



Slouch Hat
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SLOUCH HAT

by Simona Merchant-Dest

This Fair Isle hat will teach you how to work Fair Isle patterns seamlessly without a visible jog between rounds. There are a number of ways to achieve this—in this case, the beginning of the round shifts one stitch to the left every round. When working from a charted pattern, the challenge of this technique is to keep the pattern correctly aligned throughout the piece. Once you've learned this technique, you can apply it to all of your seamless knitting.

Finished Size About 19 (20¼, 21¼, 22½)" (48.5 [51.5, 54, 57] cm) circumference, and 8¾" (21 cm) high for all sizes.

Hat shown measures 21¼" (54 cm).

Yarn DK weight (#3 Light).

Shown here: Rowan by Amy Butler Belle Organic DK (50% organic wool, 50% organic cotton; 131 yd [120 m]/50 g): #008 peony (MC), 2 skeins for all sizes; #016 cilantro (CC1) and #014 robin's egg (CC2), 1 skein each for all sizes.

Needles

Hat: size U.S. 5 (3.75 mm): 16" circular (cir) and set of 5 double-pointed (dnp).

Ribbing: size U.S. 4 (3.5 mm): 16" cir.

Adjust needle sizes if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

Notions Markers (m); tapestry needle.

Gauge 27 sts and 30 rnds = 4" (10 cm) in patt from Fair Isle charts using larger needles, worked in rnds.

DESIGN TECHNIQUES

The Jogless Jog in Fair Isle Patterns, page 6.
Increasing stitches equally spaced, page 6.

TIPS & TRICKS

- Change to double-pointed needles when there are too few stitches to fit comfortably around the circular needle.
- Carry unused colors along the wrong side of hat until they are needed again, twisting them together with the working color every other round to prevent long floats from forming.
- After the increase round, place markers after every 16 (17, 18, 19)th stitch to isolate the Fair Isle chart repeat for your size. These markers are slipped every round and remain in place to define the pattern, independent of how the end-of-round marker moves for the "jogless jog" technique.

HAT

With MC and smaller cir needle, CO 108 (116, 124, 132) sts. Place marker (pm) and join for working in rnds, being careful not to twist sts.

Next rnd: *K2, p2; rep from *.

Rep the last rnd until piece measures 1¼" (3.2 cm) from CO.

Inc rnd: With MC, *[k5 (5, 6, 6), M1 (see Glossary)] 3 (1, 4, 2) time(s), [k6 (6, 7, 7), M1] 2 (4, 1, 3) time(s); rep from * 3 more times—128 (136, 144, 152) sts.

Change to larger needle. Following the chart with the 16 (17, 18, 19)-st rep, work Rnds

1–52 of the chart for your size, working the chart 8 times total in each rnd—8 sts rem for all sizes after completing Rnd 52.

FINISHING

Cut yarn, leaving a 10" (25.5 cm) tail.

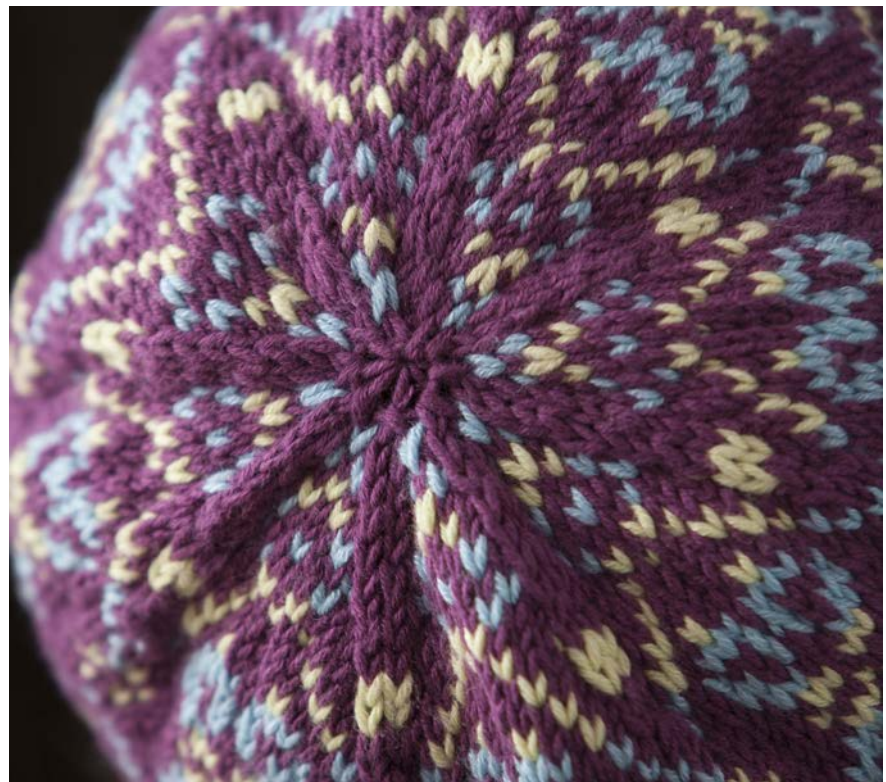
Thread MC tail on a tapestry needle, draw through all rem sts, pull tight to close hole, and secure on WS.

