



Spring is in the air with this pretty little cowl adorning your neck. The perfect project to delve into two color cable techniques, Black Bunny uses a simple stitch pattern, and lets the yarn be the star!

## Finished Measurements

5.5" high x 30" circumference

## Gauge

24 sts x 18 rnds = 4" square in stitch pattern,  
*after blocking.*

## Materials

MC - Black Bunny Fibers - CashMerino DK; 80%  
Merino/10% Cashmere/10% Nylon; 230 yards /  
100g. 1 skein in Red Wagon

CC - Black Bunny Fibers - Merino Classic DK;  
100% superwash Merino; 262 yards / 4 oz  
1 skein in Bark

US#4/3.5mm circular needles

Cable needle (optional)

Large-eyed, blunt needle

Stitch marker

Please note that this cowl uses approximately  
50% of each skein, so you could make two!

## Skills required

Knitting in the round

Following charts or stitch pattern words

Simple cables

Two Color cast on

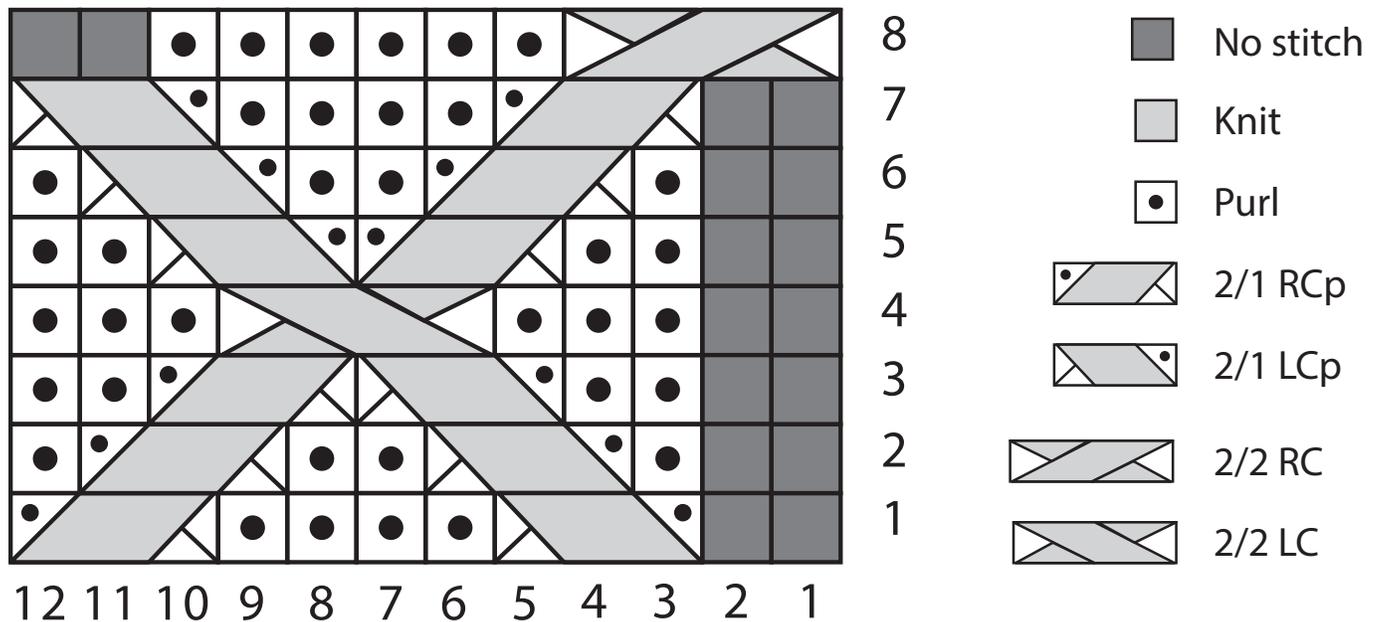
## Stitches Used

2/1 RCp - Slip next 2 sts to cn, hold in back,  
p2 CC, k2 MC from cn.

2/1 LCp - Slip next 2 sts to cn, hold in front,  
k2 MC, p2 CC from cn.

2/2 RC - Slip next 2 sts to cn, hold in back, k2,  
k2 from cn.

2/2 LC - Slip next 2 sts to cn, hold in front, k2,  
k2 from cn.



## Crossed Cable Stitch Pattern (worked over 10 sts)

Rnd 1: 2/1 LCp, p4 CC, 2/1 RCp.

