
Fair Isle Knit Hat with Kristin Nicholas

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

- I'm going to teach you how to make a simple Fair Isle hat. You're going to learn how to do garter stitch. You're going to learn how to join a second color. You're then going to learn how to follow a chart. We're going to join a third color. And then we're going to do some simple shaping and add duplicate stitch later. After you finish this hat, you'll be ready to move on to sweaters, mittens, socks, all kind so things. ^ (upbeat music)

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- For this project, you'll need three colors of a worsted weight yarn. I used my yarn, Color by Kristin, and it's made of mohair, alpaca, and wool. You'll also need a set of 16 inch circular needles in a size five and size seven 16 inch circular needles. You can use metal, bamboo, wood, plastic, doesn't matter. And then you'll need a set of size seven, double-pointed needles. You'll need a tapestry needle for finishing the ends. A stitch marker, a pair of scissors, the chart that you printed out that you're going to follow. And for finishing, you're going to need an iron and a spritzer bottle to even out your color work. And that's it, we're ready to go.

Chapter 3 - Knit Hat Body

Cable cast on

- I'm going to teach you how to do a cable cast on. And I choose this because, for a hat, you want it to be very elastic, so that it fits on a head. The worst thing is to have a hat that has a very tight cast on and it's very uncomfortable. My husband will not wear a hat like that. So we want it to be nice and loose. And here's how we do it. We're gonna start with a simple slip knot, pulling it tight, and we're going to slip it on to our size five circular needle. And we're gonna tighten it. And now I'm going to show you how to do the cable cast on. And what we're gonna do is we're gonna make believe we're taking a stitch, like we're just doing a regular knit stitch. I'm going to wrap the yarn around the needle and I'm going to pull it through the stitch and then I'm going to put it on the needle. Just plop it on there. And this is, next part is what makes it elastic. We're going to put the needle between the two stitches and take another stitch and pull it through, put it on the needle. Now by putting the needle through the two stitches, you don't wanna pull this too tight, otherwise it won't be elastic. The idea is to keep it nice and loose, so that the edge of the hat stretches. We're gonna take a stitch, wrap it around the needle, pull it through, and put it on the needle. Now we're going to stick our right needle between the two stitches. You're gonna tighten, but you don't wanna tighten too much, otherwise you won't have an elastic edge, and take another stitch. You're going to cast on the number of stitches it says in your pattern. I have to cast on 80, so I'm going to keep working here. I wanna make sure I don't pull it too tight, have them be nice and elastic. You can use any kind of cast on. You can use a knitted on cast on, you can use a long tail cast on, there's hundreds of different cast ons. But this is the one I prefer and I've been doing it for several years and I like the nice edge it also gives.

Garner stitch border

- Once you've cast on your stitches given in your pattern, it's time to work a garter stitch border. Now I chose garter stitch because it gives a nice edge that doesn't curl, it's great for beginners to start with. We're using circular needles but the border is knit back and forth, all in knit stitch. Okay so let me show you how to do this. We're just going to take a stitch, a knit stitch, pull it off the needle, and you can see I'm going back and forth, I'm not joining this in the round. The reason I do the garter stitch border back and forth is because it makes it much easier to join the stitches in the round. If you only have the cast on edge you can sometimes twist it when you're joining the round and then the hat becomes unwearable, you have to rip the whole thing out and start again. This way we're going to join it, you'll have a little bit of an edge and you can't mess it up. Just keep knitting. This is actually a nice project, you can take it along in a meeting because you have seven rows, keep doing the same thing over and over again. So we're going to work garter stitch for seven rows.

Increase in last rows of border

- Once you finished working the garter stitch boarder you have to increase a few stitches to make the hat get a little bit bigger. So let me show you how I do this. You're just going to work your typical knit stitch and I am gonna do my increases every eight stitches so I've gotta count. I've got four, five, six, seven, eight. And this is a simple looped on cast on sometimes called, "make one", and all you do is take your yarn and do a backwards wrap so it looks like a cursive E. So my yarn that's attached to the ball is coming in front of the loop and I slip it on to the right needle and I pull it tight. And that's an increase. And now I carry on knitting eight more. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight. So now I'm going to make another backward loop increase. I take my yarn and I'm twisting it into a loop, looks like a cursive E, and I'm putting it onto the needle and the tail is closer to the stitches that were just knit and I pull it tightly and that's an increase. Continue increasing evenly across the row according to the pattern.

