PROJECT 2

BATH MAT

THIS COOL CHUNKY BATH MAT IS KNITTED from a mixture of knitting yarn and recycled fabric. The knitting is enhanced by knotted strips of roughly torn fabric to give the mat a lovely organic texture. This is a fun project suitable for any level of experience and a very eco-friendly way to use up old clothing and towels.

For an extra-firm mat, back it with a piece of towelling. This will absorb far more moisture and make it easier to wash and dry. Jazz it up with patterned fabric from old shirts, mixed with brightly coloured knitting yarn – you can even use a few lengths of ribbon to incorporate yet another texture. If you prefer a smoother finish, push all the knots through to the back side of the mat when you have completed it.

MATERIALS:

- Debbie Bliss Cotton Double knitting 100% cotton (84 m/92 yd) per 50-g ball: 3 x 50-g balls shade Stone (A)
- Approx. 500 g recycled fabric (B)
- Pair of 10-mm (US 14, UK 000) needles
- Pair of 12-mm (US 15, UK N/A) River John swing needles or a long circular needle

TENSION:

6.5 sts and 9 rows to 10 cm (4 in) over g st using 12-mm needles

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS:

Approx. 43 x 68 cm (17 x 27 in)

Recycle things like T-shirts, cotton rags, calico and towels for the fabric, and make the strips as long as possible.

PREPARATION

Tear the fabric into long strips measuring approximately 2.5 cm (1 in) wide, and then knot them together to form a single length of 'yarn'. You can knot all of the fabric at once and wind it into a huge ball, or just do some initially and then add on more lengths as required as you go along.

MAT

Using 10-mm needles and 3 strands of yarn A, cast on 30 sts.

Rows 1–2: K.

Without breaking the yarn, change to the 12-mm swing needles and cont as follows:

Row 3: Using yarn B, k.

Row 4: Using yarn B, k.

Row 5: Using yarn A, k.

Remove the stopper from the end of the needle and place on opposite end without turning work.

Row 6: Using yarn B, k.

Row 7: Using yarn B, k.

Row 8: Using yarn A, k.

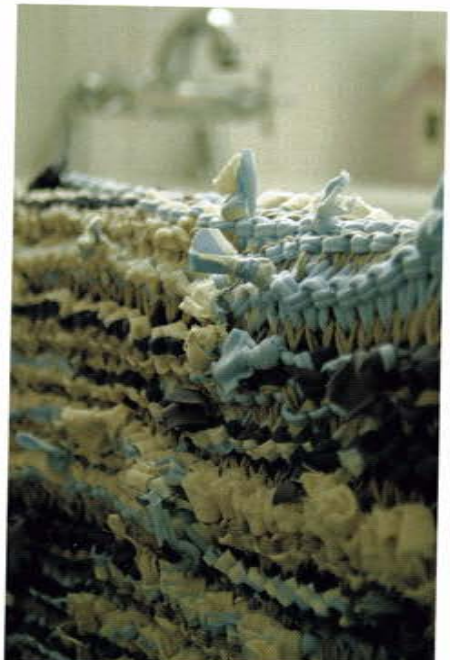
Cont to work 2 rows using yarn B and 1 row using yarn A without breaking the yarn. When the next shade to be used is at the opposite end of the row, remove the stopper from the swing needle, place on the opposite end, and cont working without turning the needle.

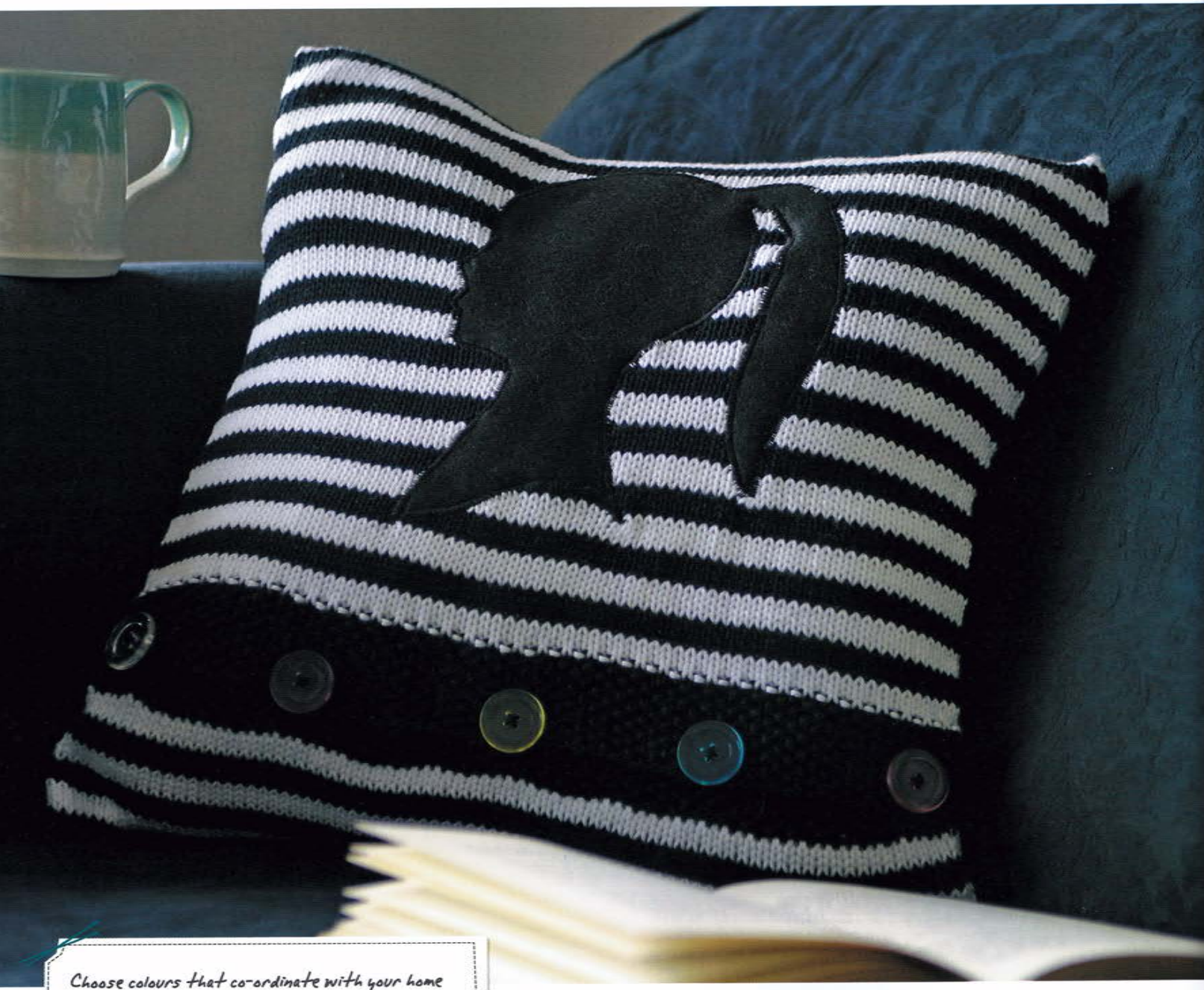
Cont until work measures 68 cm (27 in) ending with Row 4.

