

ChiaoGoo 15th Anniversary Hat

This hat celebrates ChiaoGoo's 15th year in business and knitting in general. It has a "secret message" inside—including the signature ChiaoGoo heart. The undulating pattern represents the motion of the yarn through a row of knitting and it is all topped off with a bold flower.

Skills used: Knitting in the round, two-color stranded knitting, following a chart, duplicate stitch, and optional provisional cast-on.

Size: Adult average, 21" (53 cm), 8.5" (22 cm) tall.

Gauge: 30 sts = 4"/10cm in pattern using larger needles when blocked.

Yarn: Sample used fingering weight, Jamieson of Shetland Spindrift (25g, 115 yds/105 m) per ball. Four colors: Black 999 (69 yds/73 m), Natural White 104 (79 yds/83 m), Crimson 525 (83 yds/87 m) and Sholmit 103 (38 yds/35 m).



Needles and notions: US Size 1 (2.50 mm) & 3 (3.25 mm) for circular knitting or size to achieve gauge. Stitch marker, tapestry needle. Optional: If using provisional cast-on, a circular needle one or more sizes smaller than cast-on needle is needed as well as a length of scrap cotton for working the cast on.

Abbreviations and techniques:

k2tog = knit two stitches together. One stitch decreased.

m1r = make one right. Working with ladder between stitches, use left needle to pick up ladder from back. Use right needle to knit this loop at the front of the needle, thus twisting the ladder. One stitch increased.

s2kp = slip two sts at the same time as if to knit, k1, pass two slipped sts over stitch just knit. Two stitches decreased.



Overview

Fair Isle stranded knitting is defined by pattern and color. Especially important is that generally no more than two colors are used in any one row or round. This hat does not use traditional Fair Isle patterns-- although the OXO pattern at the bottom is heavily based on a traditional motif--it does stay true to using no more than two colors in one row.

The knitter may tension both strands of yarn in one hand or one strand in each hand. When a color is not being used it is carried (stranded) loosely across the back of the work. Pulling the yarn too tightly will cause puckering in the fabric. The foreground color in each row is carried below the background color (when viewed from the wrong side). When working with two hands, the foreground (often called dominant) color is carried in the left hand. When knitting with two yarns in one hand, the foreground color is to the left of the background color. With this juxtaposition of yarns, the foreground color stands out more on the right side of the work allowing the pattern to be seen more clearly. For example, the white is the foreground color against the red on the top of the hat.

Dealing with “all those ends” A note about weaving in ends as yarns are joined and discontinued: if you begin to weave in a yarn eight to ten sts before it is needed or after it is no longer needed, you will not have the tedious job of weaving in ends when you finish the hat. To do this, lay the yarn to be woven over the top of the right needle slightly to the right of the next stitch to be worked, work the next stitch over the top of this yarn. If the yarn to be woven is being introduced to the piece, the tail end should hang down and the yarn coming from the ball should be above. Before making the next st, *drop the yarn being woven in so it hangs below the current row of knitting and work the next st normally. Next, lift the yarn being woven and work the next st over the yarn being woven in*. Repeat between * for 8 to 10 sts.

Cast on and hems: chose your beginning

Cast on loosely. Experienced knitters may enjoy using a provisional cast on (instructions provided) for ultimate stretchiness. Since the cast on edge is folded above the lower edge to make a deep hem, it is important that the cast on be very stretchy for proper fit and comfortable wear.

Provisional cast on = Using smooth waste yarn in a size not greater than the yarn you are working with, make a slip knot, leaving a short tail. Place the slip knot on a crochet hook and hold in dominant hand. Hold knitting needle you are casting onto in other hand and tension yarn in that hand. * With yarn coming from the ball under and behind the needle, reach across the top of the knitting needle with the crochet hook, hook yarn and pull through loop on crochet hook. * One stitch cast on. Repeat between * until desired number of sts have been cast on. Chain two (not around the knitting needle). Pull tail through last loop on crochet hook. Cut yarn leaving short tail. When directed by pattern, remove provisional cast on at end with two extra chain sts by extracting tail from last chain, tug gently and it will “zip” off leaving live sts behind. Carefully place live sts onto receiving needle that is two to three sizes smaller than needle used for cast-on.

