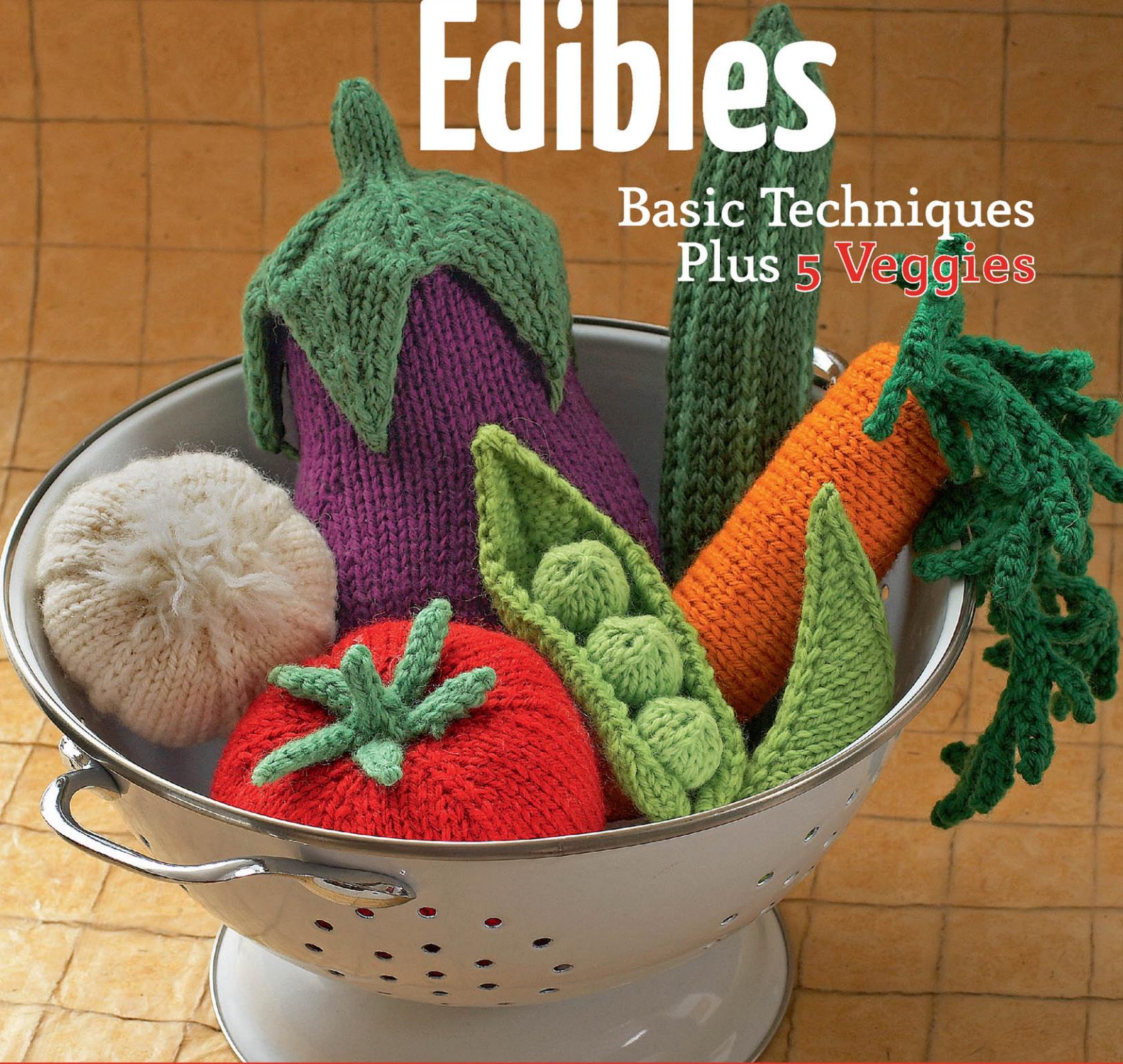


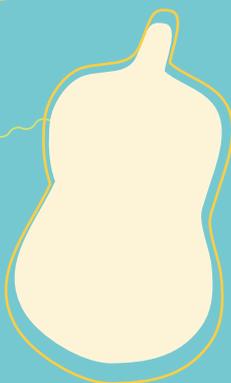
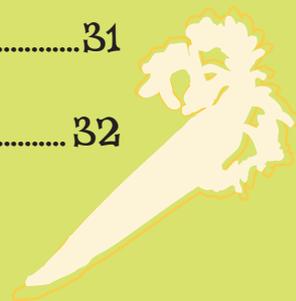
Knitted Amigurumi Edibles

Basic Techniques
Plus 5 Veggies



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Aubergine

Strangely, the word *aubergine* sounds more delicious to me than its colloquial counterpart. Whichever name you prefer, these luscious culinary treats are revered in many cuisines for their flavor and versatility. This knit version provides an excellent introduction to picking up stitches and knitting in the round and is an essential addition to any basket of vegetables.

yarn

Worsted weight

MC (eggplant): 75 yd (69 m)

CC (deep green): 50 yd (46 m)

needles

- One set U.S. size 5 (3.75 mm) double-pointed needles

and/or

- Two U.S. size 5 (3.75 mm) circular needles, 24" (61 cm) long

notions

- Fiberfill stuffing
- Tapestry needle

gauge

22 to 24 sts = 4" (10 cm) in stockinette stitch

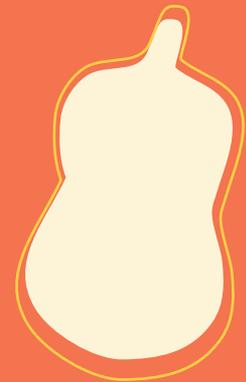
dimensions

Diameter: 4½" (11.5 cm)

Length: 8" (20.3 cm)

difficulty

Beginner/Intermediate





Pattern

Leaves (Make 5)

In CC, CO 17 sts. Continue, working back and forth in rows, as follows:

Row 1 (wrong side): Sl1, [P1, K1] 7 times, P2.

