

FRESH



IDEAS

JOY

Dear reader,

Christmas has a way of leading us down a path of nostalgia, it conjures up all sorts of feelings, tastes and smells. Each household has its own take on Christmas. Our family celebrate Christmas as a time of getting together, rejoicing with thankful hearts as the year draws to a close. We are so blessed to have an extended celebration on Christmas day, it's my dear mom's birthday. She always shared childhood stories with us and as a child, she always felt that she was being short changed. You see, she lost out on a birthday gift. For children, especially small ones, it's the number of gifts under the tree, or the size of the gift that counts. This year will be her 80th birthday, therefore this coming Christmas will be even more special. As a family, we need to honour her for her significant role in our lives and the milestone that she has accomplished in her life. I need to plan our Christmas day, giving special detail to her special day, the décor and the decorations. By doing this magazine, the celebrations start so much earlier for me and I know we can now celebrate with a much wider audience.

We must also mention

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I am a list maker, by doing this I feel as though I have more control. Lists for food, gifts, décor and fun things. There are certain things that are on the list every year, namely making two new needlework decorations and always putting a fresh wreath on our front door.

I love to try new ideas and I hope it will turn into a tradition. I really hope that the ideas in this magazine will be new for most of you. It is packed with clever, yet simple ways in which you can make your festive season special. We have included decorating ideas, easy to make decorations and handmade gift ideas. So, find yourself a notebook, get comfy in the shade and start planning the most wonderful Christmas ever.

Merry festive time,

Almie



Tealight votives

I love making these even though I have made them so many times. I am always on the lookout for interesting tissue or gift papers. The tealight votives are great gifts, home décor and table décor objects. Join me in becoming a maker and collector of these delightful tealights.

The following items are required:

- Small glasses
- Tissue paper
- Sheet for template
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Wallpaper glue
- Damp cloth
- Craft knife

The method to making tealight votives:

1. If the template on the insert is too big or too small for your glass, measure the height and circumference of the glass(es) to be decorated. If the glass is tapered, measure the circumference around the rim and around the base. Use the measurements to draw a curved rectangle on the sheet of paper, with the circumference measurement(s) as the length. Alternatively, place the glass on a sheet of paper and draw along the top and the bottom while rolling it across the paper. This will be the template.
2. Use the template and cut out curved rectangles from the wrapping paper.
3. Smear the wall paper glue onto the outside of your glass(es) with your fingers, then paste the cut paper rectangle onto the glass, decorative side facing out. Use your fingers to press the paper to the glass, working from the center towards the outer edges to remove air bubbles and excess glue.
4. Place each glass on top of a small cup to elevate it from your work surface and prevent it from sticking to anything. Leave to dry overnight.
5. Once the glue is dry, use a damp cloth and remove any dry wallpaper glue from the inside, or from the base of the glass(es). To remove any excess paper from either the top or bottom of the rim, use a craft knife.



Glass with Vinyl Sticker

Follow the manufacturing instructions on how to apply a vinyl sticker onto glass objects.



Faux Mercury Glass



The following items are required:

- Glasses
- spray bottle
- spray mask (dust mask)
- protective gloves
- silver spray paint
- gold spray paint
- solution of 100 ml water and 100 ml vinegar

The method to make a faux mercury glass:

1. Use soapy water, ensure that all labels and any residue is removed from the glass. Once cleaned properly, dry it well.
2. Be cautious when using spray paint. Spray paint the inside of the glass. Begin with silver spray paint, hold the glass at a horizontal angle and spray it with quick bursts of silver. Allow the first layer of paint to dry for about five minutes. After five minutes, rotate the glass between bursts.
3. Fill a spray bottle with a water and vinegar solution. Spray the solution into the painted glass, cover the surface with little beads.
4. Leave the glass to dry overnight. Take note that the solution distresses the paint.
5. Once the glass is completely dry, apply the gold spray paint to the inside of the glass using the same technique above as indicated in step 2 and 3.
6. For an authentic mercury appearance, light a candle in the glass and see how realistic it is.

Caution: When using spray paint, wear a mask and work in a well-ventilated area.

Paper Stockings

Be inspired by your favourite pair of boots. Make a paper version of them and decorate it with a wire sock and string lace.

