FREE KNITTING TUTORIAL

Three-Needle Bind Off

How to do the three-needle bind off, plus a drawstring pouch in 2 sizes · US terms

SKILL LEVEL	PRACTICE	YARN
Advanced beginner	**Drawstring pouch, 2 sizes**	**Worsted (#4) cotton**
NEEDLES	**STITCHES**	**TIME**
US 7 (4.5 mm)	**k, p, yo, k2tog, 3-needle BO**	**About 3 / 5 hours**

Materials

- Worsted (#4) cotton: 75 yd (small) or 130 yd (medium)
- US 7 (4.5 mm) DPNs or a short circular, plus 1 spare needle, stitch marker, tapestry needle

Abbreviations (US terms)

k / p	knit / purl	**k2tog**	knit 2 together
yo	yarn over	**3-needle BO**	three-needle bind off

Gauge: 20 sts and 28 rounds = 4 in (10 cm) in stockinette, a typical worsted cotton value.

Pouch, Small

Cast on	Cast on 44 sts on double-pointed needles or a short circular. Join in the round without twisting; place a marker.	**(44)**
Rounds 1–4	*K1, p1*; repeat to the end.	**(44)**
Round 5 (eyelets)	*Yo, k2tog*; repeat to the end (22 eyelets).	**(44)**
Rounds 6–7	*K1, p1*; repeat to the end.	**(44)**
Rounds 8–42	Knit. The pouch measures about 6.0 in (15 cm) from the cast-on.	**(44)**
Divide	Turn the pouch inside out (wrong side out). Put the first 22 sts on one needle and the last 22 on a second needle; hold them parallel, the marker at one side.	**(44)**
Three-needle bind off	With a third needle: *knit the first st of the front needle together with the first st of the back needle*; do it again, pass the first st on the right needle over the second. Repeat across until 1 st is left (22 pairs). Cut the yarn and pull it through. Turn right side out.	**(0)**
Drawstring	Make a twisted cord about 24 in (61 cm) long and thread it in and out of the eyelets. Knot the ends.	

Pouch, Medium

Cast on	Cast on 60 sts on double-pointed needles or a short circular. Join in the round without twisting; place a marker.	**(60)**
Rounds 1–4	*K1, p1*; repeat to the end.	**(60)**

Round 5 (eyelets)	*Yo, k2tog*; repeat to the end (30 eyelets).	**(60)**
Rounds 6–7	*K1, p1*; repeat to the end.	**(60)**
Rounds 8–56	Knit. The pouch measures about 8.0 in (20 cm) from the cast-on.	**(60)**
Divide	Turn the pouch inside out (wrong side out). Put the first 30 sts on one needle and the last 30 on a second needle; hold them parallel, the marker at one side.	**(60)**
Three-needle bind off	With a third needle: *knit the first st of the front needle together with the first st of the back needle*; do it again, pass the first st on the right needle over the second. Repeat across until 1 st is left (30 pairs). Cut the yarn and pull it through. Turn right side out.	**(0)**
Drawstring	Make a twisted cord about 30 in (76 cm) long and thread it in and out of the eyelets. Knot the ends.	

What's exact, what's calculated

Exact	Every round in our knitting engine; bottom pairs modelled, 1 loop left.
Calculated	Stitches, rounds and yarn from the gauge.
Assumed	The gauge.

How to Do the Three-Needle Bind Off

join 2 sets of live stitches and bind off at the same time · a neat, flat seam

1 · 2 needles, parallel



Hold the 2 needles side by side, right sides together, points to the right.

2 · Through both



Insert a third needle knitwise into the first st on the front needle AND the first st on the back needle.

3 · Knit them together



Knit the 2 sts as one. Do it again: now there are 2 sts on the right needle.

4 · Pass over



Pass the first st over the second, as in a normal bind off. Repeat to the end.

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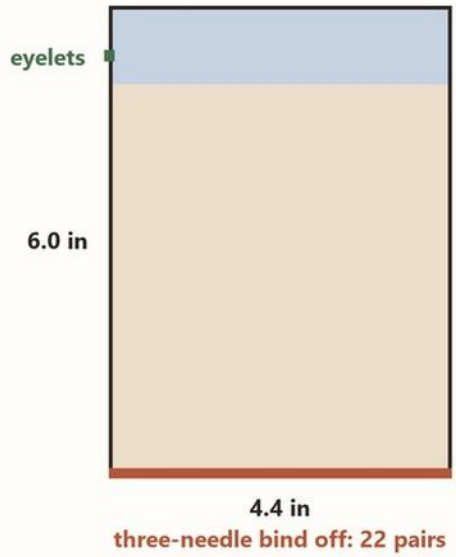
Drawstring Pouch · Small

44 sts in the round × 42 rounds · laid flat: 22 sts across



Blue band = 1x1 rib with the eyelet round (22 eyelets) · orange line = the three-needle bind off seam
The round starts at one fold, so the bottom seam runs straight between the 2 folds.

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Drawstring Pouch · Sizes

Worsted (#4) cotton · US 7 (4.5 mm) DPNs or circular · gauge 20 sts × 28 rounds = 4 in in stockinette

Size	Flat size	Cast on	Rounds	Three-needle BO	Worsted cotton
Small	4.5 × 6 in (11.4 × 15 cm)	44	42	22 pairs	75 yd
Medium	6 × 8 in (15.2 × 20 cm)	60	56	30 pairs	130 yd

Any size: a multiple of 4 sts. The drawstring yardage is included.

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