

Twelve Days of Knitmas

a mystery knit-along
designed by **melissa kemmerer**
for **Nomadic Knits**



Thanks so much for joining us on the Twelve Days of Knitmas Mystery Knit-Along!

Beginning December 26th, you'll receive one clue each day for twelve days. The clues will be added to your Ravelry library. Sign up for our [email list](#) and you'll get the clues right in your inbox. Email subscribers will get added bonuses, including some delicious cocktail recipes from our collection, so sign up now!

While the pattern will remain a mystery until December 26th, here's what you need to know to get ready:

Day Zero

Sizes: 8" x 108" (24" x 108")/ 20.5cm x 275cm (61cm x 275cm), or length as desired.

Needles: US 5/ 3.75mm or size to obtain gauge in SS, and US 6/ 4.0cm or size to obtain gauge in colorwork.

*It is recommended to change needle sizes if you are new to colorwork (the pattern is simple, don't worry!) or have tighter stitches when knitting colorwork.

Gauge: 26 stitches and 36 rows = 4"/ 10cm over Stockinette stitch and over colorwork.

Yarn: fingering weight in four colors; 117 yards/ 107 meters (350 yards/ 321 meters) of each color.

Notions: stitch markers, tapestry needle.

Samples knit in: Nomadic Knits Twelve Days of Knitmas 2021 kits in Team Melissa and Team Becky.

Can you help me choose colorway combinations?

Sure! We've curated two kits on our website: Team Becky and Team Melissa.

For stash divers, here's a guide for creating your own combination:

Color 1: a bold solid/ semi-solid color.

Color 2: a speckled colorway - best if the speckles include bits of Colors 1, 3, and 4.

Color 3: another solid/ semi-solid color, with or without some more speckles.

Color 4: a soft neutral color.

All colorways should be in similar weight (fingering), but let's mix up those bases! Merino, merino-nylon, merino-nylon-cashmere, single ply, two ply, four ply, bring it all!

Please remember - this is just knitting and there are no hard and fast rules for color selections. Choose what makes your heart happy.

Don't be intimidated by the long list of abbreviations; we won't be using all of them.

We hope you'll join our [Facebook group](#) to knit along with us! We'll be having tons of fun and giving away awesome prizes.

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Day One - Lumps of coal...

This stitch pattern was borrowed from the Lumpy Hat and Socks which will be introduced in issue eleven : head over heels. It's a variable ribbing that changes from 1x1 to 2x2, with the knits and purls shifting their positions every fourth row. There's a gentle rhythm that emanates from my fingers as I knit ribbing, and changing this up every few rows keeps my mind engaged enough to be interesting, but not too much that I can't socialize with my lingering Christmas guests or catch up on my favorite shows.

Notes: The pattern directions are written as: scarf (shawl). For example, CO 100 (300) means the scarf knitters CO 100 and the shawl knitters CO 300. This notation will be used throughout the pattern.

Each section of the pattern will include the approximate weight (in grams) used for that section. We did this to help you determine how much wiggle room you have for modifying the pattern if you decide to add length, skip a day, sub in colors, etc.

The edges of the scarf and shawl are worked in faux i-cord - slipping the last 3 sts with the yarn in front every row - to create a clean border. Join the next color before slipping the last 3 sts of the row before by laying the yarn between the needles with the tail sticking out the RS of the work. Don't stress if you haven't done it before; it's easy!

Most of all, have fun!

It's cast-on day!

Directions

Using C1 and gauge needles (the smaller ones), cast on 100 (300) sts using the cable cast-on or your favorite not-very-stretchy CO.

Setup Row (WS): k2tog x 3, [k2tog, p2tog] to last 6 sts, k2tog x 3. 50 (150) sts.

Note: Place a removable stitch marker (progress keeper) on one of the first few stitches in the next row to mark the RS. Use it to keep track of your daily progress by moving it to your daily starting row, if you wish.

Refer to written directions or chart below.

