



Four-colored shell pattern basic instructions



Introduction

This really beautiful pattern was published by Horst Schulz in his famous book „Das neue Stricken“, although only as a graphical chart. The book is out of print, but you can occasionally get a copy on ebay – grab it!

I have reworked and simplified the shell pattern thoroughly, and written down the instructions row by row, in order to make it easier to follow. In addition, I explain how to knit the half shells needed for a straight side edge, and the flattened shells you need for a straight top edge.

A little experience with patchwork or modular knitting is nice to have if you want to knit this. For example: you should know how to weave in yarn tails as you go, or there will be zillions of ends to darn in in the end. And you should know how to do nice edge stitches, as there are always lots of new stitches to be picked up from the edges. I prefer to knit the first stitch/slip the last stitch purlwise for a nicely finished edge, but you can use whatever edge stitch you're comfortable with.

Everything in all this pattern isn't really difficult, and every knitter with a little experience should be able to make it.

I recommend you to do a straight piece first, a cushion cover or something like that, in order to learn the ins and outs of this pattern and gather a little experience.

Once you get the hang of it, you can go on to constructing a vest or doing an afghan or other bigger project. Just try it, the “Muschelmuster” is one of the most beautiful patchwork knitting patterns!



Material

Any yarn suitable for knitting with 5 mm needles, that should be medium to bulky. You can also combine two strands of 4ply sock yarn, which is approximately the right thickness. You need four colors, as you can see in this single shell:



1. **Brown** is the basic color and used on all garter stitch rows.
2. **White** or any shade of light beige
3. **Red**, or any shade of orange/red/burgundy
4. **Glitter**, any kind of fancy glittering yarn in a matching color with approx. the right thickness

Abbreviations

K = knit

P = purl

St = stitch(es)

Ssk = slip, slip, knit

K2tog = knit two together

K3tog = knit three together

P2tog = purl two together

The first shell

On the first row of shells, you have to cast on every shell separately. On the second and every following row of shells, you pick up the stitches for the new shells from the top of the last row.

Here's how to knit a single shell, row by row. Don't forget to make nice edge stitches!

1. Cast on $16 + 1 + 16$ st = 33 st in brown



2. Brown, knit
3. Brown, knit and weave in the brown tail end from the cast-on
4. Brown, knit
5. White, knit and weave in white tail end
6. White, purl
7. brown, knit
8. brown, knit
9. white, knit
10. white, purl
11. brown, knit, weave in white tail end
12. brown, knit
13. red, leave tail end hanging.
1 edge stitch, k1, ssk 7 times, k1, k2tog 7 times, k1, 1 edge stitch
14. red, purl
15. brown, knit, weave in red tail end
16. brown, knit
17. red: 1 edge stitch, (ssk, k1) 3 times, (k2tog, k1) 2times, k2tog, 1 edge stitch
18. red: purl
19. brown, knit, weave in red tail end
20. brown, knit
21. glitter, knit, weave in glitter tail end.
22. Glitter, purl
23. Brown, 1 edge stitch, ssk, k7, k2tog, 1 edge stitch
24. Brown, knit
25. Glitter, 1 edge stitch, ssk, k5, k2tog, 1 edge stitch
26. Glitter, purl
27. Brown, 1 edge stitch, ssk, k3, k2tog, 1 edge stitch.
This row is too short to weave in the tail end of glitter, you have to cut it, leave it hanging and darn it in later.
28. Brown, knit
29. Brown, 1 edge stitch, ssk, k1, k2tog, 1 edge stitch
30. Brown, knit
31. Brown, 1 edge stitch, k3tog, 1 edge stitch
32. Brown, knit
33. k3tog, break yarn and pull through.

Congratulations, the first shell is finished!

The second shell

... and all other shells of the first row are knitted exactly like the first shell.



The second row of shells

Pick up $16+1+16 = 33$ stitches from the top edges of the first row of shells.



From the second row on, knit exactly like the first shell





Half shells

In order to make a straight side edge, you have to knit half shells. Because the top of the half shell is very narrow, leave out the glitter color and knit the top of the shell only in brown.



Half shell for the left edge:

1. Brown, pick up $1+16+1 = 18$ stitches from the top edge of the shell below.
2. Brown, knit
3. Brown, knit
4. Brown, knit
5. White, knit
6. White, purl
7. Brown, knit
8. Brown, knit
9. White, knit
10. White, purl
11. Brown, knit
12. Brown, knit
13. Red, 1 edge stitch, k1, ssk 7 times, k1, 1 edge stitch
14. Red, purl
15. Brown, knit
16. Brown, knit
17. Red, 1 edge stitch, (ssk k1) 3 times, 1 edge stitch
18. Red, purl
19. Brown, knit. The rest of the top of the shell is knitted all in brown



20. knit
21. knit
22. purl
23. 1 edge stitch, ssk, knit to end, 1 edge stitch
24. Brown, knit
25. Brown, 1 edge stitch, ssk, knit to end, 1 edge stitch
26. Brown, knit
27. 1 edge stitch, ssk, knit to end, 1 edge stitch
28. knit
29. 1 edge stitch, ssk, k2tog, knit to end, 1 edge stitch
30. Knit
31. 1 edge stitch, ssk, 1 edge stitch
32. knit
33. k3tog, break yarn and pull through.

Half shell for the right edge

This is just the mirror image of the shell for the left edge. Pick up stitches and knit up to row 22 exactly as described above. Then, instead of ssk at the beginning of every row, k2tog the third and second last stitches at the end of the row.

Top half shell

In order to make a straight top edge, you need to knit flat half shells. This is how you do it:

1. brown, pick up $16+1+16=33$ stitches
2. brown, 1 edge stitch, k2tog, knit to 3 st before end, k2tog, 1 edge stitch
3. brown, like 2nd row
4. brown, like 2nd row
5. white, like 2nd row
6. white, 1 edge stitch, p2tog, purl to 3 st before end, p2tog, 1 edge stitch
7. brown, like 2nd row
8. brown, like 2nd row
9. white, like 2nd row
10. white, 1 edge stitch, p2tog, purl to 3 st before end, p2tog, 1 edge stitch
11. brown, like 2nd row
12. brown, like 2nd row
13. brown, 1 edge stitch, k1, k2tog 4 times, k1, 1 edge stitch
14. brown, bind off loosely, break yarn and pull through.



That's it – happy knitting!