

Mosaic Knitting Walk-thru

by Wendy Wonnacot

I have noticed there have been numerous threads, posts and search inquiries on Mosaic (slip stitch if you prefer) knitting on the internet. I have also gotten numerous emails asking about the best way to “carry” the colors behind the work. I am posting this in hopes it will answer some of the questions you may have or at least peak your curiosity enough to give mosaic/slip stitch a shot.

Generalizations (*because there are always exceptions*):

- If you can knit a knit stitch, you can knit mosaic, sometimes purling is needed too (:
- You work with one color at a time, there is no need for acrobatics.
- Mosaic knitting may be done in the round or flat, on circls, straights or dpns depending on the project requirements.
- Unless otherwise specified, stitches are slipped purlwise.



The Earth is Flat

(or this swatch is at any rate)

We'll knit a flat swatch using a simple 3 stitch repeat pattern (an in the round walk thru will be posted soon). I am using a pair of 5mm dpns and a couple odd balls of Cascade 220. If you plan on making the bowl I do suggest using wool if this is your first time doing mosaic (wool is more forgiving and the loft of the fibers help fill in any accidental gaps).

Reading the Chart

Generally when I create charts I prefer to put in what you are actually knitting on the WS meaning you don't have to *think* (I know I'm not the only one hard of



thinking!) about what a given symbol means. But, we will be using the same chart for both the flat and in the round examples so I have left it in a 'standard' format, be sure to check the chart key.

The stitch pattern is based on a multiple of three stitches over four rows. I have included extra stitches to balance the pattern when knitting flat. Odd numbered rows are read from right to left, evens from left to right. I am using yellow as my MC and turquoise as the CC.

Tension

It is important to keep an even tension! If you knit loose stay loose or keep tight as the case may be. Changing on tension mid project/row/section will cause puckering or gaps. In this stitch pattern only one stitch is slipped at a time, there are several patterns where 3-4 stitches are slipped at once making tension very important.

Swatch it!

We're using Chart 1 here.

With CC CO 15 sts.

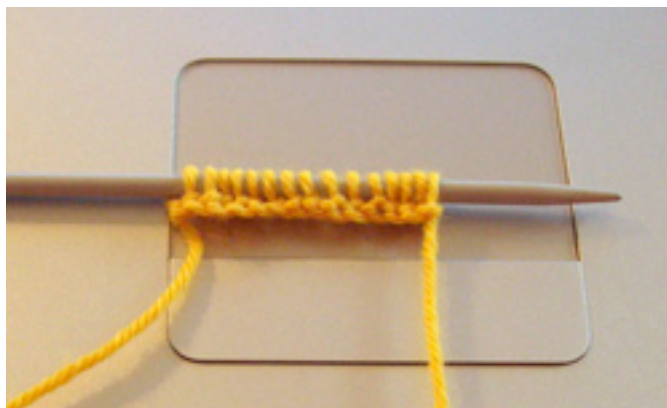
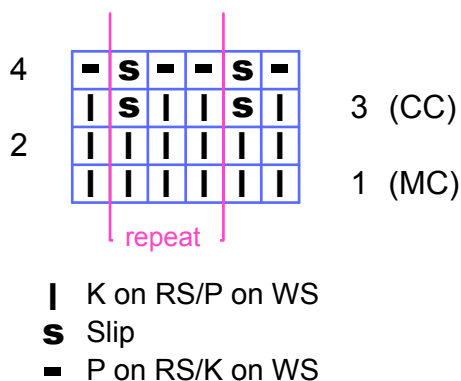
[If you are planning to make the bowl and prefer not to sew the side seam, do a provisional cast on with scrap yarn and end with a 2 needle bind off]

Row 1: (MC) Knit

Row 2: Purl

[When changing colors drop the first color and pick up the second color bringing it in front of the first and work the next row. Do not pull tightly, keep an even tension to avoid skewing the fabric.]

Chart 1



Row 3: (CC) K1, s1 * k2, s1 * to last stitch, k1.

[When the stitches are slipped the yarn is to the back of the work]



Row 4: P1 * Yf, s1, yb, k2 * to last two stitches, yf, s1, k1.

[On this row because we are knitting on the WS the yarn is brought forward before slipping the stitch then brought to the back of the work before knitting the next stitch]



Repeat Rows 1 - 4 of Chart 1 four more times.

You should have something that resembles the photo to the right at this point. Easy, yes? Now you can bind off, frog it or if you don't want to do either, continue. When I first started exploring Mosaic knitting I ended up with a gazillion pretty little swatches. I don't like little swatches cluttering up the casa so I made little baskets aka Overgrown Swatches which are now cluttering up the casa. At least they come in handy.

Let's continue, shall we?



Continuing

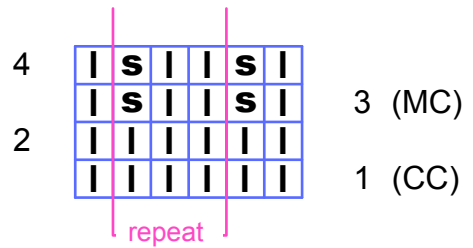
Work Rows 1 - 4 of Chart 2 four times.

Work Rows 1 - 4 of Chart 1 five more times.

Work Rows 1-4 of Chart 2 four more times.

Bind off with CC leaving long tail for side seam.

Chart 2



Break MC. Weave in ends. Sew side seam.

Bottom

With MC and RS facing pick up and knit 45 sts.

Rnd 1: Knit

Rnd 2: * K7, k2tog * five times. [40 sts]

Rnd 3: Knit

Rnd 4: * K6, k2tog * five times. [35 sts]

Rnd 5: * K5, k2tog * five times [30 sts]

Rnd 6: * K4, k2tog * five times [25 sts]

Rnd 7: * K3, k2tog * five times [20 sts]

Rnd 8: * K2, k2tog * five times [15 sts]

Rnd 9: * K1, k2tog * five times [10 sts]

Rnd 10: * K2tog * five times [5 sts]

Cut tail, pull tightly thru remaining stitches. Weave in ends. Sew side seam.



Brim

With MC and dpns CO 4 sts.

Work applied i-cord around the top edge.

Weave in ends.



At this point you will have a bowl looking object. Scrunchy bottom and wavering sides. Next, block it!

For blocking I used a cold water wash with a drop of shampoo to loft the fibers then a couple rolled up plastic grocery bags.

Let dry completely.

Now you have a little bowl (:



Next week I will be posting a second bowl knit in the round. Stay tuned!



I hope you have found this of help. If you have any questions you are most welcome to ask, I can be reached at wendy@zibibboisgood.com or wendy@thegartermbelt.com.

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