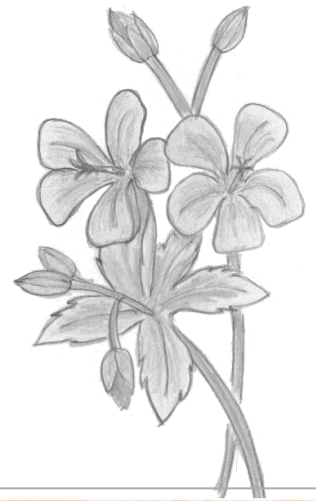




Stranded colorwork

Beginner, 2 colors



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Example right side.



Knitting with 2 colors and to achieve just the right length of yarn for the floats requires some practice. If you find a way you feel comfortable with, it's easier, so try to find your method. Keep track of what's happening on the wrong side. Take your time and let the speed come with the practice.

Example wrong side



As you look at this picture, the color floats should be just the right length compared to how many stitches you "jump" over. If the floats become too tight, the result on the right side becomes less nice. If they become too loose, you will permanently put fingers in the threads when you wear the garment.

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When you work with stranded color work it is important to make sure that you do not tighten the yarn too much. You also need to take care of your knitting tension, it is normal that color work will be knit a bit tighter than work with one color. If you knit a garment that has both, parts with one color and parts with 2 or more colors, it's especially important that the knitting tension is the same for the entire project. If you knit tighter with more colors, you can use a needle which is 0.5 - 1 mm thicker for parts with color work.

How to work with 2 colors:



Note!

Notice the distance between the stitches on the right needle in all pictures. The stitches are never close together on the right needle. This gives good control of the yarn floats. Always adjust the stitches on the right needle so that the stitches are at the same distance that they will be when the garment is finished. You will notice that you are doing the adjust automatically as you have received more exercise.



The way you normally knit may determine which method you feel works best for you.

Method 1.

This picture shows the most common way of holding the yarn. Hold the contrasting color on your index finger and the main color in the right hand together with the knitting needle or lay it loosely on the wrong side. Knit the stitches that should be in contrasting color by picking up the yarn from the left index finger and use the right hand to knit the stitches in the main color.

Note! Keep the color who has the most stitches on your index finger. It is easier to get the correct float on the yarn in the right hand.



Method 2.

Another method is to hold both yarns with the right hand. It's a more time-consuming way to knit, but in return, you have better control on the floats and the tension.



Method 3.

You can also hold both colors on your left index finger. This requires more exercise, but it is easier to twist the yarn when necessary because you can pick the yarn from above or below the other color.



When and how to twist the yarn.

When working with stranded color work, you may twist the yarn to avoid long floats. A golden rule is that if you get color shifts of 5 stitches or more, you should twist the yarn. Also think of which garment you knit. If you knit socks or mittens, it's a good idea to twist more often to avoid fingers and toes that pull out threads and destroy the garment. A cowl or a sweater will usually be ok with 5 stitches without twisting. If the garment is for a child, it's a good idea to twist the when you have knit 3-4 stitches in the same color.



← The picture shows how to twist the yarn.

This photo shows that the pattern color has been attached. It is knitted 3 stitches main color before it is twisted and 2 stitches main color after the yarn is twisted. →



Note list!








- ⇒ Pay attention to your knitting tension/gauge.
- ⇒ Pay attention to the wrong side of work.
- ⇒ Do not tighten the yarn too much, it's better to knit a little looser than you do when you knit with one color.
- ⇒ Use 0.5 to 1 mm thicker needles for color work if needed.
- ⇒ When 5 stitches or more in the same color - twist the yarn.
- ⇒ Make sure the stitches on the right needle are never tightly placed. Always adjust the stitches on the right needle so that the stitches are at a distance that is the same as they should be when the garment is finished.
- ⇒ Keep the color you want to knit the most stitches in, on your index finger. It is easier to get the correct tension on the yarn in the right hand.

Finishing of work:

Knitted garments knit in stranded color work I like to steam easily when finished. This because I can remove any unevenness in the knitting. You can also block the garment if you like this better. Remember to check that the yarn is resistant to heat, the yarn in the example contains 80% merino wool and 20% polyamide. If your yarn contains silk or fabrics that melt easily, block the garment instead. If you are unsure about the yarn, tolerate this treatment, try on a swatch first.

Here I give you a short introduction how to steam the garments, as I like to do this.



	<p>For the steam, you need iron and a cloth. The cloth I use is made in cotton and has a clear woven surface. Which cloth you use is not so important, but it must withstand the heat and not be too thick. A kitchen towel is often suitable.</p>
	<p>Hold the cloth under the water or wipe it in a bowl. The cloth should be soaked. I use cold water for this.</p>
	<p>Squeeze the cloth well so that the cloth does not drip.</p>
	<p>Put the cloth on top of your work. (Works right side) Make sure the work is flat.</p>
	<p>Then put the iron on top of the work and the cloth. Do a light pressure with the iron on the cloth for approx. 1 second, move the iron by lifting it. If this is not enough to get the work nice, you can stretch the garment, wipe the cloth and steam one more time. (Or more practice in stranded colorwork is needed)</p>
 <p>Before steaming</p>	 <p>After steaming</p>