

Knitted Chess & Checker Board

by Clare Scope-Farrell

If you love Chess or Checkers as much as you do knitting, you're going to have a great time creating your own uniquely woolly versions of these timelessly traditional classic games!



You will need

Blunt-ended sewing needle suitable for yarn
Scissors
Compass (for drawing circles)

For the Board Only

3mm knitting needles
Approx. 20g black 100% acrylic DK yarn
Approx. 20g white 100% acrylic DK yarn
Approx. 40g brown 100% acrylic DK yarn
8 x yarn bobbins suitable for intarsia knitting
26.5cm² piece cardboard (Approx. 1.5mm thickness)

For the Checker Pieces Only

3mm knitting needles
Approx. 15g grey 100% acrylic DK yarn
Approx. 15g red 100% acrylic DK yarn
17.5cm² piece cardboard (Approx 1.5mm thickness)
Stuffing

For the Chess Pieces Only

2.25mm knitting needles
Approx. 65g grey 100% acrylic DK yarn
Approx. 65g cream 100% acrylic DK yarn
15cm² piece cardboard (Approx 1.5mm thickness)
Stuffing

Tension

31 st x 43 rows worked on 2.25mm needles in acrylic DK yarn and stocking stitch = 10cm squared
26 st x 36 rows worked on 3mm needles in acrylic DK yarn and stocking stitch = 10cm squared

Abbreviations

K – knit, P – purl, M1 – make one (knit increase), M1p – make one (purl increase), K2tog – Knit 2 together, P2tog – Purl 2 together, cm – centimetre(s), mm – millimetre(s), DK – double knit, st(s) – stitch(es), “Draw up remaining stitches” – Cut off your yarn (leave sufficient to be useful during the making up process) then using the blunt-ended sewing needle, run the yarn through the remaining stitches on the knitting needle, slide the stitches off the knitting needle, pull the yarn up tightly and sew the first stitch of the row to the last one.

CHECKERBOARD – CHEQUERED PLAYING SURFACE

Before you begin, fill four of the yarn bobbins with white DK yarn and another four with black DK yarn. You may need to

refill the bobbins as you go along, so don't use the original balls of yarn in place of a bobbin. When switching colours, don't forget to gently wrap the two strands of yarn around one another on the wrong (purl) side of your work to make sure it all holds together.

1st Row of Chequers

*Using the two-needle cable method and 3mm knitting needles, **Cast on 8 stitches** using (a new bobbin of) black DK yarn, switch to (a new bobbin of) white, **Cast on 8 stitches**** – repeat from * to ** until you've cast on a total 64 stitches, representing eight (eight-stitch) columns of alternating black/white stitches.

Row 1 (Right Side) (K8, switch to black, k8, switch to white) x 3, k8, switch to black, k to end

Row 2 (Wrong Side) (P8, switch to white, p8, switch to black) x 3, p8, switch to white, p to end

Rows 3 – 8 Repeat rows 1 – 2 a further 3 times

Row 9 Work as for row 1

Row 10 This is the last row you'll be working before switching the chequer colours and as such, you'll need to move some of the yarn bobbins into different positions in readiness for the next row. To do this, work Row 10 in the following way: P8, switch to white, p8 (twist the black yarn around the white yarn on the wrong side of your work before working each of these eight stitches), *switch to the next bobbin of black, p8, switch to white, p8 (twist the black yarn around the white yarn on the wrong side of your work before working each of these eight stitches) – repeat from * to the end of the row.

2nd Row of Chequers

Row 11 This is the first row of the new sequence of chequers and once again, you'll have to move some of the yarn bobbins into different positions in readiness for the next row. To do this, work Row 11 in the following way: Switch to black, k8 (twist the white yarn around the black yarn on the wrong side of your work before working each of these eight stitches), switch to white, k8, *switch to black, k8 (twist the next bobbin of white around the black yarn before working each of these eight stitches), switch to white, k8 – repeat from * to the end of the row.

