

Throwing hammer

Recommended equipment: Five (5) dpns and one short circular of the same size (to be used as a stitch holder. A rigid holder is not recommended, due to the curvature of the stitches in question.)

- 1) CO 6 and slide to the other end of the dpn, as if to make an I-cord
 - 2) Kfb around, distributing across three needles, mark beginning of round (12 st)
 - 3) K around
 - 4) Kfb around (24 st)
 - 5-7) K around (3x)
 - 8) P around (The use of the purl in this round gives a nice 'sharp' edge between the end of the handle and the grip part)
 - 9-42) K around (This is the haft of the hammer, and should be an inch or so longer than the width of your palm. I wrote this based on what felt comfortable in my hand, but feel free to make this longer or shorter to fit)
- If you have a fifth dpn of the same size, I'd recommend incorporating it during the next round to make the repeats easier to track.
- 43) * Kfb, K4, Kfb * Repeat between the *'s around (32 st)
 - 44) * Kfb, K6, Kfb * Repeat between the *'s around (40 st)
 - 45-47) K around (3x)

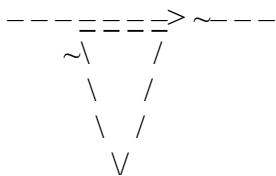
K3 into the next round (Move the marker as normal!) and transfer to a circular holder, leaving a 6-8 inch tail. Since this is such a small piece, I mark the repeats and arrange it so the last two repeats and the three 'new round' stitches are on the far end of the circular, and the remaining 17 stitches are waiting to be worked on the near end of the circular.

Repeat rounds 1-8 with a separate yarn end to make the front surface of the hammer head. (24 st)

- 9-12) K around (4x)
- 13) P around
- 14-16) K around (3x)
- 17) K2tog around (12 st)
- 18-20) K around (3x) You should stuff the head at this point.

You should have four stitches on each of three needles at this point. This next part will join the hammer head to the shaft, and is a little tricky.

Holding the head with the flat part down, and your ball-yarn to the left, work a three-needle bind-off over the four stitches of the first needle, using the long tail and an empty dpn. You will be ending with the ball-yarn and the long tail lining up. In the art below, the ~ represents the trailing yarn ends as you start, and the > represents the working point of the circular needle holding the handle. Each – is a stitch.



- 1) Insert your working needle into the last stitch of the first needle (the fourth stitch of the head round) as if to knit, then into the next stitch of the shaft as if to knit (the fourth stitch of that round, as three are on the back holder and one is on your working needle). Yarn over and knit through both stitches, pulling both off of the left-hand needles.
- 2) Repeat this with the next three stitches in line, lifting the previous stitch on the right needle over each to bind it off. This should end up with all of the stitches off of the first 'head' needle, and three stitches remaining before the repeat marker on the 'haft' holder.
- 3) Holding ball and tail yarns together, knit the next stitch on the haft holder, and lift the previous stitch over it. When you knit to the repeat marker, use the ball yarn. You will have three stitches on this needle.

With the freed-up dpn, K10 and remove the repeat marker. This will give you a little space, so it's easier to weave in the end of the tail as you see fit. Slide the stitches around the circular and K10 onto the remaining dpn. Carefully transfer the remaining 8 stitches from the head needles onto the far end of the circular, then knit to the end of the round with the ball yarn and one of the dpns you've just freed up. Three 'haft' stitches remain on the holder with the 8 'head' stitches. Pull both ends of the circular holder so that they all come together, and then shift seven of them to the 'working' end of the holder, and four to the back end. K2, K2tog, WRAP AND TURN,

P3, then Purl across the three needles with 10 stitches each. When you get to the three-stitch needle at the beginning of the round, transfer the four 'back end' stitches from the holder to the back end of the three-stitch needle. (Four will remain on the holder at this point) P2, P2tog, WRAP AND TURN.

K3, then K across the three needles with 10 stitches each. K2, K2 tog, WRAP AND TURN (The remaining two stitches from the holder should be transferred to the back end of the first needle, releasing the holder, and it can be put aside.)

Using the back end of your first needle, P3. You're now back to a reasonable five dpns (three with 10 stitches, and the one you just finished with 11 stitches). P across the three 10-stitch needles, and push a little more stuffing into the tiny hole for the head if it needs it. Overstuffing will give you a ball-peen hammer, after all. P2, P2tog, P7. On next needle, P9, Pbf (11 sts on that needle, 10 on the three others). TURN

We are now going to be creating the gap for the 'claw'. Directions will be divided up by needle. If you're looking at the back of the hammer, needle 'A' is on your left, needle 'B' is opposite you (the head), needle 'C' is to your right, and needle 'D' is towards you (the claw). Needle D is going to be mostly ignored for the next bit.

