



CREATING PERSONAL HEIRLOOM KNITS
AS SIMPLY AS CASTING ON AND CASTING OFF

Knitologie

Lucy Main Tweed



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A Day in the Life of a Cap

Introduction

My Story

I spent three decades of my time, energy and creative abilities in the fashion industry. It was a wonderful career, and I enjoyed it immensely. Initially my job had a creative bent, and then during the middle and later years I worked on the supply-chain side of the business. Both positions were incredibly challenging and rewarding, and I am proud to say that I have wonderful friends and former colleagues around the world who will be with me always.

When that chapter of my life ended in 2008, I found for the first time in my adult life the time and energy to pursue things that I'd never had the time to undertake. Throughout my professional career my personal passion was needlepoint. You might ask, "Where did you ever find the time?" The answer is simple: You would be amazed at the number of hours spent waiting in airport lounges and up at night with the dreaded jet lag. These time periods provided me with a great deal of opportunity to craft needlepoint projects. I amassed quite the collection of pillows, framed pictures and Christmas ornaments, and was able to share many of them with friends and family as gifts.

With so many changes in my life occurring at once, I decided to leave needlepoint and try something different. This is where my mom enters the picture — she suggested I try my hand at knitting. I must be honest and say that I'd tried knitting at other stages of my life but never stuck with it.



You might wonder why and the answer is, in part, the inspiration for this book. I was, and still am, a very novice knitter. I know four simple things:

- 1 How to cast on, in a non-conventional way
- 2 How to cast off
- 3 How to knit
- 4 How to purl.

So what can you make with these skills? I soon began to make everyone's favorite, scarves. Before long boredom set in, but everyone told me to get some cheap yarn and practice, practice, practice to become proficient enough to do something more complicated and interesting. My plain yarn in a basic color did not hold my interest, so I decided to follow my contrarian spirit.

A trip to a local yarn store yielded a very interesting yarn with texture and a gorgeous variegated color. This held more interest. Even if the knitting was not a success, I had made a relatively small investment in something captivating. However, after making several scarves, which actually did get used, the creative challenge was still missing. I decided to buy a pattern and try something different. This is where the real trouble began, which provided a reason for this book.

The abbreviations and the language of knitting patterns was mind-boggling and I would get lost in the pattern from one knitting session to the next. If a few days went by, I was hopelessly lost. Frustration nearly caused me to give up. That's when my creative DNA came through. It was essential to come up with a unique idea that would hold my interest.

Thoughts of my Grandmother Main were with me in the process. She appreciated high quality and was incredibly creative. She had created my first play dresses (yes, little girls wore dresses for play in the 1950s), stitched by hand from my grandfather's dress shirts. The button front of his shirt became the button back of my dress. The back yoke of his shirt was hand smocked to become the front of my dress. I love this story and believe the origins of this book are connected to that creativity. Talk about "personal" and "custom."



My mom also helped me in this process. She is another incredibly creative woman and you can read her thoughts about knitting later in this book. Now in her eighties, my mom knits several hours every day. She makes hats, and hats alone. That might sound boring to some of you, but if you could see the hats you'd see that each and every one is different, and you'd understand how her creative passion is served.

With these two wonderful women as inspiration, I decided that personalization would be my path. Actually, it has always been a part of my life, from monogrammed clothing to personalized stationary to engraved flatware. My initials, LAM in the beginning and later LMT, have always been a big part of my life. Many of my former professional colleagues did not call me Lucy, or Mrs. Tweet. They called me L-M-T.

And so, I thought, I can make a scarf. Yes, I said scarf, but one that uses my initials! So with a piece of ordinary graph paper and pencil, L, M and T were born. The background would be knit and the letters would be purl. Very subtle and easy, and these letters would not require a contrast color or intarsia proficiency. Remember, I am a novice knitter with limited skills. I found a beautiful yarn in a great color and began knitting.

Letter Grids

The following pages of the book comprise knitting stitch grids for every letter of the alphabet, and a paw print! These are the tools that will allow you to customize whichever knitting pattern you choose.

