Stranded Knitting

KYLE WILLIAM

What Is Stranded Knitting?

Colorwork knitting (also known as stranded or “Fair Isle”) involves working with two yarns in the same row or round. It is characterized by lengths of yarn (floats) across the back of the work. Alternating between the colors, we can create a variety of patterns. Most stranded knitting patterns include charts.

Reading a Chart

- Each square on a chart represents a stitch and its color. Refer to the chart key to learn what each symbol means.
- Stranded knitting charts are usually worked from right to left beginning with the bottom row when knitting in the round.
- Flat colorwork charts are also read right to left for RS rows and left to right on WS rows.

Carrying Yarn

- Hold one yarn in each hand (two-handed knitting) or hold both in one hand.
- Knit with the color indicated by the chart, carrying unused yarn loosely behind stitches.
- Keep yarns in the same order throughout the project.

Managing Floats

- Avoid pulling the carried yarn too tightly to prevent puckering.
- Catch floats longer than one inch.

Dominance in Colorwork

The yarn held in the left hand (or the yarn held to the left in Continental knitting) is considered the dominant color and will appear more prominent. Because of this, it is important to keep the yarns in the same order throughout the project.

©2026 Kyle Kunnecke. All Rights Reserved.
For personal use only and may not be copied, resold, or republished.
No part of this pattern may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the designer. He may be contacted at: kkunnecke@kylewilliam.com.

Stranded Knitting

KYLE WILLIAM

Tips for Success

- **Tension:** Keep an even tension to avoid puckering or overly loose stitches.
- **Practice:** Start with small projects like hats or mitts.
- **Swatch:** Practice the chart and check your gauge before starting the main project.
- **Breaks:** Give your hands frequent breaks to prevent strain.
- **Mistakes:** Embrace small imperfections; they add character!
  Puckering: Check tension and practice spreading out stitches on the right needle.
- **Twisted Yarns:** Reposition the yarns periodically to prevent tangling.
- **Uneven Stitches:** Block your finished piece to even out stitches.



Take a photo of the yarn

Color Contrast Value

Color contrast value refers to the difference in lightness or darkness between two colors. High contrast creates bold, distinct patterns, while low contrast results in a more blended appearance.

To determine the value of a particular yarn, take a photo with your phone and then desaturate (remove the color) with a filter to see each yarn's color value.

