

Peruvian Figure Purse Elements to Knit

ANN BUDD



Ann Budd's knitted Peruvian figure purse elements.
All photographs by Joe Coca.

Women in Peru and Bolivia have made and used knitted figure purses called *monederos* (coin purses) for centuries. The two shown here were purchased in a market in Cuzco, Peru. (For more on figure purses, see “Andean Knitted Figure Purses: Monederos for Your Money” by Cynthia LeCount Samaké in the January/February 2009 issue of *PieceWork*.)

Except for the faces, hands, and legs, the original figures were knitted with slightly over-twisted singles spun from rough wool at a gauge of about 10 stitches per inch (about 4 stitches per cm). The elements shown here are slightly larger in dimension than the original and are knitted from two-ply Shetland wool.



Figure purses. Maker(s) unknown. Knitted and crocheted. Handspun sheep's wool. Purchased in a market in Cuzco, Peru. Date unknown. Male, 11¼ inches (28.6 cm) tall; female, 9¼ inches (23.5 cm) tall. Collection of Liz Ligon.

MATERIALS

Jamieson's Double Knitting, 100% pure Shetland wool yarn, sportweight, 82 yards (75 m)/25 g ball, 1 ball each of #230 Yellow Ochre, #587 Madder, #101 Shetland Black, #259 Leprechaun, and #190 Tundra
 Needles, set of 4 or 5 double pointed, size 0 (2 mm) or size needed to obtain gauge
 Marker
 Tapestry needle
 Crochet hook, size D/3 (3.25 mm)

Materials are available at yarn stores or from mail-order or online resources.

Finished sizes: Hat, about 6 inches (15 cm) in circumference and 1¾ inches (4 cm) long, excluding earflaps; hand, about 1½ inches (4 cm) in circumference and 1½ inches (4 cm) long; leg, about 3 inches (8 cm) in circumference at top and 3 inches (8 cm) long; cape, about 3 inches (8 cm) in circumference at neck, 13 inches (33 cm) in circumference at lower edge, and 2½ inches (6 cm) long, excluding fringe
 Gauge: About 8 sts and 11 rows = 1 inch (2.5 cm) in St st; exact gauge is not critical

ABBREVIATIONS

dec(s) ('d)—decrease(s); decreased; decreasing	prev—previous
dpn—double-pointed needle(s)	rem—remain(s); remaining
BO—bind off	rep(s)—repeat(s); repeating
CO—cast on	rnd(s)—round(s)
fol—follow(s); following	RS—right side
inc(s) ('d)—increase(s); increased; increasing	ssk—slip 1 knitwise, slip 1 knitwise, knit 2 slipped stitches together through back loops (decrease)
k—knit	st(s)—stitch(es)
k2tog—knit 2 stitches together	St st—stockinette stitch
M1—make one (increase)	WS—wrong side
p—purl	yo—yarn over
patt—pattern(s)	*—repeat starting point
pm—place marker	

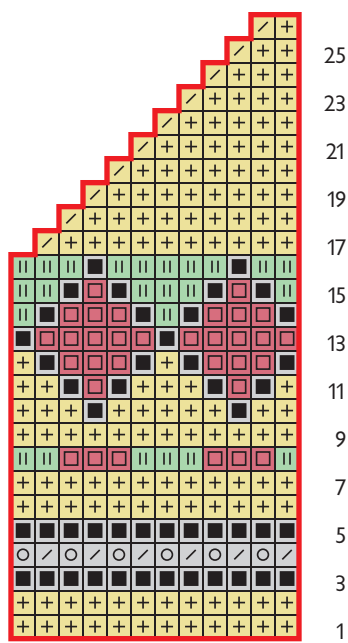
Hat

With Yellow Ochre, CO 48 sts. Pm and join for working in rnds, being careful not to twist the sts. Work Rnds 1–26 of Hat chart, dec as indicated on Rnds 17–26 of chart—8 sts rem. Cut yarn, draw tail through rem sts 2 times, and secure to WS. Fold lower edge along eyelet rnd and sew CO edge to WS.

