
Knitted Cocoon Cardigan with Marly Bird

Chapter 1 - Cocoon Cardigan

Overview

(upbeat music) - Hi, I'm Marly Bird, proud spokesperson for Red Heart Yarns. And I'm back here at Creativebug to show you how to make a really cute cocoon cardigan. Now, if you've never made a sweater before, that's okay, because this one is essentially a large swatch that we seam together, add some cuffs. Throw it on, you have a really cozy, wonderful sweater. You're going to learn how to do some simple lace, some moss stitch, simple construction, some ribbing. At the end of the day, you're gonna have a sweater that you're gonna want to put on all the time. So, grab your yarn, your needles, and your pattern, and let's get started.

Materials

For this project you're gonna need just a couple things. You'll need some Red Heart soft yarn. At least nine balls. It all depends on what size you're making and this pattern comes from petite to plus size. You're gonna need some stitch markers. A pair of size nine, 29 inch circular needles. A tapestry needle. I like to use knit clips to help seam my sweater. A good pair of scissors and then a crochet hook which is not mandatory but I'm gonna show you how to use it to pick up stitches. Don't forget to download your PDF.

Knit the Cocoon Cardigan

Lace stitch pattern

- Remember to print out your pattern so you can reference it as we work. The first thing we're gonna start off with, is the simple lace pattern. Now, don't get scared just because I said, "lace." It's really, really, really simple. We're gonna begin by putting a slipknot onto our needle, and cast on 14 stitches. Now I'm doing a simple little swatch here at the beginning, instead of casting on the full number of stitches for the cardigan, because I wanna show you on this simple little swatch what the stitch pattern is before we cast on that larger, multiple number of stitches. (chuckles) So I'm gonna get 14 stitches cast onto my needle. I'm using the long tail cast on, but you can use any cast on method you prefer. Once you have 14 stitches, we're gonna jump in to the lace stitch pattern. The first row is a wrong-side row, so we're just going to purl. Easy-peasy so far, right? I'm not going to slip the first stitch, I'm going to go ahead and just knit. If you decide to slip the first stitch every row for your pattern, you can do that. It's just something I didn't think it was necessary for this cocoon pattern. So I'm just going to purl across all of these stitches. When we're doing the lace stitch pattern, all of the action is done on the right side row. So whenever you're looking at the wrong-side, we will be doing purls. Once you finish your purls, you're going to turn your work, and we will jump in. You'll notice in the pattern that the first part says to knit two, and then it has an asterisk after that. That's where the pattern repeat begins. So you'll start off with a knit two, and then we'll jump into the pattern stitch- which is a knit two together... a yarn over, and then knit two. So it's just four stitches. So we have a knit two together... yarn over, and then knit two stitches. This is lace because of the knit two together, and the yarn over. We're decreasing the stitch when we do knit two together, and we're increasing when we do the yarn over. So our stitch count never really

changes. Finish off with our last knit two together, and that's the first lace stitch row. You're gonna turn your work, and we're on the wrong-side again, so you're going to purl all the way back, and then we'll get to row four and that's when we'll have another action row. Finish up these last two stitches, turn my work, and for row four, you'll notice that we also begin with our knit two. So I'm gonna knit one... knit two... and now we have a repeat of purl one, knit three. Purl one... knit three. Purl one... knit three. That's it! This lace stitch pattern is a four stitch, and four row repeat. You will continue repeating rows one through four until your rectangle measures the number that is listed on the pattern. So, let me show you exactly what it is you are going to be making. As I pull this in, you can see that the instructions say the direction of knitting is like this. Right here is where we're going to cast on, and you can see these numbers down here. Those refer to the width of whatever size you're going to be making. These numbers over here refer to the length that you're going to be knitting. Your cast on stitches are right here at this edge. So you will repeat that stitch pattern I just showed you, all the way along this path, and then bind off up here. I know it's a lot of knitting, but you've got to remember, you're knitting the width between essentially your wrist to your opposite wrist, across your back. So it's going to be a lot of knitting, but don't worry, this stitch pattern is so simple, you're going to be able to do it in front of the TV, in front of the sports game- whatever it may be, you're going to be able to do this. Just have this be your take-along knitting.

