

## Trees and Candles Stocking by Michelle Bowman

A colorwork project designed for worsted weight yarns



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## Design notes:

This is not a pattern, per se, but rather a recipe. The stocking in the picture has some elements designed by me and some elements I found in books. So, the following chart has the elements I designed, and spaces are left for you to enter other colorwork designs of your choice. I'm fond of leaves and vines in colorwork, and there are a whole lot of designs out there for those. And, you can also start with a shape you like and then alter it to fit your stitch count; I teach this skill in my classes.

Each side of the stocking is 36 stitches wide, for a total circumference of 72 stitches. So, pattern repeats of 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 18, 24, or 36 stitches will fit into this stitch count. At my gauge, the colorwork sections are 13" long for the top of the stocking and 4.5" for the foot. Gauge doesn't matter a whole lot, of course, as long as Santa can get into it enough to fill it with my favorite chocolate oranges! 😊

The stocking is worked cuff down. In my class, I teach students to design in Excel, and so I designed this chart in Excel and then recommend charting software later. I do that because most people have access to Excel or Google Sheets, so computer-aided colorwork design is possible without a special program. I don't know of a way to easily make the row and column numbers orient correctly. But, if you print the page and turn it upside down, the numbers will be in the right place, at least, and you'll be good to go.

I used worsted weight yarns in this stocking: two greens, two reds, yellow, white and bone, and a gold tweed. The cuff is worked in ribbing using smooth white worsted for the purls and a textured yarn for the knits. Total yardage is around 440 yards; amounts vary for each color.

The stocking pattern is the same on both sides. I worked the trees and wreaths with 3 strands of yarn. However, you could work these elements with the darker green, then add the lighter green in duplicate stitch. The lighter green stitches are not charted; I added them in randomly as I worked. The beads are glass E-beads sewn on after blocking, and the star is a purchased button. I made the bows on the wreaths by tying a small bow with the brighter red yarn and then couching it down with the darker red.

A feature of Fair Isle colorwork that I particularly love is the use of lighter, brighter colors through the center of a design. I have this charted in the top elements, and I used it throughout the stocking.

The heel is a short row heel, worked over half the stocking stitches. The toe is a shallow wedge toe, closed with Kitchener stitch.

Some colorwork pattern resource books that I refer to frequently:

Fair Isle Knitting Patterns: Reproducing the Known Work of Robert Williamson, by Mary Macgregor. This is printed and published by The Shetland Times, and I got this book during a visit to Shetland. You can get it directly from the author at <https://www.bakkaknitwear.com/products/fair-isle-knitting-patterns-book-by-mary-macgregor>.

200 Fair Isle Motifs: A Knitter's Directory by Mary Jane Mucklestone.

Alice Starmore's Book of Fair Isle Knitting.

## Basic instructions

### Foldover cuff:

With cuff color, cast on 72 sts and join for working in the round. Knit in stockinette until desired cuff depth is reached. Purl 1 row for the fold line.

Work 2x2 ribbing for the same number of rows as you worked in stockinette. If desired, work knit sts in a textured yarn and purl sts in smooth yarn.

### Leg:

Turn the chart upside down. This places row 1, cell 1 at the bottom right corner.

Work the design for 2 repeats—one on each side of the stocking. It's helpful to place markers on each side of the repeats.

### Heel:

Work a short row heel or insert a waste yarn half-row across half the stitches as a place holder for an afterthought heel. The sample has a short row heel, worked with 12 short row pairs, leaving the center 12 sts unwrapped.

### Foot:

Turn the chart upside down. This places row 1, cell 1 at the bottom right corner.

Work the design for 2 repeats—one on each side of the stocking. It's helpful to place markers on each side of the repeats.

### Toe:

Work a wedge toe or a round/star toe in desired color.

Hanger: Work a 4-stitch I-cord for 6 to 8 inches. Fold in half and sew ends to inside of stocking, leaving a large loop open at the top.





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