S11, Kfb, K9; K10; K9, Kfb TURN (A12, B10, C11)

S11, Pbf, P10; P10; P9, Pbf TURN (yes, this is before the end of the needle) (A13, B10, C12)

S11, Kfb, K9; K10; K9, Kfb TURN (A14, B10, C13)

S11, Pbf, P10; P10; P9, Pbf TURN (A15, B10, C14)

S11, Kfb, K9; K10; K9, Kfb TURN (A16, B10, C15)

S11, Pbf, P10; P10 TURN (A16, B10, C16)

Now, we're going to be closing the top of the hammer. If you haven't already done so, stuff the haft, at least to the level of the tiny head opening. Continue poking stuffing into the front of the hammer as you close.

The head of the hammer should be facing you now, with needle B active, needle A to the right, and needle C to the left. Catching the yarn between the last stitch and the 'transfer' stitch makes a cleaner seam, but isn't necessary.

Transfer one stitch from A and C to B. SSK, K8, K2tog, TURN (A15, B10, C15)

Transfer one stitch from A and C to B. P2tog, P8, P2tog, TURN (A14, B10, C14)

Repeat these two rows four more times. (A6, B10, C6)

At this point, if you hold the hammer and look at it from the side, A and C should be basically pointing along the haft. The top of the hammer is closed, and we'll now be tapering the 'claw'. Be careful not to stuff the claw too much. It should only need a thin layer at most.

Claw round 1-2) K around (2x) (32 st) (long needles 10, short needles 6)

3) K10; SSK, K4; K10; K4, K2tog (30 st) (long needles 10, short needles 5)

4-5) K10; SSK, K2, Kfb; K10; Kfb, K2, SSK (2x) (long needles 10, short needles 5)

6) K10; SSK, K3; K10; K3, K2tog (28 st) (long needles 10, short needles 4)

7-8) K10; SSK, K, Kfb; K10; Kfb, K, SSK (2x) (long needles 10, short needles 4)

9) K10; SSK, K2; K10; K2, K2tog (26 st) (long needles 10, short needles 3)

10-11) K10; SSK, Kfb; K10; Kfb, SSK (2x) (long needles 10, short needles 3)

12) K10; SSK, K; K10; K, K2tog (24 st) (long needles 10, short needles 2)

13) K around

14) K10; SSK, K10, K2tog (22 st) Work decreases and second K10 all on one needle, so you have 10 stitches on the first needle and 12 stitches on the second needle

15) K10; SSK, K8, K2tog (20 st)

16) Holding the hammer with the top towards you, slip one stitch from the back needle, and pass yarn between the stitches before replacing stitch on back needle.

Finish off with a three-needle bind-off

- [*The Murder on the Burrows*](#) (1931)
- *The Affair on Thor's Head* (1932)
- *The Greenwell Mystery* (1932)
- [*The Case of Colonel Marchand*](#) (1933)
- [*Death on the Oxford Road*](#) (1933)
- [*Murder in St. John's Wood*](#) (1934)
- [*Murder in Chelsea*](#) (1934)
- [*The Organ Speaks*](#) (1935)
- [*Death of an Author*](#) (1935) not featuring MacDonald
- [*Crime Counter Crime*](#) (1936)
- [*A Pall for a Painter*](#) (1936)
- [*Bats in the Belfry*](#) (1937)
- *The Devil and the C.I.D.* (1938)
- *Slippery Staircase* (1938)
- *John Brown's Body* (1939)
- *Black Beadle* (1939)
- *Tryst for a Tragedy* (1940)

- [Death at Dyke's Corner](#) (1940)
- [Case in the Clinic](#) (1941)
- [Rope's End, Rogue's End](#) (1942)
- [The Sixteenth Stair](#) (1942)
- [Death Came Softly](#) (1943)
- [Fire in the Thatch](#) (1946)
- *The Theft of the Iron Dogs* (1946); U.S. title *Murderer's Mistake* (1947)
- [Relative to Poison](#) (1947)
- [Death Before Dinner](#) (1948); U.S. title *A Screen for Murder* (1948)
- [Part for a Poisoner](#) (1948); U.S. title *Place for a Poisoner* (1948)
- [Still Waters](#) (1949)
- [Policemen in the Precinct](#) (1949)
- [Accident by Design](#) (1950)
- [Murder of a Martinet](#) (1951)
- [The Dog It Was That Died](#) (1952)
- [Murder in the Mill-Race](#) (1952); U.S. title *Speak Justly of the Dead* (1953)
- [Shroud of Darkness](#) (1954)
- [Let Well Alone](#) (1954)
- [Ask a Policeman](#) (1955)
- [Murder in Vienna](#) (1956)
- *Dangerous Domicile* (1957)
- *Picture of Death* (1957)
- [Murder on a Monument](#) (1958)
- *Death in Triplicate* (1958) Non-MacDonald story featuring Superintendent Kempson
- *Dishonour Among Thieves* (1959); U.S. title *The Last Escape* (1959)
- *Two-Way Murder* (published posthumously in 2021)