

## Cast-offs: information for knitters

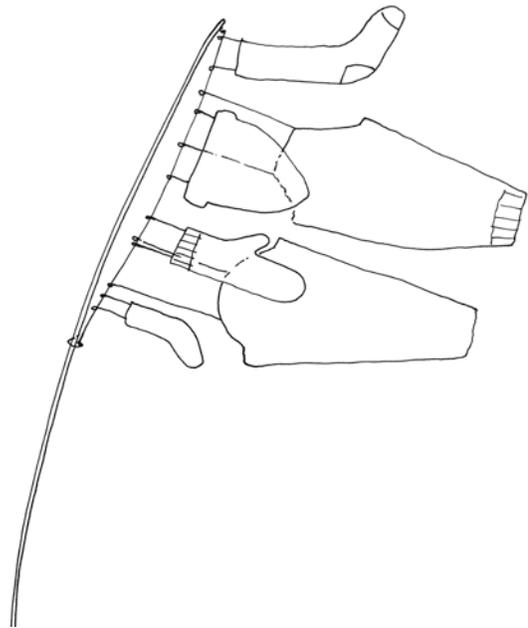
Project for *Interlacing Conversation* at the Inverness County Centre for the Arts  
August 24 to September 20, 2015

*Cast-offs* is a site-specific installation of hand knitting conceived for the grounds of the Inverness County Centre for the Arts (ICCA) for the exhibition *Interlacing Conversations* August 30 to September 20, 2015.

"*Interlacing Conversations: Traditional and Contemporary Fibre Arts* explores intersections of traditional and experimental fibre arts. The exhibition celebrates projects made possible through collaboration and exchange across geographical and cultural distances."

*Cast-offs* will be composed of more than fifty hand-knit, flat wool "drawings" of hats, socks, long underwear and mittens. These will then be flown from poles set into the landscape surrounding the Inverness County Centre for the Arts. Knitters in Cape Breton and Alberta will lend their hands and ingenuity to the creation of individual pieces that will contribute to a riot of colour on the wind.

At once humorous and poetic (were these blown from the laundry line or off someone's back?) the work strives to evoke a sense of whimsy and fragility against the backdrop of a dramatic and ever-changing landscape. These works will fray, fade and even tear away from their moorings providing a material metaphor for perseverance and ultimately our own mortality in a landscape much older than ourselves.



### Concept & Context



Cloth is analogous to the human body. When placed in the landscape, textiles indicate human presence evoking the temporary nature of our occupancy and the fragility of the human body itself. Temporary shelter, flag, signal or marker, textiles in the landscape proffer ephemeral evidence of our attempts to occupy, communicate boundaries or quantify the natural world. As the descendant of farmers on the Canadian prairie, I feel a strong connection to a landscape, one that can feel indifferent or even hostile depending on the season. On the prairies it is the wind that carves the earth, carries the weather and creates the conditions (favorable or otherwise) that its inhabitants experience.

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*Cast-offs* is a companion work to an earlier project titled *Air over land* installed near Delia, Alberta from January to May 2013. Three hand-knit linen tubes encased in thin wool felt were placed at the base of the Hand Hills, once the edge of a prehistoric ocean. The trio of windsocks captured the direction and force of the prairie wind.



At times they resembled undersea creatures pulling strongly on their tethers, then laundry flapping on the line. Over the course of five months they were ravaged by the wind and faded by the sun. Once the first piece was torn from its mount, the deterioration of these now fragile textile objects was arrested and conserved. Each piece has now been hand stitched to a cotton mount for the *Interlacing Conversations* exhibit.

*Air over land* is intended to capture the strength of natural phenomena and embed it in the deteriorating cloth subjected to its force. The resulting textiles are a document of exposure to the elements and provide an analog to our own vulnerable bodies in the landscape. The corresponding video documentation captures the process of deterioration enacted on the textiles by wind, snow and sun.