The following items are required:

- Hard paper measuring about 30x30cm in size
- Template on insert – if you want to copy my idea
- Thin copper wire
- crochet pen
- Small awl or leather hole punch
- Paper glue

The method to make a paper stocking:

1. Once you have selected your choice of paper, trace the template twice. Using a pair of scissors, cut around the traced lines.

2. To give the two paper shoes a sturdy feel and look, glue them together.

Along the top part of the shoe, now make holes which are about 1cm apart, using an awl or leather punch. Put the paper aside and start with the wire sock.

3. Firstly, measure the width of the top part of the paper shoe. This is the measurement to be used as a guide for the crochet cylinder. Eventually the crochet cylinder will fit over the top part of the paper shoe. To make your sock, you can use any stitch or pattern, just make sure that it looks like a sock. If you are unable to crochet, try to get someone to do it for you.

4. Once you have the sock and are happy with it, then place the sock over the top part of the paper shoe and weave the two parts together with a piece of copper wire.

5. To add to the final touch of the shoe, add a piece of string. This will act as a lace. Your shoe is now ready to be displayed.





The following items are required:

- Wood canvas to display the nativity play (you can paint it to fit in with your own colour scheme)
- Glue dots or double-sided tape to glue the objects to the inside of the wood canvas

You will need the following to do gilding:

- Small wood objects to gild
- Dark red/black or brown dye ink or paint
- sheets of gold, silver or bronze leaf
- water-based size (glue for gilding)
- cotton gloves
- small piece of velvet fabric
- water-based varnish and brush

Nativity Display

There are so many ways to do a nativity display, but I have chosen one where hopefully younger children will have the opportunity to tell the nativity story. Children often comment that without baby Jesus and the three wise men there would not be any gifts. In light of their comments, I add the gifts and explain to them that Jesus is a King and therefore a crown is enough for Him.



The method for gilding and display:

1. Decide on which items you wish to gild. Colour the wood with dye ink. I like using the dye pads as they are non-messy, dry quickly and are very comfortable to hold while staining the wood.
2. Use a clean small brush, apply evenly and with thin strokes across the entire surface of what you want to gild.
3. Allow the size to dry completely (refer to the manufacturer's instructions on the container). It is important not to touch the size as it will mark. The best way to check the state of the size is to use the hair on the back of your hand: if you feel a slight pull, the size is ready.
4. You need to work in a draft free area before attempting to work with metal leaf. Wear a pair of cotton gloves when handling the leaf. Laying the foil against the size surface and pass your fingers very gently and slowly over it.
5. Don't worry if small creases appear, dab it lightly with a small piece of velvet fabric to get rid of creases. Varnish it to prevent tarnishing.
6. You can now display the objects in the wood canvas. Once you are ready with your layout, put either glue spots where you want the objects positioned, or use small double-sided squares.
7. Your nativity play is complete and ready to tell the story of the birth of Jesus.



Metal Lookalike Letters

The following items are required:

- Wooden letters
- Plastic gloves
- Small soft cloth
- Newspaper to protect the working surface
- Silver magic touch, gilding paste

The method to make metal look like letters:

1. Work on a protected working surface. Wearing a pair of gloves, dip the soft cloth into the gilding paste as you would do when polishing shoes.
2. Start to polish the wooden letters with the paste. Turn the wooden letters around and make sure that the wood is fully covered with the gild paste.
3. Allow to dry, once dried, your wooden letters no longer resemble wood, but have taken on the appearance of old metal letters.

Box House Display

Select your choice of colour cardboards and use the house template found on the insert. Trace it onto the cardboard and cut around the boarder using a craft knife and a ruler in order to cut the windows out and open the door. The open windows and front door will allow the house to glow from the inside.

To create a free-standing house cut out a pattern. Remember to place a battery operated tealight inside the house before closing the bottom of the house. Ensure that the on/off button is close to one of the open windows or the front door. Display your box house on a window sill and at night re-create some Nordic nostalgia for your family.



Pin Star





I was inspired by a friend of mine who is a blacksmith by trade. I was intrigued by the magnet star shaped object on his work table and realised that it held all the pins. Not only is it pretty, but it is such a versatile and handy gimmick to have. I decided right there and then to make my own look like one.

