

All Dressed Tassel - March Fancy

Large, ornate tassels like these have often been used to embellish curtain tie-backs, pillows and blankets. Smaller versions make great adornments for cupboard keys or any other items in need of embellishment.

The cover is knitted and then a basic tassel is pulled through the cover.

Materials: 3.5mm dpn's; 2 colours of worsted weight yarn – sample was made with Cascade 220 wool.

Size: Sample is 2 inches wide and 8 inches long..

Gauge: 9st (1 pattern repeat) is 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ths inch. Precise gauge is not important for this kind of project.

Abbreviations: **K2tog** – knit 2 stitches together. **SSK** – slip the next 2 sts knitwise (one at a time), then insert the left needle across the front of your 2 slipped sts and knit them together. **YO** – bring the yarn forward between your needles and then knit your next stitch as normal, allowing the yarn to loop over your right hand needle to form a new stitch. **PB** – pull up bead.



I-cord: Working with the 5 sts left on the tassel, K5 – **Do not Turn** – slide the sts to the right end of the needle and pull yarn snugly across the back of the knitting and K5 again. Continue the K5 and slide until I-cord is the desired length. Knit the 5 stitches together, cut the yarn and twist the I-cord around and sew the end down the start.

Pattern

Cast-on 27 sts, distribute onto 3 needles, 9 st per needle, and being careful not to twist the sts connect into a round.

Skirt – this can be made longer or shorter by reducing or increasing the repeats of rows 4 and 5.

Rounds 1 and 2 – Purl.

Round 3 – *K2tog, K2, YO, K1, YO, K2, SSK; repeat from * to end of round.

Round 4 – *P1, K7, P1, PB; repeat from * to end of round.

Repeat rounds 3 and 4, 11 times more for a total of 26 rounds.

LeTissier Designs

Neck and Head Shaping

Round 27 – *K1, K2tog; repeat from * to end of round – 18 sts.

Round 28 and 29 – Purl.

Round 30 – Knit.

Rounds 31 to 42 – *K1, P1; repeat from * to end of round.

Round 43 – purl.

Row 44 – *K2tog; repeat from * all around – 9 sts.

Row 45 – *K2tog; repeat from * 4 times, end with K1 – 5 sts.



Finish off with I-cord if wanting to hang the tassel from something other than a pillow or blanket. For attaching to a blanket or pillow cut the yarn and pull through the remaining stitches.

Finish the tassel by making a basic traditional style tassel with a contrasting yarn and then placing the beaded tassel over it. The traditional tassel was 8 inches long for the sample. An alternative finish would be to fill the head of the beaded tassel with a marble or yarn and then tie it off.

Note: A traditional style tassel can take a great deal of yarn to make it full enough for the best effect. But they are easy to make. I often will wrap the yarn around a dvd case for the good length. This tassel was made by wrapping it around a paperback book.

Pull the tassel through the cover by threading the yarn from the top of the basic tassel onto a blunt needle and then passing the needle up through the cover until it is tight to the ribbed head and the threaded yarn is pulled through the top of the cover.

Weave in all ends. Attach tassels to the corners or ends of a blanket or cushion.