Row 1 (RS): k3, work Row 1 of Lumpy Stitch pattern to last 3 sts, sl 3 wyif.

Row 2 (WS): k3, work next row of Lumpy Stitch pattern to last 3 sts, sl 3 wyif.

Work in established pattern of Row 2, working the next row of Lumpy Stitch pattern with faux i-cord edging, until you have worked Rows 1 - 16 twice and then Rows 1 - 8 once more. Cut C1.

Using C2:

Maintaining edge pattern, work Lumpy Stitch Rows 9 & 10. Cut C2.

Using C3:

Maintaining edge pattern, work Lumpy Stitch Rows 11 - 16, then Rows 1 - 8. Cut C3.

Lumpy Stitch Pattern

Row 1 (RS): [k1, p1] across.

Row 2 (WS): [k1, p1] across.

Rows 3 & 4: as Rows 1 & 2.

Row 5: [k2, p2] across.

Row 6: [k2, p2] across.

Rows 7 & 8: as Rows 5 & 6.

Row 9: [p1, k1] across.

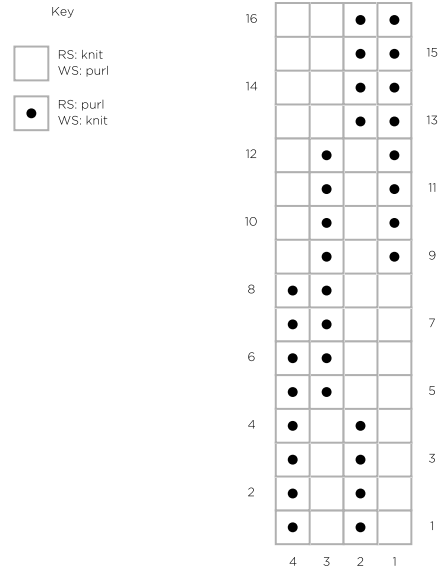
Row 10: [p1, k1] across.

Rows 11 & 12: as Rows 9 & 10.

Row 13: [p2, k2] across.

Row 14: [p2, k2] across.

Rows 15 & 16: as Rows 13 & 14.



Yarn used:

Approximately 3 grams for every 15 (5) rows.

C1 - 8 (24) grams

C2 - 0.5 (1.5) grams

C3 - 3 (8.5) grams

C4 - 0 grams

Day Two...

Notes: Now we're going to add a few garter stitches to each edge to keep the scarf (shawl) from rolling at the edges. When directed to carry a color, you can hide it inside the i-cord edging as follows: after turning your work to the RS, pass the working yarn under the carried color then knit your first 3 sts and again pass the working yarn under the carried yarn. This technique tucks it away inside the i-cord as you go.

[k1, p1] - any time you see brackets [] around a set of directions, it means you will repeat those directions.

Directions

Using C2:

Setup Row (RS): k5, pm, k to last 5 sts, pm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Next row (WS): k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 1: k5, sm, k to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 2: k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Work Rows 1 & 2 two more times. 8 rows total of SS. Carry C2 inside the i-cord edge.

Using C3:

Row 1 (RS): k5, sm, k to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 2 (WS): k5, sm, [k1, p1] to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 3: k5, sm, [k1, p1] to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Work Rows 2 & 3 once more.

Next row (WS): k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif. Cut C3.

Using C2:

Row 1: k5, sm, k to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 2: k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Work Rows 1 & 2 three more times. 8 rows total of SS. Carry C2 inside the i-cord edge.

Using C3:

Row 1 (RS): k5, sm, k to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 2 (WS): k5, sm, [k1, p1] to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 3: k5, sm, [k1, p1] to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Work Rows 2 & 3 once more.

Next row (WS): k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif. Cut C3.

Using C2:

Row 1: k5, sm, k to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 2: k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Work Rows 1 & 2 three more times. 8 rows total of SS. Cut C2.

