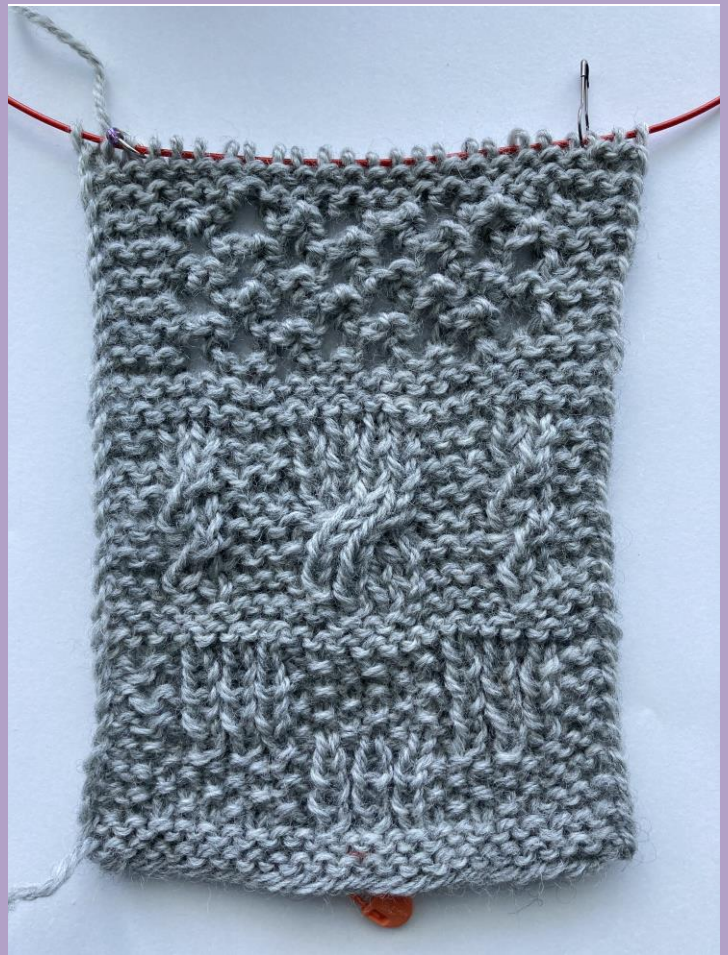


Cathedral Knits

finely crafted patterns for elegant hand knitting

Reversible Stitches Class
by Laura Barker



Some projects, like scarves and blankets may be nicer when reversible. A fellow knitter told me with horror about creating a beautiful shawl for a bride, only to see in the photos that the bride wore the shawl with the wrong side showing. Now as far as weddings go, if the bride is happy (and obviously not a knitter), then the less said, the better. But, how often have you spent time trying to carefully tie your hand-knit scarf around your neck with only the right side showing? Ribbing and garter stitch can easily create reversible fabric, but there are so many more possibilities.

For this class, I'm going to classify these fabrics as knit and purl variations, cable variations, or lace variations. Knit and purl variations are exactly what they sound like, just knits and purls arranged in a pleasing design, with no increases, decreases, or cabling. Cable variations will involve a cable needle, so grab one if you are working along. Cables are generally made reversible by turning each








individual stitch to be crossed into a k1/p1 ribbed pair. Both cables and ribbing make fabric less wide, so it will require extra sts to maintain the same width. Lace variations will require increases and decreases to create openings in the fabric.

Because I prefer not to have many small samples with limited future use, I'm creating a sampler scarf, and adding new reversible stitch patterns as I find and/or create them. Worked in worsted yarn, the width of the scarf is about 4.25".

Abbreviations: These are the basic abbreviations that will be used the most frequently. Specific cable instructions will be given where appropriate.

cn cable needle
k knit
k2tog knit two together
kfb
ln left hand needle
p purl
RS right side
sl1p slip one as if to purl
ssk
st(s) stitch(es)
WS wrong side
wyif/b with yarn in front/back
yo

Legend

	knit on RS/ purl on WS
	purl on RS/ knit on WS
	k2tog
	kfb
	null st
	ssk
	yo

Sampler Scarf Setup: The sampler scarf is (usually) worked over 24 sts. The first and last 3 sts are always worked as garter stitch borders, leaving (usually) 18 sts for the pattern. Sometimes a stitch pattern uses increases or decreases to change the number of stitches in a row.

CO 24 sts.

Rows 1-4: Sl1p wyif, k23.