The following items are required:

- Star cake cutters (2cm deep)
- Drying rack
- Silver/gold or bronze pins
- Air dry clay
- Notice board pins
- Pallet knife
- Paint or dye ink



Method

1. Press the clay so that it is compact into the star shaped cutters.
2. Now while the clay is still wet, take the pins and press the pins into the top part of the clay star.
3. Leave the clay to dry on a dry rack once you have positioned your pins.
4. Before pressing the clay out of its mould, check that the clay is dry.
5. Remove the clay star from the cake cutter carefully with a pallet knife. Feel if the sides of the star are dry, if not leave on the dry rack until completely dry.
6. Once it is completely dry, you can either paint it by using an acrylic paint to match the colour of the pins, or alternatively by using a dying ink pad.

Now you too have your very own and very handy permanent pin holder!

Elizabeth Hurley wore a black Versace dress, often referred to as "THAT Dress", when she accompanied Hugh Grant to the premiere of *Four Weddings and a Funeral* in 1994. The dress was held together by oversized gold safety pins. The dress is perhaps Versace's best-known creation and is considered by some to be largely responsible for launching Hurley onto the global media. This dress inspired me to create a bag along the same vein as the dress. Let's see which stage our bag will take us to.

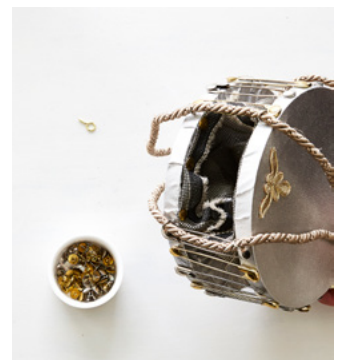
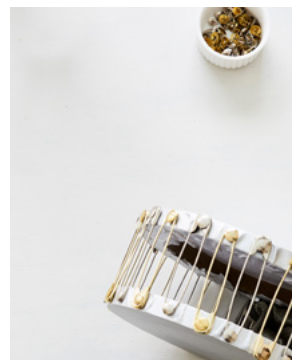
The following items are required:

- Two round canvasses (15cm in diameter)
- Silver spray paint
- 25 large safety pins
- 2m silver cord
- 20-30 gold and silver notice board pins
- Piece of fabric for inside lining
- Wooden/fabric decorations
- Small Round hooks



The method to make our glam bag:

1. When working with spray paint, wear a mask and work in a well-ventilated area. Spray paint the canvasses silver and allow to dry
2. Create a border between the two canvasses by using safety pins. Fasten the safety pins to the wooden part of the canvasses but use only the silver and gold notice board pins. Continue doing this until the entire border is covered. Remember to leave an opening at the top part of the canvasses.
3. Tray and match a piece of fabric with the colour of the canvasses. Fold the piece of fabric into a square, in doing this, we are forming a small inside lining. Sew the sides together to form a bag lining. Once done, fasten it to the wooden part of the canvasses with pins.
4. Screw the round hooks in on the corners of the opening and weave the cord through and fasten it to form a sling handle. To decorate the bag, use a leaf mould on the outside. Your handbag is ready to be premiered.





Brag Bag

Mask for the Dinner Party

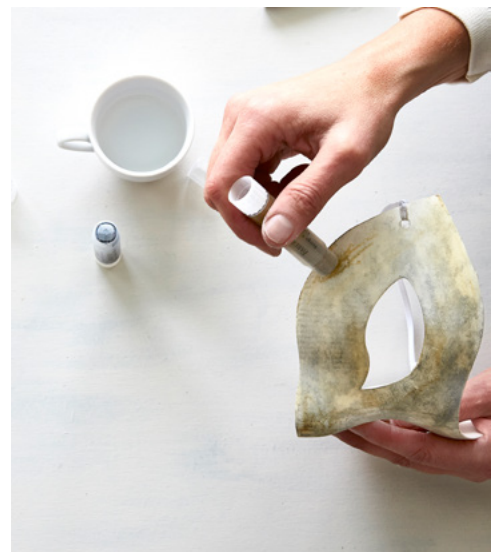


Last year at the first series of Kunsrvlyt, the participants used Gelatos to create beautiful objects. For me, these are a blend between a Chanel lipstick and a wax crayon. They are so easy to use with no mess. Best described by Faber castell on their website: Gelatos There is nothing on the market that compares with Design Memory Craft Gelatos. They are compact acid-free pigment sticks. They are creamy smooth and glide on. There are vibrant colours with excellent coverage. All Gelatos blend easily with or without water. Try this unique medium on paper, canvas or even wood!