Row 2 (right side): Sl1, [K1, P1] 3 times, Sl2-K1-P2SSO, [P1, K1] 3 times, P1—15 sts.

Row 3: Sl1, [P1, K1] 6 times, P2.

Row 4: Sl1, [K1, P1] 2 times, K1, Sl2-K1-P2SSO, K1, [P1, K1] 2 times, P1—13 sts.

Row 5: Sl1, [P1, K1] 2 times, P3, [K1, P1] 2 times, P1.

Row 6: Sl1, [K1, P1] 2 times, Sl2-K1-P2SSO, [P1, K1] 2 times, P1—11 sts.

Row 7: Sl1, [P1, K1] 4 times, P2.

Row 8: Sl1, K1, P1, K1, Sl2-K1-P2SSO, K1, P1, K1, P1—9 sts.

Row 9: Sl1, P1, K1, P3, K1, P2.

Row 10: Sl1, K1, P1, Sl2-K1-P2SSO, P1, K1, P1—7 sts.

Row 11: Sl1, [P1, K1] 2 times, P2.

Row 12: Sl1, K1, Sl2-K1-P2SSO, K1, P1—5 sts.

Row 13: Sl1, P4.

Row 14: Sl1, Sl2-K1-P2SSO, P1—3 sts.

Row 15: Sl1, P2.

Row 16: Sl2-K1-P2SSO—1 st.

Cut yarn, thread through final st and pull tight.

Leaf Assembly and Stem

Using CC, pick up 14 sts across the CO edge of each of the five leaves for a total of 70 sts. See Figure 1 for guidance in picking up these sts.



Figure 1

Join these sts into a round, and proceed:

Round 1: *SSK, K10, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—60 sts.

Round 2: *SSK, K8, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—50 sts.

Round 3: *SSK, K6, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—40 sts.

Round 4: *SSK, K4, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—30 sts.

Round 5: *SSK, K2, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—20 sts.

Round 6: *SSK, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—10 sts.

Rounds 7-15: Knit.

Round 16: *K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—5 sts.

Cut yarn, thread through final 5 sts and pull tight. Using tapestry needle, thread this yarn end back through the tip of the stem to give it a blunt look.

Body

From the underside of the leaf and stem assembly, pick up a total of 40 sts in MC. Pick up these sts at the CO edge of the leaves. You will be picking up approximately 8 sts on the CO edge of each leaf. See Figure 2 for guidance in picking up these sts.



Figure 2

Join these 40 sts into a round and continue:

Rounds 1-16: Knit.

Round 17: *K1, M1L, K7, repeat from * to end of round—45 sts.

Round 18: Knit.

Round 19: *K1, M1L, K8, repeat from * to end of round—50 sts.

Round 20: Knit.

Round 21: *K1, M1L, K9, repeat from * to end of round—55 sts.

Round 22: Knit.

Round 23: *K1, M1L, K10, repeat from * to end of round—60 sts.

Round 24: Knit.

Round 25: *K1, M1L, K11, repeat from * to end of round—65 sts.

Round 26: Knit.

Round 27: *K1, M1L, K12, repeat from * to end of round—70 sts.

Round 28: Knit.

Round 29: *K1, M1L, K13, repeat from * to end of round—75 sts.

Rounds 30–36: Knit.

Round 37: *K13, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—70 sts.

Round 38: *K12, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—65 sts.

Round 39: *K11, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—60 sts.

Round 40: *K10, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—55 sts.

Round 41: *K9, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—50 sts.

Round 42: *K8, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—45 sts.

Round 43: *K7, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—40 sts.

Round 44: *K6, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—35 sts.

Round 45: *K5, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—30 sts.

Round 46: *K4, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—25 sts.

Round 47: *K3, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—20 sts.

Stuff the body of the eggplant with fiberfill. Do not overstuff! Continue:

Round 48: *K2, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—15 sts.

Round 49: *K1, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—10 sts.

Round 50: *K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—5 sts.

Cut yarn, thread through final 5 sts and pull tight.

Finishing

.....
Sew the tips of the leaves to the side of the body. Take care of any loose yarn ends.



Tomato

Even in the middle of winter, tomatoes have a way of bringing back summer. This cute knit version is a great introduction to small diameter circular knitting, and makes a sleek, squishy ornament for your dining table year-round!

yarn

Worsted weight

MC (summer red): 50 yd (45.5 m)

CC (spring green): 20 yd (18 m)

needles

- One set U.S. size 5 (3.75 mm) double-pointed needles

and/or

- Two U.S. size 5 (3.75 mm) circular needles, 20"-24" (51-61 cm) long

notions

- Fiberfill stuffing
- Tapestry needle

gauge

22 to 24 sts = 4" (10 cm) in stockinette stitch

dimensions

Diameter: 5" (12.7 cm)

Height: 3" (7.6 cm)

difficulty

Beginner/Intermediate





Pattern

Leaves (make 5)

CO 8 sts in CC. BO all sts. Thread yarn through final lp and pull tight. Weave in yarn ends.

Stem

Use CC yarn and pick up 2 sts from the blunt end of each of the five leaves, for a total of 10 stitches. See Figure 1 for guidance.



Figure 1

Join these into a round and continue:

Round 1: Knit.

Round 2: [K2tog, K2tog, K1] 2 times—6 sts.

Round 3: K2tog 3 times—3 sts. Knit 1" (2.5 cm) of I-cord.

Cut yarn and thread through remaining 3 sts. Pull yarn end through the center of the stem to make a blunt end.

Body

Use MC yarn, and CO 4 stitches. Join these sts into a round and continue.

Rounds 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15: Knit.

Round 2: [K1, KLL, KRL, K1] 2 times—8 sts.

Round 4: [K1, KLL, K2, KRL, K1] 2 times—12 sts.

Round 6: [K1, KLL, K4, KRL, K1] 2 times—16 sts.

