



HOTTIE Sweater

Cozy "hot water bottle sweater" made of soft bouclé yarn, perfect for reducing the heat of a freshly filled, hot water bottle.

The cover is worked seamlessly from the bottom up. After the 'magic cast-on', work is continued in stockinette stitch in the round, up to the "neck" of the hot-water bottle, then decreases are worked. The cuff is knitted in stockinette stitch in the round, over the remaining stitches, finally it is folded inwards, forming a double layer, and grafted together. An elastic band is worked into the cuff so that the transition from the body to the cuff remains elastic and does not wear out. The hot water bottle is pushed through the upper opening into the cover unfilled and folded in the middle.

Techniques used: Magic cast-on, Magic-Loop-Method, knit 2 stitches out of 1 stitch (kfb), Kitchener Stitch.



SIZE

One size for standard size hot water bottles with the measurements: approx. 32 cm x 20 cm/12.6 x 7.9".

Length: approx. 33 cm/13"

Width: approx. 21 cm/8.3"

YARN

100 g ‚Caracurl‘ by Lanamania (55 % Pure Wool, 41% Alpaca, 4% Nylon; 170 m/ 100 g), here in color ‚Natural White‘ and ‚Chocolate Dream‘.

NEEDLES

Circular needle (80 cm/32") size 4.5 mm (US 7/UK 7), for the ‚Magic Loop Method‘.

Circular needle (60 cm/24") size 4.5 mm (US 7/UK 7), to work in the round without ‚Magic Loop‘ and to place stitches on hold.

NOTIONS

Tapestry needle, wide elastic band (for example: Sport-Elastic by Prym).

MAIN PATTERN

Stockinette stitch in the round: knit all sts in every round.

GAUGE/TENSION

Stockinette st, using ndl size 4.5 mm: 14-15 sts x 27 rnds = 10 x 10 cm/4" square (washed and measured lying flat). Please adjust needle size, if necessary, to obtain correct gauge.

METHOD

Using circ. ndl size 4.5 mm and the ‚Magic cast-on‘, CO **46 sts**. Here you can find a helpful tutorial on this ‚Magic cast-on‘: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Vku17-6GvM>

There should be **23 sts** on each needle. Using the ‚Magic Loop Method‘, **knit 1 Rd**, as is also illustrated in the tutorial mentioned above.

Then start increasing at the sides. To work the increases, sts are doubled, i.e., 2 sts are worked out of 1 st: knit 1 st through the front leg of the stitch and knit 1 st through the back leg of that same st (kfb = knit front back). Here is a tutorial for the kfb method: https://youtu.be/q_KeANunPA8

Work increases as follows, still working with the ‚Magic Loop Method‘:

Rnd 1: Ndl 1: k1, kfb, knit to last 2 sts of needle 1, kfb, k1,

Ndl 2: k1, kfb, knit to last 2 sts of needle 2, kfb, k1 = 50 sts.

Rnd 2: knit all sts.

Rep **rnds 1 and 2** 2 more times, until each ndl has **29 sts** = a total of **58 sts**.

Continue working in the round over these 58 sts, until work, from CO edge, measures approx. **22 cm/8.7"** (= approx. 54 rnds after finishing the inc's).

Tip: „ A few rounds after the increases, the stitches can also be transferred onto a shorter circular needle (60 cm/24”), making it possible for you to knit quite 'normal' and comfortably in the round and the 'magic loop method' is no longer necessary.“

When work measures 22 cm/8.7”, work decreases at both side and at the same time switching back to the magic loop method with decreasing number of sts, as follows:

Rnd 1: k1, k2tog, k23, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k23, k2tog, k1 (= 54 sts).

Rnd 2: knit all sts.

Rnd 3: k1, k2tog, k21, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k21, k2tog, k1 (= 50 sts).

Rnd 4: knit all sts.

Rnd 5: k1, k2tog, k19, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k19, k2tog, k1 (= 46 sts).