Add second color

- I'm ready to add my caramel color. Now I've taught a lot of classes all over the place and I can't believe how many people never knit with two colors. It's really, really easy to learn and very simply, nothing to be afraid about. So here we go. We're gonna pick up our caramel color and we're gonna leave the teal color attached. We just drape it over as if we were making a stitch. We are gonna take a stitch with the new color. Then we're going to take another stitch. I don't do it with the two tails, I just do it with the working yarn. You don't wanna pick it up with the tail, the cut end. Take a stitch. Now you're gonna notice that this is kind of messy looking. We fix that in the end, we don't worry about it right now. Okay, let's take another few stitches. You may have noticed that knit with both my hands. I knit both the American way, which is throwing, and also the Continental way, which is picking. So I'm actually moving the yarn through the needles with both my left hand and my right hand. If you learn to knit that way with Fair Isle, you'll be able to do it a lot quicker. It's a little bit less cumbersome. I'm gonna show you some American stitches and then some Continental stitches. This is the American way of throwing the yarn with your right hand around the needle and pulling it off. This is the way I actually learned to knit. Then when I was 19 and I started teaching myself to knit I thought I have to get faster. So I taught myself the Continental way by looking at a book. This is the way I do Continental knitting. I hold my yarn in my left hand draping it over my index finger. That's how I get good tension. Now I pick it through the stitch. I'm picking, picking. If you are a crocheter, the Continental method of knitting might be easier for you because you're used to controlling the yarn with your left hand. If you want to get really good at Fair Isle knitting, I suggest

you learn both ways of knitting because you'll be a lot quicker. And you'll be able to use both hands when your working the Fair Isle. Now sometimes I use, I wrap the yarn around my finger a few times just to get better tension because you don't want your stitches to be too loose and sloppy. I'm gonna work all the way across this whole row of blue garter stitch. You can see how I'm using my middle finger to sort of push the yarn along. Makes it a little bit faster and I'm letting the yarn just sort of flow over my index finger. If you sit there for one entire day, you can teach yourself how to do this. By the end of the day you will be competent and be able to knit with two hands. Now we're getting to the end of the garter stitch. We have our long garter stitch band with one row of the toffee caramel color added. Now I'm going to join it in the round. What I want you to look at is you see how this part, this caramel color, there is no funny bump. But if you look on the wrong side of the work, there's a funny, almost loopy bump. You don't want this to be on the right side of the work. When you join you wanna bring the two ends together and you wanna place a stitch marker so that you know that it's the beginning of your work. You're not going to be working around in the round. I'm gonna place my stitch marker. It's time now to join the work in the round. We can cut the teal yarn. It's looking a bit messy now. Too many ends. We're gonna take a stitch. The first stitch you wanna take kind of tightly so that it's nice and neat. Gonna take another stitch and another stitch. If you look back here, this is a little bit lose and sloppy. At the end of the work we're gonna weave it in and we can tighten it all up. Don't worry about that. Don't get too crazy about worrying about all your ends 'cause you can fix them at the very end. We're gonna keep working across in stockinette. If you look, this is looking thick. It's the garter stitch is looking thick and this is looking nice and smooth. That's the rest of the project is gonna be knitting that. Now we're gonna knit the rest of the hat all in knit stitch. When you knit it knit stitch in the round, it's called stockinette stitch.