The following items are required:

- White mask ready to be decorated
- Gold and silver gelatos with sponge
- Feathers
- Silver stars
- Small pieces of two-sided sponge squares

It is a must have, so go on and spoil yourself this festive season with a packet of these gems! I have decided to give my dinner party a dress-up theme. Why don't you do the same and design a mask for each of your guests or, ask them to come masked to your party.





The method to make dinner party masks:

This medium is truly awesome and can be used on so many different objects. Let us get creative, colour the mask in with the silver gelato.



1. Draw lines all over the mask. Use a little water and dip a sponge into the water.
2. In small round motions allow the gelato wax to spread and colour the rest of the mask in. Now we can highlight certain areas of the mask by using gold gelato. The added benefit of using gelatos are that they dry very quickly.
3. Once you have finished colouring in, use feathers and stars to finish off the decorating of the mask. I use two-sided sponge squares to glue the decorations on. To add dimension to the mask, put two or more on top of each other, this gives an illusion of being three-dimensional.

Bead Star

You will need:

- 40 wooden beads
- Needle and ribbon
- Scissors



Method:

1. Cut a 50cm long piece of string. Thread the needle with the string and knot it at the end.
2. String 15 wooden beads onto the string and pushing them down to the knotted end. Pull the needle through the knot to secure a circle in place.
3. With the round circle in place you are now going to make the pointy bits of the star. Add five beads at a time, then secure them in place by running the string through one bead below on the original circle. Repeat this process until you have a five-point star.
4. Give the string a good pull to make sure all the beads are neatly intact. Tied the string by making a knot and tread the end part out of the way.
5. Once the string is tied off, you can cut another piece of string and tie onto the star to hang.

Paper Leaf Wreath

In by gone civilizations, the wreath was worn as a crown, which had different symbolic meanings. We decorate our front door with a leaf wreath. In doing so, we welcome our guests to a regal celebration.

The following items are required:

- Thick paper sheets with 3 different patterns
- Polystyrene ring
- Ribbon or string for hanging
- Polystyrene glue and brush
- Pencil and Scissors
- Leaf templates (3 sizes) (see insert)

The method to make the paper leaf wreath:

1. Use the templates on the insert as a guide and trace it onto different sheets.
2. Cut the leaves out using a pair of scissors. In the event that you do not have enough leaves, you might need to repeat the above process.
3. Place the polystyrene ring on a clean flat surface.
4. Take a piece of ribbon and fold it around the top part of the ring. The wreath will hang from this ribbon.
5. We can now start by gluing the large leaves onto the ring. The starting point will be in the middle of the bottom of the ring. Simultaneously, work on both the left-hand side as well as on the right-hand side, filling the ring with leaves. In the event of there being gaps between the leaves, fill the gaps with smaller leaves. Fill your wreath with leaves according to your own design. You may prefer a sparse looking wreath, whereas another person may prefer to have a fuller looking wreath.



Ribbon Wreath

This wreath is the perfect way to decorate a plain free-standing cupboard into a work of art.

The following items will be required:

- Hollow hoop
- Polystyrene ring
- Fabric glue and brush
- Pins
- Ribbons plain and patterned

The method to make a ribbon wreath:

1. I would suggest that you work on a flat surface. Place the polystyrene circle into the hoop just off centre.

2. Using four pieces of ribbon, fasten the middle part to the hoop, working your way in a North, south, east and west direction.

3. Once the middle section is secured, start by covering the hoop with ribbon. Coil the ribbon around the hoop and then around the middle part. You will have created a wonderful spiral affect by doing it this way.

4. Once the hoop is covered in ribbon, use a smaller piece of ribbon and knot it around the polystyrene ring. Ensure that there are no open gaps between the pieces of ribbon. Use a fabric glue and pins to help the glue to set and secure the fabric to the hoop.



