Knit a Linen Stitch Glasses Case with Wendy Bernard

Chapter 1 - Introduction
Overview
Hi, I'm Wendy Bernard. I'm a knitwear designer and an author. I've written a bunch of booksâ ”the Custom Knit seriesâ ” and a stitch dictionary called Up, Down, All-Around Stitch Dictionary. I like to travel a lot, and when I do I usually search out a local yarn store and ask the clerk there if there are any local yarns that I could take a look at, and sometimes they do have them and sometimes they don't. But I will always walk away with a beautiful single skein of yarn. And I'm so passionate about the materials that I get to work with, especially things like this that are so beautiful. And I like to dream about what I might make out of them. I have the perfect project for that single cut of a lovely skein of yarn, a knitted eyeglasses case. In this class, we're going to be knitting in the round linen stitch, and we're also going to be at one point knitting it flat. So I'm going to show you how to do both directions. We're also going to do a buttonhole opening, and then afterwards we're going to take one special beautiful button and we're going to attach it for the closure. This is such a fun and fast project. It doesn't even look like it's handmade. It looks like it's woven. Your friends, your family, they're going to love them, and you're going to want to keep one for yourself as well.

Chapter 2 - Materials
Materials
- Here are the materials that you're going to need. You need your printed pattern, skein of yarn. You can see I partially wound mine. One inch button. If it's a little bit bigger or a little bit smaller it should be fine. A tape measure, a tapestry needle, an optional stitch marker, pair of scissors, and double pointed needles.

Chapter 3 - Knit an Eyeglass Case
Create gauge swatch and start knitting case
- The first step you wanna take is make a gauge swatch. This is in linen stitch. You can see that it's not a full four inch square, usually I like to make them in a larger, at least, four inch square, but because in this pattern, it doesn't matter what your row gauge is, I made it a little shorter. The main goal here is that you do get about 34 stitches to four inches. As you can see here, this is not quite four inches, so I'm going to measure two inches' worth of the stitches. And I counted earlier, and I know that for two inches, I get 17 stitches per inch. So then I should be fine. Another reason why you wanna do a gauge swatch, is you wanna see how the patterning comes out. As I said before, these look woven. And if you use too large of needles, if it's too loose it's not gonna have that weaved look. After you've completed your gauge swatch and you're happy with the way it measures and the way it looks, you'll need to decide what size eyeglasses case you want to make. There are three sizes in the pattern, and I'm going to make one of the smaller, the smallest size. It's going to fit reading glasses or some slim glasses. There are finished measurements in the pattern, so you can refer to them when making your decision. I'm going to cast on 41 stitches. I'm going to use double point needles with this. I have three that I will work in the round on, and I have a fourth one, it looks kind of bent, doesn't it? I bend them over time, to knit the stitches off with. So using a long tail cast on, I'm going to cast on 41 stitches. Again, this is for the smallest size, and it says so in the pattern. So there's going to be 41. That's four, five ... Eight ... Gonna add on another needle now. People cast

