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Chic Spring Beret



By Jane Crowfoot

A sweet little hat in spring shades, knitted using the Fair Isle technique

THIS SLOUCHY-STYLED Fair Isle beret, designed by Jane Crowfoot, is a sweet accessory for cool spring days. It looks great worn with both short hair or long hair and flatters most faces - the young and not so young! The beret is knitted using the Fair Isle technique in the round.

"It's a great introduction to Fair Isle, because there are only three stitches between every colour change," says Jane. "This means that you won't have to do any weaving in - the yarn can simply be carried at the back of the work. It also means that you can keep track of your pattern repeat very easily."

Jane advises that when holding the second colour in your left hand, be careful not to pull the yarn too tightly as this may cause puckering. The pretty beret is knitted in four delicate shades of a soft DK weight acrylic yarn with a beautiful sheen. We love Jane's blend of subtle tones in cream, khaki, lavender and lime, which is striking without being too bold.

YARN

DK weight (100% acrylic, 100g/200m balls)

Yarn A Cream 1 x 100g ball

Yarn B Khaki 1 x 100g ball

Yarn C Lime 1 x 100g ball

Yarn D Lavender 1 x 100g ball

NEEDLES

Set of five 3.25mm (UK 10/US 3) double-pointed needles (DPNs)

1 pair 4mm (UK 8/US 6) circular needles (no longer than 60cm)

Stitch marker

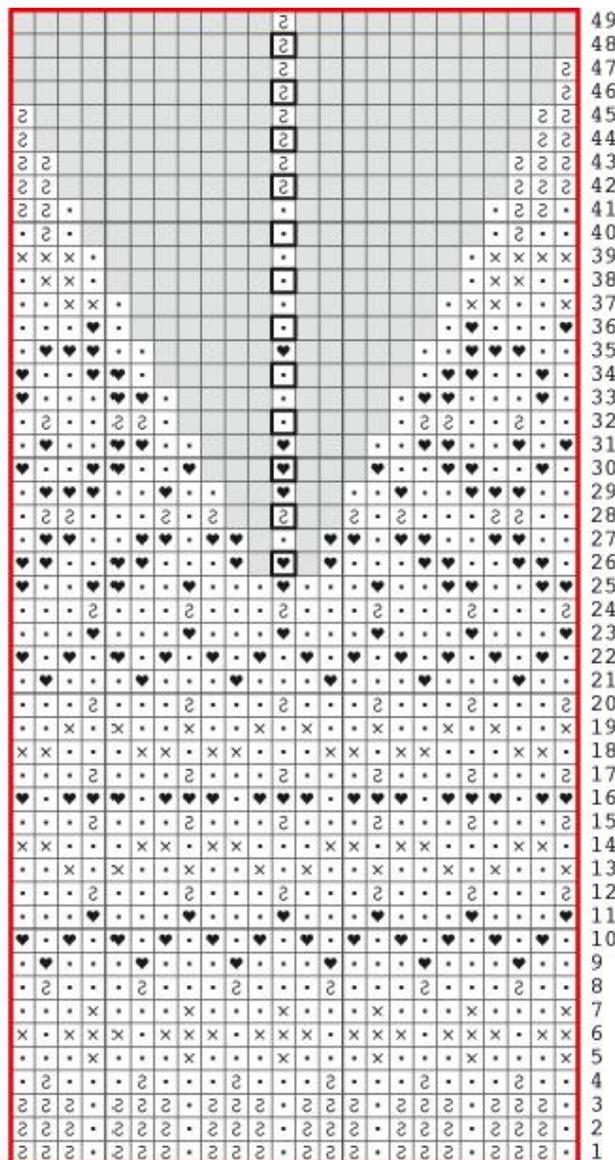
TENSION

23 sts and 27 rows to 10cm measured over Fair Isle pattern using 4mm needles

CHART

KEY

- · 02100 (A) cream mix
- 2 2 01059 (B) khaki
- x x 01010 lime
- ♥ ♥ 01050 lavender
- no stitch
- □ sll, k2tog, pssso



PATTERN

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn A, cast on 108 sts. Distribute sts evenly across four of the five DPNs and join to work in the round, making sure that you have not twisted the sts around the needles.

Round 1: *K1, P1, rep from * to the end of the round. Place a stitch marker in the final stitch.
Continue to work rib on the sts as set for a further 9 rounds.

Change to 4mm circular needles.

Next round: Change to yarn B. Knit one round.

Next round: (Increase) K4, *M1, K4, rep from * to end of round. 134 sts.

Next round: (Increase) K4, *M1, K6, rep from * to last 4 sts, m1, K4. 156 sts.

Next round: (Increase) K7, *M1, K13, rep from * to last 6 sts, m1, K6. 168 sts. This completes the increases.

Work 4 more knit rounds in yarn B.

Beginning with chart row 1 and reading the chart from right to left, work the next 25 rows using the Fair Isle technique.

You will work the pattern repeat a total of 7 times across the row, so you may find it easier to mark each pattern repeat of 24 sts.

Next round (chart row 26 - dec): Working from the chart, continue using the Fair Isle technique. When you reach the centre 3 sts of each pattern repeat, you need to decrease. To do this, slip a stitch knitwise, K2tog, pass slip stitch over (Sl 1, K2tog, pss0) as shown on the chart.

Continue to decrease in this way every alternate row where indicated on the chart.

At row 32 change to 3.25mm DPNs
and continue to work from chart.

(If you find that your stitches are stretching across the 4mm needles earlier than row 32, then you can switch to DPNs sooner, otherwise you are in danger of stretching your knitting.)

Once you have completed row 47 you should be left with just 14 sts.

Next round: K2tog to end. 7 sts.

FINISHING

Cut your yarn. Using a large sewing needle, thread the yarn end through the open sts and pull to tighten. Sew the yarn down inside the beret. Sew in all ends.

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