Collar

- Once you've completed the body of the sweater, the collar comes next. I like to get all of my knitting done out of the way before I do assembly, so let's see how we do the moss stitch. You can see down here that I've already started the collar for a size small. You're gonna reference your pattern to see what number of stitches you need to cast on for the size you are making. To work the moss stitch, we're gonna begin with a knit one. And then we go into the moss stitch pattern, which is a purl one, knit one. Purl one, knit one. All the way down the row. At the end of the row, turn your work and begin row two. Which begins with a purl one, and you'll notice that we are purling on top of a purl, and then we go into our knit one, purl one. On this row, you're going to knit the knits and purl the purls. Row three is actually a repeat of row two, but what you're gonna notice is that you're going to be placing your purls on top of knits, and knits on top of purls. That's how you get the moss stitch. We're offsetting the stitches every two rows. Let me show you what that looks like. To repeat row two, remember we start off with the purl one, and then we jump into a knit one, purl one. And I'm putting my knits on top of purls, and my purls on top of my knits. This is gonna give me a really great texture. A nice texture that's gonna be different than the beautiful lace portion of the sweater. The final row for this repeat is also a repeat of row one. And what you're gonna notice this time, is you're gonna be placing your purls on top of purls, and knits on top of knits. Don't overthink this. Simply just repeat the row, and do what it says. And you'll start to get into a rhythm as you're working along, and you'll notice, oh look, I have two knits there, so I'm obviously gonna have a purl. Or you're gonna see I have two purls, I'm gonna have a knit. It'll start to have a nice balance to it. Trust me, it will happen. So let's go ahead and repeat row one, which is our row four. Now you know how to do the moss stitch. What you need to do is refer to your pattern and cast on the number of stitches you need for the size you're making. Each collar size is different for the different sizes of the sweater. Once you have your cast on, begin working the stitch pattern and work it for the length that is listed, once again in your pattern. It's gonna feel like you're making a scarf, which essentially, you are. It's going around the whole neck and front portion of your sweater. So it's gonna be nice and wide, and nice and long. Do not skimp on this part. Nothing worse than having a short collar,

having kind of cinched up on you, okay? Finish this collar, make sure your sweater body is finished, and we're gonna assemble.

