

# Check It Out

Give tartan a modern twist with flashes of bright colours



- ☐ EASY PEASY
- ☒ A BIT MORE TRICKY
- ☐ HARD-ISH
- ☐ QUITE A CHALLENGE



## TAKE A LOOK AT...

This is a nifty technique for knitting tartan. The fabric is plain garter stitch and the vertical stripes that create the familiar checkered effect are strands of yarn that are woven through the stitches.





## TARTAN HAT

### Measurements

To fit average woman's head.

### Materials

1 x 50g (75m) ball of Drops Nepal (65% wool, 35% alpaca) in each of Dark Purple (4399), Purple Mix (4434), Light Olive (8038) and Cerise (6273)\*. Pair of 5mm (No. 6) knitting needles; tapestry needle.

### Tension

17 stitches and 37 rows, to 10 x 10cm, over garter stitch, using 5mm needles.

### Abbreviations

**St(s)**, stitch(es); **k**, knit; **p**, purl; **tog**, together; **dec**, decrease 1 st, by working k2tog on a k row and p2tog on a p row; **inc**, increase 1 st (by working into the same st twice); **s2kpo**, slip 2 sts pwise, k1, pass 2 slip sts over (to decrease 2 sts)

### Note

Yarn amounts are based on average requirements and are therefore approximate. Instructions in square brackets are worked as stated after 2nd bracket.

## Hat

With 5mm needles and Dark Purple, cast on 85 sts.

**1st rib row:** K1, [p1, k1] to end.

**2nd rib row:** P1, [k1, p1] to end.

Rib another 8 rows.

Change to Purple Mix.

**Increase row:** K3, [inc in next st, k5] to last 4 sts, inc in next st, k3 – 99 sts.

K 5 rows.

Change to Cerise and k 2 rows.

Change to Purple Mix and k 6 rows.

Change to Dark Purple and k 2 rows.

Change to Light Olive and k 4 rows.

Change to Dark Purple and k 2 rows.

Change to Purple Mix and k 6 rows.

Change to Cerise and k 2 rows.

**Shape crown:** Change to Purple Mix.

**1st decrease row:** K1, [s2kpo, k11] 7 times – 85 sts. K 1 row.

**2nd decrease row:** K1, [s2kpo, k9] 7 times – 71 sts. K 1 row.

**3rd decrease row:** K1, [s2kpo, k7] 7 times – 57 sts. K 1 row.

Change to Dark Purple.

**4th decrease row:** K1, [s2kpo, k5] 7 times – 43 sts. K 1 row.

Change to Light Olive.

**5th decrease row:** K1, [s2kpo, k3] 7 times – 29 sts. K 1 row.

**6th decrease row:** K1, [s2kpo, k1] 7 times – 15 sts. K 1 row.

Change to Dark Purple.

**7th decrease row:** K1, [k2tog] 7 times – 8 sts.

Break off yarn and thread end through remaining sts, pull up tightly and secure. Cut Light Olive into 21 lengths of 22cm, Dark Purple into 14 lengths of 22cm and Cerise into 7 lengths of 22cm. With right side facing and using one length at a time, work vertical stripes as follows: With right side facing and beginning at top of ribbing, attach Dark Purple to 2nd stitch from side edge.

Weave this length along stitch to top by taking it over one ridge and under following ridge, making sure not to pull yarn too tightly. Secure ends on wrong side.

Thread Light Olive through next stitch, taking it under one ridge and over following ridge. Continue weaving as before, work 2 more vertical stripes with Light Olive in next 2 stitches. Work next stripe in next stitch in Dark Purple, miss next 4 stitches, then work vertical stripe in Cerise in next stitch. Miss next 4 stitches. Continue in this way making stripes in colours as set all round, 7 times in all.

Join seam. With Cerise, make a large pompom and attach to top of hat.

## TARTAN CAPE

### Measurements

**To fit bust sizes** 76-81 (86-91)

(97-102) (107-112) cm/30-32 (34-36) (38-40) (42-44) in.