Yarn used:

C1 - 0 grams

C2 - 5 (15) grams

C3 - 2 (6) grams

C4 - 0 grams

*Day Three - The best presents come in
Little Boxes...*

This stitch pattern may appear familiar from the *Don't Be A Square* cowl from issue nine : iowa / nebraska, and you'll see it again in issue eleven : head over heels in a collection of socks, hat, and coozie called *Little Boxes*.

Notes: This section is stranded colorwork, often called Fair Isle. You will be working with two colors / two strands of yarn on each row of colorwork. As you work across the row, loosely carry the color you are not working on the WS of the work. When knitting a RS row, these strands will be in the back; when knitting a WS row, the strands will be in the front. To keep your tension even, avoid tugging on the carried yarn when you change colors.

Directions for this section are written out, and a chart is included for your reference. The chart does not have a color key because you will be working through it with multiple color combinations. The color changes are described in the written directions.

For the neatest appearance on the WS, be consistent with which strand is on top and bottom. The strand on the bottom will appear slightly more prominent in the colorwork, so I typically choose the top strand for the background color. For example, in the first colorwork row below, carry the C2 strand below the C3 strand as you work across the row. When you finish working a colorwork row, just drop the strand to the WS; it will be right where you need it to work the next row.

This section uses all four colorways. If your colorways don't give enough contrast to work all of the combinations, feel free to skip those that don't, working a shorter section.

We recommend changing needle sizes at each colorwork section, specifically going up in size by 1 increment (for example, if you've been knitting with a US 5/ 3.75mm, go up to a US 6/ 4.0mm); the pattern will direct you when to do it.

If this is your first foray into colorwork, know that we're incredibly proud of you!

Directions

Using C3:

Row 1: k5, sm, k to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 2: k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Work Rows 1 & 2 once more. 4 rows SS.

Switch to larger needles.

Add C2 and follow written directions or chart (Rows 1 - 6, then 1 - 3) below:

Row 1 (RS): k5 with C3, sm, k2 (1) with C3, [k3 with C2, k3 with C3] to 2 (1) sts before marker, k2 (1) with C3, sm, k2 with C3, sl 3 wyif.

Row 2 (WS): k5 with C3, sm, p2 (1) with C3, [p1 with C3, p1 with C2] to 2 (1) sts before marker, p2 (1) with C3, sm, k2 with C3, sl 3 wyif.

Row 3: as Row 1.

Row 4: k5 with C3, sm, p2 (1) with C3, [p3 with C2, p3 with C3] to 2 (1) sts before marker, p2 (1) with C3, sm, k2 with C3, sl 3 wyif.

Row 5: k5 with C3, sm, k2 (1) with C3, [k1 with C3, k1 with C2] to 2 (1) sts before marker, k2 (1) with C3, sm, k2 with C3, sl 3 wyif.

Row 6: as Row 4.

Row 7: as Row 1.

Row 8: as Row 2.

Row 9: as Row 1. Cut C2.

Switch to smaller needles.

Using C3:

Next row (WS): k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 1: k5, sm, k to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 2: k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Work Rows 1 & 2 once more. 5 rows SS.

Switch to larger needles.

Add C2 and follow written directions or chart (Rows 1 - 3) below:

Row 1 (RS): k5 with C3, sm, k2 (1) with C3, [k3 with C2, k3 with C3] to 2 (1) sts before marker, k2 (1) with C3, sm, k2 with C3, sl 3 wyif.

Row 2 (WS): k5 with C3, p2 (1) with C3, [p1 with C3, p1 with C2] to 2 (1) sts before marker, p2 (1) with C3, sm, k2 with C3, sl 3 wyif.

Row 3: as Row 1. Cut C3.

Switch to smaller needles.

Using C2:

Next row (WS): k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 1: k5, sm, k to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 2: k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Work Rows 1 & 2 once more. 5 rows SS.

Switch to larger needles.

