

SMARTLY TRIMMED HOT WATER BOTTLE COVER

Design by Vikki Haffenden



This cosy cover fits a small, 15.5cm x 20cm (6" x 8") hot water bottle and the main body knits to approximately 16cm wide x 22cm long.

Description

The body is knitted in stocking stitch that grows into a rib collar in which the drawstring tie eyelets are worked. The top edge, which covers the spout, is in garter stitch.

My version has been knitted in a chunky weight yarn spun from 100% wool Jacob fleece. Hand spun tends to knit a little bulkier than commercially spun yarn, but a yarn that you can get to make a firm knit close to the stitch gauge should work as size is not critical for this simple shape. When substituting yarn it's more accurate to do so yarn by metreage, which can be found on the ball label.

Rows can be adjusted to get the correct length as you work.

When made in wool the cover retains residual heat very efficiently and has a snuggly feel, but wool blends are good substitutes. The cover is knitted on 5mm needles, smaller than average for chunky yarn, to give a firmer knit with smaller stitch size to prevent gaps through which you might touch the hot bottle.

This cover might also be suitable for a slip-on cover for a microwaveable heat pack of similar size. If using it for this purpose, always put a cup of water in the microwave along with the pack.

Materials:

50g chunky yarn

When substituting look for one that approximates my handspun Jacob yarn which has 57 metres (62yards) per 50g. 50g aran weight yarn as trim, (or use up odds to make a multi coloured trim).

1 pair 5mm (US8) needles

Two 4mm (US6) dpn or circular needles

Large eyed bodkin sewing needle

Pins

Stitch tension:

16 stitches x 23 rows in 10cm (4") square.

Techniques:

Stocking stitch/stockinette.

I-cord

Applied i-cord

Abbreviations:

dpn - double pointed needles

k - knit

k2tog - knit two stitches together as one

p – purl

RS – right side

sts – stitches

WS – wrong side

yo - yarnover, take the yarn around the needle

Back:

Cast on 26 sts.

Knit 50 rows stocking stitch.

Row 51: k1, p1 to end. (RS)

Row 52: k1, p1 to end.

The eyelets are created in the next two rows.

Row 53: *k2, k2tog, yo, repeat from * 5 times, k2" is easier to read. (26)

Row 54: k1, p1 to end

Row 55: k1, p1 to end

Row 56: k1, p1 to end

Rows 57- 63: knit all stitches

Bind off.

Front: Work as for back.

Applied i-cord binding

With one dpn and contrast yarn, cast on 4 sts using longtail or cable cast on.

Slide the sts to the other end of the needle.

Using the second needle, knit 3 stitches.

Slip the last st purlwise.

Hold the front panel upside down, RS facing and start to work from bottom of the right hand edge. Hold the contrast yarn at the back.

* Insert the needle point through the edge stitch of the front panel and pick up a stitch in contrast yarn. You will now have 5 sts on the needle.

Slip the picked up stitch and the slipped stitch back to the left hand needle and knit them together through the back.

Slide the sts to the opposite end of the needle and knit 3sts. Slip the fourth stitch purlwise.

Repeat from *.

At each corner, work into the corner stitch three times and then proceed along the edge as before.

When you reach the top of the other side of the front, bind off i-cord stitches.

Making up

Lay the back over the front WS facing. Pin together at corners and so that the eyelets and rib areas are aligned. Sew along the join between back panel and i-cord using mattress stitch. Mattress stitch is also called 'ladder stitch' and is worked from the front of the knitting. This stitch is described in detail on p259 of The Knitting Book (Dorling Kindersley, 2019) and video resources can also be found online.

Ease the back fabric into the curve at the corners.

Sew all the ends in neatly.

I-cord tie

Knit a separate I-cord 4 sts wide for the tie as follows:

With one dpn, cast on 4sts using contrast yarn.

*Slide the stitches to the other end of the needle and knit 4 stitches using the other dpn.

Repeat from * until required length is

reached.

Thread the I-cord through the eyelets and tie with a bow at the side or in the middle.

Design ideas:

- Knit the i-cord binding and tie in a colour that contrasts with the main fabric, e.g blue/green marl yarn with orange i-cord and ties.
- Knit the i-cord binding in one colour and the tie in another, e.g. blue/green marl yarn. Green binding, blue tie.
- Change colour every 10 or so rows on the i-cord binding for a horizontally striped binding.
- Work the applied i-cord, (and/or tie) as a 1x1 fair Isle to make a vertically striped binding.
- Knit the first and last few rows of the tie in a contrast colour.
- Work several rows of unattached i-cord between each time it is knitted into the fabric to create a scalloped edge.



Design suggestion

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