

“You Want Me to Do WHAT to My Knitting?!” An Introduction to Steeks

Pre-Workshop Homework Packet



KYLE WILLIAM

Steek Homework

This homework packet includes two practice swatches to prepare you for our steeking workshop. Cutting our knitting may sound like the stuff of nightmares, but with a few simple steps and a little confidence, it becomes one of the most useful tools in stranded knitting.

The first homework piece is a colorwork tube worked in the round using two contrasting colors. This sample creates multiple steek locations that we will reinforce and cut during class while exploring several different methods of preparing and opening steeks.

The second homework piece is a flat swatch worked in a single color. This sample gives us a chance to practice reinforcement techniques and create clean finished edges by picking up stitches and adding facings after the steek is opened.

Choose solid-colored, non-superwash wool yarns. For the tube, strong color contrast helps keep the steek columns visible, and untreated wool creates more stable edges for reinforcement and needle felting. Use the lighter-colored yarn as your MC.

Complete both pieces and block them as directed, but do not cut or reinforce any sections before class—we'll do that part together. Bring both completed swatches to class along with the remaining materials listed in your workshop supply list.

Finished Size

In the Round: 6–10" (15–25 cm) high × 17.75" (45 cm) circumference, after blocking.

Flat: 7" (18 cm) high × 5.5" (14 cm) wide, after blocking.

Yarn

Worsted weight non-superwash wool yarn in two contrasting colors (MC and CC).

Shown in: Reggae Melange by Schoppel

Needles

16" (40 cm) US 8 (5.00 mm) circular needle, or size needed to obtain gauge

Notions

4 stitch markers (one unique), tape measure, needle, scissors

Gauge

In the Round: 23 stitches and 24 rounds = 4" x 4" (10 cm x 10 cm) in charted pattern, worked in the round.

Flat: 18 stitches and 28 rows = 4" x 4" (10 cm x 10 cm) in stockinette, worked flat

Abbreviations

"	inch
CC	contrast color
cm	centimeter(s)
CO	cast on
EOR	end of round
g	gram(s)
k	knit
m	meters
MC	main color
mm	millimeters
pm	place marker
rep	repeat
rnd(s)	round(s)
sm	slip marker
sts	stitches
WS	wrong side
yd	yard(s)

Homework 1: (In the Round) Colorwork Steek Practice Tube

Choose either Chart A or B for your swatch (p. 4). With MC, use the long tail cast on to CO 80 sts for Chart A, or 76 sts for Chart B. Join in the round being careful not to twist. Place a unique marker to indicate beginning of round.

Setup Round: *K20 (19), pm; rep from * to EOR –[3 additional markers placed]

Begin Chart

Beginning with Round 1, join CC when indicated and read the chart from right to left, slipping markers as you come to them. Repeat each chart round 4 times around to the EOR marker before proceeding to the next chart round. Continue in this manner until the piece measures at least 6" high (approximately 6 repeats of Rounds 1–6).

Next Round: K to EOR, removing markers

Bind off loosely using a standard bind-off. Cut yarn, leaving a 6" (15 cm) tail. Weave in all yarn ends and trim to approximately 1" (3 cm).

Block work using your preferred method (see Finishing):

Homework 2: (Flat) Single-Color Steek Practice Swatch

With MC (lighter-color yarn), use the long tail cast on to CO 33 sts.

Setup Row: K1, p1, k1, pm, p to last 3 sts, pm, k1, p1, k1 –[2 markers placed]

Row 1 (RS): K1, p1, k1, sm, k to last 3 sts, sm, k1, p1, k1

Row 2 (WS): K1, p1, k1, sm, p to last 3 sts, sm, k1, p1, k1

Repeat Rows 1 and 2 until work measures 5.5" (14 cm) from CO, ending with a WS row.

Bind off loosely using a standard bind-off. Cut yarn, leaving a 6" (15 cm) tail. Weave in all yarn ends and trim to approximately 1" (3 cm). Block work using your preferred method:

Finishing

Steam Blocking: Using a steamer or the steam from an iron held just above the surface (do not press or touch the fabric), slowly pass the steam across the fabric, allowing the heat and moisture to relax the stitches. Let the piece dry completely before handling.

Wet Blocking (optional): Place work in cool water with a small amount of wool wash if desired and allow to sink into water. Allow the fabric to soak for about 15–20 minutes so the fibers are fully saturated. Gently squeeze out excess water without wringing, then roll the swatch in a clean towel and press to remove additional moisture. Lay flat on a blocking surface, smoothing the fabric to shape. Allow to dry completely.

