

# INSPIRATIONS

# KNITS



## MALTINGS

by Louise Zass-Bangham

Perfect for springtime, this is a gorgeously textured cowl, inspired by barley grains. Shaped to fit, the cowl is narrower around the top, flaring out to sit beautifully on the shoulders.

Worked in the round from the top down, this is an intermediate project. Try it on as you knit, to adjust it for the height and slouch you want. You can work the main pattern using more advanced stitches, creating a richer texture, but this is optional.

Instructions are given at the end on “playing” with the pattern, using 4ply/fingering through to worsted yarns – for either size.

To make an easier, faster, unisex version of this cowl without any shaping, try Mini Maltings, on the back page.

### SIZES

**Small:** 44cm/17” round top, 69cm/27” round base, 21cm/8” tall  
**Large:** 52cm/20” round top, 90cm/36” round base, 28cm/11” tall

### MATERIALS

**Small:** 300m/330yds 4ply/fingering yarn  
3.0mm/US 2.5 & 3.25mm/US 3 needles EITHER double-pointed needles OR circular needles with min 80cm/32” for magic loop.

**Large:** 330m/360yds DK/sportweight yarn  
3.5mm/ US 4 & 3.75mm/US 5 needles EITHER double-pointed needles OR circulars with 60cm/24” cable.

**Both sizes:** Stitch marker

### TENSION

**Small 4ply/fingering:** 26 sts to 10cm/4” over Stocking Stitch/ Stockinette with larger needles, or size needed to get gauge.

**Large DK/sport:** 24 sts to 10cm/4” over Stocking Stitch/ Stockinette with larger needles, or size needed to get gauge.



### SHOWN IN

Designed to showcase gorgeous yarns which are **local to you**, this cowl was created as a knitalong for Unravel knitting show, England. It is shown in yarns dyed and/or spun locally to the show:

**Kettle Yarn Co Beyul** (60% superwash Merino, 20% yak down, 20% silk, 366m/400yds per 100g skein)  
1 x Steppe (green-gold, shown on page 1)

**The Little Grey Sheep Stein Fine Wool** (100% Stein Fine Wool, 430m/470yds per 100g skein)  
1 x Her Other Life (pastels, shown on page 3)

**Baa Ram Ewe Dovestone DK** (50% Bluefaced Leicester, 25% Wensleydale Longwool, 25% dark brown masham, 230m/252yds per 100g skein)  
2 x Rhubarb (fuchsia, shown left)



## ABBREVIATIONS

K	Knit
K2tog	Knit the next 2 stitches together
K3tog	Knit the next 3 stitches together
M1	Make 1 stitch
P	Purl
Rep	Repeat
RH	Right hand
Rnd(s)	Round(s)
SKPO	Slip 1 stitch knitwise, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over
S2KPO	Slip 2 stitches knitwise <b>one at a time</b> , knit 1, pass slipped stitches over
St(s)	Stitch(es)
tbl	Through the back loop
yo2	Yarn over twice

## SPECIAL STITCHES

These more advanced stitches are **optional**.

**K4tog** Knit the next 4 stitches together. If this is too tricky, try this method:

Knit 1, slip this stitch purlwise onto left hand needle. Then, working one stitch at a time, lift the next 3 sts on the left hand needle over this st and off the needle. Slip stitch purlwise back to right hand needle. K4tog is complete.

**S3KPO** Slip 3 stitches knitwise one at a time, knit 1, pass slipped stitches over.

## TO MAKE

In the pattern, where numbers are given for each size, the smaller size is given first with the larger size in brackets afterwards. Where only one number is given it applies to both sizes. Circle your size now, throughout the pattern.

Cowl is worked in the round, from the **top down**. You can try it on as you work, by slipping the live stitches onto waste yarn. You can adjust the height and slouch where suggested.

With smaller size needles, cast on 180 sts. Join to work in the round, taking care not to twist your work. Place marker to indicate start of round. (You may find it easier to work a few rounds flat as rows, and then join in the round. Close the gap at the start with a few stitches when finishing.)