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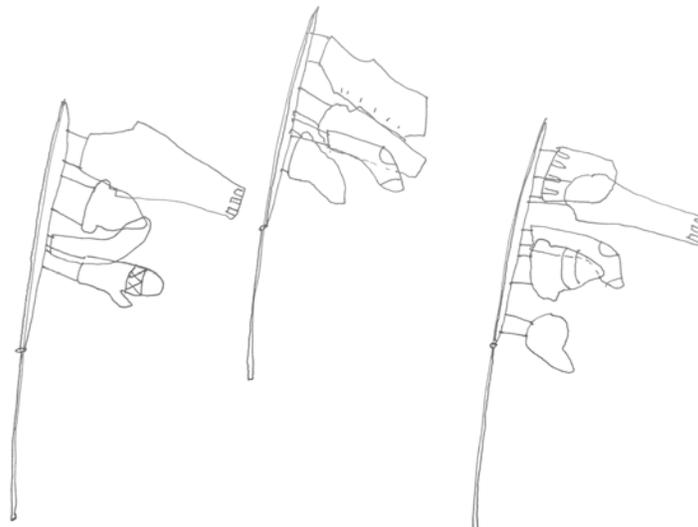
### Creating Cast-offs

Mackenzie will provide knitting patterns with a suggested material, gauge and proportion for each shape in two sizes. Patterns will be emailed to all participants. Knitters are encouraged to join the **Cast-offs Knitalong** group on Ravelry where they can access tips project information and group discussion. Questions or comments about the patterns are welcome anytime! Email Mackenzie at [info@mackenziefrere.com](mailto:info@mackenziefrere.com).

The Inverness County Centre for the Arts and the artist will also provide yarns as needed. Knitters may also choose to use any double knitting or sport weight yarns from their own stash. Please use natural fibres only. Knitters are expected to provide their own knitting needles.



Knitters are highly encouraged to devise their own colour schemes, embellishments or even completely different shapes. As pieces are produced, they will be mounted on three to five (or more) poles installed on the grounds of the ICCA. It is hoped that these will accumulate fairly quickly throughout the summer and that the poles will be nearly full by the time the exhibit opens in August. Calgary knitters will ship completed pieces July 31, August 19 and Sept 4 (if necessary). Knitting will continue throughout the exhibition. *At the end of the exhibition all knitting will become property of Mackenzie Kelly-Frère for future exhibition. All contributing knitters will be credited.*



## Cast-offs: **information for knitters**

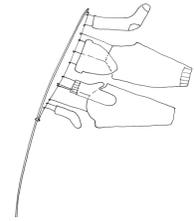
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August 24 to September 20, 2015

### Artist Bio

Mackenzie Kelly-Frère is an artist and educator whose work has been exhibited across Canada, including Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario Quebec and Nova Scotia. His international exhibitions include China, Japan, Korea and the United States. Mackenzie is currently an Assistant Professor in the School of Craft + Emerging Media at the Alberta College of Art + Design. Mackenzie lives and works in Calgary, Canada with his husband Kristofer Kelly-Frère and their daughter Elizabeth. His art work and writing can be found at [www.mackenziefrere.com](http://www.mackenziefrere.com).

# Cast-offs pattern: *Sock*

© Mackenzie Kelly-Frère



*Cast-offs* is a site-specific installation of hand knitting conceived for the grounds of the Inverness County Centre for the Arts (ICCA) for the exhibition *Interlacing Conversations* August 30 to September 20, 2015.

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For more information join the *Cast-offs* KAL (knitalong) group on Ravelry or visit [www.artclothtext.com](http://www.artclothtext.com) and search for “Cast-offs” Want to contribute to this project? Email Mackenzie Kelly-Frère at [info@mackenziefrere.com](mailto:info@mackenziefrere.com).

