



*an earthchicknits worksheet*

Crackerjack is a conceptual knitting design for baseball fans (it can work for hockey or basketball fans, too!). Knit your team's season into an infinity scarf (or small cowl, or regular scarf - it's all up to you!) to wear for the postseason. Using your team's colors, with whatever yarn and needles you prefer, you will make yourself a color-coded key, take calculations, and use this worksheet to help you fully customize your project, which will reflect your team's wins and losses at home and on the road, for one season.

This worksheet is written primarily with an infinity scarf in mind, knit long-wise, as a tube (for examples of this sort of loop, see Amy Miller's Rayures or my Spy vs. Spy). You can certainly use the key and concept to make a different project, like a smaller cowl or a regular scarf (garter stitch or otherwise). You can choose to use different stitch patterns for wins and losses, and/or for home and away. You could even interpret this concept into socks, a blanket, whatever you want! In other words, everything about this project is up to you - I'm just putting the concept out there for you to use and interpret as you wish.

### **Yarn**

The yarn you choose is entirely up to you - pick whatever you want, in whatever weight you choose, in the colors that correspond to the team of your choosing. You can choose two, three, or four colors - it's all up to you. If you choose to knit the different colors in different yarns, just make sure to pick ones that knit up to similar gauges. Your color-key is on page 2. Fill in the blanks with writing or with actual yarn samples.

### **Needles**

Use whatever size needles give you the gauge you want with the yarn you have chosen. Use dpns, one circular (for magic loop), or two circular needles, depending on your preferred method for knitting a tube.

### **Notions**

Stitch marker, tapestry needle, waste yarn (for provisional cast-on).

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| <b>My team:</b>  | <b>My colors</b> |
| <b>Home win!</b> |                  |
| <b>Home loss</b> |                  |
| <b>Road win!</b> |                  |
| <b>Road loss</b> |                  |

### Gauge and Calculations

Using whatever yarn and needles you prefer, knit a gauge swatch *in the round*. Cast on 48 stitches, knit a few inches, and bind off. If you want to try several different needle sizes, knit a garter row every time you change needle sizes, so you can see which sections of your swatch were knit with which size. Block the swatch and then measure your gauge. *Make sure to measure both stitch and row gauge.*

Insert your measurements and calculations into the chart below; I've included a "sample value" column showing my own calculated values, so you can see how the calculations work.

|          | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Calculation</b> | <b>Your value</b> | <b>Sample value</b> |
|----------|---|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>A</b> | Stitch Gauge  |                    |                   | <b>4.5 sts/inch</b> |
| <b>B</b> | Row Gauge   |                    |                   | <b>6 rnds/inch</b>  |
| <b>C</b> | Desired width of loop   |                    |                   | <b>6"</b>           |
| <b>D</b> | Number of stitches across one side of scarf (rounded to the nearest whole number) | $A \times C$       |                   | <b>27</b>           |
| <b>E</b> | Cast On Stitches  | $E \times 2 + 2$   |                   | <b>56</b>           |
| <b>F</b> | Number of baseball games played   |                    | 162               | <b>162</b>          |
| <b>G</b> | Number of rounds representing one game  |                    |                   | <b>2</b>            |
| <b>H</b> | Expected length of scarf  | $(F \times G) / B$ |                   | <b>54"</b>          |

## Explanation of chart

For your cast-on, you will multiply the desired width of the loop by two, since you are knitting a tube. Then you will add 2 stitches (1 for each edge).

The length of your tube will depend on your row gauge and on how many rounds you knit to represent one game. One round per game will yield a small loop, more of a loose-hanging cowl than an infinity scarf (using my sample values, one round per game would yield a 27" loop). Two rounds per game will yield a longer loop that can be worn doubled. If you want something in between, you could consider knitting 1 round for losses and 2 rounds for wins. My loop will be on the long side, but I like them that way; most infinity loop patterns seem to shoot for between 40" and 44". You do what you want.

## Instructions

Using your preferred method of provisional cast-on, cast on \_\_\_\_\_ (E) stitches. Remember to cast on in whichever color corresponds to the win/loss home/away key you have made for yourself, based on what your team does in their opening game. Being careful not to twist your stitches, place marker for beginning of round, and join to work in round.

Continue to knit \_\_\_\_\_ (G) round(s) every time your team plays a game, in the color that corresponds to your color key (for home wins, home losses, road wins, and road losses). Or knit whenever you want to, checking your team's progress online or in the news, whatever works for you!

For help knitting jogless stripes, refer to this method:

<http://www.socknitters.com/kickback/joglessjog.htm> - or whatever method you prefer.

After you've knit the last stripe (i.e., last game of the season), cut yarn (leaving enough yarn to graft the two tube ends together), weave in yarn ends, unzip provisional cast-on, and, using the kitchener stitch, graft the two ends of the tube together. Block, or not – this is your gig, I'm not going to tell you what to do!

Come the post-season, win or lose, you will have something scrumptious to wrap around your neck and show your team colors. Happy knitting! Play ball!

This is a free worksheet designed by Stacey Simpson Duke for earthchicknits.com. I'm happy to answer questions, see pictures of your projects-in-progress, or chat baseball at [staceyclay@earthchicknits.com](mailto:staceyclay@earthchicknits.com). I will try to keep the sports trash-talk to a minimum!

