



DESIGN & MAKE

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Moss



Moss – knitted cushion



A knitted cushion that can be made from start to finish in a few hours- and worked on really chunky needles. Moss stitch for a moss cushion. The wool we've used varies in thickness, which is helpful for beginners as it will be hard to tell a mistake - a variation in pattern, from the variation in wool.

Just keep going, considering your pattern in tune with the random shapes of moss humps along a damp country lane or river edge.

Design

Knitting is a relaxing and restful thing to do on a winters evening in front of the fire - and with a pattern as easy as this you can probably watch a good film as well..

There has been a lot of interest in knitted homewares in the last few years , and that's fine as far as it goes- that is, if you love knitting and have masses of time, but there is little for the home that is both useful and simple. I love hand knitted furnishings, just prefer something I might reasonably have the time to make ! Anyway I just came across this wool when I was looking for something else, thought I'd give it a try, and I have to say, I'm really pleased with it.

For the back I used a piece of rustic woven wool in the same colour. The edges were frayed and the closure ties that hold the cushion pad in place were made from the same wool, also frayed. All very fitting, but very quick to do as well. A darker or lighter green would be equally effective - just different.

I have it in the study / den with terracottas and reds, but it comes out to the garden very often to cushion the old sidewalk chair that sits close by.

Make

THE STITCH

The principle of moss stitch over four rows is:

1st row - k2 p2

2nd row - p2 k2

3rd row - p2 k2

4th row - k2 p2

By keeping the number of stitches cast on divisible by four this pattern can be followed using as many stitches as you need to make the biggest cushion you like.

For a 35 cm (14") cushion cast on 28 stitches and work to 35 cms (14 ") ; for a 40 cm (16") cushion cast on 32 stitches; for a 45 cm (18") cushion cast on 36 stitches; for a 50 cm (20") cushion cast on 40 stitches.

The amount of rows needed and the exact size of cushion worked will depend on your tension. There's no need to make any allowance or adjustment as we're making a cushion, so the exactitude of finished size isn't really so important.


I chose to use the whole ball rather than have a few metres of wool left over, so my cushion came out at 35 cm x 40cm (14" x 16"). I then adapted a 40 cm pad to fit the cover.

This idea and pattern works for any wool and two or three wools could be worked together. It's the colour and texture that matter.

MATERIALS

For a 35cm (14") or 35 x 40 cm (14 "x 16") cushion:

1. Front: 1 (2) large balls of wool
2. Back: 1 piece of fabric - a wool that will fray, and that is approx 5 cms (2") bigger all round than the finished front. Here 40 cm x 45cm (16" x 18"). Cut to grain or pre-fringe.
3. Ties: short lengths of self fabric or ribbon offcuts.
4. Knitting needles: to suit the wool requirement
5. Cushion pad: 35 cm (14") square or 35 x 40 cm (14" x 16"). Or adapt a bought pad to fit , as needed.
6. Spare or other matching tapestry wool and a tapestry needle to stitch the knitted front to the back.

A photograph of a wooden chair with a green cushion, set in a garden. The chair is made of light-colored wood and has a square green cushion with frayed edges. It is surrounded by lush greenery, including a large green bush and a rosemary plant with white flowers in the foreground. A metal ring is visible in the background.

For the cushion back I used a piece of rustic woven wool in the same colour. The edges were frayed and the closure ties that hold the cushion pad in place were made from the same wool, also frayed. All very fitting, but very quick to do as well. A darker or lighter green would be equally effective - just different.

Make

TO MAKE THE CUSHION

1. Knit the wool into a square or rectangular piece.
2. Place the cushion back piece onto the worktable and then place the knitted work centrally over.
3. Pin the sides together, secure the corners, then the centre of each side, then continuing pinning the centre of each gap – this keeps the work tidy and flat.
4. Stitch the front to the back. Start at one corner, secure the threads, then stitch the next three adjacent sides to the backing; make sure that each corner is secure. The stitches will show on the back, so use a neat stitch – the simplest would be a small running or stab stitch.
5. Stitch the ties to the sides – it doesn't matter whether you stitch them on the inside or the outside, or if you have two or four, just position them until you like what you see. And make sure that the stitches are both secure, and neatly made.
6. Fill the cover with the pad, and plump it so that the corners are well filled .
7. Fringe the cushion edging by 1.5 – 2 cms (5/8" – 7/8") then tie the bows or knots.

Watchpoint ! The fringing or fraying needs to be evenly done, and you might prefer to pre-fringe the backing and the ties at the preparation stage.

OPTIONAL FINISHES

- * The cushion could be stitched closed, along the fourth side, if you prefer not to have ties.
- * Knitted ties would look equally good.
- * The back could be knitted, although I like the variation in texture and the slight overlap that can be seen from the front.
- * Any well coloured tweed, hunting or lowland plaid that reflects moorland, valley, damp or sparse countryside generally would look good for the back.
- * Many options for colour: similar knitting wools with plain backs might be reminiscent of blues for seashore, golds for desert, pinks for autumn moorland or summer hedgerow, whites for winter and greys for charcoal, oranges for winter fireside... ad infinitum.
- * This was so quick to make, that a whole set of chair seat cushions in just one week of evenings is not beyond the bounds of possibility.



An interior designers guide to home furnishings: something we all need help with, even if only for inspiration and encouragement to learn, to try, to follow our instincts, to learn by mistakes and to make it our own. To make furnishing our home the fun it should be - biographical, relevant to who we are and what we are doing.

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