

Project #3:

Braid and Behold Basket

Knitting level: Advanced



Picture this beautiful basket in your craft room, **elegantly storing your yarns**, or keeping remote controls and magazines neatly organized in the living room.

Let's grab our needles and get started!

Please note that the yarn color in the instructional photos may vary from the color in your box.

And remember, you can always access your digital pattern with a **quick scan of the QR code!**



Materials:

- Three skeins of Woolen Caress yarn
- US 7 (4.5mm) circular needles (from your previous boxes)
- Double-pointed needle (from your previous boxes)
- Scissors
- Stitch markers

Terms and abbreviations used:

- K - knit
- P - purl
- Sl - slip

Base

Cast on 25sts.

Row 1 and all odd rows till row 49

K all sts.

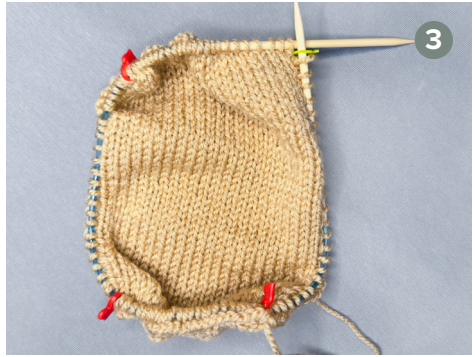
Row 2 and all even rows till row 50

P all sts. (image 1)

Pick up 25sts on all sides of the square. You will have 25sts on each edge of the project, 100sts in total.

Place the stitch marker or use extra yarn and wrap it after each 25sts. You will have 4 markers. (images 2, 3)





Body of the basket

Knit in a circle.

Rounds 1-5

K100

1st loop of the braid

Round 6

*Row 1

After the stitch marker K4, turn the project (4sts) around.

*Row 2

P4, turn the project around.

Rows 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13

K4, turn the project around.

Rows 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14

P4, turn the project around.

Slip these 4sts into an extra double-pointed needle. Twist the cable and slip the 4sts back to the right needle (the last stitch worked will be the last stitch slipped), k21. (images 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)





Repeat these * instructions to make three more loops for a braid. In total, you will make four loops around the circle. (images 9, 10)



Rounds 7-11

K100.

2nd loop of the braid

Round 12

Repeat round 6 instructions.



Pull the 1st loops over the second loops to make a braid. (images 11, 12, 13, 14)

Rounds 13-17

K100.

Repeat rounds 6-11 instructions to make 7 more loops (9 loops for each braided corner).

10th loop of the braid

When you reach round to make the 10th loop of the braid

*Row 1

After the stitch marker k4, turn the project around.

Row 2

P4, turn the project around.

Rows 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27

K4, turn the project around.

Rows 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28

P4, turn the project around.

Slip these 4sts into an extra double-pointed needle. Twist the cable and slip the 4sts back to the right needle (the last stitch worked will be the last stitch slipped). K21, repeat these * instructions to make the 10th loop for the braid.

After making the last 10th loop, k100 for 10 rounds and cast off the sts.

Use a needle and sew the 10th loops into the edge of the basket to secure them nicely. (image 15)



Mastering stiffening techniques for your craft projects

When your knitted projects need extra structure and shape, using the right stiffening technique can enhance their durability and appearance.

Here are some reliable methods tailored specifically for yarn crafts, ensuring your pieces hold their form perfectly.

Starch solution

Starch is a time-tested favorite for providing firmness to knitted items, particularly **useful for delicate pieces** like lace doilies and decorative ornaments.

How to apply:

- Dissolve cornstarch in equal parts of water until smooth.
- Submerge your craft in the solution, squeeze out the excess gently, and mold to your desired shape.
- Allow it to air dry on a flat surface or over a form to maintain the shape.

Sugar water technique

The sugar water method offers a strong, clear set, ideal for items that need to **maintain transparency and avoid yellowing** over time.

How to apply:

- Combine two parts of sugar with one part of water and heat until the sugar is completely dissolved.
- Dip your project into the syrup, ensure it's thoroughly coated, and shape as needed.
- Let it dry completely for a stiff, crisp finish.

Commercial fabric stiffeners

Commercial fabric stiffeners are excellent for projects requiring **more significant rigidity**. These products are specifically formulated to work with textile fibers, ensuring that your projects are stiff and durable.

How to apply:

- Brush the stiffener onto your project, or dip the item entirely for an even coating.
- Mold into shape using a suitable form and let it dry fully.

Care after stiffening

Taking care of your stiffened crafts is super important to keep them looking great. Here are some easy tips to follow:

Keep it dry: If your item doesn't really need a wash, keep it away from water. Water can make the stiffening go soft and might even wash it away.

Wash gently: If your craft needs a clean, just give it a gentle rinse with some cold water and mild soap. Scrubbing too hard can mess up the stiffness.

Touch up when needed: Sometimes, you might need to stiffen your item a bit more after washing or after a while to keep it nice and firm.

Dry it right: Let your crafts air dry in the right shape. Don't use a dryer or heat because that can change their shape and softness.

Stick to these tips, and your stiffened projects will keep looking awesome!