



British Wool Cushions project for London 2012 Olympics

Blacker Yarns Basic Seed and Moss Stitch Cushion

Level of difficulty: easy, but you can make it more interesting by doing some of the variations!

This basic cushion is made in moss stitch. Several variations, both of the stitch and also using stripes are given so you can make a whole set of toning cushions and try out different ideas.



MEASUREMENTS

16" (40cm) square, plus flap to close, if used

Materials:

6 x 50g balls British Double Knitting yarn – we suggest Shetland, Manx, Black Welsh Mountain or Jacob in the natural colours or try some Blacker Yarns or locally dyed shades.

1 pair 4.0 mm knitting needles

Feature buttons (optional if sewing up cushion for Woolsack2012), possibly wood, glass or china

Tension:

19 sts x 30 rows = 4 x 4" (10 x 10 cm) worked in single moss stitch.

Adjust needle size to give required tension.

STITCHES AND ABBREVIATIONS

st, sts = stitch, stitches k = knit p = purl

RS = right side WS = wrong side

Basic Seed Stitch pattern

With 4.0mm needles cast on 80 sts

Row 1: (right side facing) *k1, p1, repeat from* to end

Row 2: *p1, k1, repeat from * to end

Repeat these two rows until work measures 33" (84cm)

Next row: cast off, making sure not to alter tension

To finish, wash, press and block square if necessary, then fold in half and sew up side seams.

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This makes a basic cushion, which will require a seam or zip to complete. If stuffing directly with wool, this should be done next and then the cushion seamed across the final edge.

If using a flap closure, you will need to continue knitting until the work measures a further 6" (15cm) and you can then either seam to make like a pillow-case closure or add feature buttons, pom-poms, crocheted, I-cord or plaited ties.

STITCH VARIATIONS



Moss Stitch

With 4.0mm needles cast on 80 sts

Rows 1 and 2: (right side facing) *k1, p1, repeat from* to end

Rows 3 and 4: *p1, k1, repeat from* to end

Repeat these four rows until work measures 33" (84cm)

Next row: cast off, making sure not to alter tension

Double Moss Stitch (or Double Seed Stitch!)

With 4.0mm needles cast on 80 sts

Rows 1 and 2: (right side facing) *k2, p2, repeat from* to end

Rows 3 and 4: *p2, k2, repeat from* to end

Repeat these four rows until work measures 33" (84cm)

Next row: cast off, making sure not to alter tension

Sand Stitch or Dot Stitch (depends on which side you prefer)

With 4.0mm needles cast on 80 sts

Rows 1 and 3: (wrong side facing) knit

Row 2: *k1, p1, repeat from* to end

Row 4: *p1, k1, repeat from * to end

Repeat these four rows until work measures 33" (84cm)

Next row: cast off, making sure not to alter tension



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Zig-zags

There are many options here, depending on how wide you make the zigs (and of course, the zags!)

This is just zigs (or possibly zags):

With 4.0mm needles cast on 80 sts

Row 1: (k4, p4) to end, ending k4

Row 2: k1 (p4, k4) to end, ending p3

Row 3: k2 (p4, k4) to end, ending p2

Row 4: k3 (p4, k4) to end, ending p1

Row 5: (p4, k4) to end, ending p4

Row 6: p1 (k4, p4) to end, ending k3

Row 7: p2 (k4, p4) to end, ending k2

Row 8: p3 (k4, p4) to end, ending k1

Repeat these eight rows until work measures 33" (84cm)

Next row: cast off, making sure not to alter tension

To do zigs and zags:

Row 1: k1, *p7, k1, repeat from * to end

Row 2: p1, *k7, p1, repeat from * to end

Row 3: k2, *p5, k3, repeat from * to last 7 sts, p5, k2

Row 4: p2, *k5, p3, repeat from * to last 7 sts, k5, p2

Row 5: k3, *p3, k5, repeat from * to last 6 sts, p3, k3

Row 6: p3, *k3, p5, repeat from * to last 6 sts, k3, p3

Row 7: k4, *p1, k7, repeat from * to last 5 sts, p1, k4

Row 8: p4, *k1, p7, repeat from * to last 5 sts, k1, p4

Row 9: as row 2

Row 10: as row 1

Row 11: as row 4

Row 12: as row 3

Row 13: as row 6

Row 14: as row 5

Row 15: as row 8

Row 16: as row 7

Repeat these sixteen rows until work measures 33" (84cm)

Next row: cast off, making sure not to alter tension

COLOUR VARIATIONS

Here is where even more variations can be done:

Basic stripes

Using 2 colours, change colour every 2 rows or every 4 rows.

Using 3 colours, change colour every 2 rows or every 4 rows. With 3 colours, you can also make stripe patterns going A, B, C, B, A, B, C, B, A, etc., when you will need more of colour B than of A and C. Then of course, you can make stripes of different thicknesses!

Because of the nature of moss stitch, there will be strands of the previous colour in the first row of the new colour.



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Tweeded stripes

Making a virtue of the strands of colour smudging between rows gives tweeded options.

Using 2 colours and 2 strands knitted together (remember to reduce the number of stitches and rows for a basic 16", 40cm cushion as this knits up much bigger, but you will also need a bit more yarn), you can knit with 2 different colours for 2 rows, the 2 strands of one colour, then 2 strands of the other colour, over 6 rows.

Or with 3 colours and 2 strands, you can knit with A&B for 2 rows, then B&C for 2 rows and then C&A for 2 rows for lovely tweedy effect.

Chevron stripes

It is probably best to ensure that the stripes match the points of the zigs and zags, so go over 4, 8 or 16 rows. Also probably less useful to make chevrons in bi-coloured 2 stranded knitting. But if you get really interested, slip-stitch knitting lets you make the zig-zags stand out against the background.

To explore all of this more: buy, beg or borrow Barbara Walker's Treasury of Knitting Patterns, look at chapter 2 and be inspired! (then look at the other chapters too!)