



PRETTY LITTLE THINGS



Christmas in July

KNIT, BEAD WEAVING AND CROCHET

O Christmas Tree...

*Made in three pieces
to keep the tree motifs
upright on both sides!*



CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Ever since I was a child, Christmas has been my favourite time of year. The scent of pine tree needles, the sight of fairy lights, stockings filled with gifts, and sharing moments with loved ones, are things I look forward to all year round. As I've grown older, I've realised that there's nothing stopping me starting my annual merry makes in the summer; the sooner I start, the sooner I can send gifts off, or enjoy them myself (with a good book and mug of hot chocolate in hand) come December! For those of you who, like me, are eager to welcome the spirit of Christmas through craft, this issue is for you.

Scheepjes Creative Director

Sunny

FESTIVE TREE CUSHION COVER

By Cher Marcus

Gauge/Tension

18 sts and 20 rows to measure 10 x 10cm over st patt using 5mm needles

Measurements

Approx. 40 x 65cm, blocked

Abbreviations

[] number of sts on a given row

cont continue

k knit

k2tog knit 2 sts together to decrease by 1 st: insert needle knitwise into first two sts and knit them together

p purl

patt(s) pattern(s)

rep(s) repeat(s)

RS right side

st(s) stitch(es)

st st stocking stitch: RS knit, WS purl

WS wrong side

yo yarn over

.....; rep from * x times/to end** work instructions after * and then repeat that section as stated; the same applies to any number of asterisks: *.....; rep from **** etc.

(.....) x times/to end work instructions between brackets the *total* number of times stated

Pattern Notes

Cushion is knitted flat in three pieces: Front in one and Back in two overlapping Lower and Upper Pieces. Each section is worked in st st and features Christmas tree motifs worked using stranded colourwork method. Read odd (RS/knit) rows of chart right to left and even (WS/purl) rows of chart from left to right.

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SHOPPING LIST

Visit your local Scheepjes retailer to purchase all materials listed below, quoting the item numbers where required

FESTIVE TREE CUSHION COVER

Scheepjes Eliza

(100% Polyester; 100g/230m)

Yarn A: 218 Bobtail White x 2 balls

Yarn B: 226 Rosy Red x 1 ball

Yarn C: 237 Evergreen x 1 ball

4.5mm and 5mm knitting needles

5 x 25mm wooden buttons
(item no. 97732-40)

40 x 65cm cushion insert





The **Scheepjes Bead Weaving Loom Kit** includes everything you need to get started with this craft! Each kit includes the loom, warp threads, a beading needle and seed beads in six colours.

To help with **putting it together**, Scheepjes Blogger Esther from *It's all in a Nutshell* blog created a tutorial including a **FREE bonus project** using the beads included: bit.ly/beadloom-tutorial

SANTA BEADED BOOKMARK



By Liz Barraclough

Measurements

3 x 14cm

Pattern Notes

Bookmark is made using bead weaving loom and glass seed beads. Use thread and 76mm wide-eye beading needle included in kit for weaving, and size 10 beading needle with blue thread to sew on felt for backing at end. See p7 for instructions for knots featured in pattern.

Felt can be used as surface to keep beads from rolling away while working if desired.

Instructions

WARP LOOM

Warp threads should be lightly tensioned but not tight. Use middle 14 grooves.

Step 1 Tie thread from kit around bar at end of loom, insert in groove and run to corresponding groove at opposite end.

Step 2 Loop thread around nearest peg, through adjacent groove and to corresponding groove at original end, pass reel under and over bar; continue until there are 14 warp threads. Wrap thread around peg, tie and cut.

WEAVING

To minimise joins, thread needle with longest manageable length of thread from kit. Work in whichever direction feels most comfortable.

Nudge completed rows up as you go so that beads sit snugly against row above.

Step 3 Leaving 20cm thread tail, tie thread to outer warp with overhand knot approx. 2cm from grooves at bar end, tuck tail away in groove.

Step 4 Refer to Schematic 1: pick up 13 beads for first (top) row of schematic, while keeping them on needle and under warp, push beads up and into place between adjacent threads. Hold beads in place with finger and pull thread through. Bring needle around outer warp to top, feed needle back through beads, ensuring weft thread remains above warp. Tug thread to compact beads.

Step 5 Continue to follow chart, working in same way until thread is close to running out.

