

Double-ended Norwegian Stocking Cap

Level: Beginner circular two-colour pattern knitting; very easy if you leave out the patterning and just knit a plain cap.



Easily one of my most successful small projects ever, this hat was 'unvented' for my husband's sub-zero hunting trips. It has a turned-back brim, giving four thicknesses of fabric (one stranded) around the forehead and ears. Because it's double-sided, it's completely reversible – different patterns could be knitted on each side. I added a purl row at the beginning and end of the pattern to I make it obvious where the turnback is; this can be omitted if you prefer. Stitches are added in the brim section to accommodate the pattern repeats – this has the advantage of adding a little ease to the outside layer as stranded knitting can be less stretchy than plain stocking stitch.

The Norwegian *Selbu Star** is a traditional stranded pattern. I would recommend using yarns with more contrast between the colours – it was quite difficult to knit the pattern because of the lack of contrast, and the star pattern didn't show up well.

Finished size (unstretched) 49.5cm (19 1/2") to fit average woman's or small man's head. Using larger needles and/or thicker yarn would give a larger size.

Yarn: Skeinz Moondance 10 ply Tweed 50gr (www.skein.co.nz) 63.5yd/1oz (104m/50gr). 2 balls main (Grey), 1 ball contrast (Olive) yarn. Homespun of the same weight would also be suitable.

Needles: 4.5mm double-pointed needles; 4.5mm circular needle at least 45cm (18") long (if wanted) for body of cap.

Gauge: 18st to 24 rows over 10cm (4") in stocking stitch.

Stitch markers make working in rounds much simpler, especially for beginners. I used them to define the beginning and middle of the round. Use a different colour for the beginning marker.

Abbreviations

St, st: stitches

K: knit

P: purl

Dec: Slip one stitch onto the other needle, knit one; pass the slipped stitch over the one just knit (decreases one stitch).

M1: Make one stitch: knit into the front then the back of the next stitch (increases one stitch).

* * repeat instructions between the asterisks

Main: main colour

Cont: contrasting colour

Dp: double pointed (needles)

General instructions

Traditional cast-on was used – any simple elastic cast-on will do.

Ends: you will need to finish off ends as you go, as the final round is only 12 stitches.

Joins: When joining in the same colour yarn, I recommend Kaffe Fassett's simple join: knit to the last 15cm (6") of yarn. Knit the next three stitches with both yarns held together, overlapping. Make sure each end hangs out about 2-3 cm (1"). When joining in yarns of a different colour, weave in the ends as follows: hold the old yarn end in your left hand (right hand for lefties) above, then below the needle on alternate stitches until there are 2-3 cm left; leave this hanging loose at back. On the next round, do the same with the loose end of the new yarn. Use this same technique to weave in the unused yarn at the back of stranded work.

Cap crown

Using main colour, cast on 12 stitches and distribute evenly over three of four double-pointed needles (fourth needle is used to knit!) Mark the beginning of the round with a distinctive marker. When you come to the marker next time, slip it from the left to the right needle (other way for lefties!) and continue knitting.

Round 1: *K2, M1* to end of round

Round 2 and all alternate rows: K to end of round

Round 3: *K3, M1* to end of round

Round 5: *K4, M1* to end of round

Continue in rounds as set, until you have 90 sts in total (*K14, M1*)

Cap body

Before knitting the body, sew in the beginning thread invisibly on the wrong side. When you come to the end of the cap, it will be too late to do it easily.

K 1 round, inserting a marker after 46th stitch if wanted. Continue in rounds for 48 rows straight.

Patterned brim

There is no need to break off either yarn during this section. Just carry unused yarn up the back of the rows between plain rows, and weave or strand on patterned rows.

Drop the main and pick up the contrasting yarn. Knit 1 round, increasing 8st evenly (this is to allow enough stitches for the pattern repeats). 98 sts.

Purl 1 row, making a ridge on the surface of the work.

Now work the pattern from the chart, either stranding the wool loosely across the work or weaving in the ends. Insert more markers at pattern repeats if this helps.

Completing cap body

Once the pattern is complete, K1 round in cont., decreasing 8 stitches evenly. Purl the next round to form ridge, change to main. K2 rounds in main, 2 rounds in cont., until you run out of main. Continue in cont. until you have knitted 24 rounds in all since the beginning of the stripe pattern (48 rounds since first purl ridge).

Shape second crown

Change back to dp needles. Leave any markers in place until the last round.

