

Cable Knitting

for beginners



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Cable knitting may look complicated or intimidating at first, but in reality, all you're doing is rearranging stitches to work them in a different order than they were on the previous row. If you can master the basic building blocks, it's easy to combine them into more intricate designs.

ABBREVIATIONS

BO = bind off
CN = cable needle
CO = cast on
k = knit
p = purl
RS = right side
st(s) = stitch(es)
WS = wrong side

A/B LC = Slip A sts to cable needle and hold in front of work, knit next B sts, knit A sts from cable needle.
A/B RC = Slip B sts to cable needle and hold in back of work, knit next A sts, knit B sts from cable needle.
A/B LPC = Slip A sts to cable needle and hold in front of work, purl next B sts, knit A sts from cable needle.
A/B RPC = Slip B sts to cable needle and hold in back of work, knit next A sts, purl B sts from cable needle.

TOOLS

Cable needles come in all shapes, sizes, and materials. Choose from straight, bent, or hooked... wood, metal, or plastic. Any of these will get the job done, but you'll want to pick one that is equal to or slightly smaller around than the diameter of your knitting needles. This will allow it to grip the stitches well without stretching or distorting them.

Class swatch:

CO 24 sts using your preferred method.
Work Rows 1-6 of Ropes pattern twice.

ROPEs

Worked over 24 sts.

Row 1 [RS]: K2, p4, k4, p4, k4, p4, k2.

Row 2 (Rest Row): Knit the Ks and purl the Ps.

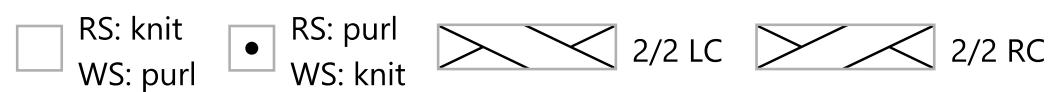
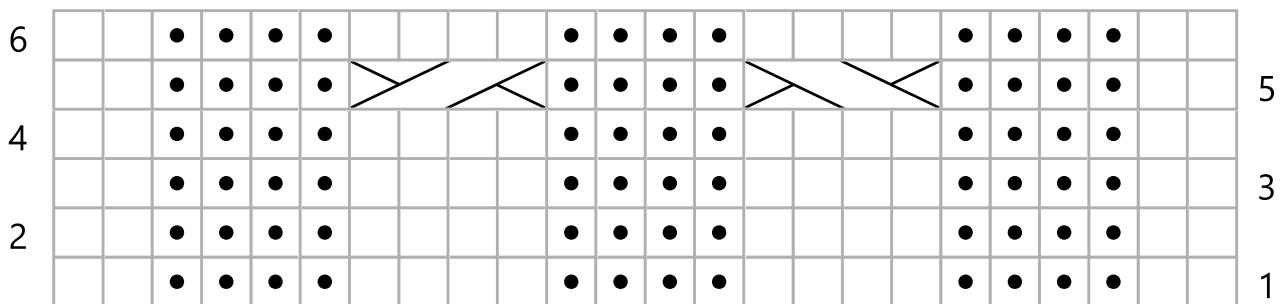
Rows 3-4: Repeat Rest Row 2 times.

Row 5: K2, p4, 2/2 LC, p4, 2/2 RC, p4, k2.

Row 6: Repeat Rest Row.



Repeat Rows 1-6 for pattern.

**SNAKES**

Worked over 6 sts.

Row 1 [RS]: P1, k4, p1.

Row 2 (Rest Row): Knit the Ks and purl the Ps.

Rows 3-4: Repeat Rest Row 2 times.

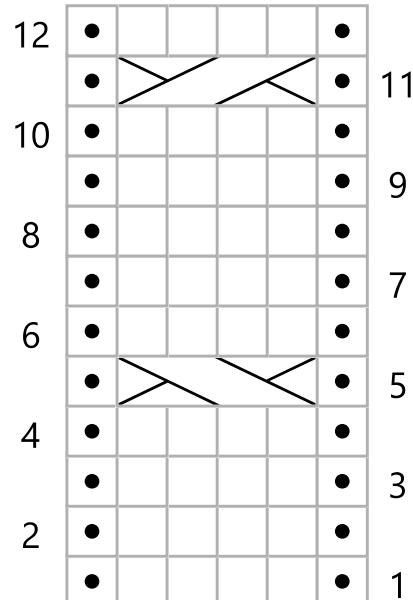
Row 5: P1, 2/2 LC, p1.