Step 6 Prepare to change thread as follows: at the end of a complete row, pass needle around outer warp and pass back through 10 beads under warp, work half hitch knot between two beads, pass through eight beads in opposite direction above warp, weave back through 10 beads of adjacent row, pull thread slightly and cut close to beadwork so tail disappears within beads.

Step 7 Join new thread as follows: beginning between first and second-last beads of last row worked and on opposite side to where beading began, pass needle through six beads towards starting edge while holding 20cm thread tail, work half hitch knot between two beads, pass through remaining beads of this row, keeping weft thread above warp; weave tail through a few beads of adjacent row above and cut.

Step 8 When all rows are complete, finish working thread as per Step 6; secure starting thread tail in

same way but begin by taking thread under warps of second row.

REMOVE WORK FROM LOOM

Step 9 Cut through warp threads at bar to release beadwork from loom, then tie warp threads together in pairs with overhand knot, placing needle tip in loop while pulling thread to ensure knot lies close to beads, further secure with surgeon's knot and remove needle. Fold knotted threads to back and trim to 2cm.

BACKING

Step 10 Cut felt backing to same size as beadwork (see photo below), and using blue thread, make large surgeon's knot, then sew a tiny backstitch in top corner of felt to secure. With knot facing back of beads and warp threads tucked in, align beadwork on felt. Pass needle through top row of beads, then working back in opposite direction, whip stitch around all sides, passing through individual beads on top and bottom rows and catching outer warp between each bead on long sides.

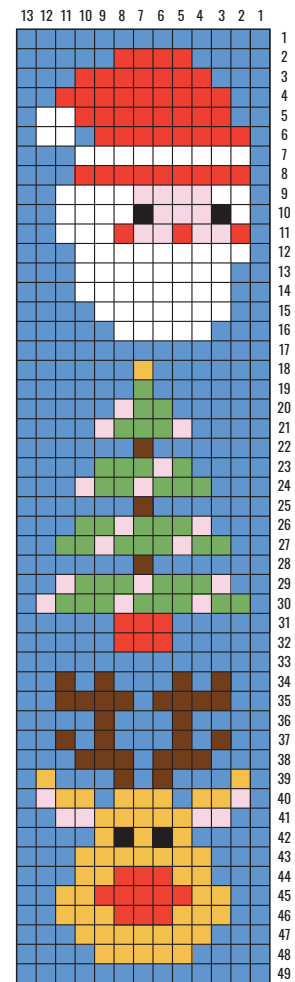
TO FINISH

Start using your beautiful new bookmark!



Schematic 1: Bead Colour Chart

Note: each square represents one seed bead; colour of square corresponds to bead colour.



HOW TO MAKE BEAD WEAVING KNOTS

These simple knots are used to anchor threads or to tie off ends securely. They'll keep your work intact!

Half Hitch Knot



Take the needle behind a thread in your beadwork to form a loop, pass it back through the loop and pull up.

Surgeon's Knot



Pass the left thread over the right and under it, then pass the left thread over and under again to form a double twist, tighten, then pass right over left, then under to finish.

Overhand Knot



Cross the tail over the main thread to form a loop, then pass the tail under and back through the loop.

Let's get cracking!

Simple stitches,
lots of detail!

AMIGURUMI NUTCRACKER

By Kate McCully

Measurements

20cm tall

Gauge/Tension

Tension is not critical for this project, but different measurements may result in different yarn amounts needed

Abbreviations (UK Terms)

[] number of sts on a given round

beg begin/beginning

blo back loop(s) only: insert hook under back loop(s) only

ch(s) chain(s) or chain stitch(es)

dc double crochet

dc2tog double crochet 2 sts together to decrease by 1 st: (insert hook in next st, yoh, pull up loop) twice, yoh, draw through all loops

flo front loop(s) only: insert hook under front loop(s) only

mr magic ring

picot ch3, ss in first ch made

pm place stitch marker

rep repeat

RS right side

ss slip stitch(es)

st(s) stitch(es)

yoh yarn over hook

(.....) x times /to end work instructions between brackets the *total* number of times stated

Pattern Notes

Nutcracker (Arms, Legs, Body, Hat sections) is worked using amigurumi method: work sts continuously in a spiral without closing each round with ss. Mark first st of each round with st marker, moving it up as you go. Moustache Pieces are worked separately and attached in Face section; Face and other embellishments are embroidered using straight sts. Beard and Hair are tied around sts of Body/Head at end.

