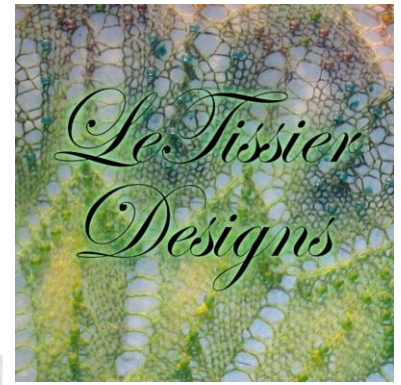


Dazzling Daisy Pincushion

Why a pincushion? I could be flip and say why not! But they, like the needle keeps, and lavender sachets have a long history that is primarily associated with women and in particular with the giving of small gifts or tokens of affection to a friend. In the past they were often embroidered with messages of affection and intricate needlework of all varieties.



Pins and needles were valuable. And they needed to be kept dry and safe as they weren't always easily replaceable. A pincushion did the job beautifully.

There is an image on The Victoria and Alberta Museum website of a pincushion, knit in silk so fine that I hate to imagine the gauge. The year was knitted into the pattern, 1733. That was just one sample available to view.



Pincushions have a long and storied history. Wouldn't it be fun to become part of that history?

Materials: Assorted colours of Cascade 220 Fingering wool, 2 sets of 2.25mm US #1 dpns, a sharp tip is recommended, plus a straight metal 2.25mm crochet hook (for the pinhole cast-on); markers (one for the beginning of the round is helpful) and the usual notions. A small amount of stuffing, wool or poly for stuffing the cushion.

Gauge: Tight, approx. 10 sts in 2.5 cm | inch

Size: Approx 10 cm 4 inches across and 4 cm and 1.5 inches high when the center has been tacked.

Abbreviations: **K1f&b** – Make a new st by knitting into the next st on the LH needle and then without removing the st (rotate the RH needle to the back of the LH needle) then knit into the back loop of the st just knit, and then slip both sts off the LH needle. **LH** – left hand. **RH** – right hand. **M1 – (Make 1)** lift the running yarn between the stitch just knit and the next stitch onto the left-hand needle and then knit into the back of the yarn to close the loop and make a new st. **WS** – wrong side. **RS** – right side.

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 **SSSK** – slip the next 3 sts knitwise (one at a time), then insert the left needle across the front of your 3 slipped sts and knit them together

Techniques:

<https://blog.tincanknits.com/2012/05/25/pinhole-cast-on-tutorial>

<https://letissierdesigns96822434.wordpress.com/2024/09/15/circular-cast-ons/>

I-cord bind-off – when working I-cord remember to pull the yarn tightly from the back st to roll the cord.

With RS facing, add 3 simple loops to the front needle containing the sts.

- *K2, knit the next loop together with the first st that was on the front needle and the first st that was on the back needle – I like to use SSK
- Slide the 3 sts on the RH needle back onto the LH needle and repeat from * across the pincushion opening

3 Needle I-cord Bind-off

With wrong sides together, hold stitches from back piece side by side with the stitches from the front piece. Front piece in front.

Continuing with contrast yarn bind-off as follows: *K2, Knit 3 sts together through the back of the loop – I like SSK (1 i-cord st, 1 st from the front needle and 1 st from the back needle) this will leave 3 sts on the RH needle, slide those sts back onto the front LH needle; and repeat from * 4 times, then slide the 3 sts back onto to the LH needle, K3, slide the 3 sts back on to the LH needle; repeat from * until all of your remaining pincushion sts have been knit together and only the stuffing opening is left. Knit the last 3 sts together and pull yarn through the last st. Cut yarn leaving enough to weave in and connect both ends of the i-cord and sew the seam, about 12 to 18ins.

Method:

The pincushion is knit in two pieces and then connected at the center line with an I-cord bind-off. A small opening is left to insert the stuffing and then the opening is whip stitched closed. The sample pincushion was stitch quilted, by tacking the two halves together into the center to flatten the shape. This last step can be omitted to leave the pincushion with a rounder shape.

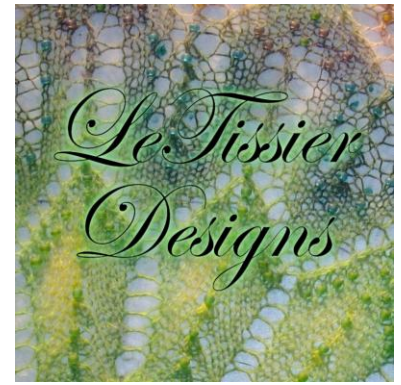
Pattern

When working the pattern use the charts for the colourwork and the written instructions to check your stitch count.

