

Christmas Wreath, Honeysuckle & Ivy

The first things to add to your covered wreath are two sets of leaves. Inspired by my garden, I knitted Honeysuckle and Irish or Poet's Ivy leaves.

This ivy has pale yellow flowers on stalks which, when the ivy was used to decorate candlelit houses, cast star-like shadows on the walls.



Honeysuckle Leaves

I knitted a long garland of 36 of these leaves using a light green yarn - Stylecraft Special DK (295 m / 100g, Cypress - and 3.75 mm / US size 5 double pointed needles.

When casting on stitches at the start of rows, use the cable method. Work into the back loop only for the first stitch and then through both loops as normal after that.

All slipped stitches should be slipped purlwise with the yarn held at the front of the work.

Using the long tail method cast on three stitches.
Work three rows in I cord.

Now slide the stitches to the end of the needles, as if you were going to carry on in I cord, and cast on five more stitches.

- Row 1: Knit (8 sts).
Row 2: Cast on 5, K5, P1, sl 1 pwise wyif, P1, K5 (13 sts).
Row 3: kf&b, K4, S2KP2, K5 (12 sts).
Row 4: kf&b, K4, sl 1, K6 (13 sts).

Work Rows 2 and 3 twice more, giving you four visible ridges of garter stitch.

- Row 9: K5, S2KP2, K5 (11 sts).
Row 10: K5, sl 1, K5.
Row 11: K4, S2KP2, K4 (9 sts).
Row 12: K4, sl 1, K4.
Row 13: K3, S2KP2, K3 (7 sts).
Row 14: K3, sl 1, K3.
Row 15: K2, S2KP2, K2 (5 sts).
Row 16: K2, sl 1, K2.
Row 17: SSK, K1, K2tog (3 sts).

Cast off, using the double decrease cast off: slip one stitch knitwise, knit two stitches together, pass the slipped stitch over and fasten off.

Joining the Leaves

Use the cast on tail to sew the stem of the new leaf to the side of the previous leaf. Sew it to the top of the first leaf's stem and finish before you get to the top of the stem on the new leaf (you may need to read this sentence a few times). Add the leaves to the garland as you make them, sewing them alternately to the left and right sides of the previous leaf.

Arrange your garland on the wreath, pin it in place and then sew it down, working roughly through the centre of the leaves.



Ivy Leaves

These are knitted in a similar way to the honeysuckle leaves but are less rounded. I used dark green Yarn (Stylecraft Bottle) and 3.75 mm double pointed needles.

Using the long tail method cast on three stitches.

Work eight rows in I cord.

Now slide the stitches to the end of the needles, as if you were going to carry on in I cord, and cast on six more stitches.

Row 1: Knit (9 sts).

Row 2: Cast on 6, K6, P1, sl 1 pwise wyif, P1, K6 (15 sts).

Row 3: kf&b, K5, S2KP2, K6 (14 sts).

Row 4: kf&b, K5, sl 1, K7 (15 sts).

Row 5: K6, S2KP2, K6 (13 sts).

Row 6: K6, sl 1, K6.

Row 7: kf&b, K4, S2KP2, K5 (12 sts).

Row 8: kf&b, K4, sl 1, K6 (13 sts).

Row 9: K5, S2KP2, K5 (11 sts).

Row 10: K5, sl 1, K5.

Row 11: K4, S2KP2, K4 (9 sts).

Row 12: K4, sl 1, K4.

Row 13: K3, S2KP2, K3 (7 sts).

Row 14: K3, sl 1, K3.

Row 15: K2, S2KP2, K2 (5 sts).

Row 16: K2, sl 1, K2.

Row 17: K1, S2KP2, K1 (3 sts).

Row 18: K1, sl 1, K1.

Work one more S2KP2 on the remaining three stitches and fasten off.

You will need to knit 24 leaves and join them together in the same way you did for the honeysuckle leaves.

Sew the leaves to the wreath and then add the embroidered flowers.



I used pale yellow yarn for the stems of the flowers (Stylecraft Citron) and pale green (Pistachio) for the berries.

The stems are a group of long, straight stitches with ‘v’s at the end - think of a wonky snowflake. The berries are french knots.

I worked eight lots of flowers like this, spacing them out around the wreath.

Abbreviations

st / sts	stitch / stitches
K	knit
P	purl
sl 1	all slipped stitches should be slipped purlwise with the yarn held at the front of the work
kf&b	knit into the front and back of the stitch
SSK	<u>slip, slip, knit</u> : slip two stitches knitwise (or knitwise followed by purlwise) one at a time, insert tip of left needle into stitches from above, put yarn round right needle and knit both stitches together.
K2tog	knit two stitches together
S2KP2	slip two stitches as if to knit them together, knit one stitch and pass slipped stitches over (two stitches decreased)

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