

Knit your own hot water bottle cover

Pattern

The hot water bottle cover is made from two identical pieces, front and back. This pattern should fit a standard 19 x 27 cm hot water bottle.

If yours is a bit bigger cast on an extra stitch for every extra cm width and knit another 2 rows for every extra cm in height.

Cast on 24 stitches.

Starting with a knit row, work 46 rows in stocking stitch (1 row knit, 1 row purl). Or until knitting measures 29 cm.

Row 47: On the next row, cast off 6 stitches, knit 12, cast off next 6 stitches. Cut yarn leaving a 40 cm long tail.

Shaping the neck

The neck is made from rib - (1 stitch knit, 1 stitch purl) which gives a nice stretchy finish that's great for necks, cuffs, headbands and anywhere you want a bit of "pull".

You now have 12 stitches left on the needle. Tie the yarn just below the first of the 12 stitches to start the next row.

Row 48: Purl

Row 49: WE ARE NOW GOING TO ADD EXTRA STITCHES (6 in total) by knitting into the front and the back of **every other** stitch.

Ready? Knit 1, NEXT STITCH - start the next stitch in the normal way but don't slide the original stitch off the LH needle, instead, take tip of RH needle to back of LH needle and knit into the back of the same stitch before sliding off. You have just made 2 stitches out of 1.

Repeat these 2 stitches (Knit 1, Make 1) till end of row. You should have 18 stitches. *If the above technique seems a bit tricky, you could just cast on an extra 3 stitches at the beginning and end of the row.

Row 50: Rib (Knit 1, Purl 1 to end)

Knit another 24 rows in Rib, always starting with a knit stitch.

Cast Off.

Make a second piece in exactly the same way.

Making up

Lay the two pieces right sides together. Using the tails if possible, sew all the way round the edges.

Turn the right way round.

Sew on the pom-poms.

Stocking Stitch
If you alternate rows of knitting using the stitch "knit" and the "purl stitch" you make "stocking stitch". It looks like lots of rows of little 'Vs' on one side - and just like "garter stitch" on the other side.