Following a chart

- I've just finished three rounds of stockinette stitch in the caramel color. The reason I can tell this is I am at a point where my stitch marker is. That means it's the beginning of my next round. So let's learn how we can follow a chart to build a fair isle pattern. Okay, this is the hat and if you look at this chart you will see it looks similar. So a fair isle pattern is built up of rows on top of each other and what we're going to do is treat each round, they're rounds because we're going in the round, each round separately. So there's going to be round four, because we've already done one, two, three, round five, six and so on. This pattern is built of 25 rounds and it's really easy. You work from right to left. So you look at the chart and where it is a certain color is where you're gonna take a stitch with that color. So if you look at round four, we've got two caramel and then one teal, four caramel, one teal, two caramel. That's our 10 stitch repeat and our hat is built up of motifs that are done in segments of 10. So you can see on the hat that this is one motif, this is one motif, this is one motif. They're 10 stitches each and they look like the chart. Now the other way some charts are done is they will show you the whole picture of the, how the hat's gonna look which would be like this chart which is upside down. Gonna move that around, okay. So, you can see that this shows us a group of 10, 10, 10, 30 stitches. By isolating it into one it looks a lot less confusing to knit. So that's why we break things into groups of 10 and we just follow this one chart. Each round you will repeat this round, depending on which size you're making, either nine or ten times.

Chapter 4 - Shape Hat Top and Finish

Start Fair Isle pattern

- Now that you know how to follow a chart, I'm gonna show you how you knit off the chart. We also

at this first color change row, we also have to increase our needle size, and that's so the fabric will be loose. When you knit in Fair Isle you have the tendency to be tighter and so by using a bigger needle size you can compensate for the tightness in the knitting. So we're gonna grab our size seven needles and at the same time that we're knitting the chart we're also gonna begin with our new needle size. Sounds a little daunting, but isn't when you think about it all. So we're going to begin knitting with our size seven needle, so you just gotta pull this one to the front to hold it. And I'm going to be following my chart, all at the same time, you've gotta do all this at the same time. We're going to knit two in caramel, knit one in teal, and so let's see, let's do it. I'm gonna knit two in caramel and to join the teal we do it just like we did before, which was just by draping the yarn over the needle and taking a stitch. And now if you follow the chart we're gonna knit four in the caramel. One, two, three, four. One, two, three, four. Our next stitch has to be teal. This is really important, in order for the yarn to not all draw in, become bunched and tight and not fit anybody, you need to have the yarn float loosely across the back of the work. So I have a trick for this that I've figured out over the years. I stretch my stitches on my needle out, so there's quite a bit of space, about 1/4 inch between them, and then I draw the new yarn across the back of the work and take a stitch. So do you see how that's floating across the back? Take a stitch and it isn't, if you pulled it too tight it would be all bunched in like that and it would make a mess. You'd have to rip it all out. The hat would not fit a soul. So we're gonna be very loose. Now I'm gonna do, let's see where I am, I'm gonna do two more of my caramel, and then I will have finished my 10 stitches, and then I'm gonna do two more caramel over here. So what happens is you get into a rhythm. So I'm doing four caramel, and now I'm gonna do one turquoise, pulling the stitches apart, making it float loosely. And I'm right here, so I'm doing four caramel. And pull them apart. We're gonna continue working around, following our chart, working the two colors in the same round. And carrying our yarn loosely across the back of the work. Now sometimes following a chart could be a little bit overwhelming, so some knitters like to use a piece of Post-it paper and they actually cover up all the rounds above them, so they isolate the row and then just follow the one that's showing. And it's a nice tip, in case you're a little overwhelmed with all the colorwork. We're gonna keep working around, four caramel. Now the first round, it's a little bit tedious, because you've got, you're actually working with two needles at the same time, so you have to snug your needles from the needle that we're getting rid of, the size fives, you've gotta snug them up in order to fit them all onto the size seven. So let's keep working, four toffee, one teal, four toffee. And you can see that I'm using both hands to knit with. On the left hand I'm working the toffee and then I'm using my right hand to throw the teal on. And this is why it's nice if you can knit with two hands, both your right and left hand, you can be a lot faster at Fair Isle knitting. Once you feel a little more comfortable with it you might wanna sit down for a whole day and teach yourself the Continental knit. That's what I did when I was 19 and I have really not looked back since. Now at the end of the round sometimes you can be off. Let's just get our fingers crossed that this is off. If your stitch number is wrong, and you can do that by looking at the chart. I should have two stitches left, but I only have one stitch left, so I'm gonna do one of the teal and I've got one more caramel. That's the end of my round. I can tell, because it's where all the stitches are joined here and I'm going to be able to drop my size five needles, my smaller needles. I'm now only working on the larger size seven needles. This is when you figure out if you have the right amount of stitches on and I don't, I screwed up somewhere. I cannot finish my repeat, I'm supposed to have two stitches here, instead I only have one stitch of toffee. So I'm gonna knit that one stitch, it's the end of my round, and I'm just going to add an extra stitch right here by that cast on, the cast on method I told you before, the backward loop, E-wrap,