Add C1 and follow written directions or chart (Rows 1 - 3) below:

Row 1 (RS): k5 with C2, sm, k2 (1) with C2, [k3 with C1, k3 with C2] to 2 (1) sts before marker, k2 (1) with C2, sm, k2 with C2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 2 (WS): k5 with C2, sm, p2 (1) with C2, [p1 with C2, p1 with C1] to 2 (1) sts before marker, p2 (1) with C2, sm, k2 with C2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 3: as Row 1. Cut C2.

Switch to smaller needles.

Using C1:

Next row (WS): k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 1: k5, sm, k to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 2: k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Work Rows 1 & 2 once more. 5 rows SS.

Switch to larger needles.

Add C4 and follow written directions or chart (Rows 1 - 3) below:

Row 1 (RS): k5 with C1, sm, k2 (1) with C1, [k3 with C1, k3 with C4] to 2 (1) sts before marker, k2 (1) with C1, sm, k2 with C1, sl 3 wyif.

Row 2 (WS): k5 with C1, sm, p2 (1) with C1, [p1 with C4, p1 with C1] to 2 (1) sts before marker, p2 (1) with C1, sm, k2 with C1, sl 3 wyif.

Row 3: as Row 1. Cut C1.

Switch to smaller needles.

Using C4:

Next row (WS): k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 1: k5, sm, k to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 2: k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Work Rows 1 & 2 once more. 5 rows SS.

Switch to larger needles.

Add C1 and follow written directions or chart (Rows 1 - 6, then 1 - 3) below:

Row 1 (RS): k5 with C4, sm, k2 (1) with C4, [k3 with C1, k3 with C4] to 2 (1) sts before marker, k2 (1) with C4, sm, k2 with C4, sl 3 wyif.

Row 2 (WS): k5 with C4, sm, p2 (1) with C4, [p1 with C4, p1 with C1] to 2 (1) sts before marker, p2 (1) with C4, sm, k2 with C4, sl 3 wyif.

Row 3: as Row 1.

Row 4: k5 with C4, sm, p2 (1) with C4, [p3 with C1, p3 with C4] to 2 (1) sts before marker, p2 (1) with C4, sm, k2 with C4, sl 3 wyif.

Row 5: k5 with C4, sm, k2 (1) with C4, [k1 with C4, k1 with C1] to 2 (1) sts before marker, k2 (1) with C4, sm, k2 with C4, sl 3 wyif.

Row 6: as Row 4.

Row 7: as Row 1.

Row 8: as Row 2.

Row 9: as Row 1. Cut C1.

Switch to smaller needles.

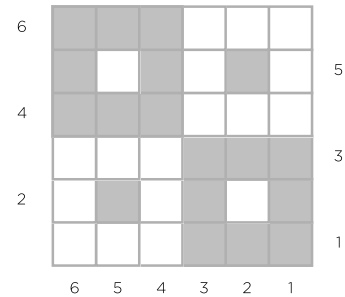
Using C4:

Next row (WS): k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 1: k5, sm, k to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 2: k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Work Rows 1 & 2 once more. 5 rows SS. Cut C4.



Yarn used:

C1 - 4 (12) grams

C2 - 2.25 (6.5) grams

C3 - 4.25 (12.5) grams

C4 - 4.5 (13) grams

Day Four - Stripes

Today is an easy day, filled with simple Stockinette stitch worked in stripes. After yesterday's venture into colorwork, you can take today to relax and let your mind wander while your fingers do all the work. The striped pattern was inspired by Sierra Morningstar's *Migration* cardigan from *issue nine : iowa / nebraska*.

Using C2

Row 1: k5, sm, k to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 2: k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Work Rows 1 & 2 three more times (8 rows). Carry C2 inside the i-cord edge.

Using C3

Work Rows 1 & 2 three times (6 rows). Carry C3 inside the i-cord edge.

Using C2

Work Rows 1 & 2 twice (4 rows). Cut C2.

Using C3

Work Rows 1 & 2 three times (6 rows). Cut C3.

Using C1

Work Rows 1 & 2 six times (12 rows). Cut C1.

Using C3

Work Rows 1 & 2 three times (6 rows). Carry C3 inside the i-cord edge.

