MINI-CORDELL
Xmas decorations

by knitazoo

Adorn your Xmas tree with sweet little owls!
New and funny decorations for an original Christmas.
You can use them as placeholder for a cosy table
and give them to family and friends as a little gift for a lucky
New Year... if you can be without them!

Mini-Cordell is knitted on the round using double-pointed needles from bottom to head and is about 13 cm high from bottom to hat.

I used a marled yarn ("Tormalina" by *Silke by Arvier*, made in Italy) but you can use whatever textured or bouclé or marled yarn that will give a ruffled-up look to Mini-Cordell, or a metallic golden or silver yarn, perfect for the approaching holidays.

Don't worry about the gauge, the thicker the yarn, the bigger the owl! Keep the right proportion between the main colour (bulkier, for the body) and the thinner yarn for beack and eye-patches. Choose safety eyes accordingly. Always use a needle that is one size smaller than the one recommended for the yarn, so that the stuffing will not come out.

MATERIAL:

One skein main colour (50 gr) is sufficient to knit 3-4 Mini-Cordells. Plus you will need a little amount of light yellow for the beack, a little amount of white for eye-patches and some red for the beanie. You can use the same white yarn also for the hat, or a bouclé yarn.

Main colour: Tormalina (Silke by Arvier): 50% wool 50% acrylic, 50 gr 110m

Light yellow, white and red: (Titan wool, Zaffiro): 80% merinowool, 20% dralon. 50 gr 125 m/136 yds

Soft bouclé white yarn: Australia (Roby), 18% wool, 82% polyester

Safety eyes: 10 mm (better a little bigger than a little smaller!) – Stuffing – golden bell (optional)

Double-pointed needles 4.5 (US 7) for main colour and bouclé white, 3.5 (US 4) for other colours - Tapestry needle - Stitch marker

ABBREVIATIONS:
CO: cast on
BO: bind off
k: knit
kf&b: knit one st front and back
k2tog: knit two sts together (a right-slanting decrease)
ssk: slip, slip, knit (a left-slanting decrease)
sskpo: slip two sts knitwise without knitting, knit one, pass over the two sts
pm: place marker
sm: slip marker
[ ] x times: means you have to repeat what is between parenthesis for given number of times
( ): the number in parenthesis is the number of stiches after completing the round.
I-cord: work on two double-pointed needles. Put all your sts on one needle and work with a free needle. When you reach the end, do not turn but slide the sts back to the beginning of the needle. Pass the needle to the left hand, pull yarn tight and knit. You will obtain a cord.

NOTES:

Unless otherwise specified, you always use 3 double-pointed needles

Eye-patch (make 2)

CO 4 sts with white yarn and join in a round
R1: kf&b all (8)
R2: kf&b all (16)
R3: knit all
R4: BO all leaving a 15-20 cm tail that you will use for sewing up.
I find it much easier to work on just two dpns when I knit the eye-patches, they are small and tricky!

Body

CO 6 sts with main colour and join in a round.
Place marker to indicate beg. of round
R1: kf&b all (12)
R2: knit all
R3: kf&b all (24)
R4-5: knit all
R6: [k1 kf&b] all (36)
R7-8: knit all
R9: [k2 kf&b] all (48)
R10-15: knit
R16: k2, ssk, k8, k2tog, k4, ssk, k8, k2tog, k4, ssk, k8, k2tog, k2 (42)
R17-18: knit all
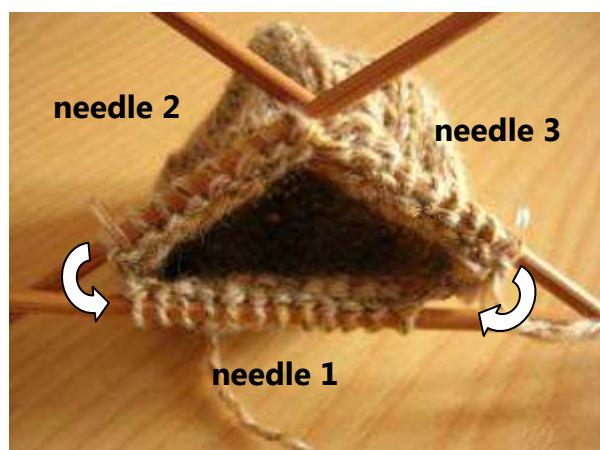R19: k2, ssk, k6, k2tog, k4, ssk, k6, k2tog, k4, ssk, k6, k2tog, k2 (36)
R20-21: knit all
R22: k15, pm, k18, pm, k3.
R23: k13, k2tog, sm, ssk, k14, k2tog, sm, ssk, k1 (32)
R24: knit all
R25: k12, k2tog, sm, ssk, k12, k2tog, sm, ssk (28)

Rearrange stitches as shown in picture, from the end of needle 3 to needle 1, from the beginning of needle 2 to needle 1.

needle 2
needle 3
needle 1

R26: knit all
R27: ssk, k10, k2tog, ssk, k10, k2tog (24)

Beanie

Change to white yarn. I used a soft bouclé.
R1: knit all
R2-3: purl all
Sew the eye-patches to the body, then fix the safety eyes (not centred but on one side – or upwards as I did). Stuff the body and give it a rounded shape.

Change to red yarn.
R4-11: knit all
(put a stitch marker in this round, so you know that you will have to stuff the hat only to this point.)
R12: [k2tog, k6] 3 times.
R13-14: knit all
R15: k13, [kf&b] 2 times, k1, [kf&b] 2 times, k3
R16: [k2tog, k5] 2 times, put the following st on a spare yarn, k1, put the following on the spare yarn, k2tog, put the following on the spare yarn, k1, put the following on the spare yarn,k3.
See picture:

You will need these four sts to knit the I-cord later on.

R17-18: knit all
R19: [k2tog, k4] 3 times
R20-21: knit all
Stuff the hat until the stitch marker.
R22: [k2tog, k3] 3 times
R23-24: knit all
R25: [k2tog, k2] 3 times
R26-27: knit all
R28: [k2tog] 4 times, k1.
Thread yarn through. Sew the little bell on top or make a small white ponpon if you like.

I-cord:
Move two sts from one spare yarn to one dpn. To know how to knit a I-cord, see **Abbreviations** at the previous page.
Knit I-cord for 15 rounds. Leave it on hold.
Move the other two sts from spare yarn to one dpn.
Knit I-cord for 15 rounds.
Pair the two dpns and knit sts together (pick one stitch from the dpn in front and one from the dpn in the back and knit together). Break yarn, thread through and weave in ends.

Beack:
With light yellow yarn.
CO 13 sts leaving a 10 cm tail that you will use for sewing up, and join in a round.
R1: knit all
R2: k5, sskpo, k5
R3: knit all
R4: k4, sskpo, k4
R5: k3, sskpo, k3
R6: k2, sskpo, k2
Thread yarn through rem sts and close. Lightly stuff (optional) and sew beack between the eyes, sew tip to the body.

Wings (make 2)
With main colour.
CO 12 sts leaving a 15-20 cm tail that you will use for sewing up, and join in a round.
R1-6: knit all
R7: k2tog, k5, kf&b, k4
R8: k2tog, k5, kf&b, k4
R9: knit all
R10: k2tog around
R11: k2tog around
Thread yarn through and sew to upper part of the body.

Well done! I wish you all a very...

Merry Christmas!