



COMMIT TO KNIT

HELP KEEP SEAFARERS WARM



A SELECTION OF SAILORS' SOCIETY
KNITTING PATTERNS

Thank you for agreeing to put your knitting skills to work for a fantastic cause. We rely on our amazing volunteers to knit thousands of woolly hats, and other items, each year for seafarers who endure hazardous storms and icy weather.

Our port chaplains and ship visitors, based in more than 90 ports around the world, give your amazing hats out to seafarers visiting port, while others are wrapped and included in the Christmas welfare parcels that are taken on board ship for the festive season. The need for more hats is always there – Drew Anderson, our port chaplain in Invergordon, has been known to give out 500 in a day on occasion!

For a seafarer who has been away from home for months on end, a hat is a simple but priceless and much needed gift. It tells them that they have not been forgotten and that someone cares about them. As one grateful seafarer told us:

"We know the hats are sent with love, they are knitted by kind souls who do not even know our names. How can we ever thank them?"

We all rely on the 1.6 million seafarers around the world who transport more than 90 per cent of the world's trade by sea. The gift of a woolly hat is a great practical way to give a gift back.

Other knitted items that we give to seafarers are neck warmers, balaclavas and fingerless mittens. Patterns for these are included in this booklet.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at woollyhats@sailors-society.org.

Happy knitting!



SIMPLE WOOLLY HAT



Level of difficulty:	Easy
Materials needed:	100g double knit wool (approximately) 1 pair 4mm (UK no 8) needles
Measurement:	To fit average size adult head

HAT:

Cast on 112 sts.

K1, P1 rib for 8cm (3 in).

Change to stocking st for 11cm (4½in), finishing with a WS (P) row 19cm (7½in) from beginning.

SHAPE CROWN:

Row 1: K9, K2tog to last 2 sts, K2 (102 sts).

Row 2 and every alt row: P.

Row 3: K8, K2tog to last 2 sts, K2 (92 sts).

Row 5: K7, K2tog to last 2 sts, K2 (82 sts).

Continue to dec with one fewer st on alt rows until K3, K2tog (42 sts).

Row 15 (final dec row): K2tog to end (21 sts).

Break wool and thread through rem sts. Pull up tightly and fasten off securely.

MAKE UP:

Sew seam.

Submitted by Ann Jordan, Southampton

Send your knitted items to:

Sailors' Society, Seafarer House, 74 St Annes Road, Southampton, SO19 9FF

NECK WARMER



- Level of difficulty:** Easy (beginner)
- Materials needed:** 100g double knit wool (approximately)
1 pair 4mm (UK no 8) needles
1 stitch holder

FRONT & BACK BIBS:

Make two pieces the same.

Cast on 40 sts.

Knit 1 row.

Inc by 1 st at each end of the next 8 rows (56sts).

Knit straight until the work measures 15cm (6in)*.

Place first piece on a stitch holder.

Knit the second piece to *.

NECK TUBE:

K1, P1 across the second piece, then transfer the first piece from the stitch holder to a needle and continue K1, P1 rib (112 sts). K1, P1 rib for 15cm (6in).

Cast off.

MAKE UP:

Join the sides of the ribbed pieces only.

Submitted by Ann Jordan, Southampton

Send your knitted items to:

Sailors' Society, Seafarer House, 74 St Annes Road, Southampton, SO19 9FF

BALACLAVA



Level of difficulty:	Intermediate
Materials needed:	100g double knit wool (approximately) 1 pair 3.25mm (UK no 10) needles 1 pair 4mm (UK no 8) needles 2 stitch holders

BALACLAVA NECK:

Starting with the 3.25mm (UK no 10) needles, cast on 121 sts. Work in K1, P1 rib for 8cm, ending with a RS row.

Next row: Rib 90, turn, place rem 31 sts on a stitch holder. Change to 4mm (UK no 8) needles and proceed in stocking st until work measures 30cm (12in) ending with a RS row.

BALACLAVA CROWN:

Row 1: P59, P2tog, turn.

Row 2: S1, K28, S1, K2tog, pssso, turn.

Row 3: S1, K28, P3tog, turn.