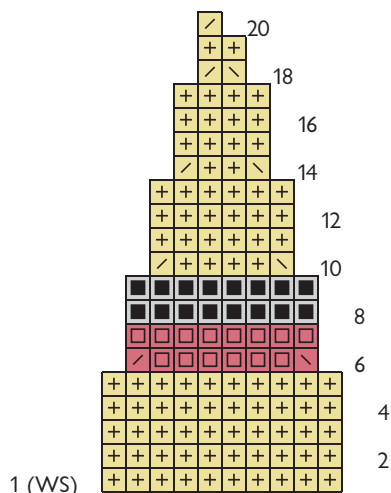
Earflaps: Count 6 sts from each side of center back (color jog produced at end of rnds) and mark for earflap placement. With Yellow Ochre and RS facing, pick up and k 10 sts along turned-up CO edge, working from marker toward center front. Work Rows 1–20 of Earflap chart, dec as indicated on Rows 6, 10, 14, 18, and 20—1 st rem. Cut yarn and

thread tail through rem st.

Finishing: Weave in loose ends, threading as many as possible out of the top of the hat for pom-pom. Cut additional 4-inch (10.2-cm) strands of each color and add to top of hat as foll: Fold a length in half, use the crochet hook to pull the fold through a stitch at the top of the hat, tuck the ends through the fold and pull to secure. Trim fringe to ¾ inch (1.9 cm) or desired length.



Hat



1 (WS)

Earflap

Key

- + with Yellow Ochre, k on RS, p on WS
- with Madder, k on RS, p on WS
- with Shetland Black, k on RS, p on WS
- || with Leprechaun, k on RS, p on WS
- / with Yellow Ochre, k2tog
- \ with Yellow Ochre, ssk
- x with Madder, k2tog
- x with Madder, ssk
- / with Natural Black, k2tog
- o with Natural Black, yo
- patt rep

Hand

With Tundra, CO 11 sts. Pm and join for working in rnds, being careful not to twist the sts. Work 9 rnds even.

Thumb: K1, place last 3 sts knitted (2 sts of prev rnd and 1 st of this rnd) on a single dpn—8 sts rem (4 sts on each of 2 needles) to work later for other fingers. Work 3-st I-cord (see Technique: I-Cord below) for 5 rnds. Cut yarn and thread tail through rem sts.

Index Finger: Place 1 st from front needle and 1 st from back needle on a single dpn—2 sts for index finger. Rejoin yarn and work 2-st I-cord for 5 rnds. Cut yarn and thread tail through rem sts.

Middle Finger: Place 1 st from front needle and 1 st from back needle on a single dpn—2 sts for middle finger. Rejoin yarn and work 2-st I-cord for 6 rnds. Cut yarn and thread tail through rem sts.

Ring Finger: Place 1 st from front needle and 1 st from back needle on a single dpn—2 sts for ring finger. Rejoin yarn and work 2-st I-cord for 6 rnds. Cut yarn and thread tail through rem sts.

Little Finger: Place rem st from front and back needles on a single dpn—2 sts for little finger. Rejoin yarn and work 2-st I-cord for 5 rnds. Cut yarn and thread tail through rem sts.

Finishing: Weave in loose ends.



Leg

With Tundra, CO 10 sts. K 9 rows.

Joining Rnd: Pick up and k 4 sts along short selvedge edge of rectangle just knitted, then pick up and k 1 st in the back loop of each of the CO sts, then pick up and k 4 sts along the other short selvedge edge of rectangle just knitted, k10, then k the first 2 sts again—28 sts total. Pm and join for working in rnds; rnd begins at back of heel.



Rnd 1: K11, k2tog, k2, ssk, k11—26 sts rem.

Rnd 2: K10, k2tog, k2, ssk, k10—24 sts rem.

Rnd 3: K9, k2tog, k2, ssk, k9—22 sts rem.

Rnd 4: K8, k2tog, k2, ssk, k8—20 sts rem.

Rnd 5: K7, k2tog, k2, ssk, k7—18 sts rem.

Rnd 6: K6, k2tog, k2, ssk, k6—16 sts rem.

Rnd 7: K5, k2tog, k2, ssk, k5—14 sts rem.