Rows 6-10: Repeat Rest Row 5 times.

Row 11: P1, 2/2 RC, p1.

Row 12: Repeat Rest Row.

Repeat Rows 1-12 for pattern.



HORSESHOES

Worked over 12 sts.

Row 1 [RS]: P2, k8, p2.

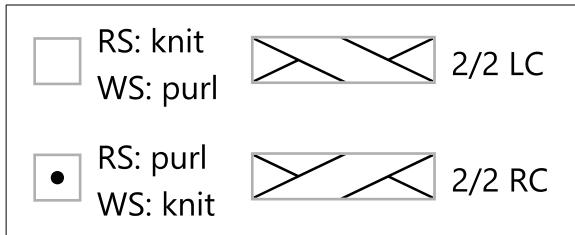
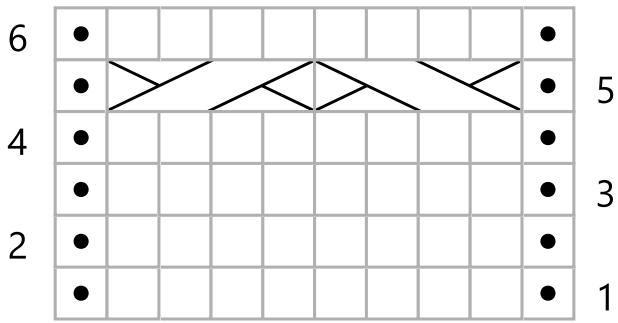
Row 2 (Rest Row): Knit the Ks and purl the Ps.

Rows 3-4: Repeat Rest Row 2 times.

Row 5: P2, 2/2 LC, 2/2 RC, p2.

Row 6: Repeat Rest Row.

Repeat Rows 1-6 for pattern.



Xs AND Os

Worked over 12 sts.

Row 1 [RS]: P2, k8, p2.

Row 2 (Rest Row): Knit the Ks and purl the Ps.

Rows 3-4: Repeat Rest Row 2 times.

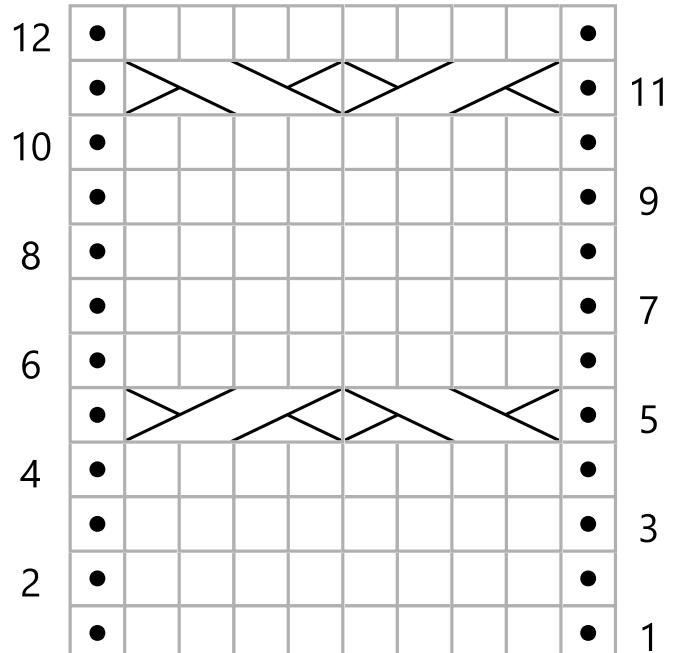
Row 5: P2, 2/2 RC, 2/2 LC, p2.

Rows 6-10: Repeat Rest Row 5 times.

Row 11: P2, 2/2 RC, 2/2 LC, p2.

Row 12: Repeat Rest Row.

Repeat Rows 1-12 for pattern.



