

Knit Kit 10: A Pale Blue Dot

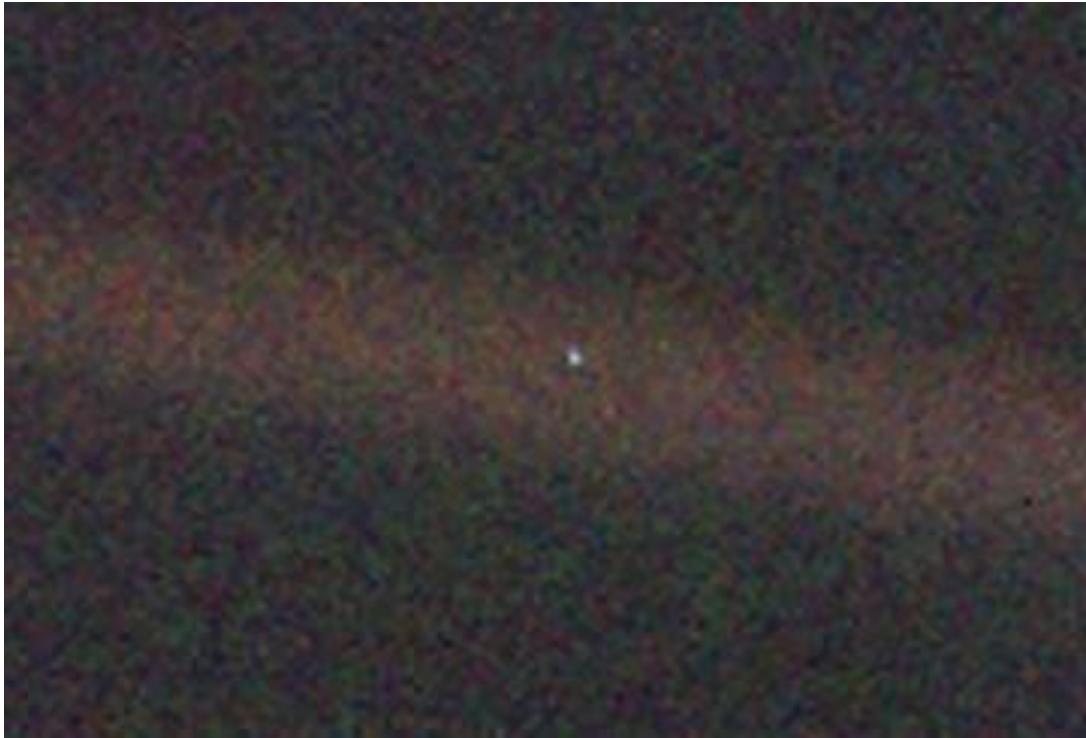


Image Credit: Courtesy NASA/JPL-Caltech

“Look again at that dot. That’s here. That’s home. That’s us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives” - Carl Sagan, Pale Blue Dot, 1994

The Story

Carl Sagan was an astronomer when the Voyager probes launched in the 1970s. He loved to make science more interesting for everyone. He’s remembered as having inspired a whole generation with this one image alone. This picture was so inspiring to him that he wrote a book called “Pale Blue Dot”.

He had this to say about the picture: *“The [sum] of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every ‘superstar,’ every ‘supreme leader,’ every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there--on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam.”*

The Science

The Voyager mission (Voyager 1 and Voyager 2) were the first ever deep space missions, sent from Earth to explore the outer solar-system. Voyager 1 was launched in September of 1977. Its mission was to take a grand tour of our solar system, and send back pictures of our galactic neighbourhood. In 1990, once it had passed Pluto, Voyager 1 turned around to take one last look at Earth before leaving the solar system. It took a picture with its tiny 800 by 800 pixel camera. Voyager 1 is still exploring the cosmos. It has left the solar system, and is sailing through rough space beyond the sun’s influence. The power on Voyager 1 will eventually run

out some time in the next ten years, but it will keep floating out into space. It is carrying a golden record - a data disc containing pictures of Earth, sounds of humans in lots of languages, and our location in the galaxy. If any other life finds it, they will know "We were here".

