

Yarn Smackdown

SAMPLE PATTERNS

Beginner Socks

Gauge: 32 sts / 48 rows = 4 inches / 10cm in stockinette stitch, worked in the round.

Suggested Needle Size: US #2 / 2.75mm double-pointed needles.

Suggested Yarn: 100g of any medium-weight sock yarn.

Sample Pattern:

Monkey by Cookie A., Knitty, Winter 2006

<http://knitty.com/ISSUEwinter06/PATTmonkey.html>

Monkey is not a beginner sock pattern but it has a lot of great support available both on Ravelry and through the blogosphere. While the competition pattern is much easier than Money, taking a month to work your way through Monkey when you are not under pressure will be a great tune-up for this competition.

Advanced Socks

Gauge: 32 sts / 48 rows = 4 inches / 10cm in stockinette stitch, worked in the round

Suggested Needle Size: US #2 / 2.75mm double-pointed needles

Suggested Yarn: 100g of any medium-weight sock yarn

Sample Pattern:

Spring Forward by Linda Welch, Knitty, Summer 2008

<http://knitty.com/ISSUESummer08/PATTspringforward.html>

I wanted to give you an idea of what to expect with the sock patterns. This is not the pattern for the competition but it gives you an idea of the competition pattern. It uses the basic lace knitting stitches - yo, ssk, and k2tog. This pattern uses lightweight yarn and US #1 needles which is not the recommended sizes for the competition patterns.

Scarf and Stole

Suggested Needle Size: US #6 / 4.0mm

Suggested Yarn: 2 skeins Malabrigo Yarn Lace or similar weight yarn

Sample Pattern:

Branching Out by Susan Pierce Lawrence, Knitty, Spring 2005

<http://www.knitty.com/issuespring05/PATTbranchingout.html>

With both the scarf and the stole, gauge is not critical. I chose Branching Out as the sample pattern because it is knit on US #8 needles and is a good tune-up for the competition. The actual pattern for the competition uses a variety of stitches in blocks instead of one overall stitch design so that SciPs and StIPs (scarves and stoles in progress) can easily transition between knitters.

Bookmark

Suggested Needle Size: US #1 / 2.25mm

Suggested Yarn: Size 10 Cotton

Sample Pattern:

Tammy's Bookmark by Nuhanne Reckweg.

<http://www.yarnover.net/patterns/bookmarks/tammys.html>

Tammy's Bookmark uses #12 Pearl cotton and US 00 needles. The pattern for the Olympic Yarn Smackdown bookmark uses US 1 needles and Size 10 cotton (the test knitters used Aunt Lydia's Size 10 Classic Crochet Thread by Coats & Clark bought at Walmart).

Dishcloth

Suggested Needle Size: US #6 / 4.00mm

Suggested Yarn: 1 ball of Worsted Weight Cotton

Sample Pattern:

Flickering Flames Cloth by Shirleyknits

<http://shirleyknits.blogspot.com/2007/09/flickering-firelight-cloth.html>

I chose this pattern as a sample pattern because it is similar to the competition dishcloth patterns. The dishcloth competition will involve making more than one dishcloth. The test knitters are still averaging out how many dishcloths can be reasonably knit for 1 ball of Peaches 'n Cream yarn because the dishcloth competition is a 1 skein project.

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