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on to double point needles differently. They have their own way of doing it. Some people will go ahead and cast on all on one needle, and then transfer them later. I typically do it this way. So it's just a matter of preference. Then I'll add on another needle. And I'll probably rearrange these stitches more evenly once I get them all done. I've cast on to my three double point needles, and before I join in the round and begin knitting the one round I need to do, it's all pointed out in the pattern. I wanted to lay down my needles on the table here, and make sure that the bottom of the cast on stitches are all facing the same way. You'll wanna do this, because, well if you've ever knit in the round before, you know what it's like when you accidentally knit a moebius or a half moebius. You don't want that to happen. So the best way to do it, is lay it down on the table. And make sure that everything's facing the same way. So now I'm going to pick them up carefully, and I'm going to knit one round. Now you can see that I do have an optional stitch marker. But because this leg here, you can see the leg hanging down, that will always tell me that that's the beginning of the round so I don't really need a stitch marker. And anyways, if I used it on the double point needles, it would fall off. But if you're using a long circular, then obviously you'd wanna use a stitch marker. So I will now knit one round. We rearrange just a little bit. Usually the first round is slightly tricky, but once you get it going, it's fine. Then using my working needle after it's freed up, I just use it to knit the very last needleful of stitches. You can see this tail here that I pointed out? This will tell me that that's the beginning of the round. So I'm almost at the end, and then I will have completed the first round of knit stitches. For round one of linen stitch, the pattern tells me to knit one stitch, and then slip one stitch with the yarn in front. WYIF means with yarn in front. So here's my knit stitch, and all I do is put the working yarn here in front, and then I slip the next stitch as if I were to purl it. We do that again. Knit one, slip one stitch as if to purl. That means you don't knit it, you just literally transfer it from this needle to this needle. So I've just slipped one with the yarn in front, and now I knit, slip one, knit, slip one, knit, slip one. Just continue all the way around for this first round of the pattern. Then knit. Now remember, after a knit stitch comes a slip one. And because it comes on this second needle, all I have to do is slip the first stitch on this needle. You can act like they're just one continuous needle. So we're bringing the yarn in front, and just slipping it without working it, see? ^Continue knitting linen stitch in the round ^until it measures what your pattern tells you to. ^In my case, it's six and three quarters inches. Next thing I'm going to do is bind off some stitches and then begin knitting linen stitch for the flap flat. Your completed tube will look a little bit like this, or hopefully a lot like this. But since you used a hand-painted yarn, it's all unique. You might have a different effect, but this is how it looks with my yarn. Anyways, I'm going to bind off now. So it says 18 stitches for my size case. So what you do when you're binding off, is just you knit two, you pass the previous one over that stitch. That's one stitch. That's two. As you're binding off, pay attention to your tension because you don't want that bound off edge to be too tight or too loose. It'll curl if it's too loose. Alright. So you can notice here, that I've got this sort of a situation happening. So I'm just going to put this last working stitch on this needle, and then I'm going to rearrange the stitches so that they're all on one needle. I am going to pretend as if it were a straight needle. So I'll be using two of them. And next I'm going to begin working on the flap.

Create flap with buttonhole and finish

- Now we're ready to make our flap and our button hole. First and in the instructions will tell you we need to purl one, right side row. Treating these as if they were straight needles, I'm just going to purl across the remaining stitches with the right side facing me. This will give it a nice turning edge for the flap. And the transition of the linen stitch in the round to the linen stitch flat will be less

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noticeable if you do this purl row. Before we were working in rounds, now we're going to be working in rows. There's always going to be a right side and a wrong side. When you work a tube, you always have the right side facing you. When I'm done with this purl row, the instructions tell you to begin working your linen stitch flat beginning with a row two. A row two is a wrong side row. I'm ready, you can see there's this tube in the opening here. If you look at your instruction, the second row of linen stitch flat begins with two purl stitches. Then you begin your weaving as it were. Instead of with yarn in front, we now slip with yarn in back as if to purl. Then you bring it in and you purl one, ^then you slip as if to purl. ^Work your flap until it measures an inch and a half. Then we'll begin the button hole. As you can see the turning ridge here, that was the purl row that we did and here's the flap. I've got my stitches ready. I'm going to now bind off some center stitches to create the button hole. In my pattern, it tells me to work nine stitches before I do the button hole and I'm going to work them in pattern. I'm just going to resume the linen stitch flat for nine stitches. There's two, four, six, seven, eight, that's nine. Notice how I slipped it, that's fine. I'm just going to begin that binding off five stitches now. That means you knit two no matter what the linen stitch pattern is, you still just knit two. Pull and over. There's one stitch bound off. Two. Three. Four. Five. And then looking at the linen stitch, by now you've knit enough that you can tell what the next stitch and pattern will be. See how this one's slipped, that means I'll just resume by knitting it and then slipping. Just work the rest of the way across. On the next row is when we finish off the button hole and you'll see what I mean in a second. You have the wrong side, see this? Those are the bound off stitches. This is where I'm going to finish off the button hole. I just go ahead and resume knitting the linen stitch flat. This is the wrong side. That starts with two purl stitches. Then when I get to the stitches that I bound off, I'll show you what to do. Okay so here I am, see this gap? I'm going to do backward loop method. Cast on five stitches. One, two, three, four, five. Now I'm ready to resume the remainder of this row. If I look, see that was a slip stitch there. So then I know that I need to purl this one. This together. Continue knitting the flap for another inch before binding off. I'm binding off as if these were all purl stitches and there were no slip stitches underneath. You can just bind off as if everything, bound off as if you were knitting. Again like you did with the beginning of the flap when you bind off, just check your tension, so it doesn't appear like it's going to curl. I'm going to cut my yarn and I will fasten it by pulling it through this last loop. Then weaving the ends. Of course I need my tapestry needle. All I do is I take this yarn and I start hiding it. By going up and down through the nubs. See how high it's hidden that way? Just kind of do that. Then I go down and diagonally, a couple rows. Then I work my way back up again. It's going like this and like this. That way, it's fastened. This yarn is wool so it sticks to itself and it won't unravel. Go ahead and clip it. You can't see it at all. Your eyeglass case is almost done. See this tail right here? We're going to use it to close the bottom of the tube so we create the case. But the first thing we need to do is turn it inside out. When you do so, you wanna fold it, so that your flap is nice and flat. You don't want your tube to become twisted. With right sides together and then you're gonna go in and find that tail. You'll use this tail to whip stitch these two edges together. Remember how we began with one knit round? These knit stitches are easier to stitch together than the linen stitch, that's why I had you do it. I threaded my tapestry needle and I'm just going to match up the stitches from one side to the other and do an over hand stitch, whip stitch. Do it pretty snugly. 'Cause you will have glasses in there. You work your way around. You want your stitches to be reasonably close together. I'm getting close to the end. I don't think I caught that side. All right. I'm going to probably do a couple extra stitches in there so it's nice and tight. Then I'll just run it through to give it a quasi knot. Then weave in the end just like I did with the flap. Just to hide it and secure it. When I'm happy that it's