A note about Chart B = Chart B is for the inside of the brim and has no repeats. The chart begins at the bottom right corner of the lower section, goes to the left, then up to the bottom right corner of the upper section for each row (note the numbers along the chart). The chart is knit with the words upside down so that they will be right side up when the hem is turned up and sewn in place. The red heart is knit in white and then duplicate stitched in red after hemming and blocking.

Knitting Instructions

Using smaller needles and black yarn, CO 150 sts using the cast on of your choice (see cast on note above). Place marker to indicate beginning of round, move it along each round as you continue to knit. Work Chart A, inserting Chart B where indicated. Switch to larger needles and work Chart C working 2 increase sts in round 44: knit 8, m1r, knit until 8 sts remain, m1r, knit to end. Change to red background and continue to chart D. In round 73, decrease as follows, k8, k2tog, knit until 10 sts remain, k2tog, knit to end. (150 sts). Work crown in six sections following Chart E.

Finishing

Break yarn leaving 8" tail. Draw tail through stitches remaining on needles, draw tight and weave in tail to secure. Remove provisional cast on if one was used, placing stitches on smaller needle(s). Fold at picot ridge and graft or whip stitch hem (or live sts) neatly to inside of hat. Move all tails to inside, weave in ends, trim all tails, wash and block. Remember, tails that were woven in eight to ten sts before and after the beginning/end of round only need to be trimmed.

Duplicate Stitch Heart

Following the photo, duplicate stitch one or both hearts inside brim using red yarn. Holding the piece upside down as it was knit, work the duplicate stitches from the bottom up, working horizontally across each row. Starting at the right bump of the heart and working to the left, Insert the needle into the bottom of the V in the first stitch, *go under the two legs of the stitch above, down into the V of the first st again; repeat from * to the end of the row, skipping the black stitches. On Row 2, turn the work so that you can continue to stitch from right to left. Left-handed knitters may choose to work from left to right. The important thing is to insert the needle under the two legs of stitches in the direction being worked. Bury the yarn ends between the layers of the brim.

