LAYLOCK

house-shaped coasters and ornaments

log cabin

WARNING:
This is a thinking pattern!

There are no line-by-line instructions.
There are no yarn, needle size or gauge requirements.
This pattern assumes a familiarity with certain knitting techniques and is not designed for beginner knitters.

But don’t let any of that put you off...

Houseplan

a small challenge

This is more of a small, lateral-thinking knitting challenge than a conventional pattern. I was playing around one evening, trying to knit some house-shaped coasters (or ornaments). Although the basic shape is easy enough to achieve, to knit it in a strictly linear fashion results in at least 6 ends to weave in. This seems silly in such a small piece.

Besides, I was feeling lazy, and quite unwilling to get up and look for some scissors. So I began to wonder how this shape might be knit without cutting and rejoining the yarn. Only 2 ends instead of 6.

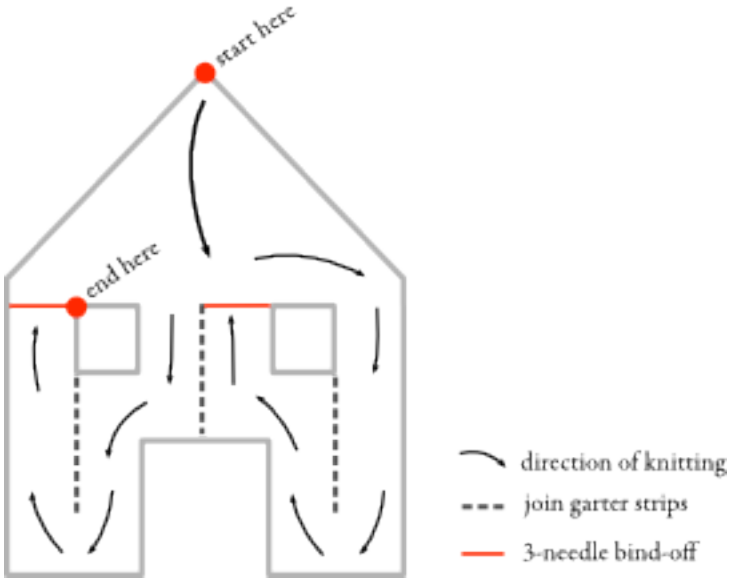
Have a think. Can you solve it?

Two Ends in Sight

how I solved it

I would like to stress that **this is by no means the only way** of solving the problem of knitting this shape without cutting and rejoining the yarn. I urge you to exercise your lateral thinking skills, and your knowledge of knitting techniques to solve the problem in your own fashion. This is simply the way I solved it.

- I knit the roof first, beginning at the tip.
- When I reached the windows, I cast off for the windows,
- leaving 3/4 of the remaining live sts on a holder,
- and continued with one strip of garter st, effectively winding around the windows and door.
- I turned corners using either short rows or modular knitting,
- and joined the edges of the strip by knitting the last live st together with a loop from the edge of the knitted strip, much like knitting on a border.
- When I met the live sts still attached to the roof, I worked a 3-needle bind-off.



Log Cabin

a little more detail

Begin with the tip of the roof. If you want to make this an ornament, leave a long tail to use to hang it up. Cast on 1 st, kfb, then continue increasing on either end of each or every other row, depending on the slope of roof you prefer. You can make your house as wide as you like, but you need to increase the roof until you have a multiple of 6. Once you reach the width you want, knit a few rows straight before you cast off for the windows. Your current stitch count divided by 6 is the number of sts you will be working with for most of the rest of the pattern; we will call this number h (for house!). Once you've finished knitting the straight section, k(h), bo(h), k(hx2), bo(h), k(h). Leave all other stitches aside, and continue working with the last (h) number of stitches on your needle. Work garter st until you reach the full desired height of your house minus a couple of rows. You will now have to turn and go back the way you came, to complete one "leg" of the house. To do this you can use short rows or modular knitting. Here's how to turn the corner using short rows to create several "wedges":

*k(h-1), wrap & turn, k to end.
k(h-2), wrap & turn, k to end.
k(h-3), wrap & turn, k to end

(*continue in this fashion
until you reach the last st)*

Note: if you need to turn the corner "quicker", by working fewer rows, try working short rows on only half the (h) no. of sts, or less.

Repeat from * until you have turned 180 degrees, and are now knitting back UP towards the roof. Now you will knit normal rows again, with the exception that each time you meet the previous strip of garter st you worked, you will pick up a stitch from the edge of that strip, and knit it together (i.e. k2tog) with the last live stitch on your needle. Continue to do this until you are 2-3 rows shy of the bottom of the window (you will need to decide how big you

want your windows to be). At this point, work short row wedges just as you did previously, only this time work until you have turned left 90 degrees, continuing to pick up and knit together sts from the first garter strip as you do so. Depending on your gauge, and how wide you want your windows to be, you now need to either knit a few rows straight, or launch right into more short rows, this time turning upwards 90 degrees. Once you're facing up towards the roof again, knit straight until you meet the live sts on the roof (which you previously put aside). Work a 3 needle bind off on (h) number of sts, knit next (h) sts. Work garter st with these live sts, picking up and knitting together sts from the strip you just completed as you do so. Work short row wedges mirroring the ones that form the bottom left corner of the right window, making sure you continue to pick up and knit sts as you do so. Then work another series of short rows until you're knitting downwards from the roof. Now continue to work the second “leg” of the house just as you did the first, completing the final sides of the door and left window. Once again work a 3 needle bind off to join the last garter strip to the final (h) number of live sts at the top left corner of the house. **You're done!** Weave in the 2 ends, or work the end at the tip of the roof into a loop, or a crochet chain to hang up your house ornament.