



## Knitted Desert Pea

Design by Claire Bell

The Desert Pea is made up of 5 petals, knitted individually in stocking stitch with a contrasting bobble, and then sewn together in a circle to make a three-dimensional flower. The bobble is intarsia (i.e. a section of different colour surrounded by the main colour made without passing the yarn across the back).

### You will need:

4mm knitting needles

Main colour: 1 ball bright red 8ply yarn

Contrast colour: 1 ball purple-black 8ply yarn

**Finished size** 12cm high, 18cm circumference

### Abbreviations:

K = knit

P = purl

st/s= stitch/es

stock st = stocking stitch (also called stockinette stitch), made by knitting and purling alternate rows (the P row is the back)

inc = increase one st by knitting into the front of the stitch (as usual) and then into the back of the same stitch before releasing the stitch on the left needle

B = bobble

K2 tog = knit two sts together = decreasing in a K row

P2 tog = purl two sts together = decreasing in a P row

### Instructions:

Row 1: using red yarn, make a slip stitch and slide it onto a knitting needle = 1 st

Row 2: inc = 2 sts

Row 3: P2

Row 4: K1, inc in 2<sup>nd</sup> st = 3 sts

Row 5: P3

Row 6: inc in 1<sup>st</sup> st, K1, inc in last st = 5 sts

Rows 7-11: stock st

Row 12: K1, inc in 2<sup>nd</sup> st, K1, inc in 2<sup>nd</sup> last st, K1 = 7 sts

Rows 13-17: stock st

Row 18: K1, inc in 2<sup>nd</sup> st, K3, inc in 2<sup>nd</sup> last st, K1 = 9 sts

Rows 19-23: stock st

Row 24: K2, change colour to make bobble [Row B1: K5, turn, leaving remaining 2 red sts on left needle. Row B2: P4, P1 twisting yarn – i.e. pass black yarn under red yarn before putting yarn round needle – turn, leaving remaining 2 red sts on left needle. Rows B3-B11: stock st]



Row 24 continued: change colour to red (you can cut the red from where the bobble started, leaving an 8cm tail), K2

Row 25: P1, P1 twisting yarn (as in Row B2), P 7

Row 26: K1, inc in 2<sup>nd</sup> st, K5, inc in 2<sup>nd</sup> last st, K1 = 11 sts

Row 27: P11

Row 28: K1, inc in 2<sup>nd</sup> st, K7, inc in 2<sup>nd</sup> last st, K1 = 13 sts

Row 29: P13

Row 30: K1, K2 tog, K7, K2 tog, K1 = 11sts

Row 31: P1, P2 tog, P5, P2 tog, P1 = 9 sts

Rows 32-33: stock st

Row 34: K2 tog, K1, K2 tog, K2, K2 tog = 6 sts

Row 35: P2 tog three times = 3 sts

Row 36: K3 tog, cut yarn leaving 8cm tail, tie off.

Repeat pattern 4 times to create 5 petals.

### **To finish:**

Weave the tails into the back of the petal using a blunt tapestry needle, red tails in red sts and black in black sts. Use the tails around the bobble to close the hole in the sides of the bobble.

Block using water to flatten.

When they are dry, use red yarn to stitch petals together at the widest point (about 1cm above the bobble to about the same below), forming a circle. You can join them with a flat seam or overlap them slightly, as you prefer.

If you wish to make a stem to keep your Desert Pea upright, something rigid but able to be shaped (e.g. a pipe cleaner) can form a pole, with branches about 2.5cm below the top which can be fitted into the bobbles. The bottom tips of the petals and the base of the pole create 'feet' to stand your Desert Pea up.

You may prefer to use the petals, in groups of two or three, as two-dimensional elements in a wreath instead of making the Desert Pea three-dimensional.

