

# Basic Pillow Covers

EASY

Mini, Small, Medium, and Large

A Knitting Pattern by Liz Chandler @PurlsAndPixels



## About This Pattern

With this pattern, you will make simple pillow covers by knitting in the round on circular needles. Using only the knit stitch creates a smooth, stockinette stitch pattern. The top and bottom edges of stockinette that has been knit in the round will naturally curl. When you sew the edges of the pillow together, the curl adds a decorative touch to these basic pillowcases.

You can sew the edges with a simple “running stitch” and a strand of yarn in the same color. Or try using a contrasting yarn color or a fancy ribbon to make your pillows more unique. Once you are finished, you can leave the pillows plain for a minimalist look. Or decorate them with embroidery, faux flowers, or applique patches.



## Basic Pillow Covers



### Sizes:

Mini, Small, Medium, and Large

### Gauge:

18 stitches x 24 rows = 4 x 4 inches in stockinette stitch on No. 8 (5.0 mm) needles.

### Yarn Suggestions:

Use any yarn fiber you like for this project; acrylic, cotton, wool, alpaca, silk, bamboo, and fiber blends are all suitable choices.

## Materials

### Knitting Needles

#### Extra-Short Circular Needles (for size mini)

- 12-inch (30 cm) long US No. 8 (5.0 mm) circular needle (or size needed to obtain gauge)

#### Short Circular Needles (for size small)

- 16-inch (41 cm) long US No. 8 (5.0 mm) circular needle (or size needed to obtain gauge)

#### Long Circular Needles (for sizes medium and large)

- 36-inch (91 cm) long US No. 8 (5.0 mm) circular needle (or size needed to obtain gauge)

### Yarn

- One or two 315-yard (6 ounce) skein of worsted weight yarn\* (shown in Caron Simply Soft Yarn), in your choice of color.
  - Mini size uses about 52.5 yards (1 oz)
  - Small size uses about 204.75 yards (3.9 oz.)
  - Medium size uses about 315 yards (6 oz.)
  - Large size uses about 388.5 yards (7.4 oz.)

### Pillow Insert

- One square pillow-insert in the correct size.
  - Mini size requires a 5-inch x 5-inch (12.7 cm) pillow
  - Small size requires a 12-inch x 12-inch (30.48 cm) pillow
  - Medium size requires a 16-inch x 16-inch (40.64 cm) pillow
  - Large size requires an 18-inch x 18-inch (45.72 cm) pillow

**Tools:** One marker, a measuring tape, and a darning needle.

\*Weights estimated with Caron Simply Soft yarn; other yarn weights may vary. Weight does not include gauge swatch. A 4x4 inch gauge swatch with a 2 row by 3 stitch border uses an additional 21 yards (0.4 oz.).

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## Abbreviations

- k = knit



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## Instructions: Mini Size Pillow Cover

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*(Fits 5-inch x 5-inch pillows; measures 6 inches x 10 inches when laid flat off the pillow)*

Use the long-tail cast on method. Knit in the round. **For this size, work with extra-short (12-inch) circular needles.** If desired, use a stitch marker to keep track of the beginning/ends of your rows/rounds by placing it between the last and first stitch of each row/round.

Row 1: Cast on 40 stitches.

Row 2: Join the round (taking care not to twist stitches) and k 40. (40 stitches)

Rows 3 – 46: k 40. (40 stitches) {Work should measure 10 inches at this point.}

Row 47: Bind off loosely in knit stitch pattern. Cut yarn, leaving an 8-inch tail, and pull through. Weave in ends. Block if desired.

Insert a 5-inch by 5-inch pillow into the cover. Thread a strand of yarn about two feet long in the same or a contrasting color onto a darning needle. Count about seven rows up from the bottom of the pillow; use this as a starting point to begin sewing the first end of the pillow closed. Use the holes created by the knitting to line up both sides and a “running stitch” to sew the bottom edge together. Tie off the loose ends. Count about seven rows down from the top of the pillow and sew the top edge closed in the same manner.

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## Instructions: Small Size Pillow Cover

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*(Fits 12-inch x 12-inch pillows; measures 13 inches x 17 inches when laid flat off the pillow)*

Use the long-tail cast on method. Knit in the round. **For this size, work with short (16-inch) circular needles.** If desired, use a stitch marker to keep track of the beginning/ends of your rows/rounds by placing it between the last and first stitch of each row/round.

Row 1: Cast on 86 stitches.

Row 2: Join the round (taking care not to twist stitches) and k 86. (86 stitches)

Rows 3 – 79: k 86. (86 stitches) {Work should measure 17 inches at this point.}

Row 80: Bind off loosely in knit stitch pattern. Cut yarn, leaving an 8-inch tail, and pull through. Weave in ends. Block if desired.

Insert a 12-inch by 12-inch pillow into the cover. Thread a strand of yarn about four feet long in the same or a contrasting color onto a darning needle. Count about seven rows up from the bottom of the pillow; use this as a starting point to begin sewing the first end of the pillow closed. Use the holes created by the knitting to line up both sides and a “running stitch” to sew the bottom edge together. Tie off the loose ends. Count about seven rows down from the top of the pillow and sew the top edge closed in the same manner.

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## Instructions: Medium Size Pillow Cover

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*(Fits 16-inch x 16-inch pillows; measures 17 inches x 21 inches when laid flat off the pillow)*

Use the long-tail cast on method. Knit in the round. **For this size, work with long (36-inch) circular needles.** If desired, use a stitch marker to keep track of the beginning/ends of your rows/rounds by placing it between the last and first stitch of each row/round.

Row 1: Cast on 112 stitches.

Row 2: Join the round (taking care not to twist stitches) and k 112. (112 stitches)

Rows 3 – 97: k 112. (112 stitches) {Work should measure 21 inches at this point.}

Row 98: Bind off loosely in knit stitch pattern. Cut yarn, leaving an 8-inch tail, and pull through. Weave in ends. Block if desired.

Insert a 16-inch by 16-inch pillow into the cover. Thread a strand of yarn about four feet long in the same or a contrasting color onto a darning needle. Count about seven rows up from the bottom of the pillow; use this as a starting point to begin sewing the first end of the pillow closed. Use the holes created by the knitting to line up both sides and a “running stitch” to sew the bottom edge together. Tie off the loose ends. Count about seven rows down from the top of the pillow and sew the top edge closed in the same manner.

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## Instructions: Large Size Pillow Cover

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*(Fits 18-inch x 18-inch pillows; measures 19 inches x 23 inches when laid flat off the pillow)*

Use the long-tail cast on method. Knit in the round. **For this size, work with long (36-inch) circular needles.** If desired, use a stitch marker to keep track of the beginning/ends of your rows/rounds by placing it between the last and first stitch of each row/round.

Row 1: Cast on 126 stitches.

Row 2: Join the round (taking care not to twist stitches) and k 126. (126 stitches)

Rows 3 – 106: k 126. (126 stitches) {Work should measure 23 inches at this point.}

Row 107: Bind off loosely in knit stitch pattern. Cut yarn, leaving an 8-inch tail, and pull through. Weave in ends. Block if desired.

Insert an 18-inch by 18-inch pillow into the cover. Thread a strand of yarn about four feet long in the same or a contrasting color onto a darning needle. Count about seven rows up from the bottom of the pillow; use this as a starting point to begin sewing the first end of the pillow closed. Use the holes created by the knitting to line up both sides and a “running stitch” to sew the bottom edge together. Tie off the loose ends. Count about seven rows down from the top of the pillow and sew the top edge closed in the same manner.