Round 8: [K1, KLL, K6, KRL, K1] 2 times—20 sts.

Round 10: [K1, KLL, K8, KRL, K1] 2 times—24 sts.

Round 12: *K1, KLL, K2, KRL, K1, repeat from * to end of round—36 sts.

Round 14: *K1, KLL, K4, KRL, K1, repeat from * to end of round—48 sts.

Round 16: *K1, KLL, K6, KRL, K1, repeat from * to end of round—60 sts.

Rounds 17–27: Knit.

Round 28: *K10, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—55 sts.

Rounds 29 and 31: Knit.

Round 30: *K9, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—50 sts.

Round 32: *K8, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—45 sts.

Round 33: *K7, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—40 sts.

Round 34: *K6, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—35 sts.

Round 35: *K5, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—30 sts.

Round 36: *K4, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—25 sts.

Round 37: *K3, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—20 sts.

Round 38: *K2, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—15 sts.

Round 39: *K1, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—10 sts.

Round 40: *K2tog 5 times. (5 stitches)

Lightly stuff the body with polyester stuffing. Do not overstuff! Cut yarn, thread through final 5 sts and pull tight.

Finishing

Thread the yarn tail from the CO edge through the body of the tomato, and pull firmly to create an indentation. See Figure 2 for guidance. Secure this yarn tail. Sew leaves and stem onto the top portion of the body within this indentation. Take care of any loose yarn ends.



Figure 2



Carrot

This brilliant root vegetable is a wonderful source of beta-carotene, a relative of vitamin A. This knit version is an excellent exercise in short row knitting, with an intricate top created by utilizing a picot bind-off method. Knit a whole bunch to really brighten up your basket of veggies!



yarn

Worsted weight

MC (brilliant orange): 40 yd (37 m)

CC (lively green): 40 yd (37 m)

needles

- One set U.S. size 5 (3.75 mm) double-pointed needles

and/or

- Two U.S. size 5 (3.75 mm) circular needles, 24" (61 cm) long

notions

- Fiberfill stuffing
- Tapestry needle

gauge

22 to 24 sts = 4" (10 cm) in stockinette stitch

dimensions

Length: 15" (38 cm)

difficulty

Beginner/Intermediate





Pattern

Root

In MC, CO 52 stitches. Continue, working back and forth in rows:

Row 1: S11, P44, w&t.

Row 2: K43, w&t.

Row 3: P37, w&t.

Row 4: K35, w&t.

Row 5: P32, w&t.

Row 6: K31, w&t.

Row 7: P37, w&t.

Row 8: K39, w&t.

Row 9: P45, w&t.

Row 10: K48.

Row 11: S11, P32, w&t.

Row 12: K27, w&t.

Row 13: P21, w&t.

Row 14: K23, w&t.

Row 15: P20, w&t.

Row 16: K21, w&t.

Row 17: P27, w&t.

Row 18: K25, w&t.

Row 19: P40, w&t.

Rows 20–26: Repeat rows 2–8.

Row 27: P48, K1.

Row 28: S11, K51.

Rows 29–37: Repeat rows 11–19.

Rows 38–54: Repeat rows 2–18.

Row 55: P46, K1.

Row 56: S11, K51.

Turn work. Using a second needle, pick up an additional 52 stitches along the CO edge of the work.

Cut yarn, leaving a long tail. Using tapestry needle and this long yarn tail, graft (Kitchener stitch) the 52 stitches from the original needle to the 52 stitches on the second needle.

While grafting, stuff the body of the carrot with fiberfill. Do not overstuff.

Top

Make four green fronds for your carrot top as follows.

In CC, CO x stitches, where x is equal to 20, 30, 35, and 40, respectively. Knit one row. Then BO y stitches, where y is equal to 16, 24, 28, and 32, as follows: BO one stitch; *transfer stitch back to the left needle and CO 5 stitches using the knit-on method; BO 7 stitches; repeat from * until you've bound off y stitches. Then, BO the remaining stitches in the conventional fashion.

Finishing

Sew each of the top fronds to the top of the carrot body. Take care of any loose yarn ends.



Garlic

This pungent bulb is a quick and simple knit, and yet another essential item for any veggie basket. For one thing, it'll give you great practice knitting in the round. Plus, who can resist those fiendishly cute root hairs?

yarn

Worsted weight

MC (natural white): 40 yd (37 m)

needles

- One set U.S. size 5 (3.75 mm) double-pointed needles

and/or

- Two U.S. size 5 (3.75 mm) circular needles, 24" (61 cm) long

notions

- Fiberfill stuffing
- Tapestry needle

gauge

22 to 24 sts = 4" (10 cm) in stockinette stitch

dimensions

Length: 4" (10 cm)

difficulty

Beginner/Intermediate





Pattern

Body

In MC, CO 12 sts. Join these sts into a round and continue:

Round 1: Knit.

Round 2: [M1R, K1, M1L, K1] 6 times—24 sts.

Round 3: Knit.

Round 4: [K1, M1R, K1, M1L, K2] 6 times—36 sts.

Round 5: Knit.

Round 6: [K2, M1R, K1, M1L, K3] 6 times—48 sts.

Round 7: Knit.

Rounds 8-10: [K3, Sl1 purlwise, K4] 6 times.

Round 11: Knit.

Rounds 12-14: [K3, Sl1 purlwise, K4] 6 times.

Round 15: Knit.

Rounds 16-18: [K3, Sl1 purlwise, K4] 6 times.

Round 19: Knit.

Round 20: [K2, Sl2-K1-P2SSO, K3] 6 times—36 sts.

Rounds 21-23: [K2, Sl1 purlwise, K3] 6 times.

Round 24: Knit.

Round 25: [K1, Sl2-K1-P2SSO, K2] 6 times—24 sts.

Rounds 26-28: [K1, Sl1 purlwise, K2] 6 times.

Round 29: Knit.

Round 30: [Sl2-K1-P2SSO, K1] 6 times—12 sts.

