R2   Mistletoe

Nothing says Christmas like parasitic vegetation. Except holly. And Ivy. Also Fir trees. Maybe poinsettias too. But mistletoe is definitely up there.

You will need:

yarn in dark green and white (double knit)

4 x double ended knitting needles (3.25mm) • tapestry needle • scissors

---

Pattern (Leaves and Stems):

Cast on 6sts in green and join into the round.

Round 1: [k1, p2] x 2
Round 2: [k1, pfb x 2] x 2 (10)
Round 3: [k1, p4] x 2
Round 4: [k1, p1, pfb, p2] x 2 (12)
Round 5: [k1, p5] x 2

Repeat the last round four more times.

Round 10: [k1, p2tog, p3] x 2 (10)
Round 11: [k1, p4] x 2
Round 12: [k1, p1, p2tog, p1] x 2 (8)
Round 13: [k1, p3] x 2
Round 14: [k1, p2tog, p1] x 2 (6)
Round 15: [k1, p2] x 2
Round 16: [k1, p2tog] x 2 (4)
Round 17: k2togtbl x 2 (2)

Cut yarn, leaving a tail long enough to do a little sewing, and reserve both stitches.

Start again and work to the end of Round 17. This time don't cut the yarn, instead knit across the 2 sts from the first leaf (4).

I-cord 2-4 cm.

Cut the yarn and reserve your first pair of leaves. Repeat the whole pattern again to make a second set of leaves. This time don't cut the yarn, instead k2tog, k2 across the live i-cord, then k2tog, k2 across the reserved i-cord (6).

I-cord 3-6 cm.

Thread yarn through remaining stitches and pull tight.

Pattern (Berry):

Cast on 5 stitches in white and join into the round.

Round 1: kfb x 5
Rounds 2 & 3: k –

Thread yarn through remaining stitches and pull tight.

Making Up:

Join the knitted stitches at the tips of the leaves using a single chain stitch. Lose the loose end inside the leaf. Connect the base of the leaves together with a couple of extra stitches, then embroider the largest French knot you dare at the join (I wrapped the yarn around five times and it still came out a bit small). Lose the rest of the loose ends as neatly as possible.

Sew the white berries at point where the three lengths of i-cord join.

Because mistletoe is a plant it doesn't always grow neatly or regularly which is why I gave such big variations in the lengths of i-cord. Try knitting a few extra pairs of leaves and sewing them onto the i-cords at different points. Add in more berries. Or don't. Keep things different.

Notes:

Abbreviations

[ ] x number	Repeat the section in square brackets the required number of times.
(number)	Gives the total number of stitches you should have on needle by the end of the row.
k number	Knit this number of stitches
k –	Knit every stitch to the end of the row.
k2tog	Knit the next two stitches together (-1 stitch).
kfb	Knit into the front and then the back of a single stitch (+1 stitch).
p number	Purl this number of stitches.
p2tog	Purl the next two stitches together (-1 stitch).
p2togtbl	Purl the next two stitches together through the back of the loops (-1 stitch).
pfb	Purl into the front and then the back of a single stitch (+1 stitch).
sts	Stitches.

Needle/Yarn Size

As with most ODDknit patterns the yarn and needle sizes in the "you will need" section are just a guide. Feel free to improvise with whatever needles and yarn you have lying around - that's half the fun!