## YARN

Use the Briggs & Little Sport provided or any other sport or lightweight double knitting yarn from your stash. *Please use only natural materials.*

## YARDAGE

You will require approximately 115 yards/30 grams for size A and 190 yards/50 grams for size B. No specific colour scheme is provided. Knitters are encouraged to devise their own. (As you knit embellishment and invention are also your prerogative!)

## GAUGE

14 stitches and 24 rows = 10 cm/4 inches square in garter stitch using a needle that will allow you to obtain the gauge (6 to 7 mm needle suggested). *A circular needle will allow you to skip placing leg stitches onto a holder.*

## NOTE ON GAUGE

The gauge for *Cast-offs* is intentionally open and lacy to contribute to its scribbly appearance and to allow pieces to fly more easily. This will reveal variations in your tension, particularly at the selvages. If you are a beginner and this happens do not be discouraged. Think of it as your signature on the pieces you will knit. As you gain experience knitting at this gauge your tension will improve.

## SIZES

This piece may be knit in one of two sizes:

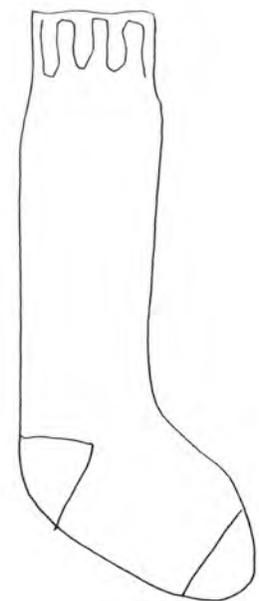
A = 5 x 18 inches

B = 8 x 25 inches

Instructions for size A are listed first.

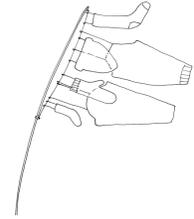
Instructions for size B are in parentheses.

*Dimensions are approximate as the open gauge stretches*



# Cast-offs pattern: *Sock*

© Mackenzie Kelly-Frère



## MEASURING YOUR KNITTING

When measuring your knitting, avoid stretching the work and do not include the stitches on the needle.

## ABBREVIATIONS

**k** = knit

**k2tog** = knit 2 stitches together

**p** = purl

**p2tog** = purl 2 stitches together

**RS** = right side

**ssk** = slip, slip, knit (slip 1 knitwise, slip 1 knitwise, knit 2 slipped stitches together through back loops)

**st(s)** = stitch(es)

**tbl** = through back loop

**t&w** = short row turn and wrap

**WS** = wrong side

**yo** = yarn over needle

## KNIT CAST-OFFS SOCK

**Cuff:** Cast on 20 (28) sts using a long tail or other cast on method. Work in k2, p2 rib for three rows.

Insert eyelets into the ribbing (used for hanging piece) as follows: RS [k2, yo, p2tog] repeat to end. WS [k1, k1tbl, p2] repeat to end.

Continue in k2, p2 until ribbing measures 2 (3.5) inches.

**Leg:** Change colour if desired and continue in garter stitch until piece measures 12 (16.5) inches from cast on.

**Short Row Heel:** The heel is shaped using short rows. I have suggested a "turn & wrap" method that works for me. There are

many others that will work as long as you turn at the points specified.

The t&w is accomplished as follows: *Knit to the turning point and turn the work. Wrap the yarn forward around the working (empty) needle and backward between the two points. Knit to the end.* Later when you knit across the short rows you will slip these wraps and knit them together with the consecutive stitch as in k2tog.

**Knitting two short row wedges for size A:** Change colour if desired and knit 8 sts, t&w, knit to end.

\*Knit to 2 sts before the previous turn (not counting the wrap) t&w, knit to end\*

Repeat between \* and \* twice.

Knit 10 sts across short rows, slip wraps and knit together with consecutive stitch as in ktog, t&w, knit to end.

Repeat between \* and \* three times.