Rnd 1: Knit

Rnd 2: Purl

### FANCY RIB

Rnds 1–4: \*P1, K4, P1; rep from \* to end.

Rnd 5: \*P1, K2tog, yo2, SKPO, P1; rep from \* to end.

Rnd 6: \*P2, (P1, P1 tbl) into yo2, P2; rep from \* to end.

**Rep Rnds 1–6 twice more** (three times total).

Change to larger size needles.

**Work Rnds 1–4 one more time.**

**MAIN PATTERN**

Rnd 1: \*K3tog, yo2, S2KPO; rep from \* to end. 120 sts

Rnd 2: \*K1, (P1, P1 tbl) into yo2, K1; rep from \* to end. 120 sts

Rnd 3: \*K1, M1, P2, M1, K1; rep from \* to end. 180 sts

Rnds 4–6: \*K2, P2, K2; rep from \* to end.

Rnd 7: \*yo2, S2KPO, K3tog; rep from \* to end. 120 sts

Rnd 8: \* (P1, P1 tbl) into yo2, K2; rep from \* to end. 120 sts

To put marker back in the right place at the start of the rnd, remove marker, P1, replace marker on RH needle.

Rnd 9: \*P1, M1, K2, M1, P1; rep from \* to end. 180 sts

Rnds 10–12: \*P1, K4, P1; rep from \* to end.

**EITHER:** To avoid working the Special Stitches, rep Rnds 1–12 until cowl measures 17cm/6 1/2" (24cm/9 1/2" from cast on edge (or desired height from shoulder) **ending after a Rnd 7.** Go to Bottom Border.

**OR:** Continue working through this section, with a slightly richer texture using the Special Stitches.

**Rnds 13–24: Rep Rnds 1–12 once more. (Note: If you prefer less "slouch", omit Rnds 13–24)**

Rnd 25: \*K3tog, yo2, S2KPO; rep from \* to end. 120 sts

Rnd 26: \*K1, (P1, P1 tbl) into yo2, K1; rep from \* to end. 120 sts

Rnd 27: \*K1, M1, P2, M1, K1; rep from \* to end. 180 sts

Rnd 28: \*K2, P2, K2; rep from \* to end.

Rnd 29: \*K2, M1, P2, M1, K2; rep from \* to end. 240 sts

Rnd 30: \*K3, P2, K3; rep from \* to end.

Rnd 31: \*yo2, S3KPO, K4tog; rep from \* to end. 120 sts

Rnd 32: \*(P1, P1 tbl) into yo2, K2; rep from \* to end. 120 sts

To put marker back in the correct place at the start of the rnd, remove marker, P1, replace marker on RH needle. Start next rnd with next st on LH needle.

Rnd 33: \*P1, M1, K2, M1, P1; rep from \* to end. 180 sts

Rnd 34: \*P1, K4, P1; rep from \* to end.

Rnd 35: \*P1, M1, K4, M1, P1; rep from \* to end. 240 sts

Rnd 36: \*P1, K6, P1; rep from \* to end.

Rnd 37: \*K4tog, yo2, S3KPO; rep from \* to end. 120 sts

Rnd 38: \*K1, (P1, P1 tbl) into yo2, K1; rep from \* to end. 120 sts

Rnd 39: \*K1, M1, P2, M1, K1; rep from \* to end. 180 sts

Rnd 40: \*K2, P2, K2; rep from \* to end.

Rnd 41: \*K2, M1, P2, M1, K2; rep from \* to end. 240 sts

Rnd 42: \*K3, P2, K3; rep from \* to end.

If you wish, transfer the live stitches onto waste yarn and try on your cowl to check the length. The Bottom Border has sits flat on the shoulders which means the cowl won't sit any higher up around the face than it does now. You can see where the top edge will finish.

