Stranded Colorwork Knitting – getting started

The class is designed to help the knitter who wants to try stranded colorwork knitting. You've seen all of those lovely stranded and Fair Isle designs and want to be able to cast one on for yourself.

In this class, students will be working on a simple colorwork cowl...no increases...no decreases...no shaping...simple. The design was created to use color to create motifs with only two colors on one round. To be able to jump right in, there is homework. Yes, there are a lot of stitches to cast on. No, you probably will not be able to finish the project in class. You will, however, start to create muscle memory for a new technique and learn enough to finish the cowl on your own...at your own speed.

Warning: this is an extremely addictive form of knitting!

Covered in class: a brief history of stranded colorwork knitting, holding yarns in two hands, reading charts, adding new yarns, securing old yarns, and yarn dominance.

Required skills: knit stitch and working in the round.
Homework: required.
Class duration: 3 hours

Stranded Colorwork Knitting – next steps

This class is for the knitter who wants to continue the journey into stranded colorwork knitting. You know the basic concepts. Two colors per round. Following a chart. But you've seen some basic Fair Isle motifs and want to put them to use. And how do you work simple increases and decreases and maintain the colorwork pattern? These questions and more will be covered in class. Students will work on a headband with a classic Fair Isle motif which can be expanded into a hat...for those who just can't stop this addictive form of knitting.

Covered in class: pattern overview, review of reading charts, review of adding new yarns and securing old yarns, adapting classic Fair Isle motifs, exploring color placement in Fair Isle motifs, increasing and decreasing while maintaining color pattern.

Required skills: familiar with stranded colorwork knitting
Homework: required.
Class duration: 3 hours

Stranded Colorwork Knitting – deep dive

The class is designed for the knitter who has found the joys of stranded colorwork knitting, but after working stranded and Fair Isle patterns, still have some questions. Is there anything else I can do with this technique? Is there a way to add texture as well as color? What is yarn dominance and how can I avoid it? How do I get rid of long floats in the back? This class will answer these questions and more using a discussion format that covers over 20 topics related to stranded colorwork knitting. Students should bring yarn and needles to help further explore the solutions to these deep dive questions.

Required skills: taken at least a beginning stranded/Fair Isle class
Class duration: 3 hours

Ribbings and Edges for Added Color

The class is designed for the knitter who wants to add a bit of color to single-colored garments or to continue the color from a multi-colored masterpiece. During class, students will explore 10 styles of colored edgings and then choose 2 or 3 to work on during class time. A handout, including swatch instructions of all 10 styles, will be provided to take home. Styles include corrugated ribbing in multiple colors...in three variations, picot edging in multiple colors in two variations, as well as edgings that don't curl without using a garter stitch or a knit-purl combination ribbing. Some of these you may have seen before and wondered how they are worked. Some may be new to you. All are fun to work and will add a dash of color to your knitting.

Required skills: knit and purl stitch.
Class duration: 3 hours

Fixing Mistakes in Colorwork Knitting

This class is for knitters who have made mistakes in their gorgeous stranded colorwork project and want to give up. Wrong color in the right place? One round too many? Or too few? Do you need to rip it out and start again? Not always. Let's look at the possibilities of correcting mistakes in your colorwork knitting. For this class, students will work on a homework swatch with mistakes built in. We will correct these missteps in class.

Required skills: familiar with stranded colorwork knitting
Homework: required.
Class duration: 3 hours

Using Steeks Stitches (Steeks 1)

The class is designed for the knitter who is interested in the use of steek stitches. Maybe you've watched all of the steeking videos. Maybe you've even cut one yourself. But you are still not convinced your stitches are not going to run. Or perhaps that cut steek looks a bit untidy for your heirloom masterpiece. In this class, we will look at how and why steek stitches are used, a variety of methods to secure those unsightly steek flaps as well as how to pick up stitches along the edge of the steek which will add to the security of the cut openings. All without losing a stitch!

Required skills: knit and purl stitch. Understanding sweater construction, helpful.
Homework: required.
Class duration: 3 hours

Converting Flat to "In the Round"

This class is for the knitter who has discovered the ease and enjoyment of working in the round. But there are a lot of patterns out there that are written to be pieced. The good news...most flat garment patterns as well as flat stitch patterns can be converted to knit in the round. In this class, we will go over the concepts of circular knitting and work through translating patterns for in-the-round knitting using circular or double pointed needles. After going through a flat to in-the-round conversion as a class, students will work on the translation of a simple pattern for themselves.

Required skills: understanding simple sweater construction helpful
Class duration: 3 hours

Design a Sweater in the Round

This class is for the knitter who is interested in designing a sweater to be knitted in the round. Do you have some ideas for a design of your own, but don't know where to start? In this class, we will explore some basic concepts for creating a sweater to be knitted in the round from the bottom up using a classic drop and modified drop sleeve construction. Other sleeve construction methods...as well as top-down construction... will also be discussed.

Required skills: basic knitting skills
Class duration: 3 hours
Homework: required

Design a Stranded Sweater in the Round

This class is for the knitter who is interested in designing a stranded colorwork sweater to be knitted in the round. The only problem is you don't know where to start. In this class, we will explore some basic concepts for creating a sweater to be knitted in the round from the bottom up. Then we will look at classic Fair Isle motifs and discuss how to modify these traditional patterns to fit into an allover, as well as a yoke sweater design. Will we have time to design and knit a complete sweater during class? No, probably not, but we will get a pretty good start!

Required skills: basic knitting skills
Class duration: 3 hours
Homework: bring calculator to class.

Holding Yarns in Two Hands for Stranded Colorwork Knitting

This class is for the knitter who has always wanted to learn how to carry yarns in two hands when knitting Colorwork/Fair Isle designs. This 2-hour class will take the mystery out of this traditional way to manage your yarns for stranded colorwork knitting. Holding yarns in two hands also helps keep your yarns from twisting so you will not lose time straightening everything out. Evening out your tension, as well as catching long floats will also be discussed.

Required skills: familiar with stranded colorwork knitting
Class duration: 2 hours
Homework: required

Swatching for Knitting in the Round

This class is for the knitter who wants to get a more accurate gauge swatch for knitting in the round. If your garment is worked in the round, then your gauge swatch should be worked in that method as well. Several methods for in-the-round swatches will be discussed...including the swatch cap, the flat swatch, the cut swatch, and the speed swatch. Each has its advantages and disadvantages, but all are designed to get around the dreaded "purl stitch" and hopefully achieve a more accurate gauge for your project. Students will work several of these methods during class time.

Required skills: familiar with knitting in the round
Class duration: 2 hours

Beyond Traditional Stranded Colorwork Knitting

This class is for the knitter who in interested in what else can be done with stranded knitting. What is there beyond two colors per round following a symmetrical chart? How about...adding a bit of texture or incorporating intarsia techniques into the stranded knitting? We'll start with "easy but effective" and move quickly to "a bit fiddly, but very satisfying". Join us as we go beyond the traditional.

Required skills: familiar with stranded knitting
Class duration: 1.5 hours

Incorporating Steek Stitches (Steeks 2)

This class is for the knitter who is not afraid to cut open a steek panel...who is now interested in how you use these magical panels? How do you put these extra stitches to their best advantage while almost eliminating purl stitches in the process. Basic placements (armholes, necks, cardigan fronts) will be reviewed. The class project is a rectangular scarf with colowork motifs. This class is the 2.0 to a beginning steeks class.

Required skills: familiar with cutting steek stitches
Class duration: 3 hours
Homework: required