

Christmas tree

I love a bit of seasonal knitting. Here are some Christmas trees to get you into the holiday spirit. You can really go to town with your oddments, and it's a perfect excuse for using sparkly yarn and embellishments – not that I need an excuse. The more bling, the better!

Sew sparkly sequins and beads to a Christmas tree and use it as a tree ornament.



YOU WILL NEED

ODDMENTS OF DARK GREEN OR WHITE DOUBLE KNIT YARN

3MM KNITTING NEEDLES

(I use a smaller needle than usual for DK yarn, as this makes the knitted fabric stiffer, so it can stand alone)

SEQUINS, BEADS AND SEWING COTTON FOR EMBELLISHMENT

GAUGE

Any double knit yarn and 3mm needles work with this pattern. A precise gauge and knitting tension are not necessary.

ABBREVIATIONS

K = Knit

St(s) = Stitch(es)

K2tog = Knit two stitches together

START KNITTING

Cast on 16sts.

K 1 row.

K2tog, K to end.

Repeat last row until 8sts remain.

Turn and cast on 4sts. Count 12sts.

Knit 1 row.

Turn and cast on 4sts. Count 16sts.

Knit 1 row.

K2tog, K to end.

Repeat last row until 8sts remain.



Turn and cast on 4sts. Count 12sts.

Knit 1 row.

Turn and cast on 4sts. Count 16sts.

Knit 1 row.

K2tog, K to end.

Repeat until one stitch remains.



Fasten off.

Weave in all your ends.

Note to Knitters

This is called a right-angled increase, as you are increasing the stitches at a sharp angle rather than one by one as with MI or KFB.

Finishing



Block the trees by spraying them with water on both sides, then sandwich between two tea towels, cover with heavy books and leave overnight. This will help your tree to hold its shape. See the difference here between the unblocked tree on the left and the blocked tree on the right.

Use beads and sequins to decorate your tree, and make a hanging loop from a piece of black cotton.

For instructions on how to turn your tree into a Christmas card, download the free PDF from www.knittingsos.co.uk.



Use the tree to make personalised Christmas cards for your loved ones. Putting the cards together might be a fun project to do with children.

Note to Knitters

See p.125 for another seasonal knitting pattern - the short row snowflake.