

Jiaozi (dumplings)

Tools and requirements - There are 2 stitch counts given, but final size is determined by gauge.

- ◆ Yarn. 50g of DK weight wool yarn will make more than 8.
- ◆ Double pointed needles (dpns) to achieve a dense gauge. The samples were DK weight yarn on US#4/3.5mm needles.
- ◆ Cable needle or spare dpn of same or smaller gauge if using a set of 4 dpns.
- ◆ Stuffing (fiberfill, fleece, etc.). Each dumpling needs only a small amount. An uncompressed handful of fiberfill is plenty for one. Use less if adding catnip.
- ◆ Catnip if desired. To keep it neat, wrap it in a bit of scrap cloth or tissue paper before stuffing.
- ◆ Optional – removable stitch marker if desired to mark the start of the round.
- ◆ Yarn needle to weave in the ends.



Stitches/techniques - Knit & purl. Working a flat circle in the round. Increasing without a hole (**inc1**). Lighter circular cast-on or any preferred circular cast-on. Knitting together one stitch each from two separate needles. **SSK** (slip 1st knitwise 2 times, knit the two together through the backs of the loops).

The pouch of each dumpling is made by overlapping groups of stitches on the near needle and working them together to form pleats. The dumplings are closed seamlessly by alternating each pair of stitches pleated together with a stitch from the back needle. This reduces the number of stitches by a third, and gives each dumpling its distinctive plump curved shape. The pattern explicitly explains the regular pleat dumplings for 64st with 5 pleats, and 72st with 6 pleats (larger size in parentheses). Refer to the list of different dumpling configurations below for variations. Plug in the number of stitches, pleats and extra stitches into the existing pattern and work the pleats to the front or back as described.

Different dumpling configurations -

Regular pleat - all are worked holding the stitches on the cable needle to the front.

64st - 5 pleats; 4st per pleat; 2 extra stitches worked before and after the pleating. (given)

72st - 6 pleats; 4st per pleat; no extra stitches worked before or after the pleating. (given)

72st - 4 pleats; 6st per pleat; no extra stitches worked before or after the pleating.

Box pleat - The first pleat is always worked holding the stitches on the cable needle to the back, while the second is held to the front. The pleats alternate back/front/back/front etc.

64st - 4 pleats; 5st per pleat; 2 extra stitches worked before and after the pleating.

64st - 6 pleats; two 3st pleats, two 4st pleats, two 3st pleats; 2 extra stitches worked before and after the pleating.

72st - 6 pleats; 4st per pleat; no extra stitches worked before or after the pleating.

Pattern -

Cast on 8 stitch in the round with the lighter circular cast-on or any preferred circular cast-on.

round 1: knit

r2: (k1, inc1) repeat to end. (*Any increase without a hole will work; I prefer the lifted increase*)

r3: knit

r4: (k2, inc1) repeat to end.

Continue in this way, increasing 8st evenly every other round until 64 (72) stitches.

Knit one more round, weave in the starting end, and then begin the pleats that close up the dumpling.

The rest of the dumpling is worked flat. From here the last needle from working in the round will be referred to as the “back needle” as the circle is folded in half and the dumpling is closed. The spare needle for working the pleats will be called the cable needle for clarity.

Next row: Knit 1 (0) stitch off the first needle. Purl 1 (0) stitch off the back needle.

Form the first pleat: Slip 4st (4st) onto the cable needle and hold it in front of the first needle so the stitches overlap. This is similar to forming a cable except that the stitches will not be moved as far. Knit together the first stitch off the cable needle with the first stitch off the first needle, then purl one stitch off the back needle. Knit together the second stitch off the cable needle with the second stitch off the first needle and then purl one stitch off the back needle. Knit together the third stitch off the cable needle with the third stitch off the first needle and then purl one stitch off the back needle. Work this way again for the final stitch off the cable needle and one more purl stitch off the back needle. There should be 10 (8) stitches on the right hand needle, 2 (0) from the initial stitches worked, and then 8 from the pleat.

Form the rest of the pleats the same way as the first. Continue to work this way until 4 (5) pleats have been completed with one pleat remaining. Stuff the dumpling as desired before working the final pleat. Work the last pleat the same way as the rest and then knit 1 (0) stitch off the front needle and purl 1 (0) stitch off the back needle to finish the row.

Next row: slip the first stitch and continue in p1k1 ribbing across the entire row.

Next row – binding off: SSK the first two stitches, and then ssk the second two stitches. Pass the first new stitch over the second new stitch. SSK the next two stitches together and pass the previous new stitch over the new one. Continue in this way until all the stitch are bound off. Break the yarn, pull the end through, and weave in the end.

Serve with black vinegar with julienne ginger....

A video supplement to this pattern is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcuTj87pPyQ>