MediaPeruana

Designs by Kristen

Hard Candy

We're a nostalgic bunch in my family. If it's from decades before I was born, I probably love it. Case in point: these glass candy tree ornaments. They're a dime a dozen these days, but the ornaments pictured are antiques, a gift from my grandfather.

Sadly, there are few left, as they are quite fragile. So I've put together this pattern for handknit hard candies. They knit up quickly with scrap fingering weight yarn, and are easily customized to produce different size candies.

Hang them on your tree, use them to dress up gift wrap, or fill a clear vase with a collection of colorful candies! This pattern works particularly well with self-striping yarn, or you can easily add in your own stripes or colorwork patterns.

Size: Instructions are given for a standard size, with suggestions for modifying the design for different candy sizes.

Gauge: Gauge is not essential for this pattern. Knit tightly enough to keep the stuffing from leaking out of your candy!

Supplies:

Yarn: Scraps of fingering weight yarn
Needles: set of 5 US size 1 DPNs (although you may ordinarily use 3 DPNs to knit in the round, 4 are recommended for this pattern to make increases/decreases easier).
Fiber fill
Yarn needle

Abbreviations:

CO: cast on
k: knit
k2tog: knit 2 together
k3tog: knit 3 together
kfb: knit into the front and back of the same st
p: purl

psso: pass slipped st over
rep: repeat
rnd: round
sl: slip
ssk: slip, slip, knit
sssk: slip, slip, slip, knit
st(s): stitch(es)

Hard Candies:

Wrapper top:

Two "wrapper" styles are provided, seed stitch and ruffle.

Seed Stitch:

Note: Seed stitch is created by purling the knit stitches, and knitting the purl stitches.

CO 13 sts

Row 1: sl 1, *k1, p1* to last 2 sts, k2.
Row 2: sl 1, work in seed st to last st (purl the knit sts, knit the purl sts), p1.

Row 3: sl 1, k2tog, work seed st to last 3 sts, ssk, k1.
Row 4: sl 1, work seed st to last st, p1.

Rep rows 3 and 4 until 5 sts remain.

Next row: k1, sl 1, k2tog, psso, k1—3 sts.

Ruffle:

CO 11 sts.

Purl 1 row.

Row 1: sl 1, kfb to last st, k1—20 sts.
Row 2: sl 1, purl to end.

Row 3: sl 1, k2tog, k to last 3 sts, ssk, k1.
Row 4: sl 1, purl to end.

Rep rows 3 and 4 until 12 sts remain.

Next row: sl 1, k3tog, k2tog to last 4 sts, sssk, k1—6 sts.

Purl 1 row.

Next row: k2tog across—3 sts.

After completing the instructions in the box for your preferred wrapper style, work the following rows for *both* styles:

Purl 1 row.
Knit 1 row.
Purl 1 row.

Increase row: kfb every st—6 sts.

Purl 1 row.

Increase row: k1, kfb, k2, kfb, k1—8 sts.

Candy body:

Note: For rounder candies, space your increase and decreases evenly around the body, rather than working them at the corners.

Divide 8 remaining sts over 2 DPNs, by slipping the last 4 sts onto another needle.
Fold this needle back, to bring the last st up to join the first st, to work in the round.

Next rnd: kfb every st, *dividing sts over 4 needles as you work*—16 sts, 4 per needle.

Knit 1 rnd.

Increases:

Rnd 1: *Needle 1:* kfb, knit to last st on needle, kfb; repeat for remaining 3 needles—8 sts increased, 24 sts.
Rnd 2: knit.

Rep rnds 1 and 2 until there are 32 sts—8 sts per needle.

Note: to make broader or narrower candy, work fewer or additional increase rounds.

Continue to work in stockinette, knitting every round, until your candy reaches the desired length. You may wish to add stripes or colorwork patterns here!

Decreases:

Rnd 1: *Needle 1*: k2tog, knit to last 2 sts on needle, ssk; repeat for other 3 needles— 8 sts decreased, 24 sts.
Rnd 2: knit.

Rep Rnds 1 and 2 until 8 sts remain; stuff your candy with fiber fill.

Turn work. You will now be working flat again.

Next row: k1, k2tog, k to last 3 sts, ssk, k1—6 sts

Purl 1 row.

Next row: k2tog across—3 sts.

Purl 1 row.
Knit 1 row.
Purl 1 row.

Wrapper ends:

Seed Stitch:

Row 1: sl 1, knit into the front, back and then front again of the next st, k1—5 sts.
Row 2: sl 1, k1, p1, k2.

Row 3: sl 1, kfb, work seed st to last 2 sts, kfb, k1.
Row 4: sl 1, work in seed st to last st, p1.

Rep rows 3 and 4 until 13 sts are on the needle.

BO

Ruffle:

Row 1: kfb every st—6 sts.
Row 2: purl.

Row 3: sl 1, kfb next 4 sts, k1—10 sts.
Row 4: purl.

Row 5: sl 1, kfb, k to last 2 sts, kfb, k1.
Row 6: sl 1, purl to end.

Rep rows 5 and 6 until there are 20 sts on the needle.

Decrease row: k1, k2tog to last st, k1—11 sts.

BO

Use yarn tails to close up any gaps where the wrappers join the candy body.

To ruffle the wrapper ends, spray with water, then pin the ends straight, and bunch up the middle section. Let dry.

For a simple hanger, use a yarn needle to pull a scrap of yarn through one wrapper end, and knot to form a loop.

For pattern support, contact me at mediaperuana@gmail.com
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