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CHART & COLOR KEY

⤴	s2kp
↘	k2tog
○	YO

□	304 White
■	500 Scarlet
■	999 Black
■	103 Sholmit

CHART A – INSIDE HEM

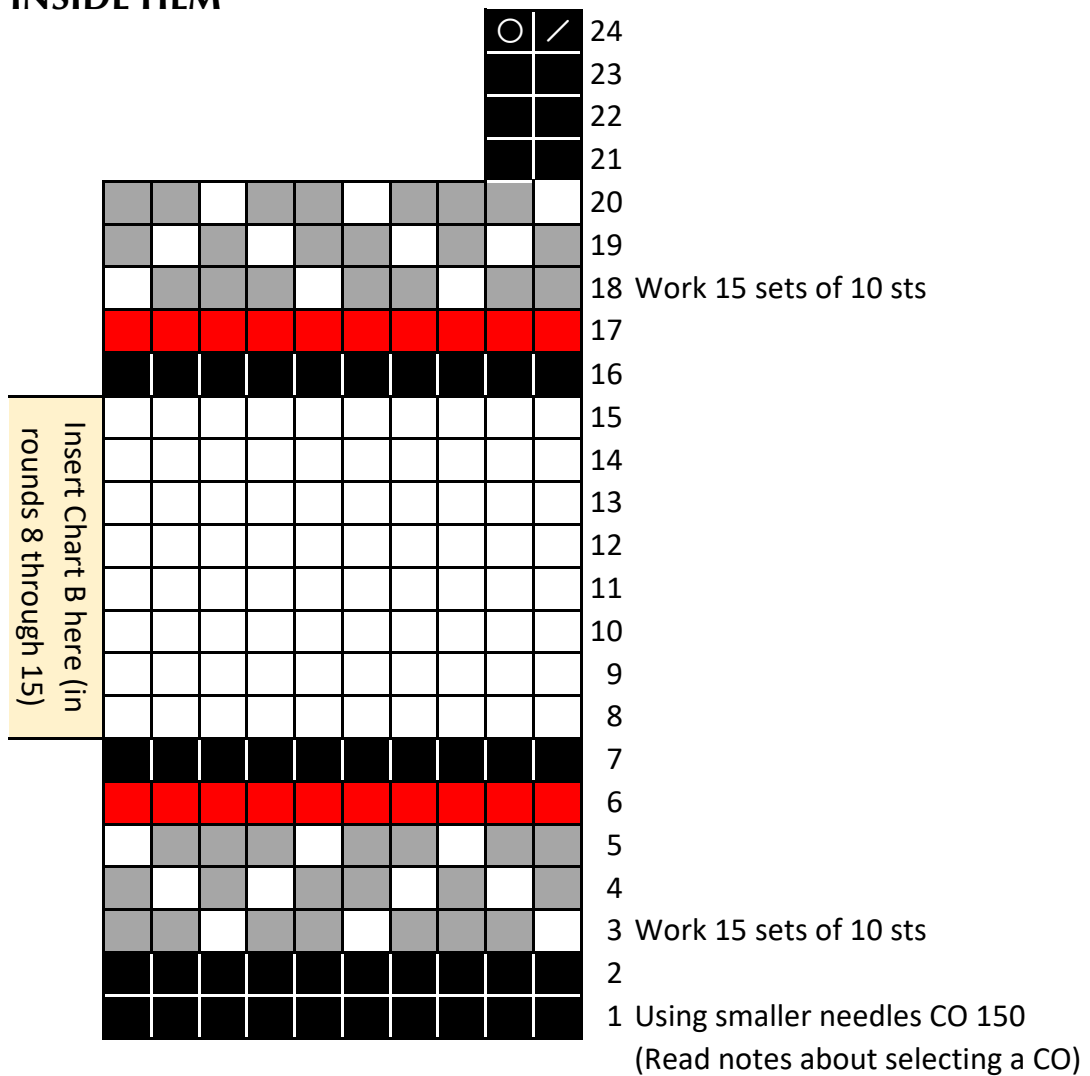


