



JANET
Cowl and beret

Wonderfully soft wool

The Janet cowl and beret motif is inspired by the tartan "The Witches of Scotland." The design was registered in the Scottish Register of Tartans on February 11, 2025. The tartan design serves as a living memorial to those prosecuted under the Witchcraft Act.

The cowl is slightly narrower at the top than at the bottom, allowing it to fall beautifully on the shoulders. The beret's collar is also narrower and knitted in a tartan pattern. The cute little pom-pom (or toorie) gives the beret that typical Scottish character.

On the internet you will find many useful videos about:

- circular knitting
- set-up without a jump (jogless cast-on in the round)
- starting a new color without a jump
- washing and blocking

YARN

DROPS AIR

65% alpaca, 28% polyamide, 7% wol

50 g = 150 m

02 wheat 50 g

31 black 50 g

44 crimson red 50 g

46 dark olive 50 g

DROPS AIR is a light and airy yarn that feels wonderfully soft against your skin. This blown yarn is made of soft baby alpaca and warm merino wool and comes in a beautiful color palette.

NEEDLES

Circular needles 4 and 4.5

Crochet hook 3

STITCH TENSION

19 stitches x 24 rows in stockinette stitch with needles 4.5, after washing and blocking = 10 cm

COWL DIMENSIONS 1 size (flat)

Width at bottom 31 cm, width at top 29 cm, height 23 cm

BERET DIMENSIONS HEAD

CIRCUMFERENCE

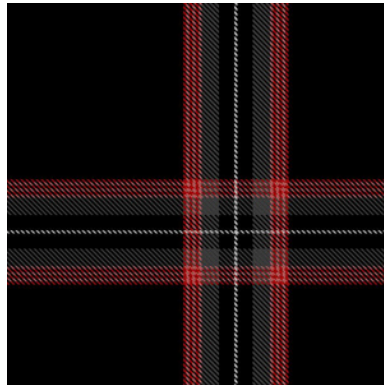
Medium 60 cm (Large 63 cm)

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY



THE WITCHES OF SCOTLAND

'The Witches of Scotland' was designed by Clare Campbell. The Gothic pattern has symbolic meaning. The dark hues reflect the darkness of that time and the ashes of the cremated victims. Red represents bloodshed. The three threads intersected by a white thread symbolize the campaign's three objectives: pardon, apology, and memorials.



