

All Your Hard Work, Runed



Beanie-style toque with lined brim, fair-isle design, and slipped stitch patterning.

Two sizes: 20-22" (22-24") head circumference.

Ingredients: 3 complimentary colours DK weight yarn (MC, CC1, CC2), one circular needle to match, some graph paper and a pencil. You'll need about 70g of the MC, and 15g of each of the contrast colours. In addition, 5 stitch markers will be helpful - the kind that you can hang into your knitting, not the rings that ride on your needle. Paper clips or safety pins work well.

Gauge: 4.5 st/inch, 6.5 rows/inch blocked stockinette

Step 1: compose your message in Futhark script and, using the alphabet chart from figure 1, make a knitting chart for yourself. **Note: the pronunciations are approximate, as these letters were used to write the languages spoken in northern Europe at the time (400-1000AD); in other words, not modern English!** Your chart should be 100 (110) sts wide, give or take 1 or 2 sts (not more or you will change the fit!). You can separate words using extra spacing, "dots", or spacer designs like the two I've provided. Remember that the design will wrap around the head, so your chart should include an "empty" stitch at either the beginning or the end, like the example shown in figure 2 (which says, "Andrew Feltham's hat"). Your chart should be 12 rows high, with a MC row as R1 and R12.

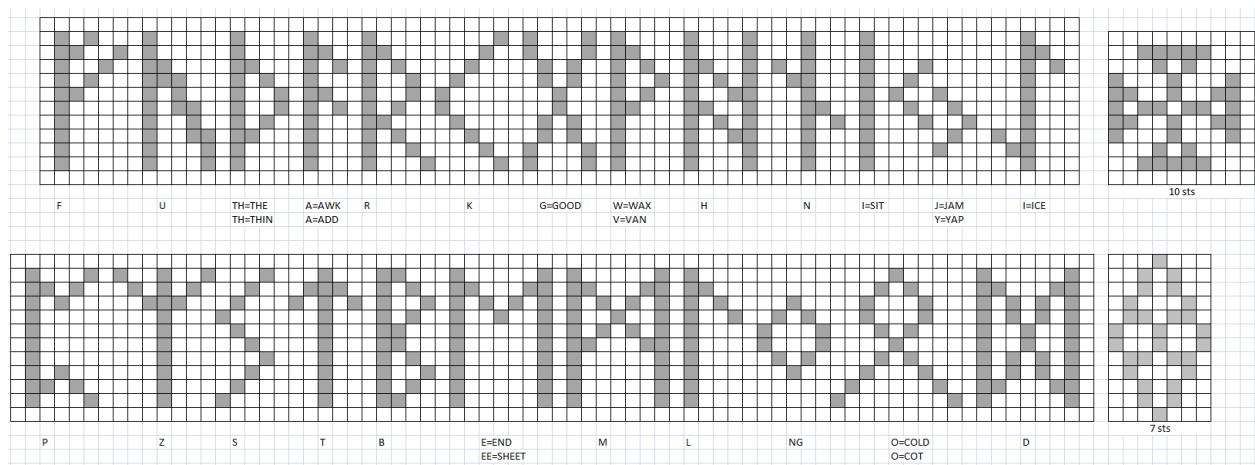


Figure 1: FUTHARK alphabet knitting chart

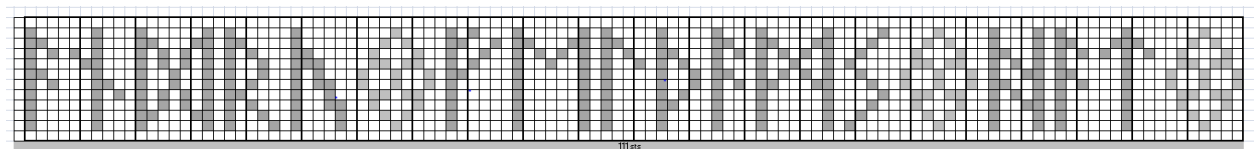


Figure 2: example chart

Hat Brim:

Using CC1, cast on 100 (110) sts using long-tail method and join in a round, being careful not to twist. Begin knitting.

After 20 rounds (about 3”), break yarn. Join MC and purl one row. This purl row forms a nice “fold line” for the brim lining.

Knit 4 rounds. Then start knitting your chart. Note that the first row of the chart will be in MC.

Knit your chart, finishing with its row of MC.

Now knit 3 more rounds in MC, which should make the brim lining and the hat body the same length.

