

**Directions:**

**Base:** Approx. 8-1/2 inches, worked flat in garter stitch.

With size 4 US/3.5 mm needles, CO 24 sts. Work 1 row even. Inc 1 st each end next row and every other row until there are 48 sts on needle. Work 43 rows even.

Dec 1 st each end next row and every other row until there are 24 sts on needle. BO all sts, **but do not cut yarn.**

**Body:** With same side of base facing, using circular needle, \*pick up and k 17 sts along first short edge of base (away from the BO sts), 26 sts along side edge, 17 sts along next short edge, 24 sts along CO edge; repeat from \* ending 24 sts along BO edge (168 sts). Place round marker on needle and join, slipping marker between rounds. Knit 1 round. Begin St. John's Wort pattern and work for 6 inches, ending after round 1 or 3 (140 sts). Work garter st in the round for 6 rounds. Next Round: \* (k2, k2tog) 12 times, k2, place marker (PM), k20, PM; rep from \* once (116 sts).

Next Round: BO 38, k next 20 sts and sl to holder; BO next 38 sts, k20.

**Strap:** Change to straight needles and work garter st on last 20 sts for 3 rows.

Next Round: k2tog, k to last 2 sts, k2tog (dec row).

Work 1 round even.

Repeat last two rounds 4 times.

Work even on 10 sts until strap measures 28 inches (unstretched) from last dec.

Increase as follows: Round 1: k1, make 1 (m1), k to last st, m1, k1.

Round 2: knit.

Repeat the last 2 rounds until there are 20 sts on the needle.

Work 3 rows even. Cut yarn leaving 24" tail, thread tapestry needle and graft strap sts to those still on holder.

**Center Closing:** On one of the long BO edges of body, pick up and k center 16 sts with 4 US/3.5 mm needles.

Work 3 rows garter st.

Next Row: k2tog, k to last 2 sts, k2tog (decrease row). Work 3 rows even. Repeat dec row once more (12 sts).

Next Row: k4, CO4, k4. Work 1 row even. Work dec row. Work 3 rows even. Work dec row. Work 1 row even. BO all sts.

**Finishing:** Sew button opposite buttonhole. Weave in all ends.