METHOD



COWL



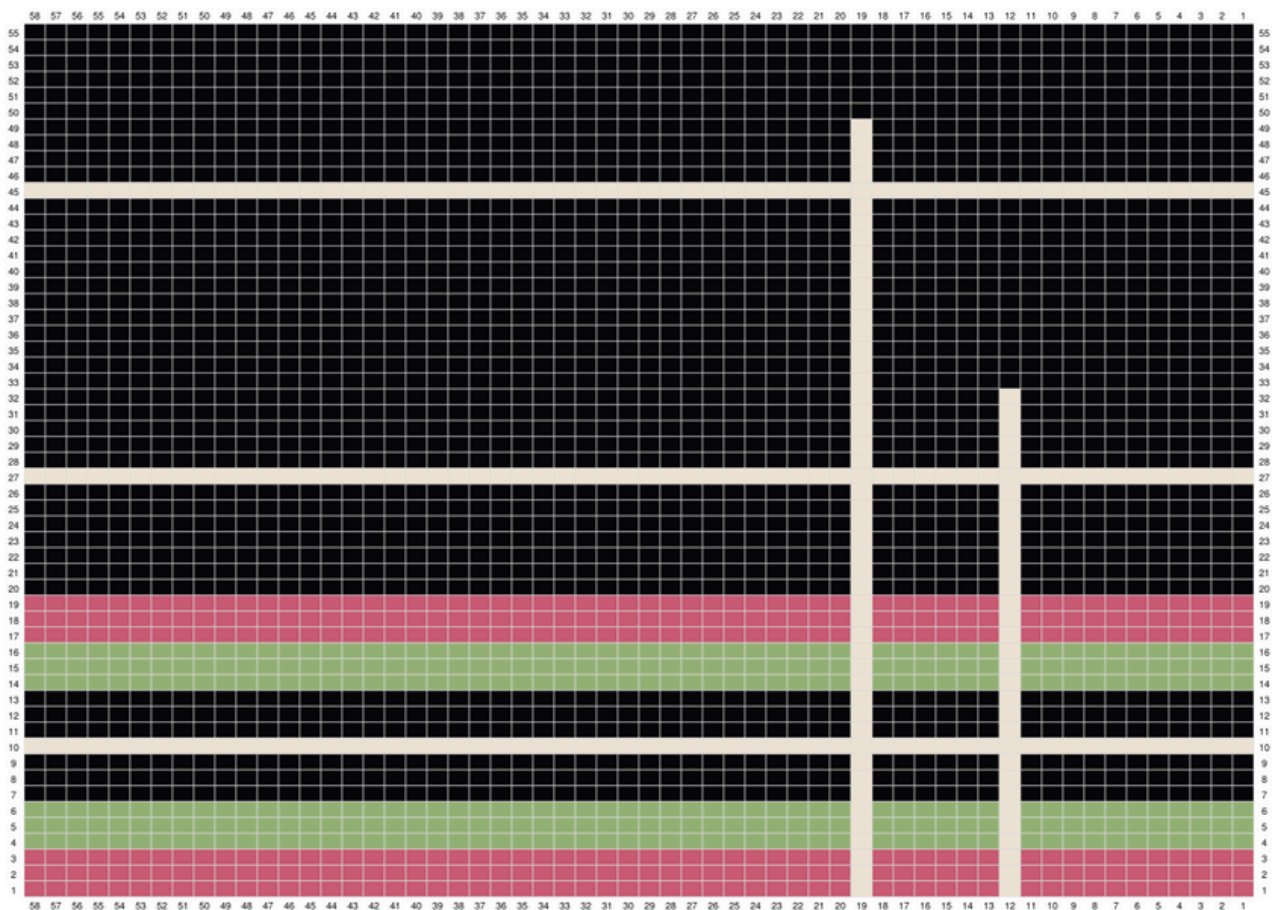
DESIGN, EDGE

Grab your size 4 circular needles. Choose a suitable cable length. Cast on 120 stitches with black yarn and close the loop. Be careful not to twist the cable. Place a stitch marker at the beginning of the row. *Knit 1 row/purl 1 row* 3 times in total. This way you get 3 ridges.



COUNTING MOTIF

Continue in stockinette stitch with size 4.5 circular needles and knit 1 round in black. Then follow the stripe pattern in the chart below (half cowl).



3

DECREASE, EDGE, BIND OFF

Knit 56 rounds in stockinette stitch. Simultaneously decrease 5 stitches across the needle on rounds 50 and 54:

- in round 50: *knit 22 stitches, knit 2 together*, repeat 4 more times = 115 stitches on needle
- in round 54: *knit 20 stitches, knit 2 together*, repeat 4 more times = 110 stitches on needle

Continue with circular needles size 4. *Knit 1 row/purl 1 row* 3 times in total. This way you get 3 ridges for the border. Bind off smoothly.

TIP

Use a larger needle for binding off. This way, the edge won't be too tight. Simply change your right-hand needle from size 4 to size 4.5.

4

VERTICAL STRIPES

Weave in all ends. Crochet 2 x 2 vertical stripes over the 56 rows of the chart and the three ridges of the top edge.



BERET

1

BOARD

Grab your size 4 circular needles. Choose a suitable cable length. Cast on 76 (84) stitches with red yarn and close the loop. Be careful not to twist the cable. Place a stitch marker at the beginning of the row. Knit 15 ridges in total (i.e., 30 rows alternating knit and purl).

Begin with a purl row. *Knit 18 (20) stitches, insert a stitch marker in the next stitch* and repeat 3 more times. The marker will show the stitch where you will work the white chain stitch when finishing.

Continue in striped pattern:

- 3 ribs red
- 2 ribs green
- 2 ribs black
- 1 rib white
- 2 ribs black
- 2 ribs green
- 3 ribs red

On rounds 6, 14, and 22, **simultaneously** increase 16 stitches evenly across the needle. You'll end the ribbing with 124 (132) stitches on the needle.





