



Three Forths Hat

WCY-119



Yarn: 6x10g (50m) JC Rennie miniballs in 6 different colours. (Total weight used about 35g). Colours used: Nutmeg, Blueprint, Russet, Silver, Marzipan and Frost.

Needles: 2.75mm and 3mm (circular or DPNs)

Notions: Stitch marker, tapestry needle

Tension: 30 sts per 10cm on 3mm over stranded colourwork

Finished size: To fit adult head approximately 22" / 56cm

This design is inspired by the three bridges across the Forth linking Edinburgh to Fife. It is a little trickier than a traditional Fair Isle design because of the long gaps between colour changes in some places. You need to be familiar with weaving in your floats to manage this. Try YouTube for videos if you need to learn this technique.

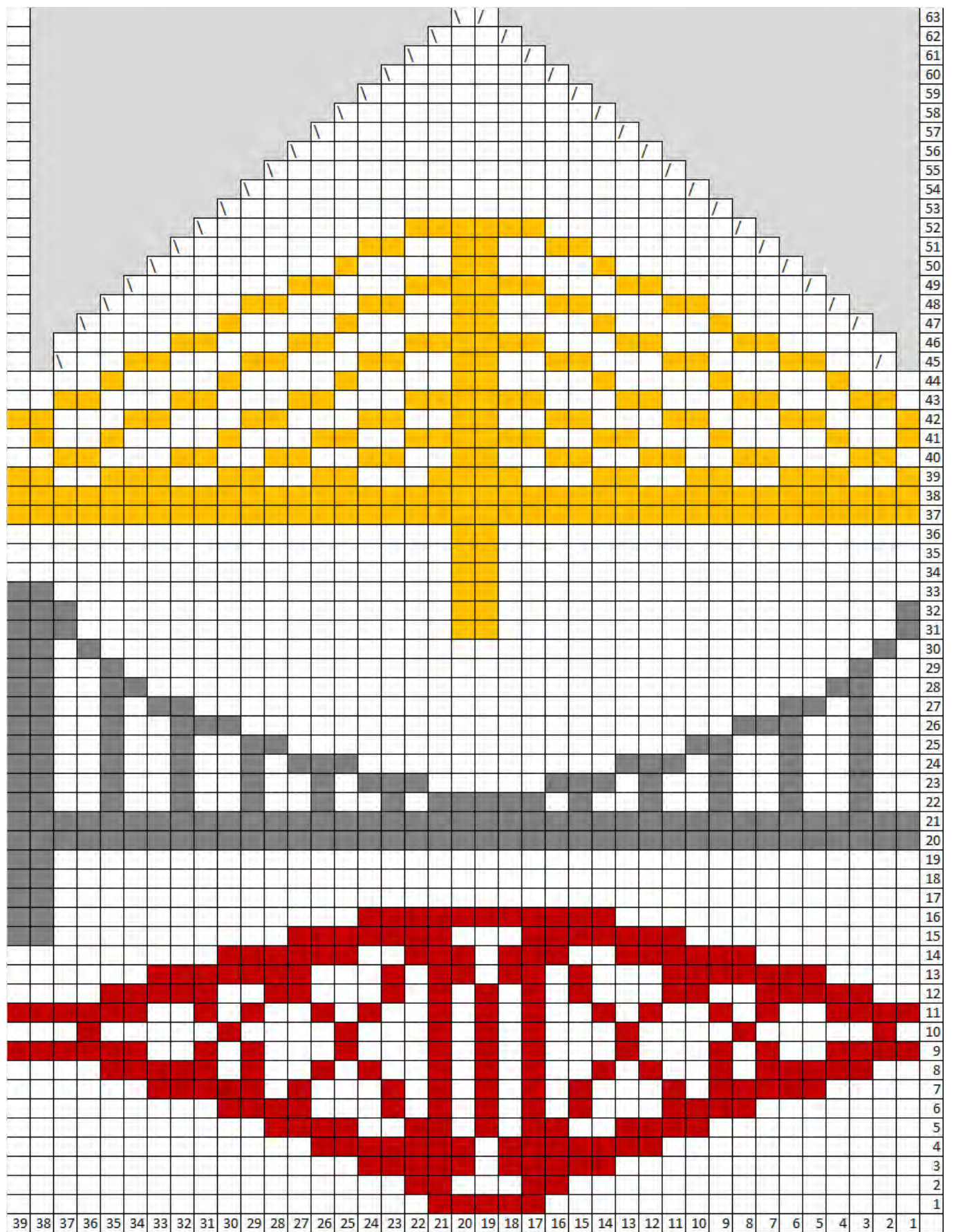


Chart key:

