

Knit Pumpkin

by Katrina McNerney

Materials: medium weight yarn (4-5), and size #6 DP needles

I find it easiest when using DP needles to knit with 5 needles, dividing the stitches over 4 needles and knitting with the 5th.



M1– Increases made by knitting or purling into yarn between 2 stitches

see: <http://www.lionbrand.com/faq/77.html?language=>

CO 32 stitches, divided over 4 DP needles, making sure you leave a long tail (at least 8")

Row 1: *K3 P1* repeat to end of round (pattern repeats a total of 8 times)

Rows 2-5: Repeat 4 more rounds

Row 6: *K3 P1 M1 (purlwise)* repeat to end of round (total of 8 times) (40 stitches)

Row 7: *K3 P2* repeat to end of round

Rows 8-9: Repeat 2 more rounds

Row 10: *K2 M1(knitwise) K1 P2* repeat to end of round (48 stitches)

Row 11: *K4 P2* repeat to end of round

Rows 12-26: Repeat 15 more rounds (or more depending on how squat or plump you want your pumpkin)

Row 27: *K1 K2tog K1 P2* repeat to end of round (40 stitches)

Row 28: *K3 P2* repeat to end of round

Row 29-30: Repeat 2 more rounds

Row 31: *K3 P2tog* repeat to end of round (32 stitches)

Row 32: *K3 P1* repeat to end of round

Rows 33-34: Repeat 2 more times

Cut long 8" tail (I will refer to this as the top tail) and pull through each remaining stitch on needles in the direction you would be knitting. Do not gather yet. This is the opening you will use to stuff.

Thread beginning (bottom) tail into CO stitches, pull as tight as you can to gather together and close the opening. Knot on inside, DO NOT cut off tail. Pull tail up through top opening. Stuff pumpkin with soft polyester fiberfill, keeping bottom tail pulled through center of stuffing. Pull closed top opening by tightening the top tail and knotting, keeping bottom tail pulled through top opening. Pull on bottom tail enough to pucker bottom and top of pumpkin into desired shape. Knot together with top tail, weave each through top part of pumpkin and cut.

CO 3-4 stitches in contrasting color (brown) on to DP needle, knit 1 1/2" i-cord, finish off and sew onto top of pumpkin.