Guidelines for Transcribing Knit and Crochet Patterns, 2014



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Introduction

The development of the BANA Crafts and Hobbies Technical Committee arose from a need to standardize the braille transcription of instructions for various crafts and hobbies. This volume contains guidelines for the transcription of knit and crochet patterns.

Prior to the writing of these guidelines, a survey was conducted with braille readers who knit and crochet to determine their preferences for formatting, abbreviations, use of the number indicator and letter sign, and transcription of chart patterns. The Committee compiled their answers from the survey and created these guidelines based upon the results.

BANA Crafts and Hobbies Technical Committee

Camille Cafferelli, Chairperson 2011–2014 Marcetta Ponzio, Chairperson 2007–2011 Lorraine Banks Melissa Hirshson Jill Pariso

Guidelines for Transcribing Knit and Crochet Patterns

The following guidelines are to be used as a standard when transcribing knit or crochet patterns.

1.1 Pattern Guidelines

- 1.1.1 All patterns should be transcribed in contracted braille, *unless* the agency/client requests uncontracted braille.
- 1.1.2 Follow agency/client preferences for size of braille paper (either $11\frac{1}{2}$ " × 11" or $8\frac{1}{2}$ " × 11").
- 1.1.3 The pattern name should be on the first line of the first page as a centered heading, and used as a Running Head (if requested) following the guidelines in *Braille Formats:*Principles of Print-to-Braille Transcription, 2011.
- 1.1.4 *Follow print* for abbreviations, punctuation, capitalization, and font attributes used within the pattern.
 - **Exception:** The words "Row" or "Round" *do not* need to be shown in italics or bold.
- 1.1.5 Where two font attributes (bold and italics), or a font attribute and the double capital indicator, are used on the same word/phrase, use only one braille indicator to show emphasis.
- 1.1.6 If stitches are spelled out in print, they are to be spelled out in braille. "Knit" and "purl" are *not* to be changed to "k" and "p," but spelled out as they are in print.

Example 1-1: Spelling Out

```
Knit 5, purl 2 across the row.
```

1.1.7 If stitch instructions are shown in the print pattern as abbreviations, follow print to include the abbreviation in the braille pattern.

Example 1-2: Use Abbreviations as in Print

```
K1, p2 (rep until end of row).
```

1.1.8 Accepted and common abbreviations and their meanings are shown in the tables below to assist transcribers if they are not familiar with knitting or crocheting abbreviations.

2.1 Knit Abbreviations

2.1.1 **Note:** Any of these may be shown in print in upper- or lowercase letters, with or without a period. *Follow print*.

Stitch	Meaning
Abbreviation	
approx	approximately
beg	beginning
bl	block
ВО	bind off
C3L	cable 3 left
CC	contrasting color
CO	cast on
Cr3R	cross 3 right
Dec	decrease(ing)
dpns	double pointed needles
EOR	every other row
fl or foll	follow
Inc	increase(ing)
K1	knit 1
K1b	knit 1 in row below
K2 tog	knit 2 together
lp(s)	loop(s)
LS	left side
M1	make 1
MC	main color
рс	popcorn
P1	purl 1
P1 tbl	purl 1 through back of loop
pat or patt	pattern
psso	pass slipped stitch over

Stitch	Meaning		
Abbreviation			
puk	pick up and knit		
pw	purlways		
R	right		
rem	remaining		
rep	repeat		
r.h.	right hand needle		
rnd(s)	round(s)		
RS or Rt side	right side		
sk	skip		
SK2P	slip 1, knit 2 together, pass slip		
	stitch over		
SKP	slip 1, knit 1, pass slip stitch over		
sl	slip		
sl 2 k	slip two stitches knitways		
sl 2 p	slip two stitches purlways		
sp	space		
ss or sl st	slip stitch		
st(s)	stitch(es)		
St st (st-st)	stockinette stitch		
tbl	through back of loop		
tog or tgr	together		
wf	wool forward		
wrn	wool round needle		
WS	wrong side		
yo	yarn over		
yrn	yarn round needle		
*	asterisk		
**	double asterisk		
* * *	triple asterisk		

- 2.1.2 If asterisks and/or parentheses are used, include the following in the abbreviation section:
 - * Repeat whatever follows the * as many times as specified.
 - () or [] Do what is in parentheses or brackets the number of times indicated.