**Knitting three short row wedges for size B:** Change colour if desired and knit 10 sts, t&w, knit to end.

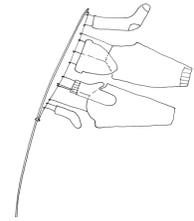
\*Knit to 2 sts before the previous turn (not counting the wrap) t&w, knit to end\*

Repeat between \* and \* three times.

Knit 12 sts across short rows, slip wraps and knit together with consecutive stitch as in k2tog, t&w, knit to end.

# Cast-offs pattern: *Sock*

© Mackenzie Kelly-Frère



Repeat between \* and \* four times.

Knit 14 sts across short rows, slip wraps and knit together with consecutive stitch as in k2tog, t&w, knit to end.

Repeat between \* and \* five times.

**Foot:** Change colour if desired and knit across short rows, slip wraps and knit together with consecutive stitch as in k2tog. Continue knitting across remaining 10 (14) leg stitches.

Continue working in garter stitch until foot measures 5 (6) inches.

**Toe:** \*k1, ssk, knit to last three stitches, k2tog, k1\* then work three rows in garter stitch. Do this once for size A and twice for size B.

k1, ssk, knit to last three stitches, k2tog, k1, then work two rows in garter stitch.

k1, ssk, knit to last three stitches, k2tog, k1, then work one row in garter stitch.

Continue decreasing every row until 8 stitches remain (for both sizes) then cast off.

**Finishing:** Darn in ends and lightly full piece in hand warm soapy water. Rinse and lay flat to dry. (Rolling in a towel and stomping on the piece will remove remaining excess water. Blocking with pins is not necessary as long as you can coax the work reasonably into shape.

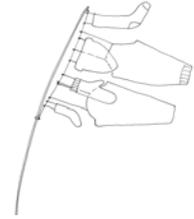
## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

As pieces are produced, they will be mounted on three to five (or more) poles installed on the grounds of the ICCA. It is hoped that these will accumulate fairly quickly throughout the summer and that the poles will be nearly full by the time the exhibit opens in August. Calgary knitters will ship completed pieces July 31, August 19 and September 4 (if necessary). Knitting will continue throughout the exhibition. *At the end of the exhibition all knitting will become property of Mackenzie Kelly-Frère for future exhibition. All contributing knitters will be credited.*

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# Cast-offs pattern: Long underwear

© Mackenzie Kelly-Frère



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## YARN

Use the Briggs & Little Sport provided or any other sport or lightweight double knitting yarn from your stash. *Please use only natural materials.*

## YARDAGE

You will require approximately 230 yards/60 grams for size A and 345 yards /90 grams for size B. No specific colour scheme is provided. Knitters are encouraged to devise their own. (As you knit, embellishment and invention are also your prerogative!)

## GAUGE

14 stitches and 24 rows = 10 cm/4 inches square in garter stitch using a needle that will allow you to obtain the gauge (a 6 to 7 mm needle is suggested). A circular needle will allow you to skip placing leg stitches onto a holder.

## NOTE ON GAUGE

The gauge for *Cast-offs* is intentionally open and lacy to contribute to its scribbly appearance and to allow pieces to fly more easily. This will reveal variations in your tension, particularly at the selvages. If you are a beginner and this happens do not be discouraged. Think of it as your signature on the pieces you will knit. As you gain experience knitting at this gauge your tension will improve.

## SIZES

This piece may be knit in one of two sizes:

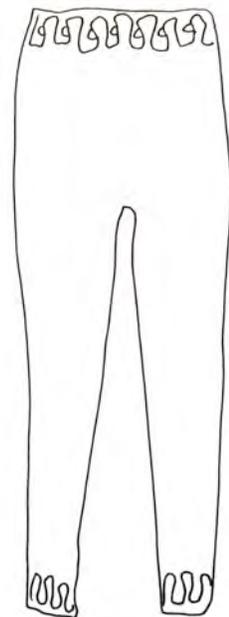
A = 11 x 32 inches

B = 20.5 x 48 inches

Instructions for size A are listed first.

