

# Pleiades



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# Pleiades

## SIZE

To fit 53½(57:61)cm / 21(22½:24)" head circumferences. The finished hat measurements include 1¼–2½ cm / ½–1" of negative ease. Hat circumference is 51(56:59)cm / 20(22:23¼)" unstretched. The medium size will fit most women.

## MATERIALS

2 colours of a light DK/sportweight yarn with approximately 350 metres/382 yards per 100g (175 metres/191 yards per 50g). The hat requires one 50g ball/skein of each colour.

The pictured sample was knitted with Rowan 'Felted Tweed DK' in Seasalter #178 (MC) and Mineral #181 (CC).

## NEEDLES AND NOTIONS

3.5(3.25:3)mm/US 4(3:2½) needle(s) for small diameter circular knitting. Adjust needle size as necessary to achieve correct tension.

## TENSION/GAUGE

The knitted tension/gauge varies from one hat size to another as follows. To get a hat that fits correctly carefully check your tension before commencing.

28(29:31) sts and 30(31:33) rounds per 10cm/4" in stranded pattern after blocking.

Stitch tension is much more important than round tension for this project.

## ABBREVIATIONS

See next page.

# Instructions

Starting with a twisted German cast-on, you will knit the hat from the bottom up in rounds. After working a corrugated rib, you will work the stranded pattern. The top of the hat is formed by decreasing as you continue to work the pattern.

## CORRUGATED RIB

With the 3.5(3.25:3)mm/US 4(3:2½) needle(s) and a twisted German cast-on (see page 5), cast on 140(160:180) sts in the MC. Join for working in the round.

Join in the CC yarn and commence the corrugated rib as follows:

**Corrugated Rib Round:** \*k2 in CC, p2 in MC; repeat from \* to end.

After working 8 rounds of corrugated rib, work a single st-st round in the MC.

## STRANDED PATTERN

Work 61 rounds of the stranded pattern. Commence with line 1 of the chart and work 7(8:9) full repeats of the charted pattern in each round. Hat decreases start on Round 35 of the chart. When you have completed the chart, you will have 7(8:9) sts remaining.

## FINISHING

Break off yarn, leaving a 20cm/8" tail for the MC and 15cm/6" tail for the CC. Thread a tapestry needle with the MC yarn. Then pull the yarn through each of the remaining 7(8:9) stitches in turn. Then take the yarn through the very centre of the hat to the inside. Weave in all ends.

Block to the unstretched dimensions indicated on the previous page.

## JOINING TO WORK IN THE ROUND

When joining to work in the round it is important to ensure the work is not twisted. Twists can be difficult to spot immediately after casting on. Some knitters work a single round flat before joining. Whether you join immediately after casting on or not, always check the knitting after the first round. It is possible to untwist the work if necessary at the end of the first round.

## DECREASES AT THE START OF A ROUND

The centred double decreases at the start of each decrease round are made with the last stitch of the previous round and two stitches from the

## ABBREVIATIONS

CC = contrast colour

cdd = sl2 together knitwise, k1, pss0.

eor = end of row/round

k = knit

k2tog = knit 2 sts together

MC = main colour

p = purl

pss0 = pass slipped st(s) over

sl = slip st(s) either knitwise or purlwise as instructed.

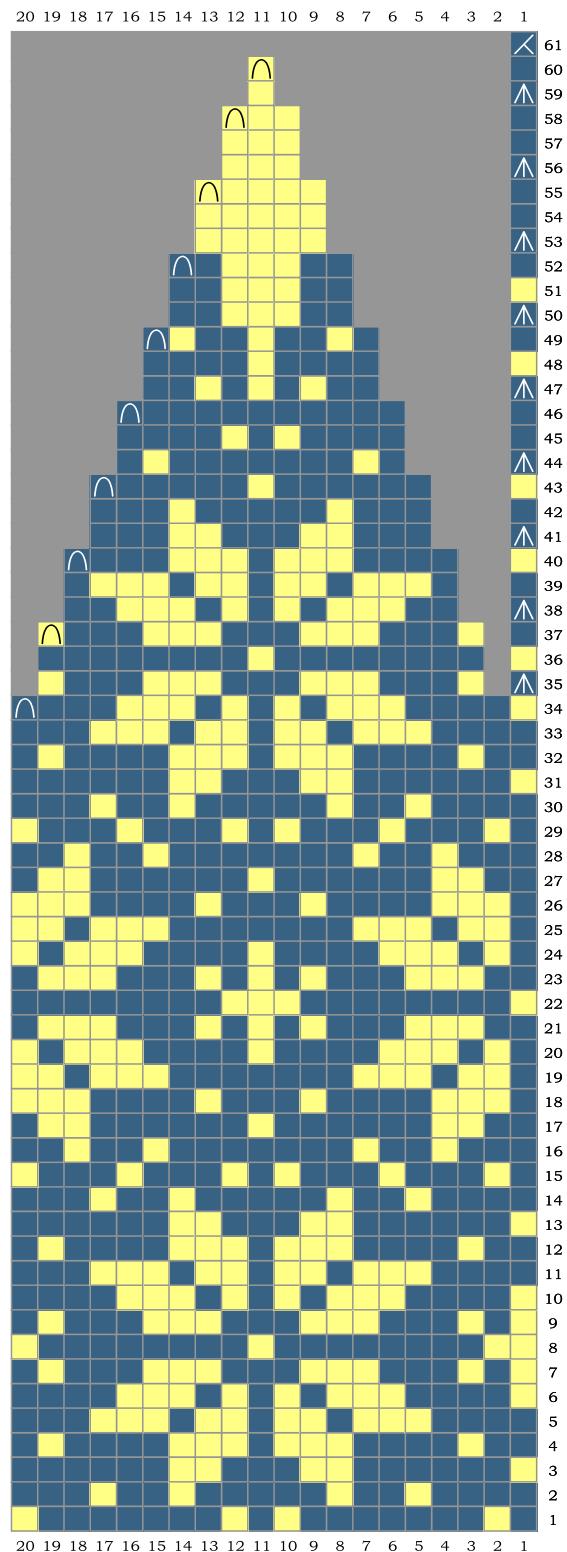
st(s) = stitch(es)

