

Celtic Knit Aran Pillow

An adaptation of Celtic Knit Aran Pillow by Glenna C, first published in Canadian Living, November 2012. [Online link](#). [Ravelry link](#)

Adaptation by Sophia White

Supplies:

Yarn: 500-600 yds aran-weight yarn (approx. three 100g skeins) (slightly more if using worsted)

Needles:

- US size 7 / 4.5mm (or size to meet gauge) needles to knit in the round (24-29 inches in length for a single circular needle)
- Cable needle (can substitute with smaller dpn)
- 2 needles of the same size or smaller to bind off (dpn or straight needle; optional depending on your bind off method)
- Crochet hook of similar size (optional depending on preference)

Tapestry needle

Stitch markers: (paper clips work in a pinch)

- 2 in one color or style - "marker A"
- 6 in a different color or style than above - "marker B" (optional for cable marking)

16-inch square pillow form, or the equivalent volume in stuffing

1 button (1½ to 1¾ inch diameter or larger, depending on preference)

Gauge:

18 st and 24 rows = 4 inches square in stockinette (after blocking)

Description:

This pillow cover is worked in the round as a tube. To fashion it into a pillow shape, it is seamed at the bottom, and then fastened over the top with a triangular flap (like a purse) and a button.

PATTERN:

Lower Edge:

Cast on 160 stitches using a provisional cast on, such as the modified Crochet Cast-On (see **Resources**). Join in the round.

Row 1: k80 (front of pillow), PM-A on needle, k80 (back of pillow), PM-A.

Row 2: k80, sm-A, m1L, knit to M-A, m1L, sm-A. (front: 80st; back: 82st)

Row 3: k1, [k6, m1L] 12 times, k7, sm-A, p1, k to 1 st before M-A, p1, sm-A. (front: 92st; back: 82st)

Row 4: k7, p2, [k6, (p2, k2) twice, p4, k4, p4, (k2, p2) twice] 2 times, k6, p2, k7, sm-A, p1, k to 1 st before marker, p1, sm-A.

Pillow Body:

For each round, work Pillow Front from chart, then work Pillow Back as [sm-A, p1, knit to 1 st before marker, p1, sm-A].

Suggested placement for stitch markers “B” on chart:

- Between stitch 7 and 8 (both repeats)
- Between stitch 17 and 18 (both repeats)
- Between stitch 41 and 42 (second repeat only)
- Between stitch 51 and 52

Work until piece measures 16¼ inches from beginning or until pillow cover is about ½ inch from closing when pulled snugly over the pillow. Finish after an even round of the cable chart. Remove “B” stitch markers if using.

Note: it can be helpful to seam the bottom of the cover to get a more accurate sense of the pillow cover's length on the pillow.

Upper Edges:

Setup row: k1, k2tog, [k2tog, k7] 9 times, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k1 (80 stitches after decreases before M-A). Remove “A” markers.

Note: For an easier finish, omit the corner bind-off instructions and continue to the Front Flap section.

Turn work inside out.

Bind off corners as follows:

Left corner: Using the Three-Needle Bind-Off (see **Resources**), bind off 16 stitches on the front and back.

Note 1: It can be helpful to transfer the back 16 stitches to a new needle before starting the bindoff.

Note 2: You may need to adjust the number of stitches at each corner. Pillow should fit through the top of the cover without overly stretching the edges - the edges will be less stretchy after binding off.

Right corner: Working from the left corner to the right corner, put all but the last 16 stitches of the **back** on waste yarn. Transfer the remaining 16 stitches to a new needle or the end of your circular needle. With a separate ball of yarn, using the Three-Needle Bind-Off, bind off 16 stitches on the front and back.

Turn work right-side out.

Front flap (worked in rows):

Setup row: sl 1, purl to right corner bind-off edge

Work the following two rows until 4 stitches remain:

Row 1: sl 1, k1, ssk, ssk, k to 5 st before end of row, k2tog, k2tog, k1

Row 2: sl 1, p1, p2tog, p to 3 st before end of row, ssp, p1

Bind off using the knit bind-off. Crochet a chain stitch for 4 stitches or until the chain plus the bind-off edge forms the correct size for your button. Secure the chain stitch to the start of the bind-off edge.

Finish back (worked in rows):

Transfer stitches back onto your main needles. Using the ball of yarn from the right corner, work two rows flat. Cast off using the knit bind-off or other moderately stretchy bind-off.

Binding Off Lower Edge:

Pick up the provisional stitches onto your needle, beginning with the start of the round. Turn work inside out. Bind off using the Three-Needle Bind-Off.

Finishing:

Weave in ends using a tapestry needle.

Using the pillow in the pillow cover as a guide, determine where the button should be added to the pillow case. Mark the spot with a stitch marker or safety pin, remove the pillow, then secure the button to the pillow using your project yarn.

Resources:

Crochet Cast-On Resources:

[Roxanne Richardson YouTube | Provisional Cast On With Built-in Lifeline Using Crochet CO Nimble Needles blog | How to Knit a Provisional Cast-On with a Crochet Hook](#)

Three-Needle Bind-Off Resources:

[Roxanne Richardson YouTube | Three-Needle Bind Off \(3NBO\) Basics // Technique Tuesday Modern Daily Knitting blog | Techniques in Depth: Three-Needle Bind-Off](#)

Glossary:

k - knit

p - purl

M - marker

st - stitch

PM - place marker (type of marker to be placed follows abbreviation)

sm - slip marker

sl - slip purlwise

m1L - make 1 Left

ssk - slip, slip, knit

k2tog - knit 2 together

p2tog - purl 2 together

ssp - slip, slip, purl

[] - repeat instructions within brackets as directed

2/2 LC - 2/2 Left Cross cable - sl 2 st onto cable needle and hold to the front of work. k2 from left needle, k2 from cable needle.

2/2 RC - 2/2 Right Cross cable - sl 2 st onto cable needle and hold to the back of work. k2 from left needle, k2 from cable needle.







2/2 LPC - 2/2 Left Purl Cross cable - sl 2 st onto cable needle and hold to front of work. p2 from left needle, k2 from cable needle.

2/2 RPC - 2/2 Right Purl Cross cable - sl 2 st onto cable needle and hold to back of work. k2 from left needle, p2 from cable needle.

2/1 LPC - 2/1 Left Purl Cross cable - sl 2 st onto cable needle and hold to front of work. p1 from left needle, k2 from cable needle.

2/1 RPC - 2/1 Right Purl Cross cable - sl 1 st onto cable needle and hold to back of work. k2 from left needle, p1 from cable needle.

Chart 1 - Pillow Front

- knit
- purl
-  2/2 LC
-  2/2 RC
-  2/2 RPC
-  2/2 LPC
-  2/1 RPC
-  2/1 LPC
- Work twice

