



Pumpkin Spice

Hot Water Bottle Cover

By Laura Penrose



Gauge:	24 sts x 26 rounds on 4mm needles, stockinette (stranded)
Sizes:	Mini Regular
Yarn:	DK or Fingering held double
Pumpkin Spice:	MC 40g 60-70g , CC1 5g 8g , CC2 5g 10-11g , CC3 5-6g 15g
Create your own:	MC 50g 70-80g , CC will vary on motif choice
Needles:	4mm circular needles with 40-80cm / 16-32" cable
Finished Size:	14.25 20.5 cm / 5.5 8" x 18 29 cm / 7 11.5" not including cuff
Accessories:	Embroidery needle, stitch markers, 500ml 2L hot water bottle

Yarn & Gauge

It is important to match the gauge as closely as you can so your cover fits your bottle, make sure to swatch the colourwork pattern in the round. Pay attention to your round gauge, if it isn't correct your cover might be too long or short.

When choosing yarn it is best to go for something woolly or 'toothy'. This is so your colourwork stitches blend together nicely to form one cohesive fabric and your cover is as warm and cosy as possible! It is also advised to weave in your ends as you go as there are quite a few of them! Try something slightly variegated or speckled for a more realistic pumpkin, but stick to solids for the other colours.

Amounts are based on an average DK of 100m per 50g or fingering (held double) of 200m per 50g. Samples use Filcolana Saga (MC, CC1), RiverKnits BFL 4ply (CC2), Woolly Mammoth Fibres Natural Sock (CC3) (all held double).

Construction

Worked bottom up and in the round starting with Judy's Magic Cast On, increases are made to shape the bottom of the cover. The body of the cover is worked using stranded colourwork (charted) with 2 colours being used at once apart from round 24 **27** where 3 colours are used. If you struggle with this, you can use duplicate stitch instead. Some of the extra motifs also use 3 colours per round. The neck is shaped with decreases and finished with a 1x1 or 2x2 rib collar worked using the magic loop method or on DPNs. Magic loop is recommended for the Mini size.

Instructions

Using Judy's Magic Cast On method, CO a total of 52 **72** sts (26 **36** on each needle) with your MC. A tutorial for this by Very Pink Knits can be found [here](#).

Alternatively, CO 52 **72** sts using the backwards loop method and join to work in the round. You will need to close the bottom of your cover with mattress stitch if using this method.

Work 1 round in stockinette (K every st), remembering to work the twisted sts through the back loop if using the Judy's Magic Cast On method, placing a removable st marker after 26 **36** sts.

Increases

R1 - *K1 **2**, M1L, K til 1 **2** st(s) before M, M1R, K1 **2**, rep from * once more

R2 - K to end

Work R1 & 2 a total of 3 **6** times, 12 **24** sts increased. You should have 64 **96** total sts, 32 **48** on each needle/between markers.



Charts

Follow the colourwork chart for 31 **47** rounds. Chart is worked bottom to top, right to left. Red boxes indicate each motif repeat. 4 stitch repeats are worked 16 **24** times per round, 8 **12** stitch repeats are worked 8 **8** times per round. If you're new to reading charts, there is a great video by Very Pink Knits [here](#).

With each chart there are also some alternative autumnal motifs which you can use in your cover instead of those shown in the sample. If your cover ends up a few rounds longer than the sample, don't worry too much, it will still fit. If its shorter than the sample, distribute the missing rounds evenly before and after your colourwork section. Use page 6 to help you plan out your cover.

Decreases

Using MC only, work 1 round in stockinette.

R1 - *K0 **1**, SSK, K til 2 **3** sts before M, K2tog, K0 **1**, rep from * once more

Work R1 a total of 7 **13** times, 28 **52** sts decreased. You should have 36 **44** sts, 18 **22** on each needle/between markers.

Collar

For a 1x1 rib collar, (K1, P1) to end

For a 2x2 rib collar, K1, (P2, K2) til 1 st rem, K1

Continue in chosen rib pattern until collar measures approx 12.5 **14** cm / 5 **5.5**".

Bind off all sts using a stretchy method of your choice. Samples use a tubular bind off.

Finishing

Weave in all ends. Gently block your cover to help even your colourwork tension and bring the sts together. Insert your bottle by folding it lengthways into a tube. You can do this when your cover is still damp to help shape your cover, fill it with hot water and it will dry nice and quickly too! Don't forget to flip it a few times whilst it's drying.