Row 12 P8, switch to black, p8, (switch to white, p8, switch to black, p8) x 3

Row 13 K8, switch to white, k8, (switch to black, k8, switch to white, k8) x 3

Row 14 P8, switch to black, p8, (switch to white, p8, switch to black, p8) x 3

Rows 15 – 20 Repeat rows 13 – 14 a further 3 times

Row 21 This is the last row you'll be working before switching the chequer colours again and as such, you're going to have to move some of the yarn bobbins back into different positions in readiness for the next row. To do this, work Row 21 in the following way: K8, switch to white, k8 (twist the black yarn around the white yarn on the wrong side of your work before working each of these eight stitches), *switch to the next bobbin of black, k8, switch to white, k8 (twist the black yarn around the white yarn on the wrong side of your work before working each of these eight stitches) – repeat from * to the end of the row.



3rd Row of Chequers

Row 22 This is the first row of the new sequence of chequers and again, you'll be needing to shift some of those bobbins into new positions in readiness for the next row. By this stage you'll already have a good idea as to how this row's going to pan out, but here's how you do it: Switch to black, p8 (wrap the bobbin of white around the black on the wrong side of your work before working each of these eight stitches), switch to white, p8, *switch to black, p8 (wrap the next bobbin of white around the black on the wrong side of your work before working each of these eight stitches), switch to white, p8 – repeat from * to the end of the row.

Row 23 K8, switch to black, k8, (switch to white, k8, switch to black, k8) x 3

Row 24 P8, switch to white, p8, (switch to black, p8, switch to white, p8) x 3

Rows 25 – 30 Repeat rows 23 – 24 a further 3 times

Row 31 Work as for row 23

Row 32 Once again, we're at the penultimate row of another row of chequers and here's how you need to work it: P8, switch to white, p8 (wrap the black yarn around the white on the wrong side of your work before working each of these eight stitches), *switch to the next bobbin of black, p8, switch to white, p8 (wrap the black yarn around the white on the wrong side of your work before working each of these eight stitches) – repeat from * to the end of the row.

4th Row of Chequers

Rows 33 – 43 Work as for rows 11 – 21

5th Row of Chequers

Rows 44 – 54 Work as for rows 22 – 32

6th Row of Chequers

Rows 55 – 65 Work as for rows 11 – 21

7th Row of Chequers

Rows 66 – 76 Work as for rows 22 – 32

8th Row of Chequers

Rows 77 – 86 Work as for rows 11 – 20

Row 87 K8, switch to white, k8, (switch to black, k8, switch to white, k8) x 3

Cast off as purl, switching yarn colours as appropriate and fastening the bobbins off in turn when you're done with each one of them.

CHECKERBOARD – REVERSE

Cast on 64 stitches using brown DK yarn and 3mm knitting needles

Row 1 Knit Row 2 Purl

Rows 3 – 86 Repeat rows 1 – 2 a further 42 times

Row 87 Knit

Cast off as purl

CHECKERBOARD – EDGING (MAKE TWO)

Cast on 128 stitches using brown DK yarn and 3mm knitting needles

Row 1 (P1, k63) x 2 Row 2 (P63, k1) x 2

Cast off as knit

CHECKERS (MAKE TWELVE IN RED AND TWELVE IN GREY)

Cast on 11 stitches using either red or grey DK yarn and 3mm knitting needles

Row 1 Purl

Row 2 K1, *m1, k1 – repeat from * to end (21 sts)

Row 3 Purl Row 4 Knit Row 5 Purl

Rows 6 – 7 Work as for rows 4 – 5

Row 8 K1, *k2tog – repeat from * to end (11 sts)

Row 9 Purl

Draw up remaining stitches

CHESS PIECE BASES (MAKE SIXTEEN IN CREAM AND SIXTEEN IN GREY)

Cast on 11 stitches using either cream or grey DK yarn and 2.25mm knitting needles

Row 1 Purl

Row 2 K1, *m1, k1 – repeat from * to end (21 sts)

Row 3 Purl

Row 4 K1, *m1, k2 – repeat from * to end (31 sts)

Row 5 Knit Row 6 Purl

Row 7 P1, *p2tog, p1 – repeat from * to end (21 sts)

Row 8 Knit

Row 9 P1, *p2tog – repeat from * to end (11 sts)

Row 10 Knit

Draw up remaining stitches

PAWN – BODY (MAKE EIGHT IN CREAM AND EIGHT IN GREY)

Cast on 21 stitches using either cream or grey DK yarn and 2.25mm knitting needles

Row 1 K1, *k2tog, k3 – repeat from * to end (17 sts)

