

The Magical Christmas Fair

MANCHESTER

Manchester Central

29th November - 1st December 2013



A spectacular Christmas gift shopping experience with thousands of products you will not find on the high street... and a Magical start to your festive season!

Manchester Central

Visit Manchester
Official Christmas Campaign Sponsor

facebook.com/magicalxmas

twitter.com/magical_xmas

www.magical-christmas.co.uk

WorldMags.net