

Frivol

by Debi Tuttle



One day about four months after I started knitting, I had a vision of a hat. It would have a lovely cable pattern running around the circumference. But how to accomplish such a thing? All of the hat patterns I had seen were knit from brim to crown, usually on circular needles. I needed a different technique. Many hours, sheets of graph paper, calculations, and attempts later, I produced this hat.

Originally designed as a toque, Frivol can also be worn slightly higher on the head, in which case the crown flattens out to give the hat a fez-like appearance. A nifty sideways mock rib pattern on the brim and crown frames a whimsical pattern involving cables, twisted stitches, and bobbles. (The bobbles can be omitted for a more demure look.) Short-rows give the crown its shape. (For a quick refresher on short-row shaping, see <http://www.knitty.com/ISSUEsummer03/FEATbonnetric.html>.)

My first version of Frivol included a side seam. While barely noticeable to an untrained eye, the seam does slightly interrupt the pattern. In search of perfection, I worked many more hours to prove to myself that I could graft the ends together to produce a seamless effect. Both methods are presented here, although I recommend that you only attempt the more difficult seamless version if (A) you are already familiar with grafting in pattern, (B) you are a masochistic perfectionist like me, or (C) you have a LOT of time and patience. The really important one is (C), so don't be afraid to try!

SIZE

Child [Adult] (try going up or down a needle size for slightly larger or smaller fit)

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Circumference: 17 [18.5] inches

MATERIALS

Approx. 3 oz./150 yds of worsted weight yarn that gives good stitch definition and has good elasticity. Boucle or novelty yarns not recommended.

Yarn Suggestions:

- Caron Simply Soft [100% acrylic; 385 yds per 198g/7oz skein]; color of your choice; (less than half of) 1 skein
- Lion Brand Wool-Ease [80% acrylic / 20% wool; 197 yds per 85g/3oz ball]; color of your choice; 1 ball
- Brown Sheep Lamb's Pride Worsted [85% wool / 15% mohair; 190 yds per 113g/4oz skein]; color of your choice; 1 skein
- Karabella Aurora 8 [100% merino wool; 98 yds per 50g ball]; color of your choice; 2 balls

1 set US #8/5mm straight needles

cable needle

tapestry needle

1 #9 (or size I)/5.5 mm crochet hook (for seamless version)

waste yarn of similar gauge (for seamless version)

1 set US #10.5/6.5mm straight needles (for seamless version, optional)

pompom maker (optional)

GAUGE

18 sts/24 rows = 4" in stockinette stitch; gauge need not be exact but should be close.

STITCHES

Sideways Mock Rib

Row 1: (WS) Knit.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: Purl.

Row 4: Knit.

Repeat these four rows for patt.

Bobbles and Waves

Adapted from the Reader's Digest *Ultimate Sourcebook of Knitting and Crochet Stitches*.

Abbreviations:

T3F: Twist 3 Front. Slip 2 (knit) st to cable needle and hold to front, purl next st from left needle, then knit 2 st from cable needle.

T3B: Twist 3 Back: Slip 1 (purl) st to cable needle and hold to back, knit next 2 st from left needle, then purl 1 st from cable needle.

T5F: Twist 5 Front. Slip 3 (knit) st to cable needle and hold to front, purl next 2 sts from left needle, then knit 3 st from cable needle.

T5B: Twist 5 Back: Slip 2 (purl) st to cable needle and hold to back, knit next 3 st from left needle, then purl 2 sts from cable needle.

MB: Make Bobble. Knit into front, back, and front of next st, [turn and knit these 3 st] 3 times, then turn and slip 1, k2tog, pssso. (To omit the bobbles from the pattern, replace MB with k1.)

C6B: Cable 6 Back: Slip 3 st to cable needle and hold at back of work, knit next 3 st from left needle, then knit 3 st from cable needle.

Row 1: (WS) K2, p2, k3, p3, k8, p3, k3, p2, k2.

Row 2: P2, T3F, p2, T5F, p4, T5B, p2, T3B, p2.

Row 3: K3, p2, [k4, p3] twice, k4, p2, k3.

Row 4: P3, T3F, p3, T5F, T5B, p3, T3B, p3.

Row 5: K2, MB, k1, p2, k5, p6, k5, p2, k1, MB, k2.

Row 6: P3, T3B, p5, C6B, p5, T3F, p3.

Row 7: K3, p2, k6, p6, k6, p2, k3.

Row 8: P2, T3B, p4, T5B, T5F, p4, T3F, p2.

Row 9: K2, p2, k5, p3, k4, p3, k5, p2, k2.

Row 10: P1, T3B, p3, T5B, p4, T5F, p3, T3F, p1.

Row 11: K1, p2, k1, MB, k2, p3, k8, p3, k2, MB, k1, p2, k1.

Row 12: P1, T3F, p3, k3, p8, k3, p3, T3B, p1.

Repeat these twelve rows for patt.

DIRECTIONS

Seamed version: CO 43 [43] st.

Seamless version: CO 43 [43] st with a provisional cast on.

Both versions continue as follows:

Row 1: Work 6 st of row 1 of Sideways Mock Rib (SMR), 28 st of row 1 of Bobbles and Waves (B&W), k9.

Row 2: P9, 28 st of row 2 of B&W, 6 st of row 2 of SMR.

