Abbreviations

There are some standard abbreviations that apply to most patterns. If a pattern includes any special instructions, your attention will be drawn to this.

Most abbreviations are easy to remember—such as "k" for knit and "p" for purl—while others appear to be more cryptic until you understand what they mean. A few—such as "sk2po" for "slip 1 stitch, knit 2 stitches together, pass slipped stitch over"—refer to not one action but a series of related actions.

Square brackets are used to denote how many times an action or series of actions needs to be repeated.

Asterisks indicate where to begin and end a series of actions, which are often repeated elsewhere in the pattern.

beg	begin(ning)
cont	continue
dec	decrease
foll	following
inc 1	knit into front and back of stitch
k	knit
k2tog	knit 2 stitches together
p	purl
patt	pattern
psso	pass slipped stitch(es) over
RS	right side
skpo	slip 1 stitch, knit 1 stitch, pass slipped stitch over
sk2po	slip 1 stitch, knit 2 stitches together, pass slipped stitch over
sl	slip
sl st	slip stitch
st st	stockinette (stocking) stitch
WS	wrong side
[ ]	work instructions within square brackets as directed