

Miniature Knitted Houseplant

by Clare Scope-Farrell

Do you love the look of plants but don't have time to take care of them properly? Or are you just sick of the flies they can attract? Ideal for your own home or perhaps as a fun gift for a loved one, this adorable miniature houseplant is perfect for brightening up a drab desktop and best of all, the only care it will ever need is the occasional spot of light dusting.

You will need

Approx. 20g pale green 100% acrylic DK yarn
Approx. 15g terracotta 100% acrylic DK yarn
Approx. 10g pale pink 100% acrylic DK yarn
3mm knitting needles
Small disposable plastic cup (8cm height, 7cm diameter across top, 4.5cm diameter across base)
Stuffing
Blunt-ended sewing needle suitable for yarn
Scissors

Tension

26 st x 38 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)

PLANT POT (MAKE TWO PER PLANT)

Cast on 11 stitches using terracotta 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 K1, *m1, k2 – repeat from * to end (31 sts)

Row 5 Purl **Row 6** Knit **Row 7** Purl

Row 8 K1, *m1, k5 – repeat from * to end (37 sts)

Row 9 Purl **Row 10** Knit **Row 11** Purl

Row 12 K9, m1, k18, m1, k to end (39 sts)

Row 13 Purl **Row 14** Knit **Row 15** Purl

Row 16 K10, m1, k19, m1, k to end (41 sts)

Row 17 Purl **Row 18** Knit **Row 19** Purl

Row 20 K11, m1, k20, m1, k to end (43 sts)

Row 21 Purl **Row 22** Knit **Row 23** Purl

Row 24 K12, m1, k21, m1, k to end (45 sts)

Row 25 Purl **Row 26** Knit **Row 27** Purl

Cast off

PLANT BASE

Cast on 11 stitches using pale green 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

Row 6 K1, *m1, k2 – repeat from * to end (31 sts)

Row 7 Purl **Row 8** Knit **Row 9** Purl

Row 10 K1, *m1, k3 – repeat from * to end (41 sts)

Row 11 Purl **Row 12** Knit **Row 13** Purl

Row 14 K1, *m1, k10 – repeat from * to end (45 sts)

Row 15 Purl **Row 16** Knit **Row 17** Purl

Row 18 K1, *k2tog, k9 – repeat from * to end (41 sts)

Row 19 Purl **Row 20** Knit **Row 21** Purl

Row 22 K1, *k2tog, k2 – repeat from * to end (31 sts)

Row 23 Purl **Row 24** Knit **Row 25** Purl

Row 26 K1, *k2tog, k1 – repeat from * to end (21 sts)

Row 27 Purl **Row 28** Knit **Row 29** Purl

Row 30 K1, *k2tog – repeat from * to end (11 sts). At the end of this row, cut off your yarn (leave a reasonable length trailing) and use your blunt-ended sewing needle to thread the yarn through the 11 stitches on the knitting

needle. Slide the stitches off the knitting needle, draw the yarn up tightly and sew the first stitch of the row to the last one. Now set this part of your work aside until the Making Up process.

LEAVES

Cast on 10 stitches using pale green DK yarn and 3mm knitting needles

Row 1 Knit

Row 2 P to the last st, m1p, p1 (11 sts)

Row 3 K1, m1, k to end (12 sts)

Row 4 P to the last 2 sts, p2tog (11 sts)

Row 5 K2tog, then Cast off all stitches, leaving one stitch remaining on your right hand needle. DON'T turn your work at the end of this row.

Row 6 With the k-side of your work still facing you, slip the remaining stitch back to your left hand needle, Cast on 9 stitches and k to end (10 sts)

Rows 7 – 46 Work as for rows 2 – 6 a further 8 times

Rows 47 – 50 Work as for rows 2 – 5

Now that you've got the hang of this leaf-knitting method, work a further 9 leaves beginning with a row of 9 stitches, then a further 25 leaves beginning with a row of 8 stitches. Once you've finished the final leaf, fasten off the final stitch, leaving yourself a good long length of yarn trailing as you'll be using this to sew the leaves in place.

FLOWERS (MAKE THREE PER PLANT)

Cast on 30 stitches using pale pink DK yarn and 3mm knitting needles

Row 1 Knit **Row 2** Purl **Row 3** Knit

Row 4 *P2tog – repeat from * to end (15 sts)

Cast off

MAKING UP

Plant Pot – Begin by trimming the plastic cup down to a height of 5cm, with a diameter of 5.5cm across the top. Run a length of yarn through the stitches of the original cast on edge of one of the knitted plant pot pieces, (take care not to undo the first cast on stitch), draw it up tightly and sew the first stitch of the edge to the last one. Sew the side edges of the work together, creating a little pocket shape. Repeat this process with the other knitted piece. With the right (k) sides of both pieces facing outwards, put the trimmed plastic cup into one of the knitted pockets. Now put the other knitted pocket inside the plastic cup, then fold the top of the knitting back over the outer knitted pocket so you've got a plant pot with a rim running around the top edge. Stitch the two knitted pieces together to complete your pot.

Plant Base – This piece will form the base onto which you'll be stitching your leaves and flowers later on. Starting from the drawn up final row, and with the wrong (p) side facing outwards, stitch approximately one third of the side edges together. Now run a length of yarn through the stitches of the cast on edge and draw up tightly. Sew the first stitch of the edge to the last one then sew up a further third of the side edges. Turn your work right (k) side out, stuff lightly and then sew up the remainder of the open side seam.



Leaves – Starting with the smaller leaves, coil the last three into a ring and stitch together at their base. With the k-side facing upwards, stitch this cluster to the top of the Plant Base. Once you've done this, continue winding the leaves around the Plant Base in gradually increasing circuits, stitching the leaves in place as you go. By the time you've finished, one half of the Plant Base should be covered in foliage and should now fit nicely into the Plant Pot.

Flowers – With the right (k) side facing outwards, coil the knitting up into a tight roll and stitch together at the base (the cast off end). Stitch the flowers to the plant in random places as desired.

Safety Notice

The Miniature Knitted Houseplant is designed to be used as novelty art. It is not designed for children and must not be used as a plaything. Regardless of the age of the intended recipient of the Miniature Knitted Houseplant, please take care to ensure that content cannot be extracted from your work when complete and that all loose ends of yarn are fastened off securely and sewn in out of sight

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