Where colour change is indicated, change to new yarn in last yoh of previous st, then fasten off previous yarn, continuing with new. Gently knot ends of previous and new colours together at WS of work (no need to weave these in as they will be hidden). Rounds after colour changes begin with ss to make colour change more subtle.

Instructions

ARM (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn A, make mr.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into ring. [6 sts]

Round 2 (RS) 2dc in each st to end. [12 sts]

Rounds 3-4 12dc.

Change to Yarn B.

Round 5 1ss in next st, 11dc. [1 ss, 11 dc]

Rounds 6-7 12dc.

Change to Yarn C.

Round 8 1ss in next st, 11dc.

Rounds 9-15 12dc.

Ss to next st, fasten off and stuff Arm.

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SHOPPING LIST

Visit your local Scheepjes retailer to purchase all materials listed below, quoting the item numbers where required

AMIGURUMI NUTCRACKER

Red Colourway:

Scheepjes Catona

(100% Mercerised Cotton: 50g/125m)

Yarn A: 255 Shell x 1 ball

Yarn B: 249 Saffron x 1 ball

Yarn C: 390 Poppy Rose x 1 ball

Yarn D: 110 Jet Black x 1 ball

Yarn E: 410 Rich Coral x 1 ball

Scheepjes Furry Tales

(100% Polyester: 100g/57m)

Yarn F: 970 Snow White x 1 ball

2.5mm crochet hook

2 x 7mm safety eyes

Scrap of white yarn to edge eye

Stitch markers

Polyester stuffing



LEG (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn D, ch6.

Round 1 (RS) 2dc in second ch from hook (skipped 1 ch does not count as st), 3dc, 2dc in next ch, working along the other side of beg chs, 2dc in same ch, 3dc, 2dc in next ch. [14 sts]

Round 2 (RS) 2dc in next st, 5dc, 2dc in next 2 sts, 5dc, 2dc in next st. [18 sts]

Round 3 18dc blo.

Rounds 4-5 18dc.

Round 6 6dc, (dc2tog) 3 times, 6dc. [15 sts]

Round 7 5dc, (dc2tog) 3 times, 4dc. [12 sts]

Rounds 8-15 12dc.

Change to Yarn E, stuff as you go.

Round 16 1ss in next st, 11dc. [1 ss, 11 dc]

Rounds 17-23 12dc.

Fasten off first Leg (Right Leg), finish stuffing.

Work second Leg (Left Leg), **do not** fasten off, stuff and continue to Body section.

BODY

Lower Body Section

Dc around to inside leg (on right-hand side) of Left Leg. Both Legs are joined in next round.

Round 1 (RS) Ch2 (counts as 2 sts), align corresponding inside leg st of Right Leg (on left-hand side) with inside leg of Left Leg (make sure boots are facing same way), work 12dc around Right Leg, work 1dc in each of 2 chs joining both Legs together, work 1dc in each remaining st of Left Leg around. [26 dc, 2 chs]

Round 2 (RS) 1dc in each st to end (including other side of the 2 chs). [28 sts]

Rounds 3-6 28dc.

Beg next round on side of Body (you may need to add or remove 1 or 2 dc to reach this point, forming new beg of round).

Change to Yarn C.

Round 7 1ss in next st, 27dc. [1 ss, 27 dc]

Change to Yarn D.

Round 8 1ss blo in ss, 27dc blo.

Round 9 28dc, **do not** fasten off, pm to secure work.

Bottom of Coat

Hold Nutcracker upside down and join Yarn C with ss in front loop of any st on either side of Body Round 7.

Round 1 (RS) (2dc flo in next st, 13dc flo) twice. [30 sts]

Round 2 (RS) 30dc.

Round 3 (2dc in next st, 14dc) twice. [32 sts]

Round 4 32dc.

Round 5 (2dc in next st, 15dc) twice. [34 sts]

Round 6 34dc.

Ss in next st, fasten off and weave in ends.

Upper Body Section

Remove marker and return st to hook.

Round 10 (RS) 28dc. [28 sts]

Change to Yarn C.

Round 11 1ss in next st, 12dc, 2dc in next st, 13dc, 2dc in next st. [30 sts]

Round 12 30dc.

Round 13 (14dc, 2dc in next st) twice. [32 sts]

Round 14 32dc.

Beg next round on side of Body (you may need to add or remove 1 or 2 dc as previously).

Join Arms to Body in next round.

Round 15 Hold first Arm beside this side of Body (next to hook), work 12dc around Arm, continue in next st of Body, 16dc across Body to other side, hold second Arm beside this side of Body, work 12dc around Arm, continue in next st of Body, 16dc. [56 sts]

Rounds 16-20 56dc.

