



ABC Cloths

A knitting guide for the less experienced

A-E

ABC: Cloths

Like never before, we are knitting cloths, at least for two reasons:

- A. We would like to give a small contribution to avoid micro plastic in our environment.
- B. It is a small manageable piece of knitting, where everybody who can knit and purl can join.

The purpose of ABC: Cloths is to add an extra point to the list:

- C. To give it a try and practice new knitting challenges, with room for an error here and there: It is only a cloth.

Depending on you temper, you can use the cloths for many different things. Maybe somebody will choose to use the cloths with lace pattern for washcloths and the more solid once for dishcloth or other housekeeping purposes. But normally cloths are knitted in cotton or perhaps linen, and that makes them quite durable, lace pattern or not. And if something went wrong, and the holes in a cloth get too big, you can just knit another one and try one more pattern.

Contents

- Description for five cloths: Abbild, Braris, Cimbria, Dule and Elhem. The difficulty is getting higher as you go on.
- Patterns described with words and diagrams. You just choose what you prefer.
- Stich guide (e.g. what does K2Tog mean and how do I knit it?)
- Tips and trick for situations like: HELP ME – I have made an error. What to do now???

You will need

Knitting needles size 2 ½ or 3. If you don't know what to choose, I'll suggest 3 for the first cloth, and then you can choose if you want your cloths to be firmer or looser in the knitting, when the cloths is finished.

Cotton yarn 8/4: Yardage between 150-200 meter (160-220 yards) is a good choice. The label will show this information. This is the most common kind of cotton yarn and is available almost everywhere in many, many colors. 50 g is plenty for a cloth.

Needle: To weave in loose ends.

And

I have not informed about the size of the cloths. It depends on the yarn used and the size of the needles. The pattern also means a lot for how wide 80 stiches will end up in the real world.

The once on the pictures are what I would say is normal (Scandinavian) size of a dishcloth, but especially Elhem is a bit bigger.

You can easily change the size by removing or adding the repetitions of the pattern for the width and the height. But I suggest you knit at least the first on, just as described.

Odd names? Abbild, Braris, Cimbria, Dule, Elhem and names from other of my patterns are all old Danish place names.

Strikstriksrik – means knitknitknit in Danish.

Languages: Yes – I know. English is not my native language. You are welcome to suggest better wording, and I'll use it for the next update and my future work. Send a mail to strik@strikstriksrik.dk

Abbild

Abbild is a simple cloth without too much frills. Here you can start to practice how to follow a pattern when you knit, and if you are an experienced knitter you can perhaps read a book while knitting (perhaps an audiobook).



Edge: Cast on 80 stitches. Knit 10 rows.

Pattern

(Here you can choose to look at the diagram):

Row 1: Knit 5 (stiches for the edge) (**Purl 5, knit 5**). Repeat the bracket (**in red**) 7 times in total. End the row with knit 5 (Edge stiches)

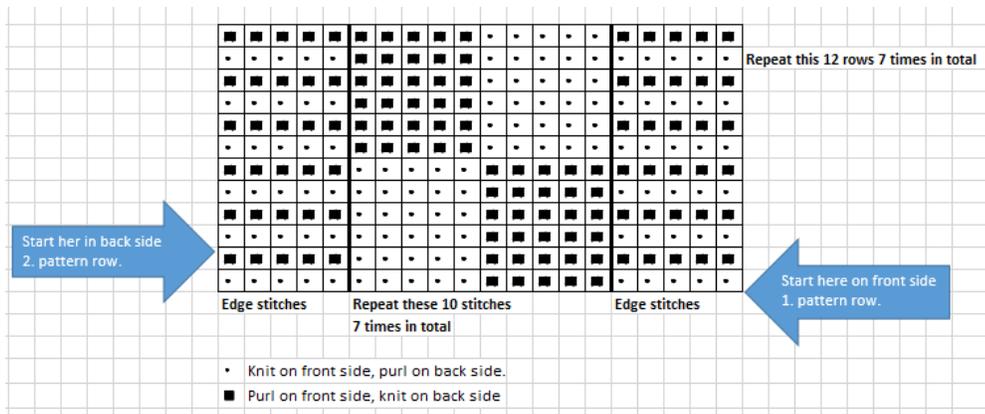
2.-6. Rows. As row 1, except for the 5 edge stitches, they should always be knitted.

7. Row: Knit 5 (Edge stiches): (**knit 5, purl 5**). Repeat the bracket (**in green**) 7 times in total. End up with knit 5 (the edge stiches)

8-12. Row: As row 7

Repeat these 12 rows 7 times in total. Then you can now count 14 rows of squares.

