

Frankie's Knitted Stuff

Pinwheel Flowers



Pinwheel flowers are a continuous strip of garter stitch triangles, folded as you go to make petals. They can be used as brooches or decorations or you can add a stalk and leaves and knit a whole bouquet. The flowers in this picture were knitted with double knitting weight yarn on 3.25mm / US size 3 needles and measure about 7 cm / 2½" across.

Begin by casting on 1 stitch and knit into the front and back of it.

Next row: Kf&b, K to end.

Repeat this row until you have 15 sts on your needle.

Cast off 14 sts.

With the remaining stitch at the bottom right hand corner, insert the needle into the top of the triangle and knit a stitch here. Then pass the original stitch over this stitch to complete the petal.



Now knit another petal in the same way. Make sure that the remaining stitch is always on the right before you fold the petal so that your pinwheels all point in the same direction.



If you are left handed you might prefer to fold the petals from the bottom left rather than the right. It doesn't matter which way you do it as long as all the petals are folded in the same direction.

When you have knitted four petals cut the yarn, leaving a long end, and thread it through the last stitch. To bring them into some sort of order thread the end through the open loops of the petals one after the other, and pull tight.



Now take the yarn through to the back of the flower and catch down the petals in the places marked with yellow stitches.

For the centre of the flower, cast on 1 stitch and knit into the front and back of it.

Next row: Kf&b, K to end.

Repeat this row until you have 5 sts on your needle.

Next two rows: K to last 2 sts, K2tog (3 sts).

Cast off with the double decrease cast off: sl 1 kwise, K2tog and pssso.

Thread the end round the very edge of the knitting and pull it tight into a small ball. Sew this to the centre of the flower.



Variations

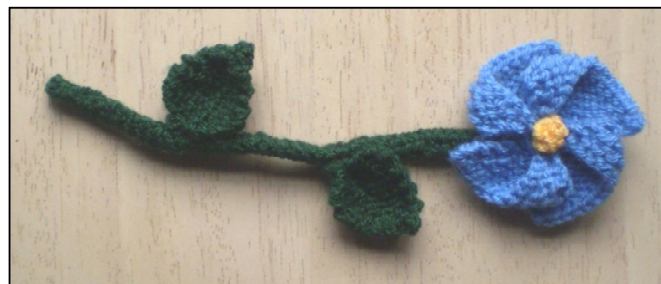
You might choose to give your flowers more petals ...



... use 4 ply to make a tiny flower ...



... or add a stalk and leaves ...



Stalk

This is a knitted strip sewn round a pipe cleaner which is then trimmed to size. I knitted strips with 35, 40, 45 and 50 sts which gave me stalks between 16 and 22 cm long.

Using the long tail method, cast on your required number of stitches and, beginning with a purl row, work three rows in stocking stitch.

Cast off knitwise, leaving a long tail for sewing up.

Wrap the knitted strip round the pipe cleaner and sew it together. I used the knit side as the outside but you could have the purl side facing outwards instead.



When you have finished, trim the ends of the pipe cleaner and close the ends. Sew the stalk to the back of the flower.



Leaves

Cast on 3 sts.

Knit 3 rows for the base of the leaf.

The body of the leaf is shaped as follows:

<u>Row 1:</u>	K1, m1, K1, m1, K1 (5 sts).
<u>Row 2:</u>	Knit.
<u>Row 3:</u>	K2, m1, K1, m1, K2 (7 sts).
<u>Row 4:</u>	Knit.
<u>Row 5:</u>	K3, m1, K1, m1, K3 (9 sts).
<u>Row 6:</u>	Knit.
<u>Row 7:</u>	K4, m1, K1, m1, K4 (11 sts).

Now decrease for the top of the leaf:

Next row: Knit to last 2 sts, K2tog.



Repeat this row until you are left with 2 sts on your needle. K2tog and fasten off.

Fold the base of the leaf in half sideways and hold it down with a few stitches to shape the leaf. Sew one or two leaves to the stalk.

Abbreviations

st / sts	stitch / stitches
K	knit
kf&b	knit into the front and back of the stitch
K2tog	knit two stitches together
sl 1 kwise	slip one stitch knitwise
psso	pass slipped stitch over
m1	make 1 by lifting the thread before the next stitch and knitting into the back of it

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