/	SSK
\	K2tog
	No Stitch

With Nutmeg (or first contrast) and smaller needles cast on 156 sts. Join in the round and place a marker to indicate the start. Be careful not to twist your stitches.

Work in K2, P2 rib for 10 rounds.

Change to larger needles and work one round as follows: [K16, P5, K18] x4

Join in Blueprint (sea colour), [K16, slip 5, K18]x4. Join in Russet (rail bridge colour) and work from chart for 63 rounds.

For the bridge piers of the two road bridges (rounds 15-19 and 31-36) you may want to join in a small length of bridge colour for each pier, rather than trying to strand three colours around. As there are only two stitches of contrast for these then you can use intarsia successfully despite it being in the round. I made three lengths (about 2ft long) and joined the full ball onto the last repeat. Then when you get to the deck (rounds 20-21 and 37-38) you can pick up the full ball and drop the short lengths.

Change the background colour from the sea colour (Blueprint) to the sky colour (Frost) any time after round 30. You can continue until your sea colour runs out and join the sky colour in at any time, I changed over on round 33.

Round 33 - You can achieve the same effect here by slipping the two contrast stitches so that you don't have to carry the middle bridge colour all the way round.

Shape the crown

The crown decreases are illustrated within the chart starting in round 45. There are four decrease lines which go K2tog, K1, SSK. The central K1s always stack up on each other but you may prefer to mark the position where you are decreasing.

Written instructions: round 45: SSK, work chart to last 3 sts, K2tog, K1. Repeat this four times round.

Work next round without decreasing, then repeat decrease round 45 every round until 12 stitches remain, continuing the colourwork until round 52.

Once you have finished the chart you should have 12 stitches left on your needles. Break the yarn then thread it through the remaining stitches twice and draw up, being careful not to break the thread as the yarn is quite fragile.

Abbreviations:

K - Knit

P - Purl

sts - Stitches

K2tog - Knit two stitches together

SSK - Slip on stitch, slip another stitch, knit these two together off the right hand needle.



Finishing

This yarn still has some of the natural lanolin in it (direct from the sheep, hence the sheepy smell) and also some spinning oils that are helpful when machine knitting. It can be knit directly from the balls and then the finished item is washed twice with detergent. To do this just soak the item in hot water with some washing up liquid or wool wash for 10-20 mins, then rinse out (this first rinse removes the oils) then repeat the process to achieve a softer handle. There is no need to dry the item between rinses.

Avoid too much agitation or extreme changes in water temperature as this will cause the wool to start felting, but a bit of agitation will help the stitches lock together. After the second rinse just roll it in a towel and squeeze out the excess, then pin out or leave flat to dry.

Tips on working stranded colourwork:

This hat uses stranded colourwork, where two strands of different coloured yarns – the contrast and the background – are carried

along at the same time and stitches are taken from each one according to the pattern. The yarn not used for a stitch is carried at the back of the work (the float). The two strands can be held both in the same hand, or one in each. This may seem awkward at first but you quickly get the hang of it. The best way to learn is either for someone to show you, or to put 'stranded knitting' or 'Fair Isle knitting' into YouTube. With this pattern you have long stretches where the contrast is unworked. To avoid having a long loop of contrast yarn on the wrong side you should catch the float every few stitches by switching between taking the working yarn from above or below the floating yarn. This is difficult to describe, but easy to achieve. Again, YouTube will show you how. Usually a float of more than 7 stitches of the same colour will need to be caught at some point. This technique also allows you to weave in ends as you go along, which makes finishing much easier!

All charts are worked from bottom to top and right to left on every row when worked in the round.



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