Rounds 31 & 32: Knit.

Round 33: K2tog 6 times—6 sts.

Rounds 34-36: Knit.

Round 37: [K2tog, K1] 2 times—4 sts.

Rounds 38-40: Knit.

Round 41: K2tog, K2—3 sts.

Rounds 42 & 43: Knit.

Round 44: K2tog, K1—2 sts.

Stuff the body of the garlic bulb with fiberfill. Do not overstuff.

Cut yarn, thread through final 2 sts, and pull tight.

Root Hairs

Use MC to pick up 12 sts around the CO edge of the work. Join these sts into a round and continue:

Round 1: Purl.

Round 2: P2tog 6 times—6 sts.

Round 3: Knit.

Stuff the body of the garlic with any extra fiberfill, as desired. Continue:

Round 4: P2tog 3 times—3 sts.

Cut yarn, thread through final 3 sts, and pull tight. Thread this yarn end through the body of the work.

Cut several short (2" [5 cm]) lengths of MC yarn. Separate the plies of each to obtain fine, single-ply strands. Use a tapestry needle to thread these single-ply lengths of yarn through each of the purl bumps on the underside of the work. Secure each by tying a secure square knot. Fluff and clip the root hairs, as necessary.

Finishing

Take care of any loose yarn ends.



Cucumber

This refreshing vegetable is another summer staple. In addition to brightening your vegetable basket, it will allow you to practice small diameter circular knitting as well as color stranding techniques.

yarn

Worsted weight

MC (evergreen): 30 yd (27.5 m)

CC (chartreuse): 25 yd (23 m)

needles

- One set U.S. size 5 (3.75 mm) double-pointed needles *and/or*
- Two U.S. size 5 (3.75 mm) circular needles, 24" (61 cm) long

notions

- Fiberfill stuffing
- Tapestry needle

gauge

22 to 24 sts = 4" (10 cm) in stockinette stitch

dimensions

Length: 8½" (21.5 cm)

difficulty

Beginner/Intermediate





Pattern

Begin

In MC, CO 4 sts. Join these sts in a round and continue:

Round 1: Knit.

Round 2: *K-fb, repeat from * to end of round—8 sts.

Round 3: Knit.

Round 4: *K1, KLL, repeat from * to end of round—16 sts.

Round 5: Knit.

Round 6: *K2, M1L repeat from * to end of round—24 sts.

Body

Attach CC. Continue with MC and CC yarns.

Rounds 7-47: *K1 in MC, K1 in CC, K2 in MC, repeat from * to end of round.

Round 48: *K1 in MC, K1 in CC, K2tog in MC, repeat from * to end of round—18 sts.

Round 49: *K1 in MC, K1 in CC, K1 in MC, repeat from * to end of round. Cut CC yarn. Stuff your vegetable with fiberfill. Continue in MC.

Round 50: *K1, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—12 sts.

Round 51: Knit.

Round 52: * K2tog, repeat from * to end of round—6 sts.

Rounds 53 and 54: Knit.

Cut yarn, thread through final 4 sts, and pull tight.

Finishing

Take care of any remaining yarn ends.



Peas in a Pod

Fresh peas are among the most aesthetically pleasing of all vegetables. With their spring-colored pods and petite seeds, these delectable treats are essential ingredients in any vegetable basket. This project includes both a closed pod and an open pod.

yarn

Worsted weight

MC (spring green): 30 yd (27.5 m)

CC (chartreuse): 20 yd (18 m)

needles

- One set U.S. size 5 (3.75 mm) double-pointed needles
- and/or*
- Two U.S. size 5 (3.75 mm) circular needles, 24" (61 cm) long

notions

- Fiberfill stuffing
- Tapestry needle

gauge

22 to 24 sts = 4" (10 cm) in stockinette stitch

dimensions

Length of pod: 4" (10 cm)

Diameter of pea: ½" (1.3 cm)

difficulty

Beginner/Intermediate





Pattern

Sealed Pod

.....
In MC, CO 4 sts. Join these sts into a round, and continue:

Rounds 1 & 2: Knit.

Round 3: [K1, KLL, KRL, K1] 2 times—8 sts.

Round 4: Knit.

Round 5: [K1, M1L, K2, M1R, K1] 2 times—12 sts.

Round 6: Knit.

Round 7: [K1, M1L, K4, M1R, K1] 2 times—16 sts.

Round 8: Knit.

Round 9: SSK, K5, M1R, K2, M1L, K5, K2tog—16 sts.

Round 10: Knit.

Rounds 11–32: Repeat rounds 9 & 10 eleven more times.

Round 33: SSK, K5, M1R, K2, M1L, K5, K2tog—16 sts.

Round 34: SSK, K12, K2tog—14 sts.

Round 35: SSK, K4, M1R, K2, M1L, K4, K2tog—14 sts.

Round 36: SSK, K10, K2tog—12 sts.

Round 37: SSK, K3, M1R, K2, M1L, K3, K2tog—12 sts.

Round 38: SSK, K8, K2tog—10 sts.

Round 39: SSK, K2, M1R, K2, M1L, K2, K2tog—10 sts.

Round 40: SSK, K6, K2tog—8 sts.

Round 41: SSK, K1, M1R, K2, M1L, K1, K2tog—8 sts.

Round 42: SSK, K4, K2tog—6 sts.

Stuff the body of the pod with fiberfill. Do not overstuff. Continue:

Round 43: SSK, M1R, K2, M1L, K2tog—6 sts.

Round 44: SSK, K2, K2tog—4 sts.

Round 45: SSK, K2tog—2 sts.

Cut yarn, thread through final 2 sts and pull tight.

Open Pod

.....
In MC, CO 4 sts. Continue, working back and forth in rows:

Row 1: SI1, P2, K1.

Row 2: SI1, KRL, K2, KLL, K1—6 sts.

Row 3: SI1, P4, K1.

Row 4: SI1, [K1, KLL, KRL, K1] 2 times, K1—10 sts.