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secure, I'll trim it off. Next step is turning it right side out and giving it a button. Each shank on each button, they're unique. Some of them are larger than others. Sometimes you might even choose a button that has holes in it. Right now my tapestry needle is kind of thick and I tested it and see it won't go through. I have another tapestry needle and I actually tested it. This one will go through nice and easily. If you happen to have a tapestry needle that doesn't fit through your shank, then you can just search the house for something that will fit. To place it, I make sure that this lays nice and neat. If for some reason your knitting is twisted or doesn't lay exactly like you like it, you have the option of blocking it out or steaming it down, but for this it looks good, I'm happy. All I do is I take the button and see where the hole is? I put it there and this is super, duper, duper technical. All I do is I just sort of feel to the other side where the shank is gonna come through with my thumb and I mark it like that. Then I have the basic placement of the button. What I do is I give myself some yarn. I actually should've used this to mark it, so I'm just gonna do this, ta-da. I'm going to thread this needle right here. I don't need to make a knot. I'm going to come through here, this area here. This is a knitted fabric. There is some movement so it doesn't have to be super exact. I pull this through but I leave a tail in the back end because I'll use this to knot it to the back. I'm gonna just proceed to make sure that the button's in the general area there. Then I start... First one's a little tricky. Then I get it going. See how it's coming together? You need to get it reasonably tight. Then I'll go maybe one or two more times. I'm gonna put this through to the other side. I'm going to turn this inside out so it exposes where the button was sewn together. The first thing that I do, this is just a Wendy thing, I just will give it a knot. To secure it even better. Then just like the other parts that I weaved in, I'm just going to, do the same maneuver. Because you already did a knot, you don't have to do it quite as much. That side's done. All right. I really love the way my yarn find worked in this pattern. Let me see if my favorite, favorite glasses fit into it. Yay. Here they are. You've seen the smaller size. This would fit reading glasses or maybe slimmer fit glasses but I wanna show you the medium sized one. This particular case will fit the type of glasses that I'm wearing or maybe regular sunglasses. You can see it's a different yarn and it has a more model effect. I really like this one. I have another idea for you. If you're crafty and you wanna do a little bit of sewing. You can take, the type of cloth the optician gives you or when you buy a pair of sunglasses or regular glasses at the store, often times it comes with a cleaning cloth. This is a wonderful thing that you can repurpose. You can make a lining if you like for your own knitted case. All you would have to do is turn this inside out. I'm not gonna do it on camera but take your liner here and you would use pinking shears or something to that nature and you would cut it so that it would fit. As you can see this one is almost perfect. You would cut it to fit and then if you wanted to you could whip stitch or tack down to the wrong side using a thread and a needle of that lining to create a lining or rather. Once you turn it back inside out, your glasses case, eyeglasses case, will have a liner in it. Although I used hand painted yarn for these projects, if you don't have any on hand or you have maybe a favorite skein of semi-solid yarn or a plain colored yarn, go ahead and use it. Because the linen stitch creates this neat weave, tweedy effect, so no matter if you use hand painted or solid or semi-solid, you're gonna end up with something that's really, really, truly unique that has your own special, personal fingerprint.

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