

Hand Knit Christmas Stockings Pattern

By Joanna Bartlett (from www.joannabartlett.com)

Here are the basic knitting instructions. I knit these toe up on 2 circular needles. I use Vanna's Choice yarn, as it's nice and thick and has a good loft, on 5.5 mm needles.

Choose several Christmas-y colors (red, green, white, blue, purple, gold) and choose one color as the main color for the toe, heel and cuff.

Then pick the designs you like most for the foot and leg. If you're new at intarsia knitting, go with simpler designs with two colors. Knitting intarsia in the round is also different from knitting it regular style (whatever that's called - flat knitting, I think), as you'll need to keep the yarn moving around the piece, rather than having several separate balls of yarn. You'll also have a lot of yarn in the back of your work. Apparently this method breaks the rules of intarsia knitting -- and yet it works just fine for me. Remember to not pull the strand(s) of color you're not actively knitting too tight. Don't leave them all loose and loopy, either, but allow them to have a bit of give. (It turns out I probably don't do intarsia "correctly" in flat knitting either, but I manage to live with myself.)

Clearly, I'm not much of a rule follower and usually follow knitting patterns about as well as I follow recipes or anything else I'm told to do. I use them for the structure and foundation of the piece. And then I change things... So use this pattern as a guideline and feel free to make changes as you see fit. You hereby have my permission. :)

Toe:

With main color, cast on 16 stitches using [Judy's magic cast on](#).

Round 1: Knit all stitches

Round 2: Increase 1 stitch on each end.

On first needle, K1, M1, K each stitch to within one stitch of the end of the row, M1, K1.

Turn to second needle and repeat.

You'll increase 4 stitches total.

Repeat these 2 rounds until there are 32 stitches on each needle (64 stitches total)

Foot:

Knit 30-32 rounds in pattern and colors of your choice.

Now you get to decide on the pattern you want to use. You can do plain stripes or fancy them up a bit with squares different colors. It's your choice.

Heel:

Switch to main color and knit 2 rounds.

Turn heel using your favorite method. I use a short row method, wrapping stitches, that I learned from a book about knitting toe up socks. If you've got some other method that works for you, go for it. If you do it the short row, wrapped stitches way, knit short rows until there are 16 live stitches (that aren't wrapped) and 8 wrapped stitches on either side.

Once you've turned the heel, knit 2 more rounds in the main color.

Leg:

Time for more pattern creativity.

You'll knit about 50-52 rounds of pattern before you knit the name. So choose an intarsia pattern or two. Most of the main patterns are about 21 rounds (snowmen, santas, large trees, poinsettia). I usually do 1 main pattern plus 1 smaller pattern (small trees, zig zags or holly), then 3 more rounds of fancy stripes.

Name:

Create a chart for the name you want to knit onto the stocking. I use a chart I once found online at crochetdoilies.com, which I can no longer find on their website (but [here it is on Pinterest](#)). This chart is a little problematic for longer names as the letters are quite fat, but you can find lots of charts online and I like to adapt them with some graph paper and my imagination.

Knit 2 rounds in the color that will be the background for the name. Then knit the name chart, and knit 2 more rounds.

Cuff:

Switch to the main color (if it's not the background for the name.) Knit 2 rounds.

Next round: knit 2, purl two in ribbing.

Knit 7 rows of ribbing.

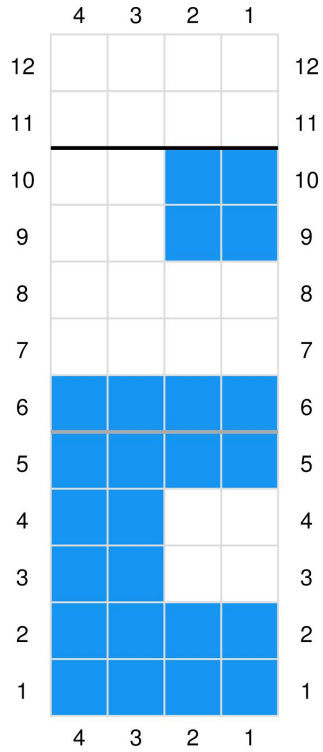
Bind off loosely.

Hanger:

Cut 3 strands of yarn in the main colors used for the stocking and braid. Knot together at the cut end in a loop knot. Thread one end of the loop through the top of the stocking about 3 rows down and pass it back through itself to create the loop of the hanger.

