



Ivy Leaf
by Vicki Monthei

I **love** leaves! This knit leaf mimics the shape of Moroccan ivy, *Hedera maroccana*. Ivy is a positive symbol in many cultures, depicting fidelity, eternal life (due to staying green through winter) and other good qualities.

Short rows form the curved leaf bottom, then the leaf is worked from edge to edge in garter stitch with 1 center stockinette stitch for the main vein. On my first few tries, my simple “turn and slip a stitch” resulted in stretched stitches. On the variegated leaf, I used the German short rows technique and had better results. See Youtube for demos of this technique.

You could have some serious fun with this leaf pattern; think keychain décor, clothing accent or mug rug! The variegated leaf is 3.25 inches wide and 3.25 inches long at gauge without the stem.

Skills needed: cast on, knit, purl, German turn for short rows, kf&b and SK2P.
Optional: I-cord stem

Gauge is **not** important in this pattern. **Any** yarn/thread will work. Blocking is optional.
Make a swatch to check gauge and appearance.

17 yards of #5 pearl cotton will make a leaf with stem in the stated gauge. DMC variegated color: 4066
1 27-yard skein of DMC #5 pearl cotton will make 1 leaf.

10 stitches/inch and 18 rows/inch in garter stitch - blocked
with #5 pearl cotton and U.S. #1 (2.25mm) needles

Notes: This pattern uses standard U.S. knitting abbreviations.

German turn (GT) for knit stitches: See Youtube for demos, if needed.

Turn work. With yarn in front, slip 1 stitch purl-wise and pull the yarn toward the back of the work until both legs of the stitch in the row below start to appear on the needle. Pull those stitch legs about halfway over the needle, forming a “double stitch”. The working yarn will be at the back of the work. Knit the next stitch. When you encounter a double stitch, knit it through the back loop, catching both legs of the double stitch. (The double stitch counts as one stitch.)

tbl: through back loop

The stem is optional. If omitting the stem, cast on 33 stitches and start at row 1.

You can always add the stem later, if needed.

Starting at stem, cast on 8 sts. K4 rows.
Next row: K2tog 4 times. 4 sts.
Work I-cord for 2 inches or as long as desired.

CO 14 sts.

Row 1: K16, GT, k14, GT, k13, GT, k12 – continue in this manner, decreasing the number of sts worked by 1 st every turn until GT, k3. GT, k to outer leaf edge.

Next row: K7, k9 tbl, p1, k1, CO15.

Next row: Repeat row 1.

Next row: K9, k7tbl, k to end.

Next row: K16, p1, k to end.

Next row: K across.

Repeat last 2 rows 5 times (12 rows total).

Next row: K16, p1, k to end.

BO 4 sts, k across: 29 sts.

BO 4 sts, k to center st, p1, k to end: 25 sts.

Next row: k1, k2tog, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1: 23 sts.

Repeat above row once, remembering to p center st: 21 sts.

K across.

K to center st, p1, k to end.

K1, k2tog, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1.

K to center st, p1, k to end.

K across.

K1, k2tog, k to center st, p1, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1.

Repeat the last 6 rows once. From now on, discontinue purling center st.

K 2 rows.

K1, k2tog, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1.

Work the last 3 rows until there are 5 sts left.

Work 2 rows.

Next row: K1, SK2P, k1.

Next row: SK2P.

Sew leaf axil edges together. (An axil is the thickened end of the stem that attaches to the vine.)
Weave in ends. Blocking is optional.

Happy Knitting!
Vicki Monthei