whatever you wanna call it, make one, just add a stitch, so your pattern will work out right. That's the end of my round and my stitch marker fell off, so I've got to replace that. And the second round gets a lot easier, I promise you. The first round you've kind of got to sit in a room by yourself and not have any kind of distractions. Since our round is complete we can now move our paper up and see what the next round is gonna be. I know it's silly, but when you finish a round you feel so happy and it's sort of like a surprise what the next pattern, and once you get into Fair Isle you're gonna say oh no, I have to finish the next repeat, I have to finish the next pattern. And that's how you get projects done, by breaking things up into segments and finishing a whole pattern. So if you look at this chart we're gonna do one caramel, three teal, two caramel, three teal, and one caramel, that's 10 stitches. And you're gonna see how the Fair Isle builds up. Okay, here we go. One caramel, and making sure that our yarn is drawn loosely across, and we're gonna do three teal. Two, three. And now we're going to do two caramel. I'm gonna stretch it across. Two caramel. Three teal. Stretch, two caramel, three teal, whoops. Okay, if you do what I just did, which I took a stitch with the wrong color, just flip the stitch back to the left hand needle and unknit that stitch. And so I'm gonna knit three teal, stretch, three teal. Two caramel. Three teal. And let's see how this looks. If you put it down you can see the pattern starting to build, so we're making our little mini diamonds. Continue in this manner, following the chart, until you reach the stitch marker, then what you wanna do is move your Post-It note up to the next round and follow that chart. So this is row six. And you can see, it's the same as row four. So a lot of these patterns, the placement becomes very familiar, and you can just sort of, once you look at the chart and you get more experienced you actually don't even have to look at the chart, you can build it yourself in your head. Might take a few years, but it happens. Now the next part of the chart is slightly more complicated, it's all still the same thing. It's just counting, keep changing the colors in each round, and the pattern will build up before your eyes and upon your needles. So this chart goes from row eight to 17. By the time you're done with round 17 your hat is going to look like this and you will be right up to this point. It's all the same thing, it just repeats over and over and over again. And what I wanna tell you is if your first hat doesn't turn out right, don't worry, and don't give up, because your next hat will be better. The beginners mostly their first projects will be very tight and it might not fit anybody, but you maybe can find a baby for it to fit, or a teddy bear or something like that, but just keep going.

Final color change

- I've worked through round 18 and then, I've got a little bit of a break in my chart, I've got three rows that are the caramel color, plain, no farrell, so you get a little bit of a rest bit and now, we're gonna join another color. I've cut teal yarn and it's just loose behind here and now, I'm ready to add the raspberry, magenta color, whichever you prefer calling it. So, if you look at the chart on round 21, we've got four of the toffee, two of the raspberry and then, four of the toffee. Now, when we start again, we're gonna be four toffee. That's eight stitches we're covering that are all in one color and what happens with that is, you get very long, what we call, floats and farrell and technically, you're not supposed to let the yarn float that far on the back of the fabric because, if it were a pair of mittens, your rings would get stuck, your fingers would get stuck, a hat isn't quite as important, but just for neatness, I'm gonna teach you how to twist the yarn behind the work, so it'll catch the unused yarn and the float won't be so long and floppy. Okay, so let's start with our beginning of our round, we've got our stitch marker and I'm going to do four of the caramel and now, I'm going to do two raspberry. So we just start it the same way, just, take two stitches with the raspberry, pull it out so it floats over the back and we're gonna end with the four stitches of the caramel. Now, at this

