FREE KNITTING TUTORIAL

Linen Stitch Knitting

How to knit linen stitch in 1 or 2 colours, plus a zip pencil case · US terms

SKILL LEVEL	PRACTICE	YARN
Beginner	**Pencil case / pouch**	**Worsted (#4), 2 colours**
NEEDLES	**STITCHES**	**TIME**
US 8 (5 mm)	**k, p, sl wyif, sl wyib**	**About 5–6 hours**

Materials

- Worsted (#4) yarn in navy and mustard (about 75 yd each for the pencil case)
- US 8 (5 mm) needles, tapestry needle, a zip, sewing needle and thread

Abbreviations (US terms)

k / p knit / purl
sl wyif slip 1 purlwise with the yarn in front
sl wyib slip 1 purlwise with the yarn at the back
RS / WS right / wrong side

Gauge: 26 sts and 44 rows = 4 in (10 cm) in linen stitch, a typical value for worsted on US 8. Linen stitch pulls in a lot.

Pencil case

Cast on	With navy, cast on 51 sts (an odd number).	**(51)**
Row 1 (RS)	Navy: k1, *slip 1 purlwise with the yarn in front, k1; repeat from * to the end.	**(51)**
Row 2 (WS)	Navy: p1, *slip 1 purlwise with the yarn at the back, p1; repeat from * to the end.	**(51)**
Rows 3–4	Mustard: as rows 1–2. Don't cut the yarn: carry it up the side.	**(51)**
Rows 5–76	Repeat rows 1–4. The piece measures about 6.9 in (18 cm).	**(51)**
Bind off	With navy, bind off loosely in pattern (or with a needle 1 size bigger).	**(0)**
Make up	Fold in half with the cast-on and bind-off edges together at the top, right side out. Mattress stitch both sides. Sew a zip into the top opening.	

Pouch

Cast on	With navy, cast on 45 sts (an odd number).	**(45)**
Row 1 (RS)	Navy: k1, *slip 1 purlwise with the yarn in front, k1; repeat from * to the end.	**(45)**
Row 2 (WS)	Navy: p1, *slip 1 purlwise with the yarn at the back, p1; repeat from * to the end.	**(45)**
Rows 3–4	Mustard: as rows 1–2. Don't cut the yarn: carry it up the side.	**(45)**
Rows 5–112	Repeat rows 1–4. The piece measures about 10.2 in (26 cm).	**(45)**
Bind off	With navy, bind off loosely in pattern (or with a needle 1 size bigger).	**(0)**

Make up	Fold in half with the cast-on and bind-off edges together at the top, right side out. Mattress stitch both sides. Sew a zip into the top opening.

What's exact, what's calculated

Exact	Every row in our knitting engine: odd count, half the stitches slipped on every row, 4-row colour repeat.
Calculated	Cast-on, rows and yarn from the gauge.
Assumed	The gauge.

How to Knit Linen Stitch

Knit 1, slip 1 with the yarn in front · the floats make the woven look

1 · Knit 1



yarn at the BACK
On a RS row, knit the first stitch.

2 · Yarn forward



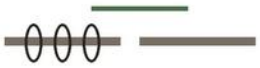
yarn in FRONT
Bring the yarn to the front between the needles.

3 · Slip 1



yarn in FRONT
Slip the next stitch purlwise. The yarn lies across its front: a little float.

4 · Yarn back, knit 1



yarn at the BACK
Take the yarn back between the needles and knit the next stitch. Repeat 2–4.

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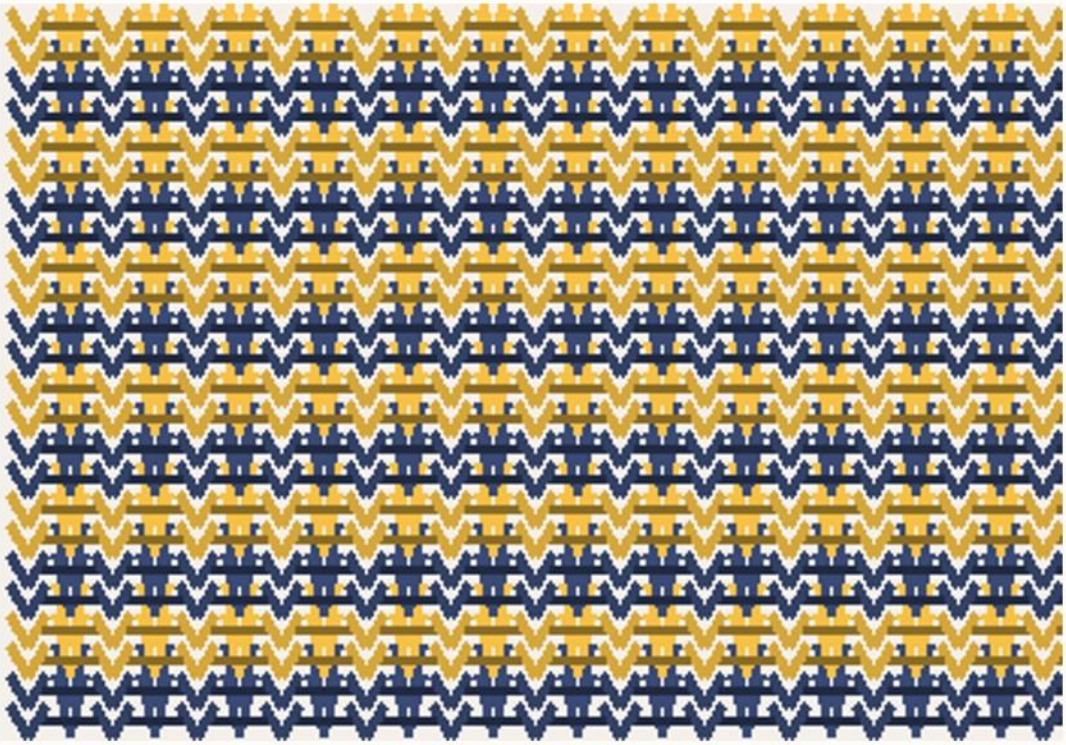
Linen Stitch · Simulated

24 rows × 25 sts from the knitting engine · navy and mustard, 2 rows each · the slips show as short floats



Each stitch is knitted on one row and slipped on the next, so the colours weave together instead of making plain stripes.

Linen Stitch Pouch · Sizes

Worsted (#4) yarn in 2 colours · US 8 (5 mm) needles · gauge 26 sts × 44 rows = 4 in in linen stitch

Size	Finished	Cast on	Rows	Worsted yarn	Zip
Pencil case	8 × 3.5 in (20 × 9 cm)	51	76	navy 75 yd, mustard 75 yd	8 in (20 cm) zip
Pouch	7 × 5 in (18 × 13 cm)	45	112	navy 95 yd, mustard 95 yd	7 in (18 cm) zip

Linen stitch is very dense: use needles 1–2 sizes bigger than the yarn label says, and bind off loosely.

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