Weave in loose ends.

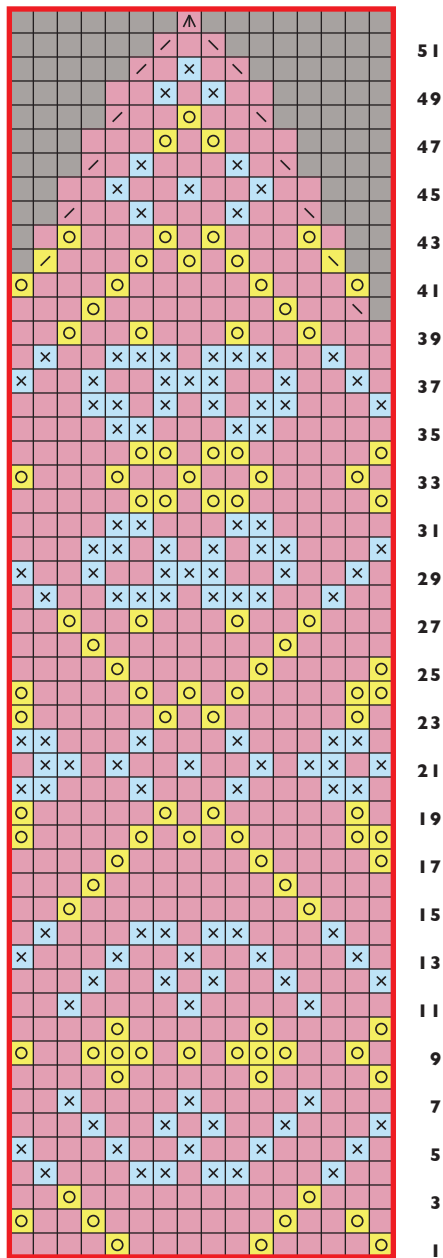
MAKE IT YOURS

Depending on your size, copy the chart pattern that repeats over 16, 17, 18, or 19 stitches onto graph paper and draw in your own colorwork design. To prevent long floats, do not work more than five stitches of the same color at a time and do not work more than two or three stitches at the end of the chart in the same color.