Steek Homework

For Homework 1, choose either Chart A or Chart B. Be sure to cast on the correct number of stitches for your chart (80 for Chart A, 75 for Chart B).

Chart A

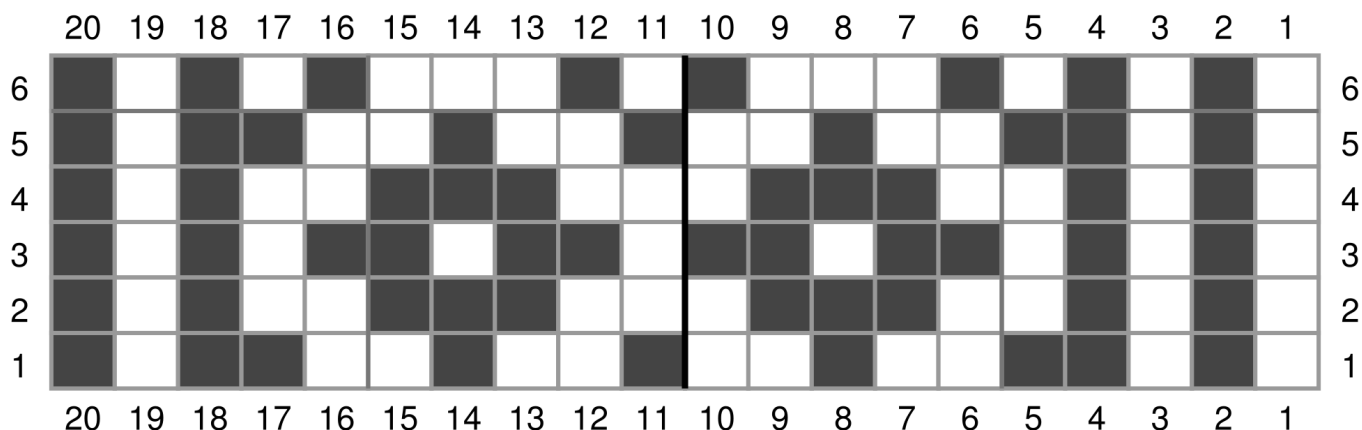
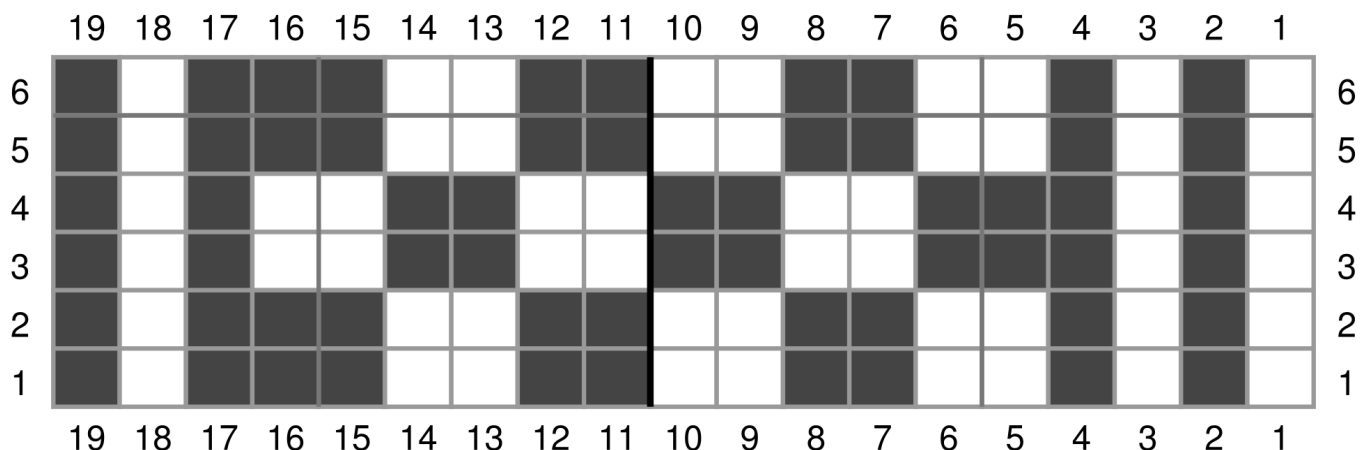


Chart B



Trim yarn tails flush with the work.



Contact

Questions or comments before the workshop? Feel free to email me — I'm happy to help.

Email: kkunnecke@kylewilliam.com

Instagram: @SF_KyleWilliam

Facebook: KyleWilliam

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