FREE KNITTING TUTORIAL

Slip Stitch Knitting

How to knit slip stitch colourwork with one colour per row, plus a brick dishcloth · US terms

SKILL LEVEL	PRACTICE	YARN
Beginner	**Dishcloth, 2 sizes**	**Worsted (#4) cotton, 2 colours**
NEEDLES	**STITCHES**	**TIME**
US 7 (4.5 mm)	**k, sl1 wyib, sl1 wyif**	**About 2 / 3 hours**

Materials

- Worsted (#4) cotton in cream and sage (amounts in the size table)
- US 7 (4.5 mm) needles, tapestry needle

Abbreviations (US terms)

k	knit	**sl1 wyif**	slip 1 purlwise with the yarn in front
sl1 wyib	slip 1 purlwise with the yarn at the back	**A / B**	cream / sage

Gauge: 18 sts and 36 rows = 4 in (10 cm), a typical worsted cotton value in this garter-based pattern.

Washcloth

Cast on	With cream (A), cast on 35 sts.	**(35)**
Rows 1–4	A: knit.	**(35)**
Pattern row 1–2	A: knit 2 rows.	**(35)**
Pattern row 3 (RS)	B (sage): k3, *sl1 with the yarn at the back, k3*; repeat to the end.	**(35)**
Pattern row 4 (WS)	B: k3, *sl1 with the yarn in front, k3*; repeat to the end.	**(35)**
Pattern rows 5–6	A: knit 2 rows.	**(35)**
Pattern row 7 (RS)	B: k1, *sl1 wyib, k3*; repeat to the last 2 sts, sl1 wyib, k1.	**(35)**
Pattern row 8 (WS)	B: k1, sl1 wyif, *k3, sl1 wyif*; repeat to the last st, k1.	**(35)**
Repeat	Work pattern rows 1–8 8 times in all. Carry the unused colour loosely up the side; don't cut it.	**(35)**
Finish	A: knit 4 rows. Bind off knitwise. Weave in the ends.	**(0)**

Dishcloth

Cast on	With cream (A), cast on 43 sts.	**(43)**
Rows 1–4	A: knit.	**(43)**
Pattern row 1–2	A: knit 2 rows.	**(43)**
Pattern row 3 (RS)	B (sage): k3, *sl1 with the yarn at the back, k3*; repeat to the end.	**(43)**

Pattern row 4 (WS)	B: k3, *sl1 with the yarn in front, k3*; repeat to the end.	**(43)**
Pattern rows 5–6	A: knit 2 rows.	**(43)**
Pattern row 7 (RS)	B: k1, *sl1 wyib, k3*; repeat to the last 2 sts, sl1 wyib, k1.	**(43)**
Pattern row 8 (WS)	B: k1, sl1 wyif, *k3, sl1 wyif*; repeat to the last st, k1.	**(43)**
Repeat	Work pattern rows 1–8 10 times in all. Carry the unused colour loosely up the side; don't cut it.	**(43)**
Finish	A: knit 4 rows. Bind off knitwise. Weave in the ends.	**(0)**

What's exact, what's calculated

Exact	Every row in our knitting engine: no floats on the front, each slip held 2 rows, bricks offset.
Calculated	Stitches, repeats and yarn from the gauge.
Assumed	The gauge.

How to Knit Slip Stitch Colourwork

Slip stitches pull the colour from the row below · always 1 colour per row

1 · One colour per row



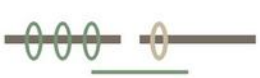
knit with the new colour
Knit with the new colour; the other waits at the side.

2 · Slip 1 purlwise



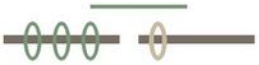
slip 1 purlwise
Slip the stitch from the row below without knitting it: it keeps its old colour.

3 · On the RS: yarn back



yarn at the BACK (RS)
On right-side rows, keep the yarn at the back while you slip.

4 · On the WS: yarn front



yarn in FRONT (WS)
On wrong-side rows, bring the yarn to the front, so the float stays on the back.

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Slip Stitch Bricks · Simulated

23 sts × 26 rows from the knitting engine · cream and sage, one colour per row



The cream stitches slipped on the sage rows stretch up over them and frame the sage 'bricks'.

Slip Stitch Dishcloth · Sizes

Worsted (#4) cotton in 2 colours · US 7 (4.5 mm) needles · gauge 18 sts × 36 rows = 4 in

Size	Finished	Cast on	Pattern repeats	Rows	Worsted cotton
Washcloth	8 × 8 in (20 cm)	35	8	72	cream 55 yd, sage 35 yd
Dishcloth	10 × 10 in (25 cm)	43	10	88	cream 80 yd, sage 50 yd

Any width: cast on a multiple of 4, plus 3.

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