MORE ROPE VARIATIONS

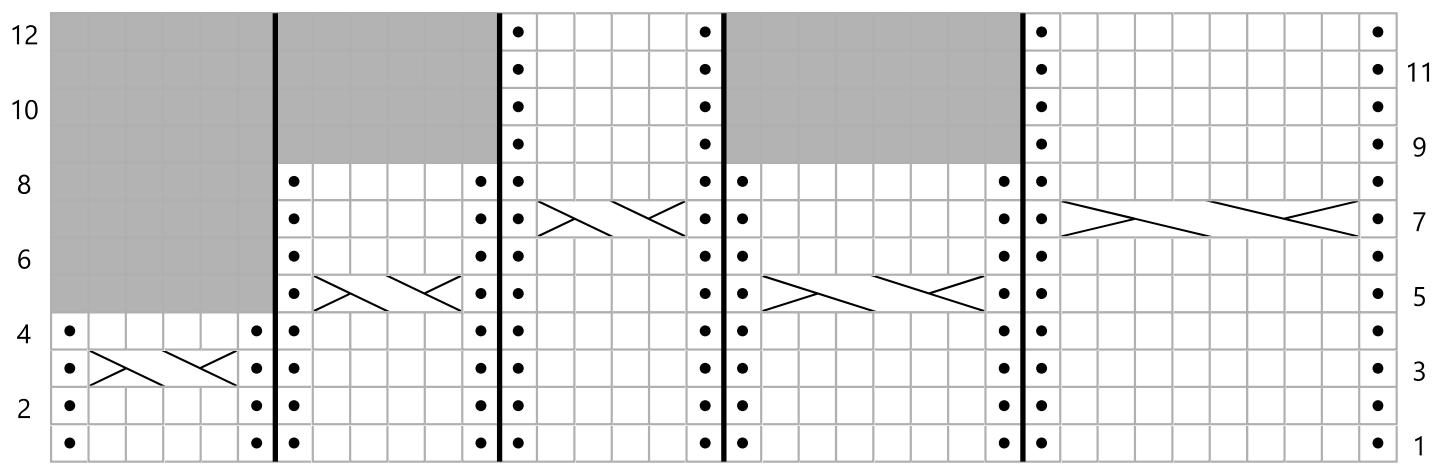
A: 2/2 LC
every 4 rows
(3 rest rows)

B: 2/2 LC
every 8 rows
(7 rest rows)

C: 2/2 LC
every 12 rows
(11 rest rows)

D: 3/3 LC
every 8 rows
(7 rest rows)

E: 4/4 LC
every 12 rows
(11 rest rows)



RS: knit
WS: purl

RS: purl
WS: knit

2/2 LC

3/3 LC

4/4 LC

3-COLUMN BRAID

Worked over 10 sts.

Row 1 [RS]: P2, k6, p2.

Row 2 (Rest Row): Knit the Ks and purl the Ps.

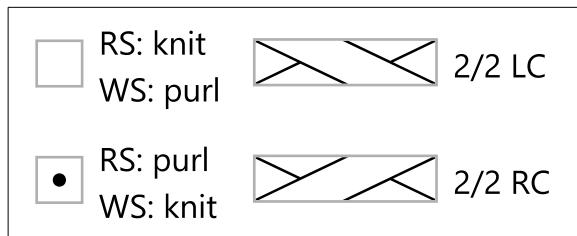
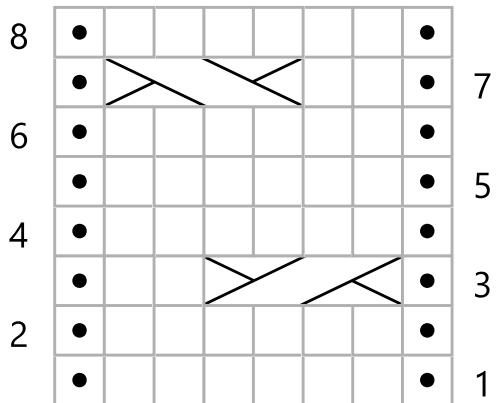
Row 3: P2, 2/2 RC, k2, p2.

Rows 4-6: Repeat Rest Row 3 times.

Row 7: P2, k2, 2/2 LC, p2.

Row 8: Repeat Rest Row.

Repeat Rows 1-8 for pattern.



4-COLUMN BRAID

Worked over 12 sts.

Row 1 [RS]: P2, k8, p2.

Row 2 (Rest Row): Knit the Ks and purl the Ps.

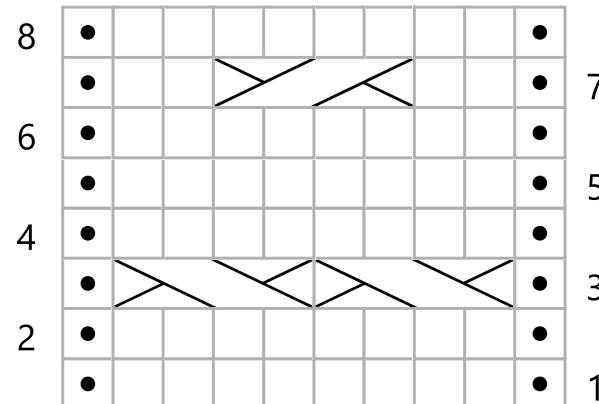
Row 3: P2, 2/2 LC 2 times, p2.