Edge: Knit 10 rows and cast off. Make sure the cast off is not too tight.



Braris

At first sight Braris looks quite simple. Only knit and purl are used, but you have to take care while knitting. The pattern is knitted from the back, but is much easier to see at the front-site.

However, the far most of the stiches are knitted, not purled, for most knitters this is an advantage.



Edge

Cast on 81 stitches

Knit 10 rows

Pattern (See also the diagram in the end of the instructions for Braris):

1. Row: Knit

2. Row: K5 (edge), P1 (K1, P4) repeat the red bracket in total 14 times. End up with knit 5 (edge) – remember the stich guide

3. Row: Knit

4. Row: K5 (edge), P1, (K2, P3) repeat the red bracket in total 14 times. End up with K5 (edge)

5. Row. Knit

6. row: K5 (edge), P1, (K3, P2) repeat the red bracket in total 14 times. End up with K5 (edge)

7. row. Knit

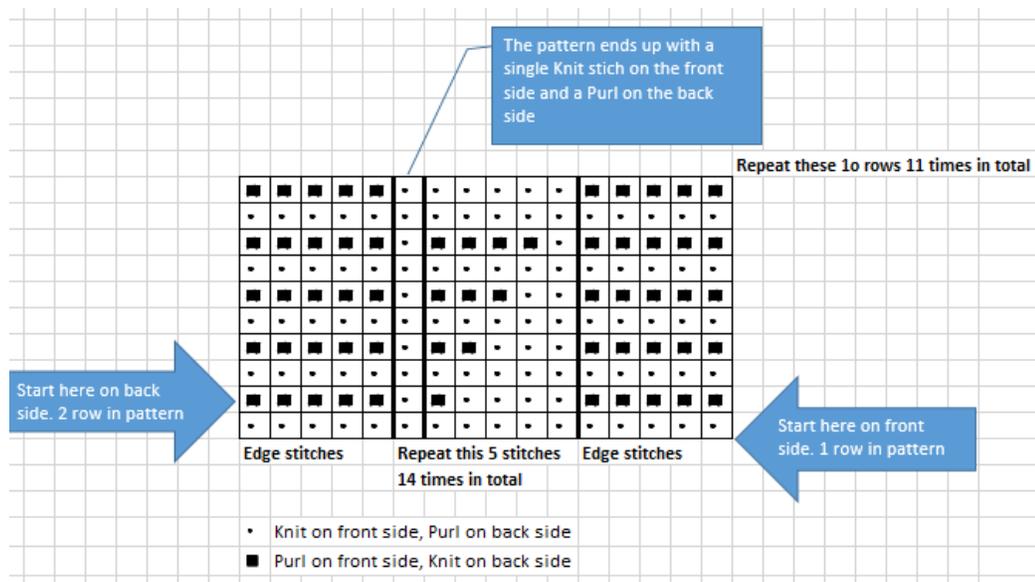
8. row: K5 (edge), P1, (K4, P1) repeat the red bracket in total 14 times. End up with K5 (edge)

9. Row. Knit

10. Row. Knit

Repeat this 10 rows, in total 11 times.

Edge: Knit 10 rows and cast off. Make sure the cast off is not too tight.



Cimbria

The lace pattern on Cimbria is simple and distinctive at the same time. There are only two rows to be repeated in the pattern. That makes it a good start, if this is first time you try to knit a lace pattern.



Edge:

Cast on 81 stitches.

Knit 10 rows

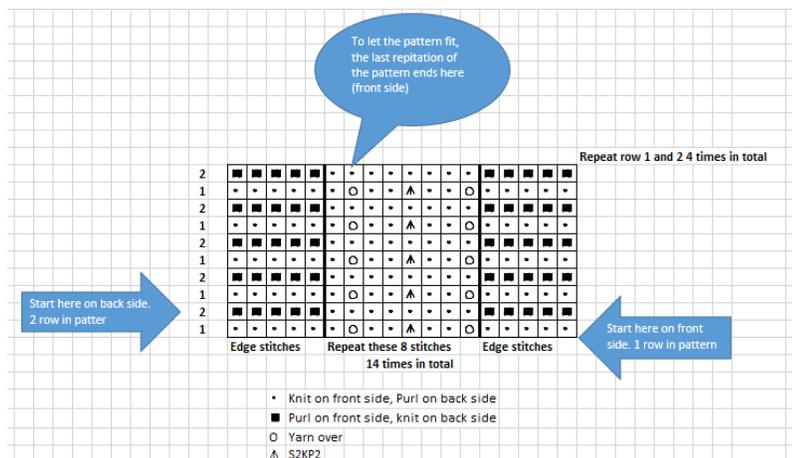
Pattern

Row 1: K5 (edge). (yo, K2, S2KP2, K2, yo, K1) repeat the red bracket 8 times. End the row like this: yo, K2, S2KP2, K2, yo. K5 (edge). (Don't panic, look into the stitch guide)

Row 2: K5 (edge), P71, K5 (edge)

Repeat these 2 rows, 40 times in total

Edge: Knit 10 rows and cast off. Make sure the cast off is not too tight.



