

## basketweave pillow

One day, while looking at the basket I keep on my desk for my sketching pens and pencils, I came up with the idea to make a pillow that looks like a basket. I decided to knit strips of cotton and then weave them with strips of leather for lots of added texture.





# basketweave pillow {intermediate}

In this pattern, you make just one piece to sew to the top of an inexpensive cotton pillow. It looks complicated but is actually very simple once you arrange your strips. You can vary the pattern by using yarn and linen, yarn and yarn, yarn and felt—so many possibilities! Knit in one-by-one rib for a fabric that doesn't curl in at the edges, the pillow is a great gift. Make it in neutral colors to go with anyone's decor.

## SIZE

One size to fit pillow measuring 180/45.5 cm  $\times$  180/45.5 cm

## FINISHED MEASUREMENT

Each strip measures 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>/4.5 cm wide  $\times$  180/45.5 cm long

## YARN

4 skeins Suss Cotton (100% cotton; 2.5 ounces/71 grams;  
118 yards/109 meters) color natural

## NOTIONS

1 pair size 6 (4 mm) needles

1 piece of leather or Ultrasuede 200  $\times$  200

Leather hole puncher

Tapestry needle

1 180  $\times$  180 pillow with off-white cotton or Ultrasuede cover

40 sewing pins

## GAUGE

32 stitches and 20 rows = 40 in rib stitch

## making the basketweave pillow

Cast on 14 stitches.

Work in one-by-one rib (knit 1 stitch, purl 1 stitch; repeat until the end of the row) for 180/45.5 cm, or approximately 90 rows. Bind off.

Repeat nine times for 10 pieces total (see diagram).

## finishing

Weave in all loose ends with tapestry needle. Cut the leather (or ultrasuede) into 10 strips each measuring  $1\frac{3}{4}/4.5$  cm  $\times$  180/45.5 cm.

With the leather punch, make holes for sewing the leather to pillow. On 8 strips of leather make 4 evenly spaced holes on each short edge (see diagram 2). On the remaining 2 strips make 40 evenly spaced holes along the long edge and 3 along the short edges (see diagram 3).

To assemble, arrange all 10 knitted strips face-up next to each other. Weave one of the leather strips with the 40 holes under the first strip of knit on the far left and over the strip to its right, continuing to weave under and over all 10 knitted strips (see diagram 4). Using one pin per strip, pin the leather strip in place using some of the 40 holes. Now take one of the leather strips with 8 holes and, beginning on the far left again, start to weave it through the knitted pieces. You should see a basketweave pattern starting to develop. Continue weaving the remainder of the leather strips with the knitted strips. Reserve for last the second leather strip with 40 holes. Pull the rows close together. To hold the pieces in place, pin the leather strips and the knitted pieces together through the holes you punched. Lift up the basketweave assembly and place it on top of an 180/45.5 cm  $\times$  180/45.5 cm pillow. You'll notice that the basketweave top is made a little smaller than the pillow to ensure a snug fit. The top will stretch a little and fit perfectly. Thread the tapestry needle with yarn and whipstitch the basketweave assembly to the seam of the pillow all the way around and through the holes in the leather. Remove all the pins.

