

JEAN GREENHOWE'S MINI CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

These charming Christmas stockings are quick and easy to make and each one only requires 5 grams [less than ¼ ounce] of double knitting yarn, [USA Astra or Bonus DK: Australia 8 ply]. They can be knitted up by the dozen! The stockings measure 8.5cm [3¼in] in length and they can be used in a variety of ways. Here are some suggestions.



Make them as tree decorations. Stuff the stockings lightly and oversew across the cast off edge. Sew on a loop of yarn or twisted cord at the top edge of the seam. The soft knitted stockings provide a lovely hand-made contrast alongside the traditional shiny glass baubles.

Omit the stuffing, hang them on the tree and pop in some sweet treats to please the children.



Knit a stocking for each of your Christmas party guests. Enclose two or three luxury wrapped chocolates as take-away party favours or after dinner treats. Sew on a small card with each guest's name and they also double as place markers.



Fill the stockings with small fabric bags containing dried lavender flowers and they turn into sweet scented sachets - guaranteed to sell like hot cakes at any charity fund-raising event.

Knit the scented sachets for Christmas presents. Two stockings tied together with a twisted cord or satin ribbon would make a pretty gift.

Knit a stocking as the 'gift wrap' for a small present such as jewellery. Wrap the gift in tissue paper before putting it inside the stocking. Sew a snap fastener inside the garter stitch section of the stocking, to secure the gift.



Make a number of stockings and sew them onto a cord, for bunting. Fix the cord to the mantelpiece or the edge of a shelf, or just on a wall for decoration.

NOTES

Knitting yarn: Oddments of double knitting [USA Astra or Bonus DK: Australia 8 ply].

Knitting needles: A pair of 3mm [No 11, USA 2].

Abbreviations:

cm = centimetre[s]; dec = decrease [by working 2 sts tog]; g-st = garter stitch [every row K];
inc = increase [by working twice into same st]; in = inch[es]; K = knit; mm = millimetres;
P = purl; st[s] = stitch[es]; st-st = stocking stitch [K on the right side and P on the wrong side];
tog = together.

Tension: Using 3mm [No 11, USA 2] knitting needles, the tension for double knitting yarn is 26 sts = 10cm [4in] in width over st-st.

Working in stripes: When knitting different coloured stripes, carry yarns loosely up the side of the work.

USA glossary

UK	USA
Cast off	bind off
Tension	gauge
Stocking stitch	stockinette stitch

Instructions in round brackets: These are to be repeated the number of times stated after the closing brackets.

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NOTES ON THE VARIOUS STOCKINGS

As can be seen on the front page illustration, the Basic Stocking can be varied in many ways. When working in stripes, the cast on edge counts as the first row. Including the cast on edge, there are 28 rows of stocking stitch in the foot and leg. This number accommodates different stripe effects as detailed below.



The stockings shown above (left to right)

The rainbow-coloured stocking has seven different coloured four-row stripes.

The green stocking has a two-row red stripe, below the two top rows of green. The snowflake motif is embroidered in four white stitches crossing over each other. The centres of the stitches are held together with a small stitch.

The red 'boot effect' stocking is worked in one colour as far as the * in the knitting instructions. The remainder is worked in alternate stripes of green and light green.



The stockings shown above (left to right)

The red stocking has three, two-row stripes at the top in white, red and white.

The next stocking is worked in alternate four-row stripes of yellow and orange.

The next stocking is worked in red four-row stripes, alternating with green two-row stripes.

The next stocking is worked in alternate two-row stripes of red and white.



The stockings shown above

All 28 rows are knitted in one colour for all the stockings. They are trimmed with novelty Christmas buttons which are available from haberdashery retailers.

Garter stitch borders

These are worked in the colours shown in the illustrations.

THE BASIC PATTERN

Refer to the '**Notes on the various stockings**', before following the Basic Pattern instructions.

Begin at lower edge of the stocking and using the required colour cast on 24 sts. (Note that the cast on edge counts as the first row, when working in stripes).

P 1 row.

Next row: (K1, inc in next st) to end – 36 sts.
Beginning with a P row, st-st 7 rows.

Shape top of foot

1st row: K14, (K2tog) 4 times, K14 – 32 sts.
2nd and every following alternate row: P.
3rd row: K12, (K2tog) 4 times, K12 – 28 sts.
5th row: K10, (K2tog) 4 times, K10 – 24 sts.
P 1 row *.

Beginning with a K row, st-st 12 rows.

Work the top border

G-st 5 rows.

Cast off in the knit stitch.

To make up

With P side of the stocking outside, join the row end with a back-stitch seam, one knitted st within the row ends. Oversew across the cast on sts. Turn right side out.

