
Knitted Mug Cozy with Liana Allday

Chapter 1 - Knitted Mug Cozy

Overview

- Hi, I'm Leanna from Creativebug, and I love to make little gifts to give to people for Christmas. This mug cozy is super quick to knit up, it's not gonna take you much time at all, and if you pair it with a mug, it makes a perfect little gift.

Knit a linen stitch mug cozy

- You're going to need three skeins of yarn in three different colors, and the reason why you need three different colors is because we're going to be working in linen stitch, and it creates this really cool polka dot effect. So, they can be three colors of your choice. I'm going to be working with cream, red, and gray, and if you want it to go extra Christmassy, you can swap out the gray for a green. It's going to be a bulky yarn, and for your bulky yarn you'll need a size ten or ten and a half needle. Gauge isn't crucial, here, but you want to make sure that your needle is compatible with your yarn. You're also going to need a crochet hook. I'm using size I, but it really doesn't matter. It can be a similar size. A button, a tapestry needle, a sewing needle, sewing thread, and some scissors. To get started, we're gonna cast on 16 stitches. We're gonna start by making a slip knot. Leave a little tail, and slide your needle on. For the cast on, you can do any cast on you like, but I prefer doing this backward loop cast on. It's easy, and it makes a really cute little decorative edge. 15, 16. Now, I'm casting on 16 stitches with a bulky yarn, which is gonna give me a three inch wide cozy. If you have a mug that's taller or shorter, you can just cast on a couple more or a couple less. You just want to make sure that your mug has about half inch or an inch of space at the top so that you're not sipping your cozy. Linen stitch is a really simple pattern that looks complicated when it's done. All it requires is knit one, bring the yarn to the front, and slip one. This first row is sometimes a little squirrely, but you only have 16 stitches to get through. So, pull your yarn to the back, knit one, pull your yarn to the front, and slip one. You want to make sure you're slipping it purl-wise. Yarn to the back, knit one, yarn to the front, and slip. You're gonna knit one, slip one all the way to the end of that first row, and then you're ready to bring in your next color, which is going to be gray. And you're gonna start with a purl stitch, and just bring in your gray yarn, and this row is simply purl one, bring your yarn to the back, and slip one purl-wise. Bring your yarn to the front, purl one, bring your yarn to the back, slip one. Here, I'm to the front, purl one, here, I'm to the back, slip one. Purl one, slip one all the way across that second row with your gray, and when you get to the end of the row, you're gonna want to give those tails at the beginning of the second row a little tug 'cause they're probably a little loose. Just make sure they're nice and snugged up on the needle, and now, turn your work again. You're on a knit row again. This row is just like the first. It's knit one, slip one. So, lay in your red yarn, knit one, make sure you're not working with your tail, bring the yarn to the front and slip, yarn to the back, knit. Continue working knit one, slip one all the way to the end of the row, and now we're ready to start working with our white again. Now, we're on a purl row, and I'm gonna show you how to bring up the color along the side. You've got all of these tails, here. So, of course, ignore the two short tails. We're gonna be working with the white. You're probably going to need to give the white a little tug, just to make sure it's all nice and tight. And then, you just start purling across this row. Purl one, yarn to the back, slip one, yarn to the front, purl one. Continue working purl one slip one to the end of the row, and then turn the work and you're ready to work your next

color. Now, let's say you set this down and walk away and forget what order you were working in. It's really easy to get confused when you're working linen stitch, especially when you're working in three different colors. So, this is my tip for you: You'll see, here, I have only red and white yarns on my needle. That means that I'm ready to work the gray. So, whatever you have on your needle is not what you're going to be working with next. The next row is a knit row, and we're gonna be working with the gray. You don't want to twist it around the existing yarns or do anything fancy when you're bringing it up the side. Just pick it up and start working with it. It's gonna make a really nice twisted effect along the side. So, knit one, slip one, knit one, slip one. You're probably wondering how you can tell which side is the right side and which side is the wrong side. It can be a little bit confusing when you're first getting started, so I actually encourage you to just sit down and do the first six, seven, eight rows all in one go because the pattern will start emerging. So, don't take any breaks in those first seven, eight rows, but if you do get confused, take a look at your knitting. You'll see this is the right side of the knitting. These little Vs, here, are the knit stitches, and they're accented by these little bumps, and the bumps are the reason why you're pulling that yarn forward and backward between stitches. They're wrapping around the stitches to create these little bumps. But, overall, the look of the right side is this flat, kind of even knitting, and then the back side is all bumps. So, these are all of the purl bumps, and it'll really start to emerge. You'll see, after you work a few more inches like I have, here, this is what the purl side looks like. It creates a fun series of bumpy polka dots. And then, when you flip it over, this is what the right side looks like. And it also creates this cool polka dot effect, but you can see it's flat and almost woven looking. There's no bumps at all. You want to keep working until your fabric is about ten inches or nearly touches the handles. You don't ever want them to connect. The last row that you work needs to be a purl row, and you want it to be in the color that you started with. So, I've already done my last purl row in white, and now we're ready to bind off. To bind off, you're gonna go ahead and work with your white and bind off eight stitches just in the normal way. So, knit two, slide that one off the needle, knit another one, slide your yarn off the needle. When you have eight stitches left on your left needle and one stitch left on your right needle, it's time to grab your crochet hook. You may have been wondering what this is for. Take that needle out of the one stitch, put in your crochet hook, and now you're going to chain eight stitches. Super easy, just grab the yarn with your hook and pull it through. You do that eight times. And this is gonna be your button closure. When you have eight chains, you're ready to connect it back to the beginning so go ahead and stick your hook back in through that first white stitch, there, and chain through both of them. So, now your loop is connected. Now, put that stitch back onto your needle and continue binding off. Cut the yarn and fasten it off, and then we're ready to sew on the button. I've already threaded my needle, and I doubled my thread, and I did not tie a knot in the end. And now, we're just gonna place the button right here in the middle at the edge, and I like to start on the right side and just bring my needle up. Leave a little tail, here. And then, I go all the way through to the back. So, don't pull too tight. You're gonna bring your tail through. And just go through all the holes a few times, maybe three or four. Go ahead and pull your needle up to this middle layer when you're done, and then, you're just gonna wrap it around the button a few times. And take your needle right through the middle on the back side of the button, and then tie a little knot or two. And go ahead and cut your tails. And now, you just need to weave in your ends on the wrong side. I'm just going beneath the bumps, here. I'm trying to stay within the pattern, even though nobody's gonna see this 'cause it will be on the inside of your mug. When you've gone through a few, you can just trim them off. Weave in your ends and your cozy is ready to wrap around your mug. Now, it should fit a little bit snugly 'cause knit fabric

stretches. You don't want a droopy cozy. Look how cute this looks! I think this makes the perfect holiday gift, especially if you match it with a really nice mug. And here I have a variation that I did using green instead of gray, which adds a little bit of extra Christmas spirit.