



Time for tea

WCY-108



Shown in cream, porcelain, petunia, smalt and confetti

Notions

3mm needles - 40cm circular needle and DPNs or longer circular for magic loop.

2.5mm crochet hook

Sharp ended scissors

Yarn

Five JC Rennie 4ply 10g miniballs in contrasting colours.

To fit a teapot of about 46cm (18 inches) diameter. Finished size about 18cm across.

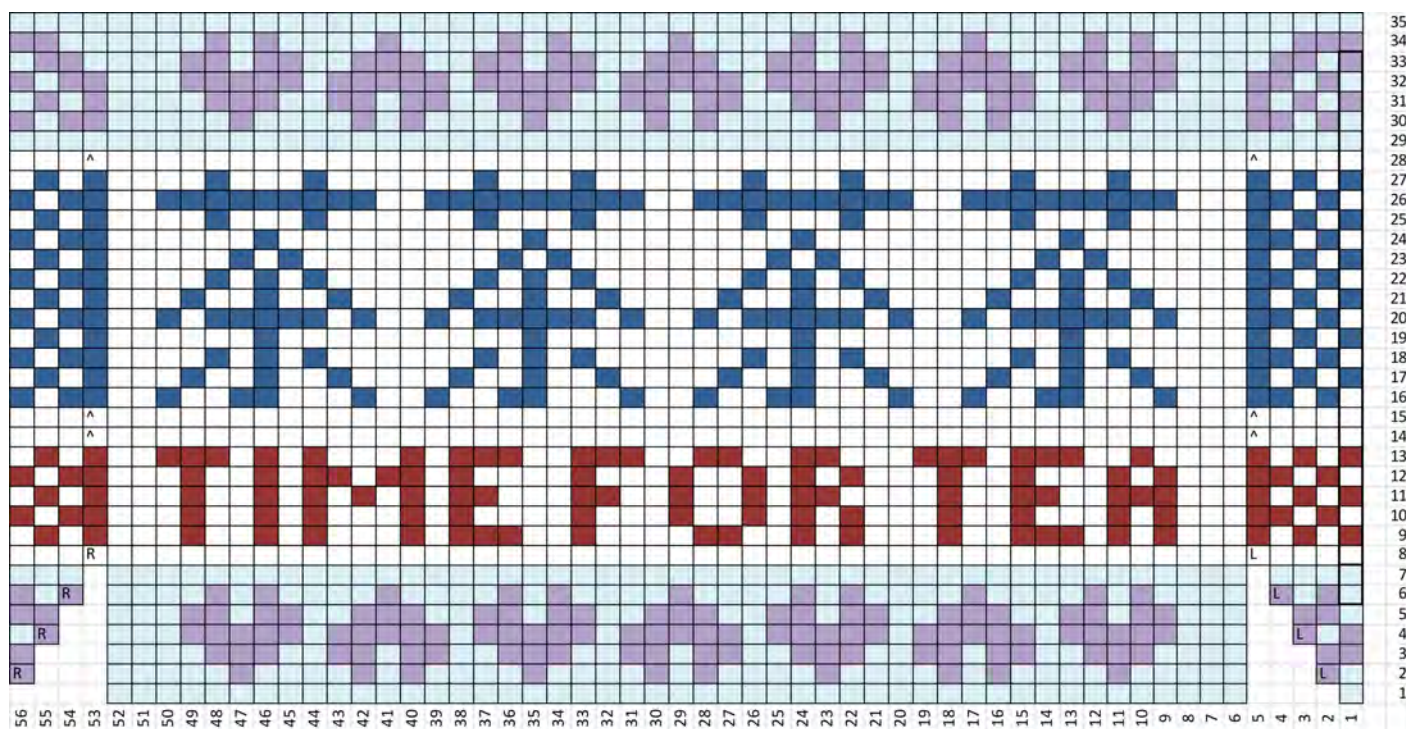


Chart A

Cast on 94 sts with colour I

Work in K1, P1 rib for 7 rounds.

On the next round work in K1, P1 rib and increase two stitches evenly, one at the beginning of the round and one after 47 sts. 96sts

Work chart A twice in each round, increasing at each end of the chart on alternate rounds as shown for the first ten rounds – 112 sts (work all charts from right to left and bottom to top).

The stripe up the sides of the steeks (stitches 5 and 53) won't be continuous unless you slip the contrast stitches on the rounds where only the background colour is worked.

Leave the ends long at the start of the round, this will be cut so the ends don't need weaving in except at the top and bottom 2 rows of the steek.

Once you have finished Chart A then switch to

Chart B which is worked 7 times around. The slipped stitch of the decrease is always in contrast. After chart B you should have 14 stitches.