point, I'm going to catch the raspberry, by twisting the colors together. So what I do, is I just drop my caramel color, I pull the raspberry over it and then, I just, so it's draping okay, and you can see, it's twisting. Now I'm going to take four stitches of caramel let's see is that four? One, two, three, four, one, two, three, four. And now, I'm going to do two stitches with the raspberry and you want it to float, pull it out, long, don't pull it too tight and take two stitches with the raspberry and now we're gonna do a total of eight caramel, with the twist in between. Three, four, I'm going to drop the caramel, pull the raspberry over and it then locks it in, four more caramel, pull the yarn, pull the stitches out, so that the raspberry's gonna float, you can see it's locked in there and take two stitches with the raspberry. Now, pull to stretch, four more caramel, one, two, three, four, drop the caramel and let the raspberry come over it. Pull it, take the stitch with the caramel and pull again, stretch, two more raspberry and that's how it works, all the way around. Okay so, it's really important that you keep checking your tension by stretching out these stitches to make sure it's nice and loose. If you don't, your hat could end up being very puckered because your floats are going over eight stitches. Why don't I show you what it looks like, if we float over eight stitches and you'll see what a large distance that is for the yarn to be carried. So let's make eight stitches in just the caramel color. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight and, did you see how long that would be to float? So we take a stitch and look at how much yarn is hanging there. That could get caught in something and there's also the danger that it will be tugged in too tight and you're gonna end up with a mess and have to rip it out. So that's why twisting it, it sort of keeps in check your tension as you're working around. Okay, you're gonna carry on this pattern all the way around and then you'll move on to row 22, move your post it up, and you'll see that this one, if you follow this chart, we've got three caramel, four raspberry and then three caramel and then, starting again, you'd have three. This is a total of six stitches that you are floating, I like to twist also, when I've got six stitches. My rule of thumb is, I don't twist five stitches or less, six stitches and more, I'll twist my work. Some people want to do it every two stitches, I don't prefer to do it that way because I feel like the fabric gets too thick, a little stiff and not very stretchy, so I let them float a little bit longer and looser in the back. Now we're gonna keep working the chart, finish all the rows with the raspberry and then, we're gonna move on to the next step.

Decrease to shape top

- I've just finished my color work chart and I worked one round in the plain magenta color and I am gonna start the decreases to make the hat pull in and to make the crown of the hat. Now, the decreases are worked in segments of seven. So you're gonna follow the pattern and it's going to tell you whether to increase a couple stitches or decrease a couple stitches. Just refer to the pattern. I increased one to give myself 91 stitches which is divisible by seven. The rest of the hat is all decreases. Okay, to do this it's pretty easy. Following the pattern, tell you how many stitches to knit, we're going to knit 11 and then we're going to knit two together. We're gonna do that around the whole hat which will decrease seven stitches in that one round. So the hat is starting to shrink in. So to do that I'm going to knit 11, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, and then I'm going to knit two together and it's going to make my stitches slope to the right and if you look at the top of the hat, these segments are all sloping to the right and that's because of the way the stitches were knit two together, they move to the right. Okay, we're gonna do one more decrease, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, and then we're going to knit two together. After you've completed that decrease round you're gonna knit the next row even and then the next row will decrease seven more stitches. Each time you do a decrease you'll lose seven stitches and so

your hat starts pulling in. Now, because your hat is pulling in, it is no longer going to fit on these circular needles so I'm gonna show you what you do next.

