

April Fancy

Sometimes called a Needle Keep or a Mending Kit, Aprils Fancy is made with scraps of worsted weight yarn. This kit is made in layers. Each Layer is first knitted, embellished and then fullled. Fulling is the technical term for taking a knitted object and then “felting” it to create a firm fabric.

In the past sewing needles were much rarer and much more expensive than the needles we have access to today. A mending kit was a treasured possession and would be considered an amazing gift. So this little item has been designed to keep or give, makers choice. 😊

Materials: Scraps of fullable worsted weight yarns, sample was made with Cascade 220 worsted wool, 5.0mm US #8 circs or straights and dpn's, 3.75mm crochet hook, and the regular notions. Additional supplies include a few 6/0 beads for embellishing and dishsoap for fulling.

Gauge: 18/19 sts in 4 inches, not crucial

Size: after fulling approx. 6 inches long and 4.75 inches wide

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. **s1, K2tog, PSSO** – slip 1 st, knit the next 2 sts tog and then pass the slipped st over the resulting st.

Pattern

The mending kit is knit in 4 pieces, 3 diamond shapes and 1 half diamond shape. Each piece could be different colours, or all the same colours. In the sample 3 pieces are navy and one is red. Two of the pieces have been embellished with some knitted and beaded flowers and some simple embroidery.

Knitting

Diamond – make 3

Cast-on 3 sts.

Knit 1 row.

Purl 1 row.

Start increasing.

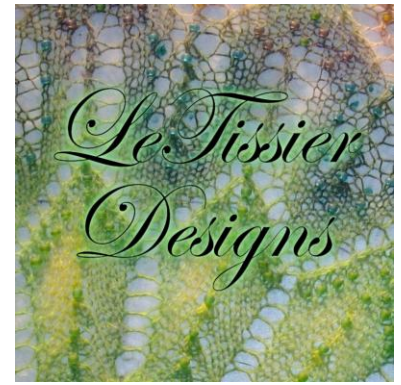
Row 1 – K1, M1, K1, M1, K1 – 5 sts.

Row 2 and all WS rows – purl.

Row 3 – K1, M1, K3, M1, K1 – 7 sts.

Row 5 – K1, M1, knit to 1 sts before the end, M1, K1 – 9 sts.

Continue to repeat 2 row pattern until there are 25 sts on the needle – row 21.



Row 22 – purl.

Row 23 – knit.

Row 24 – purl.

Start decreasing.

Row 25 – K1, SSK, knit to last 3 sts, K2tog, K1 – 23 sts.

Row 26 and all WS rows – purl.

Row 27 – K1, SSK, knit to last 3 sts, K2tog, K1 – 21 sts.

Row 29 – K1, SSK, knit to last 3 sts, K2tog, K1 – 19 sts.

Continue to repeat 2 row pattern until there are 5 sts on the needle – row 43.

Row 44 – purl 5

Row 45 – K1, s1, K2tog, PSSO, K1 – 3sts.

Row 46 – purl 3.

Row 47 – bind-off in knit.

Triangle – Make 1

Cast-on 3 sts.

Knit 1 row.

Purl 1 row.

Start increasing.

Row 1 – K1, M1, K1, M1, K1 – 5 sts.

Row 2 and all WS rows – purl.

Row 3 – K1, M1, K3, M1, K1 – 7 sts.

Row 5 – K1, M1, knit to 1 sts before the end, M1, K1 – 9 sts.

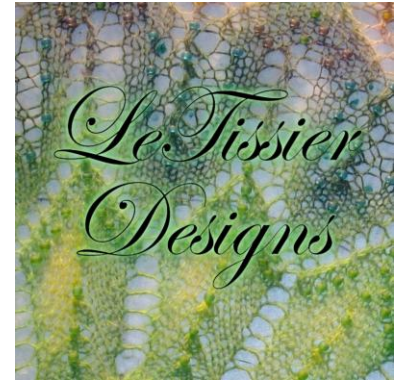
Continue to repeat 2 row pattern until there are 25 sts on the needle – row 21.

Row 22 – purl.

Row 23 – knit.

Row 24 – purl.

Row 25 – bind-off in knit.



Flowers- Make 4

Pre-string 16 beads if beading. Or alternatively sew beads on after the flower is attached to the piece.

Cast on 6 sts.

Cast off 4 sts, slip bead up and pull through 5th st, cast-off 5th st. Slip petal back to LH needle.

*Cast on 5 sts, cast-off 4 sts, slip bead up and pull through 5th st, cast-off 5th st. Slip petal back to LH needle. Repeat from * 3 more times. There are 5 petals in total.

Cut yarn and pull through the last st. Gather the petals up with the last tail. Use the yarn tails to attach the flower to your article.



Make the flowers in lots of different colours and create a flower field on your fancy.

Fulling

Attach flowers as follows; 3 on 1 diamond shape – this will be front of the fancy. Attach the last flower on the triangle shape.

Finish the top edge (bind-off edge) of the triangle with a buttonhole st in a contrast colour as shown.

Once the flowers are attached the pieces can be fullled.

I fullled my pieces in a bowl with hot tap water and a squirt of dish soap. I started by agitating with a wooden spoon and when the water was cool enough for my hands, I continued the agitating by rubbing and rolling the pieces until they started to felt together. I continued rubbing until I liked the feel of the fabric I was creating. It will feel like it is getting thicker and the edges will stop rolling in.

Finishing

There are 3 layers to our mending kit – the base layer – the middle layer – and the top.

Base Layer – this holds the buttons on the back and the on the front is the pocket for the scissors and mending threads.



- 1.) Sew a few buttons of varying sizes and colour to the back of the base layer.
- 2.) With the crochet hook and some yarn make a 5 – 6in chain. Attach the chain by pulling through the fabric of the piece in two places. Tack down with some thread the same colour as the felt.
- 3.) Place triangle piece over the bottom the diamond and sew to the backing with a button hole st.
- 4.) Make a short crochet chain loop at the bottom point of the base layer.

Layer the middle layer and then the top layer over the base layer and sew through the 3 layers at the upper point.

Sew a button to the bottom point of the top layer. Button needs to be a size suitable for the crochet loop to catch and hold.