Work both front and back from the same start. I recommend working the back first to get comfortable working the tight gauge on the small needles.

Using a pinhole cast-on or your favourite circular start cast on 8 sts.

Knit 1 round.



Next round – knit into the front and back of every st.

Commence working from the charts. Repeat each chart row 8 times through each round.

Written Daisy Chart

Round 1 and all odd-numbered rounds: Knit. (16 sts)

Round 2: (K1, kfb) 8 times. (24 sts)

Round 4: (K2, kfb) 8 times. (32 sts)

Round 6: (K4, m1) 8 times. (40 sts)

Round 8: (K5, m1) 8 times. (48 sts)

Round 10: (K6, m1) 8 times. (56 sts)

Round 12: (K7, m1) 8 times. (64 sts)

Round 14: (K8, m1) 8 times. (72 sts)

Round 16: (K9, m1) 8 times. (80 sts)

Round 18: (K10, m1) 8 times. (88 sts)

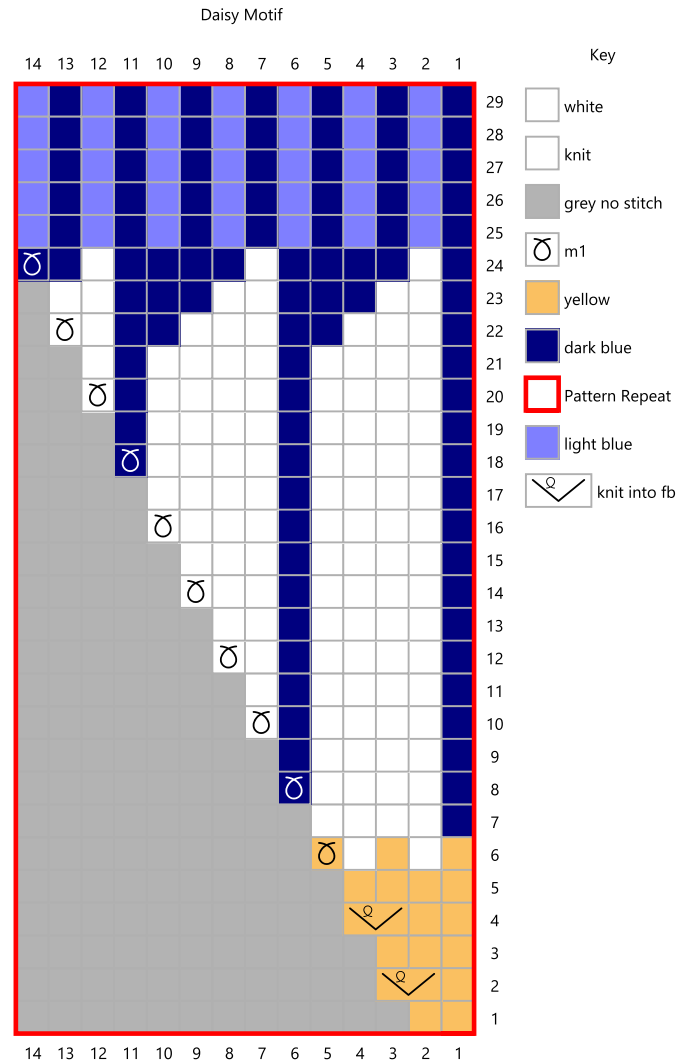
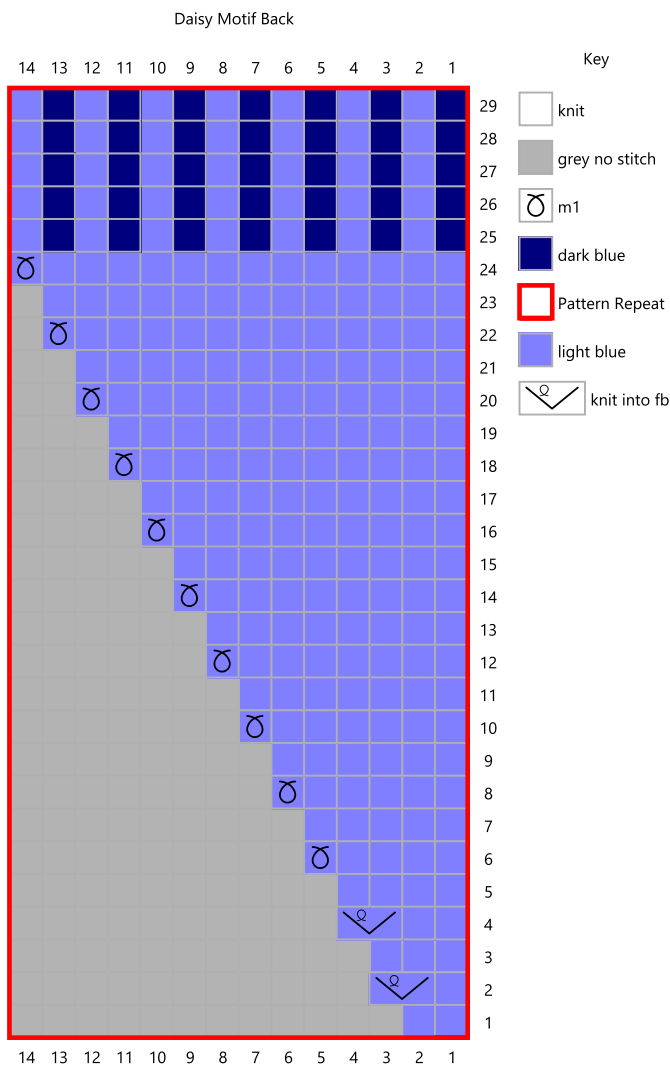
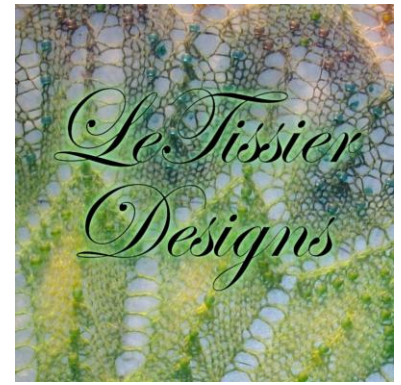
Round 20: (K11, m1) 8 times. (96 sts)

