

KESTRELL'S KNIT-PURL BROCADE

A knitting pattern

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I doodled up this pattern several years ago for, [Friend Kestrell](#), who at that was learning to knit. So I decided to make a sock pattern just for her. This presented a couple of challenges because Kes is blind. I wanted to use a simple knit/purl brocade that made a deeply embossed texture, and that would be relatively easy for a new sock knitter to memorize. Having worked with Friend Rosie (another non-sighted knitter) I also wanted to make a pattern in which one could use feel to determine one's location.

Best intentions often go astray, and it took me many months to begin, misplace, then find the pair of in-process socks again. When the pair resurfaced, I had a finished sock but no pattern written down. I know I had drafted out the textured brocade, but I couldn't find it on my archives. Another friend came to the rescue. My stitchpal Kathryn saves everything. I had shared the original chart with her way back when, and she was kind enough to send me a copy.

But there was a complication. The chart I sent Kathryn was for a 14-stitch repeat. My done-sock was worked on 72 stitches – an 18-stitch repeat. Yes,

I had the finished sock, but it can be surprisingly difficult to graph up a piece from as-knitted, especially when the knitted object is done at tiny gauges with a variegated yarn. But between the sock and the logic of the pattern I was able to noodle it out and continue. I present both the 14 stitch and 18 stitch repeat. The 14 fits neatly on any sock worked on 56 stitches. If you are partial to working with a set of five rather than four needles, you will find that one full repeat will fit on each needle, and each needle will be worked in the same way. Also, being top-down symmetrical, this pattern will look pretty much the same for toe up and cuff down socks.

The astute will notice that the thing is symmetrical on two axes. The 14 stitch repeat mirrors around central stitch #8, and row #7. The 18 stitch repeat mirrors around stitch #9 and row #7.

Yes, I know that Kes and Rosie would have problems reading the charts, so I share prose instructions first, followed by the graphs.

Kestrell's Knit-Purl Brocade

Instructions

Kes' Brocade – 14 stitch version, transcribed for knitting in the round only

- **Row 1:** (Right Side) P2, K3, (P1, K1)3 times, K2, P1
- **Row 2:** (Wrong Side) P3, K3, P1, K1, P1, K3, P2
- **Row 3:** K1, P3, K3, P1, K3, P3
- **Row 4:** K2, P3, K5, P3, K1
- **Row 5:** K3, P3, K3, P3, K2
- **Row 6:** P1, K3, P3, K1, P3, K3
- **Row 7:** K1, P1, K3, P5, K3, P1
- **Row 8:** (P1, K1)2 times, K2, P3, K3, P1, K1
- **Row 9:** K1, P1, K3, P5, K3, P1
- **Row 10:** P1, K3, P3, K1, P3, K3
- **Row 11:** K3, P3, K3, P3, K2
- **Row 12:** K2, P3, K5, P3, K1
- **Row 13:** K1, P3, K3, P1, K3, P3
- **Row 14:** P3, K3, P1, K1, P1, K3, P2

Kes' Brocade – 18 stitch version, transcribed for knitting in the round only

- **Row 1:** (Right Side) K3, P4, (K1, P1)2x, K3, P3, K1
- **Row 2:** (Wrong Side) K1, P3, K4, P1, K4, P3, K2
- **Row 3:** K2, P3, K7, P3, K3
- **Row 4:** K3, P3, K5, P3, K4
- **Row 5:** K4, P3, K3, P3, K4, P1
- **Row 6:** P1, K4, P3, K1, P3, K4, P1, K1
- **Row 7:** K1, P1, K4, P5, K4, P1, K1, P1
- **Row 8:** P1, K4, P3, K1, P3, K4, P1, K1
- **Row 9:** K4, P3, K3, P3, K4, P1
- **Row 10:** K3, P3, K5, P3, K4
- **Row 11:** K2, P3, K7, P3, K3
- **Row 12:** K1, P3, K4, P1, K4, P3, K2
- **Row 13:** P3, K4, P1, K1, P1, K4, P3, K1
- **Row 14:** P2, K4, (P1, K1) 3 times, K3, P3