Rows 4-6: Repeat Rest Row 3 times.

Row 7: P2, k2, 2/2 RC, k2, p2.

Row 8: Repeat Rest Row.

Repeat Rows 1-8 for pattern.



Class swatch, continued:
Work Rows 3-12 of
Traveling Cables pattern.

TRAVELING CABLES

Worked over 24 sts.

Row 1: K2, p4, 2/2 LC, p4, 2/2 RC,
p4, k2.

Row 2 & all WS rows (Rest Row):

Knit the Ks and purl the Ps.

Row 3: K2, p3, 2/1 RPC, 2/1 LPC,
p2, 2/1 RPC, 2/1 LPC, p3, k2.

Row 5: K2, p2, 2/1 RPC, p2, 2/1 LPC,
2/1 RPC, p2, 2/1 LPC, p2, k2.

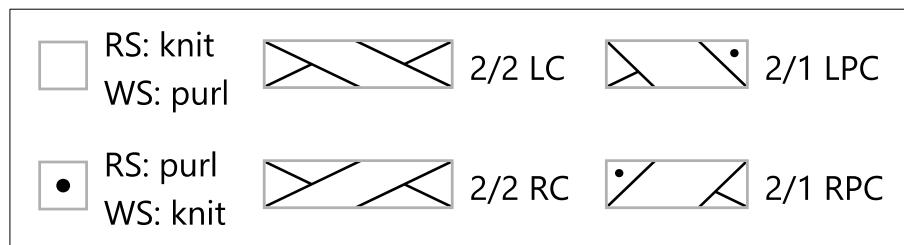
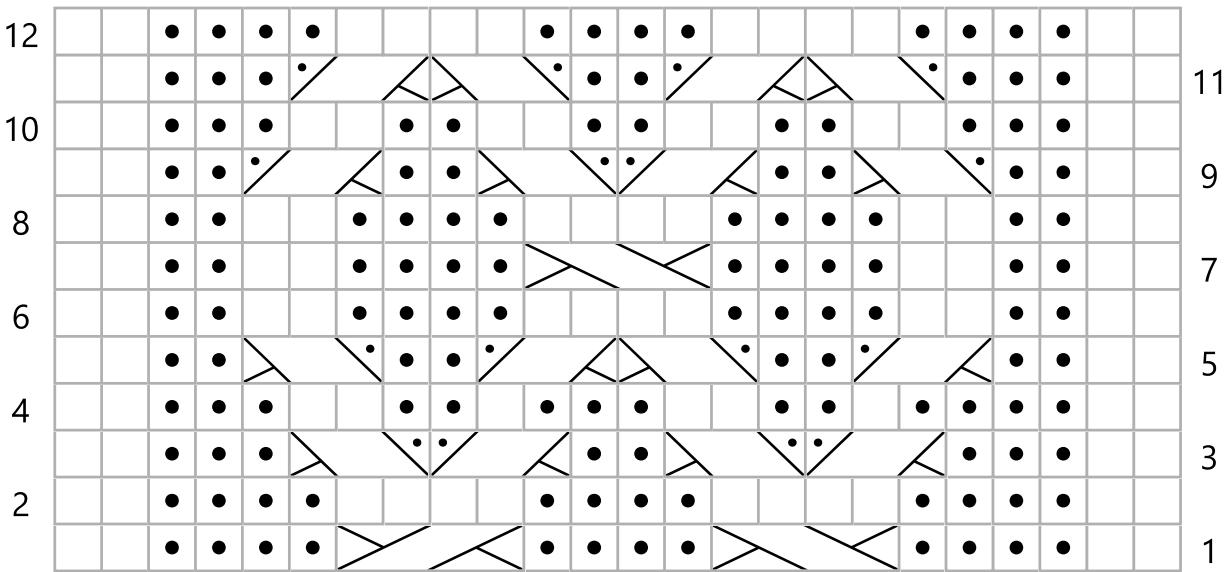
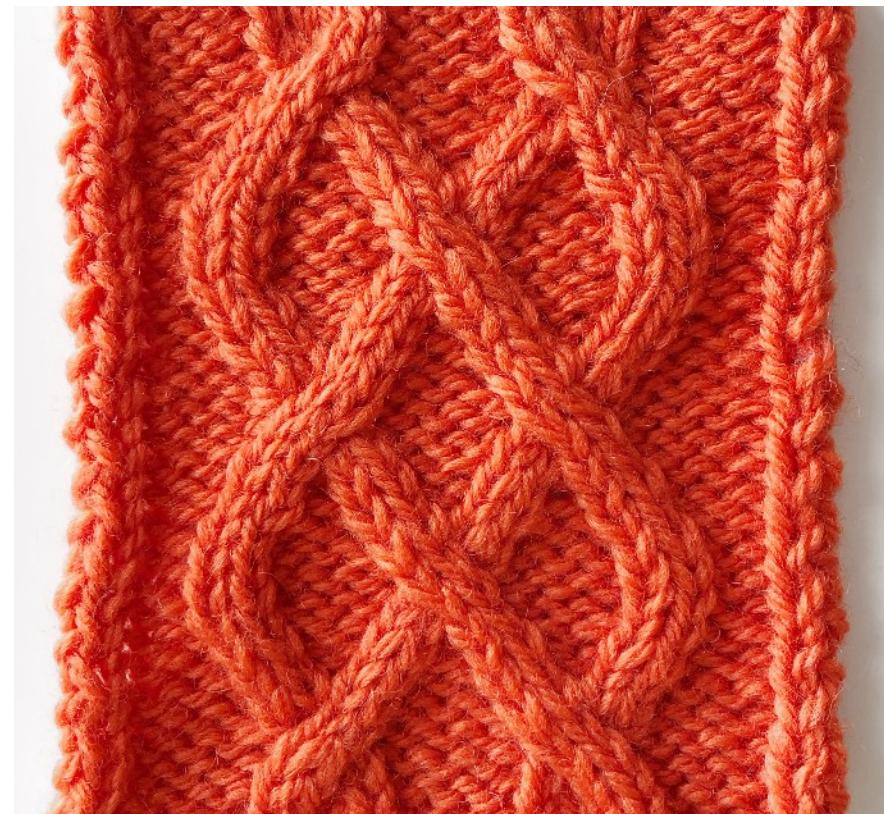
Row 7: K2, p2, k2, p4, 2/2 LC, p4, k2,
p2, k2.

