



1940s knitting patterns

Fair Isle gloves and cap

The effective Fair Isle pattern used for this delightful set is very easy to follow. Gloves and cap are both knitted on four needles. A Fair Isle pattern is particularly hard wearing as it gives the strength of double knitting.

Materials

Of "Greenock" Super Fingering, 3-ply (obtainable only from branches of Scotch Wool & Hosiery Stores), allow 1 oz. in blue, and 0.5 oz. each in maize, yellow and red; 1 set each of four No.12 and No.10 knitting needles with points at both ends.

Tension

On No. 12 needles, 19 sts. to 2 inches in width and 23 rounds to 2 inches in depth; on No. 10 needles, 17 sts. to 2 inches in width and 10 rounds to 1 inch in depth (after pressing).

Measurements

Width across hand of glove (above thumb opening) about 3.25 inches on the double; overall length 9.5 inches. (Size 6.25 to 7.) Round lower edge of cap about 18 inches; depth from centre of crown 4.5 inches.

Abbreviations

K., knit ; p., purl ; st., stitch ; sts., stitches ; tog., together ; rep., repeat ; B, blue ; R, red ; M, maize ; Y, yellow ; dec., decrease.

The right glove

** With B wool, and using the set of four No. 12 needles, cast on 60 sts. - 20 on each of 3 needles - and with the 4th needle work in rounds of k.1, p.1 ribbing for 2.5 inches, then work 2 rounds in plain k. Now proceed in pattern, noting that when you change from one colour wool to another, the two wools should be twisted round each other at back of work, in order not to leave a hole in the knitting. Note, too, that the colour you have just discarded should be woven in at the back of the work to the next position required. This last applies only to two-colour rounds. When a round is to be worked in only one colour, the other colours can be dropped and

left hanging at back of work, to be picked up again at the start of the next round in which they will be required.

1st pattern round: K. in M.

2nd pattern round: K. * 1 B. 1 M; rep. from * all round.

3rd pattern round: K. * 1 M. 1 B: rep. from * all round

4th pattern round: K. in M.

5th and 6th pattern rounds: K. In B.

7th pattern round: K. in Y.

8th pattern round: K. 1 R. * 2 Y, 1 R, 1 Y. 1 R. 2 Y, 3 R; rep. from * to end of round, finishing last rep. with 2 R instead of 3.

9th pattern round: K. * 2 Y, 2 R, 1 Y, 2 R, 2 Y, 1 R; rep. from * to end of round.

10th pattern round: K. 1 B, * 3 R, 1 B, 3 R, 3 B; rep. from * all round, ending last rep. with 2 B Instead of 3.

11th pattern round: K. 1 B, * 2 Y, 3 B; rep. from * all round, ending last rep. with 2 B Instead of 3.

12th pattern round: As 10th.

13th pattern round: As 9th.

14th pattern round: As 8th.

15th pattern round: K. in Y. **

Now make the thumb opening thus:

Next round: Using B wool, k. 30 sts., slip the next 12 sts. on to a safety pin, and still using B wool cast on 12 sts. in their place, then proceed with B wool to end of round.

***** Next round:** K. In B.

Then rep. pattern rounds 1 to 15 Inclusive. Then work pattern rounds 1 to 7 again. Break off wool. Now slip first 21 sts. of round on to a thread of silk, which will be called 1st thread; then slip last 21 sts. of round on to another strand of silk, which will be called 2nd thread. Join B wool to remaining 18 sts. and work 1st finger thus:

1st finger: K. the 18 sts. and cast on 2 sts. Dividing the 20 sts, on to 3 needles, k. in rounds on these sts. as follows:

1st round: * 1 B, 1 M; rep. from * all round.

2nd round: * 1 M, 1 B ; rep. from * all round. Rep. these 2 rounds for 2.75 inches, then shape top thus:

Next round: Using B wool only, k. 2 tog. all round.

Next round: K. with B.

Next round: With B wool, k. 2 tog. all round. Break off wool, thread it through remaining sts., draw up and fasten off.

2nd Finger: With B wool, k. off the first (inner) 7 sts. from 2nd thread, cast on 3 sts., then with another needle k. off the 7 inner sts. from 1st thread, and with another needle pick up and k. 3 sts. from base of preceding finger. Dividing the 20 sts. more equally on to the 3 needles, work in pattern as 1st finger for 3 inches, then shape top as for 1st finger.

3rd Finger: Work as 2nd finger, but only pattern for 2.75 inches before shaping top.

4th Finger: With B wool, k. off the remaining 7 sts. from 2nd thread and with another needle k. remaining 7 sts. from 1st thread. With a 3rd needle pick up and k. 2 sts. from base of preceding finger. Dividing the sts. more equally on the 3 needles work in pattern for 2.5 inches, then shape top as 1st finger.

The Thumb: With B wool, k. off the 12 sts. left on pin at thumb opening, then with another needle pick up and k. 12 sts. from those cast on at back of opening. Divide these 24 sts. on 3 needles, then work for 2.75 Inches and shape top as given for 1st finger. ***

The left glove

Work as Right Glove from ** to **, then make the thumb opening thus:

Next round: With B wool, k. 18, slip the next 12 sts. on to a safety pin and cast on 12 sts. in their place, then k. the remaining 30 sts. Now complete this glove to match the Right Glove from *** to ***.

The cap

With B wool, and using the set of four No. 10 needles, cast on 150 sts. - 50 on each of 3 needles - and with the 4th needle work on these 50 sts. In rounds of k.1, p.1 ribbing for 3 rounds. Then k. pattern rounds 1 to 15 inclusive as given for gloves. Next, k. 2 rounds in B. then k. pattern rounds 1 to 6 Inclusive. Now start to dec.

1st round: With Y wool, * k. 8, k. 2 tog. rep. from * all round (135 sts.).

2nd round: K. in Y.

3rd round: With R wool, * k. 7, k. 2 tog. rep. from * all round (120 sts.).

4th round: K. in R.

5th round: K. in Y.

6th round: K. * 1 R, 1 Y; rep. from * all round.

7th round: K. * 1 Y, 1 R; rep. from * all round.

8th round: K. In Y.

9th round: With R wool, * k. 6, k. 2 tog. rep from * all round.

10th round: K. with, R.

11th round: With Y wool, * k. 5. k. 2 tog rep. from * all round.

12th round: K. in Y.

13th round: With Y wool. * k. 4. k. 2 tog rep. from * all round.

14th round: K. in Y.

15th round: With Y wool. * k. 3. k. 2 tog rep. from * all round

16th round: K. in Y.

17th round: With Y wool, * k. 2, k. 2 tog.; rep. from * all round.

18th round: K. in Y.

19th round: With Y wool * k. 1, k. 2 tog. rep. from * all round.

20th round: K. in B.

21st round: With B wool, k. 2 tog. all round.

22nd round: K. in B

23rd round: With B wool, * k. 1, k. 2 tog rep. from * all round. Break off wool, run it through the remaining sts., draw up and fasten off.

To complete garments

Darn in any loose ends, then place a damp cloth over work and lightly press with a warm iron.