

# FLOWERS AND LEAVES

Knitted flowers and leaves are great for adding to plain garments or for scattering across a throw or cushion. Work in fine silky yarns for glamour, velvet chenille for luxury, or crisp cotton yarns that hold their shape well. If knitted in 100 per cent wool, the fabric can be fullled (see page 60). Embellish the edges of the leaves or petals with beads or embroidery.



## Basic leaf

Cast on 3 sts and purl 1 row.  
**Row 1 (RS)** K1, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k1. 5 sts.  
**Row 2 and every foll WS row** Purl.  
**Row 3** K2, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k2. 7 sts.  
**Row 5** K3, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k3. 9 sts.  
**Row 7** K4, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k4. 11 sts.  
**Row 9** Ssk, k7, k2tog, 9 sts.  
**Row 11** Ssk, k5, k2tog, 7 sts.  
**Row 13** Ssk, k3, k2tog, 5 sts.  
**Row 15** Ssk, k1, k2tog, 3 sts.  
**Row 17** Sk2po.

Cut yarn and pull through last st. Make the leaf larger by adding extra increase rows. If you want a more solid leaf, work M1 instead of yfwd. Work the leaf in garter stitch instead of stockinette (stocking) stitch by working each WS row as a knit row. Make five leaves and arrange them in a circle with cast on points together at the centre to make a flower.



## Rose

Use a worsted (DK) yarn or thinner and a size smaller needle than normal, 3 (3.25mm/UK10), to make a firm fabric. Cast on 80 sts and knit 1 row.

Work 1 in (2.5cm) st st, beg with a k row.

**Dec row** (K2tog) 40 times. 40 sts.

**Dec row** (P2tog) 20 times. 20 sts.

**Dec row** (K2tog) 10 times. 10 sts.

Cut yarn, leaving a long length. Thread yarn on to a tapestry needle and thread through sts on needle, taking them off the needle one by one. Pull up into gathers. Form the rose by twisting it round and round from the centre with right side of fabric facing outwards. Pull the rose into shape as you go, letting the fabric roll over in some places. Work a few stitches through all layers at the bottom to hold them in place.

For a smaller rose, cast on fewer stitches and work less straight rows before decreasing as above.



## Daisy

These flowers look great worked in 4ply cotton yarn using size 2(3mm/UK11) needles, although they can be worked in any thickness or texture of yarn. Try a mohair or brushed yarn for a soft flower, or metallic or rayon yarns for a funky flower. Fill the centre with French knots (see page 84) or a button. Cast on 2 sts.

**\*\* Row 1** Knit into front and back of first st, k1.

**Row 2 and every foll WS row** K to end.

**Row 3** Knit into front and back of first st, k2.

Cont in g st, inc into first st of every RS row until there are 6 sts, ending with a WS row.

**Next row** Bind (cast) off 4 sts, k2.

**Next row** K to end. \*\*

One petal completed.

Work from \*\* to \*\* four more times.

Bind (cast) off rem 2 sts.

Run a gathering thread along the straight edge. Join the first petal to the last at cast on and bind (cast) off edges, forming a circle. Pull up the gathers until the daisy lies flat. Secure the thread.

Make the petals bigger by working more increase rows. Make more petals and form into a spiral with two or more layers of petals.

## ▼ KNIT SOMETHING NOW!

A rose with two leaves has been fullled after knitting and makes an attractive brooch. The lavender sachet below right is trimmed with a leaf edging.

The brooch is knitted in 2ply jumper weight shetland wool and the leaf edging is knitted in sport (4ply) weight mercerized cotton. See page 148 for pattern.