**Actual measurements around**

**hem** 142 (152) (161) (173) cm/56 (59¾) (63¼) (68) in.

**Length to back neck** 66 (68) (71.5) (74) cm/26 (26¾) (28) (29) in.

### Materials

7 (7) (8) (8) 50g (75m) balls of Drops Nepal (65% wool, 35% alpaca) in Dark Purple (4399); 6 (6) (7) (7) balls in Purple Mix (4434); 4 balls in Deep Red (3608); 2 (2) (2) (3) balls in each of Light Olive (8038) and Cerise (6273); 1 ball in Light Grey Green (7120)\*. Pair of 5mm (No. 6) knitting needles; stitch holders; 3 buttons; tapestry needle.

### Tension

17 stitches and 37 rows, to 10 x 10cm, over garter stitch, using 5mm needles.

### Abbreviations

**St(s)**, stitch(es); **k**, knit; **p**, purl; **dec**, decrease 1 st, by working k2tog on a k row and p2tog on a p row; **gst**, garter st (every row k); **nil**, meaning nothing is worked here for this size.

### Note

Yarn amounts are based on average requirements and are therefore approximate. Instructions are given for small size. Where they vary, work figures in round brackets for larger sizes. Instructions in square brackets are worked as stated after 2nd bracket.

## Back

With 5mm needles and Dark Purple, cast on 121 (129) (137) (147) sts.

**Moss st row:** K1, [p1, k1] to end.

Moss st another 9 rows.

Change to Purple Mix and k 8 rows.

Continuing in gst and stripes of 2 rows Dark Purple, 4 rows Light Olive, 2 rows Dark Purple, 12 rows Purple Mix, 2 rows Cerise, 6 rows Dark Purple, 6 rows Red, 2 rows Light Grey Green, 6 rows Red, 6 rows Deep Purple, 2 rows Cerise and 12 rows Purple Mix throughout, shape sides as follows:

Dec 1 st at each end of next row and 3 (22) (19) (13) following 10th (8th) (8th)



(8th) rows – 113 (83) (97) (119) sts.  
K 7 (5) (5) (5) rows.  
Dec 1 st at each end of next row and 18 (1) (7) (16) following 8th (6th) (6th) (6th) row(s) – 75 (79) (81) (85) sts.  
K 7 (5) (5) (5) rows.

**Shape shoulders:** Dec 1 st at beginning of next 18 (18) (18) (20) rows – 57 (61) (63) (65) sts.

Cast off 2 sts at beginning of next 14 (16) (16) (16) rows – 29 (29) (31) (33) sts.  
Slip these sts on to a st holder.

## Left front

With 5mm needles and Dark Purple, cast on 57 (61) (65) (69) sts.  
Work 10 rows in moss st as given for back. Change to Purple Mix and k 8 rows. Continue in gst and stripes as given for back, dec 1 st at beginning of next row and 3 (nil) (nil) (nil) following 10th rows, then on 1 (5) (5) (6) following 8th row(s) – 52 (55) (59) (62) sts.

K 3 (1) (5) (1) row(s).

**For opening: Dividing row:** K21 (24) (28) (30), turn and work on these sts only. K 3 (5) (1) (5) row(s).

Dec 1 st at beginning of next row and 8 (8) (8) (6) following 8th rows and nil (nil) (nil) (2) following 6th rows – 12 (15) (19) (21) sts. K 2 (nil) (4) (4) rows.

Slip these sts on to a st holder.

Return to end of dividing row, rejoin appropriate yarn and k to end – 31 (31) (31) (32) sts. K 70 rows.

**Joining row:** K to end, then k across sts on st holder – 43 (46) (50) (53) sts.

K 4 (6) (2) (nil) rows.

Dec 1 st at beginning of next row and 8 (7) (4) (nil) following 8th rows, then on nil (2) (8) (14) following 6th rows – 34 (36) (37) (38) sts. K 7 (5) (5) (5) rows.

