

22 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

SHETLAND


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**FREE KNITTING
PATTERN**

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MERRIE DANCERS TOORIE

by Elizabeth Johnston

My Merrie Dancers Toorie (knitted hat) is based on a fisherman's kep on display in the Shetland Museum and Archives' Boat Hall. It was knitted about 1950 by an old woman from the island of Yell, who remembered patterns knit by the womenfolk for the fishermen in her family. Such keps were worn when the men rowed to the far haaf (deep sea fishing grounds) in large open boats.

The kep has three small patterns but is not a Fair Isle design. I kept the small stars for one band of pattern, just as it is in the kep. For a second band I have combined all three small patterns to form a nine-row pattern. The kep has a dark background with colours that remind me of the northern lights, or 'merrie dancers' in Shetland dialect, and a familiar sight to fishermen. You can blend or contrast any colours found in the merrie dancers for your toorie.

Needles

One set 3.5mm/US4 DPNs or circular needles, 40cm long or your preferred needles for knitting small circumferences in the round, or the size needed to match tension.

Yarn

This pattern provides two different size options. Each size uses a different yarn weight.

Yarn weight 1 (YW1) is Shetland Handspun yarn, Jamieson's DK, and Uradale DK yarns. These are all double knitting weight yarns.

Yarn weight 2 (YW2) is Jamieson & Smith Jumper weight, Jamieson's Spindrift, and Uradale Jumper weight yarns. These are all 4ply or fingering weight yarns.

Shetland Handspun yarn kit

Main Colour (MC): Black; 1 x hank
Yarn 1: Light grey; 1 x small hank
Yarn 2: Medium grey; 1 x small hank
Yarn 3: Onion/indigo green; 1 x small hank
Yarn 4: Cochineal red; 1 x small hank
www.shetlandhandspun.com

Jamieson & Smith Jumper weight in 25g balls

Main Colour (MC): Shade 36; 2 x 25g balls
Yarn 1: Shade FC46; 1 x 25g ball
Yarn 2: Shade FC64; 1 x 25g ball
Yarn 3: Shade 78; 1 x 25g ball
Yarn 4: Shade FC21; 1 x 25g ball
www.shetlandwoolbrokers.co.uk

Jamieson's of Shetland in Spindrift or DK in 25g balls

Main Colour (MC): Oxford; 2 x 25g balls
Yarn 1: Damask; 1 x 25g ball
Yarn 2: Fog; 1 x 25g ball
Yarn 3: White; 1 x 25g ball
Yarn 4: Rye; 1 x 25g ball
www.jamiesonsofshetland.co.uk

Uradale Yarns in Jumper weight or DK in 50g balls

Main Colour (MC): Graeff; 1 x 50g ball
Yarn 1: Flukkra; 1 x 50g ball
Yarn 2: Beremeal; 1 x 50g ball
Yarn 3: Speedwell; 1 x 50g ball
Yarn 4: Moss Heath; 1 x 50g ball
www.uradale.com

Size

Yarn Weight 1: 48.5cm (19¼ inches) circumference

Yarn Weight 2: 50cm (19¾ inches) circumference

Tension

27 sts and 27 rounds to 10cm over pattern after blocking using Shetland Handspun, Jamieson's DK, and Uradale DK yarns (Yarn weight 1).

SHETLAND HANDSPUN

-  **Yarn 1**
Light grey
-  **Yarn 2**
Medium grey
-  **Yarn 3**
Onion/indigo green
-  **Yarn 4**
Cochineal red



29 sts and 29 rounds to 10cm over pattern after blocking using J&S Jumper weight, Jamieson's Spindrift, and Uradale Jumper weight yarns (Yarn weight 2).

You may need a different size needle to match tension. Please check your tension carefully and adjust your needle size accordingly.

Abbreviations

dec: decrease

inc: increase

k: knit

k2tog: knit 2 sts together as if they were one st

kfb: knit into the front then the back of the st to inc one st

MC: main colour

p: purl

rep: repeat

st(sts): stitch(es)

s2kp: Slip 2 sts together knitwise, k1, pass the slipped sts over

Instructions

Instructions are given in [] brackets as follows: [Yarn weight 1 (YW1): Yarn weight 2 (YW2)]

Using MC, cast on [108: 120] sts.

Round 1: *K2, p2; rep from * to end.

2-coloured rib

Reading from right to left, and using the colours indicated, begin working from chart A, working 27 repeats for YW1 and 30 repeats for YW2 across the round. Continue working from chart A, changing colours as indicated, until rounds 1-12 are complete (for YW1, omit rows 6 and 12).

Increases

Yarn weight 1

Round 1: K6, kfb, *k3, kfb; rep from * to last 13 sts, k7, kfb, k5. 132 sts

SHETLAND WOOL WEEK

Saturday 23 to Sunday 30 September 2018

Since its conception nine years ago, Shetland Wool Week has grown into an internationally acclaimed event which celebrates Shetland's fantastic textile heritage.

Shetland Wool Week celebrates our sheep, our textile industry and our farming, but from each of those grow branches, which touch on so many different facets of Shetland wool. Everyone behind the events makes such efforts to show all of the connections of wool and textiles in Shetland – from the farm to the wool brokers, from the mill to yarn and cloth, and beyond to design and

creation; and incorporating history, heritage, culture and education into the proceedings too.

This year there will be an extensive range of exhibitions, classes and events, which will cover many different subjects. These will include; weaving, spinning, dyeing, Fair Isle and lace knitting as well as many other fascinating subject areas. Events will take place from the most southern tip of Shetland, right up to the most northerly island of Unst, famous for its beautiful lacework, with many locations in between.



University of the
Highlands and Islands
Shetland College



THE CAMPAIGN FOR WOOL
Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales



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