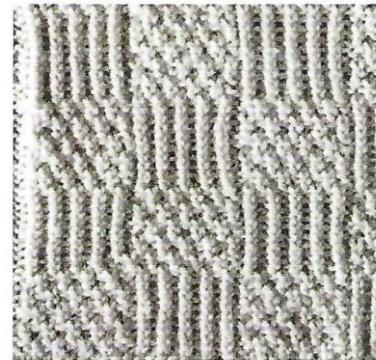
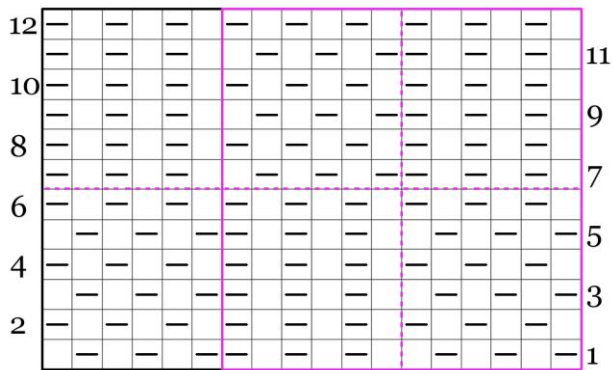
With working yarn at right edge, ready to work next row, pin a removable marker to this side to designate it as the RS. One of the challenges of reversible knitting is knowing which side you're working! Place 2 stitch markers on the needle 3 sts from each end. Going forward, the first 3 sts of EVERY ROW will be: Sl1p wyif, k2, and the last 3 sts will be: k3.

Knit and Purl Variation 1, Ribbing and Seed Stitch: 12 st repeat + 6. While we are only working one full repeat for the scarf, I've included repeat lines on the chart so you can easily expand the pattern for a wider garment. Dashed lines show the separation of seed stitch and rib.

Rows 1, 3, 5 [RS]: (P1, k1) 3 times, (k1, p1) 3 times, (p1, k1) 3 times.

Rows 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 [WS]: (K1, p1) 9 times.

Rows 7, 9, 11: (k1, p1) 3 times, (p1, k1) 3 times, (k1, p1) 3 times.



Work garter band before next pattern: Rows 1-4: Sl1p wyif, k23.

Cable Variation 1: 18 st repeat + 4. As noted above, cables are generally made reversible by turning each individual stitch to be crossed into a k1/p1 ribbed pair. And, since both cables and ribbing make fabric less wide, we will add 4 extra stitches in the first row and decrease those stitches in the final row to maintain the same width throughout the sampler scarf. Again, I've included repeat lines on the chart to expand the pattern. If working only these cables, Row 1 would be worked only once (so the border isn't too wide), and thereafter the first row of each 12-row repeat would be same as Row 3. Row 13 would only be worked once as part of final border. Dashed lines show the separation of cables and garter stitch.

Row 1 [RS]: Kfb, k1, p1, k3, kfb, (p1, k1) 2 times, kfb, k4, p1, kfb. 22 sts.

Rows 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 [WS]: (K1, p1) 2 times, k3, (k1, p1) 4 times, k3, (k1, p1) 2 times.

Row 3: (K1, p1) 2 times, k3, (k1, p1) 4 times, k3, (k1, p1) 2 times.


Row 5: C4R[(k1, p1) 2 times)], k3, (k1, p1) 4 times, k3, C4R[(k1, p1) 2 times)].

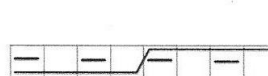
Row 7: (K1, p1) 2 times, k3, C8R[(k1, p1) 4 times)], k3, (k1, p1) 2 times.

Row 9: Same as Row 5.

Row 11: Same as Row 3.

Row 13: Ssk, k5, ssk, k4, ssk, k5, ssk. 18 sts.

 C4R[(k1, p1) 2 times] sl next 2 sts to cn and hold to back; k1, p1 from ln, k1, p1 from cn

 C8R[(k1, p1) 4 times] sl next 4 sts to cn and hold to back; (k1, p1) 2 times from ln, (k1, p1) 2 times from cn



Complete garter band before next pattern: Rows 1-3: Sl1p wyif, k23.

Lace Variation 1, Bird's Eye: 4 st repeat + 2. The simplest way to make lace (nearly) reversible is to make it garter stitch lace by knitting the WS rows instead of purling them. Under close examination, it is possible to see a small difference between the RS and WS rows, but anyone else who can see that is too close! Most reversible lace is thicker, or less fine, than traditional lace. Bird's Eye is an old Scottish pattern. Traditionally, the first row of the pattern is a WS row, so technically, we are working it reversed. Also, in the traditional version, all of the decreases are k2tog's. With the double yo's, I don't recommend stitch markers.

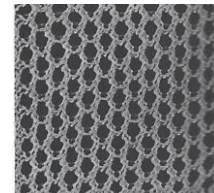
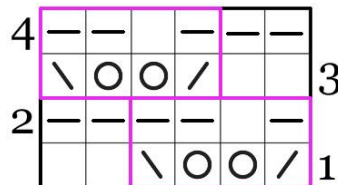
Row 1 [RS]: [K2tog, (yo) 2 times, ssk] 4 times, k2.

Row 2 [WS]: K2, [k1, (k1, p1) into 2 yo's, k1] 4 times.

Row 3: K2, [k2tog, (yo) 2 times, k2tog] 4 times.

Row 4: [K1, (k1, p1) into 2 yo's, k1] 4 times, k2.

Repeat Rows 1-4 two more times.



Work garter band before next pattern: Rows 1-4: Sl1p wyif, k23.