Cuffs

- Alright, before we assemble, we're going to add our cuffs. Right here you're either going to be looking at your cast-on edge or your bind-off edge of the body of the sweater. I've already marked off the center nine inches of the sweater. You can see right here that I just put some stitch markers right at the edge. This is where we are going to add the cuff and we're going to knit the cuff in two by two ribbing flat. So we're going to pick up stitches right here. Now to make sure that we pick up stitches as even as possible, I'm going to show you a little trick that I do with my stitch markers to space out or segment out this space, okay. The first thing I'm going to do is I'm going to bring these two points together and I'm going to just find the rough center point of this nine inches. Alright, and I'm just going to place a marker right there. Now I'm going to make this marker meet up to the center marker which gives me a point right here and then I'm going to do the same with the opposite side. Make sure it's, you know, just eyeball it, it's alright, okay. Now as I space this out, I'm going to make sure those are clipped so that I don't have them fall out. I have four different segments that I can pick up the 42 stitches. So I'm going to pick up 10 stitches, 11 stitches, 10 stitches, 11 stitches. This makes it really easy to make sure that you're picking up as even as possible across this nine inches. Now remember that I told you I'm going to show you how to do this with the crochet hook just to make it a little bit easier. I'm using a crochet hook that's the same size as the needle I'm going to use. And all I'm going to do is I'm going to take my crochet hook and go underneath the V of the stitch. I'm going to yarn over with my crochet hook and pull up a loop. Now all I do is I place that loop on my needle. Okay, so I have one loop picked up. I go over to the next stitch or the next space in my work, yarn over, pull up a loop, and place this on my needle. Now if I don't have enough stitches to work into for the number of stitches I need to put onto my needle, what I can do is instead of going through both loops here at the beginning, maybe I go in just through the front loop, okay, yarn over, pull up a loop, place it on my needle. It's falling out, what, alright. And then I can go into the back leg of that same stitch, yarn over, pull up a loop, and place it on the needle. So now essentially I made two stitches out of one. So I'm going to make sure I have 10 stitches until I get to that next marker. Wasn't that easy? It's so much easier to pick up your stitches with the crochet hook than trying to finagle the knitting needle into the stitch and yarning over and pulling up. So do yourself a favor, don't be shy of the crochet hook. It can be your friend. Use it to pick up the stitches. Now move along, you're going to go past that marker, and in the next section we're going to pick up 11 stitches. Once you've picked up all 42 stitches, you'll notice that it looks something like this. And remember, I was picking up stitches with the right side facing me, so you will begin on the wrong side 'cause your yarn is over here. So you will start off on the wrong side which is purl two knit two all the way to the end. So that way when you're looking at the right side, you're beginning with the knit two and ending with the knit two. You're going to knit the cuff flat continuing your knit two purl two ribbing until it measures six inches. You want it to be six inches so that way you have the option to wear the cuff nice, straight, and flat or maybe you cuff it up and make it you know a little bit cute and funky. Once you have the six inches, go ahead and bind off the cuff and we will do the seam. You should be familiar with the two by two rib because it's just a two purl two or purl two knit two, which ever way, and you'll notice here that I'm looking at the wrong side of my sweater. So I started off with a purl two then I jumped to a knit two and so on and so forth. You will also notice that the stitches begin to stack upon each other. So if you

forget what you're supposed to start off with, just pay attention to what the stitches are. If you're looking at knits, you're going to knit them. If you're looking at purls, you're going to purl them. Pretty simple stuff. Continue in your two by two rib for six inches and then bind off.

Assembling the cardigan

- You've made your cuff. Let's seam this together. As you look down here, you can see that my cuff is completely made, and all I'm gonna do is I'm gonna grab a corner of either side of where I've just done my cuff, and I'm going to fold them in just like so. I left these two markers here, so that I can have a point of reference of where my cuff began, right? Now I'm going to use the knit clips that I mentioned in the material section. I'm going to clip together different points of the piece. Meaning, I just want it to be as even as possible, and I don't like it to shift around on me as I'm working. So, I like to use these knit clips, because it just keeps everything nice and neat. And this big little tooth thing that comes out really secures against the fabric. See how it pops through. So, I find those really handy. Now, you move these are you're moving along obviously. So, as I would come to a knit clip, I will just remove it. So, this is just to hold things in place until I get to that point in the pattern. I've left a really super long tail when I bound off my cuff, because I'm gonna start at the cuff, and seam this direction to that point. To make sure that you can really see the seam, I'm using a contrasting color. But for your own sweater, make sure you use the yarn that's the same color as your project. I'm going to go ahead and attach my yarn down here, using a figure eight. So, I'm starting at one side, pulling up until there's a little bit of a tail, so that I could weave that in later. Come to the opposite side and pull up there, and then come back where I started. So now, I have the right side facing me, and I'm going to go right up between this stitch and this stitch. So, I'm gonna go in one, come up two. Can you see how I have two, I wanna call them bars on my needle? And I'm going to pull up my yarn. Now, I come to the corresponding side, make sure I'm between this stitch and this stitch, and pop up. - [Woman] Can you tell them this is a mattress stitch? - I am working the mattress stitch. I come back over here where I came out. Go in, pop up two bars, and pull up. Come in where I came out, two bars, and pull up. As I'm working along, you can see I didn't pull out really tight yet. But as I pull the tail and the working yarn, it pulls that stitch right here, right up against that stitch, and it looks relatively seamless. I'm gonna pop back over here. This is why I don't normally tie it together too quickly or pull it together too quickly, because I wanna be able to see where I came out. Otherwise, I get off track. You're seaming at the cuff matching up row for row. And when you get to the body of this one, or you're gonna match up stitch for stitch, go ahead and continue using the mattress stitch all the way down the seam. And then it's gonna look something like this. You can see the cuff is joined here. We have a beautiful mattress seam right here. To attach your color, you need to find the center point of the sweater in a back. So, you can do that very similar to the way we found the center point for the cuffs. Just grab your seem, joint it together, and then find the center point, and mark it. I put a little marker right there. Once you have that marked, grab the color that's already completed. For it in half, so that you have a center point of your color also, and then match it up. So, I'm gonna just take the center point. We're going to guestimate that it's right there. I wanna use my handy knit clips again. And I'm going to mark that point there. So, then I can just open this up and star to just place it, eyeball it. And using my knit clips, I can just pin it in place, and I have a choice. I can either do a mattress stitch to join this, or whipstitch. The biggest thing that's.. The most important factor is that we have the seam on the inside of the sweater. This is not a collar that's meant to flip out and cover the seam, like you might think where you put the seam out here, and so when this flips out, it's hidden. It's not that way.