Row 9: K2, p2, 2/1 LPC, p2, 2/1 RPC,
2/1 LPC, p2, 2/1 RPC, p2, k2.

Row 11: K2, p3, 2/1 LPC, 2/1 RPC,
p2, 2/1 LPC, 2/1 RPC, p3, k2.

Row 12: Repeat Rest Row.

Repeat Rows 1-12 for pattern.



Class swatch, continued:
Work Rows 5-12 of
Disappearing Cables pattern.

DISAPPEARING CABLES

Worked over 24 sts.

Row 1 [RS]: K2, p3, (k2, p2) 4 times, p1, k2.

Row 2 & all WS rows (Rest Row): Knit the Ks and purl the Ps.

Row 3: K2, p3, 2/1 LPC, 2/1 RPC, p2, 2/1 LPC, 2/1 RPC, p3, k2.

Row 5: K2, p4, 2/2 LPC, p4, 2/2 RPC, p4, k2.

Rows 6-10: Repeat Rest Row 5 times.

Row 11: K2, p4, 2/2 RC, p4, 2/2 LC, p4, k2.

Row 13: K2, p3, 2/1 RPC, 2/1 LPC, p2, 2/1 RPC, 2/1 LPC, p3, k2.

Rows 14-18: Repeat Rest Row 5 times.

Row 19: K2, p3, 2/1 LPC, 2/1 RPC, p2, 2/1 LPC, 2/1 RPC, p3, k2.

Row 21: K2, p4, 2/2 RPC, p4, 2/2 LPC, p4, k2.