Each large grid uses the actual letter as a symbol, as opposed to using symbols for knit or purl stitches. This format allows you to determine how you want your alphabet to be knit. For example, you have the choice to have a purl background with a knit letter or a knit background with a purl letter. This also enables you to use the alternatives in combination, especially if you are knitting the cube or other patchwork type patterns. You also have flexibility to change stitches depending on the trim or border stitch that you're using. This is entirely a matter of choice and your opportunity to make each and every project yours and yours alone.

Because they'll be knitted, all letters and numbers are basic in design to allow for maximum detail. Some of the designs may appear a bit elongated but when actually knit, I'm confident you will be pleased with the result.

Medium letter grids are also provided for use on several patterns with the baby projects. Their layout is smaller in order to best accommodate the smaller projects. These grids are half the size of their larger counterparts: 10 stitches across and 14 rows up and down. Use the grids alone or in tandem with the larger letters to create a monogram — it's entirely up to you!

Every grid is specific to the letter and does not include any background. The project patterns are presented row by row, with a portion designated as "customize 20," meaning that you knit your chosen letter from the grid over these 20 stitches. Other patterns provide a generic letter or letters, but once again you can easily customize them to suit your needs.



Row 14		
Row 13		
Row 12		
Row 11		
Row 10		
Row 9		
Row 8		
Row 7		
Row 6		
Row 5		
Row 4		
Row 3		
Row 2		
Row 1	✓	

				a	a				
				a	a				
			a	a	a	a			
			a	a	a	a			
		a	a			a	a		
		a	a			a	a		
		a	a	a	a	a	a		
		a	a	a	a	a	a	a	
	a	a	a	a		a	a	a	a
	a	a	a	a		a	a	a	a
	a	a	a				a	a	a
	a	a	a				a	a	a

b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b		
b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	
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b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b		

Row 14		
Row 13		
Row 12		
Row 11		
Row 10		
Row 9		
Row 8		
Row 7		
Row 6		
Row 5		
Row 4		
Row 3		
Row 2		
Row 1	✓	

e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
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f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f
f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f
f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f
f	f	f							
f	f	f							
f	f	f							
f	f	f	f	f	f				
f	f	f	f	f	f				
f	f	f							
f	f	f							
f	f	f							
f	f	f							

Row 14		
Row 13		
Row 12		
Row 11		
Row 10		
Row 9		
Row 8		
Row 7		
Row 6		
Row 5		
Row 4		
Row 3		
Row 2		
Row 1	✓	

		c	c	c	c	c	c		
		c	c	c	c	c	c	c	
c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
c	c	c					c	c	c
c	c	c							
c	c	c							
c	c	c					c	c	c
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c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
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	c	c	c	c	c	c			

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d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d		

Row 14		
Row 13		
Row 12		
Row 11		
Row 10		
Row 9		
Row 8		
Row 7		
Row 6		
Row 5		
Row 4		
Row 3		
Row 2		
Row 1	✓	

	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	
g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g
g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g
g	g	g				g	g	g	
g	g	g				g	g	g	
g	g	g							
g	g	g				g	g	g	g
g	g	g				g	g	g	g
g	g	g				g	g	g	
g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g
g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	

h	h	h					h	h	h
h	h	h					h	h	h
h	h	h					h	h	h
h	h	h					h	h	h
h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h
h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h
h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h
h	h	h					h	h	h
h	h	h					h	h	h
h	h	h					h	h	h
h	h	h					h	h	h

Accessory Patterns



SIGNATURE INITIAL NECK WARMER



Yarn: Mary Jo Cole, 100% cashmere

Yards Required: 100

Needles: US 8 (5mm), 16 inch circular, 1 US 8 (5mm) single-point, 4 US 8 (5mm) double-points

Gauge: 18 stitches and 24 rows equal 4 inches

Finished Size: 18 stitches equal 4 inches

Abbreviations: K (k): Knit; P (p): Purl

Cast on 88 stitches on a straight needle and then transfer them to the circular one. Place a marker in front of first stitch to indicate beginning of the round. Join for knitting in the round.

jil eaton Minnow Merino, 100% extra fine merino wool with a gauge of 4.5 stitches to one inch is a wonderful alternative yarn for this project.

