ALAN DART *designer of knitted & fabric toys*

Border Collie

MEASUREMENTS

33cm/13in tall.

MATERIALS

Of Hayfield Bonus DK 100g balls: 65g in Black 965, 30g in White 961, 2g in Walnut 927, and 1g each in Silver Grey 838 and Pink 992; 200g of washable toy stuffing; pair of

3mm (no.11) knitting needles; 2.50mm crochet hook; long tweezers; pair of 12mm/1/2in diameter brown safety toy eyes; black pencil.

TENSION

26 sts and 36 rows to 10cm/4in square, measured over stocking stitch worked with DK on 3mm needles.

ABBREVIATIONS

beg = beginning; cont = continue; dec = decrease (by working 2 stitches together); inc = increase (by working into front and back of stitch); K = knit; P = purl; sl = slip; ss = stocking stitch; st(s) = stitch(es); SKPO = slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over; tog = together; YB = yarn back; YF = yarn forward.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Use 3mm needles throughout and cast on by using the cable (two-needle) method. This is most important when making the smaller pieces. Also begin all pieces with a K row, unless otherwise specified.

Please also take time to make sure that you are familiar with the correct method of increasing before commencing, otherwise you will find that the number of stitches on your needle will not match those stated in the pattern. 'Inc 1' means to increase by working into the front and back of the next stitch, thus making two stitches from one without leaving a hole in the knitting. This technique is sometimes referred to as KFB and is the only form of increasing that I use, so once you have mastered this you will be able to knit any of my patterns with complete confidence.

BODY BACK make 1 piece

With Black cast on 7 sts for base edge and ss 2 rows.

1st inc row: Inc into every st to end [14 sts].
P 1 row.
2nd inc row: (Inc 1, K1) to end [21 sts].
P 1 row.
3rd inc row: (K1, inc 1, K1) to end [28 sts].
Ss 3 rows.
4th inc row: (K1, inc 1, K2) to end [35 sts].
Ss 5 rows.
5th inc row: (K2, inc 1, K2) to end [42 sts].
Ss 47 rows.

Shape back, 1st dec row: K15, K 2 tog, K8, SKPO, K15 [40 sts].
Ss 3 rows.
2nd dec row: K14, K 2 tog, K8, SKPO, K14 [38 sts].
Ss 3 rows.
3rd dec row: K13, K 2 tog, K8, SKPO, K13 [36 sts].
Ss 3 rows.
4th dec row: K12, K 2 tog, K8, SKPO, K12 [34 sts].
Ss 5 rows.
Shape right side of neck, next row: K12, turn and work on these sts only.
Next row: Cast off 4 sts, P to end.
K 1 row.
Repeat the last 2 rows once more [4 sts].
Cast off.
Shape left side of neck, next row: Rejoin yarn to remaining 22 sts, cast off first 10 sts for back neck, K to end [12 sts].
P 1 row.
Next row: Cast off 4 sts, K to end.
Repeat the last 2 rows once more [4 sts].
P 1 row.
Cast off.

BODY FRONT make 1 piece

With White cast on 7 sts for base edge and ss 2 rows.
1st inc row: Inc into every st to end [14 sts].

Ss 3 rows.

2nd inc row: (Inc 1, K1) to end [21 sts].

Ss 37 rows.

3rd inc row: (K1, inc 1, K1) to end [28 sts].

Ss 9 rows.

4th inc row: (K1, inc 1, K2) to end [35 sts].

Ss 9 rows.

Shape chest, 1st row: K30, YF, sl 1, YB, turn.

2nd row: Sl 1, P25, YB, sl 1, YF, turn.

3rd row: Sl 1, K23, YF, sl 1, YB, turn.

4th row: Sl 1, P21, YB, sl 1, YF, turn.

5th row: Sl 1, K19, YF, sl 1, YB, turn.

6th row: Sl 1, P17, YB, sl 1, YF, turn.

7th row: Sl 1, K15, YF, sl 1, YB, turn.

8th row: Sl 1, P13, YB, sl 1, YF, turn.

9th row: Sl 1, K11, YF, sl 1, YB, turn.

10th row: Sl 1, P9, YB, sl 1, YF, turn.

