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THE COMPLETE

# Jane Austen

SUNDAYS AT 9:00 PM

OKCTS9

## The Jane Tea Cozy

By Daphne Adair for KCTS 9

As we all know, not everything in Austen-land goes as planned. Such was the case with this ample felted tea cozy, originally planned to cover a simple brown betty. A smaller second cozy was created and here we present to you the pattern.

Not a knitter? Try downloading the **colorwork charts** (Excel) for cross-stitch or embroidery. Or, full an old sweater, perhaps from the thrift store, in your washing machine; a blend of wool, alpaca or cashmere without man-made fibers works best. Then, cut out two tea-cozy shaped pieces and **needle felt** the design into the wool before stitching the two halves together.

The rose and leaf patterns are adapted from *Vogue Stitchionary Volume 3: Color Knitting*. Each element represents designs seen in needlework from about 1760 through 1830, as described in Hope Hanley's 1978 title, *Needlework Styles for Period Furniture*, although are highly simplified to suit this technique.

Materials: 2 skeins main color – Aubergine (M-185); 1 skein each contrast colors Kiwi (M-191); Victorian Pink (M-34); Wild Mustard (M-174); and Crème (M-10). Note: When substituting colors, use care to avoid white yarns, as the bleaching process often results in yarns that do not felt. Yarn is used double throughout.

Size 15 needles (or size to obtain pre-felted gauge of 2.5 stitches and 3 rows per inch in st st)  
Yarn needle

### Chart Key:

/ k2tog (RS); p2tog (WS)  
\ ssk (RS); p2tog TBL (WS)

G Kiwi (green)

P Victorian Pink (pink)

Y Wild Mustard (yellow)

C Crème (off-white)

(heavy bar atop square = bound off stitches)



To make: Using two strands of MC held together, cast on 48 stitches using long-tail method. Knit one row; purl one row, then carry on in stockinette stitch, following the charts shown. Colorwork begins on row 4, a right-side knit row. Leave a long (12") tail when joining yarn for the stems and ribbon to use for duplicate stitching later. Use bobbins and stranding in conjunction as you are comfortable. Twist new yarn colors at color changes; you can use yarn ends to help close up any significant gaps before felting.

Work decrease rows 26, 30, 34, 38, 42, 44 and 46 as follows: K1, ssk, knit to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1. Work wrong-side decreases as follows: P1, p2tog, purl to last 3 sts, p2tog tbl, p1.



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Binding off: Row 48: K1, ssk, bind off 4, knit to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. (26 sts remain)

Row 49: P1, p2tog, bind off 4, purl to last 3 sts, p2tog TBL, p1. (20 sts)

Row 50: As row 48. (14 sts)

Row 51: As row 49. (8 sts)

Row 52: K1, ssk, bind off to last 3 sts, k2tog, bind off remaining stitches.

Finishing: Weave in ends on wrong side before seaming. One needn't be too precise but watch out for overloading a particular area with yarn, or a lumpy cozy may result. For example, the peaks of the scrolls can easily become heavy. Some ends may be more simply tucked under the stranded yarns and/or tied off rather than being woven in entirely. One may use a single strand to rectify any gaps in colorwork. Use yarn ends to **duplicate stitch** (or swiss darn) the stem stitches, as this will greatly improve their visibility in the final product. Finally, seam sides using mattress stitch.

Felting: Turn the cozy right-side out. (An inside-out cozy will result in dulled colors.) Use an upright washing machine, hot water and a little soap to wash the cozy until it shrinks to the desired size. Place an old pair of jeans or similar in the machine to improve agitation; avoid using towels or anything that might shed, as the bits can be permanently felted into the cozy. (The good news is you can trim the cozy surface easily when dry.) Restart the agitation cycle of the washer as needed, but do not allow it to progress to the spin cycle, or you may have a creased cozy. Remove the cozy and roll in an old towel to remove excess moisture; place cozy over a suitably shaped object (our iron falls into disuse and performed admirably here) atop the old towel or other non-stainable surface to dry. Drying can take a few days, depending on the climate and time of year.

