

K2F (Knit to Fit) eSleeve



Knit a seamless sleeve for any size hand-held electronic device, from an MP3 player to a cell phone, an ebook reader to a tablet computer. The sleeve is knit back and forth on two double-pointed needles (for smaller projects) or one circular needle (for larger projects). This pattern provides an easy introduction to tubular double knitting and the I-cord bind-off with a button loop. See Notes for more information.

You will need:

- **Measurements of the electronic device** the sleeve is to fit; width and height. Decide which edge will be the ‘bottom’ or ‘spine’. This will be your cast-on edge, and the opposite edge will have the button(s).
- **Yarn**
 - Almost any wool or other ‘cushy’ or ‘bouncy’ yarn from fingering to bulky weight is recommended. Fingering to DK-weight yarns for smaller sleeves, or worsted to bulky weight for larger ones, usually give the best results. (Linen and some cotton yarns, for example, don’t provide as much protection from bumps as a bouncier yarn, but are attractive and useful.)
 - This project is great for handspun or hand-painted yarns, but semi-solid or solid color yarns are equally well suited, as they bring out the texture of the knitted fabric.
 - The amount of yarn required obviously depends on the size of the project, but in most cases, one 50g ball is plenty, possibly enough for several small items.
- **Needles**
 - **Main project:** Set of *double-pointed* (for smaller devices, such as cell phone or MP3 player) or *circular* needles (for any device, including ebook reader or tablet computer) of the size called for on the ball band, or one size smaller... OR whatever size needle gives you the result you like for your yarn!
 - **Cast on and bind off:** Two needles of any type, one size larger than the project needles
 - **For brief use when opening the pocket:** Two needles of any type, the same size or smaller than the project needles
- **One or two buttons**, number and size appropriate to your device
- **Yarn needle**
- **Two or four stitch markers** (short lengths of scrap yarn work well)

Abbreviations

kfb – knit in front and back of stitch

sl1 – slip one stitch as if to purl

yb – yarn in back of work

yf – yarn in front of work

k2togtbl – knit 2 stitches together through the back of the loops

Knitting a gauge swatch is mandatory. Matching a specific gauge is not an issue, but all measurements are based on the gauge YOU get with YOUR yarn and needles!

Using the project needles, cast on about 4” worth of stitches (at least 20) and knit a swatch in the pattern stitch at least 3 inches long.

Pattern stitch for swatch

Row 1: K1, P1 across.

Row 2: Knit the knits, purl the purls.

Row 3: P1, K1 across.

Row 4: Knit the knits, purl the purls.

Slip the needles out and measure your gauge in stitches per inch (including fractions of a stitch).

Multiply the gauge by the length of the cast-on edge of your device, then subtract 10% from the total. For example:

- 5 inches (measurement of device) x 5 sts/in (gauge of swatch) = 25
- **Subtract 10%** (2.5) = 22.5
- Drop down to the nearest number divisible by 4 = **Cast on 20 stitches**

To begin:

Cast on ____ sts. (Fill in the number from above calculation. *Must be a multiple of 4.*)

Setup row: Kfb across. Turn.

Rows 1 - 4: *K1, yf, sl1, p1, sl1, yb. Repeat from * across row. Turn.

Rows 6 – 8: *P1, sl1, yb, k1, yf, sl1. Repeat from * across row. Turn.

See Notes and Tips below, especially if this technique is new to you!

Continue in pattern to the height measurement of the device, ending with an even-numbered row.

Using 2 needles (preferably a smaller size than your project needles) held side by side, slip stitches from working needle; first stitch onto front needle, second stitch onto back needle, and continue alternating needles. This separates the sides and opens the pocket.

Slip the stitches from each of those needles back onto your project needles (double pointed or circular). Follow the instructions below based on the number of buttons for your project.

1 BUTTON: Measure and place (2) markers at the center of both sides of the top edge of the opening. Knit across to the first marker. (This is the back of the sleeve.)

With the working yarn, use the backward-loop method to CO 3 sts on the left needle and work...

I-cord bind off: *K2, k2togtbl. Slip 3 sts back onto the left needle.

Repeat from * until all stitches have been bound off and only 3 sts remain, then begin...

Plain I-cord: *K3, sl sts back onto left needle. Repeat from * until just long enough to fold in half and slip button through. Break yarn, leaving several inches to thread on yarn needle. Give the I-cord a half twist to make a crossed loop, and graft or sew the end to the CO stitches on the inside of the sleeve.

2 BUTTONS: Measure and mark both sides of the top edge of the opening in thirds, placing (4) markers. Knit across to the first marker. (This is the back of the sleeve.)

With the working yarn, use the backward-loop method to CO 3 sts on the left needle and work...

I-cord bind off: *K2, k2togtbl. Slip 3 sts back onto the left needle.

Repeat from * to the next marker (at 2/3 across the top), then begin...

Plain I-cord for first button loop:*K3, sl sts back onto left needle. Repeat from * until just long enough to fold in half and slip button through.

Bring the working needle back to the live stitches where you left off. Give the I-cord a half twist to make a crossed loop, then remove the marker and resume I-cord bind off until all stitches have been bound off and only 3 sts remain. Work plain I-cord for the second button loop.

Break yarn, leaving several inches, and thread on yarn needle. Give the I-cord a half twist to make the second crossed loop, and graft or sew the end to the CO stitches on the inside of the sleeve.

Finishing:

Thread a length of yarn on a large needle, and invisibly stitch the base of button loop(s) together to stabilize them.

Sew button(s) at the markers on the front, keeping the top edge of the button even with top edge of sleeve.



NOTES AND TIPS

- Tubular double knitting is a method of knitting a seamless tube on two needles, instead of using a set of 4 or 5 double-pointed needles or a circular needle. Front and back stitches are alternated on the working needle; the front stitch is worked in pattern, the yarn brought forward and the next (back) stitch is slipped, and so on. **As long as the yarn is brought forward each time a stitch is slipped and moved to the back again** (according to the stitch pattern), the two sides will open almost magically as a finished pocket!
- Two rows of tubular double knitting are the equivalent of one round of circular knitting.
- **Check frequently** to make sure the sides of the tube are separate; just tug the two sides apart. You should have a 'pocket' the length and width of the work. *If you find that the sides do not separate at any point, you have missed a yf or yb!* **You must rip back to that point to correct the error.**
- On the other hand, stitch pattern errors (having knitted a stitch instead of purling it, for example) can be corrected; drop one or more stitches off the working needle and 'ladder' down to the problem area. Fix it and then use a crochet hook to pick the stitches back up in pattern to the working row and replace on the needle.
- The swatch gauge is different from the gauge of the finished item because the stitches from the 'other side' between each of the working stitches spread out the fabric and loosen the gauge just a bit. This doesn't happen when knitting the swatch as a flat piece.