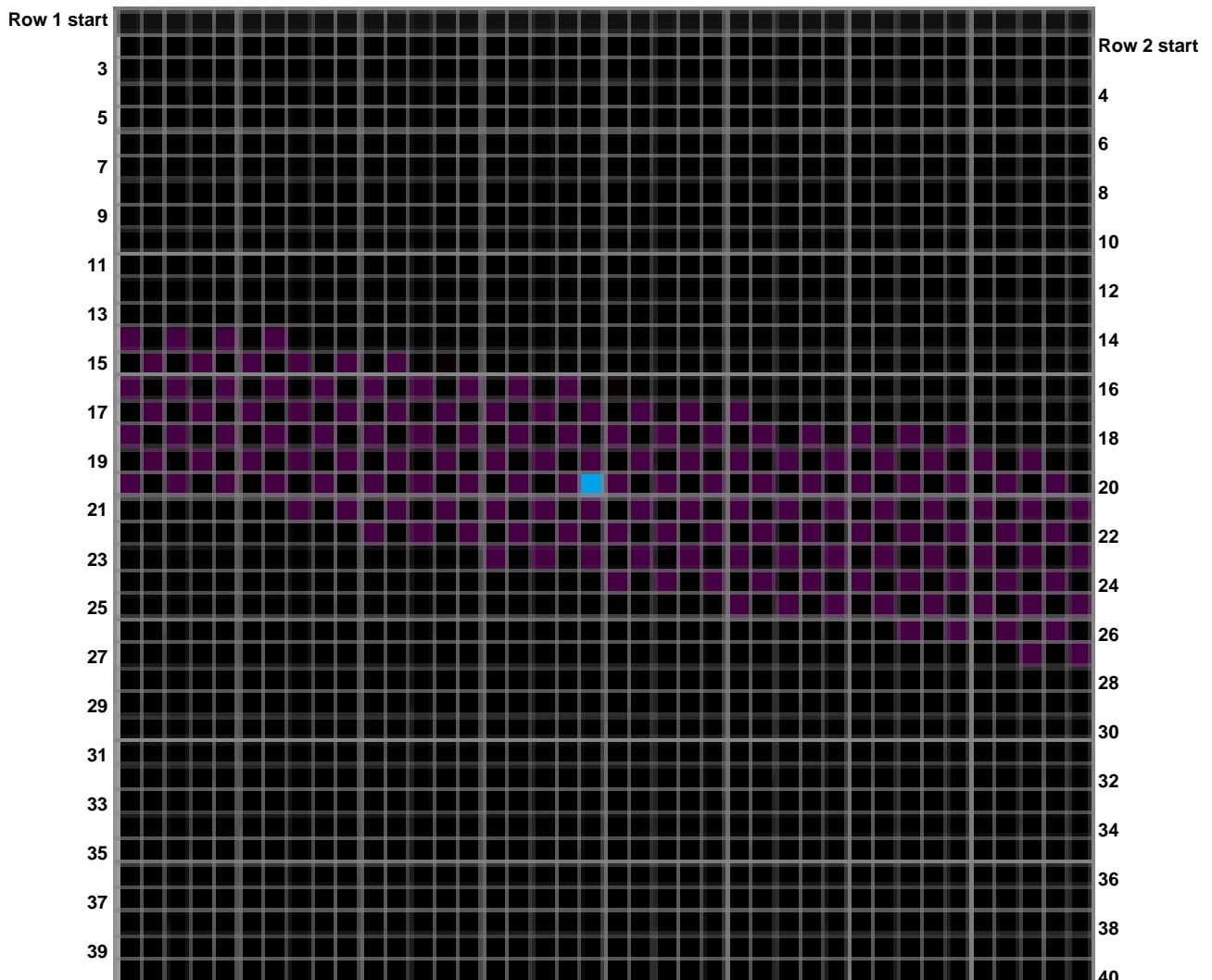
This is an easy knit. You will need:

- 3 colours of wool - we used black, purple and pale blue.
- A pair of knitting needles
- A yarn needle (ask an adult for help)

Colours don't have to match the image, you can use whatever you or your family have lying around. In this knit, we used around 25g of black, 10g of purple, 5g of pale blue DK wool, and 4mm knitting needles.

Skills used include: Cast On, Knit, Purl, Change Colour, duplicate embroidery stitch, and Cast Off. Go to our website www.knittheuniverse.co.uk for links to handy YouTube videos to learn these skills. Remember: After casting on, knit odd-numbered rows, changing colours as you go, and purl even numbered rows, changing colours as you go.

In this pattern, knit the black and purple in a checkerboard as shown, and cast off. To include the pale blue dot, use a yarn needle to embroider it on, and make it stand out.



Knitting Pattern

K – Knit

P – Purl

b – Black

p – Purple

Brackets indicate stitches inside the brackets are repeated.

For example, P2b means purl 2 stitches in black, and (K1p, K1b) twice means knit 1 stitch in purple, 1 stitch in black, and do this twice.

Cast on 40 stitches in black (or an alternate colour).

Row 1 - 13: Knit odd rows, purl even rows.

Row 14: P33b, (P1p,P1b) 3 times, P1p

Row 15: (K1b,K1p) 6 times, K28b

Row 16: P20b, (P1b,P1p) 10 times

Row 17: (K1b, K1p) 13 times, K14b

Row 18: P4b, (P1b,P1p) until end of row

Row 19: (K1b, K1p) 19 times, K2b

Row 20: (P1b, P1p) along entire row

Row 21: K6b, (K1b, K1p) until end of row

Row 22: (P1b, P1p) 15 times, P10b

Row 23: K14b, (K1b, K1p) until end of row

Row 24: (P1b, P1p) 10 times, P20b

Row 25: K24b, (K1b, K1p) until end of row

Row 26: (P1b, P1p) 4 times, P32b

Row 27: K37b, K1p, K1b, K1p

Row 28 - 40: Using black (or alternate) purl even rows and knit odd rows

Cast off.

Using blue yarn and an embroidery needle, stitch on the pale blue dot as shown in the image on the previous page.