Round 1: *K13, Dec* to end of round

Round 2 and all alt rounds: K to end of round

Round 3: *K12, Dec* to end of round

Round 4: *K11, Dec* to end of round

Continue to decrease as set until 12 st remain, remove markers, break off thread and run it through all loops, draw up and sew in the end.

Finishing

Block carefully, using steam. As this yarn is partly acrylic, it's best to just hold the steam over the fabric rather than press. When dry, turn the second crown of the cap to the inside, folding along the first purl ridge. Turn the brim to the outside along the second purl ridge. The stripes will not show when worn – they were added in order to have enough yarn.

Written star and border pattern instructions

Pattern repeat of 14 sts. All sts K.

Row 1: *1 Main, 1 Cont*, repeat to end of round.

Row 2: *1 Cont, 1Main*

Row 3: all K in main

Row 4: *4 main, 1 cont, 5 main, 1 cont, 3 main*

Row 5: *4 main, 2 cont, 3 main, 2 cont, 3 main*

Row 6: *1 cont 3 main, 3 cont, 1 main, 3 cont, 3 main *

Row 7: *2 main, 3 cont, 1 main, 2 cont, 1 main, 2 cont, 1 main, 3 cont*

Row 8: *1 main, 3 cont, 1 main, 1 cont, 1 main, 1 cont, 1 main, 3 cont, 1 main*

Row 9: *3 main, 3 cont, 3 main, 3 cont, 2 main*

Row 10: *1 cont, 6 main, 1 cont, 6 main*

Row 11: *3 main, 3 cont, 3 main, 3 cont, 2 main*

Row 12: *2 main, 3 cont, 1 main, 1 cont, 1 main, 1 cont, 1 main, 3 cont, 1 main*

Row 13: *1 main 3 cont, 1 main, 2 cont, 1 main, 2 cont, 1 main, 3 cont*

Row 14: *1 cont, 3 main, 3 cont, 1 main, 3 cont, 3 main*

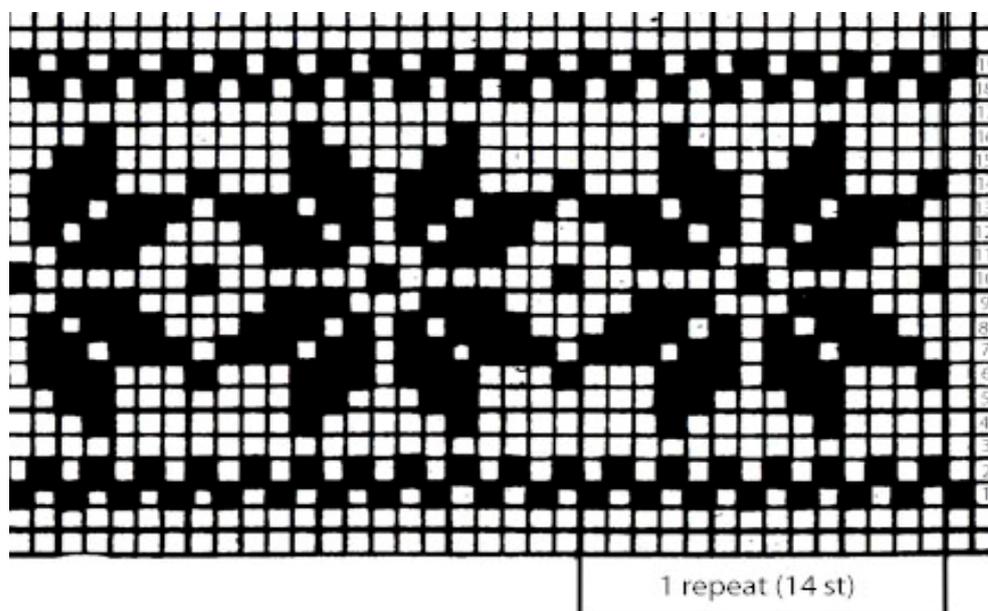
Row 15: *4 main, 2 cont, 3 main, 2 cont, 3 main*

Row 16: *4 main, 1 cont, 5 main, 1 cont, 3 main*

Row 17: all K in main

Row 18: *1 Cont, 1Main* to end of round

Row 19: *1 Main, 1 Cont* to end of round



Selbu Star*
pattern chart:
work from bottom
to top.

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*Pattern graph adapted from *Norwegian Knitting Designs* by Annichen Sibbern Bohn, Grondahl & Son, Oslo, 1952, p 51.