I absolutely love topiary trees, it does not matter about its form, or whether it is real or fake. This is one of my passions, no - I think it falls into the category of being an obsession. Not sure whether my mind has an abstract way of thinking, or whether it's the Italian blood line, but I will keep on making topiary trees. They are handy décor items during the festive season.

The following items are required:

- Polystyrene cone shape
- Dry moss
- Polystyrene glue and brush
- Plastic sheet to work on
- Small bottle or glass to act as prop
- Pretty cut or small metal bucket for display



The method to making a topiary tree:

1. Lift the polystyrene cone from the work surface by placing it onto a small bottle and start to paint the cone on one side with the polystyrene glue. Allow to set for about 5 minutes.
2. Break the moss into small pieces and start to press it to the glued side of the polystyrene cone.
3. Repeat this process on the other side of the cone. Make sure that all open areas are covered. Allow it to dry.
4. Your newly made trees are ready to be displayed as a table decoration. You can use this method to cover any size or shape for an instant topiary statue.

Moss Topiary Tree

Each year I make at least 2 new Christmas decorations. The only set of rules that I have with this project is that you can only use a needle and thread.



I am so delighted to share a little felt heart and an embroidered reindeer framed in an embroidery hoop with you.

Cross-Stitch Reindeer

The following items are required:

- Embroidery hoop
- Embroidery thread and needle
- Embroidery fabric
- Fabric scissor

The method to make a cross-stitch reindeer:

1. Remove the screw at the top of the hoop and separate the inner and outer circles of the hoop.
2. To give a contrast affect, coil a ribbon all around the outer circle of the embroidery hoop. Place the inner circle of the embroidery hoop on a flat surface and cut a piece of embroidery fabric about 2cm bigger than the hoop all way round.
3. Lay the fabric on top of the inner circle and slide the outer circle over it, once you have done this, fasten the screw.
4. Now you can start your embroidery work. Follow the pattern on the insert. I would recommend that you find the middle point of the pattern and the middle point of the fabric, this will be your starting point. Count the crosses on the pattern and start to sew.
5. Once you have finish with the embroidery work, tie a ribbon around the screw of the outer hoop, this will act as a hanging device.

The following items are required:

Felt Heart

- Felt fabric in different colours
- Needle, thread and pins
- Ribbon and string for decorations
- Stuffing
- Fabric marker
- Fabric scissor

The method to make a felt heart:

1. Use the templates as found on the insert and trace it onto the felt fabric using a fabric marker. Use your own initiatives regarding your choice of colour choices.
2. Cut around the traced lines with a pair of fabric scissors. Pin the cut-out pieces on one felt heart and hand sew in running stiches. To outline the eyes, nose and mouth, I suggest that you use a contrasting colour of thread. To give depth to your project, add a hat, scarf and shoe laces.
3. Just a reminder, sew a hanging device to the top part of the heart. Once you are happy, your decorated heart can be placed on top of the other and hand sew it together all around the edges. Just before you close it, fill the hearts with stuffing to give it a soft spongy finish.



I really believe that it's not just about the presentation of the food which makes our dining experience appealing, but it is also the way in which the table is set. I enjoy preparing a beautiful table for my own family on a daily basis therefore with my enthusiasm on a daily basis I trust that these projects will give you the inspiration to personalise your hosting during the festive times.

The following items are required:

- A piece of cardboard 1.5cm wide and about 12-15 cm long
- Double sided tape
- Fabric glue and brush
- Ribbon
- Mosaic tile

The method to make a mosaic serviette ring:

1. Let us get started by folding the piece of cardboard into a round circle, glue it together to form a paper serviette ring. Let the glue dry. Once the glue is dry, take ribbon and coil it around the paper tight and fasten it with fabric glue.
2. Take the mosaic tiles and cut them into long strips. The mat on the underside of the mosaic tile is also made out of fabric and this will enable the mosaic tile to glue easily to the fabric on your serviette ring holder. Use fabric glue and glue the edges of the long strips all around the border of the fabric serviette ring.





Mosaic cutlery pocket

Using an envelope and the Christmas tree templates on the insert, trace onto paper which compliments your colour scheme. Cut around the traced lines of the tree and put it aside. To create our cutlery pocket, cut, fold and glue the envelope. Decorate the envelope with the mosaic tiles and cut out Christmas tree.

