

Gnome de Plume by Sarah Schira

Spring is in the air, and gnomes are in the garden! Gnatalie is gnome around the world as a pre-eminent author of gardening advice, and her “Toadstools for Everyday” and “Fungus, Flowers, and Fun” are New York Times bestsellers. With a fun hat motif that could be leaves, buds, or toadstools depending on how you look, and a bit of leafy decoration, Gnatalie is ready for you to dig into.

Skills Used

- knit and purl
- working in the round on DPNs
- i-cord
- kfb, pfb, M1R, M1L, yo, 1-to-5 inc
- k2tog, k2togL, p2tog, DD, CDD
- knitting through the back loop
- picking up sts

Materials

- Yarn

Approximate yardage (with a 15% buffer)

Colour 1 (hat): 56 yd. / 51 m, approx. 14 g

Colour 2 (body): 66 yd. / 60 m, approx. 18 g

Colour 3 (beard): 18 yd. / 17 m, approx. 4 g;
plus 7 yd. / 6 m, approx. 2 g for optional braids

Colour 4 (nose/hands): 5 yd. / 5 m, approx. 2 g

- Needles

US 1 / 2.25 mm DPNs (set of 5), or size needed to get gauge, and US 2.5 / 3 mm for working flat

- Notions: darning needle, stitch markers, stuffing
1/2 cup / 120 mL poly pellets



Size

Height: 10" / 25.5 cm

Circumference: 10.5" / 26.5 cm

Gauge

30 sts and 44 rounds = 4" / 10 cm in stockinette in the round
on smaller needles

PATTERN NOTES

This gnome was originally part of a mystery knitalong, but now she is ready to take her place in the sun. Gnatie is obviously an avid gardener, although she somehow doesn't have a green thumb...

There are a number of video tutorials provided with this pattern. See the list in the box.

The hat is given as panel instructions. This means that you will work the panel directions a few times around the circumference of the hat. You'll work the hat panel 4 times around and the leaf panel twice.

This pattern uses my favourite left-leaning dec, the k2togL, and I've provided a video tutorial for it. You can substitute ssk if you want.

Instructions are written for DPNs, but it is easy to adapt to knit it magic loop or on 2 circular needles if you are familiar with those techniques by placing st markers between panels.

To help you save ink, the charts and instructional pictures are grouped at the end of the pattern.

Use #GnomeDePlume and #NeverNotGnoming to join the amazing fun knitted gnomes are having online.

ABBREVIATIONS

BOR - beginning of round

C1, C2, C3, C4 - colour 1, 2, 3, 4

CDD - centred double decrease - sl 2 sts as if to k2tog, k1, pass slipped sts over (2 sts dec)

DD - double decrease: sl next st purlwise, k2tog, pass sl st over (2 sts dec)

dec - decrease(d)

DPN(s) - double-pointed needle(s)

inc - increase(d)

k - knit

k2tog - knit two sts together (1 st dec)

k2togL - insert right needle tip into the front of the first st on the left needle and then into the back of the second stitch. Wrap the working yarn around the needle and bring it back through the sts (1 st dec)

kfb - knit into the front and back of st (1 st inc)

M1L - make 1 left: insert left needle, from front to back, under strand of yarn which runs between next st on left needle and last st on right needle; knit this st through the back loop (1 st inc)

M1R - make 1 right: insert left needle, from back to front, under strand of yarn which runs between next st on left needle and last st on right needle; knit this st through the front loop (1 st inc)

p - purl

p2tog - purl 2 sts together (1 st dec)

pfb - purl into the front and back of st (1 st inc)

RS - right side

sl - slip the next st purlwise

st(s) - stitch(es)

tbl - through the back loop

WS - wrong side

wyif - with yarn in front

yo - yarn over

Special Stitches

Inc 1-into-5

Knit into the front of the next stitch, then the back, then the front, then the back, then the front. (4 sts inc)

I-cord

Knit across the sts. Instead of turning to work back on the WS, slide all sts to other end of needle, switch needle back to your left hand, bring yarn around back of work, and start knitting the sts again. I-cord is worked with the RS facing at all times. Repeat this round to form i-cord. After a few rounds, work will begin to form a tube.

Note: the tip of the hat is worked as purled i-cord. Work as above, substituting purling for knitting.