11th row: Sl 1, K to end.

12th row: P across all sts [35 sts].

Ss 4 rows.

1st dec row: (K3, K 2 tog, K2) to end [30 sts].

Ss 5 rows.

2nd dec row: (K2, K 2 tog, K1) to end [24 sts].

Ss 5 rows.

3rd dec row: (K1, K 2 tog, K1) to end [18 sts].

Ss 5 rows.

Cast off for neck edge.

HEAD make 1 piece

Using 3 balls of yarn, cast on 9 sts White, 32 sts Black, and 9 sts White for neck edge [50 sts].

Rows 1 & 2: Keeping colours as set, ss 2 rows, twisting yarns where colours meet to prevent a hole forming.

Shape muzzle, row 3: Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row [52 sts].

Row 4: P8 White, 36 Black, 8 White.

Rows 5 & 6: Keeping colours as set, cast on 9 sts at beg of next 2 rows [70 sts].

Row 7: Keeping colours as set, inc 1 st at beg and end of next row [72 sts].

Row 8: P15 White, 42 Black, 15 White.

Rows 9 & 10: Keeping colours as set, cast on 4 sts at beg of next 2 rows [80 sts].

Row 11: Keeping colours as set, inc 1 st at beg and end of next row [82 sts].

Row 12: P17 White, 48 Black, 17 White.

Row 13: K17 White, 48 Black, 17 White.

Row 14: P15 White, 52 Black, 15 White.

Row 15: K15 White, 52 Black, 15 White.

Row 16: P14 White, 54 Black, 14 White.

Row 17: K13 White, 56 Black, 13 White.

Row 18: P13 White, 56 Black, 13 White.

Row 19: K12 White, 58 Black, 12 White.

Row 20: Inserting marker threads at beg and end of row, P12 White, 58 Black, 12 White.

Shape top of muzzle: Keeping Black sts in position as set, cast off 12 sts at beg of next 2 rows in White [58 sts].

Work right side, next row: Cont in Black and K19, inc 1, turn and work on these 21 sts only.

Dec 1 st at end of next row [20 sts].

Next row: Cast off 3 sts, K to end.

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row.

Repeat the last 2 rows once more [10 sts].

Cast off for top edge.

Work gusset, next row: Rejoin Black yarn to remaining 38 sts, inc 1, K16, inc 1, turn and work on these 20 sts only.

Ss 3 rows.

Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row [22 sts].

Ss 9 rows.

Work markings, 1st row: Using a separate ball of yarn for each colour change, and twisting yarns where colours meet, K9 Black, 4 White, 9 Black.

2nd row: P6 Black, 10 White, 6 Black.

3rd row: K4 Black, 14 White, 4 Black.

4th row: P4 Black, 14 White, 4 Black.

5th row: K5 Black, 12 White, 5 Black.

6th row: P6 Black, 10 White, 6 Black.

7th row: K7 Black, 8 White, 7 Black.

8th row: P7 Black, 8 White, 7 Black.

9th row: K8 Black, 6 White, 8 Black.

10th row: P8 Black, 6 White, 8 Black.

Keeping White sts in position as set, shape as follows:

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row.

P 1 row.

Repeat the last 2 rows five more times [10 sts].

Cont in White and ss 10 rows.

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next 2 rows [6 sts].

Cast off for nose edge.

Work left side, next row: Rejoin Black yarn to remaining 20 sts, inc 1, K to end [21 sts].

Dec 1 st at beg of next row [20 sts].

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row.

Next row: Cast off 3 sts, P to end.

Repeat the last 2 rows once more [10 sts].

Cast off for top edge.

LEFT FRONT LEG make 1 piece

*With White cast on 12 sts for base edge and cont in ss.

Shape paw, 1st inc row: (Inc 1) twice, K2, (inc 1) four times, K2, (inc 1) twice [20 sts].

P 1 row.

2nd inc row: (Inc 1) three times, K4, (inc 1) six times, K4, (inc 1) three times [32 sts].

P 1 row.

Shape front of paw, 1st row: K26, YF, sl 1, YB, turn.

2nd row: Sl 1, P20, YB, sl 1, YF, turn.

3rd row: Sl 1, K18, YF, sl 1, YB, turn.

