

## Rainbow Bright Dog Collar and Leash

by Amanda Shopa

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This is a nylon dog choke collar with a matching leash. The method used to work these up is working in the round—on straight needles. And no, it's not I-cord! It works up amazingly fast and is quite strong. The samples were knit with Lehigh Rainbow Twine #15.

## Skills Needed

Knitting in the round on two needles

Slip

Knit

Casting on and off (per pattern)

Kfb (knit in front and back of a stitch)

## Gauge

24 stitches and 16 rows worked in stitch pattern over 4 inches/10 cm AFTER you've REALLY stretched and tugged it lengthwise! **Note!** The pull of the dog is going to stretch the collar and leash for you, so stretch it yourself if you don't want any surprises!

## Size

The width of the pieces is  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch/2 cm as written. You can make the piece narrower or wider, depending on the size of your dog, by using any *even* number of stitches.

Length is as you desire. To decide length, measure a choke collar or leash your dog already wears, or measure the circumference of the dog's head and neck with two-finger's space allowed and make the collar for the larger size. **Note!** Stretch the knitting when you measure for length!

Sample collar was knit 21.5 inches/54.5 cm long (knit portion).

Sample leash was knit 72 inches/182 cm long to loop, and loop is 8.5 inches/21.5 cm long. I had left over yarn from the second spool when I worked to these measurements.

## Materials

Size US 4/3.5 mm needles

2 packs of Lehigh Rainbow Twine #15 (200 feet per pack, approx 68 m)

Tapestry needle

Matches or lighter

Stitch holders

Extra knitting needles of the same size or smaller (optional, may help in Kitchener stitching)

2 1" (approx 2.5 cm) diameter metal rings (choke collar)

1  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (approx 2 cm) diameter swivel leash clasp (leash)

**Note!** You will probably need smaller hardware for a smaller dog or larger hardware for a larger dog. Look at typical dog collars and leashes in your desired size to see typical hardware size.

## Yarn Substitutes

After this pattern was published, I discovered that Lehigh had discontinued their twine. To substitute, you can use any thin, nylon twine of approximately 1/16 inch or 1-2 mm diameter. Fishing, boating, and sporting stores are the places to check. Some knitters have used the following yarn as substitutes:

Anchor Magicline (cotton)  
Noro Daria (cotton/rayon)  
Needleleft Plastic Canvas Yarn (nylon)

### **Collar and Leash Stitch**

Worked over an even number of stitches:

\*K1, slip 1 with yarn in front\* across

You will find that this pattern creates a tube if you take all of the stitches off of the needle.

### **Cast On (Collar and Leash)**

Tie a knot around one metal ring. A bowline knot was used for the samples. Twist the knot around the ring, 8 times, loosely. This forms the loops that you will cast on onto.



Using these loops, knit 8 across.



## Collar

Cast on per instructions. Knit in pattern stitch until collar is desired length *after* you've stretched it!

To finish, K8 straight across, and cut the nylon, leaving a long length to weave together stitches. Thread the yarn through the tapestry needle. You are essentially going to do a variation of the Kitchener stitch around the second metal ring to cast off.



Wrap the yarn around the second metal ring, then thread the nylon through the first stitch on the needle as if to purl. **Do not** remove from knitting needle yet. \*Loop the yarn through the metal ring again and go through the first stitch as if to knit, and the second stitch as if to purl. Remove the first stitch from the knitting needle.\* Repeat until all stitches are cast off. Tie the twine in a tight knot around the ring.

## Finishing

To weave in the ends, thread the tapestry needle and push into the centre of the tube for 4 inches/10 cm or so. Push the needle out of the fabric and draw the fabric up so that you have the nylon thread end near you. Tie a knot and cut the thread close to the knot. Hold a lit match to the end of the thread to melt it. Push it back into the centre of the tube.

## Leash

Cast on per instructions. Knit in pattern stitch until collar is desired length minus 8.5 inches/21.5 cm *after* you've stretched it!

## Hand Loop

Here you will put half of the stitches on hold and cast on that half again to create the hand loop.

\*K1fb, slip 1 to holder with yarn in front\* (4 times). This will leave 8 stitches on your needle and 4 stitches on holders.

Work in pattern as established for additional 17 inches/43 cm **AFTER** you've stretched it! Remove the needles from your work and let the work splay apart, leaving four loops in the front and four loops in the back.



Put these loops onto a needle or stitch holder. Cut the nylon, leaving a long length to weave together stitches, and thread through tapestry needle.

Run a second knitting needle or stitch holder through the 4 cast on stitches to make a place where you can graft stitches. Form a loop back to where you left live stitches. You should have 8 stitches total on the top part of the loop, and 8 stitches total on the bottom part of the loop. (See photo. Hand loop is at top. Stitches from the very top holder and the very bottom holder were grafted together, and stitches from the middle two holders were grafted together. I had the thread running from the top needle.)

Being careful not to twist the stitches, Kitchener stitch 4 live stitches from the top of the loop to the 4 live stitches at the bottom of the loop. Turn the work around and continue with the remaining 4 top and remaining 4 bottom stitches. To graft, \*go through the first stitch on the bottom needle as if to knit and the next stitch as if to purl and remove the first stitch. Go through the first stitch on the top as if to purl and the second stitch as if to knit and remove the first stitch.\* Work this way (knit, purl, purl, knit...) until the stitches are grafted together.

Loop the nylon through a few stitches to form a tight knot. You may wish to weave the nylon through this handle area as if you are sewing.

### **Finishing**

To weave in the ends, thread the tapestry needle and push into the centre of the tube for 4 inches/10 cm or so. Push the needle out of the fabric and draw the fabric up so that you have the nylon thread end near you. Tie a knot and cut the thread close to the knot. Hold a lit match to the end of the thread to melt it. Push it back into the centre of the tube.

### **About the Designer**

Amanda C. Shopa is an EFL educator in South Korea. She has a pattern currently available at [Chiagu.com](http://Chiagu.com), another pattern was featured in the Spring 2006 issue of *Twists and Turns*, and this pattern was originally published in the April 2006 issue of [MagKnits.com](http://MagKnits.com). More of her work can be seen at [www.amandaknits.com](http://www.amandaknits.com).

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