**EITHER:** If it is tall enough already, **work Rnd 31 one more time (120 sts)** and then go to Bottom Border.

**OR:** To add more slouch:

**Rep Rnds 31–42.**

**Work Rnd 31 one more time. 120 sts**

**BOTTOM BORDER**

Rnd 1: \*(P1, P1 tbl) into yo2, K1, yo2, K1; rep from \* to end. 180 sts

Rnd 2: \*P2, Kfb, (P1, P1 tbl) into yo2, Kfb; rep from \* to end. 240 sts

Rnd 3: \*P2, K2; rep from \* to end.

Rnds 4–6: \*K2, P2; rep from \* to end.

Rnds 7–9: \*P2, K2; rep from \* to end.

**Rnds 10–15: Rep rnds 4–9.**

Bind off loosely, working stitches as they lie.

**FINISHING**

Weave in ends. Block lightly to avoid flattening the textures. Block with steam or lay a damp cloth over your work. Leave it to dry completely. In higher twist yarns, the top edge of the rib may try to flare outwards and this is usually corrected by blocking.





## PLAY

In the basic pattern, using finer yarn makes a smaller size and heavier yarn makes a larger size. But you could make either size in 4ply/fingering, sportweight, DK or worsted.

Swatch in Stocking Stitch/Stockinette to decide what gauge you wish to use for your yarn. Look up your gauge in the table and read off the number of stitches you need to cast on for a small or large cowl. (Note that the number of stitches divides by 6.)

Gauge sts per 10cm/4"	Cast on sts for Small size	Cast on sts for Large size
20	138	150
22	150	168
24	168	180
26	180	192
28	192	210
30	210	222

Knit top down, try on the cowl as you work. Adjust the height by adding or removing a repeat of:

- Fancy Rib Rnds 1–6
- Main Pattern Rnds 1–12
- Main Pattern Rnds 31–42
- Bottom Border Rnds 4–9, which only adds to the section covering the shoulders but no more height.

In a heavier yarn than shown you may want to omit one repeat of Fancy Rib, one repeat of Main Pattern Rnds 1–12, and one repeat of the Bottom Border.

In a finer yarn, you may want to add one more repeat of Fancy Rib, the Main Pattern Rnds 31–42, and perhaps a repeat or two of the Bottom Border.

## ABOUT THE DESIGNER

Louise loves to design patterns that look gorgeous and are fun to knit. She loves giving options so you can make each project your own. Check out Louise's designs on Ravelry, and her book: **Knit Play Colour**.

Thank you: Rachel Brown for tech editing; Mel, Susan, Denise & Kate for sample/test knitting; Katherine, Emma & Linda for beautiful yarn.

## MINI MALTINGS

This is a simplified version of the cowl, working just the rib. Without any shaping, this is a unisex project. Worked in the round, it is an easy intermediate knit.

### SIZE

44cm/17" around x 21cm/8" deep

### MATERIALS

220m/240yds DK/sportweight  
3.75mm needles for working in the round e.g. set double-pointed needles or circular needles min 80cm/32" for magic loop.  
Stitch marker

### SHOWN IN

Baa Ram Ewe Dovestone DK, 1 x Yorkstone (below)

### TENSION

23 sts to 10cm/4" over Stocking Stitch/Stockinette using 3.75mm/US 5 needles or size needed to get gauge.

### TO MAKE

Cast on 132 sts. Join to work in the round, taking care not to twist your work. Place marker to indicate start of round.

Rnd 1: Knit

Rnd 2: Purl

Rnds 3–6: \*P1, K4, P1; rep from \* to end.

Rnd 7: \*P1, K2tog, yo2, SKPO, P1; rep from \* to end.

Rnd 8: \*P2, (P1, P1 tbl) into yo2, P2; rep from \* to end.

Rep Rnds 3–8 until measures 20cm/7 1/2" from cast on edge, **stopping after a Rnd 6**.

Next Rnd: Purl.

Cast off knitwise, weave in ends and block lightly.