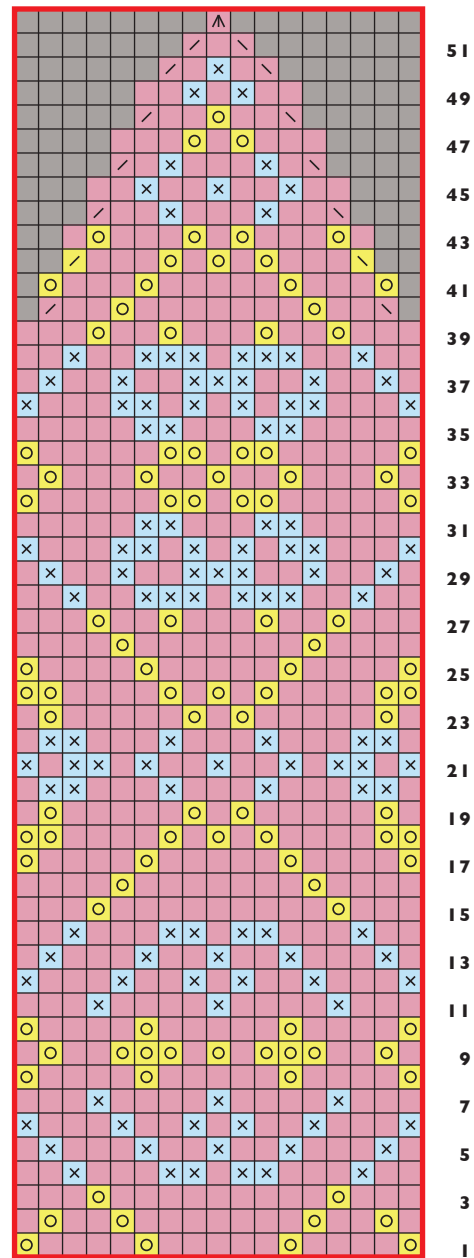
To see how your pattern will appear when repeated across a row, make a few photocopies of the chart and align them side by side, then make any desired adjustments to the chart before you start knitting.