st-st = stocking stitch (stockinette)

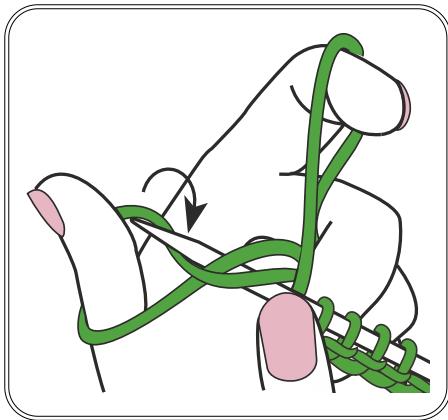
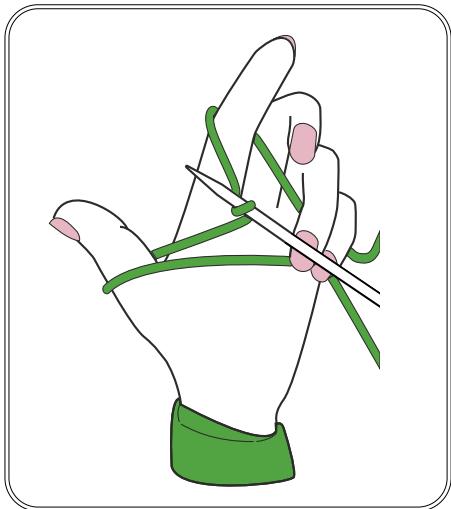
## Chart

### Key

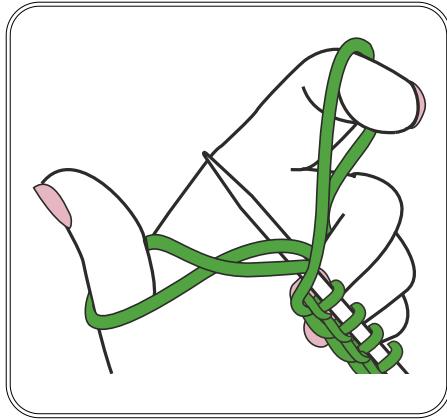
- no stitch
- MC
- CC
- cdd
- k2tog
- omit in final repeat



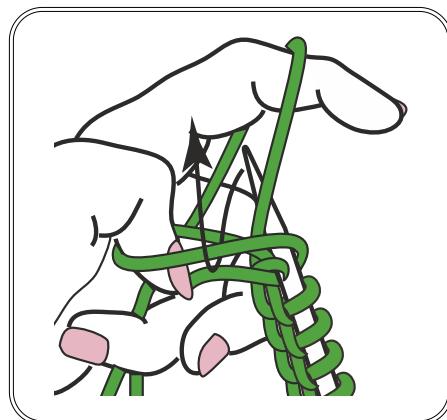
# Twisted German Cast-on



1) Set up as though to do standard long-tail cast-on: you should have the yarn looped around your needle with the tail yarn looped around your left thumb and the working yarn looped around your left index finger. Generally the tail yarn needs to be approximately 3 times the length of the intended cast-on edge.



2) Take the needle under both strands of the loop around your thumb.



3) Pick up the rear strand of the thumb loop and draw it under the other strand. The picked up strand will form a new loop of yarn.

4) Then pick up the finger yarn with the needle point and draw it back through the new loop (bending your thumb as shown will help open up this loop). Drop the loop off your thumb as you pull the finger yarn through.

5) Tighten everything up, then take your thumb under the tail yarn to form a new thumb loop.

