

Heart Hotpads

Cecily Rowley (LadySeshiiria)



Description:

I was going to use a different pattern for my hot pad project but realized I didn't have enough yarn. Oops! Don't you hate that?! Rookie error on my part for sure. I've been struggling with post covid brain fog.

Anyway, I'd already prepared my skein as per another pattern's instruction. I had divided it into three parts, because it was explained as being easier to buy three separate skeins and I don't have a lot of money this was the direction I took. So if you find yourself in a similar situation and having money go with the easier option, if not do what's cheaper on your budget.

It took me a good hour and a box to wind my yarn around, count, and section it out for cutting. So if you just want something to do without a lot of extra effort, I too, would also suggest using three skeins. You will be able to probably get at least two hotpads instead of one from one skein.

I decided since I could no longer use my pattern of choice to improvise a different method or pattern, and I wasn't sure how I was going to do it. I started to look around but finally remember another project that I had created back in March of 2022. From there I went on a hunt looking for where I wrote it and found it in my journal as notes. This for me would be far easier to build off a pattern I already made, instead of look for a new one that fit my parameters, it would be easier to change some things like it's size, and some stitch work.

The pattern is a basic increase, yarn over, with the added yarns held together. The decrease is a slip slip knit or ssk. I wanted to add bulk to my cotton yarn, and had tested it using my old method of increase which was knit two together, or K2tog, and found it far to harder on my hands and needles. The ssk is much easier though still difficult with the added bulk. The ssk also still preserves that cool holey lacey look I like.

The pattern is built into three stages, or three pieces meeting into one. Technically two, as you join the top left and top right heart lobes together, then you finish the third section in one piece coming off of the right lobe.

You will want a smaller spare knitting needle for transferring work. Also if you want to, an optional crochet hook will help instead of fussing about with hands and tails. Since yarns held together will be too thick for a darning needle a crochet hook can act as a substitute. The best part is you don't need to know how to crochet, and if you don't, I hope it helps you feel better to know I don't either. (Though it's on my bucket list.) You will just want the hook to help you weave or pull threads through holes.

The pattern itself is easy, especially when I did it the first time with one yarn and even with the new changes. This variation is a lot harder to do with the added bulk, be warned. I would advise you to take breaks. It's a lot of bulk and it's hard on the joints.

Disclaimer:

I seriously suggest that you use worn out old needles for this project. Essentially ones you don't feel bad about wrecking. Do not use new needles. As this project is really hard on the patina. Your nice needles will be hashed by the time you are done. Don't say you weren't warned! I found this out the hard way.

***Check out this YouTube video that was suggested to me for tripling threads without using multiple skeins or splitting up your skein.*

<https://youtu.be/NWJb3WaXyew>

Tools and Materials:

US Size 9, 5.5mm Knitting Needles

One Spare Knitting Needle Size 8

***Optional US I9 Crochet Hook (Acts As A Replacement For Darning Needle)*

1 or 3 Skein(s) Worsted Cotton Yarn

Gauge:

For me 3 and $\frac{2}{3}$ stitches by 4 rows equals a square inch. Gauge isn't really necessary for this project though.

Estimated Yardage:

95 - 120 Yards for one hotpad

Terminology:

CO (Cast On)

BO (Bind off)

YO (Yarn over, increasing stitch amount.)

K (Knit)

SSK (Slip, slip knit, decrease stitch amount.)

sts (Stitches)

Row (Accumulated stitches on the needle.)

Frontside (Front of work.)

Backside (Wrongside, or back of work.)

Lobe (Either top right or top left of the heart.)

Yarns Held Together (Treat 2 or more yarns as one strand.)

Instructions:

If using one skein, section off into thirds otherwise use three skeins with the 3 yarns held together -

CO 2 sts (Leave about 5" tail for later.)

Row 1: Knit to end of row.

Row 2 - 12: K1, YO, Knit to end of row.

Row 13: Knit to end of row. Stop here, cut a 4" tail. Push the lobe to the back of the needle.

To start the second lobe, repeat instructions until row 13 and stop, do not cut a tail. Instead, transfer the lobe onto your smaller makeshift needle, and then transfer it onto the same needle as the other lobe, but be careful not to mix frontside or backside of work and make sure your working yarn is at the start of the needle.

Row 14 - 18: Knit to the end of the row.

(At this point you can choose to stabilize the middle section in-between the lobes or keep going. I left a photo tutorial below for the midsection.)

Row 19: SSK, YO, SSK, Knit to the end of the row. Repeat until only 3 stitches remain on the needle.

Bind off.

Use the crochet hook to help pull the remaining threads through the last loop, tighten. From here if you want to, use the crochet hook to weave in the remaining threads, or you could knot off, and leave a tassel end like I did. *(It's a popular trend in genz for clothing or blankets to leave tails.)*

With the top lobe tails. Braid each side, and then knot them together. Unravel the threads after the top knot and brush it out. Cutting it to the size you desire. Now you have a cute way to hang your pot holder!

Now for the middle section in-between the loves. The left over tail. Your hook really helps most here. I wanted to save this portion for last because of the images below. You can choose to do this last too if you want and it shouldn't hurt a thing.

Here is a sample image above of the joining of the two lobes. Once you make your first full length knitted pass, or when you finish, you will tie and weave this tail for added stability.



First insert your crochet hook into a side loop and pull tail through. It should look like this below.



Then you will loosen it up but not all the way. You don't want to pull out the tail and have to start over again.



Next you will bring the tail through that loop and tighten. We essentially knotted off here.



Next we want to weave in as much as we can to hide the tail. Insert your hook into one of the yarn over holes.



From here you will pull the tail through to the other side.



Next from the opposite direction insert the hook into the opposite yarn over holes, and pull the tail through.



It should look like this below.



Now insert your hook into a unnoticed slot and knot off you tail for added security.





From there just weave in in and out of a few places and cut the remaining off. You won't have a tassel tail hanging out in a weird spot, and now you have a fully secure midsection.

I hope you like this pattern. If you haven't yet, check out the first pattern I made that this one is based off of here:

I hope you enjoy your new hot pad!
Happy Valentine's Day!

- Cecily, LadySeshiiria