Change to 10-mm needles and work 2 rows in yarn A. Cast off.

MAKING UP

Weave in any loose ends. Trim the knots and, if preferred, push through to the WS of mat.





Choose colours that co-ordinate with your home furnishings. A vibrant red or pink with a black silhouette would look equally effective.

PROJECT 3

SILHOUETTE CUSHION

THIS STRIKING DESIGN IS CREATED from a simple stocking-stitch cushion cover appliquéd with a silhouette cut out from a piece of felt. You can use the silhouette shown in the pattern, cut one out of a magazine or make your own of someone you know – perhaps a family member or even a favourite pet. Classic silhouettes are black, but change the colours if preferred, or even stick to black but use coloured thread in a satin stitch around the silhouette to co-ordinate with the colour of the buttons.

There are various ways to make a silhouette. One of the easiest is to take an image with a digital camera. Place a bright light behind the subject and make them stand or sit sideways to the camera, so the profile is clear. Print the image and cut around the profile, then use this as a template for the fabric silhouette. Another method is to get your subject to sit perfectly still, place a light so that it casts a shadow on a wall, tape a piece of paper where the shadow falls and carefully draw around the shadow.

MATERIALS:

- Rowan Handknit Cotton 100% cotton (85 m/93 yd per 50-g ball): 3 x 50-g balls Black (A); 3 x 50-g balls White (B)
- Pair of 4-mm (US 6, UK 8) needles
- 5 x buttons
- 40 x 40 cm (16 x 16 in) cushion pad
- Piece of black felt fabric measuring 30 cm x 30 cm (12 x 12 in)
- Black sewing thread (fine tension suitable for use with a sewing machine)

TENSION:

20 sts and 28 rows to 10 cm (4 in) over st st using 4-mm needles

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS:

40 x 40 cm (16 x 16 in)

TIP

There are various computer programmes for creating silhouettes from digital images. The choice is yours!

CUSHION

Using shade A, cast on 80 sts.

Row 1: K1, p1 to end of row.

Row 2: P1, k1 to end of row.

Rows 3–6: Rep rows 1–2 (twice).

Row 7: (K1, p1) 3 times, *p2tog, yrn over twice, sl 1, p1, psso, (k1, p1) 6 times**, rep from * to ** 4 times, p2tog, yrn over twice, sl 1, p1, psso, k1, p1 to end of row.

Row 8: (P1, k1) 3 times, p1, *k into front of first yo, p into back of second yo, (k1, p1) 7 times**, rep from * to ** 4 times, k into front of first yo, p into back of second yo, k1, p1 to last st, k1.

Rows 9–12: Rep rows 1 and 2.

Next row (RS): Change to shade B and beg with a k row cont in st st for 4 rows.

Next row: Change to shade A and cont in st st changing the colour every 4 rows until work measures 40 cm (16 in) from cast-on edge, ending with the 4th row (WS) of a stripe.

Next row: Using shade A, k1, p1 to end of row.

Next row: P1, k1 to end of row.

Rep the last 2 rows (5 times).

Cast off.

SILHOUETTE

Enlarge or reduce your image to approximately 23 x 23 cm (9 x 9 in). Cut out a paper template and pin this to the felt fabric. Carefully cut out the silhouette from the felt. Centre this on the cushion front approximately 5 cm (2 in) above the buttonhole band and tack in place. St all the way around the silhouette in satin st. Fasten off any loose ends.

MAKING UP

Place the knitted cover WS facing down on a table with the buttonhole band at the top. Fold the top three-quarters of the cover down so that the RS are together. Fold the bottom quarter up so that the button band lays on top of the buttonhole band. St both side seams matching all the stripes. Turn RS out and sew the buttons on the button band to correspond with the holes.