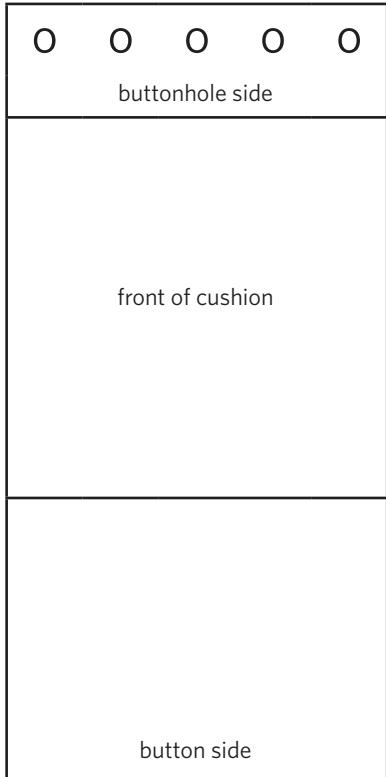


Finishing

Finishing a cushion cover

If you're knitting a cushion cover, you'll need a back as well as a front. The back will have buttons so that you can open it up easily to insert your cushion pad and close it again neatly. You'll be knitting three pieces. One for the front and two for the back.

O = buttonhole



Note to Knitters

Use a similar stitch to the one you used on the front when you knit the back panels. For example with Fair Isle you'd use stocking stitch, with cable twist you'd knit a 2 x 2 rib, with moss zig you'd use moss stitch, with wrap drop, fireside lace and the cable stitches you'd use garter stitch. If you aren't sure, just stick with a stocking stitch or garter back for your cushion. See the *Stitch library* on p.138 of *Knitty Gritty: The Next Steps* for more information on stitches.



BUTTON SIDE

Step 1: Using the same size knitting needles and yarn as you used for the front, cast on the same number of stitches that you cast on for the front of your cushion.

Step 2: Knit a rectangle $\frac{3}{4}$ of the length of the front panel.

BUTTONHOLE SIDE

Step 1: Cast on the same number of stitches again and knit a rectangle $\frac{1}{4}$ of the length of the front panel, ending with a WS row.

Step 2: Work 2 more rows in whatever stitch you are using.





Step 3: Decide how many buttons you want and how far apart you want them (I suggest no more than 5cm). Mark these buttonhole positions with oddments of contrasting coloured yarn.



Then work the next row and every time you get to where you want a buttonhole, (YF, K2tog). This will make a buttonhole every time.



Make sure you count the same number of stitches at the end of this row that you started with. See p.29 of *Knitty Gritty: The Next Steps* for more on buttonholes, if you need a refresher.

Step 4: Then continue knitting your rectangle for another 2cm, ending with a RS row.

Step 5: Cast off in pattern on the WS.

MAKING UP

Take the front of your cushion cover with the stitch pattern or design on it. Sew up the front of the cushion cover to the long side of the back section that's $\frac{3}{4}$ size (it's the one without the buttonholes).

Once you've done that, sew on the long side of the $\frac{1}{4}$ size section to the other side, making sure that the buttonhole edge is on the far side from the seam joining it to the front of the cushion.



Starting from the corner, sew the side seams of the $\frac{3}{4}$ size back panel.



Then sew the side seams $\frac{1}{4}$ size panel – you should end up with a slight overlap (the buttonhole panel should be on the outside).

Securely sew on your buttons, making sure you match them up with the buttonholes.

Stuff your cushion cover with a cushion pad that's around 5cm bigger than the cover. This is so that the knitted design is stretched tight over the pad to show it off to its best advantage.