Rnd 2: P1 CC, 2/1 LCp, p2 CC, 2/1 RCp, p1 CC.

Rnd 3: P2 CC, 2/1 LCp, 2/1 RCp, p2 CC.

Rnd 4: P3 CC, 2/2 RC, p3 CC.

Rnd 5: P2 CC, 2/1 RCp, 2/1 LCp, p2 CC.

Rnd 6: P1 CC, 2/1 RCp, p2 CC, 2/1 LCp, p1 CC.

Rnd 7: 2/1 RCp, p4 CC, 2/1 LCp.

Slip the first 2 sts, place marker for new start of rnd.

Rnd 8: 2/2 LC, p6 CC.

Slip last 2 sts of previous rnd to LH needle, place marker for new start of rnd.

### Pattern

Using the two color cast on method, cast on 190 sts, following a pattern of [2 MC, 6 CC, 2 MC].

Join in the round, being careful not to twist.

(If you struggle with joining large numbers of sts in the round, work four rows back and forth, before joining in the round. Remember to sew up the seam created from the four rows.

Rnd 1: Place marker for start of rnd. [K2 MC, k6 CC, k2 MC] repeat to end.

Rnd 2: Begin working chart from rnd 1 across.

Continue working repeats from the chart until the cowl reaches desired height, being sure to move your first two sts back and forth before and after rnd 8 for the change in beginning of rnd.

End after completing rnd 7, then bind off following the same pattern as the cast on.

Wet block, allow to thoroughly dry, then weave in ends.



How to work

# Two-Color Cables & Twist Stitches

A tutorial by Andi Smith [www.knitbrit.com](http://www.knitbrit.com)



Working cables and twist stitches with two colors changes a basic technique from beautiful to stunning. The best part is that this is deceptively easy to do. By following a few simple rules, your twists and cables take a whole new turn!

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# What you need to know before you start

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## Yarn choice

Be sure to choose yarns that are exactly the same weight. This allows the knit stitches to pop to the front and shine! Choose colors that have a strong contrast, perhaps use a variegated or graduated yarn to make a delightful backdrop for a solid cable color.

## Round or flat?

Two color cable knitting methodology really lends itself to working in the round or flat. Strands don't get tangled, gauge remains constant, and the flow of work is consistent.

## Float Tension

Just like working any two-color project, try and keep your floats at a constant tension. If you're new to colorwork, consider working a practice piece before diving into your first project.

## Don't Panic!

Two or three rounds in, you'll notice that the purl columns stick out more than the knit ones - not the look we're going for here. Don't panic. After a few more rounds, the purls sink to the back and the knit stitches bounce right back to the front.

## That Little Tug

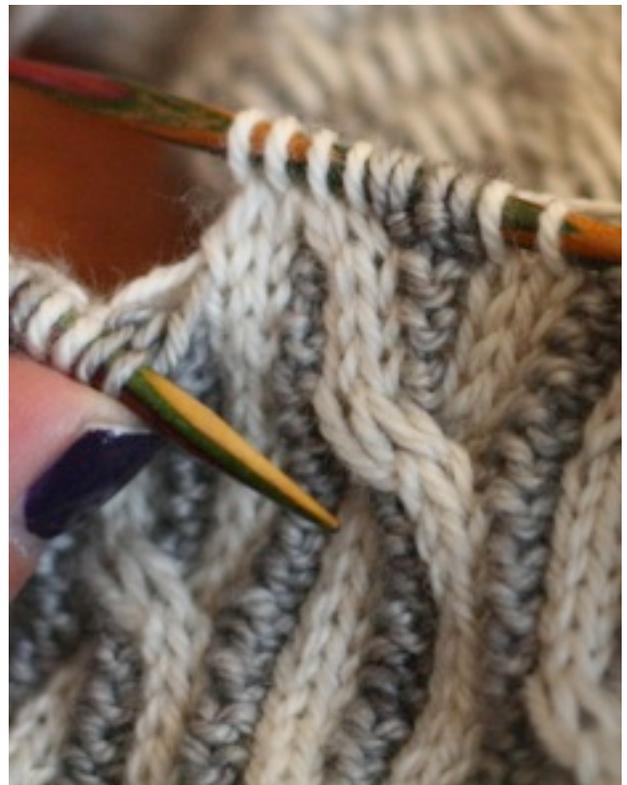
When you're working in the round, and are at the start of a new round, give those first and second stitches a little tug after knitting them. It helps to avoid ladders in your work, and evens out the gauge. Similarly, with two color cables, it helps to do that at each color change in your work. Whilst this seems laborious at first, it soon becomes an un-noticed part of your knitting process and really helps make your work look spectacular.