Row 2 Purl

Row 3 K1, *k2tog, k2 – repeat from * to end (13 sts)

Row 4 Purl

Row 5 K1, *k2tog, k1 – repeat from * to end (9 sts)

Row 6 Knit Rows 7 – 8 Purl Row 9 Knit Row 10 Purl

Row 11 Knit Row 12 Purl Row 13 Knit

Draw up remaining stitches

PAWN – NECK FRILL (MAKE EIGHT IN CREAM AND EIGHT IN GREY)

Cast on 11 stitches using either cream or grey DK yarn and 2.25mm knitting needles

Row 1 Purl

Row 2 K1, *m1, k1 – repeat from * to end (21 sts)

Cast off as purl

ROOK – BODY (MAKE TWO IN CREAM AND TWO IN GREY)

Cast on 20 stitches using either cream or grey DK yarn and 2.25mm knitting needles

Row 1 Knit Row 2 Knit Row 3 Purl

Rows 4 – 11 Repeat rows 2 – 3 a further 4 times

Cast off as knit

ROOK – TOP (MAKE TWO IN CREAM AND TWO IN GREY)

Cast on 6 stitches using either cream or grey DK yarn and 2.25mm knitting needles

Row 1 Cast off 3 stitches immediately, k to end (3 sts)

Row 2 Purl Row 3 Knit Row 4 Purl

Row 5 Cast on 3 stitches, k to end (6 sts)

Row 6 Purl

Rows 7 – 18 Repeat rows 1 – 6 a further 2 times

Rows 19 – 22 Work as for rows 1 – 4

Row 23 Cast on 3 stitches, then Cast off all stitches (including the new ones)

KNIGHT – BODY (MAKE TWO IN CREAM AND TWO IN GREY)

Cast on 6 stitches using either cream or grey DK yarn and 2.25mm knitting needles

Row 1 Knit Row 2 Purl

Row 3 K3, m1, k to end (7 sts) Row 4 Purl

Row 5 K3, m1, k1, m1, k to end (9 sts) Row 6 Purl

Row 7 K4, m1, k1, m1, k to end (11 sts) Row 8 Purl

Row 9 Slip 1, k to last st, turn Row 10 Slip 1, p to last 2, turn

Row 11 Slip 1, k to last 3, turn Row 12 Slip 1, p to end

Row 13 K4, cast on 3 sts, cast off these 3 sts immediately, k to last 4 sts, cast on 3 sts, cast off these 3 sts immediately, k to end (11 sts) The bobbly bits you've just created must be kept poking out of the right (k) side of your work as they're the Knight's ears!

Row 14 Purl Row 15 Slip 1, k to last st, turn

Row 16 Slip 1, p to last 2, turn

Row 17 Slip 1, k to last 3, turn

Row 18 Slip 1, p to end

Row 19 K5, m1, k1, m1, k to end (13 sts) Row 20 Purl

Row 21 K1, (m1, k6) x 2 (15 sts) Row 22 Purl

Row 23 (K7, m1) x 2, k1 (17 sts) Row 24 Purl

Row 25 K1, (m1, k8) x 2 (19 sts) Row 26 Purl

Row 27 Knit Row 28 Purl Row 29 Knit Rows 30 + 31 Purl

Cast off as knit

KNIGHT – MANE (MAKE FOUR IN CREAM AND FOUR IN GREY)

Cast on 4 stitches using either cream or grey DK yarn and 2.25 knitting needles

Row 1 Knit Row 2 K2tog, k to end (3 sts)

Row 3 K2tog, k1 (2 sts) Row 4 K2tog (1 st)

Row 5 Cast on 3 sts, k to end (4 sts)

Row 6 K2tog, k to end (3 sts)

Row 7 K2tog, k1 (2 sts) Row 8 K2tog (1 st)

Rows 9 – 16 Repeat rows 5 – 8 a further 2 times. (Fasten off the remaining single stitch at the end of Row 16)

BISHOP – BODY (MAKE TWO IN CREAM AND TWO IN GREY)

Cast on 21 stitches using either cream or grey DK yarn and 2.25mm knitting needles

Row 1 Knit Row 2 (K3, k2tog) x 4, k1 (17 sts)

Row 3 P1, (p2tog, p2) x 4 (13 sts)

