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Tangled Lines on the Bay

by Kathy French



The cables on this cap remind me of the lines (jib sheets, halyards, etc.) that controlled the sails on the boat that I grew up with. I hope that knitting this cap brings you happy thoughts of our very special maritime heritage.

Size: One size fits most adult-sized heads (with suggestions for making a smaller hat)

Materials and equipment:

- 1 skein of Malabrigo Rios (worsted weight, 210 yards) or other worsted weight yarn
- 1 16" US size 5 circular needle, 1 16" US size 8 circular needle, 1 set of US size 8 double-point needles (or size to obtain gauge)
- 1 stitch marker

Gauge: 11 stitches/2 inches in ribbing

Techniques: Knitting in the round, forming cables

Terms and abbreviations

c2L - cable leaning left; transfer next 2 stitches from the left needle onto a cable needle, and hold the stitches **in front** of the work, knit the next 2 stitches from the left needle, and then knit the 2 stitches on the cable needle

c2R – cable leaning right; transfer next 2 stitches from the left needle onto a cable needle, and hold the stitches **behind** the work, knit the next 2 stitches from the left needle, and then knit the 2 stitches on the cable needle

k – knit

k2tog – knit two together, one kind of decrease; knit two stitches together to produce one stitch on the right-hand needle

p – purl

p2tog - purl two together, another kind of decrease; purl two stitches together to produce one stitch on the right-hand needle

ssk - "slip, slip, knit," another kind of decrease; transfer (i.e., slip) two stitches, one at a time, from the left needle to the right needle, poking the right hand needle into the first stitch as though you planned to knit that stitch, but don't actually work the stitch and into the second stitch as though you planned to purl the stitch. Then knit both stitches together to produce just one stitch. For example, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKL5xol22bs>.

HOW TO KNIT THE HAT

The set-up: Using the 16" US size 5 circular needle, cast on 128 stitches. I used a cable cast-on, but a long-tail cast-on would be fine.

The ribbing: Using the 16" US size 5 circular needle, start the ribbing:

Round 1: *P1, k2, p3, k4, p3, k2, p1* Repeat between the two *'s for a total of 8 repetitions.

Rounds 2 - 24: Join the two ends of row 1 to form a circle, being careful not to twist the stitches around the needle, and place a stitch marker to mark the beginning of each round. Knit 24 rounds following the same pattern of stitches as in row 1 above. Each round starts immediately after your stitch marker. Notice that you will be knitting all of the knit stitches and purling all of the purls, producing columns of stitches. The rest of the hat will be knitted in the round.

Round 25: Shift stitches to the 16" **US size 8** circular needle, and work one round knitting the knits and purling the purls in the same ribbed pattern. (The easiest way to do this shift is to knit round 25, moving each stitch from the US size 5 needle onto the US size 8 needle as you work it.)

The body of the hat: (Continue on the 16" US size 8 circular needle.)

Rounds 26 through 54: To establish and execute the cable pattern, use the description that follows or use the chart on page 4. There will be 8 repeats of the cable pattern on every round.

Round 26: *p1, k2, p3, c2L, p3, k2, p1* Repeat between *'s 7 more times.

Round 27: *p1, k2, p3, k4, p3, k2, p1* Repeat between *'s 7 more times.

Round 28: *p1, k2, p1, c2R, c2L, p1, k2, p1* Repeat between *'s 7 more times.

Rounds 29 through 35: * p1, k2, p1, k8, p1, k2, p1* Repeat between *'s 7 more times.

NOTE: For odd-numbered rounds, knit the knit stitches and purl the purl stitches, unless you are instructed otherwise.

Round 36: * p1, k2, p1, k2, c2L, k2, p1, k2, p1* Repeat between *'s 7 more times.

Round 38: *p1, k2, p1, c2R, c2R, p1, k2, p1* Repeat between *'s 7 more times.

Round 40: *p1, k2, p1, k2, c2L, k2, p1, k2, p1* Repeat between *'s 7 more times.

Round 42: *p1, k2, p1, c2R, c2R, p1, k2, p1* Repeat between *'s 7 more times.

Round 44: *p1, k2, p1, k2, c2L, k2, p1, k2, p1* Repeat between *'s 7 more times.

Rounds 45 through 51: *p1, k2, p1, k8, p1, k2, p1* Repeat between *'s 7 more times.

Round 52: *p1, k2, p1, c2R, c2L, p1, k2, p1* Repeat between *'s 7 more times.

Round 53: *p1 k2, p3, k4, p3, k2, p1* Repeat between *'s 7 more times.

Round 54: *p1, k2, p3, c2L, p3, k2, p1* Repeat between *'s 7 more times.

Round 55: *p1, k2, p3, k4, p3, k2, p1* Repeat between *'s 7 more times.

Round 56: *p1, k2, p3, k4, p3, k2, p1* Repeat between *'s 7 more times.

Decreasing for the crown: You'll begin the process using your 16" US size 8 circular needle, but as you decrease the number of stitches, the remaining stitches won't fit around the needle. As you approach that point switch to the double-point needles.