Spiky Christmas Ball



The following items are required:

- Polystyrene ball (small to medium)
- Small beads (any colour)
- Long beads (any colour)
- Small stars/sequins beads (any colour)
- Long pins (3cm long ones - use the ones that are blunt for needlework)

The method to make the spiky Christmas ball:

1. Firstly, decide on the shape of the beads and which colours you want to use. Try to coordinate the colours and shapes into a pattern. This will give you room to plan a design.
2. Now we can start our design. We can start stacking a pin with beads. Firstly, stack a big round bead, followed by a long one and then a small one. Finally add the star. Take the polystyrene ball and insert the first bead stacked pin into the ball. Repeat this process until the entire polystyrene ball is fully covered.



Recently I have become a great fan of transparent prints. During my school going years, I recall them only ever being used as a teaching medium. Today, they are used to create table mats, hall décor and window dressers. Make as many as you can and use them during the festive time and then over and over again



Cardboard snack cones

Transfer on transparent sheet

In order to make a transfer, you will need a picture with prominent outlines. These pictures give the best affects when doing a transfer.

I mostly choose my pictures from the internet. Once you have selected your picture, place the transparent sheets into the printer and print it. In the event that your printer cannot print on transparent sheets, go to your local copy shop.

These snack cones can be used for any event and for any form of entertainment. They just add an extra something to a snack or sweetie treat snack. Make more than what you need and keep them with your serviettes or give them away as an ideal gift.

Select the colour of your cardboard paper and use the template on the insert. Trace it onto the cardboard and cut it out with a pair of scissors. Fold the cardboard and either use glue or use double sided tape to prevent the paper from turning yellow from the glue.

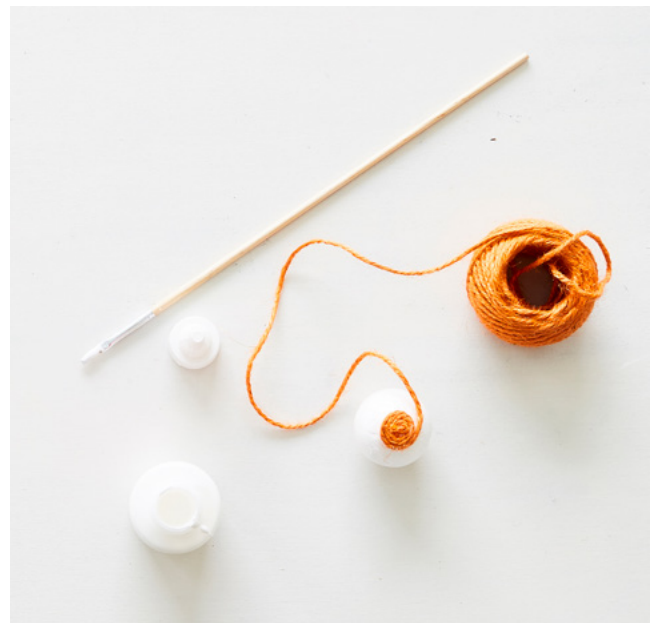
The following items are required:

- Polystyrene ball
- Fabric ball and brush
- String
- Scissors
- Hanging device

String ball

The method to make a string ball:

1. As you apply fabric glue to the ball, coil the string around it, starting from the top to the bottom. Once you have coiled the string right around the ball, leave it to dry on a drying rack.
2. Once dry, apply some fabric glue and glue a hanging device and string to make it easier for hanging.



Staged boxes become Christmas tree

Collect or buy boxes in different colours, shapes and sizes. Stack them on top of each other and decorate them with cut out stars and decorated balls. This project is ideal for those paper lover crafters out there.



Ball decorated with foam letters

My daughter tried her hand at this craft. She used a polystyrene ball and foam letters. She used the same process as that of puzzle build. She stuck all the letters on to the ball until it was fully covered. On the insert, find a number of star templates, which you can trace and cut out for this craft or use the wonderful scan and cut machine from Brother.



Pom-pom balls



The following items are required:

- Small Pom-poms all colors
- String, ribbon or wool
- Polystyrene balls
- Fabric glue and brush

The method to making pom-pom balls:

1. This is a very easy and simple instruction, just glue the pom-poms onto the polystyrene ball with the fabric glue.
2. Make sure that there are no gaps between the pom-poms.

