

Christmas Wreath, Holly & Mistletoe

The next two sets of leaves for the wreath are holly and mistletoe, each with their own distinctive berries.

They are both knitted with DK weight yarn, using 3.25 mm / US size 3 needles for the holly and double pointed 3.75 mm / US size 5 for the mistletoe.



Holly Leaves

These should be knitted in a very dark green. I struggled to find a darker shade than the Stylecraft Special Bottle that I covered the wreath with but eventually came across King Cole Pricewise DK (290 m / 100g) - again the shade is called Bottle but it is a bit darker.

Throughout the pattern, cast on stitches with the cable method and cast off stitches knitwise.

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

The smooth, knit side of the stocking stitch leaves is the right side.

Begin at the top of the leaf.

Cast on one stitch and knit into the front and back of it (2 sts).

Row 1: kf&b, K1 (3 sts).
Row 2: Knit.
Row 3: Cast on 4, cast off 2, P2, K1, P1 (5 sts).
Row 4: Cast on 4, cast off 2, K2, sl 1, K3 (7 sts).
Row 5: Cast on 4, cast off 2, P4, K1, P3 (9 sts).
Row 6: Cast on 4, cast off 2, K4, sl 1, K5 (11 sts).
Row 7: Cast on 4, cast off 2, P5, S2KP2, P4.
Row 8: Cast on 4, cast off 2, K5, sl 1, K6 (13 sts).
Row 9: P5, S2KP2, P5 (11 sts).
Row 10: K5, sl 1, K5.

Row 11: Cast on 3, cast off 2, P4, S2KP2, P4 (10 sts).
Row 12: Cast on 3, cast off 2, K4, sl 1, K5 (11 sts).
Row 13: P4, S2KP2, P4 (9 sts).
Row 14: K4, sl 1, K4.
Row 15: Cast on 2, cast off 2, P2, S2KP2, P3 (7 sts).
Row 16: Cast on 2, cast off 2, K2, sl 1, K3.
Row 17: P2, S2KP2, P2 (5 sts).
Row 18: K2, sl 1, K2.
Row 19: P1, S2KP2, P1 (3 sts).
Row 20: K1, sl 1, K1.

Work one final S2KP2 and fasten off, leaving a long tail to sew the leaf to the wreath.

Fold the bottom of the leaf in half with the right sides together and oversew / whipstitch as far as the first set of spikes. Thread the tail back to the bottom of the stalk. Darn in the cast on end on the wrong side of the leaf.

Holly Berries

Use red DK weight yarn for these (I chose Stylecraft Special DK in Claret).
 Cast on one stitch and knit into the front and back of it (2 sts).

Row 1: Pf&b, P1 (3 sts)
Row 2: Knit.
Row 3: Purl.



Cast off with a double decrease cast off: sl 1 knitwise, K2tog and pass the slipped stitch over. Cut the yarn, leaving a long tail for sewing to the wreath. Darn in the cast on end then gather round the edge of the shape with the cast off end and pull tight to make a ball.

I knitted 12 holly leaves and 24 berries.

Pin the holly leaves to the wreath in pairs. Use the cast on tails to sew them in place along the centre of the leaf, stopping before the end. Sew the berries to the bottom of the leaves, four for each pair of leaves.



Mistletoe Leaves

For these leaves you will need a paler shade of green DK yarn; I used Stylecraft Special DK in Cypress. You will need double pointed 3.75 mm needles as the leaf stalk is worked in I cord.

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

Next row: (still working I cord) K1, K2tog (2 sts).

Now, pulling the yarn round as if working I cord, cast on 12 stitches at the beginning of the next row and then work in short row ridges:

Ridge 1: K4, w&t, K4.

Ridge 2: K8, w&t, K8.

Ridge 3: K4, w&t, K4.

Cast off 12 sts, slipping the first stitch knitwise, K1 (2 sts).
Cast on 12 stitches at the start of the next row for the second leaf and repeat Ridges 1 – 3.

Cast off all the stitches, slipping the first stitch as before.
Sew the bottom of the second leaf to the base of the first (see the picture below).

Mistletoe Berries

These are knitted in cream DK yarn.

Using 3.75mm needles, cast on one stitch and knit into the front and back of it (2 sts).

Row 1: Pf&b, P1 (3 sts)

Row 2: Knit.

Row 3: Purl.

Cast off with a double decrease cast off: sl 1 knitwise, K2tog and pss0. Cut yarn, leaving a long tail for sewing to the wreath. Darn in the cast on end then gather round the edge of the shape with the cast off end and pull tight to make a ball.

I knitted eight pairs of mistletoe leaves and 16 berries, two for each pair of leaves.

Pin the mistletoe leaves to the wreath and use the cast on end to sew them in place, just along the stem and the very bottom of the leaves. Then add the berries on top of the leaves.





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
pf&b	purl into the front and back of the stitch
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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