Video Tutorials (use these direct links or visit my YouTube channel and search for the videos)

Inc 1-into-5: <https://youtu.be/3yC3BnkW2Xo>

K2togL: <https://youtu.be/Vqdn3lqqM1E>

DD: <https://youtu.be/PwtaMHFB8yU>

Purled i-cord hat top: <https://youtu.be/uAfG14jaRjk>

Leaf Hat Topper (including switching colours in i-cord, working leaf on 2 needles, and even tips on M1R and M1L): <https://youtu.be/ec1FK1nNwto>

CDD: <https://youtu.be/IM1woyQmbpk>

Picking up sts from the hat: <https://youtu.be/JdvoXgOsvmk>

Stuffing the gnome: <https://youtu.be/pkSFzJDULFA>

Dealing with ends in toys: <https://youtu.be/lGSu8k2U-DA>

2-Colour I-cord Arms: <https://youtu.be/rwPG9RZnYZU>

Attaching beard: <https://youtu.be/N4aCoSFICR8>

Attaching nose: <https://youtu.be/oiL3kaVunRE>

Attaching arms: https://youtu.be/_fqRzoL6VCY

Braids: <https://youtu.be/fNyNPNccMIQ>

INSTRUCTIONS

HAT

Using C1 and smaller needles, cast on 52 sts and distribute for working in the round on 4 DPNs, 13 sts per needle. Place BOR marker. Using written instructions (this page) or charted instructions (Pg. 6), work Hat Panel across each needle.

HAT PANEL

Rounds 1 - 8: k all - 13 sts per panel
Round 9: p3, pfb, p5, pfb, p3 - 15 sts
Round 10: p4, [k1, p2] two times, k1, p4
Rounds 11 - 23: p4, [k tbl, p2] two times, k tbl, p4
Round 24: p4, inc 1-into-5, p2, k tbl, p2, inc 1-into-5, p4 - 23 sts
Rounds 25 - 26: p4, k5, p2, k tbl, p2, k5, p4
Round 27: p4, k2togL, k1, k2tog, p2, k tbl, p2, k2togL, k1, k2tog, p4 - 19 sts
Round 28: p4, k3, p2, k tbl, p2, k3, p4
Round 29: p4, DD, p2, inc 1-into-5, p2, DD, p4
Rounds 30 - 31: p4, k tbl, p2, k5, p2, k tbl, p4
Round 32: p4, k tbl, p2, k2togL, k1, k2tog, p2, k tbl, p4 - 17 sts
Round 33: p4, k tbl, p2, k3, p2, k tbl, p4
Round 34: p4, k tbl, p2, DD, p2, k tbl, p4 - 15 sts
Rounds 35 - 39: p4, [k tbl, p2] two times, k tbl, p4
Round 40: p1, p2tog, p1, [k tbl, p2] two times, k tbl, p4 - 14 sts
Rounds 41 - 43: p3, [k tbl, p2] two times, k tbl, p4
Round 44: p3, [k tbl, p2] two times, k tbl, p1, p2tog, p1 - 13 sts
Rounds 45 - 47: p3, [k tbl, p2] two times, k tbl, p3
Round 48: p1, p2tog, inc 1-into-5, p2, k tbl, p2, inc 1-into-5, p3 - 20 sts
Rounds 49 - 50: p2, k5, p2, k tbl, p2, k5, p3
Round 51: p2, k2togL, k1, k2tog, p2, k tbl, p2, k2togL, k1, k2tog, p3 - 16 sts
Round 52: p2, k3, p2, k tbl, p2, k3, p2tog, p1 - 15 sts
Round 53: p2, DD, p2, inc 1-into-5, p2, DD, p2
Round 54: p2, k tbl, p2, k5, p2, k tbl, p2
Round 55: p5, k5, p5
Round 56: p5, k2togL, k1, k2tog, p5 - 13 sts
Round 57: p5, k3, p5
Round 58: p3, p2tog, DD, p5 - 10 sts
Round 59: p4, k tbl, p5
Round 60: p all
Round 61: p5, p2tog, p3 - 9 sts
Rounds 62 - 64: p all
Round 65: p6, p2tog, p1 - 8 sts
Rounds 66 - 68: p all
Round 69: p5, p2tog, p1 - 7 sts
Rounds 70 - 72: p all
Round 73: p4, p2tog, p1 - 6 sts
Rounds 74 - 76: p all
Round 77: p3, p2tog, p1 - 5 sts
Rounds 78 - 80: p all
Round 81: p2, p2tog, p1 - 4 sts
Rounds 82 - 84: p all
Round 85: p1, p2tog, p1 - 3 sts

Rounds 86 - 87: p all
Round 88: p2tog, p1 - 2 sts
Rounds 89 - 90: p all
Round 91: p2tog - 1 st
Rearrange sts to be on 1 DPN
Rounds 92 - 95: work purled 4-st i-cord
Cut C1, leaving 4" / 10 cm tail. Proceed to Leaf Tip instructions.

