

# The Knitted Walking Stick Cosy Competition Round #2

## 2007 – 2008!



**WIN £40 IN YARN VOUCHERS!**

Inspired by the dignifying powers of health-related knitting projects everywhere and spurred on by the creativity and delight of the first round of the Competition, The Missability Radio Show is organising a 2<sup>nd</sup> Knitted Walking Stick Cosy Competition. With your great ideas, knitting skills and visionary powers, we can create a richly diverse collection of variations on the standard appearance of an ordinary grey walking stick!

The Knitted Walking Stick Cosy Competition Round #2 - a new challenge!

I Knit London have invited The Missability Radio Show to showcase the walking stick cosies at the London S'n'B day! So cosies sent into the competition will ALSO be part of The UK's First, Official S'n'B Day on November 10<sup>th</sup> 2007, in London. Anything received before November 10th will feature at the UK S'n'B Day. Also, Rachael Matthews - writer of Knitorama and inventor of The Cast Off Knitting Club - has invited The Missability Radio Show to decorate the window of her Haberdashery with the walking stick cosies for the Christmas Period. So anything received before 20th November will be displayed in the window of Prick Your Finger from 21st November - Christmas.

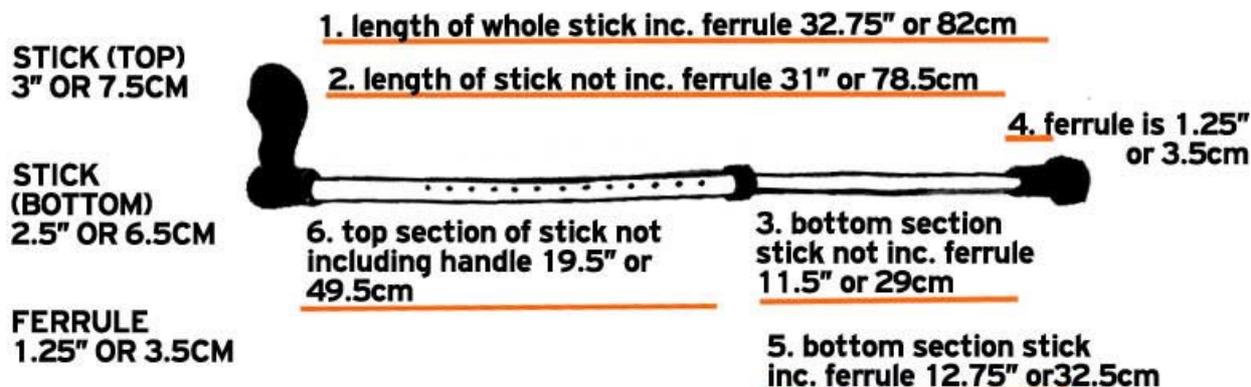
Beyond that, the judging event for May 2008 is being planned as you read!

A Basic Knitting Pattern for a Walking Stick Cosy is now available through the Missability website. You can download it there or request a copy in either Word or PDF Format by emailing [radio@missability.com](mailto:radio@missability.com). Additionally, for a limited time only, free kits will be available to those who wish to knit cosies for the competition! Email [radio@missability.com](mailto:radio@missability.com) if you're interested!

### Walking Sticks to be covered

This competition is really intended for every kind of walking stick you can imagine; it could be a hiking stick that you use for hiking with or it could be a mobility cane. It could be made from wood or it could be made from metal. If you do not know anyone who has a walking stick or uses any kind of walking equipment then you can use the measurements of my walking stick to base your walking stick cosy design on.

### CIRCUMFERENCES



## Materials

The materials you can use really depend on your cosy category. Entries made in the Fancy Dress category can really be made out of anything at all, whereas entries placed in the Working World category need to bear in mind the function of the walking stick as well as being elegant.

## How will the winning stick be judged?

There are two categories for this competition; the winner in each category will be awarded £40 in yarn vouchers. There is no limit on submissions. The first category is Fancy Dress and the second is The Working World. Entries will be judged by The Oxford Bluestockings, a talented and accomplished bunch of knitters based here in Oxford, with input from walking-stick users. These are the winning criteria for each category:

### Fancy Dress

The winning walking stick cosy design in this category...

- will be a fancy-dress must-have
- will be extremely fun and definite party-wear
- will be judged on the imaginative quality of the idea
- will be a talking point

Example ideas for this category: A Cinderella walking stick cosy with glass beads at the bottom (representing the glass slippers), and/or pumpkins somewhere in the design. A Halloween walking stick cosy with trick or treats attached somehow. A Jack Sparrow walking stick cosy with random pirate-ness involved in the knitting. A Charlie and the Chocolate Factory walking stick cosy knit with edible bootlaces, etc.

### The Working World

The winning walking stick cosy design in this category...

- will be practical and usable
- will be appropriate for a person working in a certain context
- will be conceivably useful and desirable for a real-life situation you know about or can easily imagine
- will show a level of personalisation - the winning design will be very specific to the imagined or real end user of the cosy
- will be innovative - there is nothing to say that walking stick s cannot have pockets or attachments and so on. Consider ways of improving the functional performance of a walking stick without compromising on its performance!

Example ideas for this category: A cosy to match a briefcase for an office job. An Artists' walking stick with attachments for pencil and paper. A walking stick cosy with some ingenious mechanism for preventing the stick from falling over loudly in restaurants. A walking stick cosy designed for the specific purpose of walking for hours around art and craft fairs. A Doctor's walking stick cosy. A Hairdresser's walking stick cosy, etc.

## Submission Guidelines and Closing Dates

Send your completed cosy by **1st May 2008** to: Missability Mail! | PO Box 1481 | OX4 9DL | UK  
Or by **20<sup>th</sup> November 2007** to be featured in the Christmas Window Shop display!

**Your Submission must include your knitted walking stick cosy and a completed submission form**

## Will there be a Gallery?

There are details of entries from Round #1 of the competition on the Missability Website and also a flickr gallery featuring photos of entries. You can see either online and may get some great inspiration from looking!

<http://www.missability.com/knittingcompetition1.html>  
<http://www.flickr.com/groups/knittedwalkingstickcosy/pool/>

## **Technical points**

A walking stick cosy is basically a knitted tube that can be slipped onto a walking stick and has some means of staying up.

When I made my knitted walking stick cosy I used Lana Grossa sock yarn. A 100g ball of yarn weighed 67g when I was done, so it took 33g of self-patterning sock yarn to complete one knitted walking stick cosy. It took around 2 or 3 hours only. That ought to give some idea of yardage and scale of project. I used straightforward stockinette stitch and a long rib at the top and bottom of the tube so the cosy would cling to the stick.

## **Gauge**

Stitch gauge is: 24 sts = 3" / 8 sts = 1". Row gauge isn't so important for this project as you just knit until the cosy is the length of the stick you're designing for. Make up a swatch in the round and adjust needle size accordingly.

## **Crochet**

Submissions can of course be completed in crochet and will be judged in exactly the same way as knitted submissions. 'The Missability Radio Show Knitted and Crocheted Walking Stick Cosy Competition' was just getting too bulky as a title!