TOP

Switch to circular needles size 4.5 and continue in stockinette stitch with black. Knit a total of 40 (41) rows in the striped pattern:

7 turns black

1 round white

19 turns black

1 round white

12 (13) turns black

On Round 10, Round 18, and Round 26, DECREASE 16 stitches evenly across the needle. After decreases, there are 76 (84) stitches on the needle.

Continue knitting to Round 32.

Round 32: *Knit 9 (10) sts, place a stitch marker in a different color than the one in the beginning*, repeat from *-* 6 more times. The markers show where you will decrease by knitting two stitches together. There are 8 stitch markers in total (1 beginning marker and 7 markers in a different color).

Round 33: *knit to 2 sts before marker, knit 2 together*, repeat from *-* 7 more times (= 8 sts dec)

Rounds 34 - 39 (40): Repeat rounds 25 and 26, 6 (7) more times. There are 20 (20) stitches on the needle.

Round 40 (41): Knit 2 together to end of row = 10 (10) stitches. Cut the yarn and pull it through the remaining stitches to close the circle. Start in the opposite direction. Pull tight and weave the yarn in on the inside of the beret.



FINISHING

Weave in all ends. Crochet 4 vertical stripes across the cuff and top of the beret. Start at the stitch markers you attached at the bottom of the cuff and work straight up to the last white row in the top.

Make a small pom-pom with the red wool and attach the ball to the top of the beret.

Crochet an extra border in single crochet in red in the last ridge of the border.

THE STORY OF JANET HORNE

They say I turned my daughter into a horse. That I gave her hooves and sent her to the devil. What a strange world this is, where they dare say such a thing and decide it must be magic.

I'm old, my hands are shaking. Sometimes I forget names, sometimes I don't even know what day it is. People laugh, say I'm talking gibberish. Maybe I am. But I've never hurt anyone. I'm alone with my daughter, my poor child—she took care of me when my head was all messed up. And now they call us witches.

The villagers came with their torches. They took us to the church, asking and asking, but they wanted no answers, only guilt. My daughter fled, thank God. She will live on, somewhere no one knows her. But I will stay. The magistrate said I will go to the fire in a barrel. A "just punishment," he called it.

I heard the women whispering outside. Some were crying. Some said I was crazy. Maybe they're right. They say I'll feel the fire tomorrow. I'm not afraid of fire. I've known cold all my life—the wind of the Scottish Highlands blowing through my house, the chill of growing old alone.

Let the fire come. Maybe it will burn away the lies.

I'm Janet Horne. Not a witch, not a servant of the devil. Just a woman too old to be understood.

THE LAST WITCH EXECUTION

Around 1727, Janet and her daughter were accused of witchcraft. The accusations were entirely superstitious, but the local magistrate took them seriously. Janet and her daughter were arrested and brought before the court.

The daughter managed to escape, but Janet did not. She was convicted under the old Witchcraft Act of 1563, although it was already largely abandoned by then. She was declared a witch who had practiced "the art of magic" and had been in contact with the devil.

She was driven to the pyre in a barrel, smeared with tar, and burned alive in Dornoch market. According to some accounts, she laughed in confusion and said she was about to go to "a warm bath"—a bittersweet detail that makes her death even more tragic.

Janet Horne's execution in 1727 was the last official witch execution in Great Britain. In 1736, just nine years later, the Witchcraft Act was formally repealed by the British Parliament. Today, a small memorial stone, the Witch's Stone, stands in Dornoch with the simple inscription:

"Here stood the Witch's Stone. The last witch burned in Scotland, 1727."

Janet Horne symbolizes the end of an era of fear, superstition, and persecution. She wasn't a witch, but an elderly woman who didn't fit the mold of her time. Her death is a reminder of how vulnerable ordinary people could be in a society that valued fear over understanding.



Threads of love

MICCA weaves the stories of all its victims into timeless creations made of thread. Each stitch is part of the chain that connects us across the generations. You can find my designs on my Ravelry page Micca-witchcraft and also on my website www.micca-witchcraft.be

Want to learn more about the witch hunts? Send me an email. You'll receive my free e-book, in which I interview six "witches."



Colophon

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