Brambles and Bindweed

Sweet treat Christmas pudding

Our family has a Christmas tradition of providing a small gift at the dinner table for each person. It's usually chocolates, or a little inexpensive stocking filler. What is important is how it is presented. Each year we make something with a hidden compartment. This is my offering this year - a Christmas pudding; but if you lift up the sauce the secret stash of sweets is revealed.

Techniques:

Increasing, decreasing, knit through the back loop, short rows, duplicate stitch, cable or knitted cast-on, seaming.

Measurements:

To fit a ramekin approximately 7cm/ 3 inch diameter and 4cm / 1.5 inch deep.

Materials:

Yarn

Stylecraft Special DK (100% acrylic; 295m/322yds per 100g ball);
Oddments in red (lipstick), green (cypress), cream (parchment), brown (walnut), black.

Needles

1 set 3.5mm/US4 needles,

Notions

Ramekin, approximately 7cm/ 3 inch diameter and 4cm / 1.5 inch deep. This is re-usable as the Christmas pudding wrap can be easily removed.
Tapestry needle

Tension:

22 stitches and 32 rows to 10cm/4 inches in stocking stitch.

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I love to see what you make, please share: #bramblesandbindweed

Pattern Notes:
The Christmas pudding creates a loose wrap that can easily be added and removed to any ramekin. I used an empty Gü pot for mine, and thoroughly recommend this if available where you are!

Yarn Choice
A quick and cheerful knit, the best yarn to use is something from your stash.

Techniques
Full instructions for working a duplicate stitch can be found on my website.

You will need to cast on in the middle of the row when making the leaves. I used a cable cast-on but please choose your favourite method.

Abbreviations:
K knit, **k2tog** knit 2 stitches together, **kfb** knit in front and back of same stitch, **k-tbl** knit stitch through the back loop, **kyok** knit, yarn over, knit all in the same stitch, **p** purl, **p2tog** purl 2 stitches together, **RS** right side, **ssk** slip 2 stitches knitwise, knit these 2 stitches together through back loops, **st-st** stocking stitch/ stockinette, **st(s)** stitch(es), **WS** wrong side.

Pattern Starts:
Pudding
Using brown, cast on 26 sts.
Row 1(WS): P1, k to last st, p1.
Row 2 (RS): K1, *k2, kfb; repeat from * to last st, k1. 34 sts
Row 3 and every odd row: Purl.
Row 4: K1, *k3, kfb; repeat from * to last st, k1. 42 sts

Row 6: K1, *k4, kfb; repeat from * to last st, k1. 50 sts
Row 8: K1, *k5, kfb; repeat from * to last st, k1. 58 sts
Row 9: Purl
Starting with a knit row, work 12 rows in st-st (knit on RS, purl on WS).
Row 22: K1, *k5, k2tog; repeat from * to last st, k1. 50 sts.
Row 23: Purl.
Row 24: K1, *k2, p2; repeat from * to last st, k1.
Row 25: P1, *k2, p2; repeat from * to last st, p1.
Repeat rows 22 and 23 twice more.
Cast off in pattern.

Seam rows together to create tube. Weave in ends. Using black, and duplicate stitch, embroider the currants randomly across the pudding.

Sauce
Using cream, cast on 10 sts.
Row 1 (RS): K1, kfb to last st, k1. 18 sts
Row 2 and every even row (WS): Purl.
Row 3: K1, *k1, kfb; repeat from * to last st, k1. 26 sts
Row 5: K1, *k2, kfb; repeat from * to last st, k1. 34 sts
Row 7: K1, *k3, kfb; repeat from * to last st, k1. 42 sts
Row 9: K1, *k4, kfb; repeat from * to last st, k1. 50 sts
Row 11: K1, *k5, kfb; repeat from * to last st, k1. 58 sts
Row 13: Knit.
Row 14: Purl.

Saucy drips
Row 1: Cast off 1st, k7, turn (without wrapping).
Working on these 8 sts only.
Row 2 and every even row: Purl.
Row 3: K1, ssk, k2, k2tog, k1. 6 sts
Row 5: K1, ssk, k2tog, k1. 4 sts
Row 7: K1, k2tog, k1. 3 sts
Row 8: Purl.
Cast off. Break yarn, then rejoin to remaining sts.

Row 1: K14, turn.
Working on these 14 sts only.

Row 2 and every even row: Purl.
Row 3: Cast off 3sts, k7, k2tog, k1. 10 sts
Row 5: K1, ssk, k4, k2tog, k1. 8 sts
Row 7: Cast off 2sts, k5. 6 sts
Row 8: K1, ssk, k2tog, k1. 4 sts
Row 10: Knit
Row 12: Cast off 2sts, k1. 2 sts
Row 14: Cast off 2sts. Break yarn, then rejoin to remaining sts.

Row 1: K10, turn.
Working on these 10 sts only.
Row 2 and every even row: Purl.
Row 3: K1, ssk, k4, k2tog, k1. 8 sts
Row 5: K1, ssk, k2, k2tog, k1. 6 sts
Row 7: K1, ssk, k2tog, k1. 4 sts
Row 9: K1, k2tog, k1. 3 sts
Cast off in purl. Break yarn, then rejoin to remaining sts.

Row 1: K11, turn.
Working on these 11 sts only.
Row 2: Purl.
Row 3: K8, k2tog, k1. 10 sts
Row 4: P1, p2tog, p7. 9 sts
Row 5: K6, k2tog, k1. 8 sts
Row 6: P1, p2tog, p5. 7 sts
Row 7: K4, k2tog, k1. 6 sts
Row 8: P1, p2tog, p3. 5 sts
Row 9: K2, k2tog, k1. 4 sts
Row 10: P1, p2tog, p1. 3 sts
Cast off. Break yarn then rejoin to remaining sts.

Row 1: Knit to end. 14 sts
Row 2: Cast off 1st, p12. 13 sts
Row 3: K1, ssk, k7, k2tog, k1. 11 sts
Row 4 and every even row: Purl.
Row 5: K1, ssk, k5, k2tog, k1. 9 sts
Row 7: Cast off 3sts, k2, k2tog, k1. 5 sts
Row 9: Ssk, k1, k2tog. 3 sts
Cast off.
Seam to join into a circle. Weave in ends.

Berry (make 3 alike)
Using red, cast on 10 sts.
Cast off.
Roll up and sew closed. Weave in ends.

Leaf (make 2 alike)
Using green, cast on 27 sts.

Row 1 (RS): K2tog twice, k8, kyok, k1, kyok, k8, k2tog twice. 27 sts
Row 2 (WS): K1, k2tog, k8, k-tbl, k3, k-tbl, k8, k2tog, k1. 25 sts
Row 3: Cast off 4 sts, *slip last st back to holding needle, cast on 2 sts, cast off 6 sts; repeat from * to end.
Seam cast-on edge together. Weave in ends.

Finishing:
Place sauce on top of the cast-off edge of the pudding. Choosing one of the larger drips, sew into place along the bottom third of the drip. This will form the hinge which allows you to lift the sauce from the pudding. Sew the two holly leaves and three berries to the top of the sauce. Gently pull the pudding over the ramekin. It is now ready to fill with your favourite treats.

Links
https://bramblesandbindweed.com/duplicate-stitch/

https://www.gupuds.com/