4th row: Sl 1, P16, YB, sl 1, YF, turn.

5th row: Sl 1, K14, YF, sl 1, YB, turn.

6th row: Sl 1, P12, YB, sl 1, YF, turn.

7th row: Sl 1, K10, YF, sl 1, YB, turn.

8th row: Sl 1, P8, YB, sl 1, YF, turn.

9th row: Sl 1, K to end.

10th row: P across all sts [32 sts].

1st dec row: K8, (SKPO, K4, K 2 tog) twice, K8 [28 sts].

P 1 row.

2nd dec row: K8, (SKPO, K2, K 2 tog) twice, K8 [24 sts].

P 1 row.

3rd dec row: K8, (SKPO, K 2 tog) twice, K8 [20 sts].

Ss 9 rows.

Shape leg, 1st inc row: (K2, inc 1, K2) to end [24 sts].

Ss 5 rows.

2nd inc row: (K2, inc 1, K3) to end [28 sts].

Work markings, 1st row: Using a separate ball of yarn for each colour change, and twisting yarns where colours meet, P5 Black, 18 White, 5 Black.

2nd row: K7 Black, 14 White, 7 Black.

3rd row: P8 Black, 12 White, 8 Black.

4th row: K8 Black, 12 White, 8 Black.

5th row: P9 Black, 10 White, 9 Black.

6th row: K11 Black, 6 White, 11 Black.

Cont in Black and P 1 row.**

Shape top of leg, next row: K19, turn and work on these sts only.

Ss 2 rows.

Dec 1 st at beg of next row [18 sts].

Dec 1 st at end of next row [17 sts].

Dec 1 st at beg of next row [16 sts].

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row [14 sts].

Ss 7 rows.

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next 4 rows [6 sts].

Cast off for top edge of opening.

Rejoin yarn to remaining 9 sts, cast off first 4 sts for base edge of opening, K to end [5 sts].

P 1 row.

Dec 1 st at beg of next row [4 sts].

Dec 1 st at end of next row [3 sts].

Dec 1 st at beg of next row [2 sts].

P 1 row.

Cast off.

RIGHT FRONT LEG make 1 piece

Work as given for left front leg from * to **.
Shape top of leg, next row: K5, turn and work on these sts only.
P 1 row.
Dec 1 st at end of next row [4 sts].
Dec 1 st at beg of next row [3 sts].
Dec 1 st at end of next row [2 sts].
P 1 row.
Cast off.
Rejoin yarn to remaining 23 sts, cast off first 4 sts for base edge of opening, K to end [19 sts].
Ss 2 rows.
Dec 1 st at end of next row [18 sts].
Dec 1 st at beg of next row [17 sts].
Dec 1 st at end of next row [16 sts].
Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row [14 sts].
Ss 7 rows.
Dec 1 st at beg and end of next 4 rows [6 sts].
Cast off for top edge of opening.

BACK LEGS make 2 pieces

With Black cast on 8 sts for back edge and cont in ss.
1st inc row: (Inc 1, K2, inc 1) twice [12 sts].

P 1 row.
2nd inc row: K1, (inc 1, K3, inc 1) twice, K1 [16 sts].
Ss 3 rows.
3rd inc row: K7, (inc 1) twice, K7 [18 sts].
Ss 13 rows.
Work paw: Change to White and ss 4 rows.
4th inc row: K6, (inc 1) six times, K6 [24 sts].
Ss 3 rows.
Shape front of paw, 1st row: K19, YF, sl 1, YB, turn.
2nd row: Sl 1, P14, YB, sl 1, YF, turn.
3rd row: Sl 1, K13, YF, sl 1, YB, turn.
4th row: Sl 1, P12, YB, sl 1, YF, turn.
5th row: Sl 1, K11, YF, sl 1, YB, turn.
6th row: Sl 1, P10, YB, sl 1, YF, turn.
7th row: Sl 1, K9, YF, sl 1, YB, turn.
8th row: Sl 1, P8, YB, sl 1, YF, turn.
9th row: Sl 1, K to end.
10th row: P across all sts [24 sts].
K 1 row.
1st dec row: (P1, P 2 tog, P1) to end [18 sts].
K 1 row.
2nd dec row: (P 2 tog, P1) to end [12 sts].
Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

BACK HAUNCHES make 2 pieces

With Black cast on 22 sts for base edge and ss 2 rows.