**\*\* Shape shoulder:** Dec 1 st at beginning of next row and 2 following alternate rows – 31 (33) (34) (35) sts.

**Shape neck:** Cast off 3 (3) (4) (4) sts at beginning of next row – 28 (30) (30) (31) sts.  
Dec 1 st at each end of next row and 5 (5) (5) (6) following alternate rows – 16 (18) (18) (17) sts. K 1 row.

**Next row:** Cast off 2 sts, k to last 2 sts, k2tog. K 1 row.

Repeat last 2 rows, 1 (1) (1) (nil) time more – 10 (12) (12) (14) sts.

Keeping neck edge straight, cast off 2 sts at beginning of next row and 3 (4) (4) (5) following alternate rows – 2 sts.

K 1 row. Cast off.

## Right front

With 5mm needles and Dark Purple, cast on 57 (61) (65) (69) sts.

Work 10 rows in moss st as given for back.

Change to Purple Mix and k 8 rows.

Continue in gst and stripes as given for back and dec 1 st at end of next row and 3 (nil) (nil) (nil) following 10th rows, then on 1 (5) (5) (6) following 8th row(s) – 52 (55) (59) (62) sts.

K 3 (1) (5) (1) row(s).

**For opening: Dividing row:** K31 (31) (31) (32) sts, turn and work on these sts only. K 70 rows.

Slip these sts on to a st holder.

Return to end of dividing row, rejoin appropriate yarn and k to end – 21 (24) (28) (30) sts. K 3 (5) (1) (5) row(s).

Dec 1 st at end of next row and 8 (8) (8) (6) following 8th rows and nil (nil) (nil) (2) following 6th rows – 12 (15) (19) (21) sts.

K 2 (nil) (4) (4) rows.

**Joining row:** K to end, then k across sts on st holder – 43 (46) (50) (53) sts.

K 4 (6) (2) (nil) rows.

Dec 1 st at end of next row and 8 (7) (4) (nil) following 8th rows, then on nil (2) (8) (14) following 6th rows – 34 (36) (37) (38) sts. K 8 (6) (6) (6) rows.

Work as left front from \*\* to end.

## Front opening edgings

With right side facing, using 5mm needles and Deep Purple, pick up and k37 sts evenly along row-end edge of side edge panel of opening. Work 9 rows in moss st as given for back.

Cast off in moss st.

## Neckband

Join side and shoulder seams.

With right side facing, using 5mm needles and Deep Purple, pick up and k19 (20) (21) (21) sts up right front neck, k across 29 (29) (31) (33) sts at back neck, pick up and k19 (20) (21) (21) sts down left front neck – 67 (69) (73) (75) sts.

Work 9 rows in moss st as given for back. Cast off in moss st.

## Buttonhole band

With right side facing, using 5mm needles and Deep Purple, pick up and k101 (105) (109) (113) sts along front edge of right front to top of neckband. Work 3 rows in moss st as on back.

**Buttonhole row:** Moss st to last 52 sts, [cast off 3, moss st 16 sts more] twice, cast off 3, moss st to end.

**Next row:** Moss st to end, casting on 3 sts over cast-off sts in previous row. Moss stitch another 4 rows. Cast off in moss st.

## Button band

Work along front edge of left front to match buttonhole band, omitting buttonholes.



## To make up

**Work vertical stripes as follows:** With right side facing and beginning at top of moss st welt, attach length of Light Olive to centre stitch of back. Weave this length along stitch to top, omitting neckband by taking it over one ridge and under following ridge, making sure not to pull yarn too tightly. Secure ends on wrong side. Thread Light Olive through next stitch at either side of the centre stitch, taking it under one ridge and over on following ridge, then weave in Deep Purple, along next stitch on each side of the 3 centre stitches. Miss 6 stitches at either side and work next vertical stripe using Cerise over 1 stitch, Deep Purple over next 2 stitches, Red over next 3 stitches, Light Grey Green over next stitch, Red over next 3 stitches, Deep Purple over next 2 stitches and Cerise over next stitch, miss next 6 stitches. Continue in this way alternating stripes in colours as set across back, making 7 (7) (9) (9) vertical stripes in all. Work vertical stripes on fronts to match back. Catch down row-ends of front opening edgings. Sew on buttons.