Rnd 8: K4, k2tog, k2, ssk, k4—12 sts rem.

K 3 rnds even.

Inc Rnd 1: K2, M1 (see Technique: Make One (Increase) below), k4, M1, k4, M1, k2—15 sts.

K 3 rnds even.

Inc Rnd 2: K3, M1, k5, M1, k5, M1, k2—18 sts.

K 3 rnds even.

Inc Rnd 3: K4, M1, k6, M1, k6, M1, k2—21 sts.

K 12 rnds even. BO all sts.

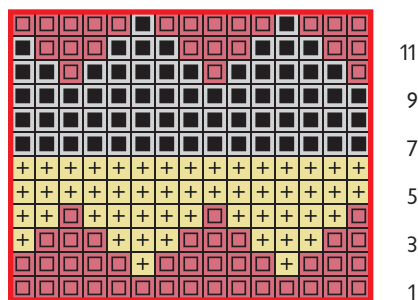
Finishing: Weave in loose ends.

Cape



With Tundra, CO 30 sts. Pm and join for working in rnds, being careful not to twist the sts. P 1 rnd, k 1 rnd.

Eyelet rnd: *K2tog, yo; rep from * to end of rnd. K 1 rnd, inc 6 sts evenly spaced—36 sts. Change to Madder and k 1 rnd. Shape cape as foll:



Cape

Key

- with Yellow Ochre, k on RS, p on WS
- with Madder, k on RS, p on WS
- with Shetland Black, k on RS, p on WS
- with Leprechaun, k on RS, p on WS
- with Yellow Ochre, k2tog
- with Yellow Ochre, ssk
- with Madder, k2tog
- with Madder, ssk
- with Natural Black, k2tog
- with Natural Black, yo
- patt rep

Inc Rnd 1: *K6, M1; rep from *—42 sts.

Inc Rnd 2: *K7, M1; rep from *—48 sts.

Inc Rnd 3: *K8, M1; rep from *—54 sts.

Inc Rnd 4: *K9, M1; rep from *—60 sts.

Inc Rnd 5: *K10, M1; rep from *—66 sts.

Inc Rnd 6: *K11, M1; rep from *—72 sts.

Inc Rnd 7: *K12, M1; rep from *—78 sts.

Inc Rnd 8: *K13, M1; rep from *—84 sts.

Inc Rnd 9: *K14, M1; rep from *—90 sts.

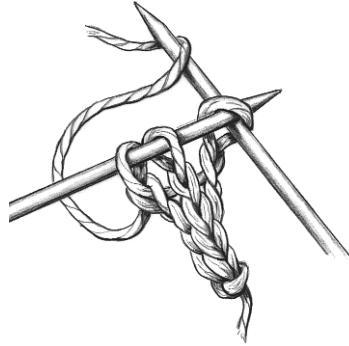
Work Rnds 1–12 of Cape chart. With Madder, k 5 rnds. Loosely BO all sts.

Finishing: Weave in loose ends. For fringe, cut thirty 4-inch (10.2-cm) lengths each of Madder, Yellow Ochre, and Shetland Black. Alternating colors, fold a length in half, use the crochet hook to pull the fold through one stitch on the BO edge of the cape, then tuck the ends through the fold and pull to secure. Trim fringe to ¾ inch (1.9 cm) or desired length.

ABOUT THE DESIGNER. *Ann Budd of Boulder, Colorado, is a book editor for Interweave and author of several knitting books, including Getting Started Knitting Socks (Loveland, Colorado: Interweave, 2007).*

I-Cord

With double-pointed needle, cast on desired number of stitches.
 *Without turning the needle, slide the stitches to other end of the needle, pull the yarn around the back, and knit the stitches as usual; repeat from * for desired length.



Make One (Increase)

With left needle tip, lift strand between needles from front to back (Figure 1).
 Knit lifted loop through the back (Figure 2).



Figure 1

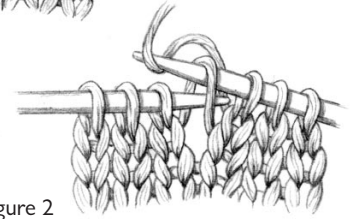


Figure 2