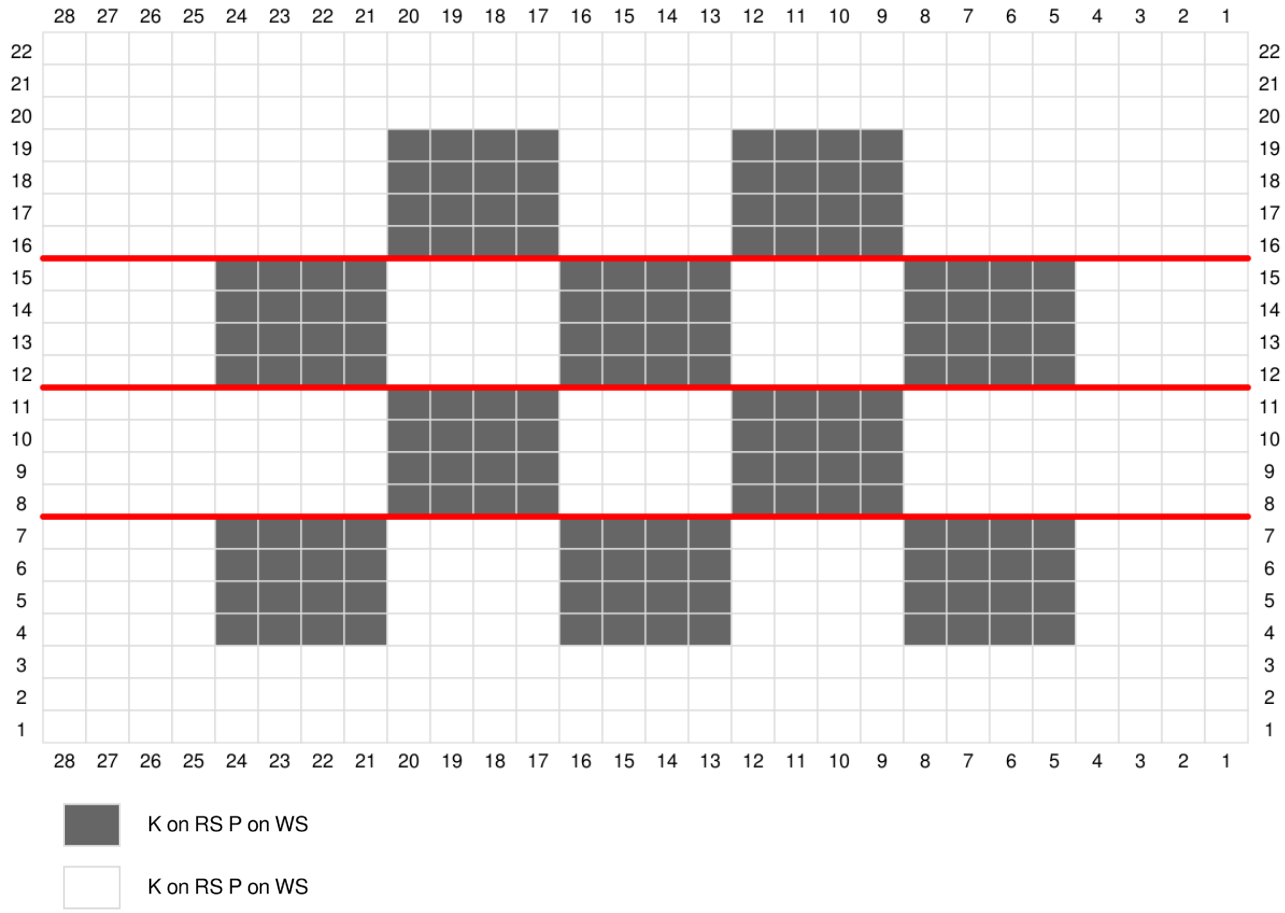


Remove color (desaturate)to view the color value

©2026 Kyle Kunnecke. All Rights Reserved.
For personal use only and may not be copied, resold, or republished.
No part of this pattern may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the designer. He may be contacted at: kkunnecke@kylewilliam.com.

