



Garter stitch leaf

More of a leafy recipe than a pattern - how you use the leaves you knit is up to you.

I knitted the leaves in the photograph using hand-dyed Aran (worsted) pure wool yarn and 5mm (US size 8) needles. Each leaf is about 12cm (4³/₄in) long, not including the I-cord stalk. You can knit a basic leaf in any weight of yarn with a suitable size of DPNs.

Basic leaf

Cast on 3 sts and make a short length of I-cord.

Turn and work set-up row of K1, P1, K1.

Row 1: (RS) K1, M1R, K1 (centre st), M1L, K1. (5 sts)

Row 2: K2, P1, K2.

Row 3: K2, YO, K1, YO, K2. (7 sts)

Row 4: K3, P1, K3.

Row 5: K3, YO, K1, YO, K3. (9 sts)

Row 6: K4, P1, K4.

Row 7: K4, YO, K1, YO, K4. (11 sts)

Row 8: K5, P1, K5.

Row 9: K5, YO, K1, YO, K5. (13 sts)

Row 10: K6, P1, K6.

Row 11: K6, YO, K1, YO, K6. (15 sts)

Row 12: K7, P1, K7.

Row 13: K7, YO, K1, YO, K7. (17 sts)

Row 14: K8, P1, K8.

Row 15: K8, YO, K1, YO, K8. (19 sts)

Row 16: K9, P1, K9.

Rows 17 to 22: K to end of row.

Rows 23 & 24: K to last 2 sts, K2tog.

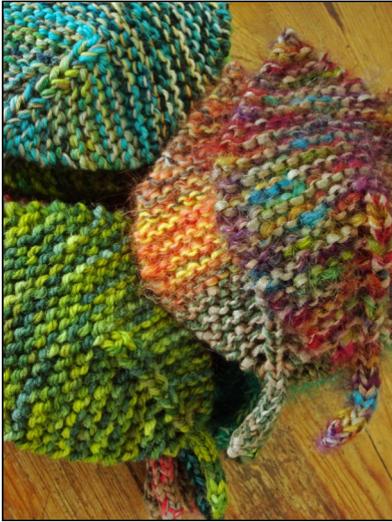
Rows 25 & 26: K to end of row.

Row 27: K to last 2 sts, K2tog.

Repeat Row 27 until 2 sts remain.

Next Row: K2tog.

Fasten off yarn ends.



Variations

I combined different weights of yarn to make some of the leaves in the above photographs, holding two or more yarns together as I worked. Try making a leaf with two strands of sock yarn; one strand of DK (light worsted) & one of space-dyed mohair; two strands of mohair & one of sock yarn. The possibilities of mixing colours and textures in the same leaf are endless.

Although the basic leaf with its rounded base and pronounced rib is the one I like best, why not try out the variations below and find your own favourite leaf.

Small leaf

Work Rows 1 to 10 of basic leaf pattern. (13 sts)

Then repeat Row 27 until 2 sts remain.

Next Row: K2 tog.

Long leaf

Work Rows 1 to 26 of basic leaf pattern.

Then repeat Rows 23 to 26 until 2 sts remain, ending with a Row 23.

Next Row: K2 tog.

Solid leaf

Work as for basic leaf pattern, but replace all YOs before centre stitch with M1R and all YOs after centre stitch with M1L.

Notes: YO is an increase that makes a decorative hole - bring yarn forward between needle tips, take yarn back over the needle and knit the next stitch. On the return row, knit the YO as if it were a stitch.

M1R is an increase that slants to the right - take tip of left needle under strand between stitches from back to front and knit this loop through the front to make a new stitch.

M1L is an increase that slants to the left - take tip of left needle under strand between stitches from front to back and knit through the back of the loop to make a new stitch.

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