

Knit a Tree Bumblebee

Body knitted in double knitting wool using size 3.25 (10) needles
Colours used are black, tan and white.

Using black wool cast on 6 stitches.

- 1) Purl 1 row.
- 2) Knit forward and backwards (Kfb) into every stitch (12sts).
- 3) Purl.
- 4) Kfb into every stitch (24sts).
- 5) Purl.
- 6) Knit.
- 7) Purl.
- 8) Knit 6, Knit 2 together(K2tog) repeat twice (21sts).
- 9) Purl.
- 10) Knit 5, K2tog repeat twice (18sts)
- 11) Purl.

Change to tan coloured wool.

- 12) (K2, Kfb) repeat across row (24sts)
- 13) Purl.
- 14) K1, Kfb, K8, Kfb, K2, Kfb, K8, Kfb, K1 (28sts).
- 15) Purl.
- 16) K1, Kfb, K10, Kfb, K2, Kfb, K10, Kfb, K1 (32).
- 17) Purl.
- 18) K1, K2tog, K10, K2tog, K2, K2tog, K10, K2tog, K1 (28sts).
- 19) Purl.
- 20) K1, K2tog, K8, K2tog, K2, K2tog, K8, K2tog, K1 (24sts).
- 21) Purl.
- 22) K2, K2tog, repeat 6 times (18sts).
- 23) Purl.

Change to black wool.

- 24) (K2 Kfb) repeat (24sts).
- 25) Purl.
- 26) K1, Kfb, K8, Kfb, K2, Kfb, K8, Kfb, K1, (28sts).
- 27) Purl.
- 28) K1, Kfb, K10, Kfb, K2, Kfb, K10, Kfb, K1, (32sts).
- 29) Purl.
- 30) Knit.
- 31) Purl.
- 32) K1, K2tog, K10, K2tog, K2, K2tog, K10, K2tog, K1, (28sts).
- 33) Purl.
- 34) K1, K2tog, K8, K2tog, K2, K2tog, K8, K2tog, K1, (24sts).
- 35) Purl.

Change to white wool.

- 36) (K2, K2tog) repeat across row, (18sts)
- 37) Purl.
- 38) K1, K2tog, repeat (12sts)
- 39) Purl.
- 40) K2tog across row (6sts)
- 41) Purl
- 42) K2tog across row (3sts), for final row purl 3 stitches together.

Sew up the Body

Starting at the head end start to sew up the body seam, sew the black and tan sections first. Now sew up from the white tail end leaving a gap in the middle to stuff the bumblebee. Stuff firmly and then close the gap. I used a few running stitches in black around the neck and pulled slightly to give shape and also between the tan and black parts of the body.

To make the antenna and tongue I used a crochet hook and black wool. Each antenna is 10 chain stitches long and the tongue is 4 chains. Wind one end of the yarn through the chains to finish off and then sew with the other end to the bees head. If you do not have a crochet hook you can use your fingers to make a chain with yarn. I used two black buttons sewn under these antenna for eyes.

Knit 2 wings with white wool.

Cast on 5 stitches and knit every row.

Knit 4 rows.

K1, Kfb, knit to end of row, (6sts)

Knit 3 rows.

Repeat last two rows until you have 10 stitches and then knit 7 rows.

K1, K2tog, knit to end of the row. (9sts)

Knit 1 row.

Repeat the last 2 rows until you have 6 stitches.

Knit row.

K1, K2tog twice, K1, (4sts)

Knit.

K2tog twice.

K2tog cut yarn and thread through last stitch.

Legs, Antenna and Tongue

Bees have 6 legs, 3 each side of their thorax, the middle section of the bee's body. I have used 2 different ways of making legs, the first was to crochet lengths of 13 chains and then sew them each side of the body. The second was to use black pipecleaners and thread 3 through the body so that they made 6 legs. I looked at bee legs on the internet to work out how their legs bent. You may need to cut a little off the length. To make them safer I bent the ends over. Both ways look good and it will depend on what you want to do with your knitted bee once it is finished.