Rnd 6: k1, k2tog, k17, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k17, k2tog, k1 (= 42 sts).

Rnd 7: k1, k2tog, k15, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k15, k2tog, k1 (= 38 sts).

Rnd 8: k1, k2tog, k13, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k13, k2tog, k1 (= 34 sts).

Rnd 9: k1, k2tog, k11, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k11, k2tog, k1 (= 30 sts).

Now knit the upper end or the cuff of the cover. This will later be folded inwards. In preparation for this, double all sts in the following round, as follows:

Increase round: *kfb, rep from * to end of rnd = 60 sts.

Distribute these **60 sts** evenly over 2 circ. ndls, as follows:

Hold two circ. ndls size 4.5 mm parallel to each other and alternately slip sts purlwise onto front ndl and back ndl: sl 1 st onto front ndl, sl 1 st onto back ndl and repeat this procedure until all sts are distributed (**Pic. 1 and 2**). There should be **30 sts** onto each ndl. Place the sts of back ndl on hold, it is best to push the cable, that holds the sts, through the opening into the body of the cover, together with the needle tips, so that they don't get in the way (**Pic. 3**).

Tip: „ If you don't have two circular needles size 4.5 mm, you can also place stitches on hold using a smaller size circular needle, e.g., 4.0 mm (US 6/UK 8) or 3.5 mm (US 4/UK 10 or 9).“

Pick up working yarn and continue working in the round over the **30 sts of front ndl**. Use the ‚Magic Loop Method‘ or switch to a set of dpns size 4.5 mm.

Knit **33 rnds**, until cuff measures approx. **13 cm/5.1” (Pic. 4)**. Cut yarn, leaving a yarn tail of approx. 50 cm/20”.



Pic. 1:
Distribute sts evenly over 2 circ. ndls...



Pic. 2:
...so each ndl has 30 sts.



Pic. 3:
Place sts of back ndl on hold and push them through opening together with ndl tips



Pic. 4:
Knit sts of front ndl until cuff measures approx. 13 cm.

An elastic band is worked into the cuff so that the transition from the body to the cuff remains elastic and does not wear out. To do this, cut off approx. 23 cm/9.1" (= circumference of cuff) from a wide elastic band (here: Sport-Elastic by Prym, 8.5 mm/0.35" wide), form into a circle and secure with a few stitches. A matching hair tie or something similar would certainly work as well, if it's roughly the size of the cuff's circumference.

Fold the cuff down together with the front needle and pull the needle tips of the back needle, together with the stitches on the cable, back out of the opening. Place the front and back ndls parallel to each other, place the elastic band between them and graft the stitches together, using the kitchener stitch (**Pic. 5 and 6**). Here is a tutorial on the kitchener stitch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ApZ8iZs9pjQ>



Pic. 5:
Place front and back ndl parallel to each other, place elastic band in between...



Pic. 6:
... and graft sts together using the kitchener stitch.

After all the stitches have been grafted together, pull the cuff into shape. Feel the elastic band that is now on the inside, push it down in the direction of the transition between the body and the cuff and fix it there from the outside with a few stitches, using a thin sewing thread of a matching color.

FINISHING

Weave in all yarn ends. Wash the cover completely and let it lie flat to dry so that the stitches will even out. Fold the empty hot water bottle in half and push it through the opening into the cover.



Pic. 7:
Fold the hot water bottle in half and push it through the opening into the cover.



Pic. 8:
Position the hot water bottle so that the cover fits perfectly.

ABBREVIATIONS

circ. = circular
CO = cast on
dpn(s) = double pointed needle(s)
dec('s) = decrease(s)
inc('s) = increase(s)
k = knit
kfb = knit in the front and the back of the stitch
k2tog = knit 2 sts together
ndl(s) = needle(s)
rem = remaining
rep = repeat
rnd(s) = round(s)
sl = slip
sl1 = slip 1 stitch purlwise
st(s) = stitch(es)
* = Repeat the instructions after the asterisk as many times as indicated.