Abbreviations

CC	contrast colour	mm	millimetres
cm	centimetres	R	Round
CO	cast on	rep	repeat
g	grams	rem	remain(s)(ing)
K	knit	st(s)	stitch(es)
M	marker	"	Inches
MC	main colour		

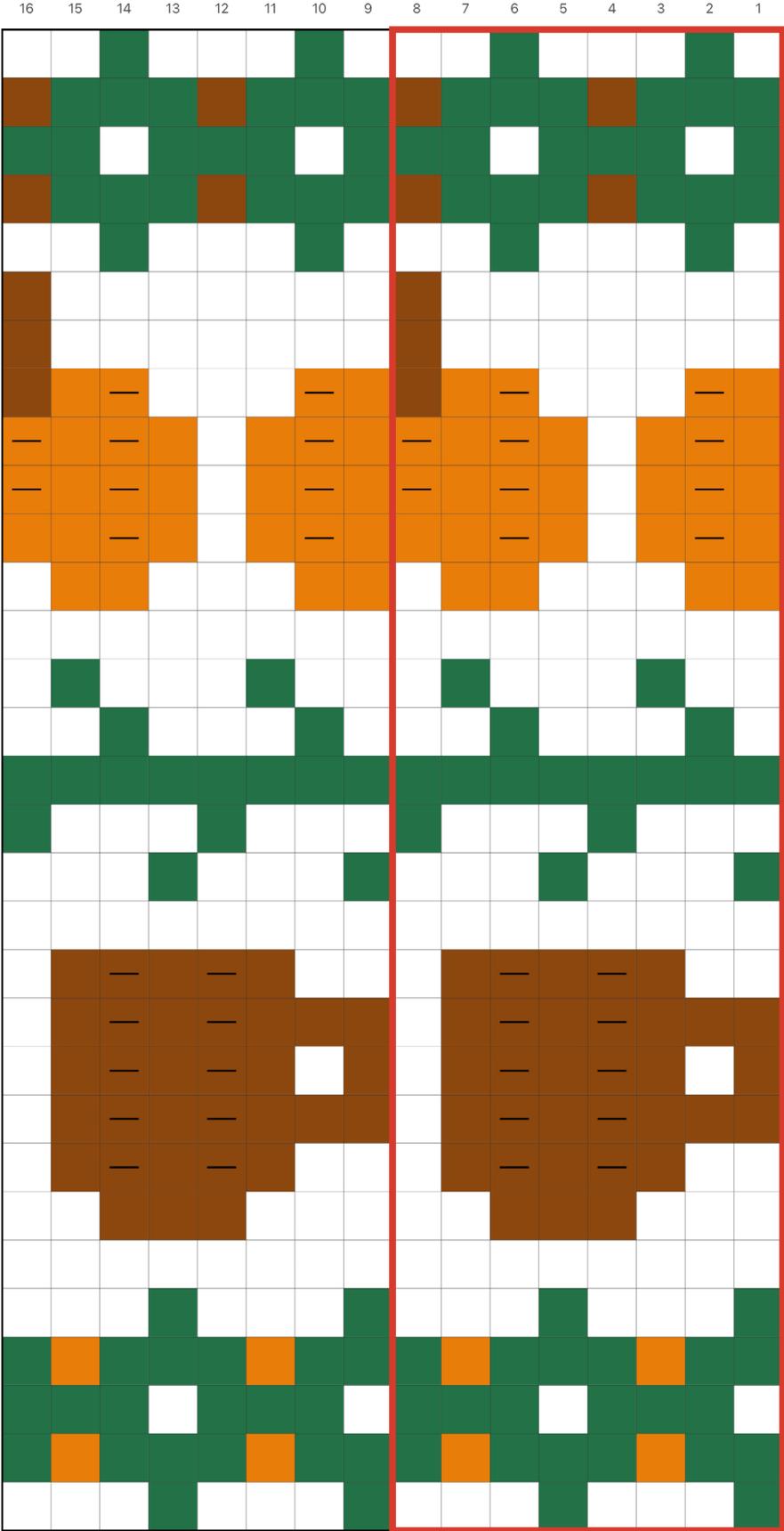
Techniques

K2tog	knit the first 2 stitches on the left needle together as if they were 1 stitch. 1 stitch decreased.
SSK	slip one stitch knitwise, slip one stitch purlwise, place stitches back onto the left needle, K together through the back loop. 1 stitch decreased
M1L	Left leaning increase. Make a stitch by inserting left needle under the bar between sts from front to back , then K through the back loop.
M1R	Right leaning increase. Make a stitch by inserting left needle under the bar between sts from back to front , then K through the front loop.



