NURTURING FIBRES

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CROCHET HOOK CASE

A PRACTICAL KNIT THAT USES UP ALL YOUR SCRAPPY YARN BITS

While the bulk of this project is knitted in easy linen stitch, there are a few unusual design elements to add interest. It is a fun project that uses up all your hand painted sock yarn remnants.

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

The pattern is offered in two sizes.

Medium
Finished case measures 19cm wide and 16cm tall. Holds twelve crochet hooks.

Large
Finished case measures 30cm wide and 16cm tall. Holds nineteen crochet hooks.

MATERIALS

Nurturing Fibres Super Twist Sock Wool (100% Merino)
Remnants 50g / 80g (165m / 180yds) / (264m / 288yds)
Main colour 10g / 16g (33m / 36yds) / (53m / 57yds)

When substituting yarn for this project it is recommended you select something with a high wool content. Wool offers the elasticity that this tight stitch requires.
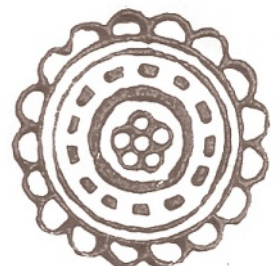
Pointy 2.75mm / US size 2 circular or straight needles

Waste yarn for provisional cast on

High quality quilting weight lining fabric for selected size

Tapestry needle and sewing needle for finishing

Three buttons for closure

PATTERN NOTES

Linen stitch is much easier to knit with pointy needles.

Remember to check that your tension is firm. A firm fabric for your finished case is essential if you are wanting it to keep your needles neat and secure. If your tension is too loose, use a smaller needle and if your tension is too tight try a larger needle.

If you want a similar effect to mine then change your colours every 2-5 rows. Keep the colour change irregular as this makes the finished item more interesting. I divided my scraps into two piles, bright and light, and alternated between these varying the number of rows per colour. I also made a point of including natural colours, using hand painted yarn with touches of browns, but greys would also work well. The inclusion of a natural colour palette (greys or browns) toned down the project giving a muted refined finish. Of my total yardage about one fifth was from a natural colour palette. If you wanted a brighter version you could reduce or omit the natural colour palette.

Important: Don't change colours at the edges as this will affect the shape of the finished piece, rather change colours randomly as you knit the row.

ABREVIATIONS

K: Knit
P: Purl
M1: Make one stitch. Lift the horizontal bar between the last stitch worked on the right needle and the next stitch on the left needle from back to front. Knit through the front of the stitch
Kfb: Knit into the front and back of the stitch
Pfb: Purl into the front and back of the stitch
K2tog: Knit two stitches together
P2tog: Purl two stitches together
S1: Slip stitch purlwise

SPECIAL TECHNIQUES

This pattern uses a Vikkel Braid to create a beautiful edging along the front of the bag. This unusual technique is relatively easy to do. Essentially you are creating a lateral braid running across your knitting.

Step 1: M1 (make one stitch by lifting the bar between your needles from back to front).
Step 2: Place the stitch onto the left hand needle.
Step 3: Take the right hand needle behind the left hand needle and knit the second stitch through the back loop.
Step 4: Knit the first stitch through the front loop as normal (this step can take a little while to get used to).
Step 5: Remove both stitches from the needle. Pay attention to the stitch tension here to get a clean, even finish on your braid.

Repeat steps 2–5 until you have worked the full length of your knitting, with one stitch remaining. Now refer back to the row instructions.

You may find this video tutorial useful as a visual aid if you have not knitted a Vikkel Braid before: http://blip.tv/the-proverbial-knitter/the-proverbial-knitter-tutorial-series-vikkel-Braid-5934022

THE SETUP

Using waste yarn provisionally cast on 57 (89) sts with 2.75mm needles. The provisional cast on is removed when you pick up the stitches at the end.

Change to main colour

Row 1: Purl.
Row 2: K1, Vikkel Braid to the last st, then slip last knitted st to left needle and knit the 2 'live' sts together through the front.
Row 3: Purl.
Row 4: Vikkel Braid to the last st, then slip last knitted st to left needle and knit the 2 'live' sts together through the front.
Row 5: P1 *pfb, P1 repeat from * to end of row. 85 (133) stitches.

THE BOTTOM FLAP

Change to random colours

Row 1: *K1 bring yarn to the front, S1, pass yarn to the back, repeat from * until 1 st remains K1.
Row 2: P2 *yarn to the back, S1, yarn to the front, P1, repeat from * until last 3 sts, yarn to the back, S1, yarn to the front, P2.

Repeat these rows until your knitting measures almost 8cm, ending on the right side (this is the side with the Vikkel Braid).

Change to main colour and knit row 2 and then row 1. Your work should now measure 8cm long.

It does not have to be exactly 8cm, but this length works nicely as then your crocket hook numbers should be visible when the bag is closed.

TURNING

Still in the main colour

Row 1 (WS): K2tog to the last st K1. 42 (66) stitches.
Row 2: Kfb to last st K1. 85 (133) stitches.

Row 3: P2 *yarn to the back, S1, yarn to the front, P1, repeat from* until last 3 sts, yarn to the back, S1, yarn to the front, P2.

