

# Mary K. Greer's Knitted Tarot Case

<http://marygreer.wordpress.com/>

This pattern is for a 3"x5"x1" deck such as the Rider-Waite-Smith and many other US Games decks and most Lo Scarabeo decks, etc.

Yarn: Lily "Sugar 'n Cream" 100% Cotton 4-ply worsted (in 24 colors & patterns). Available at most craft stores like Michaels, Ben Franklin, Wal-mart, Supercenter, etc. (<http://www.sugarncream.com/product.php?LGC=sugarncream>)

5 double-pointed knitting needles, size US 3 (or whatever is needed to obtain gauge)

Gauge: 6 stitches to the inch – stockinette stitch

Cast on 17 stitches leaving a long tail –18". You will be making the front and top flap of the case using only two of your five needles.

Knit in seed stitch (k1,p1\*), such that the knit and purl stitches alternate on each row. Continue for approximately 4-1/4" (or whatever length you want for your front flap; it will stretch a little). You should end up with a pebbly texture of alternating knit and purl stitches.

End on right side (yarn tail to the bottom right). Purl one row. This forms a slight ridge that facilitates a fold in the flap between the front and the top of the flap.

Continue with seed stitch for another 1-1/4" (11 rows). End on right side. Purl one row. The new stitches will continue directly on from here.

Cast on 29 more stitches for the body of your case, moving them onto other needles so that you have:

**Needle One:** 5 stitches

**Needle Two:** 18 stitches

**Needle Three:** 6 stitches. You should be at the end of this needle, ready to move onto

**Needle Four:** 17 stitches continuing from the seed-stitch flap.

Making sure not to twist your cast-on stitches, slip the last (6<sup>th</sup>) stitch from Needle Three onto Needle Four. Knit together the first two stitches on Needle Four, pulling the yarn fairly tight to lock the round. You should now have a continuous round on four needles.

Knit 6 more stitches (7 in all) on Needle Four, increase one at the 8<sup>th</sup> stitch (knit first into the front of the 8<sup>th</sup> stitch and then into the back of the same stitch). Knit the remaining nine stitches on that needle. **You should now have 5, 18, 5, 18 stitches on your four needles.** From this point you will be knitting in the round.

You are now at Needle One: Stitches on this needle and on Needle Three will be in seed stitch (k1,p1\*) alternating with (p1,k1\*). *Always make sure you are knitting into a purl stitch and purling into a knit stitch.* For this 1<sup>st</sup> row the five stitches should be: p1,k1,p1,k1,p1.

Needle Two: This is the front panel of the case and it will be in stockinette stitch. **Knit every stitch in every row, except the first two rows which are in seed stitch.** This keeps the top edge from curling. Row 1: (k1,p1\*), Row 2: (p1,k1\*), Row 3 and following: knit every row.

Needle Three: As Needle One except the first row will be k1,p1,k1,p1,k1.

Needle Four: This is the back panel, which continues on from the front and top flap. Knit every row. (Optional: *Row 1 only*: k1,p1\*. This gives a decorative fluted top edge.)

Continue as above over the 46 stitches per round (5, 18, 5, 18) for 4-7/8" to 5". A round ends with the end of Needle Four. (Optional: knit the last-but-one round in k1,p1\* for all 46 stitches to create a fluted bottom edge).

Purl the last round (all 46 stitches) before beginning the bottom of the case. This gives an defined edge to the bottom.

Needle One: Purl one row (5 stitches).

You will now be knitting back and forth on Needle One, but adding in a stitch each from Needles Two and Four on each row. Repeat all the instructions within the parentheses until no more stitches remain on Needles Two and Four and there are only five stitches on Needle One.

(\*Turn work so that Needle One is facing you as if to knit the back side.

Slip one stitch from Needle Two onto Needle One. Knit 2 together (K2tog).

Knit three stitches, leaving the last one on Needle One.

Slip one stitch from Needle Four onto Needle One. Slip, Slip, Knit together (SSK).

Turn to face the purl side of the work.

Slip one stitch from Needle Four onto Needle One. Purl the first two stitches together (P2tog).

Purl three stitches, leaving one.

Slip one stitch from Needle Two onto Needle One. P2tog.

Repeat from \*)

Continue as above until you have only the five stitches on Needle One (ready for a knit side) and five untouched stitches on Needle Three. Slide the stitches from each needle onto two safety pins and push through the gap to the inside of the case. Cut the yard at about 30". Thread with a tapestry needle and push needle and thread through the gap. Turn the case inside out. Transfer the stitches from the safety pins back onto the two needles. Hold so that the needle with the yarn-end is in back and the yarn extends from the right. Stitch closed using a Kitchener Stitch. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7jIzwO5Nv4>  
<http://www.knitty.com/issuesummer04/FEATtheresasum04.html>

Push the needle and thread through to the other side at the front corner. Turn the case right side out.

Weave yarn as invisibly as possible along the front edge of the case to the center. Lock stitch the yarn at the midpoint of the front edge and cut into an 8" tail that you will use to tie the flap down. (Optional: Leave yarn long if you want to thread a separate length of yarn through the same midpoint such that you have three strands of yarn to braid for a thicker tie.)

Thread the yarn tail from the beginning of the flap onto a tapestry needle and weave it along the bottom edge of the flap to the midpoint to form the top tie. (Optional: add an extra length of yarn to the midpoint and braid the three strands for a thicker tie.)

Alternatively, affix a button closure to the front panel and use a shorter flap. If you wish, stitch a metal charm or a cloth or embroidery design onto the front flap.

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