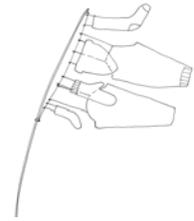
Instructions for size B are in parentheses.

*Dimensions are approximate as the open gauge stretches.*



# Cast-offs pattern: *Long underwear*

© Mackenzie Kelly-Frère



## MEASURING YOUR KNITTING

When measuring your knitting, avoid stretching the work and do not include the stitches on the needle.

## ABBREVIATIONS

**k** = knit

**k2tog** = knit 2 stitches together

**p** = purl

**p2tog** = purl 2 stitches together

**RS** = right side

**ssk** = slip, slip, knit (slip 1 knitwise, slip 1 knitwise, knit 2 slipped stitches together through back loops)

**st(s)** = stitch(es)

**tbl** = through back loop

**WS** = wrong side

**yo** = yarn over needle

## KNIT CAST-OFFS LONG UNDERWEAR

**Waistband:** Cast on 40 (60) sts using a long tail or other cast on method. Work in k2, p2 rib for three rows.

Insert eyelets into the ribbing (used for hanging piece) as follows: RS [k2, yo, p2tog] repeat to end. WS [k1, k1tbl, p2] repeat to end.

Continue in k2, p2 until ribbing measures 2 (3) inches.

**Body:** Change colour if desired and continue in garter stitch until piece measures 10 (15) inches from cast on.

**Legs (work both the same):** Knit 20 (30) sts, (Place remaining 20 (30) sts on a stitch holder or length of yarn if not using a circular needle.) Continue working first 20

(30) sts in garter stitch until leg measures five inches.

**Decrease row:** k1, ssk, knit to last three stitches, k2tog, k1

Continue working in garter stitch, knitting a decrease row every five inches until 12 (18) sts remain.

Knit 1 row, change colour if desired and work in k2, p2 rib for 2 (3) inches.

Cast off in rib.

**Finishing:** Darn in ends and lightly full piece in hand warm soapy water. Rinse and lay flat to dry. (Rolling in a towel and stepping on the roll will remove remaining excess water.) Blocking with pins is not necessary as long as you can coax the work reasonably into shape.

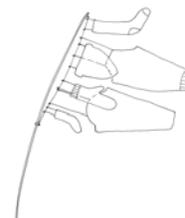
## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

As pieces are produced, they will be mounted outdoors. If you plan to knit multiple pieces, please submit your work as it is completed. We hope to have most of the pieces up by the time the exhibit opens in August. Mackenzie will ship work from Calgary July 31, August 19 and September 4 (if necessary). Knitting will continue throughout the exhibition. *At the end of the exhibition all knitting will become property of Mackenzie Kelly-Frère for future exhibition. All contributing knitters will be credited.*

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# Cast-offs pattern: *Mitten*

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## YARN

Use the Briggs & Little Sport provided or any other sport or lightweight double knitting yarn from your stash. *Please use only natural materials.*

## YARDAGE

You will require approximately 115 yards /30 grams for size A and 190 yards/50 grams for size B. No specific colour scheme is provided. Knitters are encouraged to devise their own. (As you knit, embellishment and invention are also your prerogative!)

## GAUGE

14 stitches and 24 rows = 10 cm/4 inches square in garter stitch using a needle that will allow you to obtain the gauge (6 to 7 mm needle suggested). *A circular needle will allow you to skip placing leg stitches onto a holder.*

## NOTE ON GAUGE

The gauge for *Cast-offs* is intentionally open and lacy to contribute to its scribbly appearance and to allow pieces to fly more easily. This will reveal variations in your tension, particularly at the selvages. If you are a beginner and this happens do not be discouraged. Think of it as your signature on the pieces you will knit. As you gain experience knitting at this gauge your tension will improve.