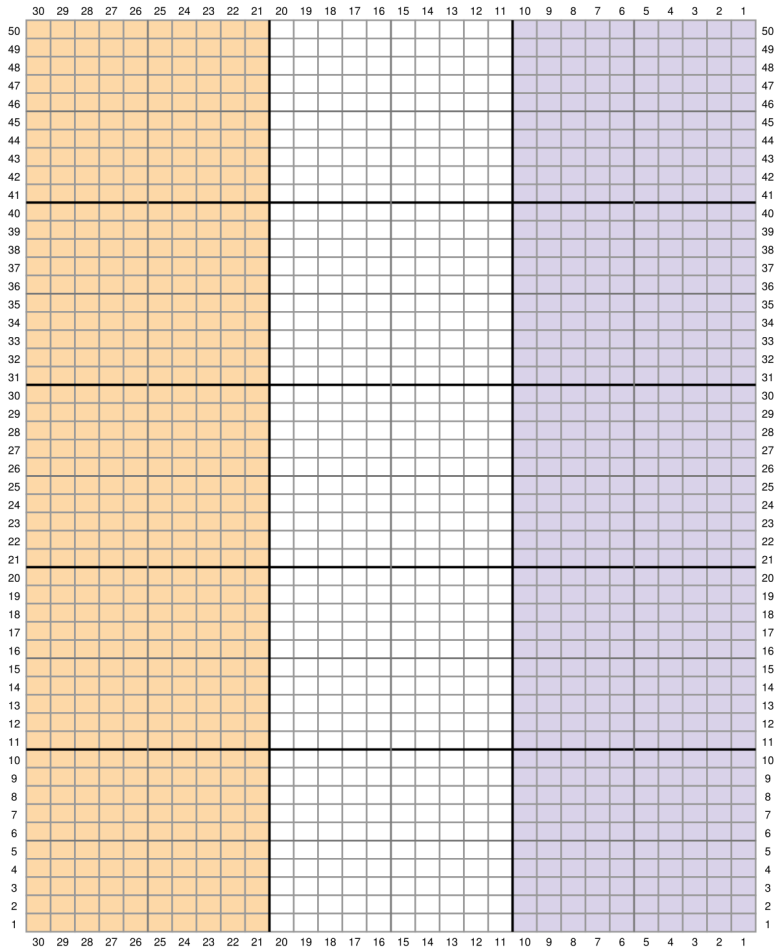
Stranded Knitting

KYLE WILLIAM



©2026 Kyle Kunnecke. All Rights Reserved.
For personal use only and may not be copied, resold, or republished.
No part of this pattern may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the designer. He may be contacted at: kkunnecke@kylewilliam.com.

Intarsia



What is Intarsia?

- Multiple yarns used in a rowfround, one yarn at a time
- Pattern created by changing yarn colors
- Yarns cut into sections, wound into butterflies or put on bobbins
- Yarns wrapped around each other when changed mid rowfround
- Each stitch in the pattern represented by a colored square on the chart
- Works best with non-superwash wool yarn
- There are no floats
- No limits on number of colors or stitches used (unlike traditional stranded knitting)
- Results in a lightweight fabric with beautiful drape

Hand-tied Yarn Butterflies

Lay yarn tail across your left palm between thumb and index finger toward the back of your hand, leaving a long tail trailing off the palm.

Holding tail, loosely wrap yarn clockwise around index finger, then across and counter-clockwise around thumb.

Continue wrapping around index finger > thumb > index finger for desired length (I usually wrap 15-20 times). Break yarn. Carefully remove yarn from hand and wrap the last 6” or so of the tail around center crossing poing of butterfly. Secure end by tucking it inside this wrap once or twice.

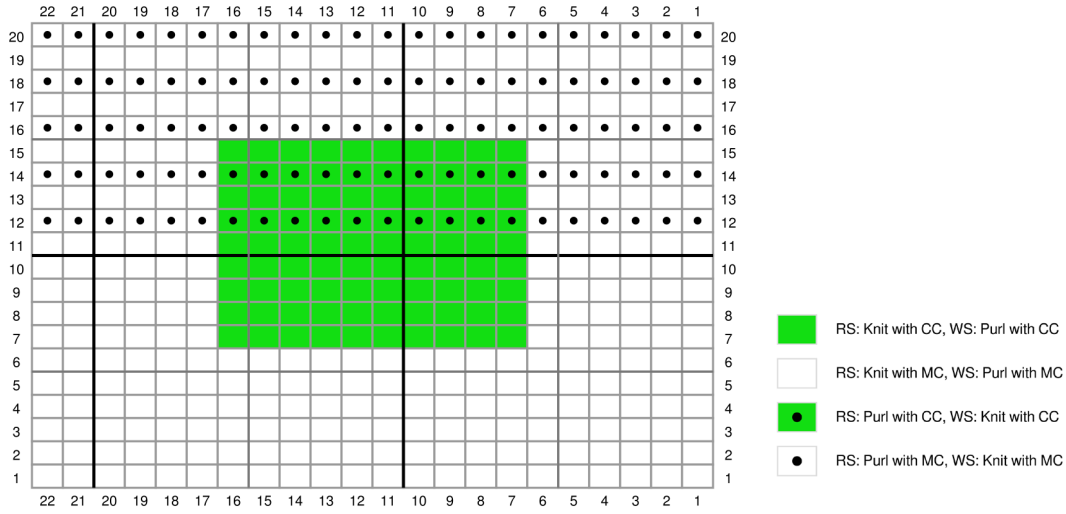
Estimating Butterfly Yardage

To estimate how much yarn will be used for a certain intarsia section, count the number of stitches, then wrap the needle with the yarn this many times. Add 12” or so for the tails.