## Project choice

Once you've mastered this method, you'll be searching all your patterns for cables and twist combinations that you can adapt. Aim for stitch patterns that have no more than 3 knit or purl stitches. By doing this, you'll avoid the dreaded long floats on the wrong side of your work. Two-color cables create a very dense fabric - keep this in mind as you're choosing your project.

## Yes, you need to block!

As you bind off your project, it'll look amazing, it'll look finished, and it'll look ready to wear. However, take the time to wet block your FO. This helps settle the stitches into their places, it evens out the floats, and just helps your yarn to bloom. Trust me, wet block everything - it makes a huge difference!



# Cast on!

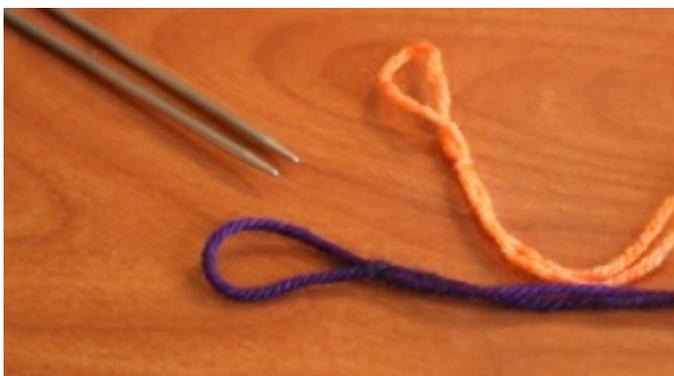
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## The Two Color Cast on

You can choose to cast on with one color and join the second color on the first round, or, you can work a two color cast on. This is worked in a similar manner to a regular long-tailed cast on, only you are alternating between two yarns.

MC = Main Color (knitted stitches) CC = Contrast Color (purlled stitches)

For a k1, p1 type pattern



1. Make a slip knot in both yarns, at the same point you would if casting on with one color.



2. Place MC, then CC on the needle.



3. Bring MC around the back of CC and cast on one stitch. Drop the MC strands.



4. Bring CC around the back of MC and cast on one stitch. Drop the CC strands.  
Repeat steps 3 and 4.

### Note

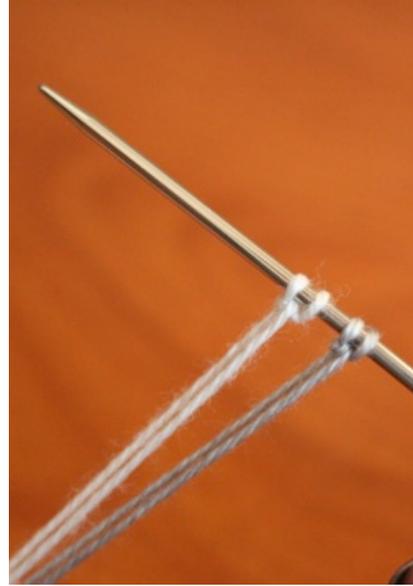
The only downside to a two-color cast on is that your strands of yarn get tangled. Take a moment every few sts to untangle them, and you won't be left with a big puzzle at the end of the row.

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## For a k2, p2 type pattern



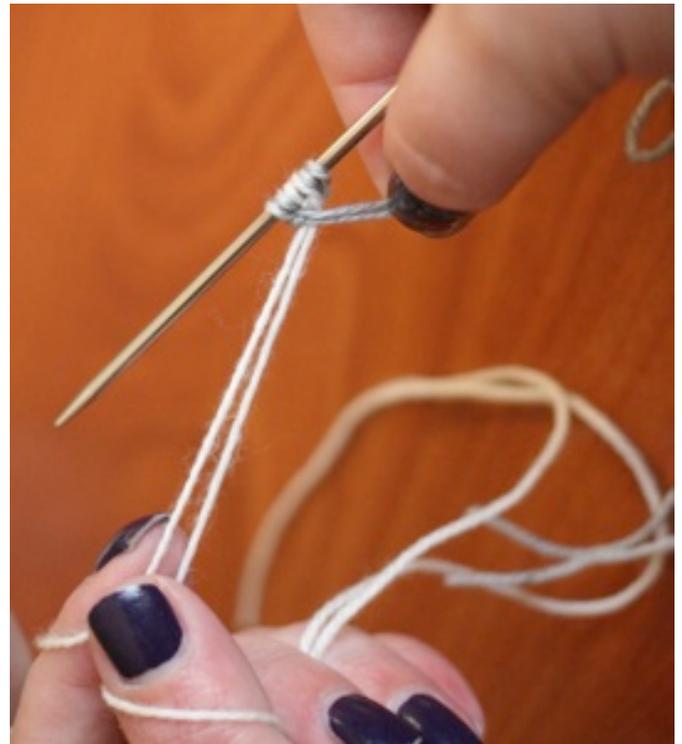
1. Make a slip knot in both yarns, at the same point you would if casting on with one color.