Switch to double pointed needles

- Now you can see that my hat has shrunk in size. And it's getting very difficult to work on this 16 inch needle because my hat is probably about eight inches in circumference. So the way we get around that, is we start working with double pointed needles. So, we're gonna stop working with our circular. We're going to pick up one of the size seven double pointed needles, and we're gonna work around. Now, you're gonna work on three double pointed needles. This does not have to be exact. I don't even have a clue how many stitches are on here. But about one third of my stitches will be worked on to this needle. Then I'll add another and another until I have three. This is how you do it. I'm gonna knit four; one, two, three, four. I'm gonna do my decrease. Knit two together. And I'm gonna; one, two, three, four. Do my decrease. So that's eight stitches I have now. I'm gonna knit four; one, two, three. I'm gonna stop here. Because it looks like that may be about a third of the stitches. I'm gonna pick up another one. I'm gonna knit to where my decrease is. Now if you look, when you get better at this, and when you get more familiar with knitting, you don't even have to count the stitches in between the decreases. You get to read where the decreases are. So, I can tell right here, that is the stitch that I'm gonna incorporate with the decrease. It sounds a little confusing, but I find if you use your brain when you're knitting, and really look at your work, you can catch on a little bit more. And, a lot of beginners, knitters, don't do that. And I urge you to use your head versus just following blindly. Okay, knit two together. And, I'm gonna knit four; one, two, three, four. Knit two together. One, two, three, four. Knit two together. Okay, this is what I've got left. So, I am going to move to my last double pointed needle. One, two, three, four. Knit two together. Almost done with the round. One, two, three, four. And, knit two together. Okay now, all my stitches are now on my double points. We've got seven segments here. You can see them. When you get up to the top of the hat, you're gonna work your decreases every round, as opposed to every other round. So there will not be that plain knit round in between. And that makes the top close a little quicker. We're going to continue on until the top of the hat.

Bind off

- I'm almost done with the hat. This is when you get really excited. Your project's almost finished. I have two more rounds to decrease. I'm going to knit one, knit two together, then one, knit two together, all the way around. Changing my double points as I go. I love getting to the end of the work because the decreases happen so fast, there's barely any stitches left on the needles. One more set of decreases on this round. Knit one, knit two together. Now we're going to knit two together all the way around. Knit two together, knit two together. When you take your first stitch with your double-pointed needle, you wanna pull it sort of tightly so you don't get a ladder. And we're gonna just keep working around here, and when we get down to seven stitches, we're gonna be done. We're almost there. Last stitch. Okay, I'm down to my seventh stitches on the three double-pointed needles. Now to finish it off, it's really easy. You just cut the yarn and all I do is take the needle and pull it over that last stitch and I'm gonna pull the yarn through. Sometimes, there it goes. So you pull it through. And that finished off those two stitches, and now you do the same thing on this needle. I usually just pull them over with my fingers. It's tight at the top. Another stitch. You can also thread it on a needle and go right through all the stitches with the needle. Okay that's it. Now I'm gonna pull it through the last one using my fingers. And that's the top of the hat, see, it's

finished off, now there's a little hole there, and we're gonna flip it to the inside. If you get little holes, you use the cast on, I mean the bind off tail and you can actually weave through. Let me show you how to do that. So you wanna leave tail about 10 inches long, just in case you have a whole bunch of stuff to weave in, so see how it got this little bit of a hole, and I just go through the back of the stitches. Sometimes I'm actually gonna go across to the other side just to close it all up. It won't show on the top of it. Okay when you feel like you closed all the little holes that are up there, see they're gone. Okay, then I'll weave that just down the side of my stitches. Okay now, I leave a long tail, and I'm gonna tell you why in a minute. Okay. Now, I've got the base of my hat. Remember long time ago where we made the garter stitch. We now have to take the cast on tail and we're going to join the garter stitch so that there'll be a little seam there and it won't even show when it's finished. So to do this, thread it through the needle, and you just pick on either side... Of the garter stitch. This is called mattress stitch. Okay, and that's seamed. I'm gonna pull it to the inside. And I'm going to... Weave through the back of these stitches. Okay. And if you give a little tug, it'll make the yarn relax, the knitting yarn relax, and just leave that tail end for now.

