



ENTRELAC KNITTING

40 Stunning Projects with Textured,
Diamond-Pattern Designs

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MASTERING A COMPLICATED STITCH

“ It becomes exciting as you begin to see the pattern take shape, when you can go row after row without even looking at your hands, when you move on from knit and purl to cable and slip stitch and intarsia. (There’s nothing like your first argyle!) It’s the reward for perseverance. Don’t let it go to your head or stick to the same moves; learn new stitches and see how far you can go. ”

KATE JACOBS,
THE FRIDAY NIGHT KNITTING CLUB
(G. P. PUTNAM’S SONS, 2007)



Our Story

We are two sisters who share a passion for entrelac knitting. Mette lives in Valldal, and Heidi on the island of Askøy, in Norway. Although there's quite a distance between our homes, the interest in entrelac has grown enormously for both of us and our desire to work together to develop new designs has grown with it over the years.

How did we get started with entrelac?

Entrelac is relatively seldom seen in the modern-day knitting world—so how did we get started with it? It was happenstance, like so much else in life. We have to go a long way back to find the beginning of this history. Mette has knitted since she was little, and by chance she came upon a pattern for a pair of socks knitted in entrelac. They were exactly to her taste, and she had to knit them. She didn't stop with just one pair, but made many pairs of these socks. At first, Mette didn't know the technique was called “entrelac,” but she kept with it. She didn't know it was an old traditional design element, or that it was on the official Norwegian “red list” of dying crafts, either. She just started looking for more patterns with these fun blocks, because she liked them—but she didn't find many. At last she found out what she should be looking for: a classic technique called *kontstrikk* in Norwegian and “entrelac” in English. Her search for patterns continued with new energy, but in the end Mette had no choice but to make up her own designs if she wanted to knit more entrelac. Several patterns for small garments followed: socks, mittens, wrist warmers, hats, etc. The garments she knitted caught people's attention; questions about the technique and requests for patterns steadily increased.

Mette worked with entrelac for several years before Heidi showed any interest in it. Heidi was also an enthusiastic knitter, but Mette was alone with entrelac at first. To put it simply, Heidi believed entrelac was too difficult for her to want to try it. Every time Mette made an effort to convince her that it really wasn't so hard, Heidi wouldn't listen. That's how it was for a long time, until Mette had the idea of trying to publish patterns organized by difficulty, preferably in the form of a little book. Heidi quickly offered to support Mette and said she was willing to help—she could copyedit and proofread, at the very least. But Mette thought that Heidi should be a co-author. So, long story short: Heidi had to give in to her big sister's desire and learn how to knit entrelac. That way, Heidi could test-knit patterns for Mette, and eventually produce her own designs. The book *Kontstrikk, enklere enn du tror* [Entrelac: Easier than You Think] was published in January 2015. At the same time, the PinneDans association was established. Its goal was to develop brand-new contemporary patterns using entrelac, and to show the knitting world how fantastic this old technique could be, to prove that it's absolutely earned a place in today's knitting lexicon.

Mittens for Everyone

Traditionally, mittens have been a popular project for entrelac knitting, making it a “must” in our book. The inspiration of new yarns and the need to test out various qualities led to several different patterns. We’ve made both mittens with entrelac only on the cuffs, and mittens with entrelac all over.







Saga

ADULT-SIZE SOCKS

These socks have entrelac blocks on the legs.

SKILL LEVEL: Experienced

SIZES

Shoe Sizes: U. S. Women's 4½-6½ (7-9½, 10-12, Men's 10½-13) / Euro 35-37 (38-40, 41-43, 44-46)

Foot Length: 8½-9¼ (9¼-10, 10-10¾, 10¾-11¾) in / 21.3-23.2 (23.3-25.3, 25.3-27.3, 27.3-29.9) cm

MATERIALS

Yarn:

CYCA #1 (fingering) Drops Fabel from Garnstudio (75% wool, 25% nylon, 224 yd/205 m / 50 g), 100 g

Yarn Colors and Amounts:

Guacamole 151: 100 (100, 150, 150) g

Alternate 1: Sundown 310

Alternate 2: Burgundy 672

Alternate 3: Salt and Pepper 905

Alternate 4: Seafoam 910

Needles:

U.S. size 1.5 / 2.5 mm: set of 5 dpn

GAUGE

24 sts in St st = 4 in / 10 cm.

Adjust needle size to obtain correct gauge if necessary.

CO 64 (72, 80, 80) sts. Divide sts evenly onto 4 dpn and join. Knit 1 rnd. Work 10 rnds in k2, p2 ribbing. Knit 1 rnd, decreasing by working k2tog with each pair of knit sts = 48 (54, 60, 60) sts rem. Now work entrelac in the round. Begin with 1 tier of 6 horizontal half blocks leaning from right to left, with 8 (9, 10, 10) sts in each block.



Continue with 7 (7, 8, 8) tiers of whole blocks, changing direction of blocks every tier.
Now knit 1 rnd, increasing evenly spaced around to the original number of sts = 64 (72, 80, 80) sts. Make sure there are an equal number of sts on each dpn.
Now work 10 rnds of k2, p2 ribbing.

Heel Flap: The heel flap is worked over the 32 (36, 40, 40) sts on Ndl 1 and 4. Work back and forth in St st for 24 (28, 32, 32) rows.

