

# CAROL'S DOMINO-KNITTED Tea Cozy

BY CAROL HUEBSCHER RHOADES

**Editor's note:** Carol Rhoades and Deborah Pulliam collaborated to make seven tea cozies for the Fall 2006 issue of Spin-Off magazine—we didn't have space for all of the tea cozies in the magazine, so they overflowed to our website so that you can enjoy all of them. Here are the instructions for Carol's domino-knitted tea cozy.

## Project Notes

**Finished size:** 20" around and 9" high.

**Fiber:** Romney wool sliver, dyed, carded and gilled by Mary Knox (New Zealand), about 1 ounce each apricot, sky, fuchsia, garnet, and forest.

**Yarn:** 2-ply semiworsted yarn, 15 wraps per inch, 80–85 yards per ounce. Each domino square uses about 4¼ yards.

**Gauge:** A domino square = 2½" across the diagonal (from point to point); for lining, 6 sts and 12 rows = 1" in garter-stitch chevron pattern.

**Needles:** U.S. size 2 (2.75 mm) straight needles, set of double-pointed needles, and 24" circular needle.

**Notions:** Tapestry needle, 1 yard of waste yarn for holding sts, 16 locking ring markers (8 each of two colors).

I originally made a cozy for my small (four-cup) Brown Betty teapot with commercially-spun jumper-weight Shetland yarn. When I received a gift of hand-dyed, carded, and gilled<sup>1</sup> Romney slivers from Mary Knox in New Zealand, I knew it would go toward a handspun version of that cozy. The colors were almost identical to those in the original.

Spinning for the domino-knitted cozy was easy because the gilled rovings were so well prepared. I spun each color with a

<sup>1</sup> Alden Amos describes gilling as "a sort of linear, continuous, combing-and-drafting operation applied to fibers. . . . Gilling is commonly used for color blending in fibers intended for worsted spinning; the handspinner sees the product as half-gilled (obvious color streaks) . . . the gill box is sometimes used to upgrade a card sliver to semiworsted status, without the expense of true combing." *The Alden Amos Big Book of Handspinning* (Loveland, Colorado: Interweave Press, 2001), 432–433.

short forward draw on my Schacht wheel at a 9:1 ratio and plied with an 11:1 ratio.

The cozy starts with a ring of domino-knitted squares that fits around the teapot. Shaping and fit are achieved by adjusting the number of squares in a round. To finish, half triangles are knitted to fill in the spaces along the bottom of the cozy. If desired, the cozy can be lined by picking up stitches along the bottom and knitting the lining with decreases as needed to match the shape of the outside.

To work the first round of squares, knit 8 separate squares (see basic square instructions below). Align the squares with RS facing and the last loop of each at the top. The next round will be worked in the valleys between the squares of the previous round. Always be sure that the center stitch of a new square is at the junction between the two squares below it. My cozy has 8 squares in each of the first 3 rounds and then 6 squares in Round 4 (work 3 squares, skip a notch, work 3 squares, skip last notch); work 4 in Round 5 and 2 in Round 6.

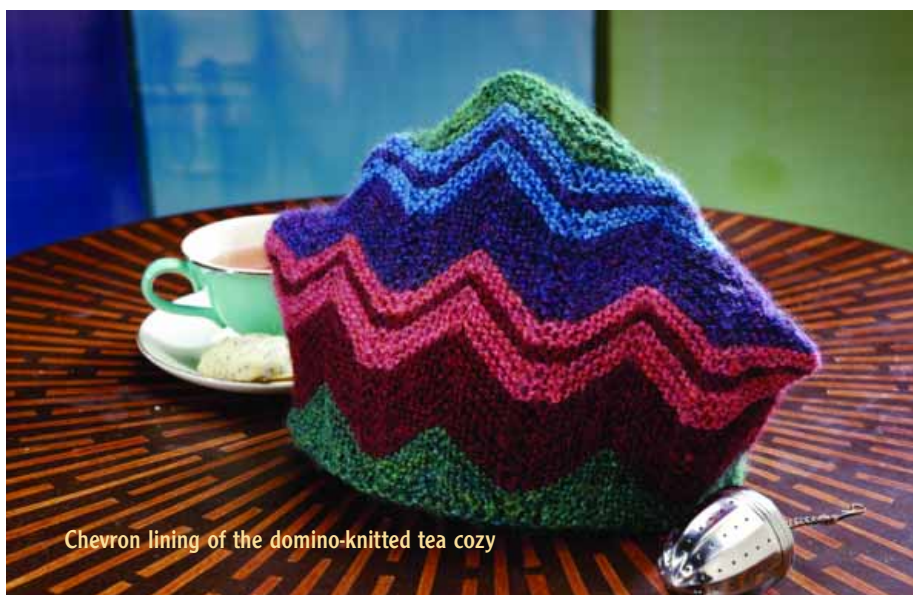
The cast-on number for each square is 21 stitches. Squares on the first round start with a knit cast-on. After that, stitches for the squares are picked up and knitted. When picking up stitches, insert the needle under both loops of knit cast-on or slip-stitch edges.

### Basic square

Cast on 21 sts using the knit cast-on (or pick up and knit 21 sts).

**Row 1 (WS):** K20, p1.

**Row 2 (RS):** S11 kwise, k8, sl1, k2tog,



Chevron lining of the domino-knitted tea cozy



Domino-knitted tea cozy

pss0, k8, p1.

*Row 3:* S11 kwise, knit to last st, p1.

Repeat Rows 2 and 3, with 1 less knit st on each side of double decrease until 3 sts remain. If desired, change colors on RS when 9 sts remain on needle.