Finish with duplicate stitch

- Okay, the last part is to add a little bit more color into where we have this nice open diamond, I'm gonna do something called duplicate stitching. Duplicate stitching can be used for decoration, but you can also use it to fix your mistakes. So, say you find a mistake, you didn't follow the chart properly, and you need to replace one of these colors. You can do that in duplicate stitch. Right now I'm going to make a little square box with duplicate stitch in the center of this open diamond. I'm gonna thread my blunt pointed tapestry needle. And this is how I thread it. I take a tail about an inch long, and I fold it over. I put my needle in, and I squeeze tightly around the loop that I've created. I pull it out, and I just jam that right through the big eye, okay. And I'm gonna cut this off. Okay. You have to start the duplicate stitch on the wrong side of the work, okay. So we're gonna flip to the wrong side, and I'm just sort of guessing where I'm gonna be. It doesn't matter if it's perfect. To start it, I'm gonna take a stitch in the back of the work. Sometimes I split the ply, which means I only take a section of the yarn. And I take two or three stitches right on that yarn. And I'm gonna turn to the front of the work. Now, the goal is to fill these center four stitches of the diamond. It's shown on your chart, so it will be on your pattern, but you pretty much just wing it. You look at it, you figure which your center stitches are, and you duplicate stitch over 'em. Okay, I'm gonna come up in a center of a stitch. Center my stitch. I'm going to go under the legs of the stitch above, and I'm going to pull. Not too tightly. It's just sorta floating on the top. Now I'm going to go back down in the stitch that I first came up on, and I'm gonna come up in the stitch next to it. And I'm going to pull, and that's one duplicate stitch. So it's actually covered up the stitch below it, so I've covered one of the toffee stitches with magenta. So you can see if you made a mistake with the teal and you have a caramel where there's supposed to be a teal, then you can go back in with your duplicate stitch and cover it up so there's no need to rip back. That's one thing great about duplicate stitch. Okay, I'm in the center of the stitch. I'm going to go under the legs of the stitch above and pull. I'm gonna come back down in the center. So that's two duplicate stitches. Now I have to go up into the center of this stitch. You can work duplicate stitch from right to left or left to right, depending on which way you're going. I'm gonna do this one from left to right. Sometimes I turn my work around just to make it easier for me. And I'm gonna go back down and come over here and finish my last of the four. Okay, I'm gonna go to the back. Now, you wanna work all the way around the hat, and you have a choice. You can either end off on the back, which I'm gonna show you how to do right now.

All I do is take a couple stitches in the magenta yarn. One, two, three. And I'm gonna leave a tail about an inch long. Okay, so it doesn't look beautiful in the back, but we don't really worry about that. What it's done is it's added another design element to our hat. Okay. You would work all the way around all the diamonds with the duplicate stitch. And you're almost done. Okay, this is where the whole hat changes. We're going to block it. So, as you can see, the hat is a little bit lumpy, and that just happens with Fair Isle. When it comes off the needle, it's always a little lumpy. But because it's wool, this is wool mohair and alpaca, any wool you can even it out with water and heat. I'm gonna take my trusty iron and my trusty spray bottle filled with water. Make sure you don't have bleach in here. Ruin your hat for sure. Okay, and just spray the heck out of it. Flip it over, spray. Now, this is on a wool setting, which is pretty hot. This iron's got a steam setting, so I can actually really put the steam to it. The other option you have is you can wash this hat. Wash it in cold water, rinse it out, and lay it flat to dry. And that will do the same thing that the steam does. Okay. And this can take awhile. Sometimes it's easier if you just wash it. Oh, there we go, good steam. And then lay it flat to dry. You don't wanna wash it in the washing machine, though. You wanna wash it by hand in the sink or in a little tub. And the other thing is you can use a professional steamer, and that really changes the way the hat will look. So you can see it's flattening it out. And you leave it overnight to dry, and it should be all set to go. But you can see how the water and the heat is starting to make the fabric a lot flatter. So you can take something sort of uneven-looking and lumpy and turn it into a nice finished product. Now your hat is done. The last thing we've gotta do is we've gotta cut off some of those ends that I told you to leave long. The reason I told you to leave them long is sometimes when you're washing or blocking, they will pop through. I never cut them off very short. I leave them about at least 1/4 inch, maybe 1/2 an inch long. Some people like to cut 'em off, but what happens is they'll pop to the front of the work when somebody's wearing it. So just trim them to about 1/2 an inch, and then turn your hat inside out. This project has taught you a whole lot of things, and now you can move on to Fair Isle socks, Fair Isle sweaters, Fair Isle afghans, all kinds of things. You can make Fair Isle hats for everybody in your family. You can change the color combinations. The world is your Fair Isle world.