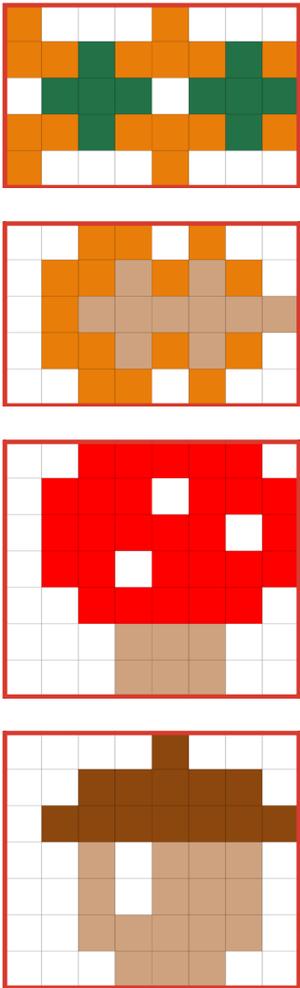
Mini Charts

Chart is worked bottom to top, right to left. Red box indicates repeat. It is not recommended to catch floats behind the pumpkin.



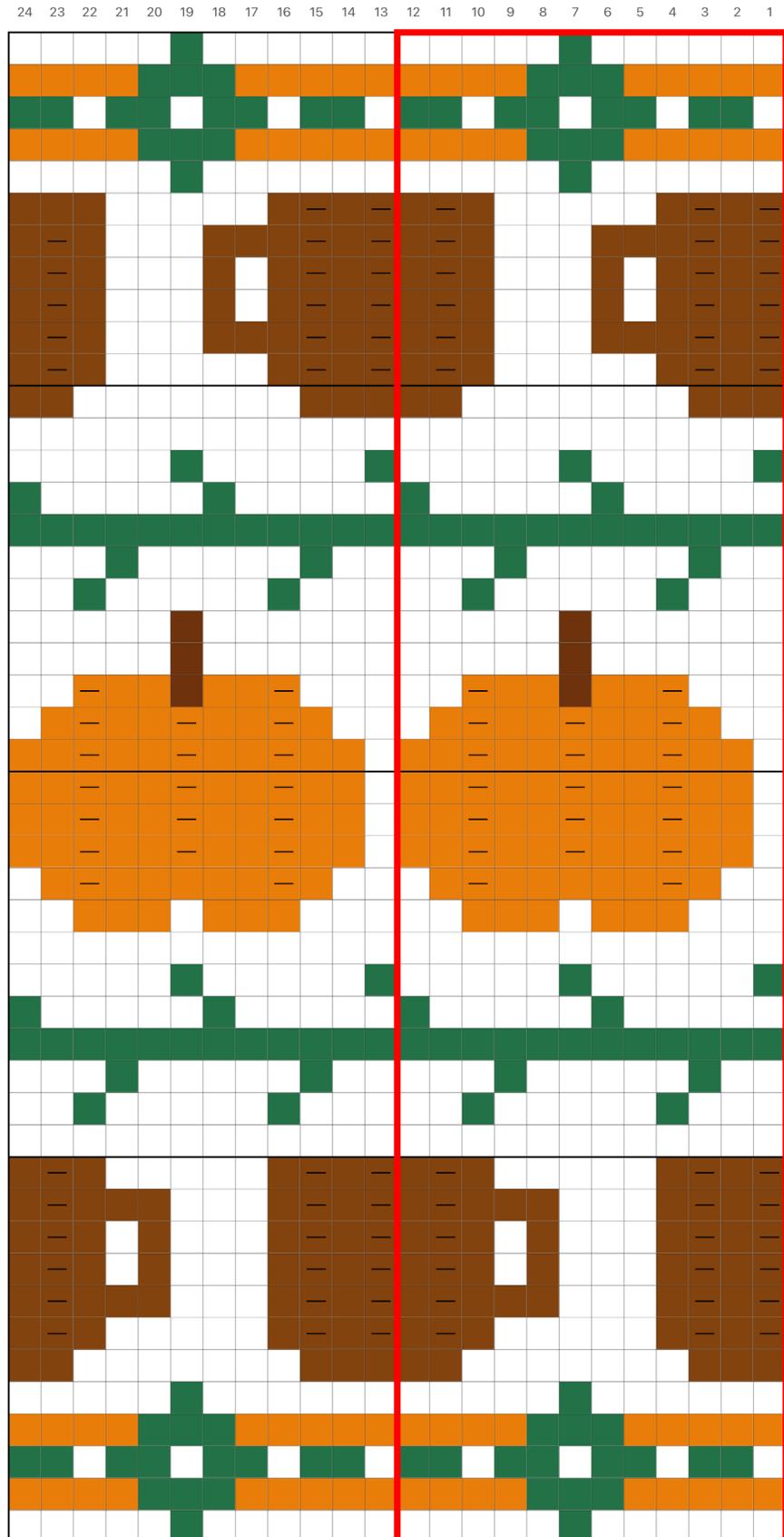
- MC
- CC1
- CC2
- CC3
- Knit
- Purl

Extra Motifs



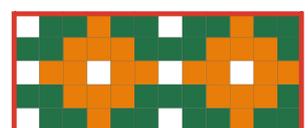
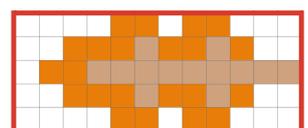
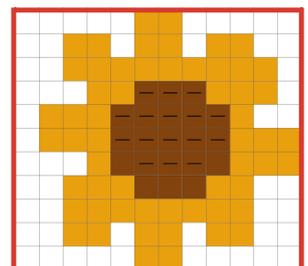
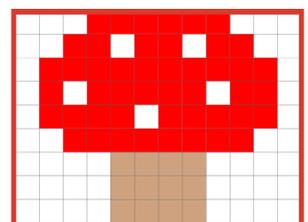
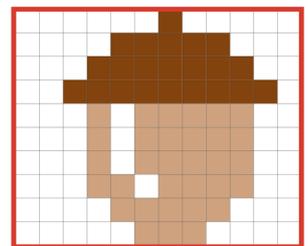
Regular Charts

Chart is worked bottom to top, right to left. Red box indicates repeat. It is not recommended to catch floats behind the pumpkin.



- MC
- CC1
- CC2
- CC3
- Knit
- Purl

Extra Motifs



Create your own

Please note that yarn amounts may vary between knitters and depending on the motifs you choose. Make sure you have plenty of each contrast colour.

Using the extra motifs and the planning chart on page 7, you can design your own autumnal hot water bottle cover! You can also use embroidery to embellish your motifs, like french knots for the mushroom spots! Make sure to add any embellishments or duplicate stitch before working the decreases and collar. Try not to overthink it, however there are a few things to keep in mind when planning your cover.

Stitch Counts

Mini motifs are all 8 stitch repeats meaning they can be used on both mini and regular size cover. Regular motifs are 12 stitch repeats meaning they will not work for the mini size.

Motif Placement

To avoid your design looking 'stacked', you may need to offset your motifs. You can do this by starting the chart half way or part way through. To change the direction of a leaf motif, simply turn the chart upside down!

3 Colour Rounds

Some of the motifs have 3 colour rounds, this can seem a little intimidating but this is a great project to practice this technique. Don't worry too much about catching floats as they will felt together with use, providing your yarn is not superwash. You can always use duplicate stitch for the third colour if you find that easier.

Sample

The create your own sample was made using the following configuration:
Regular Leaf, Regular Mushroom starting on stitch 7, Mini Acorn starting on stitch 7, Mini Leaf (rotated) starting on stitch 3, Regular Sunflower, Regular Leaf (rotated) starting on stitch 8.

