

DA CROFTER'S KEP

by Wilma Malcolmson

ammy Fraser, my father, was a crofter who worked the land throughout his life. Although this involved long days, difficult times and many struggles, I know that he loved what he did and remember the great pride he had in his achievements.

So, just as 'Katie's Kep' is a tribute to my mother and all the knitters like her, 'Da Crofter's Kep' is my way of honouring the people who work the land here in Shetland. For generations, and in all weathers, their commitment to their land and livestock has ensured that families are provided for and a special way of life has not been lost. Without them there would be no Shetland sheep, no wool and no yarn... imagine that!



Materials

See next page for colourways and yarns.

> Set of DPNs or circular needle long enough to work magic loop, or your preferred needles for working small circumferences in the round, in the correct size to achieve your desired tension

- > Stitch marker
- > Tapestry needle

Tension and Size

Please check your tension carefully and adjust your needle size accordingly.

It is important that you swatch, wash it, and measure your tension after it is dried.

34 sts and 32 rounds to 10cm over Fair Isle pattern in the round, after blocking.

To fit: 51.5cm

Finished circumference: 49.5cm

Length: 20cm from crown to brim

Suggested needle size: 2.5mm

Medium:

32 sts and 32 rounds to 10cm over Fair Isle pattern in the round, after blocking.

To fit: 54.5cm

Finished circumference: 52.5cm

Length: 20cm from crown to brim

Suggested needle size: 2.75mm

Large:

30 sts and 32 rounds to 10cm over Fair Isle pattern in the round, after blocking.

To fit: 58cm

Finished circumference: 56cm

Length: 20cm from crown to brim

Suggested needle size: 3.0mm

Abbreviations

knit

knit 2 sts together as if they were one k2tog

stitch. 1 st decreased

make one stitch by picking up the strand m1

> between stitches with the left needle from back to front and knitting this

stitch. 1 st increased

р purl

slip 1, knit 2 sts together, pass slipped

stitch over, 2 sts decreased

st(s) stitch(es)

Techniques

Knitting in the round, increasing, decreasing, stranded colourwork

Pattern Notes

Da Crofter is worked in the round from the brim to the crown.

Chart Notes

© Wilma Malcolmson. Feel free to make this cowl yourself, for charity, or as a gift, but

please do not sell this cowl or reproduce the pattern or any element of it in print or online.

Read all rows from right to left.

The columns to the right of the charts show the yarns used for the pattern and background colours. Most of the hat background is worked in yarn A except for a few rows in the middle of charts B and C.

Instructions

Using yarn A, cast on 136 sts. Place marker and join to knit in the round, being careful not to twist your work.

Join yarn B and begin working from row 1 of chart A, working the 4 st repeat a total of 34 times across the round.

Continue working from chart A as set, changing colours where indicated, until all 10 rows are

Increase round: K5, m1 (k4, m1) to last 7 sts,

Body

Begin working from row 1 of chart B, working the 24 st repeat 7 times in total across the round.

Continue working from chart B as set, changing colours where indicated, until all 35 rows of chart are complete.

Crown

Join in yarn D and begin working from row 1 of chart C, working the 24 st repeat 6 times in total across the round, 144 sts

Continue working from chart C as set, changing colours and decreasing where indicated, until all 23 rows of chart C are complete. 12 sts

Break yarn and pull through remaining stitches twice to close crown, and fasten off securely.

Finishing

Weave in or knot any ends on inside of hat. Handwash in lukewarm water, using wool wash if desired. Squeeze but do not wring out excess water, then wrap in a towel and press to remove as much water as possible. Stretch over a form of suitable size, such as a bowl or ball, until completely dry.



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Colourway 1



Jamieson's of Shetland

Spindrift (2ply equivalent to a 4ply/ fingering weight); 100% Real Shetland wool; 105m/25g ball

Yarn A: Eclipse (707); 2 x 25g balls Yarn B: Fjord (170); 1 x 25g ball Yarn C: Twilight (175); 1 x 25g ball Yarn D: Pacific (763); 1 x 25g ball Yarn E: Blueberry (294); 1 x 25g ball Yarn F: Mist (180); 1 x 25g ball

www.jamiesonsofshetland.co.uk

Colourway 2



Jamieson & Smith

Shetland Supreme Jumper Weight (2ply equivalent to a 4ply/fingering weight); 172m/50g ball