Row 4: S1, P28, S1, K1, pssso, turn.

Row 5: S1, P28, P2tog, turn.

Rep rows 2 to 5 until 30 sts rem.

Place these 30 sts on the second stitch holder.

Return the 31 sts of rib from the first stitch holder to a needle and re-join the wool to the end.

Rib across the 31 sts, pick up and K58 sts evenly up the side of the face.

Knit across the 30 sts of the brow from the other stitch holder. Pick up and K58 sts evenly down the side of the face.

Commencing with 2nd row of K1, P1 rib, rib 7 rows.

Cast off in rib.

MAKE UP: Join side and neck seams.

FINGERLESS MITTENS



Level of difficulty: Easy (beginner)

Materials needed: 100g double knit wool (approximately)
1 set 4 double point 2.75mm (UK no 12)
needles short length of string

BOTH HANDS ALIKE:

Cast on 56 sts – 16, 20, 20 on three needles and work in rib for 35 rounds, forming the wrist. Knit 15 plain rounds.

THUMB:

Round 1: K2, make 1, K2, make 1, K to end.

Rounds 2 & 3 (also 5, 6... 8, 9... 11, 12... 14, 15... 17, 18... 20, 21... 23, 24... 26, 27... 29, 30... 32, 33): Plain.

Round 4: K2, make 1, K4, make 1, K to end.

Round 7: K2, make 1, K6, make 1, K to end.

Round 10: K2, make 1, K8, make 1, K to end.

Round 13: K2, make 1, K10, make 1, K to end.

Round 16: K2, make 1, K12, make 1, K to end.

Round 19: K2, make 1, K14, make 1, K to end.

Round 22: K2, make 1, K16, make 1, K to end.

Round 25: K2, make 1, K18, make 1, K to end.

Round 28: K2, make 1, K20, make 1, K to end.

Round 31: K2, make 1, K22, make 1, K to end.

Round 34: K2, make 1, K24, make 1, K to end.

Round 35: K3, then slip off 24 sts onto a piece of string, knit plain the rest of the round. Knit 20 rounds plain. Rib 25 rounds. Cast this off loosely.

KNIT THE REST OF THE THUMB:

Take up the 24 sts from the piece of string onto three needles, adding 4 more sts where the opening is (28 sts).

Knit 8 rounds plain. Rib (K2, P2) 8 rounds. Cast this off loosely. Fasten off the ends of wool. Don't close the ends of the mittens.

Send your knitted items to:

Sailors' Society, Seafarer House, 74 St Annes Road, Southampton, SO19 9FF

“HAT’S GREAT!”

We are hugely grateful to our incredible Nautical Knitter, Linda Death, for testing the patterns for this booklet. Without her support not all of the patterns would have made sense or turned out okay.

Thank you to Ann Jordan for her wonderful contributions of the ‘Nautical Knitter’s Favourite’ patterns and ‘Nautical Knitter’s Poem.’

A final big thank you to you, a Sailors’ Society Nautical Knitter, for your contribution of knitted items.

FURTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE:

Stitch-in tags via post (suggested donation £1 per strip of 10) - ‘Knitted with love by Sailors’ Society volunteers.’

ABBREVIATIONS USED:

K = knit

P = purl

St(s) = stitch(es)

Stocking st = 1 row K, 1 row P

Tog = together

Dec = decrease

Pssso = pass slipped stitch over

Alt = alternate

Beg = beginning

Cont = continue

Rem = remain(ing)

Rep = repeat

RS = right side

WS = wrong side

Cm = centimetres

in = inches

mm = millimetres



A Nautical Knitter's Poem

Red, yellow, green and blue –

With every stitch I knit, I pray for you. I pray for loved ones far away,
That they'll be safe, by night and day. I pray your voyages will be calm,
That whilst away, you'll not be harmed. I pray for families who wait with
concern, But most of all, for your safe return.

Written by Ann Jordan, Southampton ©

Send your knitted items to:

Sailors' Society

Seafarer House, 74 St Annes Road, Southampton SO19 9FF



www.sailors-society.org/committoknit

woollyhats@sailors-society.org

023 8051 5950