Helpful Tutorials

Jessica McDonald 3 Colour Stranded **watch here**

Very Pink Knits Fair Isle Techniques **watch here**

French Knots

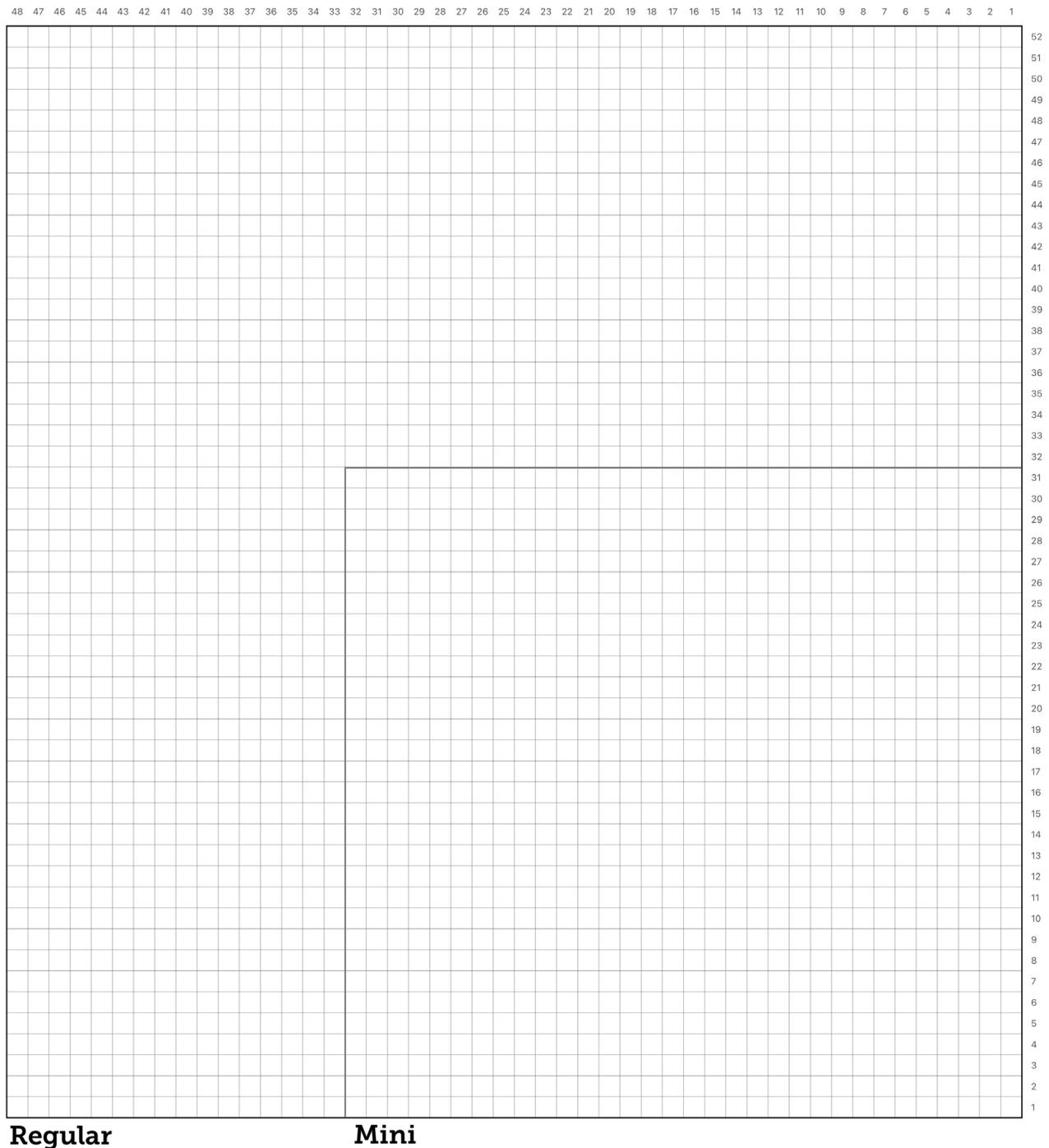
watch here (wrap 3 times, rather than 6)

For more inspiration, head over to Instagram to check out the wonderful work of the test knitters using the hashtag #pumpkinspicehotwaterbottlecover



Planning Chart

Original sample is 32 **48** sts X 31 **47** rows for **one side** of your cover. This grid has 52 rows to allow for minor changes in motifs, but try to keep it as close to 31 **47** rows as you can.



If you think you may have found an error, please contact me at laurapenroseknits@gmail.com
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