

Sunflowers

Materials:

1 ball turquoise double knitting yarn
Oddments of yellow, green and black double knitting yarn
2 sunflower buttons
1 bee button

Needles:

1 pair 4.00mm (UK 8; US 6) and
1 pair 3.25mm (UK 10; US 3)
knitting needles
2 double-pointed 3.25mm
(UK 10; US 3) needles

Instructions:

Using 4.00mm (UK 8; US 6) and turquoise yarn, cast on 5 sts.
Knit 2 rows. Continue in GS.
Inc 1 st at each end of next and every alt row until 17 sts on needle.

Commence pattern as follows:

Row 1: knit.

Row 2: K5, P7, K5.

Rows 3–8: rep rows 1 and 2 three times.

Rows 9–14: work in GS.

Rep rows 1–14 three times.

Rep rows 1–8 once.

Continue in GS, shaping the end and making the buttonhole as follows:

Dec 1 st at each end of next and every alt row until 11 sts rem.

Next row: to make buttonhole, K2tog, K3, yrn twice, K2tog, K2, K2tog.

Next row: knit, dropping the yrn of the previous row and knitting into the loops.

Continue to dec as before until 5 sts rem.

Knit 2 rows.

Cast off.

Sunflowers:

(Make two flowers for each sunflower)
Using 3.25mm (UK 10; US 3) needles and yellow yarn, cast on 57 sts.
Commence pattern as follows:
Row 1: purl.



Measurements:

25 x 8cm (9¾ x 3¼in)

Row 2: K2, *K1, slip this st back on to left-hand needle, lift next 8 sts on left-hand needle over this st and off the needle, yrn twice, knit the first st again, K2*. Rep from * to *.

Row 3: K1, **P2tog, drop loop of previous row and (K1, K1tbl) into loop, P1**. Rep from ** to ** to last st, K1.

Do not cast off. Run yarn through rem sts, then draw up into a flower shape and secure.

Centre of flower:

Using 3.25mm (UK 10; US 3) needles and black yarn, cast on 4 sts.

Knit 1 row.

Next row: inc 1 st at each end of row [6 sts].

Work 4 rows in GS.

Dec 1 st at each end of next row.

Knit 1 row. Cast off.

Stem:

Using green yarn, make an i-cord, approximately 5cm (2in) long, following the instructions on page 34.

Leaves:

(Make two)

Using green yarn and 3.25mm (UK 10; US 3) needles, cast on 4 sts.

Commence pattern as follows:

Knit 2 rows.

Working in GS, inc 1 st at each end of next and every alt row until 10 sts on needle.

Work 4 rows in GS.

Dec 1 st at each end of next and every alt row until 2 sts rem.

K2tog and fasten off.

To make up:

Work in all ends neatly. Place the two flower pieces on top of each other, offsetting the petals slightly, and sew together. Stitch the centre into the flower. Sew the stem and leaves in place on the central square of the mug hug, then stitch the sunflower on top. Sew the sunflower buttons on to the end two squares. Sew on the bee button to correspond with the buttonhole.



These bright and sunny mug hugs have a country feel that will cheer up your tea or coffee break whatever the weather!