Row 3: 6 st of row 3 of SMR; 28 st of B&W, p6, wrap next st and turn work leaving 3 sts on left needle.

Row 4: K6, 28 st of row 4 of B&W, 6 st of row 4 of SMR.

Row 5: 6 st of row 1 of SMR, 28 st of row 5 of B&W, k3, wrap next st and turn work leaving 6 sts on left needle.

Row 6: P3, 28 st of row 6 of B&W, 6 st of row 2 of SMR.

Row 7: 6 st of row 3 of SMR, 28 st of row 7 of B&W, p3, turn work leaving 6 sts on left needle (do not wrap).

Row 8: K3, 28 st of row 8 of B&W, 6 st of row 4 of SMR.

Row 9: 6 st of row 1 of SMR, 28 st of row 9 of B&W, k3, pick up wrapped st, k3, turn work leaving 3 sts on left needle.

Row 10: P6, 28 st of row 10 of B&W, 6 st of row 2 of SMR.

Row 11: 6 st of row 3 of SMR, 28 st of row 11 of B&W, p6, pick up wrapped st, p3.

Row 12: K9, 28 st of row 12 of B&W, 6 st of row 4 of SMR.

For those of you who would prefer to have everything written out so as not to have to refer to the stitch patterns:

Row 1: K8, p2, k3, p3, k8, p3, k3, p2, k11.

Row 2: P11, T3F, p2, T5F, p4, T5B, p2, T3B, p8.

Row 3: P6, k3, p2, [k4, p3] twice, k4, p2, k3, p6, wrap next st and turn work leaving 3 sts on left needle.

Row 4: K6, P3, T3F, p3, T5F, T5B, p3, T3B, p3, k6.

Row 5: K8, MB, k1, p2, k5, p6, k5, p2, k1, MB, k5, wrap next st and turn work leaving 6 sts on left needle.

Row 6: P6, T3B, p5, C6B, p5, T3F, p9.

Row 7: P6, K3, p2, k6, p6, k6, p2, k3, p3, turn work leaving 6 sts on left needle (do not wrap).

Row 8: K3, P2, T3B, p4, T5B, T5F, p4, T3F, p2, k6.

Row 9: K8, p2, k5, p3, k4, p3, k5, p2, k5, pick up wrapped st, k3, turn work leaving 3 sts on left needle.

Row 10: P7, T3B, p3, T5B, p4, T5F, p3, T3F, p7.

Row 11: P6, K1, p2, k1, MB, k2, p3, k8, p3, k2, MB, k1, p2, k1, p6, pick up wrapped st, p3.

Row 12: K9, P1, T3F, p3, k3, p8, k3, p3, T3B, p1, k6.

Repeat rows these twelve rows 7 [8] more times for a total of 8 [9] repetitions.

Seamed version: Repeat rows 1-12 once more for a total of 9 [10] repetitions. BO all sts. Break yarn leaving 18-inch tail. Proceed to Finishing, below.

Seamless version: Work rows 1-11. Proceed to Finishing, below.

FINISHING

Seamed version: Using tapestry needle, weave yarn tail along top of crown, about every two rows. Leave loose for now. Beginning with brim, sew seam toward crown, taking care to match patt. When crown is reached, pull seam tail to inside of hat along with crown tail. Pull crown tail tightly to close crown, then knot crown tail and seam tail together. Make pompom and attach if desired. Trim and weave in ends.

Seamless version: This is where it gets tricky! Before beginning, I suggest that you work a swatch using larger needles (US 10.5/6.5mm) that you will use as your visual guide. For your swatch, CO 43 st; work rows 1-11 (don't bother doing the short rows, just work 9 st in patt where the short rows would be); switch to a contrasting color yarn and work row 12; return to your original color and work rows 1-4; then BO all sts. Study your swatch carefully and see how the contrasting yarn moves in and out of the loops of the rows above and below it. Stretch your swatch, examine it, get to know it intimately. As you graft, your goal is to mimic the path of the yarn exactly.

Let's begin. First, unravel your provisional cast-on and place stitches on needles. With the right side out, line up the hat with the provisional cast-on stitches (row 1) on top and the end of your work (row 11) on the bottom. It may be helpful to place a contrasting piece of paper or fabric underneath to help you see better. Thread a fairly long (80-90 inch) piece of yarn into your tapestry needle. Work from right to left (top of crown to brim) and graft the two ends together, following the instructions for working row 12. Don't forget that row 12 includes twisted sections (T3B and T3F) - you will need to slip stitches to your cable needle as you graft. Be patient. Refer constantly to your swatch. Don't be afraid to pull out stitches and start over. You wouldn't be doing this if you weren't a perfectionist, right?

When you finish grafting, weave a piece of yarn (one of your ends may suffice, if long enough, or use another piece) along top of crown, about every two rows. Pull tight to close crown. Make pompom and attach if desired. Trim and weave in all ends. Throw a party.

Questions or issues? Please email me: debiknits@dtuttle.com
For more pictures of Frivol, visit <http://flic.kr/s/aHsjzMrZhS>.
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Version History:

1/10/05: updated twist abbreviations to include front and back; updated stitch definitions to indicate turn on row 7 leaving 6 sts on left needle and turn on row 9 leaving 3 sts; added embedded photo and link to Frivol photo gallery.
6/1/12: updated link to Frivol photo gallery, now on Flickr.