6) Repeat steps 2-5 until you have cast on the desired number of stitches.

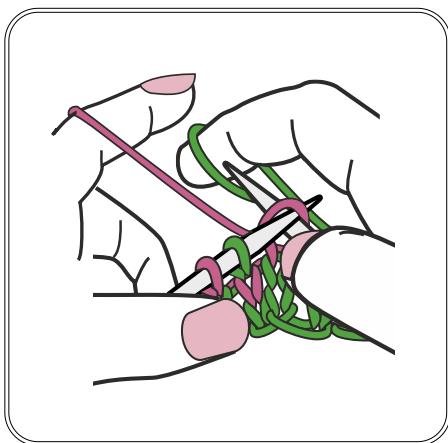
# Two-handed Stranded Knitting

Hold the background colour yarn (MC) as for English style knitting, ie in the right hand.

Hold the foreground colour yarn (CC) as for Continental style knitting, ie in the left hand.

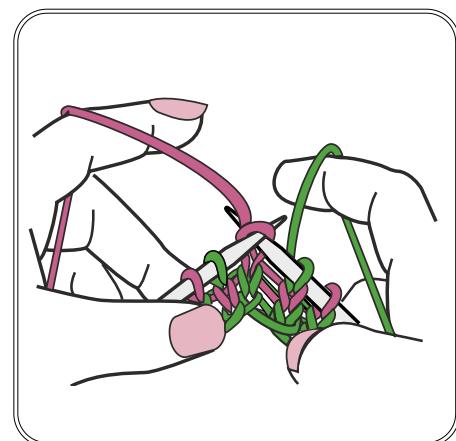
Holding both yarns at once in this manner (one in each hand) knit all the background colour stitches English style, and all the foreground colour stitches Continental style:

## ENGLISH STITCHES



- 1) Insert the point of the working needle into the stitch.
- 2) With the right hand wrap/throw the yarn around the point of the working needle, taking it under the needle from behind.
- 3) Draw the yarn back through the stitch, dropping the stitch from the passive needle as you do so.

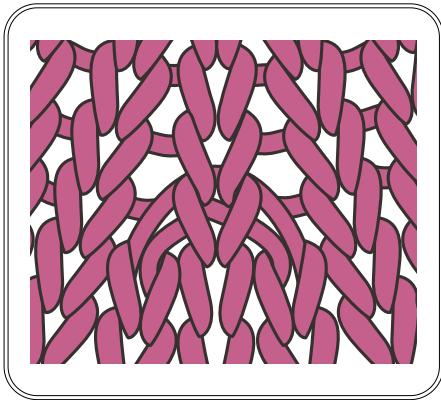
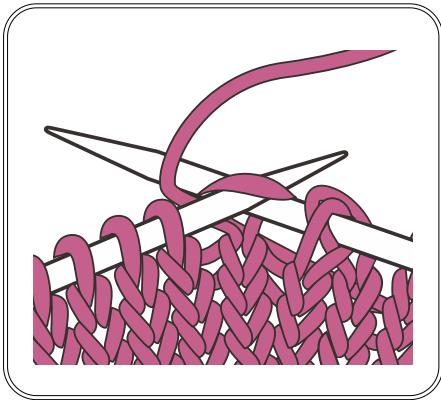
## CONTINENTAL STITCHES



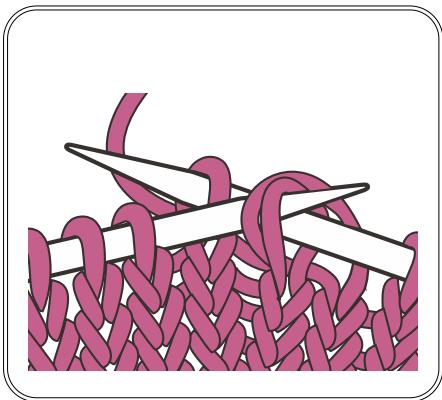
- 1) Insert the point of the working needle into the stitch.
- 2) Use the needle point to hook/pick up the yarn from the left hand, taking the needle behind the yarn from above.
- 3) Draw the yarn back through the stitch, dropping the stitch from the passive needle as you do so.

As you can see from the illustrations and instructions above, the difference between English and Continental knitting is in where the yarn for the stitch comes from. The method for placing the yarn around the needle when knitting the stitch (English 'throwing' or Continental 'picking') only varies because of this. It is impossible to tell which method was used by looking at stitches on the needle, ie the stitches sit on the needle the same way whichever method was used to make them.

## Centred Double Decrease



- 1) Insert the right hand needle into the next 2 stitches as if you are going to work a k2tog decrease. Lift the stitches off the left hand needle from this position. Then knit the next stitch.
- 3) In the resulting stitch the middle stitch of the 3 lies above the other 2 stitches in the decrease.



- 2) Lift the 2 slipped stitches over the new stitch.

# Pleiades Hat



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