Row 4 (K1, k2tog) x 4, k1 (9 sts)

Row 5 Purl Row 6 Knit

Rows 7 – 12 Repeat rows 5 – 6 a further 3 times

Row 13 Knit Row 14 Purl

Row 15 P1, (m1p, p2) x 4 (13 sts)

Row 16 Knit Row 17 Purl

Rows 18 – 19 Work as for rows 16 – 17

Row 20 K1, (k2tog, k1) x 4 (9 sts)

Row 21 P1, (p2tog x 4) (5 sts)

Row 22 K1, (k2tog) x 2 (3 sts)

Draw up remaining stitches

BISHOP, QUEEN & KING – NECK FRILL (MAKE FOUR IN CREAM AND FOUR IN GREY)

Cast on 11 stitches using either cream or grey DK yarn and 2.25mm knitting needles

Row 1 Knit

Cast off as purl

BISHOP & QUEEN – TOP KNOTS (MAKE THREE IN CREAM AND THREE IN GREY)

Cast on 4 stitches using either cream or grey DK yarn and 2.25mm knitting needles, then Cast off all stitches immediately

QUEEN – BODY (MAKE ONE IN CREAM AND ONE IN GREY)

Cast on 21 stitches using either cream or grey DK yarn and 2.25mm knitting needles

Row 1 – 5 Work as for Bishop (9 sts @ end of row 5)

Row 6 Knit Row 7 Purl

Rows 8 – 13 Repeat rows 6 – 7 a further 3 times

Row 14 Purl Row 15 Knit Row 16 K1, (m1, k2) x 4 (13 sts)

Row 17 Purl Row 18 K1, (m1, k3) x 4 (17 sts)

Row 19 Purl Row 20 K1, (m1, k4) x 4 (21 sts)

Row 21 Knit Rows 22 – 23 Purl

Row 24 K1, *k2tog – repeat from * to end (11 sts)

Row 25 Purl

Draw up remaining stitches

KING – BODY (MAKE ONE IN CREAM AND ONE IN GREY)

Cast on 21 stitches using either cream or grey DK yarn and 2.25mm knitting needles

Row 1 – 5 Work as for Bishop (9 sts @ end of row 5)

Row 6 Knit Row 7 Purl

Rows 8 – 15 Repeat rows 6 – 7 a further 4 times

Row 16 Purl Row 17 Knit

Row 18 K1, (m1, k2) x 4 (13 sts) Row 19 Purl

Row 20 Knit Row 21 (P3, m1p) x 4, p1 (17 sts)

Row 22 Knit Row 23 Purl

Row 24 K1, (m1, k4) x 4 (21 sts) Row 25 Knit

Row 26 – 27 Purl

Row 28 K1, *k2 tog – repeat from * to end (11 sts)

Row 29 Purl

Draw up remaining stitches

KING – TOP KNOTS (MAKE ONE SET IN CREAM AND ONE IN GREY)

Cast on 10 stitches using either cream or grey DK yarn and 2.25mm knitting needles, then Cast off all stitches immediately

Cast on 5 stitches using either cream or grey DK yarn and 2.25mm knitting needles, then Cast off all stitches immediately

MAKING UP

Begin by preparing your cardboard inserts, you need one piece 26.5cm square for the checkerboard, forty eight circles (each 2.5cm in diameter) for the checkers and a further thirty two circles (again, each 2.5cm in diameter) for the chess pieces.

Checkerboard – With the right (k) sides of both the chequered playing surface and the brown reverse facing outwards, stitch the cast off edges of both pieces together, then do the same with the cast on edges. Slide the 26cm² piece of cardboard into your work and sew up the side edges so that the cardboard is completely encased inside. Moving on to the side edging, sew the side edges of both pieces together to make one large ring, which with its right (predominantly p) side facing outwards, should be fitted around the checkerboard and stitched in place.

Checkers – With the wrong (p) side facing outwards, run a length of yarn through the stitches of the cast on edge, taking care not to undo the first stitch of the edge as you do so. Pull the yarn up tightly and sew the first stitch of the edge to the last one. Turn your work right (k) side out and insert two of the 2.5cm diameter cardboard circles. Put a small amount of stuffing in between the two cardboard circles to plump out the checker a little. Sew up the open side edges to seal the cardboard/stuffing inside and complete the checker.

