

The Knit Before Christmas



Christmas pudding instructions:

What you'll need:

- DK (Double Knitting) yarn in brown, white, green, and red
- A pair of 3.5mm knitting needles
- Yarn needle for sewing
- Scissors
- A Terry's Chocolate Orange

Knitting the cover:

Step 1: Cast on and ribbing (this forms the pudding base)

Using brown yarn:

- Cast on 43 stitches
- Row 1: Slip the first stitch (S1), then knit 1, purl 1 — repeat from to the last 2 stitches, then knit 2
- Row 2: Slip 1, then purl 1, knit 1 — repeat to the end of the row

Repeat rows 1 and 2 five more times (you will have done 12 rows in total including the first two)

Step 2: White "icing" section

Change to white yarn:

- Knit 6 rows in plain knitting (knit every stitch on every row)

Step 3: Body shaping

Now we shape the top:

- Row 19: Slip 1, knit to the end
- Row 20: Slip 1, purl to the last stitch, then knit 1

Repeat rows 19 and 20 two more times (you'll have done 6 rows total here)

Step 4: Start decreasing

- Row 25: Knit 2 together (K2tog) all the way across to the last stitch, then knit 1. (You will now have about 22 stitches)
- Row 26: Purl 2 together (P2tog) across the row

Cut the yarn, leaving a long tail. Thread the yarn through the stitches, pull tight to close the top, and sew the back seam to finish the pudding cover.

Holly leaves (makes 1 double leaf)

Using green yarn:

- Cast on 1 stitch
- Row 1: Knit
- Row 2: Knit 3 times into that one stitch — you'll now have 3 stitches
- Row 3: Increase by knitting into the front and back of the first stitch, knit 1, then increase again in the last stitch (5 stitches)
- Row 4: Cast off 1 stitch, knit 3 (4 stitches)
- Row 5: Cast off 1 stitch, knit 2 (3 stitches)
- Row 6: Increase in the first stitch, knit 1, increase in the last (5 stitches)
- Row 7: Cast off 1 stitch, knit 3 (4 stitches)
- Row 8: Cast off 1 stitch, knit 2 (3 stitches)
- Row 9: Slip 1, knit 2 together, pass the slipped stitch over (you'll have 1 stitch left)

This finishes the first leaf. Without cutting the yarn, repeat the same steps again (Rows 10–17) to make a second leaf joined to the first.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Berry

Using red yarn:

- Cast on 3 stitches
- Row 1: Knit into the front and back of every stitch (you'll now have 6 stitches)
- Row 2: Purl
- Row 3: Knit
- Row 4: Purl 2 together three times (you'll now have 3 stitches)

Cast off. Tie the cast-on and cast-off tails together tightly — this will shape the berry. Trim the ends or use them to sew it on.

Finishing up

- Sew the holly leaves and berry to the top of the pudding cover
- Pop a Terry's Chocolate Orange inside
- Done!

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Star instructions:

Supplies you'll need:

- Sport or baby weight yarn (e.g., Vanna's Glamour in Diamond and Platinum)
- Four double-pointed needles – US size 0 (2 mm)
- Tapestry needle
- Stuffing or fiberfill

Abbreviations explained:

- **k** – knit
- **p** – purl
- **kfb** – knit into the front and then back of the same stitch (increases by 1 stitch)
- **pfb** – purl into the front and back of the same stitch
- **k2tog** – knit two stitches together (decreases by 1)
- **ssk** – slip, slip, knit: slip 2 stitches knitwise, then knit them together (a left-leaning decrease)

Make 5 points

For each point:

1. **Cast on 3 stitches**
2. Row 1: Purl
3. Row 2: Knit front and back into first stitch, knit 1, knit front & back into last stitch (**5 sts**)
4. Row 3: Purl
5. Row 4: Kfb, knit 3, kfb (**7 sts**)
6. Row 5: Purl
7. Row 6: Kfb, knit 5, kfb (**9 sts**)
8. Row 7: Purl
9. Row 8: Kfb, knit 7, kfb (**11 sts**)
10. Row 9: Purl
11. Row 10: Kfb, knit 9, kfb (**13 sts**)
12. Row 11: Purl
13. Row 12: Kfb, knit 11, kfb (**15 sts**)

When each point is complete, **cut the yarn** and leave the **stitches on a stitch holder or spare needle**.

Make **4 points** this way and leave them waiting.

On the **5th point**, **do not cut the yarn** – you'll use it to join all the points together.

Joining the points

Now you'll knit all 5 points together in the round. Don't worry if it seems tricky at first – just go slowly!

1. With the working yarn from the last point you made:
 - Knit **10 stitches** from one of the other points
2. On a second needle:
 - Knit the **remaining 5 stitches** from that point,
 - Then knit all **15 stitches** from the second point,
 - Then **5 stitches** from the third point
3. On a third needle:
 - Knit the **remaining 10 stitches** from the third point
 - And all **15 stitches** from the fourth point
4. Use a **stitch marker** to mark the start of the round
5. Join into the round by knitting **1 stitch** from the beginning of the first point. Make sure stitches aren't twisted.

You should now have **75 stitches** on your needles.

Shaping the centre (Decreasing rounds)

1. (*ssk, knit 11, k2tog*) repeat around (**65 sts**)
2. Knit all stitches
3. (*ssk, knit 9, k2tog*) repeat (**55 sts**)
4. Knit all stitches
5. (*ssk, knit 7, k2tog*) repeat (**45 sts**)
6. Knit all stitches
7. (*ssk, knit 5, k2tog*) repeat (**35 sts**)
8. Knit all stitches
9. (*ssk, knit 3, k2tog*) repeat (**25 sts**)
10. Knit all stitches
11. (*ssk, knit 1, k2tog*) repeat (**15 sts**)
12. Knit all stitches

Finishing

- Cut yarn, leaving a **6" tail**
- Thread the tail onto a tapestry needle
- Weave the needle through the remaining stitches and pull tight to close the hole
- Weave in the yarn ends on the back side
- You can leave a long tail on one point to use as a hanging loop!

Assembly

- Knit a second star following all the same steps
- Place the two stars **wrong sides together** (the purl side inside)
- Sew around the edges
- When one point remains open, **add stuffing** to give it a soft shape
- Sew the last point shut