

Pogies

Skills Needed

(Just Google™ any skills you aren't sure of and find a tutorial on the Internet.)

cast on (I used the long-tail cast on.)

cast off (I used a back-stitch cast-off.)

knit (k)

purl (p)

knit in the round with double-pointed needles (dpns)

decrease by ssk (slip slip knit) and k2tog (knit together)

pick up stitches on a vertical edge

graft/Kitchener stitch

Supplies:

Yarn. Wool is **much** better than a synthetic for this project. Amount needed depends on your yarn. A set of three pogies should probably take about as much yarn as a pair of socks, so you could look at a sock pattern for your yarn size and estimate from there. You will be able to make a pair of pogies from one 100g skein of knitting worsted, but you will need to get a second skein to make a third pogie (to make a sweep/sculling set.).

Needles. Two sets of double-pointed needles: one set the size you used to get your gauge and the other set 2 sizes smaller to use for knitting the cuff ribbing. (I use sizes 8 and 6 with knitting worsted.) You can use 2 of the dpns to knit the back-and-forth part. (Slip a point protector or rubber band around one end to keep the stitches from falling off.)

If you like to knit on one or two circular needles, go right ahead!

Blunt-tipped yarn needle for grafting the top edge.

Construction:

Knit in the round (cuff ribbing, edge ribbing, lower part of hand and top) and back and forth (upper part of hand). You could also knit it flat and seam the side edge(s). Pogies are pretty much one size fits all, and are much simpler to knit than these directions indicate!

Swatch:

Knit a swatch with the yarn and needles you want to use (the larger set).

Your gauge with your yarn and needles = **X** stitches/inch (Number of rows per inch is not important.)

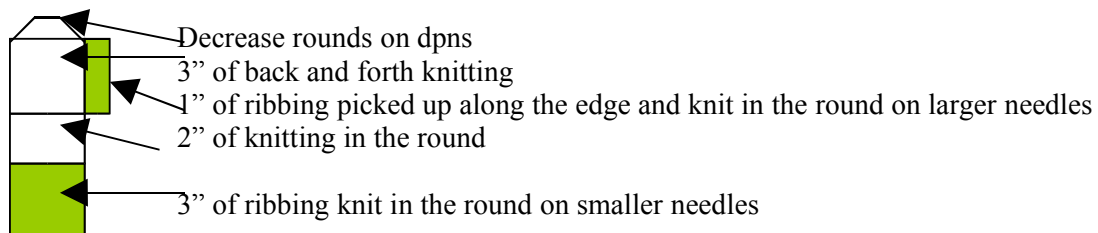
How wide (circumference around the widest part of your hand when holding an oar handle) you want the pogie to be = **Y** inches (Probably 9-10".)

Number of stitches to knit = **X** x **Y** = **Z** Round up or down to get a multiple of four.

Tip: If you are using worsted weight yarn, you can just skip the swatching and cast on 48 stitches. The pogies will probably fit you, and, if not, they will surely fit some other rower you know! You can use 4 more or fewer stitches for the next pair.

Diagram of Sculling Pogie or Outside Hand Sweep Pogie.

(Pogie can be worn on either hand unless you have added a decoration to the back.)



Sculling Pogie or Outside Hand Sweep Pogie

Ribbed Cuff:

Cast on **Z** [48!] stitches (should be a multiple of 4, so fudge a bit if you need to) and knit in the round on the smaller needles in k2p2 ribbing for 3", or however long you want the cuff to be. (Or cast on a multiple of 2 and knit in k1p1 ribbing.)

Hint: Write down how many rows you knit so that you can make the second pogie the same.

Lower Part of Hand:

Switch to the larger needles and knit 2" in the round in stockinette stitch (knit every round).

Upper Part of Hand:

Knit back and forth on two needles in stockinette stitch (knit one row, purl the next) for 3".

You'll need to start with the stitches on three needles, but do not join the ends!

Decrease Rounds:

Rejoin and knit one or two rows in the round. Arrange stitches so that open end of pogie is at the beginning of one needle. Call that needle Needle 1. Put 1/2 of stitches on Needle 1, 1/4 of stitches on Needle 2, and 1/4 on Needle 3.

Decrease like this:

Needle 1: K1, ssk, knit to 3 stitches from end, k2tog, k1.

Needle 2: K1, ssk, knit to end.

Needle 3: Knit to 3 stitches from end, k2tog, k1.

That's one decrease round, and you have decreased four stitches. Repeat this row until you have decreased to about 1/2 of **Z** [about 24 stitches]. Half of the remaining stitches are on Needle 1 and another half is divided between Needles 2 and 3. Put the stitches from Needles 2 and 3 on one needle and graft (Kitchener stitch) the front and back edges together.

Side Opening Ribbing:

Pick up one stitch per row along the front and back edges of the side opening plus a stitch at the top and bottom "corner." Try to get the same number of stitches you used for the wrist ribbing. (It should be a multiple of 4, so fudge a bit if you need to) and knit in the round for 1". (Or pick up a multiple of 2 and knit in k1p1 ribbing, if that's what you did for the wrist ribbing.)

Cast off loosely.

Hint: Use the larger size needles so that the ribbing won't pull in too tightly.

Weave in yarn ends and make another pogie (if you are a sculler) or make an inside hand sweep pogie if you row sweep. If you make two sculling pogies and an inside hand sweep pogie, you'll be prepared for anything!

Inside Hand Sweep Pogie

Knit 3" of ribbing and first 2" of hand as you did for the outside hand pogie. Then put 1/2 of the stitches on a holder or piece of scrap yarn. Put the other half on one needle and knit back and forth on two needles for 3", then put those stitches on a holder or piece of scrap yarn. Go back and take the other stitches off the holder and knit them on two needles for 3". (Both sides of the pogie are open.) Rejoin and knit one or two rows in the round. Decrease and graft as you did for the outside hand pogie. Pick up stitches and knit ribbing as you did for the outside hand pogie, but you will have to knit ribbing on both sides.

These are so easy that they beg for trimming--a cable on the back of the hand, stripes on the body or the ribbing, contrasting ribbing, a duplicate-stitched or intarsia oar or skull on the back, ...

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