LEAF TIP

With RS facing, attach C3 at the rightmost st, kfb, k2, kfb - 6 sts. Tie two overhand knots in the tails (knotting C1 and C3 together). See Photo 1. Divide evenly over 2 needles with the two ends you've just knotted coming up through the middle. Working around the ends means you don't have to weave them in later.

Using written instructions (this page) or charted instructions (Pg. 6), work Leaf Panel across each needle. Working over just 2 needles may be a little tricky at first but it works. Directions will be given for this method of working, and a video tutorial provided, but if you prefer to work on 3 or 4 needles for a more traditional 'working in the round' you may do so. Just be clear which sts belong to the front of the leaf and which to the back.

LEAF PANEL

Round 1: k all - 3 sts per panel
Round 2: k1, M1R, k1, M1L, k1 - 5 sts
Round 3: k all
Round 4: k1, M1R, k3, M1L, k1 - 7 sts
Rounds 5 - 8: k all
Round 9: k2togL, k3, k2tog - 5 sts
Round 10: k all. Cut the two ends you've been working around in the middle of the leaf.
Round 11: k2togL, k1, k2tog - 3 sts
Round 12: k all
Round 13: CDD - 1 st

Cut yarn, leaving a tail. Thread onto darning needle and pass through sts. Slip sts from needles and weave in ends. When weaving in the end on the rolled brim, remember to work on the stockinette side so that it is hidden.

Because of the nature of this stitch pattern and its rapid increases and decreases, I recommend blocking the hat. Soak it and lay flat to dry.

BODY

Work with the hat tip pointing down. You will be picking up sts from the inside of the hat. Starting in line with the beginning of the round for the hat, and using C2 and smaller needles, pick up and knit 1 st from each st of the first round after the rolled brim. - 52 sts.

Arrange sts on 4 DPNs so that there are 13 sts on each. Be sure to knit the needle closest to you so that you create stockinette fabric.

Rounds 1 - 3: k all

Round 4: [kfb, k to end of needle] around - 4 sts inc

Rounds 5 - 8: k all

Rounds 9 - 38: repeat Rounds 4 - 8 six more times - 20 sts per needle, 80 sts total

Rounds 39 - 42: k all

Stop and lightly stuff the hat and half of the body with stuffing. Stuff enough that the gnome has the heft to stand, but don't overstuff.

Round 43: p all

Round 44: k all

Decreases:

Round 45: [k38, k2tog] twice - 2 sts dec, 78 sts total

Round 46: [k11, k2tog] around - 6 sts dec, 72 sts total

Round 47: [k10, k2tog] around - 6 sts dec, 66 sts total

Round 48: [k9, k2tog] around - 6 sts dec, 60 sts total

Continue decreasing in this manner, with 1 st fewer between dec, until there are 30 sts on the needles.

Fill the body with poly pellets until there is only a 0.5" / 1 cm gap. Fill the rest of the space with stuffing so the pellets don't jump out as you finish. At this point, you might find it helpful to rest the gnome's weight on your lap or a table.

Continue decreases until there are 6 sts left on needles. Cut yarn, leaving a tail. Stuff any remaining space. Don't overstuff or the bottom will bulge and not be flat. Thread tail onto darning needle and thread through remaining sts twice (to fill the gaps) and fasten off securely.

LEAF BEARD

Beard is worked flat. Using larger needles and C3, cast on 13 sts. Leave a 6" / 15 cm tail to use later to attach the beard. Using written directions (this page) or chart (Pg. 7), make 1 beard. Note: the first st of every row is slipped the same way.