This hint is especially hepful when working with a limited supply of yarn.

©2026 Kyle Kunnecke. All Rights Reserved.
For personal use only and may not be copied, resold, or republished.
No part of this pattern may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the designer.
He may be contacted at: kkunnecke@kylewilliam.com.

Intarsia



Changing colors

Starting a new color: Leaving a tail, work first stitch in new color. Lay OLD color over new, and then work second stitch. Later, weave in the tail so that there is no gap.

Stay Engaged: There's no need to "tie the knot" (get it?!) – leave a length of yarn for a tail when changing colors, and weave in the ends once the work is complete or further progressed. Knots can create a bump or stress point in knitting.

End & Begin Tight: The last stitch of a color and first stitch of another color should be worked a little tighter. These stitches are often a bit looser because of the color change, and this additional tension helps create a more even gauge.

Weaving in Ends

Look at the front of your work as you weave in ends. Be sure to maintain an even tension in each of the sections.

Staying Within the Lines

When weaving intarsia ends, do your best to work the tail into its own color field. Duplicate the stitches, and then trim the tail leaving a small (1") piece protruding. Once your item has been blocked, these final bits can be cut off.

Splitting Hairs: If you are worried about the tail coming loose, use your tapestry needle to weave the tail through the plies of the last few stitches.

Weave As You Go: Weaving in ends a little at a time helps this necessary task be more enjoyable. After a section is completed, I weave in ends to help reduce the number of tails on the back of the work (which helps cut down on yarn tangles).

©2026 Kyle Kunnecke. All Rights Reserved.
For personal use only and may not be copied, resold, or republished.
No part of this pattern may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the designer.
He may be contacted at: kkunnecke@kylewilliam.com.

Helical Knitting

Helical knitting is a clever and efficient technique for creating jogless stripes or working with multiple yarns in a seamless, spiral-like manner. It eliminates the noticeable "jog" that can appear when knitting stripes in the round. Here is an overview of what it is, why it's useful, and how to use it.

Helical knitting involves working with two or more strands in a continuous spiral. Instead of traditional horizontal stripes, the color changes appear as a smoothe transition, with no interruptions or unevenness at the starting point of the round. This is achieved by never fully completing a round before introducing the next color. Helical knitting relies on the principle of offsetting the starting point of each color. When working with two or more yarns, one color is "chased" by the other, creating the continuous spiral.

Why Use Helical Knitting?

- Jogless Stripes
- Minimizing Yarn Tangles
- Blending Colors
- Avoiding Seams

Why Use Helical Knitting?

1. **Start Your Round:** Begin knitting in the round with your first yarn (Color A).

2. **Switch Colors Mid-Round:** When you are about three stitches away from the starting point of your round, drop Color A and pick up Color B. Do not twist the yarns.

3. **Slip Stitches to Transition:** At the end of the round, slip the last three stitches of Color A to the right needle without knitting them. This ensures that the colors spiral instead of stacking.

4. **Continue Spiraling:** Repeat the process with Color B, dropping it when you're close to the previous color's starting point, and pick up Color A.

5. **Maintain the Sequence:** Continue working in this manner, always slipping the last three stitches of the previous color to maintain the helical structure.

Tips for Success

- **Tension:** Keep your tension consistent to avoid gaps or puckering at color changes.
- **Practice with Two Colors First:** Once comfortable, you can experiment with three or more colors.
- **Yarn Management:** Keep yarns untangled by regularly adjusting their placement.

