

Spa Set: Bath Mitt & Votive Sleeve

By MakerKnit.com

I designed this “spa set” as a Mother’s Day gift for my mother-in-law. I wanted something that was personal and a little luxurious, so I chose to make a bath mitt out of a scrumptiously-soft and lofty organic cotton. I also designed a small, lacy sleeve to dress up a votive candle holder. I chose yarns in lovely shades of blue, inspired by the beautiful blue blouse my mother-in-law wore on Easter.

I bought a bar of pretty soap and some candles to include with the bath mitt and votive and—voila!—a lovely “spa” gift set was born.

YARNS

Bath Mitt 1 hank Blue Sky Alpacas Multi Cotton (100% organically grown cotton; 100yds/67g), in color 6803 Slushie.

Votive Sleeve 1 ball Rowan Siena (4ply 100% mercerized cotton; 153yds/50g), in color 660 Pacific (discontinued; see **NOTES**).

NEEDLES & NOTIONS

Bath Mitt US 7 (4.5mm) dpns, set of 4.

Votive Sleeve US 2.5 (3.0mm) dpns, set of 4.

Glass votive candle holder, 6 3/8” in circumference.

Stitch marker.

Darning needle to finish.

Crochet hook US G7 (4.5mm), optional.

GAUGES

Bath Mitt 19 sts = 4” in St st.

Votive Sleeve 6 sts = 1” in Diagonal Madeira

Lace patt.

FINISHED SIZES

Bath Mitt approx 7.75” long, 5” wide at middle, and 4.25” wide at cuff.

Votive Sleeve after blocking, approx 2.25” high and 6” in circumference.



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NOTES FOR THE BATH MITT

For the bath mitt I combined Stockinette stitch with a pattern called “small quilted cross-stitch.” I just loved the pattern created by small quilted cross-stitch, but I felt it was too “busy” for the multi-colored yarn, so I chose to use it only around the cuff. I chose simple Stockinette stitch for the rest of the mitt because it was perfect for showcasing, and not competing with, such beautifully-hued yarn.

I chose to crochet a 5” chain to create a loop for hanging the bath mitt. If you want to include this on your mitt, leave yourself a 26” tail when you CO. And, if you want to use the long-tail CO method, leave yourself an additional 33” tail when making your slipknot. (Thus, if you want to use the long-tail CO method AND crochet a loop, leave yourself a 59” tail when making your slipknot.)

A tight edge is actually a good thing for the mitt, so CO somewhat tightly. BUT keep your knitting looser or it will be difficult to k1f&b and pssso since cotton yarn does not have much give. Also, a locking stitch marker that can attach to the first stitch would be best since you’re using dpns (otherwise the marker would just slip off the end of your dpn).

When working small quilted cross-stitch in the round, you will have to move a few stitches between your dpns on three of the eight rounds in order to execute the pattern. On these three rounds you will also be changing where the round begins. It sounds more complicated than it is, but to ensure success, I have provided step-by-step instructions for making these adjustments.

I wanted the Stockinette stitch portion of the bath mitt to fit fully over the hand, with the small quilted cross-stitch band at the wrist, so I knitted until my mitt measured 7.5” from the CO edge. If you want your mitt to fit differently, just adjust that measurement.

BATH MITT INSTRUCTIONS

Note: When you are moving sts between dpns, sl those sts pwise (and make sure your yarn is in back of your work when doing so).

CO 48 sts. Spread out sts over 3 dpns—16 sts on each. PM and join to work in the rnd, being careful not to twist sts.

Rnds 1, 3, 5 & 7: *k1, p1; rep from * to end of rnd.

Rnd 2: *sl 1 kwise wyib, k1f&b, k1, pssso last 3 sts made, p1; rep from * to end of rnd.

Rnds 4, 6 & 8: STEP ONE: k1, p1, then move these 2 sts to dpn #3; now dpn #1 has 14 sts, dpn #2 has 16 sts, and dpn #3 has 18 sts.



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STEP TWO: You now also have a new beginning for the rnd; move your st marker to the st that is now the first st on dpn #1.

STEP THREE: move the first 2 sts from dpn #2 to the end of dpn #1 and the first 2 sts from dpn #3 to the end of dpn #2; all three dpns have 16 sts again and now you're ready to continue working on the rnd.

STEP FOUR: *sl 1 kwise wyib, k1f&b, k1, pssso last 3 sts made, p1; rep from * to end of rnd.

Next rnd: after completing the above 8 rnds, switch to Stockinette stitch (k all sts) and k until piece measures 7.5" (or desired length; see **NOTES**) from CO edge.

Decrease Rounds and Finishing the Top

Next rnd: *[ssk] 6 times, [k2tog] 6 times; rep from * to end of rnd. (24 sts total.)

Next rnd: *[ssk] 3 times, [k2tog] 3 times; rep from * to end of rnd. (12 sts total.)

BO using 3-needle BO. Secure and weave in end.