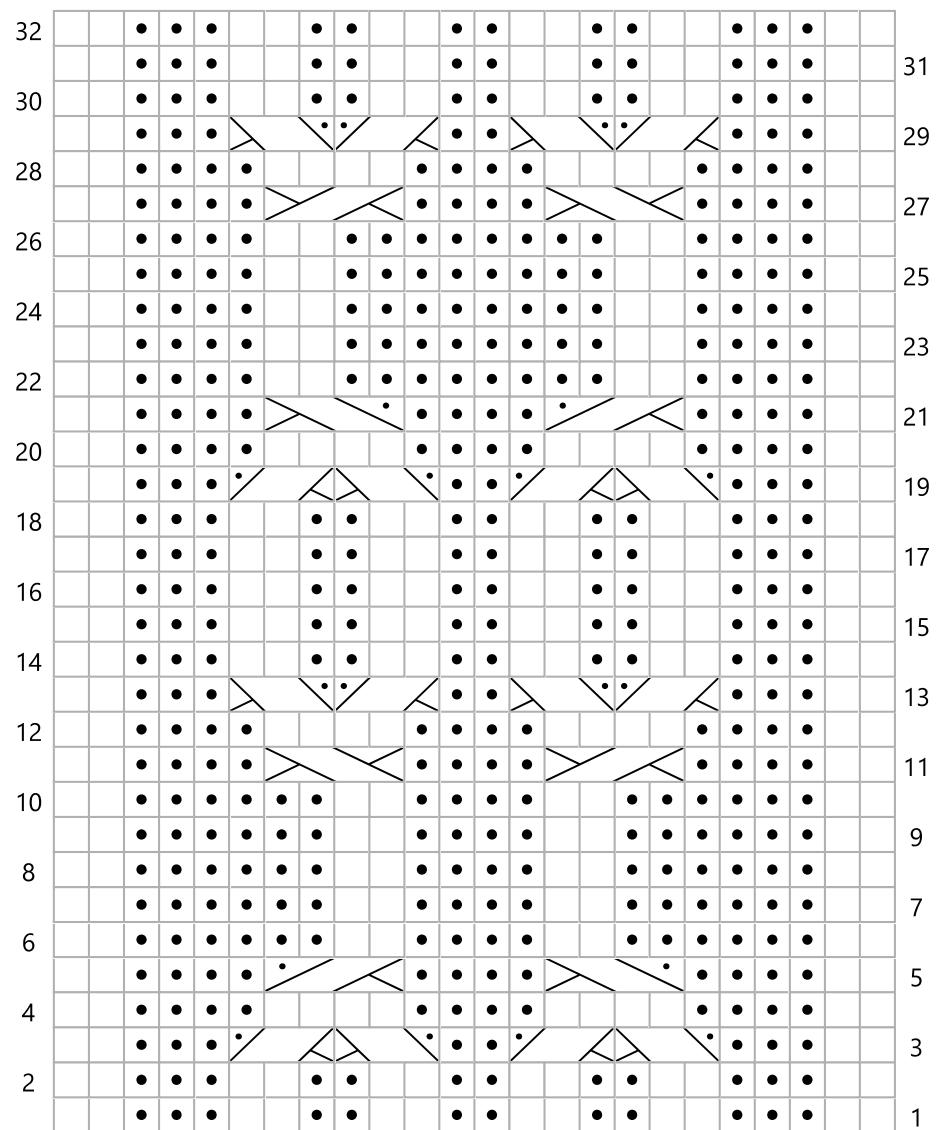
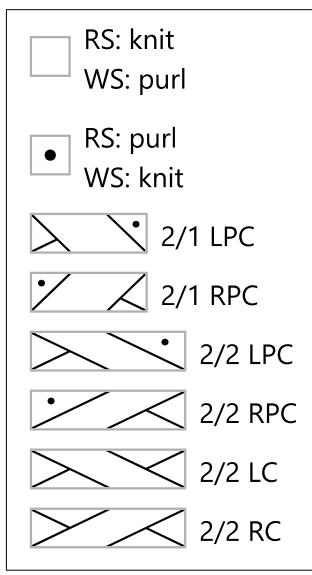
Rows 22-26: Repeat Rest Row 5 times.

Row 27: K2, p4, 2/2 LC, p4, 2/2 RC, p4, k2.

Row 29: K2, p3, 2/1 RPC, 2/1 LPC, p2, 2/1 RPC, 2/1 LPC, p3, k2.

Rows 30-32: Repeat Rest Row 3 times.

Repeat Rows 1-32 for pattern.



MORE TO EXPLORE

- Cabling without a cable needle
- Reversible cables
- Infinite Celtic cables
- Axis cables

RECOMMENDED READING

- *Knitted Cable Sourcebook* by Norah Gaughan
- *Celtic Cable Shawls* by Lucy Hague
- *Inspired Cable Knits* by Fiona Ellis

