

My Little Pumpkin

Fall decor or a cute pin cushion for the seamstress in your life!

Details matter on small items. Real pumpkins sometimes have an ugly side. This one is worked in the round to avoid seaming, and clever finishing ensures both sides are pretty.



Materials

Yarn: Approx 75yds/69 m worsted weight yarn in main color, 25yds/23m contrasting color

Shown in Ella Rae Classic Wool, color orange #27 and Olive #323

Needles: Set of 4 or 5 double-pointed needles size US 6 (4 mm)

Fiber fill for stuffing

Notions: Tapestry needle, waste yarn

Gauge

Gauge is not important for this item. See notes.

Sizes

Size will vary with gauge.

Finished Measurements

Circumference: Approx 6.5"/16.5cm Height: Approx 5"/13cm

Stitch Patterns

K3P1 Ribbing Rnd 1: *K3, p1; rep from * to end of rnd.

Note:

Gauge does not matter for this item, but you should go down one or two needle sizes from the size you'd normally use for your yarn weight so that the filling won't show through. Mine is knit in worsted, but you could use any yarn that is DK weight or heavier. Of course, the size of the pumpkin will change accordingly.

Instructions

With MC cast on 20 sts using <u>provisional</u> <u>cast on</u> of your choice.

Knit three rnds even.

Inc rnd 1: *K2, m1; rep from *. (30 sts)

Knit one rnd.

Inc rnd 2: * K3, m1; rep from *. (40 sts)

Main Body

Work in "K3P1 Ribbing" for approx 20 rnds or until piece measures about 3.5-4"/10cm.

Decrease for Top

Rearrange sts if neccessary, assuring that that 3 ks and 1 p st are the 1^{st} 4 sts to be worked on needle 1.

Dec rnd 1: * K2 , p2tog; rep from *. (30 stitches.)

*K2, p1; rep from * for 3 rnds.

Stuff the pumpkin just a bit, being careful not to overstuff. (More stuffing can be added later.)

With CC , *k2, p1; rep from * to end of rnd.

Dec rnd 2: * K2tog, p1; rep from *. (20 sts)

* K1, p1; rep from * one rnd.

Dec rnd 3: K2tog around. (10 sts)

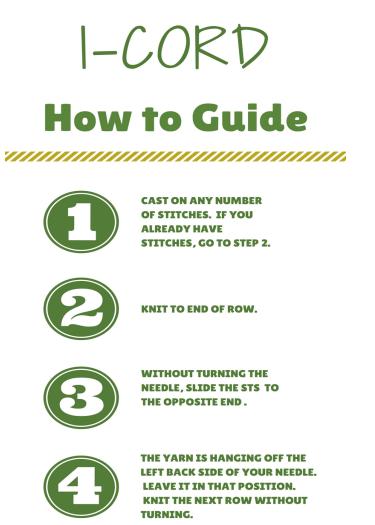
Rearrange sts onto just two dpns, 5 on each, and situate them one in front of the other. Now, taking one st from the front needle and one from the back, k2tog and work across the row this way. (5 sts)

Work I-cord over these 5 sts until stem is desired length. BO.

Finishing

Stuff until pumpkin is desired size and shape. Then, using a tapestry needle and MC yarn, collect the sts you've saved with your provisional cast on, and cinch up the bottom of the pumpkin. You can even take the tail and run it up through the body to attain a nice shape. Weave in and hide your ends.

Done! Enjoy!



Abbreviations list

approx: approximate beg: begin/beginning CC: contrast color CO: cast on cont: continue dec: decrease dpn: double pointed needle inc: increase k or K: knit k2tog: knit 2 stitches together LH: left hand M1L: Bring the tip of your LH needle under the strand between the sts from front to back. Knit it tbl. MC: main color p or P: purl patt: pattern p2tog: purl 2 stitches together rem: remain/remaining rep: repeat rnd(s): round(s) sl: slip st(s): stitch(es) St st: stockinette stitch tog: together