Row 5: SI1, P8, K1.

Row 6: SI1, [K1, M1L, K2, M1R, K1] 2 times, K1—14 sts.

Row 7: SI1, P12, K1.

Row 8: SI1, [K1, M1L, K4, M1R, K1] 2 times, K1—18 sts.

Row 9: SI1, P16, K1.

Row 10: SI1, SSK, K5, M1R, K2, M1L, K5, K2tog, K1—18 sts.

Row 11: SI1, P16, K1.

Rows 12–33: Repeat rows 10 & 11 another 11 times.

Row 34: Repeat row 10.

Row 35: SI1, P2tog, P12, P2tog-tbl, K1—16 sts.

Row 36: SI1, SSK, K4, M1R, K2, M1L, K4, K2tog, K1—16 sts.

Row 37: SI1, P2tog, P10, P2tog-tbl, K1—14 sts.

Row 38: SI1, SSK, K3, M1R, K2, M1L, K3, K2tog, K1—14 sts.

Row 39: SI1, P2tog, P8, P2tog-tbl, K1—12 sts.

Row 40: SI1, SSK, K2, M1R, K2, M1L, K2, K2tog, K1—12 sts.

Row 41: SI1, P2tog, P6, P2tog-tbl, K1—10 sts.

Row 42: SI1, SSK, K1, M1R, K2, M1L, K1, K2tog, K1—10 sts.

Row 43: SI1, P2tog, P4, P2tog-tbl, K1—8 sts.

Row 44: SI1, SSK, M1R, K2, M1L, K2tog, K1—8 sts.

Row 45: SI1, P2tog, P2, P2tog-tbl, K1—6 sts.

Row 46: SI1, K2tog, SSK, K1—4 sts.

Row 47: SI1, P2, K1.

Row 48: K2tog, SSK—2 sts.

Cut yarn, thread through remaining 2 sts and pull tight.

Peas

Work several peas (three to five, as desired) into the open pod as follows. Use CC yarn and pick up 8 sts in a circle at the midline of the inside of the pod. See Figure 1 for guidance in picking up these stitches.



Figure 1

Join these sts into a round, and continue:

Round 1: Knit.

Round 2: [K1, KLL, KRL, K1] 4 times—16 sts.

Rounds 3–5: Knit.

Round 6: [K2, K2tog] 4 times—12 sts.

Round 7: [K1, K2tog] 4 times—8 sts.

Round 8: K2tog 4 times—4 sts.

Lightly stuff the pea with fiberfill. Cut yarn and thread through remaining 4 sts.

Finishing

Take care of any loose yarn ends. You're done!



Shaping

Amigurumi objects, like their real-life or imaginary counterparts, are characterized by their unique shapes. Fortunately, as knitters, we have many tricks up our sleeves for shaping: decreasing the number of stitches on the needle, increasing the number of stitches on the needle, and adding short rows into the work. The quick and dirty recipe for shaping knitting goes like this: Adding another row increases the length of the shape. Increasing or decreasing the number of stitches in the row increases or decreases the width of the shape. Adding short rows causes portions of the shape to protrude forward or backward in space. When you put these three techniques together, you are able to adjust your knitting in all three dimensions! And, you can knit just about any three-dimensional object you want to—awesome!

Decreasing

Here are various ways to decrease the number of stitches. Each method provides a distinct appearance.

Two Stitches to One (K2tog and SSK)

One way to decrease the number of stitches on the needle is to combine two stitches together. The simplest way to do this is to knit two stitches together, abbreviated K2tog. Knitting two stitches together has a definite orientation: it is right-leaning. This means that whenever you knit two stitches together, the stitch on the left always leans to the right and sits on top of the stitch on the right. Insert needle knitwise into two stitches together, wrap the yarn around the needle (1), pull the loop through (2).



Knit two together (K2tog)

To create a left-leaning decrease that mirrors knitting two stitches together, slip-slip-knit (abbreviated SSK). Slip the two stitches knitwise, one at a time (1), and insert your left needle into them to knit them together (2). You have decreased one stitch and the right stitch leans on top of the left stitch.



Slip-slip-knit (SSK)

Two Stitches to One on the Purl Side (P2tog and P2tog-tbl)

What if you need to decrease while you're working on the wrong side of the fabric?

This is when purling two stitches together (abbreviated P2tog) and purling two stitches together through their back loops (abbreviated P2tog-tbl) come into the game.

To create a right-leaning decrease from the wrong side of the work, purl two stitches together: insert the right needle into two stitches purlwise, wrap yarn around tip of right needle (1), and pull a loop through (2).



Purl two together (P2tog)

To create a left-leaning decrease from the wrong side of the work, on the other hand, we have to purl two stitches together through their back loops. This is definitely one of the most awkward moves in all of knitting! Turning the work slightly to see the backside, insert the right needle left to right through the two end stitches. Then, wrap the yarn around the tip of your right needle (1), and, with as few expletives as possible, pull a loop through onto your right needle (2).



Purl two together through back loop (P2tog-tbl)

Three Stitches to One (SI2-K1-P2SSO and SI2-P1-P2SSO)

It's also useful to be able to turn three stitches into one stitch. Though there are many ways to do this, my favorite method by far is the central stitch double decrease, abbreviated SI2-K1-P2SSO. Unlike other three-to-one decreases, this decrease doesn't have a slant to it. Instead, the central stitch remains on top, creating a neat, symmetrical appearance, an effect that satisfies the neat freak in me.

To work the decrease from the right side of the work, slip two stitches together by inserting your needle knitwise into both simultaneously (1), knit the next stitch, and, using the tip of the left needle, lift the two slipped stitches up and over the stitch that you just knit (2) (3).



Central stitch double decrease (SI2-K1-P2SSO)

Working this decrease from the wrong side of the work is similar. Abbreviated SI2-P1-P2SSO, slip two stitches purlwise simultaneously through their back loops (1). Yes, this is an awkward move. Purl one stitch. Pass the slipped stitches simultaneously over the stitch just purled and off your needle (2).