Row 1 (WS): sl 1 wyif, k2, p7, k3 - 13 sts

Row 2 (RS): sl 1 wyif, k5, yo, k1, yo, k6 - 15 sts

Row 3: sl 1 wyif, k2, p9, k3

Row 4: sl 1 wyif, k6, yo, k1, yo, k7 - 17 sts

Row 5: sl 1 wyif, k2, p11, k3

Row 6: sl 1 wyif, k7, yo, k1, yo, k8 - 19 sts

Row 7: sl 1 wyif, k2, p13, k3

Row 8: sl 1 wyif, k2, k2togL, k4, yo, k1, yo, k4, k2tog, k3

Row 9: sl 1 wyif, k2, p13, k3

Rows 10 - 13: repeat Rows 8 - 9 two more times

Row 14: sl 1 wyif, k7, CDD, k8 - 17 sts

Row 15: sl 1 wyif, k2, p11, k3

Row 16: sl 1 wyif, k6, CDD, k7 - 15 sts

Row 17: sl 1 wyif, k2, p9, k3

Row 18: sl 1 wyif, k5, CDD, k6 - 13 sts

Row 19: sl 1 wyif, k2, p7, k3

Row 20: sl 1 wyif, k4, CDD, k5 - 11 sts

Row 21: sl 1 wyif, k2, p5, k3

Row 22: sl 1 wyif, k3, CDD, k4 - 9 sts

Row 23: sl 1 wyif, k2, p3, k3

Row 24: sl 1 wyif, k2, CDD, k3 - 7 sts

Row 25: sl 1 wyif, k2, p1, k3

Row 26: sl 1 wyif, k1, CDD, k2 - 5 sts

Row 27: sl 1 wyif, k1, p1, k2

Row 28: sl 1 wyif, CDD, k1 - 3 sts

Row 29: sl 1 wyif, p1, k1

Row 30: CDD - 1 st

Cut yarn, leaving a 6" / 15 cm tail. Pull loop of yarn in last stitch to fasten off. Sew in this end. Block beard so that it lays flat.

ARMS

2-Colour I-Cord Tip:

To change colours, k across in new colour. Tie two overhand knots in the tails. Flip the tails up towards the needle, and work i-cord around the ends. To do this, just make sure that the working yarn comes behind the ends when you begin a new round. See Photos 1 & 2. When you've worked the entire arm, just snip these ends off and let them disappear into the arm - 2 fewer ends to weave in!

Using C4 and smaller needles, cast on 5 sts. Work i-cord for 3 rounds. Switch to C2 and work 21 rounds i-cord, or until arm is 2.25" / 5.5 cm. Cut yarn and thread tail onto a darning needle. Thread through the live stitches on the needle from right to left (the same order as you would knit them). Cut yarn, leaving a 6" / 15 cm tail. Thread cast-on end onto needle, push through the arm to the other end, pull snug and cut yarn. End will pop back into the arm.

Make a second arm.

Note: many people find that the i-cord arms curl a bit because of the tension difference between the front and back of the cord. It adds to the whimsy.

NOSE

Knit as a long, thin rectangle that is folded in half, the nose uses the tendency of stockinette to curl.

Using larger needles and C4, cast on 4 sts. Work stockinette for 7 rows. Bind off. Sew in one end.

Fold in half so that the short edges are matched up, wrong sides together. Using remaining end, sew short ends together. Do not cut the rest of this end - use it to attach the nose.

OPTIONAL BRAIDS

Per braid you will need:

- 9 lengths of yarn 7.5" / 19 cm long in C3 or as desired (hair)
- 1 length of the same yarn 6" / 15 cm long (top tie)
- 1 length of 4" / 10 cm yarn (bottom tie, possibly contrasting colour)

Line up the 9 lengths of hair side-by-side, parallel to each other. Tie the 6" / 15 cm length of yarn around all of them at the halfway point. This will be the top of the braid and will be used to attach the braid.

Fold the cluster at the midpoint so that all 18 'hair' ends point towards you. Affix the tie to a mug or other weight to stabilize. Separate the 18 ends into 3 sets of 6. The middle 6 should have 3 ends from each side.

Braid the hair: Take the left section, cross it over the middle one. Then take the right strand, and cross it over the new middle strand. Repeat until braid is desired length.

Tie the 4" / 10 cm length of yarn around the bottom of the braid to secure. Trim this tie as desired. Trim the braid ends to tidy up the bottom.

Make a second braid.

ASSEMBLING GNOMES

Dealing with the ends: after you've sewn on a piece and secured the end - I carefully knot the end somewhere hidden if it's going to be a toy rather than a decoration - push the needle across to the other side of the gnome. Pull it taut and snip - it will vanish inside. See Photo 3.

Sew the top of the beard onto the body of the gnome where the body meets the hat.

