Elemental Coasters
by Jennifer Kent

4 MEDIUM Intermediate / Intermédiaire / Intermedio

Beyond the Pattern

I love the reversible nature of double knitting, which allows for the easy creation of striking positive/negative motifs, especially when highly contrasting colors are used. It is, however, a technique that requires more time to complete since you are knitting two layers of fabric simultaneously. So, for me, smaller items are a great option for double knitting. That is why I love using this technique to create items for the home, such as placemats, table runners, or my Elemental Coasters. These were inspired by nature's elements and can be used year-round when worked in this machine-washable cotton/cashmere blend. Both sides of the coaster can be used and enjoyed, and at only 4.5" square, they make up in a flash!

Finished Measurements

4.5" wide and 4.5" tall

Materials

Rowan COTTON CASHMERE (137yds/125m, 50g/1.76oz, 85% Cotton, 15% Cashmere): 1 skein each #232 Charcoal (MC), #224 Silver Lining (CC1), #229 Forest Hill (CC2), #227 Tulip (CC3), and #230 Ocean (CC4)
Size 0 (2mm) dpns or size needed to obtain gauge
Size 1 (2.25mm) dpns or size needed to obtain gauge
Tapestry needle

Copyright 2024, The Knitting Guild Association, Cast On Spring 2024, All Rights Reserved

Gauge
In St st double knitting on larger needles, 22 sts & 33 rows = 4”/10cm. To save time, take time to check gauge.

Stitch Patterns
See Air, Earth, Fire, and Water Charts.

Special Techniques

Following the Charts
- The charts are worked using the double-knit method, where 2 layers of fabric are worked at the same time with two different color yarns on the same set of needles.
- Each square on the chart represents a stitch pair. The first st in the pair is the front layer, and the second st is the back layer.
- When the square on the chart is MC, the knit st on the front uses the MC, and the purl st on the back uses the CC.
- When the square on the chart is CC, the knit st on the front uses the CC, and the purl st on the back uses the MC.
- The chart represents the front layer only. The colors on the back layer will be the opposite of the front.
- Odd rows (RS) are read from right to left, and colors used follow the chart as is.
- Even rows (WS) are read from left to right, and the colors used are the reverse of what is shown on the chart.

2-Color Italian Cast On
For working this cast on, see this link.

Double-Knit Kitchener Bind Off
For working this bind off, see this link.

Construction Notes
These coasters are worked flat, back and forth in rows, from bottom to top. Much smaller needles than normally expected are utilized in order to produce a firm fabric.

Copyright 2024, The Knitting Guild Association, Cast On Spring 2024, All Rights Reserved

Coasters

Air (Earth, Fire, Water)

With smaller needles and the 2-color Italian CO method using CC1 (CC2, CC3, CC4) for knit sts and MC for purl sts, and starting with a knit st, CO 50 sts, 25 sts of each color.

Work Row 1 of Air (Earth, Fire, Water) Chart, knitting into the back loop of the knit sts to keep them from twisting.

Change to larger needles.
Work Rows 2–35 of Air (Earth, Fire, Water) Chart.

Change to smaller needles.
Work Row 36 of Air (Earth, Fire, Water) Chart.

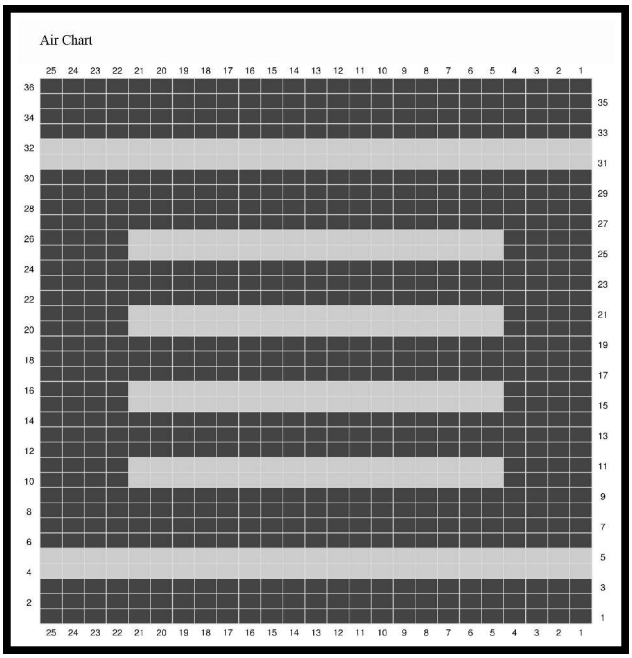
Transfer sts to 2 needles, with MC sts on the front needle and CC1 (CC2, CC3, CC4) sts on the back needle.

