Longwood Sport

Vertical Stripes Brioche Cowl

Designed by
Andrea Maglisceau

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Brioche stripes are easier to achieve than you might think. All you need to know are knit, purl, yarn over, yarn forward slip one, knit two together, and purl two together. Many knitters are stumped by the language unique to this stitch, but replacing “brk,” “brp,” and “yfsl1yo” with basic knitting terms for the same results will have you creating gorgeous two-color accessories in no time. This cowl is worked in the round with only one color at a time, so there’s no stranding.

Skill Level: Intermediate
Size: 9.5” x 28”

Materials:
Cascade Yarns® Longwood Sport
100% Superwash Extra-fine Merino Wool
100 g (3.5 oz) / 191 yds (175 m)
1 skein of #29 (Charcoal Heather) MC
1 skein of #04 (Red) CC
US 4 & 7/20-24” circular knitting needles
1 locking stitch marker for beginning of round
Tapestry needle

Gauge:
18 sts = 4” in pattern stitch

Abbreviations:
BO = Bind Off
BRK = Brioche Knit (Knit the slipped stitch and its “yarn over shawl” together as one stitch.
In this pattern, this stitch is just K2tog.
BRP = Brioche Purl (Purl the slipped stitch and its “yarn over shawl” together as one stitch.
In this pattern, this stitch is just P2tog.
CO = Cast On
CC = Contrast Color
K = knit
K2tog = Knit 2 stitches together
MC = Main Color
P = Purl
P2tog = Purl 2 stitches together

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Rnd(s) = Round(s)
Sl = Slip
sl1yo = Slip 1 stitch, then yarn over
St(s) = Stitch(es)
yfsl1 = Slip 1 stitch with yarn in front as if to purl (Then, when the yarn is left in front and the next stitch is knit, the resulting yarn over becomes a “shawl” over the slipped stitch.)
YO = Yarn Over

Notes:
So, what’s this mysterious “yarn over shawl,” anyway? It’s actually the key to brioche knitting, and not understanding how it’s made or where it goes might have you pulling your hair out while you rip out your knitting, never to try brioche again. The creation of the shawl occurs when the yarn is forward and you slip a stitch as if to purl, then knit (or K2tog, or BRK) the next stitch. This is often abbreviated as “yfsl1yo.” Since knitting with the yarn forward already causes a yarn over, I was completely confused until I realized the YO at the end of the abbreviation doesn’t mean to create another actual yarn over, but to just lay the yarn on top of the needle so it’s in position to knit the next stitch. To confuse matters more, if the next stitch is a purl (or P2tog, or BRP), then the YO at the end of “yfsl1yo” really does mean to yarn over. Clear as tar? Let’s fix that!

In this pattern, the instructions for creating a shawl over a slipped stitch are simply, “yfsl1” or “sl1yo.” Always be sure to slip the stitch as if to purl.
BRK is replaced with the beginner-friendly K2tog. Always be sure you are knitting the slipped stitch together with the yarn over that crosses over it.
BRP is replaced with P2tog. Always be sure you’re purling the slipped stitch together with the yarn over that crosses over it.
Keep in mind that all stitches are slipped with yarn forward and the needle inserted as if to purl.

Instructions:
Holding the US 4 and 7 needles together, CO 120 sts with MC. Join to work in the round, being careful not to twist. Mark the join with a locking stitch marker. Using the size 7 needle, knit 1 rnd.

Setup Round:  *yfsl1, K1, repeat from * to end of round.

Switch to US 4 needle.
Rnd 1:  *P2tog, Sl1, YO, repeat from * to end of round.
Rnd 2: (The yarn is in front from the previous round.) Sl1, K2tog, *yfsl1, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round.
Repeat rounds 1 and 2 until piece measures 1” from beginning. End after a knit round.

Add CC.

Note: When changing colors to begin a new round, the color you just finished using should hang in front of your work and to the right of the color you’re about to pick up.

All purl rounds will be in CC, while knit rounds continue to be worked in MC until you reach the edging.
Repeat rnds 1 (in CC) and 2 (in MC), alternating colors every round, until piece measures 17” from beginning edge.

Drop MC.
With CC only, work rnds 1 and 2 until single color brioche measures the same (almost 1”) as the MC single color brioche at the beginning edge, ending after a brioche purl rnd (Rnd 1).

Switch to US 7 needle.
Work 1 brioche knit rnd (Rnd 2).
Knit 1 rnd.

Finishing:
BO loosely. Weave in ends and block gently to straighten stripes.