(continued)

If you turn your work over and look at the right side of the work, you'll discover an amazingly neat central stitch double decrease that's identical to the right side version (3).



Central stitch double decrease from the purl side (S12-P1-PSSO)

Increasing

Like most things in knitting, there are many ways to increase. Each of these different methods looks different, and is suitable for a different situation. All will prove to be useful in your amigurumi knitting adventures.

The Bar Increase (K-fb)

This is one of the simplest increases, and, unlike other modes of increasing, doesn't require you to learn a left and right version. It also doesn't boast of being invisible like other increasing methods. Instead, the new stitch that you create with this method will have a little bar at its base, which will be highly visible. Often, the bar increase, abbreviated K-fb, is used in situations where the bar blends in with the rest of the stitches (as in garter stitch) or when the bar serves a decorative function to highlight the line at which you are increasing stitches.

Knit a stitch, but don't drop it off your left needle (1). Now, insert your right needle into the back loop of the stitch (2), and knit it again, now allowing the stitch to slide off your left needle (3). Your single stitch will now have become two, with the second stitch branching from a little horizontal bar. One stitch increased. Yeah!



Bar increase (K-fb)

The Make-One Increases (M1R and M1L)

Make-one increases are nearly invisible, which makes this pair of increases an ideal choice in most amigurumi knitting situations.

To perform both the right and left versions of the make-one increase, you pick up the running yarn in between your needles, place it on your left needle, and knit into it. How you place the running yarn on your left needle and how you knit into the resulting loop varies, based on whether you are working the right or the left version of the increase.

Unlike decreases, which clearly have a direction in which they slant, increases have a slant that's much more subtle. Some expert knitters would argue that the visual differences between the left and right versions of the make-one increase are so slight that you don't really need to worry about learning two versions. This may be true when you are knitting a sweater. When you're knitting amigurumi, on the other hand, you're dealing with a sculpted palm-sized object, one in which the increase and decrease lines play a much more significant role in the way the work looks. In a small piece like this, small asymmetries in your increase lines will be easier to see than in a large piece like a sweater.

So, it makes sense to use both right and left versions of the make-one increase, as this will make your right and left increase lines look more symmetrical, and make your amigurumi look more polished.

The right-leaning version of the make-one increase, abbreviated M1R, tends to be the default make-one increase to use. To work it, insert your right needle under the running yarn from front to back (1). Then, transfer the resulting loop onto your left needle (2). Now, knit into this loop in the normal way, thereby adding an extra stitch to your row (3).



Make-one right (M1R)

To work the left version of the make-one increase, abbreviated M1L, insert your *left* needle under the running yarn from front to back (1). transfer the loop to your left needle. Now, knit into the back loop of this stitch once again adding an extra stitch to your row.



Make-one left (M1L)

Note the subtle difference in the way these increases slant.



M1L, M1R in second row under needle

Lifting Up the Loop Increases (KRL and KLL)

Though the loop increases aren't nearly as neat as the make-one increases, they are useful in some situations. When you need to make many increases in one row, the running yarn can get extremely tight, and executing multiple make-one increases can be a challenge. The loop increases are also useful when you need to create two new stitches side by side.

And for those of us who have a hard time remembering a right and a left version of anything (a deficit I must confess to), the loop increases may be the only case in which the right and left versions are memorable. Seriously!

To work the loop increases, add an extra stitch by knitting into the head of the stitch in the row below the one you are working. As you might have guessed, you work the right version by knitting into the right side of this stitch, and you work the left version by knitting into the left side of the stitch.

To work the right version, abbreviated KRL, use your right needle to lift up the head of the stitch that's directly below the stitch on your left needle (1). Place this loop on your left needle (2) and knit into it (3), thereby adding an extra stitch to your row.



(continued)



Right loop increase (KRL)

To work the left version of the loop increase, use your left needle to lift up the head of the stitch that's two stitches below the stitch on your right needle (1). Keep this loop on your left needle. Then knit into this loop (2), once again adding an extra stitch to your row.



Left loop increase (KLL)

The Yarn-Over Increase (YO)

If you're familiar with knitting lace or eyelets, you are probably already an expert. And you're probably wondering what an increase like this is doing in a book on amigurumi. After all, an amigurumi critter can't have holes if you expect it to hold in its stuffing! There are some places where the yarn-over increase is useful, particularly when you are creating parts for your critters that won't be stuffed.

The yarn-over increase, abbreviated YO, is one of the simplest increases to perform. Bring your yarn forward, wrap it, counterclockwise, around the right needle and return it to the back of the work (1). In the next row, knit or purl this wrap like any other stitch. The yarn-over increase leaves a hole (2).



Yarn over (YO)

The Magic of Short Rows

Increases and decreases can only adjust the width of a knitted shape. To also adjust its bulge, or the extent to which it protrudes forward or backward in space, we use short rows. Some knitters love short rows, while others shudder at their mere mention. After you've finished several of the projects in this book, you'll find that short rows are a simple, powerful technique for shaping your knitting.

How Do Short Rows Work?

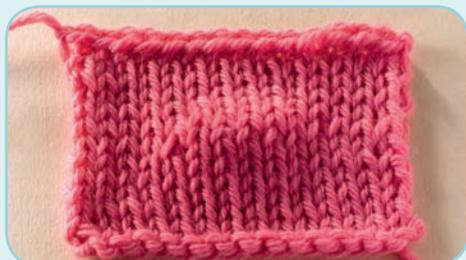
A short row is exactly what it sounds like: a row that you add into your knitting that has fewer stitches than the number of stitches on your needle. Let's say, for example, that you have 20 stitches on your needle. Instead of knitting all 20, you knit only 10 of them, turn your knitting, and purl back to the beginning of your row. You've just added a short row into your knitting!

There are a couple of ways to add short rows into your knitting. If you add short rows to one side of your knitting, as we just discussed, you are making one selvedge of the work longer than the other selvedge.