*Last RS row:* S11, k2tog, pss0. Cut yarn and leave loop of last stitch open—it will be the first stitch of the next square.

After working all the squares for your cozy, turn the piece upside down and, with RS facing, work a bottom triangle in each notch between squares. When all the triangles have been worked, place the sts on the waste yarn onto circular needle = 88 sts.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> For more on the details of the technique, see Vivian Høxbro, *Domino Knitting* (Loveland, Colorado: Interweave Press, 2002).

### Bottom triangle

Pick up and knit 21 sts in valley between two squares.

*Row 1 (WS):* K20, p1.

*Row 2 (RS):* S11 kwise, k8, s11, k2tog, pss0, k7, p1; turn work, leaving last st on left needle.

*Row 3:* S11 kwise, k15, p1; turn work, leaving last st on needle.

*Row 4:* S11 kwise, k6, s11, k2tog, pss0, k5, p1; turn work.

*Row 5:* S11 kwise, k11, p1; turn.

*Row 6:* S11 kwise, k4, s11, k2tog, pss0, k3, p1; turn work.

*Row 7:* S11 kwise, k7, p1; turn work.

*Row 8:* S11 kwise, k2, s11, k2tog, pss0, k1, p1; turn work.

*Row 9:* S11 kwise, k3, p1; turn work.

*Row 10:* S11 kwise, s11, k2tog, pss0; cut yarn and slide remaining 5 sts purlwise to right needle. Place the 11

sts on waste yarn.

Before knitting the lining, weave in all tails on WS and neatly join edges of squares along top shaping. Work either easy or chevron lining in your choice of colors.

**Easy lining:** Place the 88 bottom triangle sts on circular needle; mark beginning of round. With RS facing, knit one round and purl one round (fold row). Work in stockinette st (knit all rounds) or garter st (alternate knit and purl rounds). When lining is at the same point as shaping for outside, work a double decrease (s11, k2tog, pss0) at each side on every other row until 6 to 8 sts remain. Cut yarn and thread tail through sts; pull tight, and weave in tail on WS.

**Chevron lining:** Place the 88 bottom triangle sts on circular needle; mark beginning of round (second st past a



triangle center st). Place same color markers on each center st of triangles. With same color as for bottom triangles, k3, \*k2tog, k9; repeat from \* around and end k6 (=80 sts). With second color of marker, pm on each k2tog. Purl 1 round and then knit 1 round.

Now begin triangles (each will be worked separately and *back and forth*). **Note:** Starting on Row 3, at end of each row, you will knit a st held on needle. M1=lift strand between two sts onto needle and knit into back loop.

*Row 1 (WS):* Turn work and k3; turn.

*Row 2 (RS):* K1, m1, k1, m1, k1; turn.

*Row 3:* K6 (5 sts of Row 2 + 1 on needle); turn.

*Row 4:* K3, m1, k1, m1, k3; turn.

*Row 5:* K10; turn.

*Row 6:* K5, m1, k1, m1, k5; turn.

*Row 7:* K14; turn.

*Row 8:* K7, m1, k1, m1, k7 = 17 sts.

Cut yarn and slip next 7 sts purlwise to right needle. Attach yarn and work Rows 1 to 8. Make a total of 8 triangles in this way; do not cut yarn after working last triangle = 144 sts on needle. Mark the center st of each group of 17; the stitch between each triangle should already be marked. Mark beginning of round with a larger or different color marker.

Now, *work in the round*. The first st should be marked. It is a “bottom” stitch. The center of each triangle is a “top” stitch. On alternate rounds, you will be increasing at the top and decreasing at the bottom.

*Round 1:* Purl.

*Round 2:* K9, \*m1, k1, m1, k17; rep from \* around and end k8 = 160 sts.

*Round 3:* Purl.

*Round 4:* \*K1, k2tog, k7, m1, k1, m1, k7, ssk; rep from \* around.

Repeat Rounds 3 and 4 and be sure that stitch count remains constant. Move markers up as necessary and change colors on knit rows as desired.

When piece is same height as beginning of top shaping on outside, shape lining on next knit round: Cut yarn, slip 9 sts purlwise, attach yarn, \*sl1, k2tog, pssso, k8; work chevron pattern as set on

5 small skeins of yarn (2-ply semiworsted, 15 wraps per inch, 80–85 yards per ounce): apricot, sky, fuchsia, garnet, and forest.



next three repeats, ending with ssk, k9; repeat from \* once more. On subsequent rounds, the last st will serve as first slip st. When necessary, shift to double-pointed needles.

Work double decrease at each side on *every* round (there will be 1 st less at each side of dec). On the eleventh decrease round (a knit round), continue with side decreases as set and stop chevron shaping on sides of chevrons adjacent to decrease lines. You will be working the complete chevron at center front and back and half chevrons on each side of the center one. Continue as set with side decreases and one chevron pattern at center front and back. When top sts of chevrons at each side are taken

into the double decrease, continue side decreases and work only the center front and back chevrons in pattern until lining is desired length. Slip sts onto waste yarn to measure when nearing end, as center points will add length to piece. The last round on my lining was a purl round and I worked p2tog at the side decreases to finish with 44 sts. Divide the sts evenly onto two double-pointed needles and weave the sts together with Kitchener stitch; hide tail inside lining. ☺

CAROL H. RHOADES is Spin-Off's technical editor, and she enjoys a cup of strong black tea with milk, no sugar, in the late afternoon while listening to The Archers ([www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/archers](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/archers)) at her home in Austin, Texas.