Round 1a: *k2 tog, k1, p3, k4, p3, k1, ssk* Repeat between *'s 7 more times.

Round 2a: * k2, p3, k4, p3, k2* Repeat between *'s 7 more times.

Round 3a: *k2, p2tog, p1, k4, p1, p2tog, k2* Repeat between *'s 7 more times.

Round 4a: *k2, p2, k4, p2, k2* Repeat between *'s 7 more times.

Round 5a: *k1, ssk, p1, k4, p1, k2tog, k1* Repeat between *'s 7 more times.

Round 6a: *k1, k2tog, k2tog, ssk, ssk, k1* Repeat between *'s 7 more times.

Rounds 7a and 8a: k2tog all around the needles.

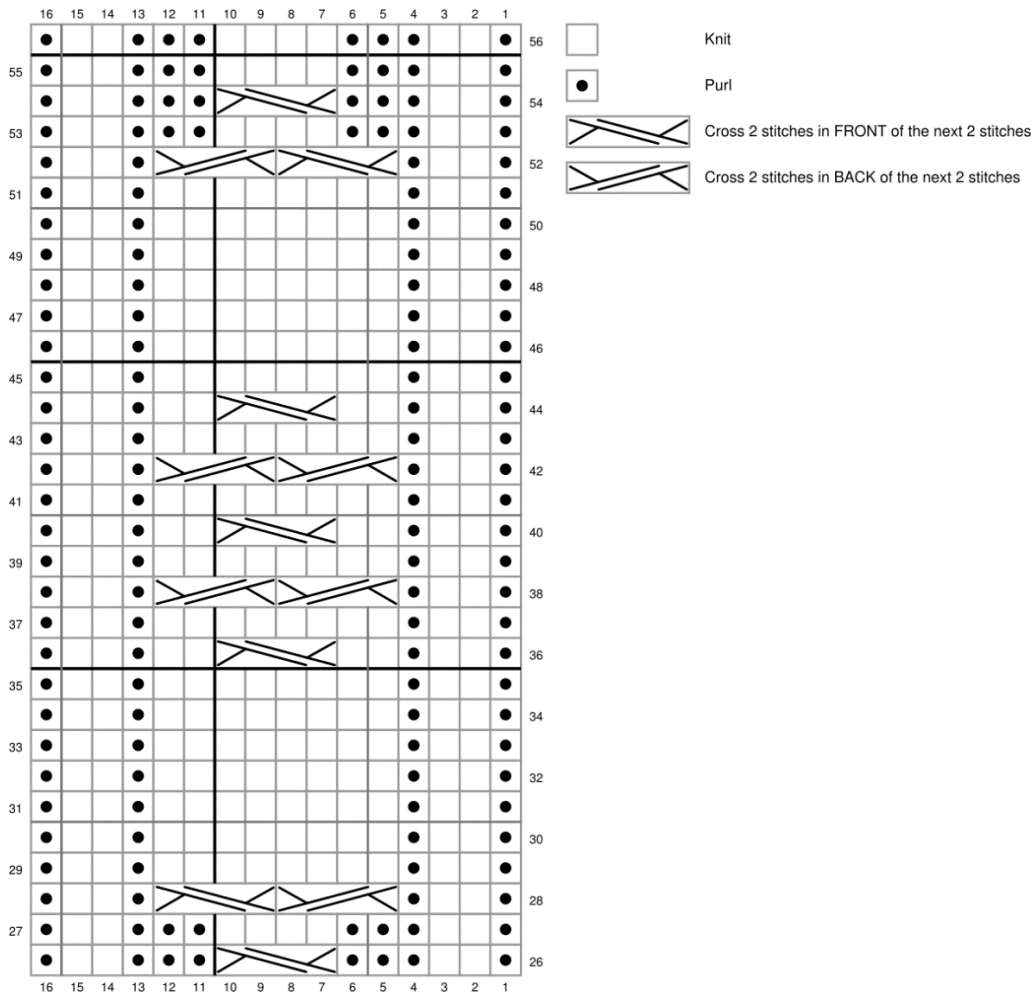
Break the yarn, allowing a 16" tail. Thread the tail on yarn needle and insert the needle purlwise (right to left) through every remaining stitch. Pull the yarn circle tight, closing the small hole in the crown of the hat. Then use the needle to pull the yarn to the inside of the hat, anchor the yarn firmly, and weave in the end securely. Work in any other yarn tails, and anchor them on the inside of the hat.

Block the hat and wear (or give) it proudly.

Option: To make a smaller hat, work only 20 rounds of ribbing, and omit rounds 34, 35, 50, and 51 in the cable pattern. The shorter ribbing may be a little loose, so you might want to draw it in by working one or

more single crochet rounds along the edge, skipping every 8th knit stitch in the first round, which will reduce the circumference somewhat, and I finished the edge with crab stitch crochet (also called "reverse crochet").

Chart of cable pattern (adapted from *Knitted Cable Sourcebook*, by Nora Gaughan)



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