Heel Turn: Begin at the center of the heel flap. K3, sl 1, k1, pss0; turn.

Row 1: Sl 1 purlwise, p6, p2tog; turn.

Row 2: Sl 1, k6, sl 1, k1, pss0; turn.

Rep Rows 1-2 until all the sts have been worked across and you are at an edge. If you prefer, work the heel turn with RS always facing to avoid turning and purling.

Foot: Knit the 4 sts on Ndl 1, pick up and knit 12 (14, 16, 16) sts along edge of heel flap. Knit across Ndl

2-3. Pick up and knit 12 (14, 16, 16) sts along edge of heel flap and knit the 4 sts on Ndl 4 = 64 (72, 80, 80) sts. Place the new sts onto Ndl 1 and 4 so there are 16 (18, 20, 20) sts on each needle. The rnd begins at center of sole. Work around in St st until foot, from back of heel, measures approx. 7 (7½, 8¼, 9) in / 18 (19, 21, 23) cm or to desired length before toe shaping.

Toe Shaping: Begin the round at center of sole. Work as follows:

Ndl 1: K13 (15, 17, 17), k2tog, k1.

Ndl 2: K1, sl 1, k1, pss0, k13 (15, 17, 17).

Ndl 3: Work as for Ndl 1.

Ndl 4: Work as for Ndl 2.

There will be 1 st fewer on each needle every rnd. When 8 sts total rem, cut yarn. Draw end through rem sts and tighten.

Make the second sock the same way. Weave in all ends neatly on WS.

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Mist

SHORT WRAP-AROUND JACKET

This jacket is a short, close-fitting wrap-around. The back and two front pieces are worked separately. The sleeves are sewn in later. The body is worked in entrelac but the sleeves are stockinette and edged with entrelac. Each front is edged with a knitted band ending with a long tie to hold the sweater around the body.

SKILL LEVEL: Experienced

SIZES: XS (S, M, L, XL, XXL)

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Chest: 31½ (34¾, 38½, 41¾, 46½, 54¼) in / 80 (88, 98, 106, 118, 130) cm

Total Length: 20½ (21¼, 22½, 22½, 22¾, 25½) in / 52 (54, 57, 57, 58, 65) cm

Sleeve Length: 18½ (18½, 18½, 18½, 18½, 18½) in / 47 (47, 47, 47, 47, 47) cm

MATERIALS

Yarn: CYCA #1 (fingering) Sølje from Hillesvåg (100% Norwegian wool, 383 yd/350 m / 100 g)

Yarn Color and Amount:

Olive Green 642118: 400 (400, 450, 500, 500, 550) g

Needles:

U. S. sizes 1.5 and 2.5 / 2.5 and 3 mm: circulars and sets of 5 dpn

GAUGE

25 sts in St st on larger needles = 4 in / 10 cm. Adjust needle size to obtain correct gauge if necessary.

Back

With larger circular, using elastic method (see page 16), CO 56 (64, 72, 81, 90, 100) sts. Work back and forth in entrelac as follows: Work 1 tier of 7 (8, 8, 9, 9, 10) horizontal half blocks leaning from right to left, with 8 (8, 9, 9, 10, 10) sts in each block. Now continue with vertical half blocks at each side and whole blocks alternating direction on each tier. When there are 17 (19, 19, 19, 18, 19) tiers of whole blocks, work 1 tier of horizontal half blocks. **NOTE:** For Size XL, on last tier, work quarter blocks at each side. Place the center 24 (32, 27, 36, 40, 40) sts on a holder for back neck. Set back aside.

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Balder

PULLOVER WITH COLLAR AND HAT

Balder is the name of the Norse god of light, a son of Odin. This pullover features a wide entrelac panel on both front and back with the rest of the body in stockinette. The front and back are each worked separately, back and forth. The sleeves are also worked back and forth and have a stripe of entrelac blocks up the middle of each sleeve. The sleeves are sewn in afterwards. The Balder hat (see page 134) is a fine accessory to wear with the sweater.

PULLOVER

SKILL LEVEL: Experienced

SIZES: XS (S, M, L, XL, XXL)

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Chest: 36¾ (39, 42¼, 46, 50, 51½) in / 93 (99, 107, 117, 127, 131) cm

Total Length: 24½ (25¼, 26, 27½, 28¼, 29¼) in / 62 (64, 66, 70, 72, 74) cm

Sleeve Length: 19¼ (19¾, 20, 20, 20½, 21) in / 49 (50, 51, 51, 52, 53) cm

MATERIALS

Yarn:

CYCA #5 (bulky) Blåne Pelsullgarn from Hifa (100% wool, 125 yd/114 m / 100 g) OR Vams PT3 from Rauma (100% wool, 90 yd/82 m / 50 g)

Yarn Color and Amount:

Blåne Pelsull Natural Gray 672115: 850 (900, 950, 1000, 1050, 1100) g

OR Vams PT3 White V00: 600 (650, 700, 750, 800, 850) g

Needles:

U. S. sizes 8 and 10 / 5 and 6 mm: circulars and sets of 5 dpn

GAUGE

14 sts in St st on larger needles = 4 in / 10 cm.

Adjust needle size to obtain correct gauge if necessary.

Back

With smaller circular, CO 68 (72, 78, 84, 90, 94) sts. Work back and forth in k1, p1 ribbing for 1½ in / 4 cm. Change to larger needle. Purl 1 row *at the same*



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