

To Knit or Not to Knit

A double knitted patch in honor of the Bard

by Jessica Gail



I designed this patch to decorate my graduation cap. It was a unique way to commemorate my two major extracurriculars in college – a knitting club and a Shakespeare theater group. Now the patch hangs on the wall of my apartment, but it could easily be used as part of a blanket, scarf, a small pillow or a book cover. A patch is a great introduction to double knitting, and can be made in any size you like by changing the yarn and needle sizes.

Materials:

- 2 colors of yarn (ideally the same type or at least the same thickness)
 - I used Cascade 220 Superwash Sport, 1 skein each of 815 black (CC) and 871 white (MC). Each skein has about 136 yards but the pattern will use less than that.
- Size 5 needles (or size needed to achieve desired gauge)
- Darning needle (for finishing)

Gauge:

- Approximately 5.5 stitches/inch (22 sts/4 inches)
- Note: this is only important if you need your patch to be a specific size. Since I needed mine to fit on a graduation cap, I worked out my gauge, but if you are flexible about size just choose a needle that will give you a reasonable firm fabric with your desired yarn and go for it.

Finished dimensions:

- ~8 ½” x 11” (if you achieve the gauge listed above)

Instructions:

Cast on 50 stitches in each color (100 stitches total) using an invisible double knitting cast on (tutorials are available online). You can also use a different colorwork cast on, or cast on 100 stitches in one color and use the next row to establish the double knitting pattern. The invisible cast on, however, will give you the cleanest edge.

Knit 1 or 2 rows in plain double knitting (keeping one color on each side), then begin the chart. RS rows are worked right to left, WS left to right. Remember that in double knitting, each stitch is worked twice, a knit stitch for the front, and a purl stitch in the other color for the back.

Once you've completed the chart, separate the stitches onto two different needles, with MC stitches on one needle and CC stitches on the other. Kitchener the two halves together with the MC.

You now have a squishy, versatile, and reversible patch! Enjoy!



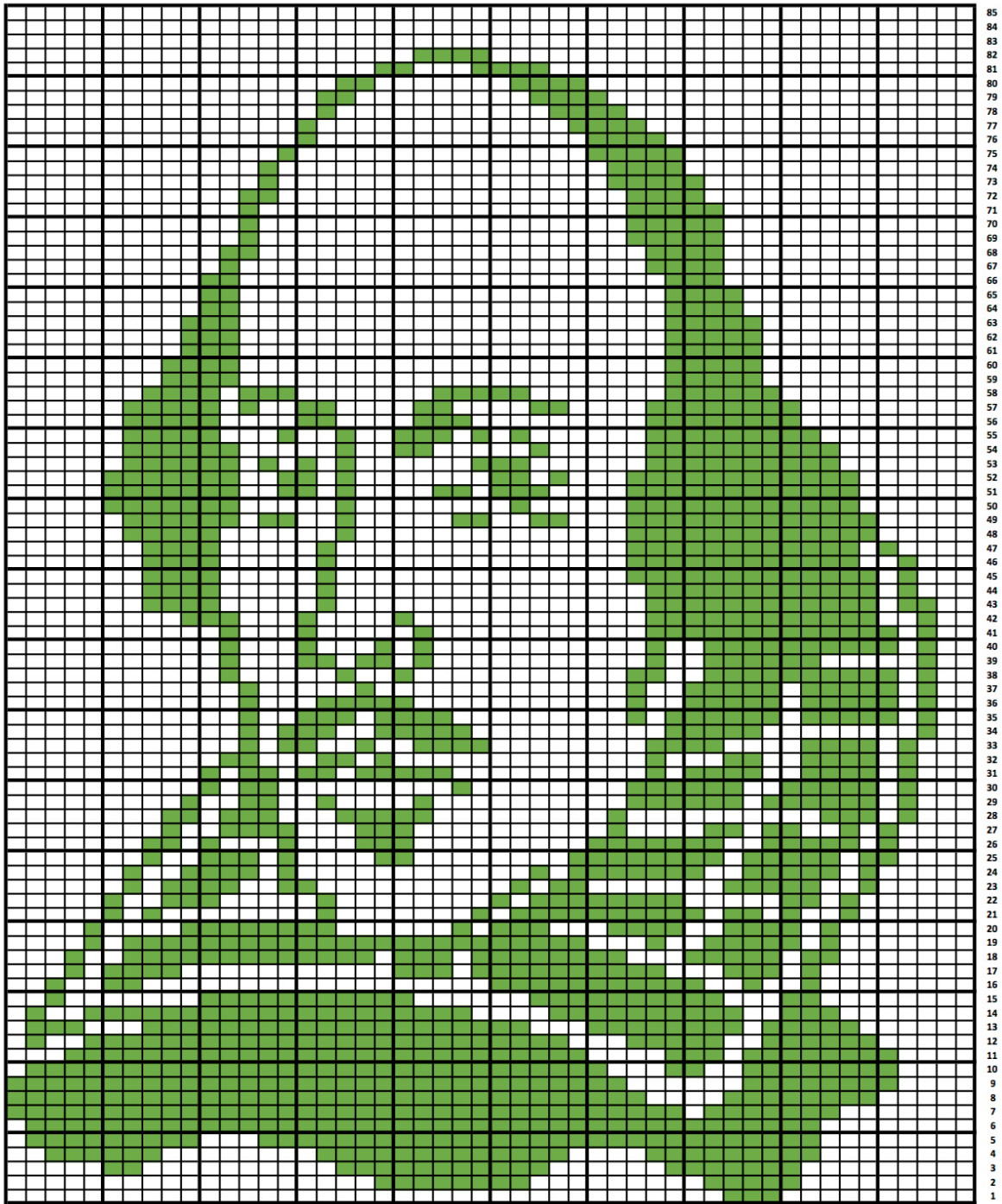


Chart key:

White : MC (white) on right side, CC (black) on wrong side

Green : CC (black) on right side, MC (white) on wrong side