Fold the CC1 lining to the inside of the hat along the fold line. As you knit the next row, insert your RH needle tip into the next stitch on the LH needle, and then into a stitch loop from the cast-on edge of the lining. Knit these loops together. Proceed carefully, stitch by stitch, catching the lining cast-on edge, loop by loop. Be careful to line up the stitch columns so the lining isn’t twisted. This neatly and invisibly joins the lining to the hat. Don’t worry about your fair isle yarn ends, they’re safely tucked inside the lining and will not pull out.

Knit one row. You’re ready for the hat body.



Figure 3: lining of brim, seen from inside

Hat Body:

This is a slip-stitch pattern in three colours, as follows (all stitches are slipped purlwise):

R1, CC1: [K1, SL1 WYIB] to end

R2, CC1: [P1, SL1 WYIB] to end

R3, R4, R5, MC: K

R6, CC2: [SL1 WYIB, K1] to end

R7, CC2: [SL1 WYIB, P1] to end

R8, R9, R10, MC: K

Rows 2 and 7 are a bit awkward because you are flipping the working yarn back and forth for each stitch. I advise breaking the CC1 and CC2 yarn on rows 2 and 7 - do not carry them up inside the hat. Yeah, this means a lot of ends to darn in, but carrying the yarn will affect the stretchiness of the hat.

Repeat rows 1-10 until work is about 5.5" (6") long from the edge of the brim, ending with R2 or R7.

Hat Crown:

You will be dividing the hat into 5 equal sections.



Figure 4: hat crown in 5 sections

Count 10 (11) sts from your start of row, and hang a stitch marker into this stitch (don't hang the marker on the needle). Now count off 20 (22) sts from this one and hang another marker. Keep going until you're out of stitches. You should have 5 evenly spaced markers on your hat.

These stitches mark the *middle stitch* of the "centered-double-decreases" that make the ridges of the crown.

The next row is a decrease row, as follows:

Decrease row: K in MC to 1 before marked st, do a centered double decrease. Repeat to end of row.

Centered Double Decrease: slip next st and the marked st together, as if to knit them together, to the RH needle. Knit the next st. Pass the 2 sts you just slipped – pass them as a single unit - over the stitch you just knit.

Now continue to knit in pattern: knit 1R MC (this corresponds to R4 or R9 in your pattern).

Next row: a decrease row (corresponds to R5 or R10), as per above.

You may want to move your markers higher up your knitting as you go.

Pause now to read this:

The idea is to alternate knit rows with decrease rows, but ***only when knitting in MC***. In other words, if you are counting in your head (knit one row, decrease one row), stop doing this when you have a strand of CC1 or CC2 in your hand. ***Never decrease when knitting R1, R2, R6, or R7 of the pattern.*** Simply pause in your decrease repeats and start up again when you return to holding the MC yarn.

Additionally, maintain a MC "zone" around the crown decrease ridges, so when you have CC1 or CC2 in your hand, ***do not knit or purl the marked st, or the one before it, or the one after it.*** Just slip these sts

so they maintain their MC colour. This will mean slipping 3, or sometimes even 5 sts, before continuing with the rhythm of the pattern.

Unpause:

You next row is R1 or R6 of the pattern, with coloured yarn. Knit it as per usual, but as you approach each marked stitch (the center one in your decrease ridge), do not knit it, or the stitch *before or after* it, with coloured yarn. Depending on whether you are on R1 or R6, this means you need to slip at least 3 sts (and sometimes 5) before settling into the [K1,SL1] of the pattern again. Also: no decreases!

The next row is a R2 or R7. Knit is as per usual (which means purling and slipping), again slipping those sts around the marked sts as you just did on the last row. Again: no decreases!

Next row: this will be a plain knit row corresponding to R3 or R8. Remember, the last time you had MC in your hand was before that “reading pause”, and it was a decrease row, right? *That’s why this is a plain knit row.*

Next row (corresponds to R4 or R9): this is a decrease row in MC.

Your next row, corresponding to R5 or R10 of the pattern, will be plain knit in MC.

Now, back to the coloured yarn and rows R1, R2 or R6, R7. Remember: no decreases, ever, and keep colour away from the decrease ridges.

Your next MC row will be a decrease row, because the last time you were knitting with MC you did a plain knit row, right? And I’m hoping you get the rhythm now, so I can stop giving line-by-line instructions.

Continue in this way until you’ve got 10 sts left and you just did an all-knit row. Break the yarn, run it through the remaining stitches as you pull them off the needle, and pull tight to close the hole. Darn in any loose ends and – this is important, especially if the hat is made of wool – *block* the hat. Blocking improves the look of the fair-isle and also causes the hat to grow a bit.

This pattern is given to the world free of charge. That means it is now yours and you are free to do anything at all with it, including making huge profits from its commercialization. Just remember me in your will.