

# Fallen Leaves Cowl

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Even in the depths of winter, there are pretty red-brown leaves to be crunched underfoot. This cosy cowl reproduces some of the loveliest leaves that I found on a walk one day...

The original version of the pattern was published on the Hobbycraft website and used a yarn that is no longer available (Women's Institute 'Unique Yorkshire' DK), so I have reworked it in Rowan Felted Tweed DK for this version.

**Skill level:** intermediate. The pattern involves knitting in the round, stranded knitting, and corrugated rib.

**Size:** One-size, suitable for adults and teens. The finished cowl is 39.5cm (15½") wide when laid flat, and 37cm (14½") high, so it's quite large, and perfectly snugly for the coldest winter days. The double layer of yarn created by stranded knitting makes it thick and warm.

**Yarn:** Rowan Felted Tweed DK (i.e. a light worsted yarn). 50g (1.75oz) balls in the following quantities:-

- Pale cream background – 2 balls of shade 177 'Clay'.
- Purple – 1 ball of shade 151 'Bilberry'.
- Grey – 1 ball of shade 159 'Carbon'.
- Brown – 1 ball of shade 196 'Barn Red'.
- Red – 1 ball of shade 150 'Rage'.
- Orange – 1 ball of shade 154 'Ginger'.

However, if you don't want to buy all 7 balls, you can double up some of the colours, as a fairly small quantity of each is needed. To reduce by one ball, omit purple. To reduce by two balls, also omit grey. If you wish to use an alternative yarn, see details of gauge, below.

**Needles:** 4mm (US size 6) circular needles, 60cm (24") total length.

**Notions:** Stitch marker, darning needle to weave in ends.

**Gauge:** It's a cowl: let's not worry too obsessively about gauge! But the finished, washed, and blocked cowl has a gauge of 22 stitches and 27 rows to a 10cm (4") square, as two-colour stranded knitting on 4mm (US size 6) needles.



### Abbreviations:-

sts = stitches

p = purl

k = knit

**Chart:** A chart is provided, comprising half the number of stitches in each round. Work across the chart from right to left **twice** in order to complete each round, progressing from the bottom of the chart to the top. Written instructions are provided below, but you will need the chart to work the leaf-pattern section.

**Casting on and off:** The corrugated rib that tops and tails this pattern has very little stretch, unlike conventional one-colour ribbing. I would therefore recommend using a less flexible cast-on such as the alternating cable cast-on which is both relatively firm and can be used to match the knit vs purl stitches in the following rounds. When casting off, take care not to do so too loosely.

**Trapping floats:** As you'll see from the chart, there will be some l-o-n-g floats behind the active yarn colour in this pattern. Either trap them as you go – approximately every 5 stitches, or leave them to be trapped as you knit the next round. To do this, insert your needle as normal, *but then also under the float from the previous row*, then continue to work your stitch, making sure you pull through the colour from the current row only.

**Ends:** Two colours are used for each round of the leaf design. In this case, the background (cream) remains consistent, but the foreground colour changes. Sometimes a foreground colour only swaps out for one row, then reappears again: in this case, you don't need to cut your yarn, just leave that colour temporarily and pick it up again when needed. But when you finish with a shade that doesn't reappear for some time, you'll need to cut the yarn, and weave in the ends.

### So here goes:-

- In cream, cast on 176 sts. Insert stitch marker and join in the round, being careful not to twist.
- Rounds 1-3: (k2, p2) around, in cream.
- Rounds 4-10: (k2 purple, p2 cream) around. Remember to keep your floats at the back of your work. Cut purple.
- Rounds 11-13: (k2, p2) around, in cream.
- Rounds 14-15: k all stitches, in cream.
- Rounds 16-87: Work leaf pattern from chart if you're not doing so already, beginning at row 16 on the chart and working every round **twice** from right to left. (Each chart row comprises only half as many stitches as each round of the cowl.) Work upwards on the chart.
- Rounds 88-89: k all stitches, in cream.
- Rounds 90-92: (k2, p2) around.
- Rounds 93-99: (k2 red, p2 cream) around. Cut red.
- Rounds 100-102: (k2, p2) around, in cream.
- Cast off in pattern.
- Weave in ends. Wash and block. Wear with pride.

I've split the chart in half, spread across the following two pages. Remember to start from the bottom right, working right to left twice for every round, and moving up the chart as you complete each round. Just to help orientate you within the two charts, here's a too-small-to-work-from picture of the overall design. →