BACK

Revert back to random colours

Row 1: *K1 bring yarn to the front, S1, pass yarn to the back, repeat from* until 1 st remains K1.
Row 2: P2 *yarn to the back, S1, yarn to the front, P1, repeat from* until last 3 sts, yarn to the back, S1, yarn to the front, P2.

Repeat these rows until your work measures 16cm from the turn, ending on the right side. This will produce a case that is suitable for hooks that are 15cm long.

Change to main colour and repeat row 2 and then row 1.

TURNING

Still in the main colour

Row 1 (WS): K2tog to the last st K1. 42 (66) stitches.
Row 2: Kfb to last st K1. 85 (133) stitches.
Row 3: P2 *yarn to the back, S1, yarn to the front, P1, repeat from* until last 3 sts, yarn to the back, S1, yarn to the front, P2.

THE TOP FLAP

Revert back to random colours

Row 1: *K1 bring yarn to the front, S1, pass yarn to the back, repeat from* until 1 st remains K1.
Row 2: P2 *yarn to the back, S1, yarn to the front, P1, repeat from* until last 3 sts, yarn to the back, S1, yarn to the front, P2.

Repeat these rows until your work measures almost 3.5cm from the turn, ending on the right side.

Change to main colour

Repeat row 2 then row 1. Your work should now measure 3.5cm from the turn.

Vikkel Braid

Still in main colour

Row 1: P1 *p2tog P1* repeat to end. 57 (89) stitches.
Row 2: Vikkel Braid to the last st, then slip last knitted stitch to left needle and knit the 2 'live' stitches together through the front.
Row 3: Purl.
Row 4: Vikkel Braid to the last st, then slip last knitted stitch to left needle and knit the 2 'live' stitches together through the front.

Casting off

When picking up stitches, I added two extra stitches for each side. These are to be picked up at the corners so that they maintain their right angled shape.

Cast off purlwise keeping your last stitch live.

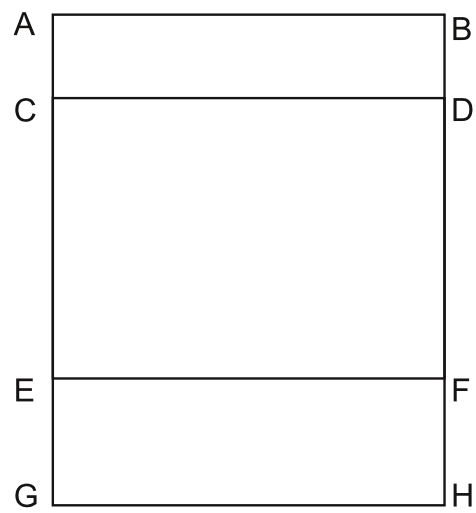Pick up, 1+100+1 stitches, purlwise, down the side and immediately cast off but keep your last stitch live.

Pick up 1+57(89)+1 stitches, purlwise, along the bottom flap edge and immediately cast off but keep your last stitch live.

Pick up 1+100+1 stitches, purlwise, down the side and immediately cast off.

Blocking is optional as sewing the lining will straighten your work.

Sewing up

There are two methods you can use to finish the bag. The easiest is to cut your cloth and sew it on, however this will not create the polished look in the example shown. To achieve a more refined finish carefully follow the steps outlined below. It will be well worth the effort.

Step 1

Cut your cloth slightly bigger than the finished knitted item. Do this by placing your knitting on top of the ironed cloth and cutting the cloth with a 1cm hem allowance. Iron the hems A to B, A to G and B to H [see diagram above] do not iron G to H as this will change.

Step 2

Place your fabric on the knitted item and sew the top flap first. This flap will be visible, so I stitch it first to ensure it is nice and neat. Begin sewing from point C using a slip stitch. Catch 2 threads on the fold of the fabric and hide the stitches in the cast off edge of the knitting to create a neat finish.

Step 3

The next step will stop the fabric puckering when the bag is closed, and create a nicer finished product.

When you reach D *(stitch into the next stitch on the knitted cloth and then stitch into the same spot on the fabric, then slip stitch) x2*. Doing this creates a slight bulge on the knitted cloth side when the bag is open, but it will close perfectly.

Sew up D to F repeating * to *, join a new thread and sew up C to E repeating * to *.

Step 4

At this point you will see that your fabric G to H has a much longer hem allowance, shorten it and iron it. Continue sewing up both sides E to G and F to H and then finally G to H.

Step 5

Fold E to F to create the bottom flap and sew the sides together.

Step 6

Sew individual crochet hook pockets. My first few were 0.5cm wide and the width gently increased until the last was 1.5cm wide. This accommodates 2mm - 8mm standard size hooks, customise the pockets to suit your hooks.

Step 7

To support the cloth on the top flap, I hand quilted it in a random pattern, making sure not to stitch right through the knitted cloth. To do this hold your needle at an angle allowing you to catch the back of the knitting without going through the knitted cloth completely.

Step 8

Sew on your buttons and use either a ribbon or a twisted thread to wrap around the button when closed. Your button placement will depend on how you choose to finish the case.

TO MAKE A TWISTED THREAD

Take two pieces of sock yarn and hold together, while keeping the one side straight, twist the other side clockwise, twist until it is very over twisted. Fold in half bringing the two ends together, and it will automatically twist together along the length.

The legal stuff

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Knit with a happy heart