

Stacked Increases and Decreases

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Sand and Sea Knitting Guild workshop by Mary Beth Kelso

Materials

2 or more colors of yarn in the same weight

needles two sizes larger than recommended for your yarn

Abbreviations

kfb – knit a st, leaving it on the left needle, knit into back loop of same st (1 st increased)

kyok – (knit, yarn over, knit) knit a st, leaving it on the left needle, yo, knit into front loop of same st, slipping st off left needle to complete (2 sts increased)

k2tog – knit 2 sts together

k3tog – knit 3 sts together

k5tog – knit 5 sts together

sb – slip st(s) back to left needle

Instructions

Cast on 17 stitches (or any multiple of 4 plus 1).

Work 4 rows in garter stitch.

****Change colors and work 3 more rows in garter st.**

Increase row: **(kfb, sb2)x3, kfb, k6, *(kyok, sb2)x3, kyok, k6***, rep bet * to last st, **kfb, (sb2, k1, kfb)x3**. (49 sts)

Change colors and work 1 garter row.

Decrease row: **k4, k5tog, (sb2, k3tog)x2, *k5, k5tog, (sb2, k3tog)x2***, rep bet * to last 2 sts, k2. (17 sts)

Work 2 garter rows.

Repeat from ****** as desired.

Alternative for k5tog:

Lay yarn across left needle, pass 5 sts over and off left needle one at time, slip st to right needle.

Notes on increases and decreases:

(kfb, sb2)x3, kfb creates 5 sts out of 1. When you have completed this increase, you will have 3 sts on your left needle and 2 sts on your right needle, all coming out of one stitch. For the k6 which follows, you will be knitting the 3 sts you have on your left needle plus 3 more along the row.

(kyok, sb2)x3, kyok creates 9 sts out of 1. When you have completed this increase, you will have 3 sts on your left needle and 6 sts on your right needle, all coming out of one stitch. For the k6 which follows, you will be knitting the 3 sts you have on your left needle plus 3 more along the row.

kfb, (sb2, k1, kfb)x3 creates 5 sts out of 1.

k5tog, (sb2, k3tog)x2 creates 1 st out of 9. This figure will be centered between the previous increases.

General tips

Be sure to stay on the full part of the needles, not just the tips, when doing the kyok.

Don't work too tight on the knit rows before the decrease row, to make your k5tog workable.