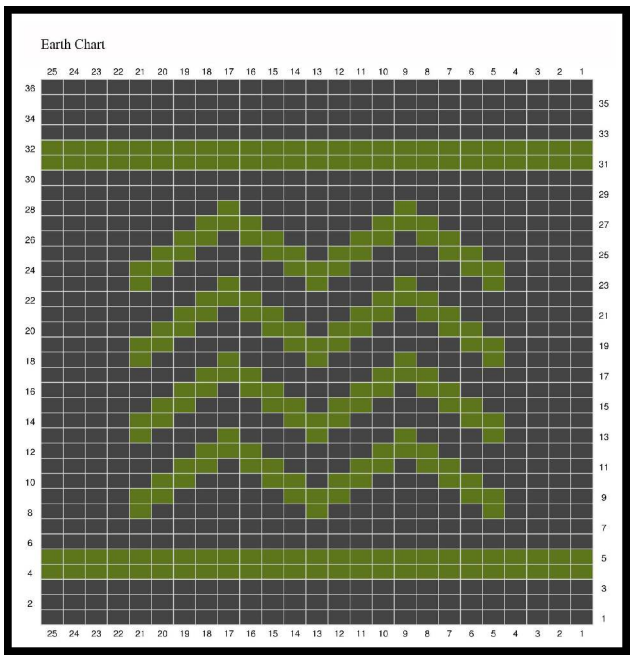
With MC, graft sts tog using the Kitchener stitch to close the top of the coaster.

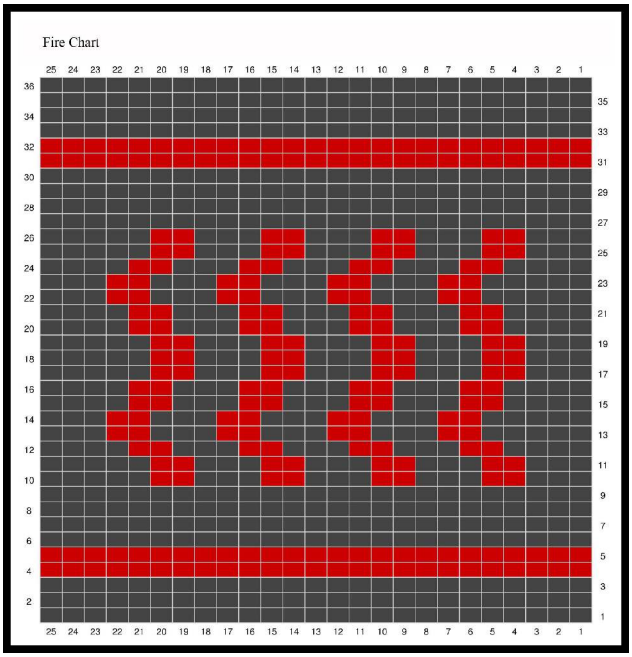
Finishing

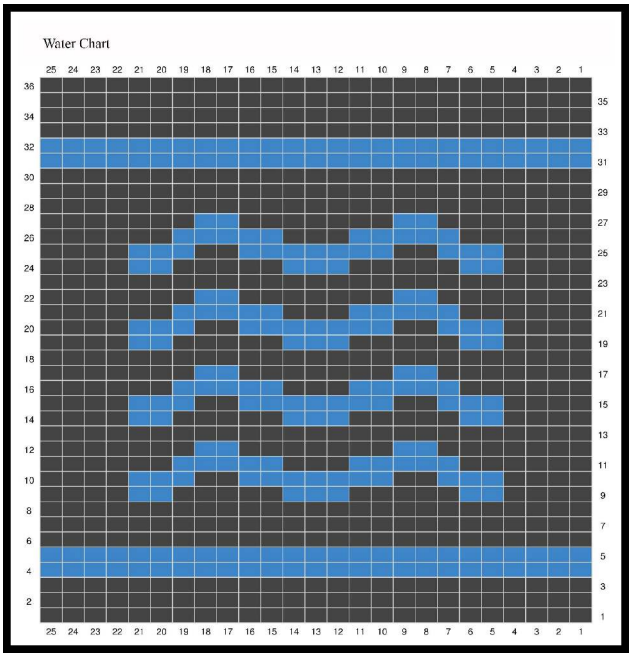
Weave in tails and block to finished measurements.

Copyright 2024, The Knitting Guild Association, Cast On Spring 2024, All Rights Reserved









Stitch Key

- RS: on dark side, k1 with MC, p1 with CC1 (2, 3, 4)
  WS: on light side, k1 with CC1 (2, 3, 4), p1 with MC
- RS: on dark side, k1 with CC1, p1 with MC
  WS: on light side, k1 with MC, p1 with CC1
- RS: on dark side, k1 with CC2, p1 with MC
  WS: on light side, k1 with MC, p1 with CC2
- RS: on dark side, k1 with CC3, p1 with MC
  WS: on light side, k1 with MC, p1 with CC3
- RS: on dark side, k1 with CC4, p1 with MC
  WS: on light side, k1 with MC, p1 with CC4

Copyright 2024, The Knitting Guild Association, Cast On Spring 2024, All Rights Reserved