

Button Bands

These simple wristbands are fun to knit and even more fun to decorate with all sorts of buttons. To make one you need a small amount of 4 ply yarn and size 2.75mm / US size 2 needles. My bands are about 2.5cm / 1" wide and 18cm / 7" long, they will stretch on the wrist and can easily be made longer if needed.



First knit your band...

I slipped all first sts knitwise throughout this project, do this if it suits you, if not, don't.

Using the long tail method, cast on 9 sts and knit 3 rows.

Now make a 'frame' for the first button:

Row 1: K3, P3, K3.
Row 2: Knit.
Row 3: K3, P3, K3.
Row 4: Knit.
Row 5: K3, P3, K3.
Row 6-10: Knit.



Work this ten row section nine times in all. If you want a longer

band just work more repeats at this point, each one adds about 2cm / $\frac{3}{4}$ " to the finished length.

Now make the buttonhole to fasten the wristband:

- Row 1:** K3, cast off 3, K3 (including st on right needle).
- Row 2:** K3, cast on 4 (yes, 4), K3.
- Row 3:** K6, K2tog, K2.
- Row 4:** Cast off 1 st, knit to end.
- Row 5:** Cast off 1 st, knit to end.

Cast off.

I find that casting on an extra stitch over the buttonhole like this produces a neater result but you can of course make your buttonholes as you choose.



Now comes the fun bit, choosing the buttons to decorate your band. As you can see, I got a bit carried a way at this point and had to keep knitting more and more bands as I found so many exciting buttons. I sewed my buttons on with sewing thread rather than wool and, remember, the end button needs to be big enough to hold the band securely when buttoned up.



Variation

The eagle-eyed among you will have spotted that one of my Button Bands isn't actually decorated with buttons. I experimented with a two colour version and the result was rather pleasing, the lighter coloured central section looks almost as if it has been woven through the darker colour.



To knit a two colour band like this work the beginning and ending of the band in one colour (A) following the main pattern but introduce the other colour (B) in the ten row section as follows:

- Row 1:** K3A, P3B, K3A.
- Row 2:** K3A, K3B, K3A.
- Row 3:** K3A, P3B, K3A.
- Row 4:** K3A, K3B, K3A.
- Row 5:** K3A, P3B, K3A.
- Row 6-10:** Knit, using A only.

As the central section is only three stitches wide the main colour (A) can easily be carried behind it. Similarly, colour B can be carried up behind Rows 6-10 so only one length of each colour is needed throughout.



Abbreviations

st/sts	stitch/stitches
K	knit
P	purl
K2tog	knit 2 sts together©

Frankie Brown, 2009.

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