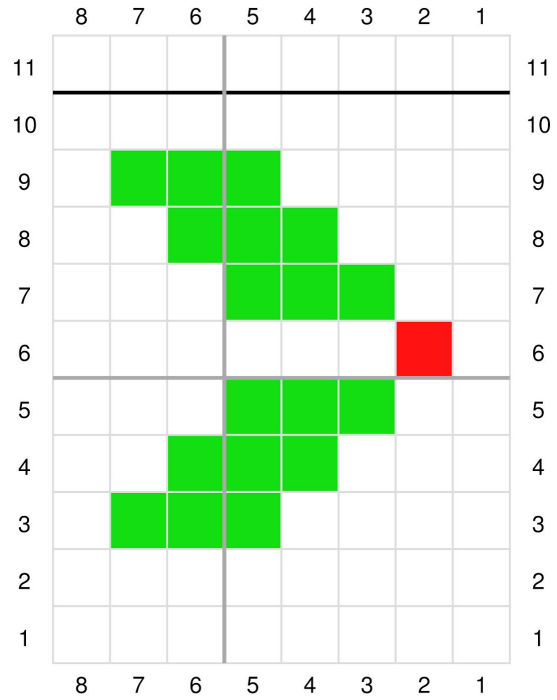
The patterns:

Fancy stripes



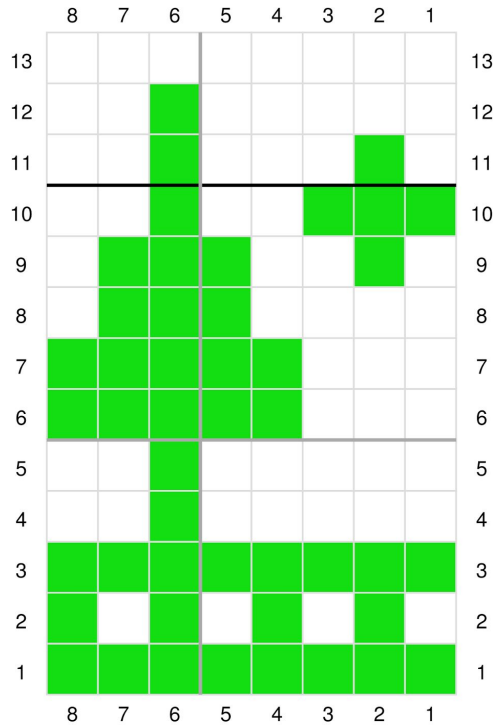
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Holly



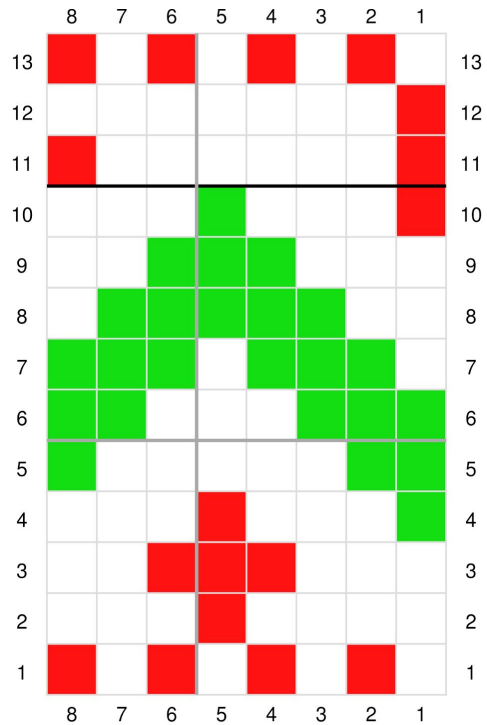
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Simple tree



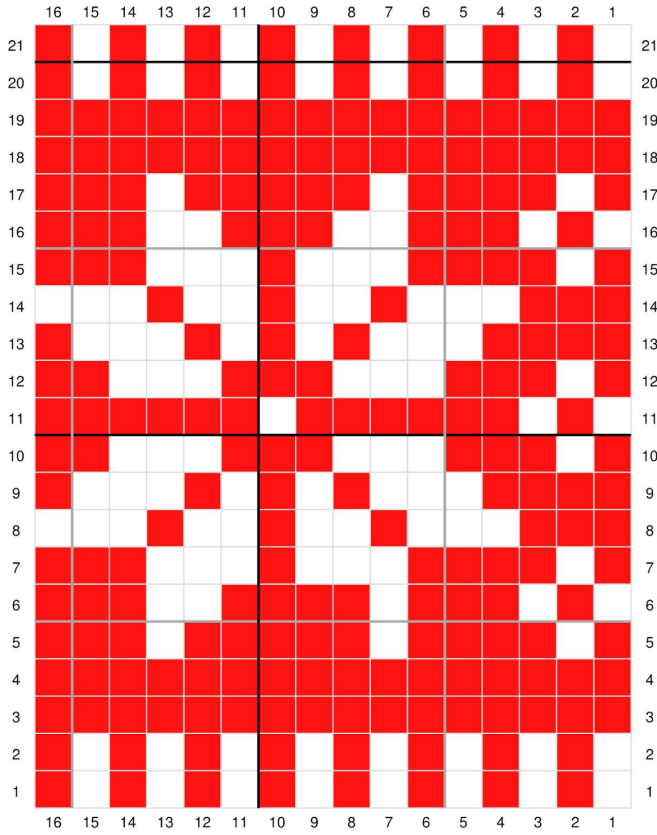
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Zig zags