1st inc row: (K5, inc 1, K1, inc 1) twice, K6 [26 sts].
P 1 row.

2nd inc row: (K5, inc 1, K3, inc 1) twice, K6 [30 sts].
P 1 row.

3rd inc row: (K5, inc 1) four times, K6 [34 sts].
P 1 row.

4th inc row: (K5, inc 1, K7, inc 1) twice, K6 [38 sts].
Ss 3 rows.

5th inc row: (K5, inc 1, K9, inc 1) twice, K6 [42 sts].
Ss 3 rows.

6th inc row: (K5, inc 1, K11, inc 1) twice, K6 [46 sts].
Ss 7 rows.

Shape top, 1st dec row: K5, SKPO, K10, K 2 tog, K8, SKPO, K10, K 2 tog, K5 [42 sts].
P 1 row.

2nd dec row: K5, (SKPO, K2, K 2 tog) twice, K8, (SKPO, K2, K 2 tog) twice, K5 [34 sts].
P 1 row.

3rd dec row: K5, (SKPO, K 2 tog) twice, K8, (SKPO, K 2 tog) twice, K5 [26 sts].
P 1 row.
Cast off for top edge.

TAIL make 1 piece

With Black cast on 4 sts for top edge of opening and ss 2 rows.
Inc 1 st at beg of next 6 rows [10 sts].
Cast on 3 sts at beg of next 2 rows for base edge of opening [16 sts].
Ss 4 rows.

1st inc row: K6, inc 1, K1, inc 1, K7 [18 sts].
Ss 3 rows.

2nd inc row: K7, inc 1, K1, inc 1, K8 [20 sts].
Ss 3 rows.

3rd inc row: K8, inc 1, K1, inc 1, K9 [22 sts].
Ss 3 rows.

4th inc row: K9, inc 1, K1, inc 1, K10 [24 sts].
Ss 3 rows.

5th inc row: K10, inc 1, K1, inc 1, K11 [26 sts].
Ss 11 rows.

1st dec row: K9, (SKPO, K 2 tog) twice, K9 [22 sts].
Ss 3 rows.

2nd dec row: K7, (SKPO, K 2 tog) twice, K7 [18 sts].
Ss 3 rows.

3rd dec row: K5, (SKPO, K 2 tog) twice, K5 [14 sts].
Ss 3 rows.
4th dec row: K3, (SKPO, K 2 tog) twice, K3 [10 sts].
Ss 3 rows.
5th dec row: K1, (SKPO, K 2 tog) twice, K1 [6 sts].
P 1 row.
Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

EARS make 2 pieces

With Black cast on 4 sts for base edge and ss 2 rows.
1st inc row: K1, (inc 1) twice, K1 [6 sts].
P 1 row.
2nd inc row: (Inc 1, K1, inc 1,) twice [10 sts].
P 1 row.
3rd inc row: (Inc 1, K3, inc 1) twice [14 sts].
P 1 row.
Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row [16 sts].
P 1 row.
Inc 1 st at beg and end of next 2 rows [20 sts].
Cast on 3 sts at beg of next 2 rows [26 sts].
Inserting marker threads at beg and end of first row, ss 6 rows.

Shape top, 1st dec row: K1, (K 2 tog, K8, SKPO) twice, K1 [22 sts].
Ss 3 rows.
2nd dec row: K1, (K 2 tog, K6, SKPO) twice, K1 [18 sts].
P 1 row.
3rd dec row: K1, (K 2 tog, K4, SKPO) twice, K1 [14 sts].
P 1 row.
4th dec row: K1, (K 2 tog, K2, SKPO) twice, K1 [10 sts].
P 1 row.
5th dec row: K1, (K 2 tog, SKPO) twice, K1 [6 sts].
P 1 row.
Cast off for top edge.

