

Merely a Suggestion . . .

Knitting patterns by Jane Prater

Gifted Basket



This basket is so easy to make. The colorwork uses one color yarn at a time—no struggling with stranding tensions. It also creates a firm fabric that makes lining an option. The bottom is a mitered square which is a very stable base—and fun to knit. It would make a great first double pointed needle project. This is a win-win project. Learn a lot and create a neat gift.

Yarn: @100yds of cotton yarn in each of two colors the Main Color yarn and of two Contrasting Color yarns in worsted or DK weight. Sample size is 5" w X 5" d X 4.5" h. Sample was knit from Berroco Weekend as the Main Color and both Araucania Antu and Berroco Weekend as the Contrasting Colors.

Needles: 24" circular needle or 5 dpns two sizes smaller than the recommended size on the ball band; dpns are needle for the bottom.

Other: tapestry needle, crochet hook if you will chain the bowstring. Lining is optional.

Notes: Please read first.

1. Instructions in []s are repeated across the row.
2. MC is the Main Color yarn; CC is the Contrasting Color yarn.
3. Do not cut the CC patterns unless the pattern tells you to. Carry the yarn up and wrap it with the yarn you are using. When you do cut the yarn, leave at least a 6 inch tail.
4. Slip all stitches as if to purl.
5. Mark the corners. On a circular needle, place a marker every 20 stitches and a different color marker at the end. Double points will have 20 stitches on each needle; pin a marker to the fabric at the start of a round to indicate the beginning point.

Instructions:

With MC, cast on 80 stitches.

Rnd 1: *Purl 20, mark corner (see Note 5), repeat from * three more times.

Rnd 2: K all

Rnd 3: P all

Rnds 4 – 6: K all

Cut MC leaving a 6" tail. Attach CC1.

First Colorwork section:

Rnd 7: K all

Rnd 8: P all

Rnds 9—10: Repeat 7 and 8.

Rnds 11—12: K all

Rnd 13: [K1, sl 1] around.

Attach CC2, for next round only.

Rnd 14: with CC2, [sl1, k1] around. Cut yarn.

Rnds 15—16: With CC1, K all. Cut CC1.

Rnd 17: Reattach MC and K all

Rnd 18: [K1, P1] around.

Rnd 19: [P1, K1] around.

Rnd 20: K all

Rnd 21: P all

Rnd 22: K all

Second colorwork section:

Rnds 23--25: Attach CC1 and [K3, sl 1] around. Cut yarn.

Rnd 24: With MC, K all

Rnd 25: With MC, P all

Rnds 26—28: Attach CC2. K2, sl 1, [K3, sl 1] around to last st, K1.

Cut yarn.

Rnd 29: With MC, K all

Rnd 30: With MC, P all

Rnd 31--33: Attach CC1. [K3, sl 1] around. Cut yarn.

Rnd 34: With MC, K all

Rnd 35: With MC, P all

Rnds 36—37: Repeat 34 and 35. Cut yarn.

Bottom of the Basket section: This section is decreased on each side of the corner every other row. The easiest way to work this is to use double pointed needles. Each direction given for a round below should be completed four times, once on each needle. Begin by attaching CC2.

Rnd 1: K all

Rnd 2: [K2tog, P to 2 sts before the end of needle, SSK]

Rnds 3 -- 8: Repeat 1 and 2 three more times.

Rnd 9: K all

Rnd 10: [K 2tog, Knit to 2 sts before the end of needle, SSK]

Rnd 11: K all

Rnd 12: [K2tog, P to 2 sts before the end of needle, SSK]

Rnd 13 and 14: Repeat 11 and 12.

Rnd 15: K all

Rnd 16: [K 2tog, Knit to 2 sts before the end of needle, SSK]

Rnds 17 and 18: Repeat 15 and 16.

Rnd 19: K all. Cut yarn and thread back through the remaining stitches. Cinch and fasten off.

Finishing:

Weave in all ends. Weave only into stitches of the same yarn in order to hide the weaving.

Blocking may include starching the basket in order to make it more stable, especially if it is loosely knitted.

Optional ribbon. Make a ribbon or strap by chain stitching one of the yarns you used held double, by making a braid from one or two of the yarns, or by purchasing a ribbon or cord at a local yarn shop. You will need a finished length of @ 45". Beginning two stitches to the left of center on one side, insert the ribbon between stitches every four sts along the desired row. First insertion should be from the outside to the inside of the basket.

Send questions, or better yet, photos of your work to jane@jpnknits.com.

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