Chess Piece Bases – all thirty two of the chess pieces have the same base, which should be made as follows: starting from the drawn up final row and with the right (predominantly k) side facing outwards, sew the side edges of your work together until you get just past the two purled

rows of knitting. Insert one of the 2.5cm diameter cardboard circles, sew up the remainder of the side edges and then run your yarn through the stitches of the cast on edge (again, take care not to undo the first stitch of the edge). Pull your yarn up tightly, sew the first stitch of the edge to the last one and fasten off to seal the cardboard circle inside and complete the base.

Pawn – Starting from the drawn up final row of the Pawn body and with the right (predominantly k) side facing outwards, sew the side edges of your work together down to the cast on edge. Lightly stuff the body and then sew its cast on edge to one side of a circular base. Using the two rows of purl stitches as a guide, run a length of yarn through the stitches of the Pawn’s neck, draw up tightly to shape the Pawn’s head then fasten off securely. Moving on to the neck frill, sew the side edges of your work together and then with the purl side facing upwards, slide the neck frill over the Pawn’s head and stitch it to his neck to complete.

Rook – With the right (predominantly k) side facing outwards, roll the body knitting up vertically into a snugly-wrapped coil and stitch together. Sew the bottom of the coil (the original cast on edge) to the centre of one side of a base piece so it looks a bit like a knitted pillar. With the right (k) side facing outwards, sew the cast on and off edges of the Rook top together to make a ring with a castellated edge. Fit the top to the body, with the castellated edge pointing upwards and the dips of the castellated edge flush with the top of the body. Sew the top in place to complete.

Knight – Starting with the body piece and with the right (predominantly k) side facing outwards, fold your work so that the side edges run along the underside of the Knight’s muzzle and body and sew up the cast on and side edges accordingly. Stuff your work lightly and sew the cast off edge to one side of a base piece. Pull the Knight’s muzzle closer to his chest by running a short length of yarn through the stitches of the side seam (underneath his muzzle and down the top of his chest) and back again, pull the ends up tightly and fasten off securely. Use a short length of black DK yarn to embroider the Knight’s eyes and nostrils. Put the relatively straight edges of the two pieces of mane knitting together and stitch them together. Now stitch this join along the back of the Knight’s head and body to create the mane.

Bishop – starting from the drawn up final row and with the right (predominantly k) side facing outwards, sew the side edges of your work together down to the cast on edge. Lightly stuff your work then sew the cast on edge to one side of a base piece. With the right (p) side facing outwards, sew the frill around and on top of the two purl rows knitted into the Bishop’s neck. Sew the thin side edges of the Top Knot piece together to make another tiny ring, stitch it all together to make it into more of a ball shape and then sew to the top of his head. Complete the Bishop by using matching yarn to embroider the markings on his head/hat.

Queen – This piece is made up in essentially the same way as the Bishop except for the last bit of embroidery – this time you need to decorate the Queen’s crown by embroidering a series of v-shapes around her head.

King – once again, this piece is made up in a similar way to the Bishops and Queen that precede him, with the exception of the crown decoration. Fold the longer of the two Top Knot chains in half and stitch the ends together to make a ring. Slot the shorter chain through the middle of this ring and stitch it to the ring at the point at which it passes through. Fold the ring flat to make a cross shape and stitch it flat. Stitch the cross shape to the top of the King’s crown to complete.

Safety Notice

Due to the small size of the checkers and chess pieces, the Knitted Chess & Checker Board – including the pieces – are unsuitable for small children. Regardless of the age of the intended recipient of the finished items, please take care to ensure that content cannot be extracted from your work when complete and that all loose ends are fastened off securely and sewn in out of sight.

Copyright & Disclaimer

These patterns and pictures are the copyright of Clare Scope-Farrell and are available for the exclusive usage of users within the UK only. Aside from the printing of these patterns direct from our website whilst they remain available, no part of this publication may be reproduced or distributed without the written permission of Clare Scope-Farrell. Every endeavour has been taken to ensure that these patterns were accurate at the time of going to press, however Clare Scope-Farrell will not accept responsibility for any loss or liability arising from errors contained within and/or the use or misuse of these patterns.



Pawn



Rook



Knight



Bishop



Queen



King