Example 2-1: Use of Asterisk

```
* k 2, p 1. Repeat from * across.
(K 2 tog) 26 times; ...
```

3.1 Crochet Abbreviations

3.1.1 **Note:** Some of the knit abbreviations will apply to both knit and crochet patterns. The following are specific to crochet patterns.

Stitch Abbreviation	Meaning
Alt	alternate(ly)
bet	between
Ch	chain
cl	cluster
cont	continue
dc	double crochet
dch(s)	double chain(s)
dtr	double treble or triple
grp(s)	group(s)
H dc or hdc	half double crochet
h.tr or htr	half treble or triple
р	picot
SC	single crochet
t-ch(s)	turning chain(s)
Tr(c)	treble or triple crochet
Tr Tr or t.tr	triple treble or triple triple
xdc	crossed double crochet

4.1 Braille-Specific Guidelines

4.1.1 All abbreviations within a pattern are to be contracted.

Example 4-1: Abbreviations

```
st. or st
```

4.1.2 The letter sign is *not* to be used before a K (k) or P (p) within the knit pattern, or any single letter abbreviation in a crochet pattern, whether or not it is joined to a number.

Example 4-2: Letter Sign Abbreviation

```
K the next 5 sts. P the next 2 sts, k the next 5 sts.
```

4.1.3 For *Knit Patterns* there are to be no spaces between a stitch abbreviation and the number that follows. For *Crochet Patterns*, follow print for spacing.

Example 4-3: Knit Pattern

```
K 2, P 5 to the end of the row.
k2, p5 to the end of the row.
BO3 at end of the row.
```

Example 4-4: Crochet Pattern

```
3 dc into first sc, *(1 sc, 3 ch, 3 dc)
```

5.1 Formatting Guidelines

- 5.1.1 Any beginning information or instructions—such as materials, gauge, size of needles/hooks, etc.—should begin in cell 1 with runovers in cell 3 (from now on shown as 1-3).
- 5.1.2 Each "Row" or "Round" (or "Next row") should be in 1-3. This format should be followed even if the print pattern runs everything together.

Example 5-1: Pattern Formatting

```
Starting at top, cast on 5 sts. 1st row: * K in front and back of next st – an inc made. Repeat from * across – 10 sts. 2nd row: Purl. 3rd row: Repeat first row – 20 sts.
```

Example 5-2: Formatting Pattern Sections

```
Starting at center front with Color A – cast on 52 sts. K2 & P2 in ribbing for 3 rows.

Row 4: * K2, P2 ...
```

- 5.1.3 For the different sections of a pattern—such as SLEEVE, ARM, FRINGE, etc.—each section must be preceded and followed by a blank line, and be in 1-3.
- 5.1.4 If the section title in print (SLEEVE, ARM, etc.) is on a separate line from the instructions that follow, begin the section title in cell 1 and continue the instructions on the same line as the title. Follow print for capitalization, or use the italics indicator if the section title is in bold.

Example 5-3: Pattern Sections

Fringe

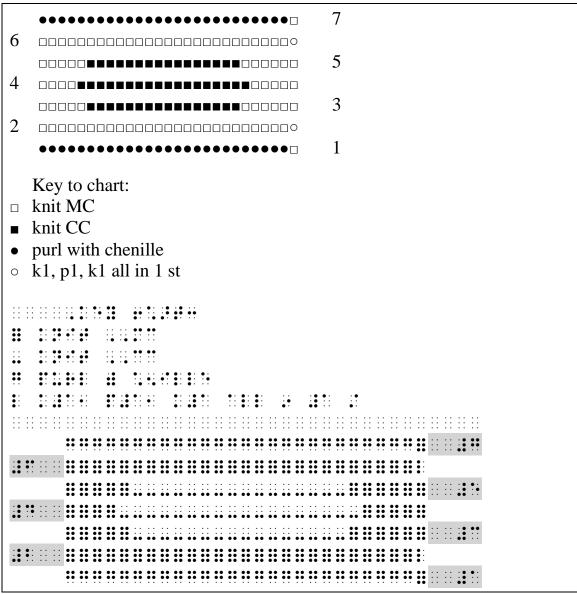
Cut eight 8-inch strands. Fold in half and draw loop through eyelet at one end, then draw ends through loop and tighten.

