**Knitted Bumble Bees**

***Basic Pattern for Tree Bumble Bee, Early Bumble Bee and Garden Bumble Bee***

**Materials:**

Double knitting wool

Knitting needles 3.75

Toy stuffing

Black waxed linen thread (available from bead shops)

Cast on 4 stitches

Row 1. Increase knitwise into every stitch (8 st)

Row 2. Increase purlwise into every stitch (16 st)

Starting with K row work 16 rows stocking stitch

Row 19. P2tog. 8 times (8 st)

Row 20. K2tog. 4times (4 st)

Cut wool and thread darning needle. Thread through 4 stitches on needle.

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| **Tree Bumble Bee**Cast on and 4 rows white6 row black7 rows ginger3 rows black | **Early Bumble Bee**Cast on and2 rows red4 rows black2 rows yellow7 rows black2 rows yellow3 rows black | **Garden Bumble Bee**Cast on and2 Rows white5 Rows black2 Rows yellow1 Rows black2 Rows yellow3 Rows black2 Rows yellow3 rows black |

**To Make Up**

With right sides together sew up in stripe colours to last 4 rows.

Turn right side out and stuff firmly with toy stuffing. *For Early bee use a little less stuffing as this is a smaller queen.*

Finish sewing last few rows. You should now have a sausage shape.

With black wool gather around 3 rows down on head end and pull up tightly and fasten off.

With black wool gather 10 rows up from cast on to separate thorax and abdomen

Gather tightly and wrap wool twice around body tightly and fasten off.

You should now have a bee with a head, thorax and abdomen.

Make the antennae on the third row back from fastening off.

With black wool add antennae by taking wool into head where you want the first antenna. Come up one stitch away towards the middle of the head, leaving an end of wool the length of the antenna. Take needle down in the same place as the end of wool and out where you want the second antenna. Take the wool down a stitch away towards the centre of the head and up again where you want the second antenna. Cut wool to the same length as the first antenna. This sound complicated but after you have done one you will realise that it is easy.

Sew in 3 pairs of legs with waxed linen in the same way as the antennae – these are spaced evenly down the thorax from the ‘neck’ to the’ waist’.

**Common Carder Bee**

**Using double pointed needles**

Cast on 4 stitches in ginger

Row 1. Increase knitwise into every stitch (8 st)

Row 2. Increase knitwise into every stitch (16 st)

Row 3. Join In Black K 1 row slide stitches to end of needle.

Row 4. K1 row Ginger

Row 5. K1 row Ginger slide stitches to end of needle

Row 6. P1 row Black

Row 7. K1 row Ginger

Row 8. K1 row Ginger

Row 9. K1 row Black slide stitches to end of needle

Row 10. K1 row Ginger

Row 11. K1 row Ginger slide stitches to end of needle

Row 12. P1 row Black

Row 13. K1 row Ginger

Row 14. K1 row Ginger

Starting with K row work 8 rows st.st. Break off Ginger

Join Black wool and

K 1 row

Next row P 2 tog across row (8 st)

Next row K 2 tog across row (4 st)

Cut thread and thread darning needle . Thread through 4 stitches on needle.

Sew up to last 4 rows so reverse SS is the right side

Stuff firmly with toy stuffing.

With black wool gather around 3 rows down on head end and pull up tightly and fasten off. This will be between the black and ginger.

With Ginger wool gather at start of st.st. and pull tightly Wrap ginger wool twice around body and fasten off.

Sew antennae and legs as Garden Bumble Bee.