

Referendum 'Yes' – small knitted banner



This small banner was originally made to welcome the opportunity to vote 'Yes' in the upcoming referendum to change the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice](#). There is much to be gained by having an established path by which the wisdom of the Peoples who have lived, cared for country and continued culture over thousands of years, will be heard. It brings opportunity for healing and to find ways of moving forward to address injustice, loss and grief brought to the First Peoples of this country by colonisation. We all have much to benefit from sharing knowledge of caring for this country on which we live.

Yarn and size of banner

The prototype, pictured above, was knitted in 8 ply wool and is approximately 40cm across by 21cm deep. It needs about 1 ball of the main colour and half a ball of the contrast. (Left-over yarn was used for the prototype above and so it was not measured.) You can use another ply yarn but it will obviously result in a different sized banner.

Gauge and needles

Choose needles suitable to the ply of the yarn. Keep the letters neat and clear so consider which needle size will keep a reasonable tension on the finished product. This version was knitted on 3.5mm needles as the knitter has loose tension. Otherwise, gauge is not important.

Abbreviations

K Knit

P Purl

K2tog Knit two stitches together

YO Yarn over

SSK Slip, Slip, Knit (separately slip the first two stitches from the left needle to the right knitwise, and slip them back to the left needle purlwise, then knit through the back legs of the two stitches together). While K2tog is a right leaning decrease, SSK is it's left leaning twin.

The pattern that follows uses a 'lace' line to highlight the 'frame'. In the prototype pictured YOs and SSKs were used – see Note below. The SSKs do seem to give straighter neater posts than K2tog but that may be personal to the knitter. The pattern below assumes less experienced knitters are likely to be more comfortable with K2tog, YO to create the lace element.



Letter pattern

A chart for the letters to be done in the contrast colour is attached.

Cast on 69 stitches.

Rows 1-5 Knit

Row 6 K2, (K2tog, YO) repeat to last 3 stitches, K3

Row 7 K3, P to last 3 stitches, K3.

Row 8 K2, K2tog, YO, K to last 5 stitches, K2tog, YO, K3

Row 9 K3, P to last 3 stitches, K3.

Row 10 K2, K2tog, YO, K3, join in the contrast colour and Knit Row 1 of the 55-stitch letter pattern as set out in the chart attached, K2, K2tog, YO, K3

Row 11 K3, P4, carry the contrast colour from the previous row and Purl Row 2 of the 55-stitch letter pattern, P4, K3

Rows 12 - 50

Continue as rows 10 and 11 including the succeeding rows of the letter pattern until completed.

Row 51 As Row 8

Row 52 As Row 9

Row 53 As Row 6

Row 54 - 58 Knit

Cast off knitwise. The banner as pictured was then washed and blocked.

Optional extras include:

- 4 10cm tassels each made up of 30 wraps of 10 cm card.
- Ties at each end of the top edge made by picking up a stitch near the corner with a crochet hook (appropriate to yarn thickness) and crocheting 75 chain stitches, then making a double crochet (UK terms) into the 2nd stitch from the end and proceeding to double crochet into each chain stitch back to the beginning and slip stitching into the banner stitch next to the first one



picked up.

- Sewing a light cloth sleeve to the back of the top edge to hold a light batten to hold the banner straight

Note

* If you choose to use SSKs instead of K2tog then a Knit row is changed to:

Row 6 K3, (YO, SSK) repeat to last 2 stitches, K2.

Row 8 K3, YO, SSK, K to last 4 stitches, YO, SSK, K2.

Row 10 K3, YO, SSK, K2, join in the contrast colour and Knit Row 1 of the 55-stitch letter pattern as set out in the chart attached, K3, YO, SSK, K2.

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Key to Letter chart on next page:

- The odd number rows are Knit 'right side' rows and the even number rows are Purl 'wrong side' rows.
- The odd numbered knit rows read right to left but the even numbered purl rows start at the left end.
- The black **X** squares are knitted or purled in the contrast colour.
- The pictured prototype was done from a drawing and some adventures happened in translating what happens to curves in knitting, where stitches are wider than rows are high among other things. The grid version provided attempts to make it a less challenging adventure with more even spacing but feel free to adjust if the letters are not shaping to your satisfaction.