2. Place MC on the needle, cast on 1 st, (2 total) and then place CC on the needle and cast on 1 st (4 total).



3. Keeping MC behind and to the right of CC, cast on 2 sts with CC.



4. Drop the CC strands, and bring MC to the front of your work, from around the back of the cast on sts, cast on 2 sts with MC.

Repeat steps 3 & 4 for the desired number of stitches.

# Working those knits and purls

A two-color knit and purl combination isn't as springy as its single-colored cousin, and it takes a bit of practice to get used to working it. The main thing to remember is that all your knit stitches will be worked with MC and all your purl stitches worked with the CC. If you're working from a chart, it's helpful to grab a colored pencil and color in all the knit stitches. That way, you have an extra visual of what's going on. Here are some basic cable stitches, worked without a CN.

## For a k1, p1 type pattern



1. With MC, knit 1 st, drop MC in back of work,



2. Bring CC to front of work, purl 1 with CC, put CC strand to back of work. Repeat both steps.

## For a k2, p2 type pattern

The methodology for a k2, p2 pattern is exactly the same as for a k1, p1 pattern, only you're working two stitches in each color.

So, with MC, k2, drop MC in back of work, bring CC to front of work, p2 with CC, put CC strand to back of work and repeat.



As you can see from both examples, the technique is the same, just the number of stitches differ.

# Twists and Cables



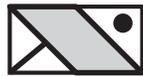
## The Right Purl Twist (1/1 RCp)



You can work this stitch combination with a cable needle if desired, but it's easier to work it without. Knit the second stitch with MC, and leave on LH needle, purl the first stitch with CC, then drop both stitches from the LH needle together.



## The Left Purl Twist (1/1 LCp)



Just like the right purl twist, you can work this stitch combination with a cable needle if desired, but it's easier to work it without. Working at the back of your work, purl the second stitch, remembering to leave your CC strand to the back. Leave the purlled stitch on the LH needle, then knit the first stitch with MC and drop both stitches from the LH needle.



## The 2/2 Right Purlled Cable



1. Slip the next 4 sts off your LH needle, pinching them gently on the row below with your thumb and finger.



2. Place the two purl stitches onto the LH needle, **behind** the two knit stitches



3. Place the two remaining knit stitches on the LH needle, then knit 2, purl 2.

## The 2/2 Left Purlled Cable



1. Slip the next 4 sts off your LH needle, pinching them gently on the row below with your thumb and finger.



2. Place the knit stitches back onto the LH needle, **in front** of the two purl stitches,



3. Place the two remaining purl stitches on the LH needle, then purl 2, knit 2.

# The Bind Off

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Much like the cast on, you can choose to either work the bind off with one color or with two.

To work a two-color bind off, simply bind off using MC and CC in the same order as the sts lay in the round below.

If working in the round, and when you get to the last stitch, cut the strand, pull one end through the loop gently, then thread it through the first bound off st in the round from back to front, and bring back to the center of the last st. Cut the second color strand, and weave ends in through the floats on the reverse side.

## and that's it!

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The main thing to remember is that all your purled stitches will always be worked with CC and all your knitted stitches will be worked with MC. As long as you keep that straight, the rest of cabling and twisted stitch combinations are exactly the same as their single-colored cousins.

Please visit my website - [www.knitbrit.com](http://www.knitbrit.com)  
or find me on Ravelry, Twitter or Facebook as knitbrit

My new book, Big Foot Knits, is available from Cooperative Press now.

*“So many sock patterns are written as if one size fits all. But anyone who has larger feet and legs knows better.”*

*In this ingenious book, designer Andi Smith walks the bigger-footed among us through the steps of properly measuring our feet and legs, assessing the toe and heel shapes that fit us best, and adapting patterns to suit our shape. All this, plus 12 gorgeous sock patterns, each with instructions for modifying to your foot and for knitting top-down or toe-up.”*

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