The nose is sewn in the middle of the beard, between the beard and the hat brim. Hold it so that the folded end is pointed towards the bottom of the gnome and the sewn-together end is just above the beard. Using a whip stitch, sew along the top of the nose. By holding the nose towards the bottom, it doesn't want to flip up and look snobby.

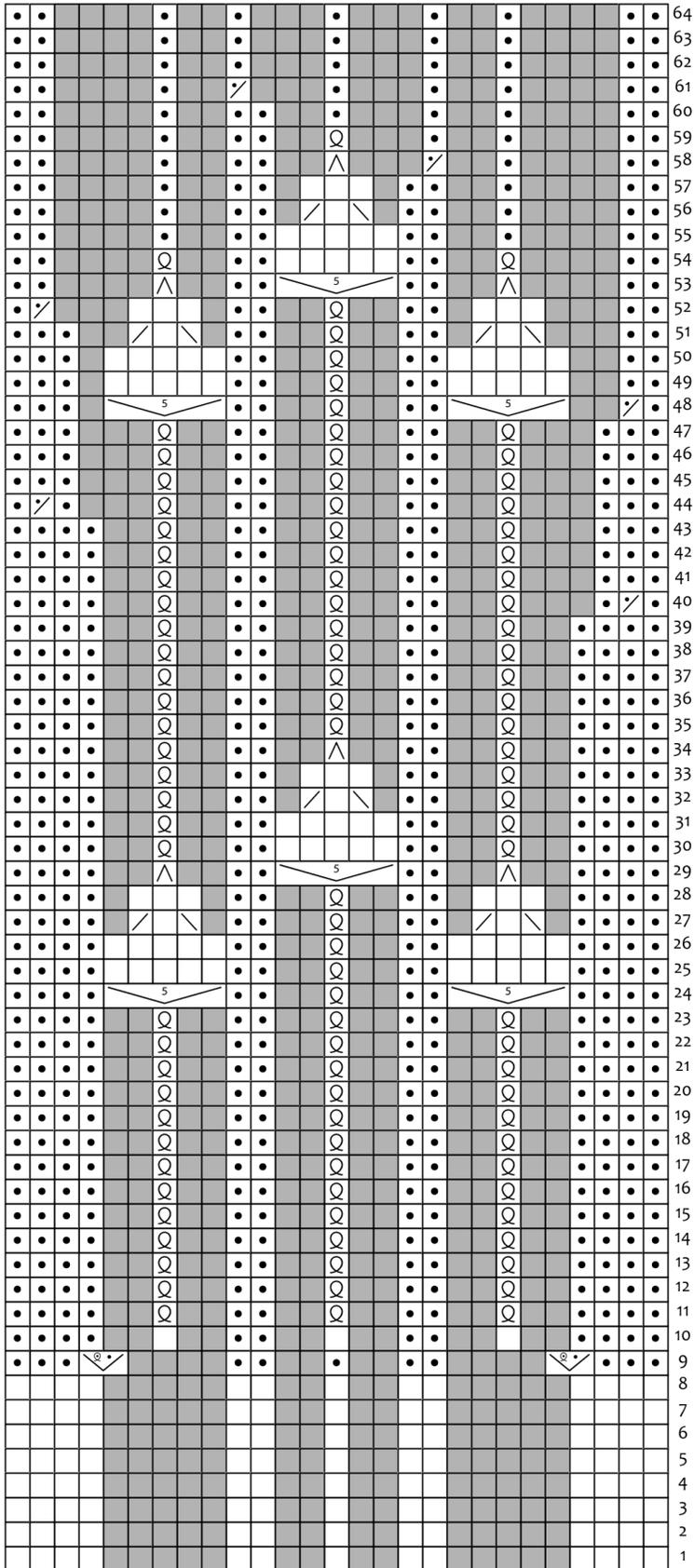
Sew the arms to the body at the sides of the beard.

Sew the optional braids to the body behind the arms where the body meets the hat.

