

I Am Jack's Decorative Throw Pillow
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Ever wanted a throw pillow to let everyone know that you also enjoy dystopian fiction? Here you go.

This pattern has super-simple knitting, but some really spicy duplicate stitching to make thing interesting. Make sure that you download the accompanying chart, put on the *Fight Club* movie, make up a batch of anti-establishment soap, and let your needles fly.

Yarn:

Brown Sheep Lamb's Pride Worsted (85% wool, 15% mohair blend, 190 yds. per skein), 1 skein each of
M-06 Deep Charcoal (Color A) and M-03 Grey Heather (Color B)
Brown Sheep Nature Spun Worsted (100% wool), 1 skein 740W Snow (Color C)

Supplies:

US size 6 (4.0mm) 24" circular needles (or long straight needles if you'd prefer)
locking stitch markers or safety pins (optional)
tapestry or yarn needle
sewing or T-pins for blocking
polyfill stuffing
scissors

Gauge:

5 1/2 sts per inch on US 6 (4.0mm) needles

(Basically, you want fabric tight enough so that the pillow stuffing will not poke through, but loose enough to be able to duplicate stitch on the surface. I found that this gauge worked well for both.)

Duplicate Stitching:

Duplicate stitching is a major component to this pattern, and since there's a lot of it, if you've never tried it before, it might be good to practice a little on a swatch (maybe your gauge swatch that you've diligently knitted, right?) before you move on to the finished project. Here's a great tutorial from Purl Soho to review if you've never tried it before: <http://www.purlsoho.com/create/2007/10/28/duplicate-stitch/> (be sure to follow the "V" stitch portion for our particular pattern).

To perform a duplicate stitch, you insert a yarn needle threaded with your desired yarn into the base of the stitch you'd like to embroider over, from back to front. Then, you thread the needle underneath the "V" of the stitch above the one you're working on, pull the yarn snugly, and then bring the needle back down into the base of the stitch where you came up. You're basically following the yarn through the stitch as it loops up and down, but only doing it one stitch at a time.

The most important thing to keep in mind is to keep your tension consistent. You don't want your embroidered stitches to be too loose and floppy because then you'll be able to see the knitted fabric underneath, and everything will just be a mess. If your stitches are too tight, there will be all kinds of puckering and strangeness, which will be near-impossible to block out. Just practice for a bit on some no-stakes stockinette swatches, and you'll be good to go.

Pattern:

CO 80 sts with Color A onto your circular needle. Starting with a WS (purl side) row, knit in st st for 90 rows, ending on a RS (knit side) row.



Break yarn.

Join Color B, and knit another 90 rows, again starting on a WS row and ending on a RS row. Bind off all sts purl-wise.

Now, with the Color A side facing you and your CO end on the bottom, embroider on your duplicate stitch letters with Color C using the accompanying chart (titled *I Am Jack's Decorative Throw Pillow - Chart.pdf*. Make sure you download it, too!). A good tactic here, since there's so much to do (and really with any duplicate stitch project), is to work from right to left and from top to bottom. The best place to start is the period at the end of the sentence, so your first duplicate stitch would be 6 sts in from the right side and 8 sts up from the bottom. You can mark this stitch with a locking stitch marker or safety pin in order to better see your starting point. When I work on these

types of patterns, I often mark out my borders in this way, and if you'd like to do this, place your markers 5 sts in from each side all along the edges, as these are the limits of the embroidery.

Don't make your working yarn too long, or you'll end up tangled all the time. Make sure, as you're moving from area to area, that you leave enough slack on the back of your work that the fabric doesn't pucker, but not enough that you're getting tangled up and catching on loops back there all the time. The way that I do this is to put 2-3 fingers against the back



of the fabric and under the slack as I'm pulling the yarn across and making my first stitch, keeping things loose, but not sloppy.



When you've gotten to the end of your working yarn, weave it under the loops made by your stitches for about 4-5 sts and then break your yarn. That's also a good method for weaving in your ends.

Once you're done with the embroidery, make sure that you have all of your ends woven in. Wet block your piece, pinning out the edges to make sure they're straight, which makes your sewing so much easier.



Then, using mattress stitch, sew up the sides of your pillow. Again using mattress stitch, start to sew up the bottom seam, but stop halfway through to fill your pillow with stuffing. Get a decent amount in there, and then sew some more until you're 3/4 of the way there. Then, top off your stuffing and make sure everything's plump and lined up the way you want before you finish sewing the seam. Fasten your yarn with a tiny knot to the corner of the pillow after the last stitch, and then insert your needle into the pillow and through some of the stuffing (2-3") before pulling it out the back side. Pull the yarn tight just a smidge, cut your yarn, and then fluff up the pillow so your yarn disappears inside the pillow. This sounds weird, but it'll make sense when you're doing it.



Then, you're pretty much done! I went ahead and gave the whole thing a blast with a steam iron afterwards, just to make sure that all the stitches were flat and that the corners were plump and perfect.

Now, get out there and destroy the establishment.