

LEEK

KNITTING PATTERN BY AMANDA BERRY

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YARN

Sirdar Hayfield Bonus DK, 100% Acrylic, DK weight yarn (double knitting or light worsted weight); less than 25g in each colour

 **White:** shade "White"

 **Light Green:** shade "Lime"

 **Dark Green:** shade "Grass"

Tension 6 sts x 8 rows per 2.5cm square

NEEDLES & NOTIONS

A pair of straight 2.75mm (US 2) knitting needles; minimum length 20cm

A tapestry needle for seaming

A few handfuls of toy filling

Two 9mm toy safety eyes

SIZE

One size - the leek is 20cm tall



The **Leek** is the national symbol of Wales; you could knit one to celebrate St David's day on 1 March.

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KEY

k	Knit
kfb	Knit into the front and back increase
k2tog	Knit two stitches together decrease
RS	Right side
st(s)	Stitch(es)
WS	Wrong side

NOTES

CASTING ON

Use the cable cast and leave a 30cm yarn tail for making up.

PULL THROUGH TO CAST OFF

Break the yarn leaving a 30cm tail, thread the tail onto a tapestry needle and thread through the stitches on the knitting needle, pulling them off the needle and onto the yarn, and pull tight to gather the stitches together.

SEAMING

Use your cast on/off tails for seaming in mattress stitch; a one stitch seam allowance has been included in the pattern.

MARKING STITCHES

Use stitch markers or thread a piece of waste yarn through the stitch to be marked as a guide for inserting the eyes or picking up stitches.

STOCKINETTE

Also known as stocking stitch, knit RS rows and purl WS rows.

KNITTING PATTERN

LEEK

Make 1.

Cast on 12 sts in white yarn on straight 2.75mm needles.

Start at the bottom.

Row 1 (RS): Knit.

Row 2 (WS): Knit.

Row 3: K1, [kfb] 10 times, k1. (22 sts)

Rows 4, 5 and 6: Knit.

Row 7: K1, [kfb, k1] 10 times, k1. (32 sts)

Rows 8 and 9: Knit.

Rows 10 to 42: Starting on a WS purl row work 33 rows in stockinette. On row 35 mark the 8th and 14th stitches as a guide for inserting the eyes.

Break the white working yarn and join light green.

Rows 43 to 54: Starting on a RS knit row work 12 rows in stockinette.

Break the light green working yarn and join dark green.

Rows 55 to 81: Starting on a RS knit row work 27 rows in stockinette. On rows 55 and 59 mark the 2nd and 31st stitches as a guide for picking up stitches for the leaves.

Row 82: Knit.

Row 83: K1, [k2tog, k1] 10 times, k1. (22 sts)

Rows 84, 85 and 86: Knit.

Row 87: [K2tog] 11 times. (11 sts)

Pull through to cast off.

OUTER LEAF

Make 1.

With the RS of the leek facing you and with the cast off edge at the top, from left to right pick up 28 sts between the stitch markers on row 55, and remove the markers.

To pick up a stitch, insert the needle under a “leg” of each V-shaped stitch until you have 28 “legs” or stitches on the needle. You may find it easier to use a smaller knitting needle such as 2.5mm to do this.

The photo below shows the RS of the fabric and the correct positioning of your knitting needle.



Join the dark green yarn.

Rows 1 to 28: Starting on a RS knit row work 28 rows in stockinette.

Cast off all sts.

Weave in the cast off and cast on tails.

INNER LEAF

Make 1.

In a similar way as the outer leaf, with the RS of the leek facing you and with the cast off edge at the top, from left to right pick up 28 sts between the stitch markers on row 59, and remove the markers.

Rows 1 to 24: Starting on a RS knit row work 24 rows in stockinette.

Cast off all sts.

Weave in the cast off and cast on tails.

MAKING UP

Insert the toy safety eyes on the leek and remove the stitch markers.

Sew the side edges of the leek together, adding stuffing as you sew, and gather the cast on sts together at the bottom to finish.

A QUICK THOUGHT ON BLOCKING

For the leek I did not block the knitting as the stuffing helps the leek itself keep its shape, and I liked the natural stockinette roll on the inner and outer leaves. But if you prefer your leek leaves to lie flat then you can block them or give them a quick blast of steam from a steam iron before making up. Check your yarn band before using a steam iron to avoid shrinkage.