Bottoms Up Bottle Cozy

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What do you give a sweaty water bottle on a hot summer day?

A sweater, of course. One made of wool is even better. Wool can absorb condensation off the bottle without becoming soaked—unless of course your bottle perspires like a couch potato in a Tae Bo class. In this way your table and hand should remain dry while you remain hydrated. No embarrassing water rings, no puddles.

Only the cable pattern cascades down the sides of the cozy, on the front and back panels. An unforeseen benefit to this cable pattern is ergonomic: The little arches create built-in grips into which a thumb can fit perfectly. And I'm glad to share my little glint of serendipity with you.

Knit from the bottom up, this cozy was developed by trial and error, an organic and really rather unbrilliant process. So, please, have mercy if you discover errors in the pattern. Please let me know about them. I long to improve.

Size:
Made originally for the rectangular water bottle pictured on this page (a bottle with a ten-inch circumference), the cozy has a rectangular bottom. It will fit a round bottle, too, as long as the bottle has a similar circumference. When not in use, the cozy is seven inches tall.

Materials:
- Patons Classic Wool Merino [223 yards/skein], aprox. 75 yards used. Dark Gray Mix.
- Set of five US #4/3.5 mm double-pointed needles and/or 40" long US #4/3.5 mm set of circular needles (if you prefer the magic loop method of knitting in the round). Or, size to obtain gauge.
- Cable needle
- Five stitch markers

Swatch:

10.5 sts./15 rows = 2 inches in stockinette stitch.

Pattern notes & abbreviations:

F & B = front and back panels (where the cable design is located)

ST(S) = stitch or stitches

K = Knit one stitch. If a number accompanies this letter, knit that number of stitches.

Knit = when this is the only direction for the row, knit all stitches in the row

M1 = make one, an increase stitch

Cable 6 front = place first three stitch on cable needle and keep to front while knitting next three stitches. Then knit the three stitches off the cable needle.

Cable 6 back = place first three stitch on cable needle and keep to back of your work while knitting next three stitches. Then knit the three stitches off the cable needle.

K2tog = Knit two stitches together, creates a decrease.

Directions:

Cast on 12 stitches, leaving a tail long enough to sew shut the inch long cast-on hole later.

Divide the stitches. I used my double pointed needles to create the bottom of the cozy; therefore I divided the stitches onto four needles as follows: 2, 4, 2, 4. The front and back panel (F & B, henceforth) will begin with four stitches each; the side panels will begin with two stitches each. Place a marker at the beginning of your work. Join your work without twisting the stitches.

BOTTOM OF COZY

Row 1:   Knit
Row 2:   side panels—K, M1, K (3 sts. each)
            F & B—K, M1, K2, M1, K (6 sts. each)
Row 3:   Knit
Row 4:   side panels—K, M1, K, m1, K (5 sts. each)
            F & B—K, m1, K4, M1, K (8 sts. each)
Row 5:   Knit
Row 6:   side panels—K, M1, K3, M1, K (7 sts. each)
            F & B—K, M1, K6, M1, K (10 sts. each)
Row 7:   Knit
Row 8:   sides—K, M1, K5, M1, K (9 sts. each)
            F & B—K, M1, K8, M1, K (12 sts each)
Row 9:   Knit
Row 10:   sides—K, m1, K7, M1, K (11 sts. each)
            F & B—K, M1, K10, M1, K (14 sts. each)
Row 11:   Knit
Row 12:   sides—K, M1, K9, M1, K (13 sts. each)
            F & B—K, M1, K12, M1, K (16 sts. each)
Row 13:   Knit

58 stitches total on the needles.

PANELS

At some point in the creation of the panels, after a couple of cables away from the bottom, I moved my stitches off the double pointed needles and onto the set of circular needles to knit them in the magic loop method. I divided the stitches evenly onto the circular needles, so that a portion of the side panels flanked each cable panel. I placed stitch markers at the beginning and ending of each cable panel, four markers total. You may wish to move onto a set of circular needles, too, but this is optional.

Rows 14-49 for side panels: K13

F & B/Cable panels:
Row 14:   P2, K12, P2
Row 15:   P2, K12, P2
Row 16:   P2, Cable 6 front, Cable 6 back, P2
Row 17-21:   P2, K12, P2
Rows 22-45:   Repeat Rows 14-21 three more times.
Row 46-47:   P2, K12, P2
Row 48:   P2, Cable 6 front, Cable 6 back, P2
Row 49:   P2, K12, P2

RIBBING
Row 50:   Begin to K2, P2 all stitches EXCEPT AND UNTIL the first stitch you are to knit in each side panel. At that point, K2tog, K, P2. Then continue K2, P2 rib pattern.
Rows 51-55:   (K2, P2) all stitches

Bind off and weave in end. With the tail at the bottom of the cozy, sew shut the cast on hole. I used the mattress stitch to do this.