Short rows on one side

If you add short rows to the center of your knitting, on the other hand, you are making the central length of your work longer than the selvedge length. This will result in a central bump of stitches protruding forward (or backward) at the center of your work.



Short rows in the center

Wrapping and Turning (w&t)

Let's go back to that 10-stitch short row that you just added. If you worked the short row as described, you would find yourself with a big hole at the junction between the short row and the rest of your knitting. As it is, this opening would provide an ample opportunity for stuffing to escape from your finished toy. Not an attractive (or safe) possibility.

To avoid the holes that short rows can create in your knitting, perform an operation called wrapping and turning, abbreviated in knitter's lingo as w&t. Instead of knitting your short row and simply turning, knit your short row, wrap your yarn around the following unworked stitch, and only then turn and work back to the beginning of the row. How you wrap and turn depends on whether you are working on the knit side or the purl side of stockinette stitch fabric.

When working a short row on the knit side of the fabric, perform the wrap and turn operation as follows. Knit the required number of stitches, bring the yarn forward to the front of your work, slip the next (unworked) stitch from the left needle to the right needle (1), bring the yarn to the back of your work, and slip the unworked stitch back to the left needle (2). Now turn the knitting and purl the required number of stitches in the next row (3).



Wrap and turn from knit side

When working a short row on the purl side of the fabric, you perform the wrap and turn slightly differently. After you have purlled the required number of stitches and are ready to wrap the yarn around the next unworked stitch, the yarn will already be at the front of the work. To wrap the stitch, bring the yarn to the back of the work, slip the next unworked stitch from the left needle to the right needle (1), bring the yarn to the front of the work again, and slip the unworked stitch back to the left needle (2). Then, you're ready to turn and work the next row (3).



Wrap and turn from purl side

(continued)

Taking Care of Those Wraps

We've taken care of the holes, but there is another problem. When you wrap and turn, you are left with some unsightly little bars that highlight where you turned the short row. These bars are nearly invisible in garter stitch and reverse stockinette stitch, so when working in these patterns, you can simply knit past the wraps. However, the bars can be very unsightly in stockinette stitch and you must take care of these wraps of yarn in some way. The standard way is to knit or purl them when you pass them. Most patterns don't include notes on when you'll be passing these wraps. As a conscious knitter, you need to establish an awareness of when you're passing them and know how to take care of them.

When you pass a wrap on the purl side of the fabric (the wrong side in stockinette stitch), insert your right needle from front to back under the wrap (1) and place it onto your left needle, allowing it to sit on the right of the stitch around which it was wrapped (2). Then, purl the stitch and its wrap together (3). Though this will produce a bulbous yarn loop on the purl side of the fabric, you'll notice that the wrap will disappear from the knit side of the fabric, leaving an even, neat knit stitch (4).



Purling wrap with stitch

When you pass a wrap on the knit side of the fabric, first insert your right needle from front to back under the wrap (1). Then, lift the wrap onto your left needle, up and over the stitch that it was wrapped around (2). Slip first the stitch and then the wrap knitwise (3), and then knit them together (4). Note that this final step of slipping twice and knitting together is nearly identical to the slip-slip-knit (SSK) decrease.



Knitting wrap with stitch

Pick Up Those Stitches!

Picking up stitches from one piece to begin another piece is a common technique used in many types of knitting. When knitting a sweater, for example, a common technique for creating a collar is to pick up stitches from the neck opening. When knitting amigurumi, we often create one or two constituent shapes and then, picking up stitches from both of these shapes, begin to build another shape to round out our form.

Picking up stitches allows you to avoid the pain of seaming many small pieces together. It also allows you to create amigurumi by building it up with a series of simpler shapes, eventually coming together into a complex whole. It can even be addicting, once you learn how to pick up stitches and realize how fun it is. So, let's get to it!

The Basics

The most confusing thing about picking up stitches is the technical jargon itself. What does it mean to "pick up stitches"? If you look at it literally, it seems as though the stitches are already there, and you simply need to pick them up (put them onto your needle) and you're all set. In reality, you cast on stitches directly onto your piece of knitting. To do this, slip your right needle into an available hole along the indicated edge, wrap your yarn around your needle (1), and pull a loop through onto your right needle (2). Now you've picked up one stitch. Continue in this manner across the edge (or middle) of your work until you've picked up the required number of stitches.



Picking up stitches

Here are a couple tips about picking up stitches: First, don't insert your needle through a strand of yarn, thereby splitting it. Second, don't pick up a stitch through a large hole. This will create an even larger hole.

The way you pick up stitches also varies slightly depending on where you are picking up your stitches: from a cast-on or bound-off edge, from a selvedge, or from the middle of your fabric.

From a Cast-On Edge

To pick up stitches from a cast-on edge, pick up one stitch per column of stitches. There are two ways to pick up stitches from a cast-on edge. You can pick up stitches invisibly from a cast-on edge by poking your needle between each column directly underneath the yarn strands of the cast-on edge itself. This will basically erase any line of demarcation between the old stitches and the new ones you are picking up (1).

You can also pick up stitches by poking your needle through the loops that are on the other side of the straight edge. This will create a neat line demarcating the edge itself, and is often useful for decorative purposes, where creating a clear line at the edge where you are picking up stitches is an important design element (2).



Picking up stitches from a cast-on edge

From a Bound-Off Edge

Picking up stitches from a bound-off edge is almost identical to picking them up from a cast-on edge. Pick up one stitch for every column of stitches on your edge. Pick up stitches invisibly from your edge, or pick them up in such a way that you create a clear demarcating line where you've picked up stitches.

(continued)



Garter selvedge

Picking up stitches along a garter selvedge



Picking up stitches from a bound-off edge

When you're picking up stitches along a chain selvedge, you will have two rows of stitches per link in your chain. Pick up your stitches as follows: pick up one stitch in between chains, one stitch at the chain, and another stitch in between chains. Then, skip the next chain and begin again. Notice the groups of three. With this method, the picked-up stitches will be tightly attached to your selvedge.

