Front Facing
** Next row (WS) (foldline): Knit.

Starting with a k row, work 8 rows in st st.
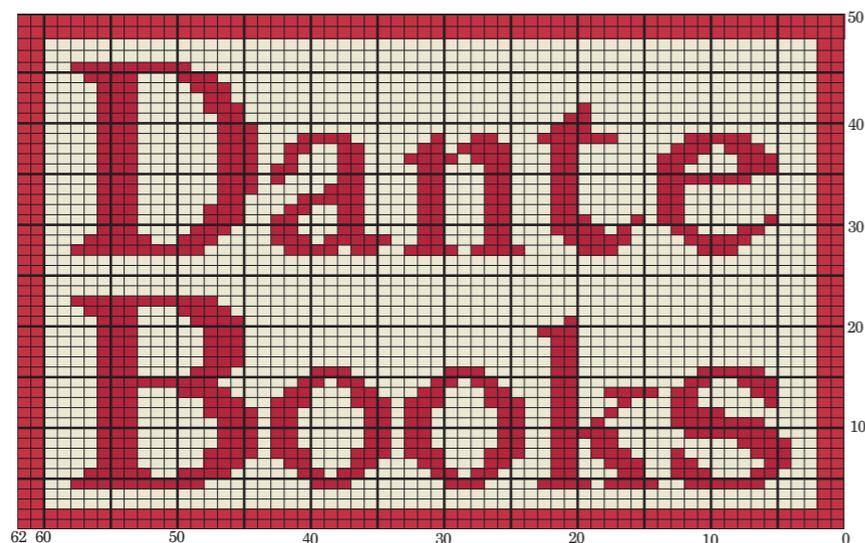
Cast off.

Back
Using MC, cast on 78 sts.

Starting with a k row, work in st st until back measures same as front to foldline, ending with a k row.

Back Facing
Work back facing as given for front facing from **.

Finishing
Weave in ends and block or press pieces according to the instructions on the ball band. Sew back and front tog around side edges and base. Fold facing to WS and sl st into place. Measure finished width of bag and finished length from base to lower edge of facing. Cut two pieces of lining fabric to these measurements, adding 1.5 cm/⅝ in seam allowance to all edges. Sew the two pieces of lining tog around side and base edges. Fold seam allowance to WS along top edge and press. Make two handles by cutting the 76 cm/30 in length of tape in half. Sew these handles securely to the WS of the lining. Sl st lining into the knitted bag with WS tog. Sl st lining in place around facing.

Bookstore Tote Chart

Alphabet Baby Blocks

Soft, cuddly and colourful, knitted alphabet blocks are perfect toy to give as gifts to the babies and toddlers in your life. Of course as their literacy improves they may expect you to knit entire books for them, so you should probably get practising your ABCs as well.

The pattern

You will need

Yarn
Any 100% Cotton 4 ply yarn, such as Rowan Siena 4 ply, in seven different colours

Each cube is made up of 6 squares and uses approx. 14.25 g/½ oz of MC and 7 g/¼ oz of CC per square. The cubes listed here use combinations of the following colours:

[MC] Light green
[CC1] Red
[CC2] Dark blue
[CC3] Light blue
[CC4] Yellow
[CC5] Purple
[CC6] Orange

Use the first colour for the background and the second colour for the letter:

Cube 1
Square A: MC and CC1
Square B: CC2 and CC3
Square C: CC4 and CC5
Square D: CC1 and MC
Square E: CC6 and CC3
Square F: CC5 and CC4

Cube 2
Square G: CC3 and CC4
Square H: CC1 and CC2
Square I: MC and CC5
Square J: CC2 and CC6
Square K: CC4 and CC1
Square L: CC6 and CC3

Cube 3
Square M: CC5 and CC4
Square N: CC3 and CC6
Square O: CC1 and CC3
Square P: CC2 and MC
Square Q: CC4 and CC1
Square R: CC6 and CC2

Needles
2.25 mm/US 1 needles
Tapestry needle

Other
Scissors
Custom-cut foam blocks: 9.5 cm/3¾ in cubed or polyester foam stuffing

Pattern begins ▶

Finished size: 9.5 cm/3¾ in cubed
Tension: 32 sts and 42 rows over 10 cm/4 in in st st on 2.25 mm/US1 needles
Note: Ensure that any filling or insert used is suitable and safe for infants and complies with legal safety standards, including regulations for fire safety.

Each cube is constructed from 6 squares. Each square has a st st centre with a letter motif (as shown in the Baby Block Charts) and a moss stitch border. Sl the first st of each row purlwise to give a neat outer edge and to help with sewing up. Squares are joined together using invisible mattress stitch to form a cube and then stuffed with custom-cut foam or loose stuffing to maintain their shape.

Letter motif

Use the Baby Block Charts below as the basis of your design. For all other letters, simply substitute letters from the Serif Uppercase Charts featured on pages 112–13, and work so that each letter is centred horizontally over 20 sts, and vertically over 30 rows.

Lower border: Make 6 squares for one block

Starting with the moss stitch border, and the desired Baby Block Chart, work the border as follows:

Using background colour, cast on 31 sts.

Row 1 (RS): Sl 1 purlwise, * k1, p1; rep from * to end.
Rows 2–5: Rep row 1.

Middle section

Working the central section of the square in st st following relevant letter chart and maintaining 4 sts of moss stitch at beg and end of each row, cont as follows:

Row 6 (WS): Sl 1 purlwise, k1, p1, k1, p in patt to last 4 sts, k1, p1, k1, p1.
Row 7 (RS): Sl 1 purlwise, k1, p1, k in patt to last 3 sts, p1, k1, p1. These 2 rows set border patt and st st lettter motif panel.
Row 8 and all even row numbers (WS): Rep row 6.

Row 9 and all odd row numbers (RS): Rep row 7.

Cont following the chart back and forth in rows and working with alternative colours as indicated until a total of 34 rows have been worked from cast-on edge.

Top border

Row 35: Using background colour only, sl 1 purlwise, * k1, p1; rep from * to end.
Rows 36–38: Rep row 35.

Cast off in moss stitch patt.

Finishing

Weave in ends and block or press pieces according to ball band. Join the side seams using mattress stitch, leaving a gap to insert the foam block or loose filling. Insert the filling, and close rem seams.

Baby Block Charts