3. Glue a piece of string, ribbon or wool to the top as a hanging device.
4. Allow the pom-pom balls to dry overnight.

Ball covered with self-adhesive labels

Create this colourful and creative ball by sticking self-adhesive stickers onto a polystyrene ball. Remember to stick the self-adhesive stickers in the same direction. You can use different colours to make different patterns.



Knitted Striped Bear

This bear measures approximately 35cm when sitting upright.

Materials: Charity Double Knit Pullskein yarn in a variety of colours. The bear uses approximately 200g of yarn in total. For this bear the following colours were used:

- Charity P/S – 100g 020 Citron Yellow
- Charity P/S – 100g 098 Citrus
- Charity P/S – 100g 076 Fuschia
- Charity P/S – 100g 134 Mauve
- Charity P/S – 100g 204 Blue
- Charity P/S – 100g 007 Tropical
- Charity P/S – 100g 149 Tiger Lime
- Knitting needles: Imperial no.8 (4.00mm). You can make the bear smaller or larger by using smaller or larger knitting needles.
- Extras: Polyester stuffing, teddy bear eyes (15mm) and teddy bear nose (large)

Gauge: No tension square needed, it does not matter if the bear comes out a little smaller or bigger than the finished size given. If you are a loose knitter then simply use one size smaller needles, or use larger needles if you are a tight knitter.

Abbreviations:

inc – increase; k – knit; k2tog – knit 2 together; p – purl; p2tog – purl 2 together; RS – right side; St st – stocking stitch (knit right side rows and purl wrong side rows); st(s) – stitches; WS – wrong side; [] – repeat the instructions inside the brackets the number of times specified

Instructions:

Use one colour yarn for every 4 rows, always starting a new colour on a RS/ knit row.

Bear is knitted in stocking stitch.



Body:

Begin at the bottom of the body, cast on 24 sts.

Row 1 (RS): Knit across.

Row 2 (WS) and all WS rows: Purl across.

Row 3: Inc in each st across – 48 sts.

Row 4–8: continue in st st.

Row 9: [K1, inc in next st] 24 times – 72 sts.

Row 10–44: continue in st st.

Row 45 (shaping the tummy): K25, [K2tog, k2] 5 times, k2tog, k24 – 66 sts.

Row 46–58: continue in st st.

Row 59: k5, [k2tog, k4] 9 times, k2tog, k5 – 56 sts.

Row 60–62: continue in st st.

Row 63: k4, [k2tog, k3] 9 times, k2tog, k5 – 46 sts.

Row 64–66: continue in st st.

Row 67: k3, [k2tog, k2] 10 times, k2tog, k1 – 35 sts.

Row 68–71: continue in st st.

Row 72: [p2tog] 7 times, p1 – 27 sts. Bind off.

With RS facing, sew back seam from top to bottom and bottom seam perpendicular to back seam. Do not sew the top opening. Turn RS out and stuff firmly.

Head:

Begin at the neck, cast on 16 sts.

Row 1–4: continue in st st.

Row 5: inc in each st across – 32 sts.

Row 6–8: continue in st st.

Row 9: [K1, inc in next st] 16 times – 48 sts.

Row 10–14: continue in st st.

Row 15: k23, inc in each of next 2 sts, k23 – 50 sts.

Row 17: k24, inc in each of next 2 sts, k24 – 52 sts.

Row 19: k25, inc in each of next 2 sts, k25 – 54 sts.

Row 21: k26, inc in each of next 2 sts, k26 – 56 sts.

Row 23: k27, inc in each of next 2 sts, k27 – 58 sts.

Row 25: k28, inc in each of next 2 sts, k28 – 60 sts.

Row 27: k29, inc in each of next 2 sts, k29 – 62 sts.

Row 29: k29, [k2tog] twice, k29 – 60 sts.

Row 31: k28, [k2tog] twice, k28 – 58 sts.

Row 33: k27, [k2tog] twice, k27 – 56 sts.

Row 35: k26, [k2tog] twice, k26 – 54 sts.

Row 37: k25, [k2tog] twice, k25 – 52 sts.

