

## Birthday Cake



### MEASUREMENTS

The cake, including board, is 6in (15cm) wide and 6½in (16.5cm) tall to tip of candle flames.

### MATERIALS

Of Sirdar Bonus DK, 100g balls: 16g each in Aran 993, Silver Grey 838 and White 961, and 12g in Lilac 959; oddments of pale lilac and primrose DK yarns; pair of 3mm (no.11) knitting needles; a 7mm (no.2) knitting needle; 15g of washable toy stuffing; a 6in (15cm) diameter, ½in (12mm) thick, card

cake board; stiff white card; plastic drinking straws; clear adhesive; double-sided sticky tape; pair of compasses; long tweezers.

### TENSION

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

### ABBREVIATIONS

beg = beginning; 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); tog = together.

### 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 stated.

Please 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.

## CAKE BOARD make 1 piece

**Top section:** With Silver Grey cast on 84 sts and ss 2 rows.

**1st inc row:** (K3, inc 1, K3) to end [96 sts].

P 1 row.

**2nd inc row:** (K3, inc 1, K4) to end [108 sts].

P 1 row.

**3rd inc row:** (K4, inc 1, K4) to end [120 sts].

Ss 2 rows.

P 3 rows for fold.

K 1 row.

P 3 rows for fold.

K 1 row.

**1st dec row:** (P4, P 2 tog, P4) to end [108 sts].

K 1 row.

**2nd dec row:** (P3, P 2 tog, P4) to end [96 sts].



K 1 row.

**3rd dec row:** (P3, P 2 tog, P3) to end [84 sts].

Change to Aran and ss 3 rows.

**\*4th dec row:** (P2, P 2 tog, P3) to end [72 sts].

Ss 2 rows.

**5th dec row:** (K2, K 2 tog, K2) to end [60 sts].

Ss 2 rows.

**6th dec row:** (P1, P 2 tog, P2) to end [48 sts].

Ss 2 rows.

**7th dec row:** (K1, K 2 tog, K1) to end [36 sts].

Ss 2 rows.

**8th dec row:** (P 2 tog, P1) to end [24 sts].

K 1 row.

**9th dec row:** (P 2 tog) to end [12 sts].

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

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### BIRTHDAY CAKE Page 2 of 5

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**Base section:** With right side of work facing and White, K up 84 sts from cast-on edge of top section.

Work as given for top section from \* to \*\*.

### **CAKE make 1 piece**

With Aran cast on 84 sts for base edge and ss 6 rows.

Change to Lilac for ribbon and K 3 rows.

Ss 5 rows, beg with a P row.

K 2 rows.

Change to Aran and ss 5 rows, beg with a K row.

P 3 rows for fold line.

K 1 row.

Work as given for cake board from \* to \*\*.



### **PIPED EDGING make 2 pieces**

With White cast on 3 sts.

\*Ss 2 rows.

**Inc row:** Inc into every st to end [6 sts].

s 3 rows.

**Dec row:** (K 2 tog) to end [3 sts].

P 1 row.\*\*

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

Cast off.



### **BOW make 1 piece**

With Lilac cast on 4 sts and ss 2 rows.

\*Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row.

Ss 3 rows.

Repeat the last 4 rows two more times [10 sts].

Ss 8 rows.

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row.

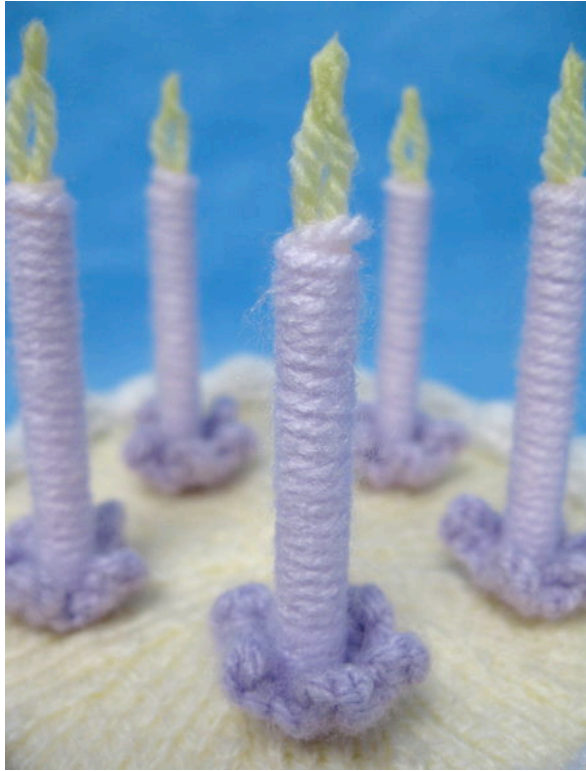
Ss 3 rows.

Repeat the last 4 rows two more times [4 sts].\*\*

Ss 12 rows.

Work from \* to \*\* once more.

Cast off.



## **CANDLE HOLDERS make as many as required**

With Lilac cast on 4 sts.

**\*Next row:** Cast off 2 sts, then sl st remaining on right-hand needle on to left-hand needle and cast on 3 sts.\*\*

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

Cast off all 8 sts.

## **TO MAKE UP**

For best results, sew seams and join pieces using mattress stitch, working with right side of knitting uppermost. A one stitch knitted seam turning has been allowed on all pieces to accommodate this method.

Fit card cake board inside knitted board

piece and join seam, sewing from one gathered centre point to the other, to cover.

Join cake seam from gathered centre top point down to base edge. Using compasses, draw a 4in (10cm) diameter circle on white card and cut out. Now mark the desired positions of the candles on this circle of card, leaving at least 1in (2.5cm) between each candle to allow for the holders. Using a large sewing needle, first make a hole through the card at each candle position, then enlarge all of these holes by using the large knitting needle, checking that a drinking straw will fit easily into each hole. Glue this circle of card to purl side of cake top, matching edge of card to knitted fold line, then locate each hole and, working from the right side, push the large knitting needle through the knitting and into the holes before the glue sets so you will be able to find them when you fix the candles in place. Stuff cake firmly, but not too much so sides bulge, then sew base edge of cake to top of board, matching cake and board seams and following first row knitted in Aran on board. Join ends of each piped edging strip, then oversew side edges together, using tweezers to stuff each bump lightly after it has been sewn, and stuffing final bump before it has been sewn. Draw a thin line of



glue round base of cake then fit one ring of piping over cake, press in place and leave to set. Now draw a thin line of glue round top edge of cake and fit remaining ring of piping in place.

Following instructions on ball band, press bow piece lightly on wrong side, then tie a loose knot in narrow centre section. Fold back each end to form loops, and sew cast-off and cast-on edges to back of knot to create bow. Position and sew to ribbon at front of cake.

To make each candle, cut a 3in (7.5cm) length of drinking straw and wrap first 2in (5cm) with double-sided tape. Use pale lilac yarn to bind this section closely, trimming ends of yarn and securing with spots of glue. Cut a 1 1/2in (4cm) length of primrose yarn for flame, fold in half and glue cut ends together to make a loop, rolling glued end between your fingers to form a point. Glue this end into top of candle, then dab a spot of glue at top of flame and pinch yarn into a point before glue sets.



Wrap candle holder round base of candle and join ends together with a few stitches to create a five-petalled flower. Push large knitting needle into one of the holes in top of cake and turn round to make a hole in stuffing. Spread glue over 1in (2.5cm) uncovered section of straw at base of candle, gently remove knitting needle, then fit candle into hole. Repeat with remaining candles.



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#### BIRTHDAY CAKE Page 5 of 5

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