

Illusion Knitting

For those of you who enjoy surprising your audience, illusion knitting is a lovely technique to do that. Before we get started there are some terms to define.

For this lesson, illusion knitting also known as shadow knitting, uses the ridges created by knitting and purling to create an image only seen when viewed from an angle. There are other types of illusion knitting so if you intend to use this technique, you'll need to check your pattern carefully to be sure it's what you expect.

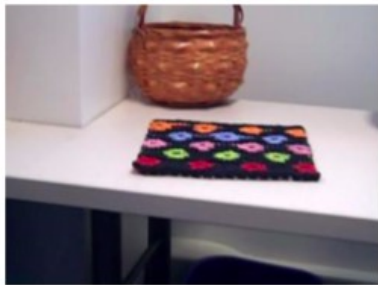
The technique works best with a smooth yarn in high contrast colors worked fairly tightly. All types of knitting work can benefit from this technique.



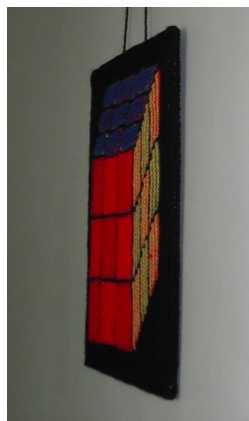
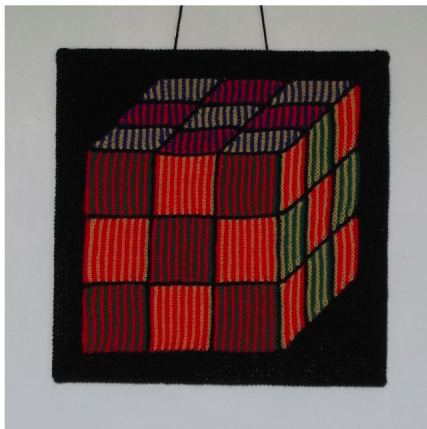
Need a sock with a cat?

<https://woolenough.blogspot.com/2008/10/illusion-knitting.html>

The example we will be knitting is in two colors. But check out the multiple color examples below.



<https://goodnightgram.wordpress.com/2010/05/26/grams-vintage-flowers-illusion-face-cloth>



<https://www.ravelry.com/projects/Woolhelmina/rubiks-cube-illusion>

The recent Cast On Spring 2018 also had illusion knitting instructions for machine knitters!

Patterns for illusion knitting come in written and chart. Read your patterns carefully, most charts exclude the right side knitted rows so half of the rows being knitted are not shown. The example below includes only charted rows, not the knitted right side rows.

Pay attention to your edges and wrap the color changes the same from row to row to make the edges consistent.

Instructions:

For this chart, the white = purl and dark grey or light grey = knit. The contrasting grey and dark grey help keep the lines straight. Each line on the chart represents 2 knitted rows, the knitted right side row and return pattern row. (All right side rows are knitted.) We will be using the same color for 2 rows (which equals one line), then changing colors for 2 rows, back and forth for the entire project. The chart starts at the bottom and is worked upwards.

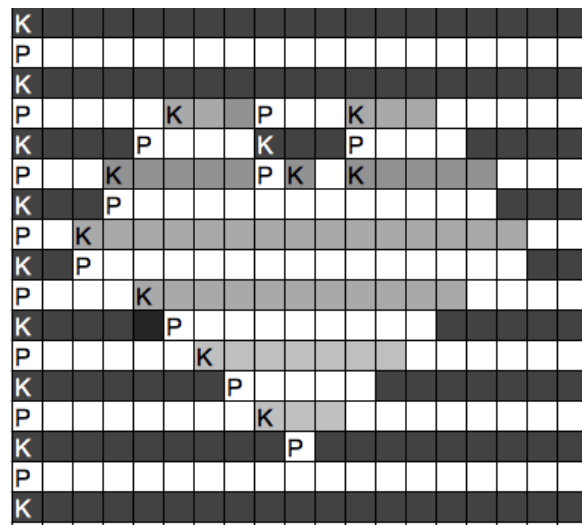
Pick a yarn (yarn A) and cast on 19 stitches using long tail cast on (or your preferred method).

Change colors (yarn B) and knit one row per chart. We have now completed line 1.

Change colors (yarn A) and knit right side row then purl one row per chart. Our second line is complete.

Change colors (yarn B) and continue with the chart (knit right side row, and return with knit 9, purl 1, knit 9). The third line is complete.

Keep following the chart, changing the yarn every other row. Once done with the chart, bind off loosely. Weave in ends and block. You are done!



Extra credit if you want to neaten the edge by picking up the stitches around the edge and binding off.