Dule

The lace pattern on Dule, is a bit more difficult to knit than the pattern on Cimbria, but after a while, you'll be able to see and understand the pattern while it is growing. This makes it much easier.

Remember: This is just a cloth. If you make an error or perhaps many, nobody will notice, when the cloth is used for cleaning kitchen table. But you have learned something new.



Edge:

Cast on 82. Knit 10 rows.

Pattern

Row 1: K5 (edge). (yo, SKP, K6), repeat in total 9 times. End up with K5 (edge)

Row 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10: K5, P72, K5

Row 3: K5 (K1, yo, SKP, K3, K2tog, yo), repeat in total 9 times. K5

Row 5: K5 (K2, yo, SKP, K1, K2tog, yo, K1) repeat 9 times in total. K5

Row 7: K5. (K3, yo, S2KP2, yo, K2) repeat 9 times in total. K5

Row 9: K5. (K3, K2tog, yo, K3), repeat in total 9 times. K5

Edge: Knit 10 rows and cast off. Make sure the cast off is not too tight.

Elhem

Elhem combines lace-pattern with use of knit and purl. Here you can use what you have learned in A, B, C and D.

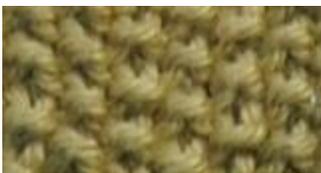


If the result is not as the photo, remember this only a cloth ;->

Edge:

Cast on 85 stitches.

Knit 8 rows of bead knitting. Because of the unequal number of stitches all rows are knit the same way:



Row: (K₁, P₁), repeat for the rest of the row. End with K₁

Pattern

Row 1: K₁, P₁, K₁, P₁, K₁ (edge). P₅, K₂ (K₃, P₇, K₂) repeat 5 times in total. Then K₃, P₅ and the edge K₁, P₁, K₁, P₁, K₁

Row 2, 4, 6 and 8: 5 edge sts, P₇, 5 edge sts

Row 3: 5 edge sts. P₃, P₂tog, K₂, yo (K₁, yo, K₂, P₂, P₃tog, P₂, K₂, yo) repeat 5 times in total. K₁, 5 edge sts.

Row 5: 5 edge sts. P₂, P₂tog, K₂, yo, K₁ (K₂, yo, K₂, P₁, P₃tog, P₁, K₂, yo, K₁) repeat 5 times in total. K₂, yo, K₂ P₂tog, p₂. 5 edge sts.

Row 7: 5 edge sts. P₁, P₂tog, K₂, yo, K₂ (K₃, yo, K₂, P₃tog, K₂, yo, K₂) repeat 5 times in total. K₃, yo, K₂, P₂tog, P₁, 5 edge sts.

Repeat this 8 rows 11 times in total.

Edge: 8 rows of bead knitting. Cast off.

Stitch guide

A picture is worth a thousand words – a video is even better.

If you don't know how to knit, yarn over or something else, the internet is full of small videos showing you how to. Using your favorite search engine, write e.g. "yo knit YouTube" and the help is here. Most of the videos are very good.

But – I'll try in words:

K = Knit e.g. K7 means Knit 7 stitches.

P = Purl e.g. P4 means Purl 4 stitches.

P2tog = Insert the needle through the next 2 stitches as if to purl. Purl together. 2 stitches are now 1.

P3tog = Insert the needle through the next 3 stitches as if to purl. Purl together. 3 stitches are now 1.

SKP = Slip next stitch to the right needle, without knitting it, knit the next stitch, Pass the slipped stitch over this. 2 stitches are now 1

S1 = Slip next stitch to the right needle, without knitting it.

Sts = Stitches

S2KP2 = Slip 2 stitches to the other needle without knitting them. Knit the next stitch. Pass the two slipped stitches over this. 3 stitches are now 1.

Yo = Yarn over. Take the yarn over the right needle. You make a new stitch this way and when knitting this new stitch, a hole will appear.

Tips and tricks

Here is a small collection of my own tips and tricks. Using them, a number of problems have been solved on my own knitting, but also for a number of co-knitters, frustrated, throwing their knitting far away.

