Mother's Day Spa Set: Washcloth & Votive Sleeve

By MakerKnit.com

I designed this "spa set" as a Mother's Day gift for my mom. I wanted something that was personal and a little luxurious, so I chose to make a washcloth out of a scrumptiously-soft and lofty organic cotton. I also designed a small, lacy sleeve to dress up a votive candle holder. My mom loves candles and I hoped she'd enjoy the colorful votive in her bathroom, especially when soaking in the tub.

I bought a set of pretty soaps and some candles to include with the washcloth and votive and, voila!, a lovely "spa" gift set was born.

Yarns

Washcloth 1 hank Blue Sky Alpacas Worsted Cotton (100% organically grown cotton; 150yds/100g), in color 637 Raspberry.

Votive Sleeve 1 ball Rowan Siena (4ply 100% mercerized cotton; 153yds/50g), in color 676 Tandoori.

Needles & Notions

Washcloth US 7 (4.5mm) needles.

Votive Sleeve US 2.5 (3.0mm) dpns, set of 4.

Glass votive candle holder, 6 3/8" in circumference.

Stitch marker.

Darning needle to finish.

Gauges

Washcloth 25 sts = 4" in pattern.

Votive Sleeve 29 sts = 4" in pattern.

Finished Sizes

Washcloth approx. 8" square.

Votive Sleeve approx 2.25" tall and 6" in circumference.

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NOTES FOR THE WASHCLOTH

The pattern I chose is called "small quilted cross-stitch." It produces a dense, sturdy, and deeply-textured fabric, perfect for a washcloth. As a bonus, its reverse side is also attractive.

For the long-tail CO method, leave yourself a 45" tail when making your slipknot.

NOTES FOR THE VOTIVE SLEEVE

I chose a pattern called "vine lace," which naturally creates a ripple along the CO edge. I thought this scalloped edge would be a pretty detail for the votive but would be more appreciated near its top rather than its base. Thus the votive sleeve is knitted upside down; when you place the sleeve on your candle holder, put the BO edge at its base and show off the scalloped CO edge near the votive's top.

WASHCLOTH INSTRUCTIONS

CO 49 sts. Work in patt until washcloth measures desired size, ending with Row 2 of patt for the washcloth to appear symmetrical from top to bottom. BO kwise and weave in ends.

Small Quilted Cross-Stitch Pattern

Rows 1 & 3 (WS): k1, *p1, k1; rep from *.
Row 2: p1, *sl 1 kwise wyib, k1f&b, k1, psso last 3 sts made, p1; rep from *.
Row 4: p1, k1, p1, *sl 1 kwise wyib, k1f&b, k1, psso last 3 sts made, p1; rep from *, ending k1, p1.

Photo: The reverse (WS) of small quilted cross-stitch pattern.

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VOTIVE SLEEVE INSTRUCTIONS

CO 36 sts. Spread out sts over 3 dpns—13 sts, 10 sts, 13 sts. PM and join to work in the rnd, being careful not to twist sts. Rep rnds 1 through 4 of patt four times, then rnd 1 once more (17 rnds total). BO kwise and weave in ends. Block finished sleeve if desired.

Vine Lace Pattern

Rnds 1 & 3: k all sts.
Rnd 2: *k1, yo, k2, ssk, k2tog, yo; rep from *.
Rnd 4: *yo, k2, ssk, k2tog, k2, yo, k1; rep from *.

Photos: Finished votive sleeve; votive with candle lit.

ABBREVIATIONS

approx	approximately	oz	ounce(s)	st(s)	stitch(es)
BO	bind off	p	purl	St st	Stockinette stitch
CO	cast on	patt	pattern	tbl	through the back loop
dpns	double-pointed needles	PM	place marker	tog	together
k	knit	psso	pass slipped stitch over	WS	wrong side
kwise	knitwise, as if to knit	rnd(s)	round(s)	wyib	with yarn in back
k1f&b	knit into front of stitch	sl	slip	yd(s)	yard(s)
	and then into back of	ssk	slip one stitch knitwise,	yo	yarn over
	same stitch		slip another stitch	*	repeat starting point
k2tog	knit 2 stitches together		knitwise, then knit both		
mm	millimeter(s)		stitches together through		
			their back loops		