Round Stitch Pattern Done

Bottom Border

- Round 1 (K4, p1, k1, p1, k1) 11 times ✓
- Round 2 (K4, k1, p1, k1, p1) 11 times
- Round 3 (K4, p1, k1, p1, k1) 11 times
- Round 4 (K4, k1, p1, k1, p1) 11 times
- Round 5 (K4, p1, k1, p1, k1) 11 times
- Round 6 K88
- Round 7 K88
- Round 8 K88
- Round 9 K88
- Round 10 K88
- Round 11 K88
- Round 12 K88

Round Stitch Pattern Done

Letter

- Round 1 K25, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k25
- Round 2 K25, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k25
- Round 3 K25, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k25
- Round 4 K25, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k25
- Round 5 K25, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k25
- Round 6 K25, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k25

Round Stitch Pattern Done

- Round 7 K25, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k25
- Round 8 K25, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k25
- Round 9 K25, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k25
- Round 10 K25, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k25
- Round 11 K25, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k25
- Round 12 K25, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k25
- Round 13 K25, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k25
- Round 14 K25, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k4, *customize* 10, k25

Top Border

- Round 1 K88
- Round 2 K88
- Round 3 K88
- Round 4 K88
- Round 5 K88
- Round 6 K88
- Round 7 (K4, p1, k1, p1, k1) 11 times
- Round 8 (K4, k1, p1, k1, p1) 11 times
- Round 9 (K4, p1, k1, p1, k1) 11 times
- Round 10 (K4, k1, p1, k1, p1) 11 times
- Round 11 (K4, p1, k1, p1, k1) 11 times
- Round 12 (K4, k1, p1, k1, p1) 11 times

Cast off 88 stitches and secure loose threads.





BABY CUBE



Yarn: jil eaton Minnow Merino,
100% extra fine superwash merino wool, 77 yd per 50g

Yards Required: 200

Needles: US 8 (5mm)

Gauge: 18 stitches equals 4 inches

Finished Size: 5.5 inches cubed

Abbreviations: K (k): Knit; P (p): Purl

Row *Stitch Pattern* *Done*

“B” Square (make 2)

Cast on 22 stitches on a single-point needle.

Below the Letter

Row 1	K22
Row 2	P22
Row 3	K22
Row 4	P22
Row 5	K22
Row 6	P22



Row *Stitch Pattern* *Done*

The Letter

Row 1	K6, k2, p8, k6
Row 2	P6, k9, p1, p6
Row 3	K6, p10, k6
Row 4	P6, k3, p3, k4, p6
Row 5	K6, p3, k4, p3, k6
Row 6	P6, k3, p4, k2, p1, p6
Row 7	K6, k2, p8, k6
Row 8	P6, k8, p2, p6
Row 9	K6, k1, p2, k4, p3, k6
Row 10	P6, k3, p4, k3, p6
Row 11	K6, k4, k3, p4, k6
Row 12	P6, k10, p6
Row 13	K6, k1, p9, k6
Row 14	P6, k8, p2, p6

Row *Stitch Pattern* Done

Above the Letter

Row 1 K22
Row 2 P22
Row 3 K22
Row 4 P22
Row 5 K22
Row 6 P22

.....
Cast off 22 stitches and secure loose threads on back.
.....

“A” Square (make one)

Cast on 22 stitches on a single-point needle.

Below the Letter

Row 1 K22
Row 2 P22
Row 3 K22
Row 4 P22
Row 5 K22
Row 6 P22

The Letter

Row 1 K6, p3, k4, p3, k6
Row 2 P6, k3, p4, k3, p6
Row 3 K6, p4, k2, p4, k6
Row 4 P6, k4, p2, k4, p6
Row 5 K6, k1, p8, k1, k6
Row 6 P6, p1, k8, p1, p6
Row 7 K6, p2, k6, p2, k6
Row 8 P6, p2, k2, p2, k2, p2, p6
Row 9 K6, k2, p2, k2, p2, k2, k6
Row 10 P6, p2, k2, p2, k2, p2, p6

Row *Stitch Pattern* Done

Row 11 K6, k3, p4, k3, k6
Row 12 P6, p3, k4, p3, k6
Row 13 K6, k4, p2, k4, k6
Row 14 P6, p4, k2, p4, p6

Above the Letter

Row 1 K22
Row 2 P22
Row 3 K22
Row 4 P22
Row 5 K22
Row 6 P22

.....
Cast off 22 stitches and secure loose threads on back.
.....