First of all: Think carefully, before you give up and draw out the needles out of your knitting. If you are knitting lace pattern, think even more, it is very difficult to pick up the stitches correct. Many problems can be solved quite easily.

The sooner you notice errors, the easier it will be to solve the problems. Look carefully if everything looks ok, especially if the pattern looks as on the picture. If not, something can be wrong.

AND – if you see an error, correct it right away. I'm sure piles of unfinished knitting are waiting (perhaps forever) for an error to be corrected. This is a bad knitting experience – also for the knitter.

My knitting is uneven, bumpy, etc..

Don't bother!

If you are an unexperienced knitter it is hard to knit nice and even. You'll learn by practice. If you use yarn, that has earlier been knitted, it can give the same uneven look.

The trick is to let the yarn get the possibility to straighten out. After the first wash, must likely it looks much better (remember to follow the instruction on the label on the yarn). If you don't want to wash it, use a steam iron on full power. Do not press but let the steam do the work. Hot steam does not damage wool or cotton

I have dropped a stitch.

You often realize this, when a stitch is missing and the pattern and number of stitches do not fit. First look carefully how far down you see the stitch (if you can't find it, follow one of the other tricks) and stop knitting directly over the dropped stitch. If it is e.g. 3-4 rows below, you take a crochet hook, and crochet the stitch up through the rows. By crocheting from the front or back, you can make stitches, as if you knit or purl. If it is uneven, it will straighten out when washed. You can use your needle, instead of the crochet hook, but I think it is a bit harder.

This trick is the best of all. Experience will make it possible for you, to solve many problems. If you don't understand my wording, try to search for videos on the internet. Use search words like "Dropped stitch pick up"

If the stitch is dropped far below, it is much worse. As a workaround (but not good!) is to secure the dropped stitch on the back, and close the hole with the yarn used for the knitting. If you are good using a sewing needle – and depending, of pattern, where the problem is etc., it can be an ok solution, but most often not.

Then you have to knit backwards until you reach the problem, or unravel and put the stitches back on the needle as good as possible a few rows before you reach the problem. Then you can knit backwards, the last rows taking care to place the stitches in the right order.

A stitch from a previous row is purled, not knitted, or the other way around

The same solution, as for a dropped stitch. You drop the stitch just above the stitch with problems. Let the stitch run down, until the problem is reached, and crochet the stitch all the way up, the correct way. If the problem is too many rows below, you should consider just to leave it as it is.

Lace pattern: I forgot "yo/yarn over" on the last knitted row, and now a stitch is missing in the pattern.

Almost the same tactics as earlier described. You knit until you are just there, where the stitch is missing.

Now pick up the bar between the stitches on the row where the you forgot "yo" and use the crochet technique on the next row. The hole from the yo will be a bit smaller, and the next stitch will be a bit firmer, but this will straighten out when washed, damped or used.

Lace pattern: I have made a extra yo/yarn over and now I have one stitch too much.

It is an easy one. As long you are only a few rows from where you placed the wrong yo. You just knit to just above where the extra stitch is made by you. Drop it and let it fall down. It MUST be the correct stitch you drop, otherwise you are really into problems ;-> The looseness in the area will straighten out when washed, damped or used.

Something has gone totally wrong some rows behind. The pattern is perhaps dislocated.

Do not draw out the needle, especially if you knit lace pattern!!

Start knitting backwards: Grab the stitches just knitted and put them back on the left needle again. Take notice of the yarn unraveled.

When knitting backwards, take especially care of when two or more stitches are knitted together, to place them in the right order and in the right direction. I often the knit one extra row backwards, to end up with a row, without too much pattern knitted.

Some stitches are missing (on or two), to make the pattern and number of stitches fit. You cannot see why, or you do not have the strength to correct the error.

You must find a way to get the missing stitches in an easy way.

If the pattern e.g. says that K2tog, you just knit K2. Then you have one extra stitch. If the pattern says K3tog, you just do a K2. If this is not possible, you can pick up the bar between two stitches on the previously row, and knit it twisted (from the back loop). If you knit as usually, you'll just make a hole.

Cheating? Yes – but it works. This will be visible, but if you place your cheating wisely, you have to look carefully to see it.

You have too many stitches (on or two) to make the pattern and number of stitches fit. You cannot see why, or you do not have the strength to correct the error.

Find a suitable place to knit two stitches together. If you do it wisely, it will be hard to see. If more than one, distribute the decreasing across the row/area where you have the problem. For me it most often happens when I have cast on too many stitches.