

Petite Brioche

I love a small project for learning a new technique. This headband is perfect for learning two color brioche rib in the round. Only one color is worked per round. The outside features the light yarn; the inside features the dark. This quick knit is squishy and warm, and will keep your ears toasty!



Yarn: 50 yards DC (dark color), 40 yards LC (light color) heavy worsted weight yarn. Blue band shown in Malabrigo Rios (100% superwash merino, 100g/210 yards), Paris Night and Wisdom Yarns Poems Silk (75% wool, 25% silk, 50g/109 yards) Deep Dive. Purple band shown in Malabrigo Merino Worsted (100% merino wool, 100g/210 yards), Velvet Grapes and Orchid.

Gauge: 16 sts/4 inches in brioche rib. Gauge is not critical, but will affect the size of your band.

Needles: US #5 (3.75 mm) 16 inch circular, or size to obtain gauge.

Notions: One stitch marker, tapestry needle.

Finished measurements: 18" x 3.5" unstretched. Brioche rib is really stretchy, and this easily stretches to fit my 23" head.

Abbreviations

DC, LC – Dark color, light color

K, P – Knit, Purl

BRK – Brioche knit: Knit the stitch with its corresponding yarn over

BRP – Brioche purl: Purl the stitch with its corresponding yarn over

Rnd – Round

YOS – Yarn over, slip next st purlwise with yarn in front (after a knit or brioche knit stitch)

SYO – Slip next stitch purlwise with yarn in front, yarn over (before a purl or brioche purl stitch)

Notes

To cast on loosely, leave space between stitches as you place new stitches on needle. Alternatively, you could use a needle 2 sizes larger than your working needle.

Slipped stitches are always worked with yarn in front. On BRK rnds, I've used the term YOS because after a BRK, the yarn needs to be moved to front of work before slipping the following purl stitch. You can also think of this as YfwdS (yarn forward slip), especially for continental knitters. On BRP rnds, I've used the term SYO because the yarn is already in front after a BRP, so the next knit stitch is slipped before making a YO. Call it whatever makes it easy for you to remember; it's YOUR mantra!

Brioche rib is worked in paired rnds; you'll work a BRK rnd with LC, then a BRP rnd with DC; you are only working half the stitches in each rnd, and slipping the other half. Video tutorials here:

<https://tinyurl.com/petitebriocheencoreRH> and here <https://tinyurl.com/petitebriocheencoreLH> (left hand carry). See my tutorials page: <http://pdxknitterati.com/tutorials/> for fixing mistakes & more.

Instructions –

With DC, loosely cast on 72 sts using long tail cast on. Join to work in the round, then knit 1 round. Bring yarn to front and leave it hanging there.

Setup Rnd 1 (LC): ***K1, YOS**; repeat to end of rnd. (The YOS brings the yarn to the front of the work, the next stitch is slipped, and knitting the following stitch pulls the yarn to the back of the work leaving a loop of yarn over the slipped stitch.) On last slipped st, put yarn over needle and bring it to front again between needles, forming YO over slipped st and locking it in place. Leave LC hanging in front at the end of the rnd; we'll pick it up at the end of the next rnd.

Setup Rnd 2 (DC, yarn is at front of work): ***SYO, BRP**; repeat to end of rnd. The yarn is at front of work after each BRP, so the next st is slipped and the YO follows the slipped stitch. After last BRP, leave the DC yarn hanging in front. Move LC yarn to back to begin next rnd.

Ready to roll? 2 color brioche rib is the same 2 rows, over and over again. Let's go!

Rnd 1 (LC): *BRK, YOS; repeat to end of rnd. On last slipped st, put yarn over needle and bring it to front again between needles, forming YO over slipped st and locking it in place. Leave LC hanging in front at the end of the rnd; we'll pick it up at the end of the next rnd.

Rnd 2 (DC): *SYO, BRP; repeat to end of rnd. After last BRP, leave the DC yarn hanging in front, and move LC to back to begin next rnd.

Repeat rnds 1 & 2 until you can count 18 knit stitches in the LC columns (or desired height), ending with Rnd 2. Cut LC, leaving 6 inch tail.

Closing rnd (DC): *BRK, P1; rep to end of rnd. Knit 1 more rnd.

Bind off loosely. You need a stretchy bind off to match the stretchiness of the brioche and the cast on edge. If your bind off seems tight, you can use a larger needle to bind off. I used this suspended bind off with a larger needle (US8):

Suspended Bind Off

K2, but do not drop the second stitch from left needle. With left needle, lift right stitch on right needle over left stitch and off right needle (as in standard bind off), and THEN finish dropping second stitch from left needle. *K1, but do not drop stitch from left needle. With left needle, lift right stitch on right needle over left stitch and off right needle, and THEN finish dropping stitch from left needle. Rep from * until all sts have been worked. Fasten off, sew in ends.

Do you love it? You can easily upsize to a cowl with 90 stitches, which will make a cowl about 22" around, unstretched. Always use an even number of stitches. You know the rest!

My love for brioche knitting led to patterns for three hats on Ravelry. Left to right: Golden Chain, Clematis Seed, and Heliotrope. They're in my [Brioche Hat Trick](#) collection, which also includes patterns for two cowls.



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