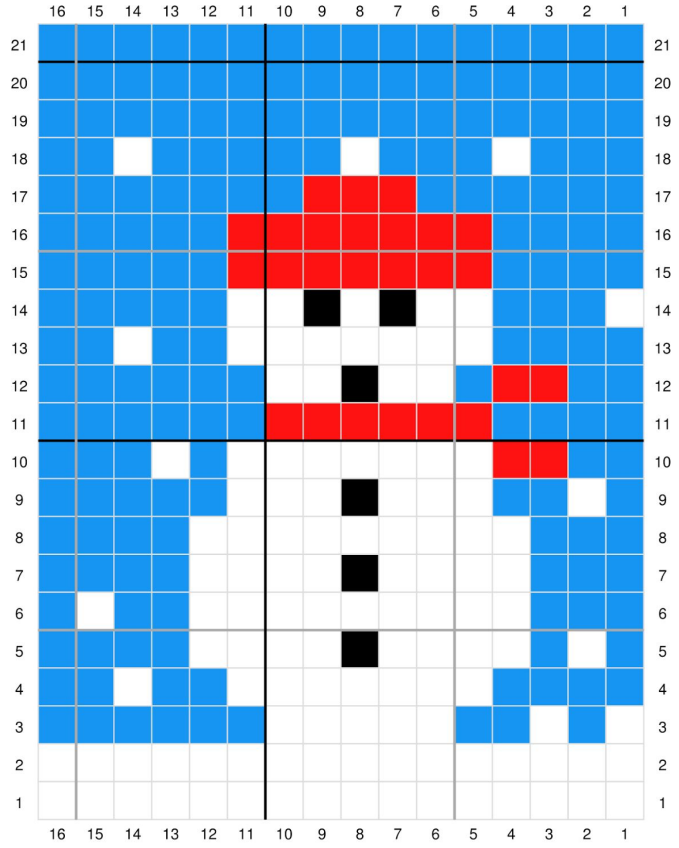
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Poinsettia



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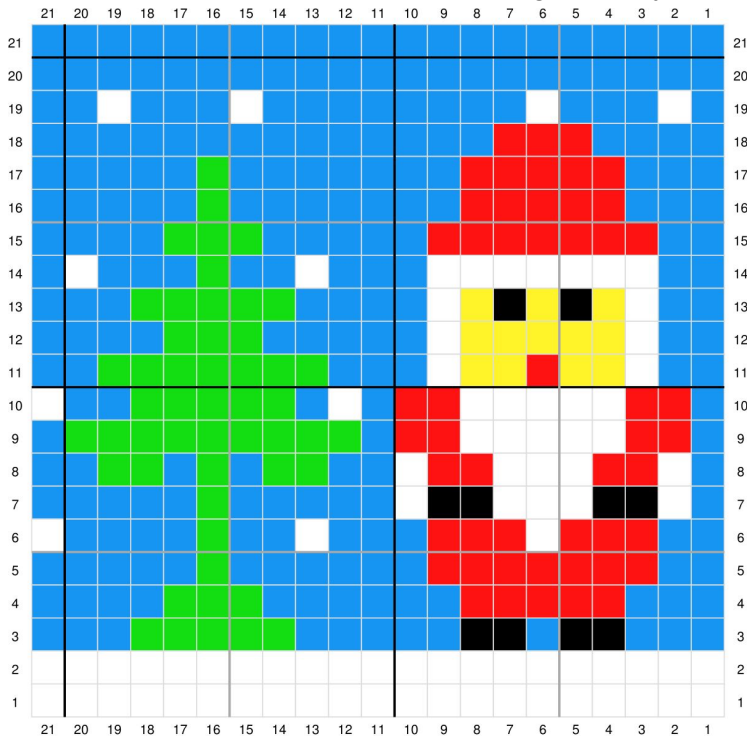
Snowman



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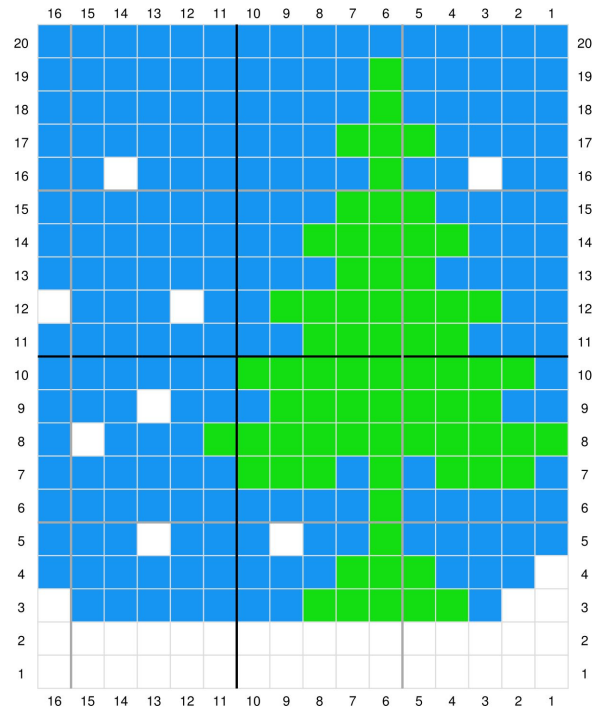
Santa

(Note: this is a 21 stitch repeat, which doesn't divide evenly into 64. So one instance will need an extra stitch at the end for stitch 22 - use blue or white depending if it's sky or snow)



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Christmas tree



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