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SCANDINAVIAN-STYLE EASTER KNITS

Ornaments and Decorations for a Nordic Holiday



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Thea Rytter

THEA RYTTER is the editor of the creative magazin *Marie's Ideas* and the woman behind VaskavullaKnit, where she spreads creative joy and knitting passion with imaginative designs for both children and adults.

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PREFACE

Here in Denmark, our little country in the north, we spend half of the year without any leaves on the trees, red-nosed, and the sun is a seldom-seen guest. We wrap ourselves in blankets and fortify ourselves with tea, books, and hot stew. And then, one day, the world turns bright green, snowdrops peep out from the hedges, and crocuses color the lawn purple. That's when we know we'll be going out soon, to enjoy the long, bright days and short, warm nights that are our reward for putting up with such a dark winter.

Before we can slip our feet into our sandals, though, we still have to wait a couple more months. So we stand with our noses pressed flat against the window pane, to watch trickles trickle and sprouts sprout, when the temperature isn't so generous that it allows us to be out for hours. The Christmas decorations have long since been packed away; the window frames and corners stand empty and pale, when the first sharp rays of spring sunlight pick out the dirty panes and all the dust that gathered over the winter—which means it's time for spring cleaning, and the perfect moment to pull out some new decorations, too. For Easter, sure, but also for spring, to pay tribute to the season when everything begins anew.

Do you believe in the Easter bunny? Personally, I've always found it a little curious that it should be a rodent that comes to bring us eggs—but even though hares, rabbits, and eggs are part of the holiday, there's a deeper connection to the joy and effervescence of the season. So while all the classics are represented here, there are also options for decorating with feathers, birds, and flowers, for a spring display both before and after Easter.

Happy Knitting!
Thea



SPECIAL TECHNIQUES AND ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATIONS

To make these patterns as clear as possible, I've used very few abbreviations—mostly for increases and decreases.

Increases

Kf&b: Knit into the front and the back of the same stitch = 1 stitch increased.

M1R: Make 1 right. With left needle tip, lift strand between two stitches from back to front and knit into front loop = 1 stitch increased.

M1L: Make 1 left. With left needle tip, lift strand between two stitches from front to back and knit into back loop = 1 stitch increased.

Decreases

CDD: Centered double decrease. Slip 2 stitches as if to knit together, knit 1, pass the 2 slipped stitches over the knit stitch = 2 stitches decreased.

K2tog: Knit 2 stitches together.

K2tog tbl: Knit 2 stitches together through back loops (= twisted decrease).

K3tog: Knit 3 stitches together.

P3tog: Purl 3 stitches together.



EASTER EGG

We can't have a book of Easter decorations without Easter eggs. We hang them up, paint them, dye them, eat them—when it's spring, eggs are everywhere.

MEASUREMENTS

Small Easter Egg: The egg will cover a Styrofoam egg that's approximately 2½ in / 6 cm.

Large Easter Egg: The egg will cover a Styrofoam egg that's approximately 4¼ in / 8 cm.

GAUGE

Approximately 28 stitches x 40 rounds = 4 x 4 in / 10 x 10 cm.

Adjust needle size to obtain correct gauge if necessary for a firm fabric.

MATERIALS

Yarn: CYCA #2 (sport) Krea Deluxe Organic Wool 1 (100% organic wool, 159 yd/145 m / 50 g)

Suggested Needle Size: U. S. 1.5 / 2.5 mm: long circular for magic loop

Notions: Styrofoam egg, either 2½ in / 6 cm or 4¼ in / 8 cm high; beads or glimmer thread for embellishment (optional); fine beading needle and thread if sewing on glass beads (optional); cord for hanging loop (optional—the eggs are also decorative when set out or propped up)

SMALL EGG

Instructions

To make this egg, you'll need to have the Styrofoam egg on hand; you'll cover it as you knit. The egg is worked from the top down.

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EGG À LA FABERGÉ

Let yourself be inspired by gorgeous Fabergé eggs, and decorate your knitted egg with embroidered patterns worthy of a grand duchess.

MEASUREMENTS

The egg will fit over a Styrofoam egg that's approximately 6 in / 15 cm.

GAUGE

Approximately 28 stitches x 40 rounds = 4 x 4 in / 10 x 10 cm.

Adjust needle size to obtain correct gauge if necessary for a firm fabric.

MATERIALS

Yarn: CYCA #2 (sport) Krea Deluxe Organic Wool 1 (100% organic wool, 159 yd/145 m / 50 g)

Suggested Needle Size: U. S. 1.5 / 2.5 mm: long circular for magic loop

Notions: Styrofoam egg 6 in / 15 cm high; blunt tip tapestry needle; beads or glimmer yarn for embellishment (optional); cord for hanging loop (optional—the eggs are also decorative when set out or propped up)

Instructions

To make this egg, you'll need to have the Styrofoam egg on hand; you'll cover it as you knit. The egg is worked from the top down.

With circular U.S. 1.5 / 2.5 mm and Organic Wool 1, cast on 6 stitches. Join, being careful not to twist cast-on row; place marker for beginning of round.

WHITE EGG

For this embroidery, use the four lines of increase stitches to orient yourself and keep the embroidery centered.



1. Thread needle with glimmer yarn. Begin on the bottom of the egg. Insert yarn in the little hole on the bottom and up in the first ridge on one of the increase stitches.



2. In the ridge above, insert needle into the center stitch between two increase stitches and down in the first ridge in the next increase stitch.



3. Insert needle back through the increase stitch to lock it in the yarn.



4. Repeat all the way around, and then repeat the steps on the next ridge.

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5. Turn so Bundle 1 is down towards you, and then fold Bundle 2 the same way and secure Bundle 2 tightly with cord.



6. Turn so Bundle 2 is down towards you, and flip Bundle 1 up.



7. Lay Bundle 3 crossways on Bundle 2.



8. Wad a little ball of paper and lay it on top of Bundle 3. This will thicken the bird and give it some more shape.

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COLORFUL EGGS, blooming flowers, and tasty chocolates—Easter is a well-loved holiday all around the world. But it has a special significance in the Nordic countries, as long, cold winter nights finally give way to the bright beauty of spring. Thea Rytter, the author of *Scandinavian-Style Christmas Knits*, is back with a sweet, fresh collection of hand-crafted accessories for the Easter basket and your home. With designs inspired by classic holiday decorations and the natural world, you'll have everything you need to greet the spring season.

Inside, you'll find:

- Instructions for all special techniques and stitches, guiding you through increases, decreases, short rows, and more.
- Suggestions for embellishing with embroidery, beads, and shimmering metallic yarns—plus fast, simple wrapped-yarn projects, perfect for kids.
- Full-color photographs illustrating every project with ideas for decorative Easter looks and festive arrangements.

THEA RYTTER is the mind behind VaskavullaKnit, where she designs knitting patterns that everyone can use. She shares creative joy through Instagram and her innovative workshops, and works as an editor at the magazine *Marie's Ideas*.



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