NOSE make 1 piece

With Black cast on 9 sts for top edge.
1st row: K7, YF, sl 1, YB, turn.
2nd row: Sl 1, P5, YB, sl 1, YF, turn.
3rd row: Sl 1, K4, YF, sl 1, YB, turn.
4th row: Sl 1, P3, YB, sl 1, YF, turn.
5th row: Sl 1, K to end.
6th row: P across all sts [9 sts].
Dec 1 st at beg and end of next 3 rows [3 sts].
Cast off for base edge.

TONGUE make 1 piece

With Pink cast on 4 sts for base edge and ss

2 rows.

Dec I st at beg and end of next row [2 sts].

Cast off for tip.

COLLAR make I piece

With Walnut cast on 70 sts for base edge and ss I row.

Inc I st at end of next row [71 sts].

K I row.

Dec I st at end of next row [70 sts].

Cast off for top edge.

COLLAR TAG make I piece

With Silver Grey cast on 18 sts for outside edge and K I row.

Dec row: (P 2 tog) to end [9 sts].

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

Sew front and back body pieces together along side edges, then work a gathering thread through every stitch on both base edges, draw up tightly and fasten off. Stuff body firmly through open neck edge.

Take head piece and join muzzle seam from neck edge up to marker threads, then remove markers. Now sew head gusset into top of head, matching black markings at each side of gusset to those on head and placing end of muzzle seam in centre of gusset nose edge.

Mark eye positions with pins on each side section of head, placing 4 black knitted stitches in from front and 2 knitted rows down from gusset seam. At each point push eye shank through knitting from right side to wrong, then fix with locking washer at wrong side, pushing it down shank as far as it will go.

Stuff head firmly, then sew neck edges of head and body together, matching black and white sections.

Fold each front leg in half and join across base edge, then up side edges, leaving top open. Stuff legs firmly then pin in position on body, placing top edge of each leg opening 9cm/3 I/2in down from neck edge and base edges of openings 4cm/1 I/2in apart at centre front of body and adjusting until dog sits upright. Sew in place, adding more stuffing to leg tops if necessary.

Join side edges of each back leg piece down from gathered front edge, leaving a 2.5cm/1in space open at back. Use tweezers to stuff firmly, then join remainder of seam. Work a gathering thread through every stitch on back edge, draw up tightly and fasten off. Join side edges on each haunch piece then, with this seam running down centre, fold top edge flat and join. Stuff haunches firmly. With each leg seam running along underside,

position and sew base edges of haunches close to gathered back sections of legs, making sure that haunch seams will face towards body. Position haunches to each side of body back, adjusting so that legs lie flat and dog sits correctly, then sew in place. Join side edges of tail from gathered tip down to base edge of opening, drawing up yarn slightly to make seam curve. Use tweezers to stuff tail firmly, then position and sew opening to back of body so that tail curves round left back leg.

Fold each ear in half and join seam from top edge down to marker threads, remove markers, then oversew lower edges together down to base edge. Position and sew oversewn edges of ears to head, placing inside edges 14 knitted stitches apart and 4 knitted rows before white markings at top of head. Fold down tip of each ear and hold in place with a few stitches inside fold. Fastening off ends at nose point, embroider mouth with three straight stitches of Silver Grey yarn, first working a 2.5cm/1in vertical stitch down muzzle seam, then a 4cm/1 1/2in horizontal stitch at each side to form an inverted Y shape. Sew base edge of tongue in centre of mouth, placing directly below embroidered stitches, then embroider two horizontal straight stitches of Black yarn

directly under tongue to form bottom lip, again fastening off ends at nose point. Position and sew nose piece in place, stuffing lightly with a little Black yarn, then lightly shade knitting round nose and top of mouth with black pencil.

Take a length of Silver Grey yarn and draw out a single strand. Use the remaining 2 strands to embroider three vertical, 2cm/3/4in long, straight stitches on each paw, then work over these stitches once more before sewing yarn ends into paw stuffing. Join side edges of collar tag to form a circle. Using Silver Grey yarn, crochet a length of 12 chains to form tag loop and fasten off. Fold this loop in half and sew ends to edge of tag, then slip pointed end of collar through loop and wrap collar round neck. With pointed end uppermost, overlap ends of collar by 2.5cm/1in and catch together with a few stitches, then use Silver Grey yarn to embroider a semicircle of chain stitches for buckle, with a single straight stitch in centre to form buckle prong.