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Cascade Greenland
Mosaics Hat



Designed by Betty Balcomb

Greenland Mosaic Hat

By Betty Balcomb

Sometime in the mid-1970s, there was an extended article in one of the grocery store women's magazines introducing me to Mosaic Knitting. I assume the article was a promotion for the legendary knitter Barbara Walker's book Mosaic Knitting, originally published in 1976. I knit up almost everything in the article and loved the technique but I'd had enough for the time being and never bought the book. A few years ago something made me think of Mosaic Knitting and I went online to find a copy of the book. It was out of print and selling for \$275 if at all! I sighed and made do with the few mosaic patterns in my stitchionaries. Then the book, with bunches of new material, was reissued in 2006 and I snatched up one of the first copies and have been happily knitting mosaics for 4+ years. My Em Dash Socks available on this website under Heritage Yarn is a very elementary mosaic pattern. This hat is a good introduction to the technique worked in the round. Greenland with its tight strand makes great mosaic.

Materials: 1 skein of Greenland yarn in each of 2 colors. There needs to be a strong contrast between the 2 colors. Pictured hat is in colors 3519 and 3553. Size 8 needles, 16 inch circular and double points **OR SIZE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN GAUGE**. Marker.

Gauge: 9 sts to 2 inches in garter stitch. Gauge will be tighter in pattern.

Size: The hat should fit almost all women. Since the pattern repeat is 16 sts, it won't work to add or delete a repeat to adjust size. For a man's hat, go up a needle size. For a child go down 1 or even 2 sizes.

Glossary:

SI 1: Slip one stitch from left needle to right inserting the needle as if to purl.

YB: move the working yarn to the back of the work as if to knit the next st.

YF: move the working yarn to the front of the work as if to purl the next st.

Cut yarn leaving about a 9" tail. Thread yarn onto tapestry needle, pass it through the 9 sts and pull tail tight. Weave in ends.

DIRECTIONS:

With circular needle and light color, cast on 84 sts. Place marker and join in the round being careful not to twist sts. Work 1 row of K2, P2 ribbing. Change to dark color and continue in ribbing until band measures 2" from cast-on edge, carrying the light color yarn up loosely along join. Knit the next row increasing 12 sts evenly spaced across row, that is one increase after every 7th st (96 sts). Purl 1 row. Knit 1 row with light color, Purl 1 row with light color. Now you are ready to begin the mosaic band part of the hat. First a few pointers on the basics of mosaic knitting.

1. You only work with one color/strand at a time, the other strand waits patiently back at the beginning of the row for its turn.
2. Because the technique works best in garter st and the hat is knit in the round, you will alternate a knit row with a purl row.
3. To create the pattern, you work a series of knit/purl and slipped sts. ALWAYS slip the st purlwise whether knitting or purling.
4. The "float" or strand that is carried behind the slipped sts must ALWAYS be on the wrong side of the fabric. This is not an issue on knit rows, but on purl rows requires that the yarn be flipped back and forth before and after slipping each slipped st. See Glossary above and specifics in the directions below for how this works.
5. On all purl rows, the directions are superfluous. You will always purl the sts that are the color of the working yarn and slip the ones that are not. But you must remember to do the flipping of the yarn to keep the float on the wrong side.

The pattern: Repeat of 16 sts, 34 rows

Row 1: with dark yarn, [K3, (Sl 1, K1) 4X, Sl 1, K3, Sl 1] 6X.

Row 2: with dark yarn, [P3, (YB, SI 1, YF, P1) 4X, YB, SI 1, YF, P3, YB, SI 1] 6X.

Row 3: with light yarn, [SI 1, K1, SI 1, K9, SI 1, K1, SI 1, K1] 6X.

Row 4: with light yarn, [YB, SI 1, YF, P1, YB, SI 1, YF, P9, Yb, SI 1, YF, P1, YB, SI 1, YF, P1] 6X.

Row 5: with dark yarn, [K5, SI 1, K3, SI 1, K5, SI 1] 6X

Row 6: with dark yarn, [P5, YB, SI 1, YF, P3, YB, SI 1, YF, P5, YB, SI 1] 6X

Row 7: with light yarn, [K2, (SI 1, K1) 5X, SI 1, K3] 6X.

Row 8: with light yarn, [P2, (YB, SI 1, YF, P1) 5X, YB, SI 1, YF, P3] 6X.

Row 9: with dark yarn [SI 2, K11, SI 2, K1] 6X.

Row 10: with dark yarn [SI 2, YF, P11, YB, SI 2, YF, P1] 6X.

Row 11: with light yarn, [K4, (SI1 , K1)3X, SI 1, K5] 6X.

Row 12: with light yarn, [P4, (YB, SI1, YF, P1)3X, YB, SI 1, YF, P5] 6X.

Rows 13 and 14: Repeat rows 9 and 10.

Rows 15 and 16: Repeat rows 7 and 8.

Rows 17 and 18: Repeat rows 9 and 10.

Rows 19 and 20: Repeat rows 11 and 12.

Rows 21 and 22: Repeat rows 9 and 10.

Rows 23 and 24: Repeat rows 7 and 8.

Rows 25 and 26: Repeat rows 5 and 6.

Rows 27 and 28: Repeat rows 3 and 4.

Rows 29 and 30: Repeat rows 1 and 2.

Row 31: with light yarn, K.

Row 32: with light yarn, P. Cut light yarn.

Row 33: with dark yarn, K decreasing 6 sts evenly spaced around row (90 sts).

Row 34: with dark yarn, P.

You have completed your first medium hard mosaic pattern and you know almost everything there is to know about the technique!! Now complete your hat. First you may need to knit a few rows so that the hat measures a slightly generous 6 inches from the cast on edge. If you are already at or even a little past 6 inches go directly to shaping the crown.

Shape crown:

Row 1: K

Row 2: [K8, K2tog] 9X

Row 3: K

Row 4: [K7, K2tog] 9X

Row 5: K

Row 6: [K6, K2tog] 9X

Row 7: K

Row 8: [K5, K2tog] 9X

Row 9: K

Row 10: [K4, K2tog] 9X

Row 11: K

Row 12: [K3, K2tog] 9X

Row 13: K

Row 14: [K2, K2tog] 9X

Row 15: K

Row 16: [K1, K2tog] 9X

Row 17: [K2tog] 9X

Cut yarn leaving about a 9" tail. Thread yarn onto tapestry needle, pass it through the 9 sts and pull tail tight. Weave in ends.