CHART B – SHEEP, HEARTS & WORDS

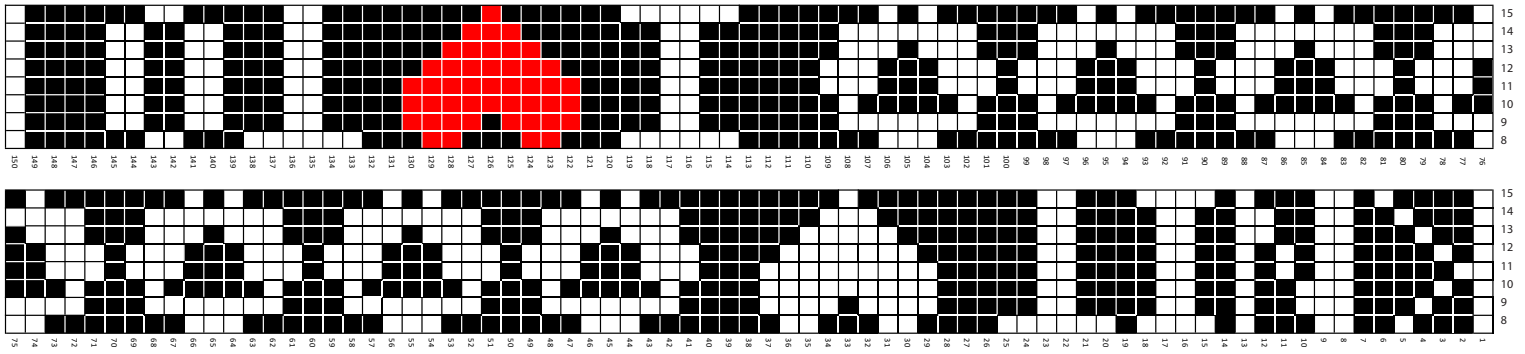


CHART C – OXO BRIM

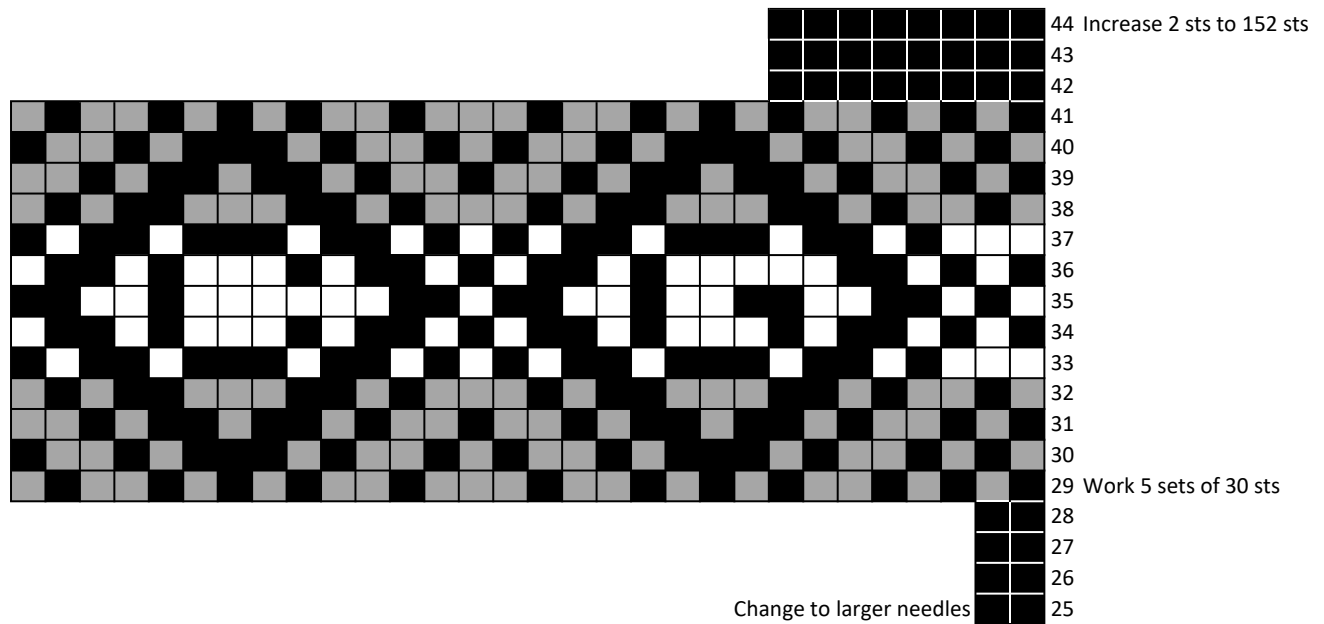


CHART D – KNIT STITCH

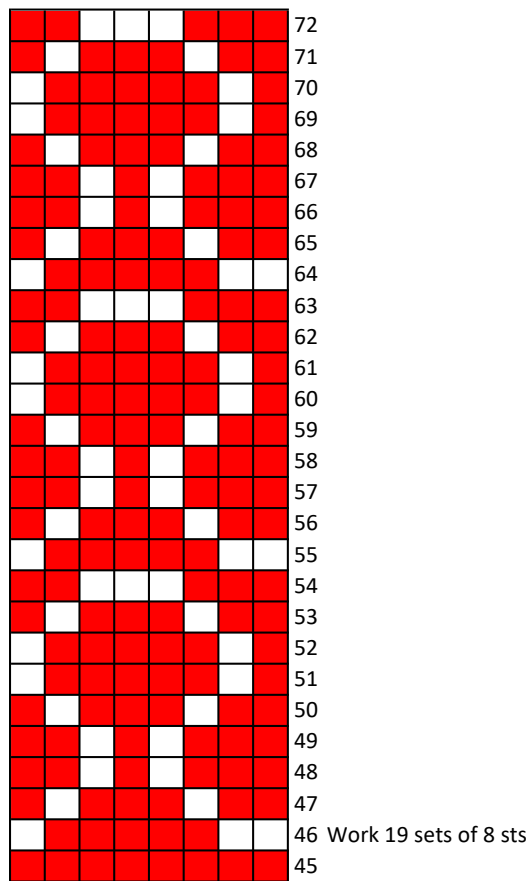


CHART E – CROWN