From the Middle of Your Work

The way to pick up stitches on the middle of your work varies depending on the orientation of the stitches you need to pick up. If you're picking up stitches across columns of stitches, use the tip of your needle to reach into the stitch itself and lift up the running yarn from the wrong side. Pick up one stitch per column of stitches.

From a Selvedge

When knitting in stockinette, the stitches are wider than they are tall. So, picking up stitches along a selvedge requires that you pick up approximately three stitches for every four rows along the edge. How to pick up stitches from your selvedge varies, depending on what type of selvedge you have. In most amigurumi knitting designs, selvages are either a chain selvedge, created by slipping the first stitch of every row, or a garter selvedge, created by knitting or purling the first stitch of every row.



Picking up stitches along a chain selvedge



Picking up stitches across columns



Chain selvedge

In a garter selvedge, you have one knot per two rows of knitting. To maintain the three-to-four ratio, pick up one stitch between knots, one stitch at a knot, another stitch between knots, and then skip the next knot. The spaces between the knots, as well as the knots themselves, are pretty tight, so as long as you pick up three stitches per four rows of knitting, the junction between your selvedge and your new stitches should be relatively hole-free.

When you're picking up stitches across rows of stitches, remember the three-to-four ratio. You should pick up only three stitches per four rows.



Picking up stitches across rows

Kitchener Stitch

.....
Cut the working yarn, leaving a tail about 18" (46 cm) long. Leave the stitches on the needles; there should be the same number of stitches on each. Hold the needles side by side in the left hand, with the right sides facing out. Slide the stitches toward the needle tips.

The working yarn will be coming from the first stitch on the back needle. To help demonstrate the steps, a contrasting yarn has been used in the photos. Thread the yarn tail on a yarn needle. Draw the yarn through the first stitch on the front needle as if to purl, and leave the stitch on the needle (1).

Keeping the yarn under the needles, draw the yarn through the first stitch on the back needle as if to knit, and leave the stitch on the needle (2).

* Draw the yarn through the first stitch on the front needle as if to knit, and slip the stitch off the needle (3). Draw the yarn through the next stitch on the front needle as if to purl, and leave the stitch on the needle.

Draw the yarn through the first stitch on the back needle as if to purl, and slip the stitch off the needle (4). Draw the yarn through the next stitch on the back needle as if to knit, and leave the stitch on the needle.

Repeat from * until all but the last two stitches have been worked off the needles. Insert the tapestry needle knitwise into the stitch on the front needle, and purlwise into the stitch on the back needle, slipping both stitches off their respective needles. Stretch out your seam or use the tip of a needle to adjust stitches a bit to even out the tension in the yarn (5).



Kitchener stitch

Amigurumi Gauge Sense

In amigurumi knitting, gauge sense is a little bit different from what it is in most other types of knitting. Since amigurumi doesn't really need to fit anybody, you're not obligated to work at any particular gauge. However, most amigurumi figures are stuffed with fiberfill. If you don't want this fluffy white stuff poking out of your creation, it's very important that you knit at a gauge that is tight for the weight of yarn that you're using. For example, instead of using needles in size 7 to 9 (4.5 to 5.5 mm) normally recommended for worsted weight yarn, you should use size 3 to 5 (3.25 to 3.75 mm) for knitting amigurumi.

A Word on Yarn

If your amigurumi item is intended as a toy, it is a good idea to select machine-washable yarn. Also, choose a fiber that has a lot of memory so that once you've knitted and stuffed the item with fiberfill, it will maintain its form quite nicely. Wool is ideal for this. Other fibers, like angora, alpaca, cotton, and bamboo, don't have the same elasticity as wool. If you must compromise, select a wool blend yarn.

Then, consider the weight of the yarn. Since most amigurumi requires lots of shaping maneuvers, it's a good idea to use a multi-ply worsted weight wool yarn. Such yarn is relatively easy to manipulate with your needles, can be worked in a tight gauge, produces clear stitch definition, and is relatively easy on your hands.

Taking Care of Yarn Tails

When you knit amigurumi, the wrong side of the work is usually unreachable, nestled within a dark, comfortable bed of fiberfill, so you don't have to spend hours weaving yarn ends on the wrong side of your work. Make sure yarn tails emerging from the wrong side are secure, tying a simple knot if necessary, and then simply shove them into the body of your work while you are stuffing. Once you've stuffed and closed up a piece, use your tapestry needle to thread any other secure yarn tails emerging from the right side through the stuffed piece and snip the tail at the point where it emerges on the other side.

Knitting Abbreviations

Beg	begin	P1-f&b	purl into front and back loop of same stitch
Bet	between	P2tog	purl two stitches together
BO	bind off	PSSO	pass slipped stitch(es) over
CC	contrasting color	Patt	pattern
cm	centimeters	pwise	purlwise
CO	cast on	Rep	repeat
Cont	continue	Rev St stitch	reverse Stockinette stitch
Dec	decrease	Rnd(s)	rounds
Dpn(s)	double-pointed needle(s)	RS	right side
g	grams	Sk	skip
Inc	increase	Sl	slip
K	knit	Sl st	slip stitch
K1-f&b	knit into front and back loop of same stitch	SSK	slip, slip, knit decrease
K2tog	knit two stitches together	st(s)	stitch(es)
KRL	right loop increase	St st	Stockinette stitch
KLL	left loop increase	tbl	through back loop
kwise	knitwise	WS	wrong side
m(s)	marker(s)	wyb	with yarn in back
MC	main color	wyf	with yarn in front
rem	remaining or remain	w&t	wrap and turn
mm	millimeters	YO	yarn over needle
M1	make one stitch (increase)	*	repeat from *
M1R	make one right	[]	repeat instructions in brackets as directed
M1L	make one left	—	number of stitches that should be on the needle or across a row
P	purl		



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