16-Stitch Fair Isle

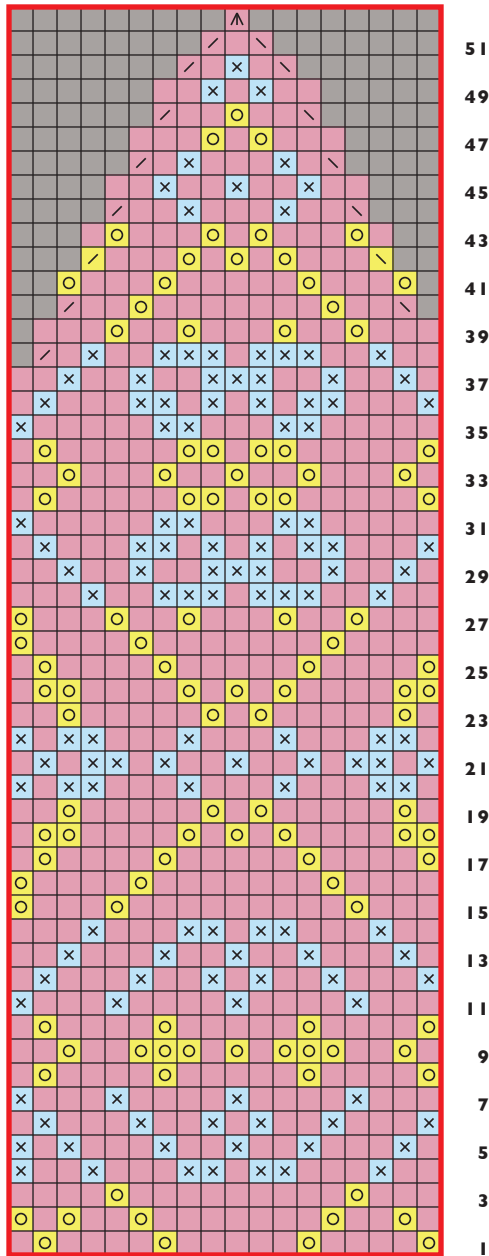


17-Stitch Fair Isle

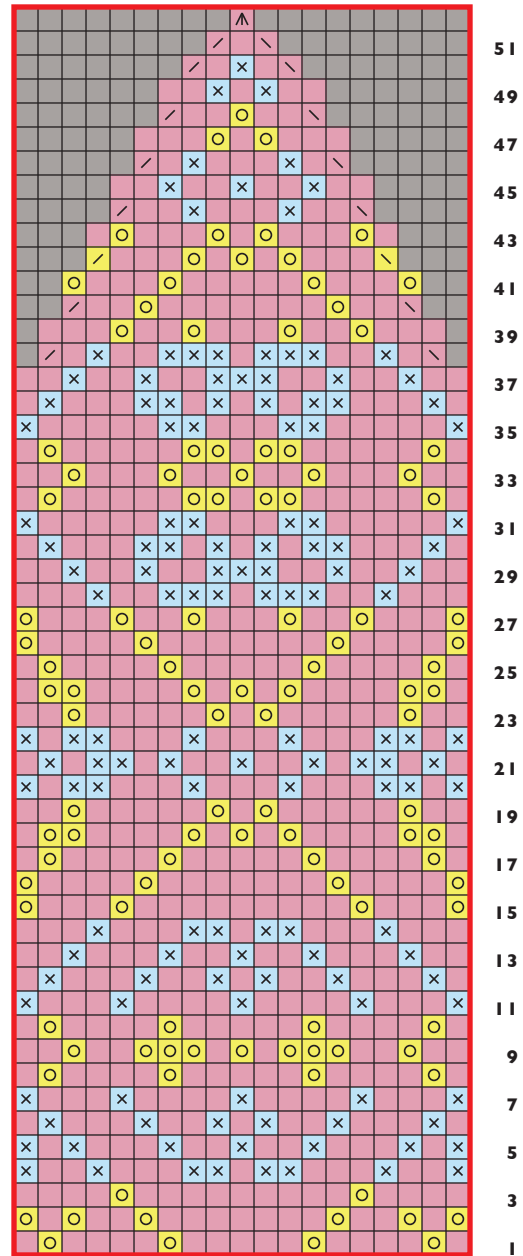


- | | |
|---|---|
|  MC, knit |  ssk with color shown |
|  CC1, knit |  sl 2 as if to k2tog, k1, p2sso with MC |
|  CC2, knit |  no stitch |
|  k2tog with color shown |  pattern repeat |

18-Stitch Fair Isle



19-Stitch Fair Isle



- | | |
|---|---|
|  MC, knit |  ssk with color shown |
|  CCI, knit |  sl 2 as if to k2tog, k1, p2sso with MC |
|  CC2, knit |  no stitch |
|  k2tog with color shown |  pattern repeat |

Abbreviations

beg	beginning; begin; begins
bet	between
BO	bind off
CC	contrasting color
cm	centimeter(s)
cn	cable needle
CO	cast on
cont	continue(s); continuing
dec(s)	decrease(s); decreasing
dpn	double-pointed needle(s)
foll	following; follows
g	gram(s)
inc	increase(s); increasing
k	knit
k1f&b	knit into front and back of same st
k2tog	knit two stitches together
kwise	knitwise
LC	left cross
m(s)	marker(s)
MC	main color
mm	millimeter(s)
M1 (P)	make one (purl)
M1R (L)	make one right (left)
p	purl
p1f&b	purl into front and back of same st
p2tog	purl two stitches together
patt(s)	pattern(s)
pm	place marker
pssso	pass slipped stitch over
p2sso	pass two slipped stitches over
pwise	purlwise
RC	right cross
rem	remain(s); remaining
rep	repeat; repeating
rev St st	reverse stockinette stitch
rib	ribbing
rnd(s)	round(s)
RS	right side
rev sc	reverse single crochet
sc	single crochet
sk	skip
sl	slip
sl st	slip stitch (sl 1 st pwise unless otherwise indicated)
ssk	slip 1 kwise, slip 1 kwise, k2 sl sts tog tbl (decrease)
ssp	slip 1 kwise, slip 1 kwise, p2 sl sts tog tbl (decrease)
st(s)	stitch(es)
St st	stockinette stitch
tbl	through back loop
tog	together
WS	wrong side
wyb	with yarn in back
wyf	with yarn in front
yo	yarn over
*	repeat starting point (i.e., repeat from *)
**	repeat all instructions between asterisks
()	alternate measurements and/or instructions
[]	instructions that are to be worked as a group a specified number of times

glossary

Make 1 (M1) Increases

LEFT SLANT (M1L) AND STANDARD M1

With left needle tip, lift strand between needles from front to back (**Figure 1**). Knit lifted loop through the back (**Figure 2**).



Figure 1

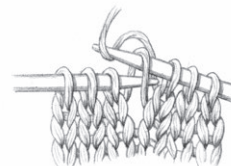


Figure 2

RIGHT SLANT (M1R)

With left needle tip, lift strand between needles from back to front (**Figure 1**). Knit lifted loop through the front (**Figure 2**).

