

Christmas Tea Cosy



This festive tea cosy has a snowman on one side and a Christmas tree on the other. These are knitted separately and sewn on to the finished cosy, as are the snowballs. Instructions are given for two sizes: the small cosy fits a standard three cup pot and the large cosy is for a six cup teapot.

Tension

11 sts and 16 rows = 5cm / 2"², working in stocking stitch with double knitting weight yarn and 4mm / US size 6 needles.

The cosies are actually knitted in rib but it is easier to measure tension over stocking stitch.

I used Stylecraft Special DK (295m / 100g) for both of my tea cosies. The small cosy takes about 25g of yarn and the large one 35g.

The Small Cosy

Using the long tail method and 4mm needles cast on 40 sts.

Work 5 rows in K1, P1 rib.

Change to 4.5mm / US size 7 needles and work another 20 rows in K1, P1 rib.

Change back to 4mm needles and work 10 more rows in rib.

Next row: *K1, P1, K2tog, repeat from * to end (30 sts).

Next row: P1, *K1, P2, repeat from * to the last 2 sts, K1, P1.

Next row: K1, *P1, K2tog, repeat from * to the last 2 sts, P2tog (20 sts).

Work 3 rows in K1, P1 rib.

Next row: *P2tog, repeat from * to end (10 sts).

Change to 4.5mm needles and, beginning with a knit row, work 10 rows in stocking stitch.

Cast off.

Knit another piece like this and then sew the two pieces together along the side seams, leaving gaps for the handle and spout. It is easiest to do this by trying the cosy on your teapot or you might like to try the following measurements.



Spout side: Join the bottom 2cm, leave a 5 cm gap for the spout and close the rest of the seam.

Handle side: Join the bottom 3cm, leave a 5 cm gap for the handle and close the rest of the seam.

Snowman

I knitted my snowman in cream Sirdar Snowflake DK on 3mm / US size 2½ needles. You could use any cream or white textured double knitting weight yarn.

Cast on 8 sts.

Next row: Kf&b, K to end.

Repeat this row until you have 14 sts on your needle.
Knit 10 rows without shaping.

Next row: K2tog, K to end.

Repeat this row until you are back to 4 sts.

Next row: Kf&b, K to end.

Repeat this row until you have 8 sts on your needle.
Knit 4 rows.

Next row: K2tog, K to end.

Repeat this row until you have 4 sts left.
Cast off.

The Snowman's Hat

This is knitted in black double knitting weight yarn on 3mm needles.

Cast on 12 sts.
Knit 1 row.

Next two rows: Cast off 3 sts, K to end (6 sts).

Knit 4 more rows.

Cast off.

Sew the hat to the top of the snowman's head and embroider a small straight stitch for the mouth. Use tiny black seed beads for the snowman's eyes and slightly bigger beads for his buttons.

The Snowman's Scarf

This is knitted with a variegated 4 ply yarn on 3mm needles.

Cast on 3 sts.

Knit 50 rows.

Cast off.

Tie the scarf round the snowman's neck and, using sewing thread, hold the knot down with a few small stitches.



Pin the snowman on the cosy while it's on the teapot then take the cosy off and sew the snowman in place using sewing thread.

Snowballs

These are much easier to knit and attach than they look. They are worked in Sirdar Snowflake DK on 4mm needles.

Using the long tail method, cast on 3 sts.

Cast the stitches off again and knot the two ends together.

To attach the snowballs to the cosy, thread the two ends through the knitting about a stitch apart and then knot these ends together twice and trim them, leaving tails of about 1cm.

The Tree

Using green double knitting weight yarn and 3mm needles, cast on 2 sts.

Row 1: Kf&b, K1 (3 sts).

Row 2: Pf&b, P to end.

Row 3: Kf&b, K to end.

Repeat Rows 2 and 3 until you have 11 sts on your needle.

Next 2 rows: Cast off 2 sts kwise, K to end (7 sts).

Next row: Pf&b, P to end.

Next row: Kf&b, K to end.

Repeat these two rows until you have 15 sts on your needle.

Next 2 rows: Cast off 2 sts kwise, K to end (11 sts).

Next row: Pf&b, P to end.

Next row: Kf&b, K to end.

Repeat these two rows until you have 21 sts on your needle.

Next row: Cast off 3 sts kwise, K to end.

Cast off knitwise.

Using brown yarn and with the right side of the tree facing, pick up and knit 6 sts centrally for the trunk.

Work 5 rows in K1, P1 rib.

Cast off in rib.

Using green sewing thread, decorate the tree with tiny seed beads and then add long stitches in gold yarn for tinsel. Add a star at the top of the tree.

Pin and sew the tree to the cosy in the same way as the snowman.



The Large Cosy

Using the long tail method and 4mm needles, cast on 50 sts.

Work 5 rows in K1, P1 rib.

Change to 4.5mm needles and work another 25 rows in K1, P1 rib.

Change back to 4mm needles and work 10 more rows in rib.

Next row: *K1, P1, K2tog, (K1, P1) twice, K2tog, repeat from * to end (40 sts).

Next row: (P1, K1) twice, (P2, K1) twice, *P1, K1, (P2, K1) twice, repeat from * to the last 6 sts, P1, K1, P2, K1, P1.

Next row: *K1, P1, K2tog, P1, K1, P2tog, repeat from * to end (30 sts).

Work 5 rows in K1, P1 rib.

Next row: *K1, K2tog, P1 P2tog, repeat from * to end (20 sts).

Work 3 rows in K2, P2 rib.

Next row: *K2tog, P2tog, repeat from * to end (10 sts).

Change to 4.5mm needles and, beginning with a knit row, work 10 rows in stocking stitch.

Cast off.

Knit another piece like this and then sew the two pieces together along the side seams, leaving gaps for the handle and spout. It is easiest to do this by trying the cosy on your teapot or you might like to try the following measurements.

Spout side: Join the bottom 3cm, leave a 6 cm gap for the spout and close the rest of the seam.

Handle side: Join the bottom 3cm, leave a 8 cm gap for the handle and close the rest of the seam.

The decorations for the large cosy are worked in exactly the same way as for the small cosy.

Abbreviations

st / sts	stitch / stitches
K	knit
P	purl
K2tog	knit two stitches together
P2tog	purl two stitches together
kwise	knitwise
kf&b	knit into the front and back of the stitch
pf&b	purl into the front and back of the stitch



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