That's not the case. You want the seam on the inside of the sweater. So, whichever way you choose, that's what you wanna do. So, I am just adding this collar all the way down the side here, and it looks so pretty I love it. Now, here's an important fact, if you're going to do mattress stitch just like on the seam, you wanna make sure the right side is facing you. If you're gonna do whip stitch, you wanna make sure you flip this, and the wrong side is facing you as you pin these. Okay? So, you just wanna decide which way you're going to do, because we want the seam on the inside, all right? Do, if I'm starting down here, this is where I would start doing my whip stitch. Just like we started on the cuff, I'm gonna use a contrasting color. And I'm over here, and I'm just going to join... And right now, I'm just gonna join just by pulling it through just like so. I'm doing it one more time. Ooh, I don't wanna slip my yarn. And then a whipstitch is simply that. You just make sure you go through both pieces of fabric, and you whip stitch them together. Now, because pinned it on the other side as I get to my marker, I'm gonna have to reach underneath and unpin. To remove, and then just kind of line them up. So, it still serves as the placeholder it needs to be, but this is all you would do. As far as seaming. And I wanna remind you, you wanna use the same color yarn that you use the body of the sweater, so that it's virtually invisible. Okay. Here we have a our beautiful sweater. Can you believe this was made with just a rectangle and essentially a scarf, super easy, right? And look how beautiful it is in this light gray heather color. It gives so much texture and dimension to the actual sweater. I love it. So, a couple things I wanna point first. I made the sweater so that it has kind of a natural roll at the bottom. Stockinette naturally rolls. And you might be thinking, "But weigh, Marley, "I did lace.." But lace is a knit on this side and then a pearl on this side. I like to have when this rolled up, It made it just a nice little finish at the bottom. So, as you're just doing this, that's perfectly normal. The there thing I wanna point out is that your collar, you'll see it comes up to a nice point and back down. This collar fills up the entire space of the sweater on the body. So you can make it worn out, like open like this, that's why we put the seem on the inside. You could flip it back if you wanted to. You have a lot of options. I'm saying all this to say the sweater is obviously oversized. It's mean tot be big. So even as you're a size small and you're making this, you're like, "Oh my gosh I feel like I'm making a blanket." Well, essentially you kind of are, but it's mean to be a big kind of cuddly blanket around your body. So, it's supposed to be big, you guys. The cuffs, once again, they're nice and long, you can wear them straight. You can wear them cuffed up. It's totally up to you, okay? There's so many options with this. I'm telling you, whether you make this for yourself, for the teenager in your life, or even some guys look really hot in this. You're gonna love it. It's so much fun to make. You've learned a lot of different skills that you can take and move on, and make other items in knitting. You are so good. I'm so proud of you for finishing this.