Ss to next st, fasten off.

Shoulder (make 2)

Hold Nutcracker right way up with its back facing you. Shoulders are worked in 12 sts corresponding to each Arm.

Count 6 sts from left edge of Round 20 of Body and join Yarn B in seventh st with ss.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc in same st, 11dc. [12 sts]

Round 2 (RS) 12dc.

Add stuffing.

Round 3 (Dc2tog) 6 times. [6 sts]

Fasten off and use yarn tail to stitch hole at top closed.

For second Shoulder, count 16 sts from Shoulder just worked and join Yarn B with ss in 17th st.

Rep Rounds 1-3, fasten off in same way.

Head

Keeping Nutcracker in same position (with back facing), join Yarn A with ss in back loop of next st after second Shoulder worked.

Round 21 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc blo in same st, 15dc blo, continue in next unworked st of Round 20 of Body (after first Shoulder), 16dc. [32 sts]

Rounds 22-31 32dc.

Pm to secure work. Use a length of Yarn C to stitch gaps between Shoulders and Head closed.

MOUSTACHE PIECE (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn D, make mr.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 4dc into ring, ss to first dc to join. [4 sts]

Round 2 (RS) Ch5, 1ss in second ch from hook, 1ss in next 3 chs, ss to next dc of Round 1 to join. [5 chs, 4 ss]

Fasten off.

FACE

Use photo as guide. Work Face details onto Head section of Body: insert safety eyes between Rounds 28-29, then stitch centres of Moustache Pieces beneath eyes over Rounds 24-25, leaving Moustache ends loose.

Using Yarn C, stitch five small vertical sts beneath Moustache and one long horizontal st over the top for mouth. Using Yarn E, stitch two long vertical sts over Rounds 27-28 for nose, then use Yarn D to stitch eyebrows above safety eyes. Stitch around outer edges of eyes using scrap of white yarn.

HAT

Continue from end of Head section of Body: remove marker and change to Yarn D before working first st of next round.

Round 32 (RS) 1ss in next st, 14dc, 2dc in next st, 15dc, 2dc in next st. [34 sts]

Round 33 34dc.

Round 34 (2dc in next st, 16dc) twice. [36 sts]

Change to Yarn C.

Rounds 35 1ss in next st, 35dc.

Rounds 36-42 36dc.

Round 43 (Dc2tog blo, 4dc blo) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 44 (Dc2tog, 3dc) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 45 (Dc2tog, 2dc) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 46 (Dc2tog, 1dc) 6 times. [12 sts]

Finish stuffing.

Round 47 (Dc2tog) 6 times. [6 sts]

Fasten off and use yarn tail to stitch hole closed.

Crown Edging

Round 1 (RS) Holding Nutcracker right way up, join Yarn B with ss in front loop of any st from Round 42, (2dc, 1 picot) to end, ss to first st to join. Fasten off and weave in ends.

EMBELLISHMENTS

Use photo as guide. Using Yarn B, work zigzag sts around Hat brim and belt, then four horizontal sts on each boot.

Beard and Hair

Cut 9 x 10cm lengths of Yarn F. Work Beard beneath mouth: fold first length of Yarn F in half, then insert hook through first front loop from Round 20 beneath mouth, place loop of folded length on hook and pull through. Pass ends of length through loop and pull to secure. Add two more lengths in same way in next two front loops from Round 20.

Work Hair on sides of Head section in same way as beard: add three lengths per side, every second round. Trim Beard and Hair as desired.

TO FINISH

Weave in any remaining ends.

CROCHET A NUTCRACKER ARMY!

This design is perfect for recreating in different yarns and colourways

Designed using Scheepjes Catona yarn, available in more than 100 colours, it's easy to customise the look of this festive nutcracker. By using the photo on page 8 as a guide, you could change the shades of his uniform to match your Christmas colour theme.

Alternatively, this pattern is easy to work up in other Scheepjes yarns to make larger or smaller decorations.

Scheepjes Chunky Monkey is an Aran weight, Premium Acrylic yarn with Anti Pilling, featuring a smooth finish and sheen that is perfect for making large amigurumis.

Scheepjes Maxi Sweet Treat or Sugar Rush are other great alternatives, made from Mercerised Cotton – the same fibre as Catona – but in a thinner, Lace weight, which will give a smaller result.



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FOR MORE FUN PATTERNS!

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