

The Hiking Reindeer

by TheTwistedYarn.com

There is a stretch of motorway in Berkshire (UK), that I drive often. If it's dusk and there's a good sunset, then the view over the rolling hills and through the conifers is stunning. Occasionally, I see deer. Now you, too, can enjoy the view via this colourful cowl. It's cosy, *and* it'll brighten up even the dullest of days.

It's worked in-the-round in stranded knitting, with the chart design repeated on front and back.

Dimensions: Laid flat, the cowl measures 35.5cm (14") wide, and 41.0cm (16") from top to bottom.



So let's get down to business. You'll need:-

- 1 x 50g (1.75oz) ball of Stylecraft Head Over Heels sock yarn in shade 'Etna'.
- 1 x 50g (1.75oz) ball of Stylecraft Life 4-ply (fingering-weight) yarn in black. Note that I've broken a cardinal rule by combining yarns of different fibre and of not-quite-identical weights, so if you've got a smallish quantity of sock yarn in pure plain black, then you may wish to use this instead of the Stylecraft Life.

Needles: One set of 3mm circular needles, 60cm (24") length.

Notions: Stitch marker. Darning needle.

Gauge: 28 stitches and 36 rows to a square 10cm x 10cm (4" x 4"), knitted in stockinette.

Abbreviations: st(s) = stitch(es). k = knit. p = purl.

Method

- Using the black yarn, cast on 200 sts. Place stitch marker and join in the round, taking care not to twist.
- Rounds 1-16: Work (k2, p2) repeated around, to create 2x2 rib.
- Continuing in black yarn, begin working from the chart on the following page. Use a stitch marker to identify the start of each round. The chart is 100 sts wide, and so each chart row must be worked twice in order to complete one round of your cowl. Begin working from the bottom row of the chart and proceed upwards, always working from right to left across the chart. From the sixth row of the chart, you will also introduce the coloured yarn. From this point upwards until near the tops of the trees, the design is worked as stranded knitting. There are some potentially very long floats across the back of the work, so I recommend trapping these every 7 stitches or so.
- When you reach the 69th row of the chart, you will finish work on three of the trees as well as the final row of the flying bird. You will still have a small amount of work to do to complete the tips of two of the trees. Whilst you *could* continue working in stranded knitting (leaving crazy-long floats), I recommend instead cutting the black yarn at the completion of this 69th chart row. You can then cut four short lengths of black yarn, and use intarsia to complete the tips of the two trees on each side. Once you have completed the trees, continue knitting in the coloured yarn only, until you have worked 120 rounds from the bottom of the chart (136 rounds total, including the ribbing).
- Continuing in the coloured yarn only, work 16 rounds of 2x2 ribbing (k2, p2, repeated around).
- Cast off. Weave in ends.