Row 39: k24, [k2tog] twice, k24 – 50 sts.

Row 41: k23, [k2tog] twice, k23 – 48 sts.

Row 43: k1, k2tog, [k5, k2tog] 6 times, k2tog, k3 – 41 sts.

Row 45: k2tog, [k4, k2tog] 6 times, k2tog, k3 – 34 sts.

Row 47: k4, [k2tog, k3] 6 times – 28 sts.

Row 49: k3, [k2tog, k2] 6 times, k1 – 22 sts.

Row 51: [k2tog] 11 times – 11 sts.

Cut the yarn, leaving a long tail. Thread the end through a yarn needle and draw all sts on the needle, remove the knitting needle and pull end tightly, closing the top; do not cut the yarn. Sew the back seam with the same yarn, leaving the neck open and stuff the body firmly. While stuffing the head, place the teddy bear eyes and nose into the desired positions and secure. If you prefer not to use the plastic eyes and nose, facial features can be embroidered on after the head is firmly stuffed. Sew the head to the top of the body by pressing the head slightly into the body and sewing about 2cm out from the body opening. This will tuck the head slightly into the body.



Ears

(make 2):

Cast on 8 sts.

Row 1 (RS): Inc in each st across – 16 sts.

Row 2 (WS) and all WS rows: purl across

Row 3: [k1, inc in next st] 8 times – 24 sts.

Row 5: [k1, inc in next st] 12 times – 36 sts.

Row 6-10: continue in st st.

Row 11: [k2, k2tog] 9 times – 27 sts.

Row 13: [k1, k2tog] 9 times – 18 sts.

Row 15: [k2tog] 9 times – 9 sts.

Cut yarn, leaving a long tail. Thread the end through a yarn needle and draw all sts on needle, remove the knitting needle and pull end tightly, closing the top; do not cut the yarn. Use the same yarn to sew seam. Fold the ears flat and sew in place.

Arms

(make 2):

Begin at the top of the arm, cast on 8 sts.

Row 1 (RS): k

Row 2 (WS): p

Row 3: inc in each st across – 16 sts.

Row 4-6: continue in st st.

Row 7: [k1, inc in next st] 8 times – 24 sts.

Row 8-38: continue in st st.

Row 39 (RS): purl across (this is the only RS row that is knitted in purl stitch. This row shapes the paw of the hand)

Row 40: p across

Row 41: [k2, k2tog] 6 times – 18 sts.

Row 43: [k1, k2tog] 6 times – 12 sts.

Row 44: [p2tog] 6 times – 6 sts.

Cut the yarn, leaving a long tail. Thread the end through a yarn needle and draw all sts on the needle, remove the knitting needle and pull end tightly, closing the top; do not cut the yarn. Sew the arm seam and stuff firmly before closing.

Using a long piece of yarn, sew both the arms in place at one time by working through the joint area of the one arm and stuffed body, then through the other arm (also at the joint area). Sew back and forth a few times, pulling slightly to keep the arms secure and to shape the top of the bear. Do not pull the yarn so tight that the arms cannot move.

Legs

(make 2):

Begin at the top of the leg, cast on 10 sts.

Row 1 (RS): k

Row 2 (WS): p

Row 3: inc in each st across – 20 sts.

Row 4-6: continue in st st.

Row 7: [k1, inc in next st] 10 times – 30 sts.

Row 8-28: continue in st st.

Row 29 (shape the foot): k10, inc in each of next 10 sts, k10 – 40 sts.

Row 30-42: continue in st st.

Row 43 (RS): purl across (this is the only RS row that is knitted in purl stitch. This row shapes the sole of the foot)

Row 44: p across

Row 45: [k3, k2tog] 8 times – 32 sts.

Row 47: [k2, k2tog] 8 times – 24 sts.

Row 49: [k1, k2tog] 8 times – 16 sts.

Row 50: [p2tog] 8 times – 8 sts.

Finish, sew and attach legs to body in the same manner as arms.



*Back to
school
advent
calendar*

Start a back to school calendar which combines Christmas and the preparation of going back to school. Collect or buy 24 bottles and fill them with school stationery and spoils to build up the excitement for these two events. Before you display the bottles, decorate them with printed numbers and ribbon.

