



Apple Cozy

By Jennifer McCann, author of Vegan Lunch Box (www.veganlunchbox.com)

Hand-knit **Apple Cozies** are a great way to keep your fruit safe and unbruised in your lunch bag or purse. I've written this pattern in three sizes. The **smallest size** is designed for those tiny Gala or Pink Lady apples that come in bags at the market - just right for preschoolers or those with small apple appetites. The **medium** is your best bet for most apples, and **large** is for the biggest of apples or Asian Pears. And speaking of pears, don't miss the **variation for pears** at the end.



Materials:

- ❖ 100% cotton 4-ply worsted weight yarn, such as Sugar'n Cream or Lion Brand Kitchen Cotton: one ball main color and a small amount of contrasting color for the leaf.
- ❖ One set of 4 double-pointed needles in size 7 (4.5 mm) or size to obtain gauge.
- ❖ Size H crochet hook.
- ❖ One $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch (15 mm) button.

Gauge:

- ❖ 20 sts = 4 inches (10 cm) in stockinette

Size:

- ❖ Designed to fit around a small (medium, large) apple.

Abbreviations:

- ❖ **K1:** knit.
- ❖ **P1:** purl.
- ❖ **M1:** insert the working needle from front to back under the horizontal strand between the stitch just worked and the next stitch; place this strand on the holding needle and knit the resulting loop through the back to make a new stitch.
- ❖ **K1f&b:** knit one stitch through the front and back, making 2 stitches.
- ❖ **P2tog:** purl two stitches together, making 1 stitch.
- ❖ **K2tog:** knit two stitches together, making 1 stitch.
- ❖ **Sl1:** slip one stitch knitwise onto the working needle without knitting.
- ❖ **PSSO:** pass the slipped stitch over the next stitch.

Directions:

Cast on **9 (12, 12) stitches** in main color. Divide evenly onto three needles (3 (4, 4) stitches on each needle). Join in the round.

Round 1: Knit all stitches.

- Round 2:** On each needle, K1, M1, knit to last stitch, M1, K1.
- Round 3:** Knit all stitches.

Repeat these two rounds, increasing every other round and maintaining stockinette stitch (knit all stitches) until you have 42 (48, 54) stitches total (14 (16, 18) stitches on each needle).

Knit **2 (3, 4) rounds** even.

Now it's time to stop knitting in the round. Instead, turn the work and begin knitting back and forth and decreasing:

- Row 1 (wrong side):** On each needle, P2tog, purl to end.
Row 2 (right side): On each needle, K2tog, knit to end.

Repeat these two rows until you have **15 stitches** left (**5** on each needle).
Cast off.

Make the Leaf:

Cast on **3 stitches** in contrasting color.

Row 1 (right side): K all stitches.

Row 2 (wrong side): P all stitches.

Row 3: K1f&b, K1, K1f&b (5 stitches).

Row 4 - 6: P all stitches on wrong side, K on right side.

Row 7: K2tog, K1, K2tog.

Row 8: P all stitches.

Row 9: Sl1, K2tog, PSSO. Break yarn and BO final stitch.

Finishing:

Thread the tail yarn and use it to cinch up the bottom 12 stitches. Attach the button near the top of the apple at one side of the opening. Use the crochet hook to crochet a 10 (12, 12) st. single-chain loop and attach it opposite the button. Attach the leaf along the top border. Weave in all ends.

Pear Variation:

To make a Pear Cozy, follow the instructions above to the point where you have **15 stitches** left (**5** on each needle). Add **4 (5, 6) extra rows of stockinette** (knit on the right side, purl on the wrong side). Cast off. Finish as for apple.