Using C2

Work Rows 1 & 2 twice (4 rows). Carry C2 inside the i-cord edge.

Using C3

Work Rows 1 & 2 three times (6 rows). Cut C3.

Using C2

Work Rows 1 & 2 four times (8 rows). Cut C2.

Yarn used:

- C1 - 2.5 (7.5) grams
- C2 - 5 (14.5) grams
- C3 - 5 (14.5) grams
- C4 - 0 grams

Yarn used:

- C1 - 0 grams
- C2 - 0 grams
- C3 - 0 grams
- C4 - 10 (30) grams

Day Five - Tumbleweed Lace

This beautiful lace pattern was borrowed from Rose Beck's *Tumbleweed* sweater from *issue ten : texas*. The delicate design was used at the hem of the sweater as a lovely accent, and it's stacked here to create a completely different look. If you love it and are working with full skeins of yarn, keep knitting more repeats! If you find yourself struggling with the lace, skip it and work a different stitch pattern with C4.

Note: Directions inside of brackets [] are also shown in the chart.

Hint: place marker after each repeat in Row 1 to make the chart easier to follow.

Directions

Using C4:

Next row (RS): k5, sm, k to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Next row (WS): k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 1: k5, sm, [yo, k3, sk2p, k3, yo, k1] to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 2 and all WS rows: k5, purl to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

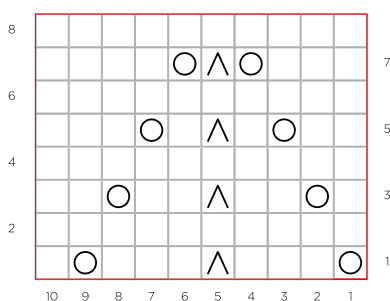
Row 3: k5, sm, [k1, yo, k2, sk2p, k2, yo, k2] to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 5: k5, sm, [k2, yo, k1, sk2p, k1, yo, k3] to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 7: k5, sm, [k3, yo, sk2p, yo, k4] to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Row 8: k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k2, sl 3 wyif.

Work Rows 1 - 8 five more times.



ABBREVIATIONS

BO
bind off

BOR
beginning of round

C1 - C4
colors 1 - 4

cn
cable needle

CC
contrasting color

CO
cast on

dec'd
decreased

DPN
double-pointed needle

GS
garter stitch

GSR
German short row

inc'd
increased

k
knit

KFB
knit 1 into front and back of a stitch;
single knit increase

ktbl
knit through back loop

k1b
knit 1 below

k2tog
knit 2 stitches together; single right-
leaning decrease

k3tog
knit 3 stitches together; double right-
leaning decrease

LH
left hand

m
marker

m1
make one stitch knitwise; single knit
increase

m1P
make one stitch purlwise

m1R
make one right; single right-leaning knit
increase

m1L
make one left; single left-leaning knit
increase

MC
main color

N
needle

p
purl

PFB
purl 1 into front and back of a stitch;
single purl increase

pm
place marker

p2tog
purl 2 stitches together; single decrease

pssso
pass slipped stitch over

ptbl
purl through back loop

rep
repeat

RH
right hand

rnd(s)
round(s)

RS
right side

sl
slip stitch purlwise

sl 3 wyif
slip 3 stitches with yarn in front (this
means the side facing you as you're
knitting)

skpo
slip 1 knitwise, knit 1, pass slipped st over

sk2p
slip the next stitch knitwise, k the next 2
sts together, then take the slipped stitch
and pass it over the k2tog stitch, letting
it drop off the needle. 2 sts dec'd.

sm
slip marker

ssk
slip 2 stitches knitwise, knit these 2
stitches together through back loops;
single left-leaning decrease

st
stitch

sts
stitches

SS
stockinette stitch

tbl
through back loop

tog
together

WS
wrong side

w&t
wrap and turn

wyib
with yarn in back

wyif
with yarn in front

yo
yarn over

1x1 ribbing
(k1, p1) repeat