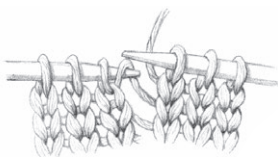


Figure 1



Figure 2

PURL (M1P)

For purl versions, work as above, purling lifted loop.



The Jogless Jog in Fair Isle Patterns

When working Fair Isle patterns, in which each round is composed of two colors, the jogs are less visible than in stripe patterns. In the swatch shown in **Figure 1**, the rounds begin on the ninth stitch of the pattern. While it's difficult to pinpoint exactly where the jog occurs, there is a bit of telltale skewing in the general area. If this is too much distortion for your liking, you have a couple of options.

If the Fair Isle pattern is vertical in nature, you can conceal the jog by working the first and last stitch of every round in the same color to cause a vertical break in the pattern. The eye will not be able to see any difference between the end of the pattern on one side of this vertical line and the beginning of the pattern on the other. Ideally, you'll want to incorporate similar vertical breaks between motifs so that the one at the beginning of the round doesn't stand out as a singular oddity in the pattern.

If the Fair Isle pattern is predominantly horizontal, a solid vertical line might be even more distracting than the jog. If so, try the following technique, which is a modification of the slip-stitch method introduced by TechKnitter.

ROUND 1: Knit to the end of Round 1 of the pattern, slip the end-of-round marker, slip the next stitch purlwise, then place the color-change marker on the needle.

ROUND 2: Beginning with the second stitch of the chart, work Round 2 to the end-of-round marker, slip this marker, work the first stitch of Round 2, remove the color-change marker, slip the next stitch purlwise, return the color-change marker to the needle.

ROUND 3: Beginning with the third stitch of the chart, work Round 3 to the end-of-round marker, slip this marker, work the first two stitches of Round 3, remove the color-change marker, slip the next stitch, return the color-change marker to the needle.

Continue in this manner, always beginning the chart one stitch to the left, working to the end-of-round marker, working the next batch of stitches according to the stitches of the chart that haven't been worked yet to the color-change marker, temporarily removing the color-change marker, slipping the next stitch purlwise, then replacing the color-change marker.

If it's important to keep track of where the round originally began, use a separate color-change marker to keep track of the shifting chart pattern. You might find it helpful to make a color photocopy of the chart and use a highlighter to track the progression of the color-change marker as it travels one stitch to the left each round.



Figure 1

For the first 6 rounds, there is an uncorrected jog at the beginning of the round. For the remaining rounds, the jog is obscured by moving the first stitch of the round to right one stitch every round.

Spacing Increases and Decreases Evenly Across a Row or Round

To determine how to evenly space increases or decreases, divide the number of stitches on your needle by the number of stitches that you want to increase or decrease. For example, if you have 115 stitches and you need to increase 8 stitches, you'd divide 115 by 8:

$$115 \text{ stitches} \div 8 \text{ stitches to increase} = 14.375 \text{ stitches}$$

In other words, you'll want to increase every 14.375 stitches for an even distribution of the increases. It's not possible to increase within partial stitches, but this number tells you that you'll place most of the increases every 14 stitches and increase every 15 stitches a couple of times. The difference between working some increases at 14-stitch intervals and a few at 15-stitch intervals is unlikely to be noticeable in the garment.

If you are working in rows, you'll want to position the first and last increases (or decreases) at least one stitch in from the selvedge. To prevent the last increase being made in the selvedge

stitch, divide the first 14-stitch interval in half, working the first increase after just 7 stitches so that the last increase will be worked 7 stitches in from the end of the row.

Depending on the type of increase you use, you'll either increase in the 14th stitch or after the 14th stitch. For example, knitting in the front and back of a stitch (k1f&b) requires one stitch to be involved in the increase and you'd work the increase in the 14th stitch; making a yarnover or working into the horizontal strand between two stitches (as in a raised make-one increase), doesn't involve any of the existing stitches and you'd work the increases after the 14th stitch.

When working decreases, remember that two stitches are required to work a decrease (k2tog or ssk, for example). This means that you would work 12 stitches, then work the 13th and 14th stitches together to end up with one stitch decreased in 14 stitches.