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Brioche Knitting

INTERMEDIATE | KNITTING | TUTORIAL

INTRODUCTION

Brioche knitting creates a double sided fabric characterised by raised ribbing and a soft cushioned texture. This can be worked in a single colour but is most effective when two contrasting yarns are used.

Only one colour of yarn is used per row, so these are alternated.

To create the brioche fabric, one stitch is worked and the next is slipped together with a yarn over that sits on top. This yarn-over and slipped stitch are counted as one stitch and are then knitted or purled together on the next row. As only half the stitches are worked per row, two rows are required to create one 'visual' row of knitting.

BASIC TERMINOLOGY

- **MC** – Main colour. Your chosen main colour yarn.

- **MS** – Main side. The side of the fabric where the main colour creates the knitted ribs. This could be considered the 'front'.

- **CC** – Contrast colour. Your second colour yarn.

- **CS** – Contrast side. The 'reverse' of your project where the ribbed pattern is knitted in the contrast colour.

- **Brk** – Brioche knit stitch. Knit the slipped stitch from the previous row together with the yarn passing over it.

- **Brp** – Brioche purl stitch. Purl the slipped stitch from the previous row together with the yarn passing over it.

- **Sllyo** – Slip one and yarn over. This is performed differently on knit and purl rows, but in both cases, the yarn over should sit on top of the slipped stitch. Refer to instructions on the next page:

- On a brk (knit) row, bring the yarn between the needles to the front. Slip the stitch and take the yarn over the needle to the back. This is now ready for the next brk stitch.
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- On a brp (purl) row, the yarn is already at the front. Slip the stitch then bring the yarn up and over the needle to the back, then forward between the needles ready for a brp.
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Worked Flat

2 colour brioche is created over a 4 row cycle - 2 rows on each 'side'.

Step 1: MS - MC (main side, main colour knit row). At the end of the row, slide stitches across and work along the row again as per step 2.

Step 2: MS - CC (main side, contrast colour purl row). Turn at the end.

Step 3: CS - MC (contrast side, main colour purl row). Slide across.

Step 4: CS - CC (contrast side, contrast colour knit row). Turn.

In the round - positioning the yarn.

Here, only MS rows are worked, changing colour each round. The non-working yarn should be positioned to the front as follows:

Step 1: MS - MC (knit row). Begin with MC at the back, CC hanging to the front. Work the round. Perform the last slyo of the round, and bring the yarn to the front between the needles and place to the right.

Step 2: MS - CC (purl row). Pick up the CC which is already hanging at the front and work the row. The last stitch will be a brp, after which drop the CC in front and place to the right over MC. Pick up MC and move between the needles to the back ready to start step 1 again.

CHARTS

An extract from a brioche chart is shown below.

- As previously detailed, two worked rows, make up one 'visual' row of knitting. This is shown as two separate rows on the chart - one for the MC and one for CC. (The CC rows are shaded.)
- Work the chart from the numbered side; right to left or left to right.
- Check the key carefully before you begin.
- The majority of stitches will be sllyo or brk/brp, but look out for increases and decreases. These will often be found on MS MC rows.
- Tick off rows as they're completed so you don't lose your place.
- If you lose your place and need to count rows, remember that one row of 'knitting' is made by 2 rows on the chart.
- If both yarns are hanging at the same side, you will be ready for a MC row. If the yarns are at opposite ends, next will be a CC row. Simply look at the ribs on the side you will be knitting to determine whether this is a MS or CS row.
- In the round, all numbering will be on the right and every round will be either MS MC (brk round) or MS CC (brp round) - no CS rounds.