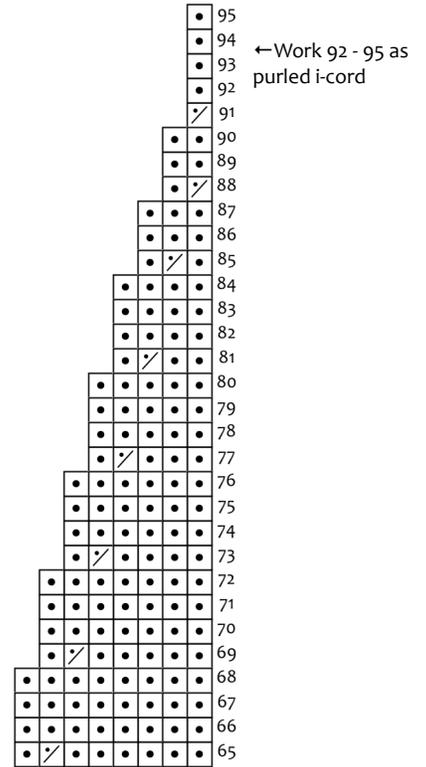
I'd love to see your gnomes! Use #imaginedlandscapesknits and #nevernotgnoming on Instagram.

Note: please refer to Hat instructions for additional detail and don't just work from Panel 2 to Leaf chart.

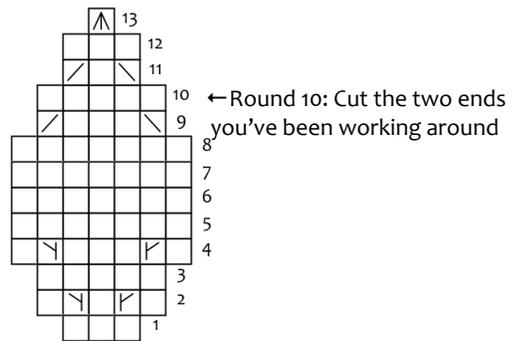
Hat Panel 1



Hat Panel 2



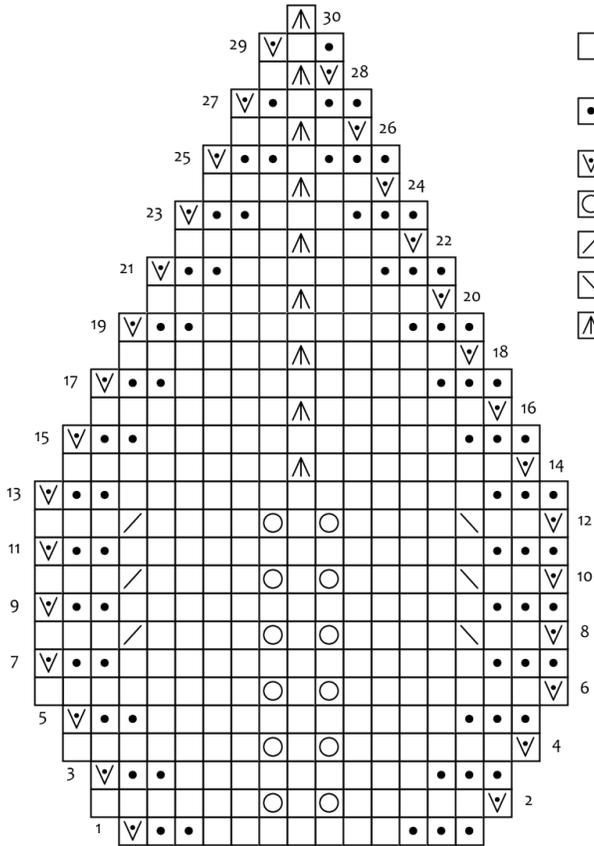
Leaf Panel



Key

- no stitch
- knit
- purl
- k tbl
- pfb
- inc 1-into-5
- k2togL
- k2tog
- DD
- p2tog
- M1R
- M1L
- CDD

Leaf Beard



Key

- RS: knit
WS: purl
- ◻ RS: purl
WS: knit
- ▽ sl purlwise wyif
- yo
- ↘ k2tog
- ↙ k2togL
- △ CDD

Note that Row 1 is a WS row.
Read WS rows from left to right.



Photo 1
knotting the tails of
the colour change in the
i-cord arms and the hat leaf



Photo 2
working i-cord around the tails

Photography: Sarah Schira
Tech Editor: Bronwyn Hahn

Thanks to my awesome test knitters: ktweet99, maylina, jooleee, anyway2knit, micira, Mathsy, Greatminds, fioratta, craftyrie, Elizabeth11, Tini, Moni69, kaete, heike0307

About the Designer: Sarah lives on the Canadian prairies where she loves to knit, read, and play board games. She co-hosts the Imagined Landscapes Podcast with her sister, Katie. Except for when she's drinking tea and running, she's Never Not Gnoming.

You can find her other patterns, her newsletter, and links to all her social media at imaginedlandscapes.com.



Photo 3
dealing with the ends