Round 22: (K12, m1) 8 times. (104 sts)

Round 24: (K13, m1) 8 times. (112 sts)

Round 26: Knit.

Round 28: Knit.



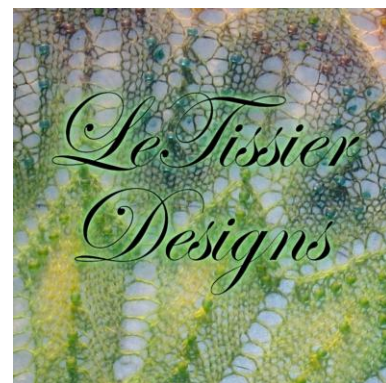


Finishing for Daisy Motif Back

Once round 28 is complete:

Bind-off the next 18 sts in knit.

Hold remaining back sts on needles until the front piece is knit.



Finishing for the Daisy Motif Front

Once round 28 is complete.

Work an I-cord bind-off on the first 18 sts on the front to match up with the 18 sts bound off on the back piece.



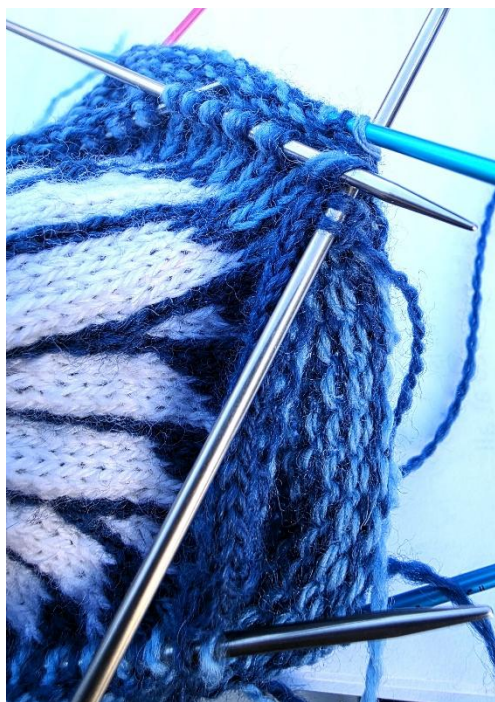
Finishing

Once the two halves have been knit, connect the two halves with the 3-needle I-cord bind-off. See method page 2.

Alternatively, loosely bind-off both halves and then sew together, leaving an opening for stuffing.

Turn the pincushion inside out and weave in the ends.

Stuff the pincushion firmly enough to hold a round shape, but still soft enough to squish the middle down. The sample was stuffed with wool roving.



Once stuffed sew the small seam shut.



Flatten the pincushion with the center motif tacked down in the same colour. This will give the pincushion a very distinctive donut shap.

The little well created by the tacked center is a great place to hold a few markers.

