Knitting Nature
Tea plant instructions

Materials:
• 25 g cream cotton dk yarn
• 25 g green cotton dk yarn
• 25 g yellow cotton dk yarn
• 25 g brown cotton dk yarn
• pair of 4 mm knitting needles
• darning needle
• one paper straw

Abbreviations
• k, knit
• p, purl
• st(s), stitch(es)
• kfb, knit in front and back of stitch
• tog, together
• yf, yarn forward to make a st
• tbl, through back of loops

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Stem
Using brown yarn, cast on 40 sts.
Work 4 rows of stocking stitch (1 row knit and 1 row purl).
Cast off.
Wrap stem around the straw and stitch closed along edges.

Flower centre
Using yellow yarn, cast on 7 sts.
Row 1 (right side):
Kfb in each stitch to end (14 sts).
Row 2 and every wrong side row: P
Row 3: *K1, kfb, repeat from *
to end (21 sts).
Row 5: *K2, kfb* repeat from *
to end (28 sts).
Row 7: K.
Row 9: *K2, k2tog* repeat from *
to end (8 sts).
Row 11: *K1, k2tog* repeat from *
to end.
Row 13: *K2tog repeat from *
to end.
Cut yarn and thread through remaining sts and secure end.
Draw together and stitch row edges together to form a flat circle.

Petal (make 6)
Using cream yarn, cast on 4 sts.
Row 1: Kfb each st (8 sts).
Row 2 and every alternate row: P
Row 3: *K1, kfb repeat from *
to end (12 sts).
Row 5: K.
Row 7: *K1, k2tog repeat from *
to end (8 sts).
Row 9: K*2tog repeat from *
to end (4 sts).
Row 10: P2tog, twice (2 sts).
Cut yarn and pull through remaining sts and secure.
Leaf (make 4)

Using green, cast on 3 sts.

Row 1 (right side): K.
Row 2 and every wrong side row: P.
Row 3: K1, yf, k1, yf, k1 (5 sts).
Row 5: K.
Row 7: K2, yf, k1, yf, k2 (7 sts).
Row 9: K.
Row 11: K3, yf, k1, yf, k3 (9 sts).
Row 13: K.
Row 15: K2, k2tog, yf, k1, yf, k2togetherbl, k2 (9 sts).
Row 17: K.
Row 19: K2, k2tog, yf, k1, yf, k2togetherbl, k2 (7 sts).
Row 21: K.

Row 23: K2togetherbl, k2together, yf, k1, yf, k2togetherbl, k2together (7 sts).
Row 25: K2togetherbl, k3, k2together (5 sts).
Row 27: K2togetherbl, k1, k2together (3 sts).

Cut yarn and pull through remaining sts and secure end.

To make up

Take the flower centre, evenly space three petals on the underside and stitch securely in place.

Place the remaining three leaves underneath the first layer, in the spaces, and stitch securely.

Attach the flower head onto the stem.

Place pair of leaves in an upward position and with the base of each at opposite side, stitch. Stiffen with starch if required.
1. Knit stem as per pattern, then insert the straw and stitch closed along edges.

2. Knit flower centre as per pattern, then stitch closed along the edge to form a flat circle.

3. Knit six petals as per pattern. Stitch one petal onto the underside of the yellow piece.

4. Stitch two more petals onto the flower so there are three petals attached.

5. Place the remaining three petals underneath the first layer, in the spaces, and stitch securely.

6. Attach the flower head onto the stem.
7. Knit eight leaf pieces as per pattern. Stitch pairs together (purl sides facing in) around the edge to form four leaves in total.

8. Use a darning needle to stitch a leaf onto the stem.

9. Stitch the remaining leaves onto the stem, securing them in an upward position.

10. The plant is complete. Stiffen the leaves with starch if required.

Created for Kew by textile artist Clare Sams.

For more information about this plant visit kew.org/plants/tea-plant