

Three bags full mug cozy - sheepy fun for any straight sided mug with a handle.

Abbreviations: inc = increase; $\mathbf{k} = \text{knit}$; $\mathbf{p} = \text{purl}$; $\mathbf{x} = \text{work}$ the instructions in parenthesis # times; $\mathbf{sl} = \text{slip}$ purlwise; $\mathbf{tbl} = \text{work}$ stitch through back of loop, causing it to twist; $\mathbf{k2tog} = \text{knit}$ 2st together, right leaning decrease; $\mathbf{ssk} = \text{sl1}$ knitwise 2x then knit them together tbl, left leaning decrease; $\mathbf{sl2kp} = \text{slip}$ 2st as if to k2tog, knit 1st, pass the 2 slipped stitches over the knit stitch, centered double decrease; $\mathbf{p3tog} = \text{purl}$ 3 stitches together as one; $\mathbf{dec} = \text{decrease}$ in pattern.

Seed stitch: in the round r1-(k1, p1) repeat to end. r2-(p1, k1) repeat to end.

Loop stitch: A deeply textured fabric that leaves a long loop of yarn connecting each stitch. It is worked from the wrong side. **1-**Wrap the yarn once over and around the left forefinger tip. Work the rest of the stitch while holding this loop aside. **2-** Knit into the first stitch on the left hand needle and pull the yarn through but do not pull the old stitch off the needle. **3-** Slip the new stitch onto the left hand needle next to the original stitch. **4-** Knit these two stitches together through the back of the loops. **5-** Pull the stitches off the left hand needle and the loop off the finger tip to complete the stitch.

The fabric will be loose as the slack in the loops works its way into the stitches, particularly with slippery yarn. Tug firmly on the loops to tighten up the fabric, especially before measuring for size. Examining the wrong side can reveal stitches that are stretched out. Once the piece is blocked, the fabric will be more stable.

Three Bags Full mug cozy

~40g of Light Brown Hare March Hare worsted weight superwash merino 250yds/100g, or any other suitable worsted weight yarn.

Double pointed needles to achieve a firm gauge (US#7/4.5mm).

A similarly sized crochet hook for finishing.

3 buttons: 2 for eyes (7/16in-3/8in) and one for securing the cozy (1/2in-3/4in). A yarn needle and a large eyed sharp needle that fits through the buttons. Embroidery thread or pearl cotton in a contrast color for embroidering the face. Stitch marker.

Base: Measurements in parenthesis will fit a standard mug.

Lighter circular cast on 6st. Join in the round and place marker if desired.

round 1- purl to end. round 2- (k1, inc1)x6

Continue in garter stitch this way, evenly increasing 6st every other row, until the piece fits the bottom of the mug (3in in diameter). Finish with a purl round.

Sides: Begin seed stitch and work straight until the piece measures the height of the mug to the base of the handle, measuring from the last purled round (1/2in).

Working flat:

Next row- turn, sl1, k1 tbl, work loop stitch until 1st remains, k1 tbl.

Next row- turn, sl1 and knit tbl across the entire row.

Repeat these 2r until the sides are 3/4in less than the full height of the mug (3in). Bind off and use the crochet hook to make a firm 1 1/4in chain starting with the last stitch of the bind-off. Secure the end of the chain to the beginning for a button loop. Slip stitch all the way around the mug handle opening and weave in the end.

Face circle: over stockinette, slip the first stitch of every row.

Cast on 6st. row 1- purl to end. row 2- incl at either end of the row.

Repeat these 2r one time for 10st. Work straight in stockinette until the piece measures 1in long from the beginning. Next row- decl at either end of the row.

Next row- work in stockinette. Next row- Decl at either end of the next row, back down to 6st. Next row- Bind off leaving a long tail for sewing the face to the cozy.

Ears: over stockinette, slip the first stitch of every row, make 2. Cast on 7st leaving a long tail for sewing the ear to the cozy. Work in stockinette for 1/2in. End with a purl row. Next row- ssk, k3, k2tog. Next row- sl1, purl to end. Next row- sl1, sl2kp, k1. Next row- p3tog. Weave in just this end.

Finishing: It can be easier to place the face with the cozy on a mug. **1-** Line up the face circle with the bottom edge of the loop stitch in the preferred spot. Carefully shift the loops so that the circle only covers the loops of stitches directly under it. Stitch the circle to the cozy making sure not to catch stray loops. **2-** With contrast color thread or yarn, embroider the nose and mouth. **3-** Sew the eyes at the top edge of the circle on either side. **4-** Fold the side of the ear that will be next to the face under by about 1/3. Position and sew on each ear.

5- Wash, and the block on an upside down mug for fluffy loops and the best shape.

(See my blog or my Ravelry pattern page for more free patterns: lightbrownhare.blogspot.com)