Loop for Hanging Mitt and Finishing the Bottom

With crochet hook, chain for 5" (about 20 chains). Slip stitch last chain to first chain to form a loop.

Secure and weave in end.

Photo: A view of the entire bath mitt, with small quilted cross-stitch at the cuff and Stockinette stitch from cuff to the bath mitt's top.



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NOTES FOR THE VOTIVE SLEEVE

I chose a pattern called “diagonal Madeira lace,” which creates a lovely mesh with a pronounced diagonal line. I particularly loved the simplicity of this pattern and its openness was perfect for letting through candlelight.

Unfortunately the color of yarn I used, Pacific, has been discontinued. However, Rowan offers many shades in its Siena yarn and has another beautiful blue—color 672 Mariner—that would be a nice substitute.

When working diagonal Madeira lace in the round, you will have to move a few stitches between your dpns on six of the sixteen rounds in order to execute the pattern. On these rounds you will also be changing where the round begins. It sounds more complicated than it is, but you do have to keep track of where you are in the pattern. I have provided step-by-step instructions to help ensure success, but I recommend you either finish the entire votive sleeve in one sitting or leave off in the middle of one needle and note where you left off in the pattern so you can easily pick it up again at another time.

A locking stitch marker that can attach to the first stitch would be best since you’re using dpns (otherwise the marker would just slip off the end of your dpn).

When finished with the votive sleeve, you can use it immediately as is, but if you block it, the sleeve will be taller and it will open up the lacy design, allowing more candlelight to shine through.

VOTIVE SLEEVE INSTRUCTIONS

- For this pattern, other than when performing ssk, sl all sts pwise wyib. So when it says “sl 1” or when you are moving sts between dpns, sl those sts pwise (and make sure your working yarn is in back when doing so).
- On many rnds, you will have a yo at the beginning or end of a dpn; watch that it does not slip off the dpn. At the end of each rnd, you should always have 36 sts total, with 12 on each dpn.
- On rnds 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16, you will have a yo at the very end of the rnd that will need to be carried behind one st (the “psso” st) in order to begin the next rnd. Make sure you don’t lose this yo and that your working yarn is kept in back when you knit that first st on rnds 9, 11, 13, 15, and when binding off.

CO 36 sts. Spread out sts over 3 dpns—12 sts each. PM and join to work in the rnd, being careful not to twist sts.



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Rnd 1 and all odd rnds: k all sts.

Rnd 2: *yo, sl 1, k2tog, pssso, yo, k1; rep from * to end of rnd.

Rnd 4: *k1, yo, sl 1, k2tog, pssso, yo; rep from * to end of rnd.

Rnd 6: STEP ONE: from dpn #1, k1 then move that st to the end of dpn #3; now dpn #1 has 11 sts, dpn #2 has 12 sts, and dpn #3 has 13 sts.

STEP TWO: You now also have a new beginning for the rnd; move your st marker to the st that is now the first st on dpn #1.

STEP THREE: move the first st from dpn #2 to the end of dpn #1 and the first st from dpn #3 to the end of dpn #2; all three dpns have 12 sts again and now you're ready to continue working on the rnd.

STEP FOUR: *yo, k1, yo, sl 1, k2tog, pssso; rep from * to end of rnd.

Rnds 8, 10, 12, 14 & 16: STEP ONE: from dpn #1, k2tog then move that st to the end of dpn #3; now dpn #1 has 10 sts, dpn #2 has 12 sts, and dpn #3 has 13 sts.

STEP TWO: You now also have a new beginning for the rnd; move your st marker to the st that is now the first st on dpn #1.

STEP THREE: move 2 sts from dpn #2 to the end of dpn #1 and 2 sts from dpn #3 to the end of dpn #2; now dpn #1 has 12 sts, dpn #2 has 12 sts, and dpn #3 has 11 sts, and you're ready to continue working on the rnd.

STEP FOUR: *yo, k1, yo, sl 1, k2tog, pssso; rep from * to last 2 sts, end sl 2, pass first st over second st (this second st is the k2tog that you performed in STEP ONE, so by passing the first st over the second here, you're completing the "pssso" portion of the pattern).

Finishing

BO kwise. Secure and weave in ends. Block if desired.

Photos: Finished votive sleeve; votive with candle lit.



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ABBREVIATIONS

approx	approximately
beg	begin
BO	bind off
CO	cast on
dpns	double-pointed needles
g	gram(s)
k	knit
kwise	knitwise, as if to knit
k1f&b	knit into front of stitch and then into back of same stitch
k2tog	knit 2 stitches together
mm	millimeter(s)
p	purl
patt	pattern
PM	place marker
pssso	pass slipped stitch over
pwise	purlwise, as if to purl
rep	repeat
rnd(s)	round(s)
sl	slip
ssk	slip one stitch knitwise, slip another stitch knitwise, then knit both stitches together through their back loops
st(s)	stitch(es)
St st	Stockinette stitch
wyib	with yarn in back
yd(s)	yard(s)
yo	yarn over
*	repeat starting point



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