Yarn A: Shade 2005; 2 x 25g balls

2ply Jumper Weight (2ply equivalent to a 4ply/fingering weight); 100% Real Shetland wool; 115m/25g ball

Yarn B: Shade FC46; 1 x 25g ball Yarn C: Shade 122; 1 x 25g ball Yarn D: Shade FC38; 1 x 25g ball Yarn E: Shade 82; 1 x 25g ball Yarn F: Shade 32; 1 x 25g ball

www.shetlandwoolbrokers.co.uk

Colourway 3



Uradale

2ply Jumper Weight (2ply equivalent to a 4ply/fingering weight) 100% Organic Shetland wool; 86m/25g ball (50g balls are also available)

Yarn A: Aetmeal; 2 x 25g balls Yarn B: Tormentil Heath; 1 x 25g ball Yarn C: Moss Heath; 1 x 25g ball Yarn D: Moorit; 1 x 25g ball Yarn E: Flukkra; 1 x 25g ball Yarn F: Moss; 1 x 25g ball

www.uradale.com

Colourway 4



Shetland Handspun

Handspun 2ply (2ply equivalent to a 4ply/fingering weight); 100% locally sourced Shetland wool; sold in skeins

Yarn A: Silver; 1 skein Yarn B: Rouge; 1 skein Yarn C: Wine; 1 skein Yarn D: Maroon; 1 skein Yarn E: Cloud; 1 skein Yarn F: Midnight; 1 skein

www.shetlandhandspun.com

Colourway 5



Foula Wool

Jumper Weight (2ply equivalent to a 4ply/fingering weight); 100% Foula Sheep wool; 90m/25g ball

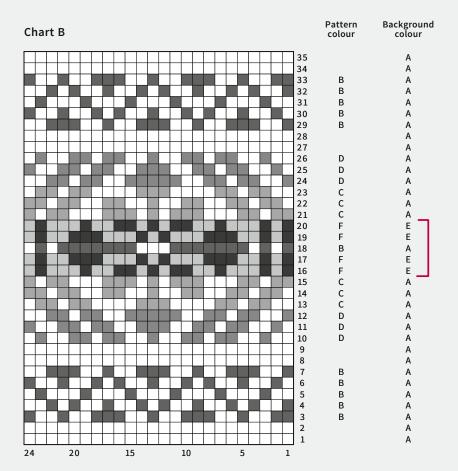
Yarn A: Black; 2 x 25g balls Yarn B: Grey; 1 x 25g ball Yarn C: Mioget; 1 x 25g ball Yarn D: Fawn; 1 x 25g ball Yarn E: Moorit; 1 x 25g ball

Yarn F: Light Grey; 1 x 25g ball

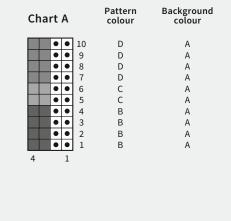
www.foulawool.co.uk

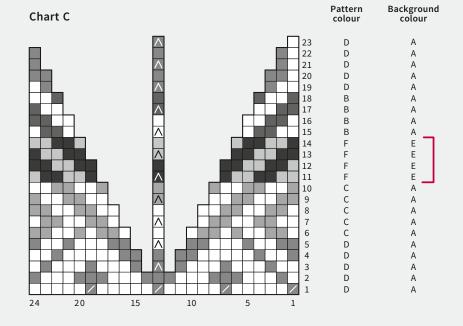
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VIRTUAL SHETLAND WOOL WEEK

Saturday 25th September - Sunday 3rd October 2021

This year, we find ourselves, once again, unable to deliver a physical Shetland Wool Week due to the global pandemic.

In 2020 we managed to pull together a virtual Shetland Wool Week – celebrating what is at the heart of the event: sheep, our textile industry, and the people who make it happen.

We hope to deliver a varied online programme again, sharing talks and events, all with Shetland wool at the core.

We look forward to connecting with you virtually.

Watch this space!



























SUPPORT US

As always there is no charge for our annual hat pattern, which is free to download.

If you would like to make a voluntary donation in support of the event, you can find out more here

www.shetlandwoolweek.com/about/support-us/



O Follow us on Instagram

Remember to share your creations and experiences with us by tagging your photos with

#dacrofterskep #shetlandwoolweek2021

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www.shetlandwoolweek.com