“Y” Square (make one)

Cast on 22 stitches on a single-point needle.

Below the Letter

Row 1 K22
Row 2 P22
Row 3 K22
Row 4 P22
Row 5 K22
Row 6 P22

The Letter

Row 1 K6, k4, p2, k4, k6
Row 2 P6, p4, k2, p4, p6
Row 3 K6, k4, p2, k4, k6
Row 4 P6, p4, k2, p4, p6

Row *Stitch Pattern* Done

Row 5 K6, k4, p2, k4, k6
Row 6 P6, p3, k4, p3, p6
Row 7 K6, k3, p4, k3, k6
Row 8 P6, p2, k6, p2, p6
Row 9 K6, k2, p2, k2, p2, k2, k6
Row 10 P6, p2, k2, p2, k2, p2, p6
Row 11 K6, k1, p3, k2, p3, k1, k6
Row 12 P6, p1, k3, p2, k3, p1, p6
Row 13 K6, p3, k4, p3, k6
Row 14 P6, k3, p4, k3, k7

Above the Letter

Row 1 K22
Row 2 P22
Row 3 K22
Row 4 P22
Row 5 K22
Row 6 P22

.....
Cast off 22 stitches and secure loose threads on back.
.....

♥ Square (make 2)

Cast on 22 stitches on a single-point needle.

Below the ♥

Row 1 K22
Row 2 P22
Row 3 K22
Row 4 P22
Row 5 K22
Row 6 P22

Row *Stitch Pattern* Done

The ♥

Row 1 K5, k5, p2, k5, k5
Row 2 P5, p4, k4, p4, p5
Row 3 K5, k3, p6, k3, k5
Row 4 P5, p3, k6, p3, p5
Row 5 K5, k2, p8, k2, k5
Row 6 P5, p2, k8, p2, p5
Row 7 K5, k1, p10, k1, k5
Row 8 P5, p1, k10, p1, p5
Row 9 K5, p12, k5
Row 10 P5, k12, p5
Row 11 K5, p12, k5
Row 12 P5, k5, p2, k5, p5
Row 13 K5, p4, k4, p4, k5
Row 14 P5, p1, k2, p6, k2, p1, p5

Above the ♥

Row 1 K22
Row 2 P22
Row 3 K22
Row 4 P22
Row 5 K22
Row 6 P22

.....
Cast off 22 stitches and secure loose threads on back.

Stitch 6 squares beginning with B - A - B - Y side by side and then attaching a Heart on the top. Fill the five-sided cube with foam, down or your choice of stuffing, and then attach the other heart, the sixth side, on the bottom.

This is the perfect shape for a six-letter name or a four-letter name with the heart on the top and the bottom. Knit a Baby cube and a Love cube for the perfect shower gift.

Leftovers



Just like their food counterparts, leftover yarns should be embraced and not thrown out. Many of us have fond memories of suppers where the menu was whatever was left over in the refrigerator. A little of this and a little of that left over often times tastes better than when it was the main course.

Look for a great place to store yarn leftovers and use them to add a bit of unexpected color for a trim, letter or number. I like to use glass apothecary jars to store my leftover yarns; they are attractive and do not need to be hidden away where you will forget about them. Leave them out in the room where you do most of your knitting and you will have constant inspiration to enhance your personalized project.

Decades ago I was a knitwear product manager. One of the sweater companies I worked with designed a sweater each season based on whatever colors were left over from the prior season. The design team was always up to the challenge, and more often than not last season's leftovers turned out to be one of the current season's best sellers.

There's no reason why you cannot embrace a similar philosophy and have your own personalized best seller using leftover yarns in creative combinations.



An adorable striped cap or mittens are great ways to utilize small bits of yarn you may have accumulated. Your imagination is your only limitation.

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