©2026 Kyle Kunnecke. All Rights Reserved.
For personal use only and may not be copied, resold, or republished.
No part of this pattern may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the designer. He may be contacted at: kkunnecke@kylewilliam.com.

Mosaic Knitting

KYLE WILLIAM

Mosaic knitting is one of the easiest colorwork techniques. It is a type of slip stitch knitting using two (or more) colors of yarn. Each yarn is worked independently usually 2 rows or rounds at a time.



This handout uses the Jasper Hat and Cowl pattern by John Crane as an example of Mosaic knitting. It is a free download courtesy of your friends at skacel Collection, Inc. Get the free pattern here:

Why Use Helical Knitting?

- Stitches are always slipped purl-wise with the yarn held to the back side of the work
- Each slipped stitch reduces that column's stitch count by one stitch
- Using markers between repeats can be helpful
- Always wrap yarns the same direction at the side of the work (when working flat) or at the end of the round (when working in the round)
- High contrast colors work best in this technique
- The row/round gauge of mosaic knitting will always be more dense than plain knitting because we are working each row/round twice.
- Working stitches with lighter tension will provide extra yarn for the stitches to be slipped on future rows/rounds which can help reduce the possible puckering of fabric
- Finished projects will benefit from blocking

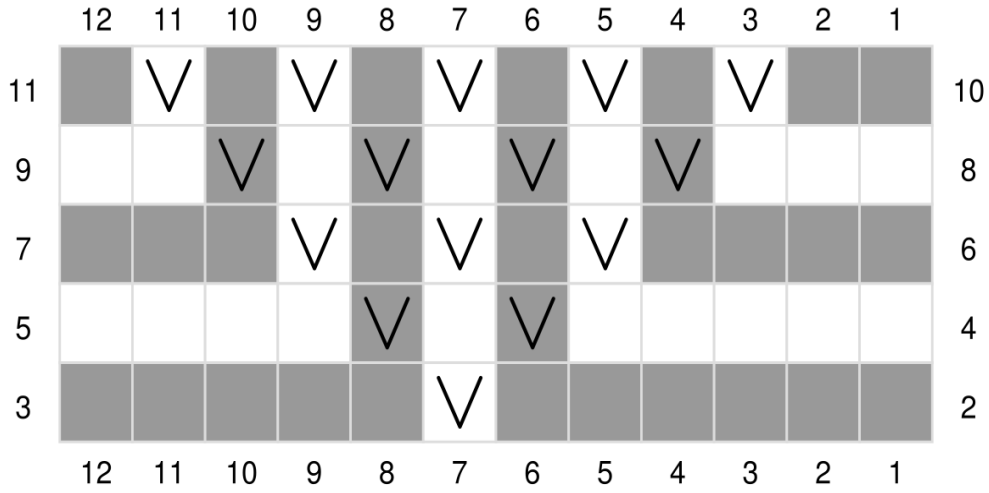
©2026 Kyle Kunnecke. All Rights Reserved.
For personal use only and may not be copied, resold, or republished.
No part of this pattern may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the designer. He may be contacted at: kkunnecke@kylewilliam.com.

Mosaic Knitting

KYLE WILLIAM

Traditional Mosaic Chart (Flat)

This chart is an example of how stitches might be illustrated for a mosaic pattern that is worked flat. Each row of this type of chart represents two rows of knitting. Row 2 is worked from right to left, and then the same row of the chart is used for Row 3 and worked from left to right.



With MC, K on RS, P on WS

With CC, K on RS, P on WS

With CC, Sl WYIB purl-wise on RS, Sl WYIF purl-wise on WS

With MC, Sl WYIB purl-wise on RS, Sl WYIF purl-wise on WS

©2026 Kyle Kunnecke. All Rights Reserved.
For personal use only and may not be copied, resold, or republished.
No part of this pattern may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the designer. He may be contacted at: kkunnecke@kylewilliam.com.