

Brioche Cowl

Designed by Reena Meijer Drees



A simple cowl with rolled edges, knit in the round using a brioche stitch in a chunky yarn. By using self-striping yarn (or 2 contrasting colours), the design gives vertical stripes. The “wrong side” of the cowl is interesting in its own right. 3 size options. Shown: cowl with dimensions 10” high x 32” around.

Ingredients

Use 2 different colors, or self-striping/variegated yarn.

2 balls (200g) of bulky yarn (approximately 100m/100g); one 6mm circular needle (or use the size you prefer), 2 stitch markers. Note: the brioche stitch is very loose and sags over time. To prevent excessive stretching and sagging, use a smaller needle than called for on the ball band.

Yarn ideas

The example was knit using 2 balls of *Loops and Threads Charisma* (colourway: ashes)

Other ideas: Lamb's Pride Bulky, Loops and Threads Charisma, Malabrigo Mecha, Alafoss Lopi, Misti Alpaca Handpaints Chunky, Cascade 128 Superwash Multi, Lion Brand Wool-Ease.

Sizing

You can make this cowl in the following sizes:

- Ski tube (~24" circumference): cast on 50
- Cowl (~32" circumference): cast on 70
- Double-loop cowl (~50" circumference) : cast on 110 - you will need 4 balls of yarn.

"K1B" stitch

K1B or "knit one below" is an alternative technique to knitting the brioche stitch (which involves yarn-overs). I find it faster; however, the disadvantage is that tinking or frogging this variant is a bit more challenging, because the unraveled stitches do not resemble what you started with – they take on the "yarn-over" look of brioche knitting.



K1B: Insert tip of needle into stitch below and knit it

To execute:

- Insert tip of needle into the stitch below the one you would normally knit
- Knit this stitch and slip both it and the stitch above it from the LH needle
- The stitch above “dissolves” and the new stitch has a double set of threads coming out of its base.

Search on YouTube for many videos available for this stitch, or see this writeup:

<http://techknitting.blogspot.com/2008/12/knitting-into-stitch-below.html>

Cast on

Cast on 70 sts loosely, join in the round (be careful not to twist!) and knit 6 rows in plain stockinette. Put in a stitch marker to mark the beginning-of-round.

Body

Join in the 2nd ball /color. You will be alternating rows from each of the 2 balls/colors and alternating “knit one, knit one below” as follows:

Row 1, ball A: [K1, K1B] to end.

Row 2, ball B: [K1B, K1] to end.

***Tip:** after the first two stitches on each new row, clip a stitch marker to the KNIT stitch (it will be either the first or second stitch). This way, when you pause in your knitting, you will know which ones were knit, and which were “knit below”. Alternatively, use a row counter. After a while, you’ll learn to “read” your knitting and you won’t need these aids anymore, but it is helpful to use them.*



Use a stitch marker (blue split-ring) to mark the first knit stitch in the new row

Continue in this way until you think your cowl is long enough, or until you run out of yarn on one of your balls. Then, using one ball of yarn, knit 6 rows in plain stockinette.

Finishing

Bind off using Elizabeth Zimmermann's "sewn bind off", which is described here:

<http://www.knitty.com/ISSUEsummer06/FEATsum06TT.html>

It is stretchy and matches the cast-on edge nicely.

Darn in all ends and enjoy your cowl!