6.1 Knit and Crochet Chart Patterns

6.1.1 Knit and crochet patterns will often show a visual chart to illustrate what color strand or type of stitch should be used for each individual stitch.

Whenever possible, the transcriber should fully reproduce these charts using braille symbols in a key to show the reader which stitches/colors should be used. These keys will be shown in the print pattern. (See *Examples 6-1* and *6-2*.)

Example 6-1: Formatting Knitting Chart



Example 6-2: Knitting Chart with Runovers

```
▗▊▊▊▝▗▊▊▊▊▝▗▊▊▊▊▘▞▊▊▊▊▘▍▊▊▊▊▝▗▊▊▊▊▝▗▊▊▊▊▘
Key to chart:
□ Royal Blue
Misty Grey

    Cream
```

- 6.1.2 A chart and key should not be divided between braille pages if they are short enough to fit on one page. However, if necessary, the key may be on one page and the chart on the following page, in order to keep the entire chart on one page. If a chart is too long to fit on one page, separate it at an appropriate point—do not divide a row/round between braille pages.
- 6.1.3 Each row should be numbered on alternating sides, regardless of whether row numbers appear in print, leaving two blank cells between a row number and the beginning of

- a row. (See *Examples 6-1* and *6-2*.) **Note:** The number indicator is used to prevent the row number from being mistaken as a symbol in the chart.
- 6.1.4 The numbers in the margins in PRINT PORTION of *Examples* 6-1 AND 6-2 were not included in the original pattern, but are used here for reference only, to show where the rows begin in print and how they correspond to the braille version
- 6.1.5 Stitches for *odd* rows are transcribed from right to left; *even* rows are transcribed from left to right. In print, the first row begins at the bottom right, and the braille row must follow this direction as well. In other words, row 1 will start at the *right* margin of the bottom line. (See *Example 6-1.*)
 - a. If each of the rows in a pattern will fit on one braille line, the stitches should be aligned vertically as they are in print. (See *Example 6-1*.)
 - b. If the rows will not each fit on one braille line, and the chart must therefore include runovers, end the line before the runover one cell before the ending margin. Because the rows are read from the bottom to the top of the page, the runover should be transcribed on the line above the beginning of the row. A runover is indented two cells from the beginning of that row's margin. (See *Example 6-2*.)
 - c. Note also that in *Examples 6-1* and *6-2* the braille key to the chart is not done as a transcriber's note, because the key is in the print pattern.
 - d. If the chart is to begin at the bottom of the page, the first line of the chart should be in line 24, and not in line 25 which should be left blank according to braille formats.
 - e. If the pattern is extremely complicated and/or the transcriber feels that it will extend for so many pages that it will make reading the chart difficult to read, the transcriber may decide to convert the chart into written instructions and begin with the bottom row of instructions and proceed to the top row as in *Example 6-3*, below.

Example 6-3: Chart Converted into Written Instructions

Materials needed: 2 skeins each white and red worsted weight yarn Key to chart: □ White Red Cast on 14 sts. Starting with white, work in St stitch according to the chart below. 13 11 9 7 3 1 : :: :: :::::: :: :: ::

6.1.6 As some of the larger chart patterns will use more than one braille page, a transcriber's note is required to let readers know on which page they will find Row 1.

- 6.1.7 It is recommended that the full cell ::, hyphen :: (36), letters I ::, g ::, and x ::, and any other unique braille signs be used to represent the print symbols in the key.
- 6.1.8 Chart patterns can also be knitted using circular needles. Instructions for circular needles may vary from those for straight needles. Follow the print instructions for transcribing the chart into braille, or writing out the instructions.
- 6.1.9 Crochet chart patterns are very similar to knit charts, but the transcriber should follow instructions given for any particular pattern.