

# Huggable Hot Water Cozy

by Emily B. Miller

Using a hot water bottle to warm up the bed on cold nights is a great way to stay cozy and save energy: Cold toes can tolerate a lower temperature on the thermostat and there's no need for the risk or expense of an electric blanket. However, the rubbery texture and outdated color of these bottles makes them something of an eyesore instead of the cozy comfort objects they should be. That can be fixed by knitting a cover for the hot water bottle-- choose your very favorite color in a luxurious, touchable yarn, and add two cute buttons to turn your thrifty bed-warmer into a treasured heirloom.

## Materials

- 3 skeins Lorna's Laces Angel (70% Angora, 30% Lambswool; 50 yards per .5 oz skein) (color shown: 204 Daffodil)
- set of 5 double pointed needles: size US7 (4.5mm)
- 2 buttons (1/2 inch diameter)

## Size

To fit a 2-quart capacity hot water bottle. (Empty dimensions: 7" wide by 10" tall - not including the neck. Filled circumference around the middle: 15")

## Gauge

5 stitches per inch in stockinette stitch

## Skills Required

knitting in the round,  
3-needle bind-off



## Note

If you are going to substitute yarns, please choose the softest worsted-weight yarn you can find. Much of the appeal of this cozy is its luxurious feel and soft texture, so you will thank yourself for a little splurge! Consider fibers like alpaca, angora, cashmere, merino...

## Instructions

Cast on 80 stitches and divide them equally onto 4 needles. Join for working in the round.

Round 1: Knit all stitches.

Round 2: Purl all stitches.

Round 3: Knit all stitches.

Round 4: Purl all stitches.

Round 5: Form buttonholes. K 10, yo, k2tog, K 16, SSK, yo, K to end of round.

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Rounds 6-8: Repeat rounds 2-4.

Garter stitch border is complete. Work even, in stockinette stitch, for 10" (measuring from the top of the border). If necessary, adjust this length to fit your water bottle: with the garter stitch border below the bottom edge, it should easily cover the "shoulders" at this point.

Decrease for neck: Make sure to start at the beginning of the round (the first two needles of the round should have the buttonholes beneath them- this is the front of the cozy).

Using 3-needle bind-off, work the first 10 stitches of needle 1 and the last 10 stitches of the previous round (needle 4) together. 10 stitches remain on each of these needles, and 1 stitch rests on your working needle. Working only on needle 1, bind off this one stitch, and knit across the front of the cozy, stopping after needle 2. Turn the work as if to start on needle 3.

Using 3-needle bind-off and the same technique, bind off 10 stitches from needles 2 and 3 together. Working across needles 3 and 4, bind off one more stitch and knit to the end of the round. 40 stitches remain.



Switch to K1,P1 ribbing in the round over the remaining stitches. Work for 3", or until the neck is long enough to cover your bottle. Beginning with needles 1 and 4 (as for neck decreases), use 3-needle bind-off to close the top with a flat seam.

Finishing: Sew the buttons to the *inside* of the back of the garter stitch border, where they line up with the buttonholes on the front. Weave in ends, put on the kettle, and enjoy!