Break the yarn, run the thread through the remaining stitches and gently pull up. Do this carefully as the yarn is quite fragile and you don't want it to break. Fasten off and weave in the ends that are outside of the steek.

Finishing

You should wash your teacosy before you steek it.

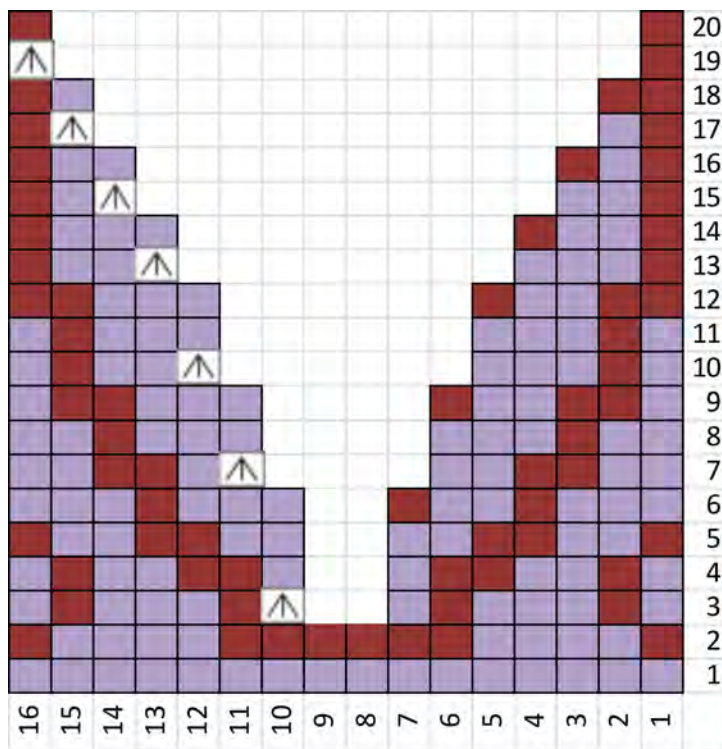
This will make the steek more secure as the stitches will stick together better. Fill a basin with warm water and a little detergent. Give the teacosy a good squish in this water to make sure the detergent gets all the way through. Leave it to soak for 10 minutes then rinse in warm water. Wash a second time in detergent and soak for 10 minutes. Rinse then roll it up in a towel and press to get the excess water out. Leave it to dry.

Steeking

The best way to try this method is to put 'crocheted steek' into YouTube you will find many excellent tutorials there

There are other ways to reinforce a steek, and some people don't use any reinforcement at all – this yarn is 'grabby' and you've washed it already so it shouldn't need anything. The benefit of the crocheted steek that I have used is that after you have cut that's it, no further finishing is necessary. The edge is formed by the row of crochet stitches.

The 'steek stitch' is the column of stitches to be cut, and this is the first stitch on the chart – column 1.



- ^ Slip this stitch
- R Make 1 right
- L Make 1 left
- ↑ Slip one, knit two together, pass slipped stitch over

Chart B

You will crochet up the left side of the steek first, from bottom to top, then down the right side from top to bottom. Put a slip stitch on the crochet hook and chain one.

Then insert the hook into the centre of the stitch to the left of the steek stitch (on row 3 of the chart) and out of the centre of the steek stitch. This will give you two 'legs' of the stitches (picture 1).

Pull a loop through these two half stitches – this gives you two loops on the hook (picture 2).

Now pull another loop through these two loops. This completes one stitch of double crochet (UK terminology)/ single crochet (US terminology). Insert the hook back into the centre of the stitch on the next row up and out of the steek stitch, pull a loop through then pull another loop through the two loops on the hook.

Work your way up the steek always getting one leg of the column of stitches to the left of the steek stitch and one leg from the steek stitch. Be careful not to get the right hand leg of the steek stitch caught up with this as you will be cutting the stitch between the left and the right leg.

When you reach the top of the steek (row 34 on the chart) then turn the work and make your first

crochet stitch across the steek stitch, then work back down the teacosy going into the middle of the stitch to the right of the steek stitch and out of the middle of the steek stitch.

These two legs will be the first two visible on this side of the first row of double crochet stitches you have just made. If the right leg of the steek stitch isn't visible then you may have crocheted it into the first row and you will need to pull it back and try again.

When you get back to the bottom of the steek (row 2 of the chart) then put a slip stitch into the first double crochet, break the yarn (leaving a tail to weave in) and pull the end through (picture 3).

Now you cut, I like sharp-ended scissors for accuracy. You are cutting the centre of the steek stitch, between the two rows of crochet stitches (picture 4).

You can start as close to row 2 as you like, and stop cutting before you get to the crochet at the top. And that's it. Weave in the ends of the crochet and any ends that are outside of the steek (the ends in the steek shouldn't need weaving in as they will be cut just like the other yarns in this section)



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4



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