## SIZES

This piece may be knit in one of two sizes:

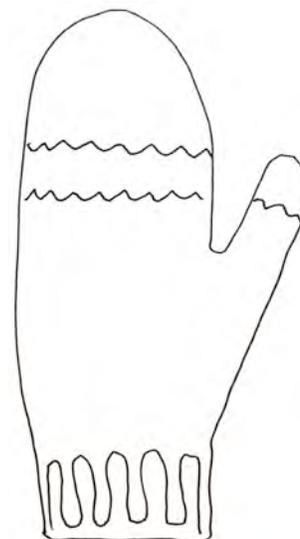
A = 9 x 14.5 inches

B = 14 x 22 inches

Instructions for size A are listed first.

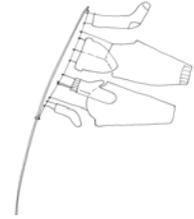
Instructions for size B are in parentheses.

*Dimensions are approximate as the open gauge stretches*



# Cast-offs pattern: *Mitten*

© Mackenzie Kelly-Frère



## MEASURING YOUR KNITTING

When measuring your knitting, avoid stretching the work and do not include the stitches on the needle.

## ABBREVIATIONS

**k** = knit

**k2tog** = knit 2 stitches together

**m1** = make 1

**p** = purl

**p2tog** = purl 2 stitches together

**RS** = right side

**ssk** = slip, slip, knit (slip 1 knitwise, slip 1 knitwise, knit 2 slipped stitches together through back loops)

**st(s)** = stitch(es)

**tbl** = through back loop

**WS** = wrong side

**yo** = yarn over needle

## KNIT CAST-OFFS MITTEN

**Cuff:** Cast on 24 (40) sts using a long tail or other cast on method. Work in k2, p2 rib for three rows.

Insert eyelets into the ribbing (used for hanging piece) as follows: RS [k2, yo, p2tog] repeat to end. WS [k1, k1tbl, p2] repeat to end.

Continue in k2, p2 until ribbing measures 3 (4) inches.

**Mitten:** Change colour if desired and work in garter stitch until piece measures 5 (6) inches from cast on.

**Gusset increase row (RS):** k1, m1, knit to end.

Continue in garter stitch and work gusset increase row once every inch for size A, every two inches for size B. Repeat until you have 28 (44) sts on the needle and piece measures 8 (12) inches from cast on.

*NOTE: Ensure your gusset increases are all worked on the same side.*

Starting from the WS (opposite gusset increases) knit 20 (34) sts. (Place remaining 8 (10) sts on a stitch holder or length of yarn if not using a circular needle.) Work 20 (34) sts in garter stitch until piece measures 12 (18) inches from cast on.

**Decrease sequence:** k1, ssk, knit to last three stitches, k2tog, k1 then work three rows in garter stitch. Do this twice for size A and three times for size B.

k1, ssk, knit to last three stitches, k2tog, k1, then work two rows in garter stitch. Do this once for size A and twice for size B.

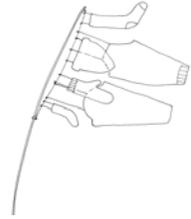
k1, ssk, knit to last three stitches, k2tog, k1, then work one row in garter stitch. Do this once for size A and twice for size B.

Continue in garter stitch, working decrease sequence every row until 8 stitches remain then cast off.

**Thumb (RS):** Join yarn and work 8 (10) sts, in garter stitch until thumb measures 2 (3.5) inches.

# Cast-offs pattern: *Mitten*

© Mackenzie Kelly-Frère



**Decrease sequence:** k1, ssk, knit to last three stitches, k2tog, k1

If knitting size A, knit another row, repeat the decrease row once, then cast off.

If knitting size B, (knit another row, repeat the decrease row) twice, then cast off.

**Finishing:** Darn in ends and lightly full piece in hand warm soapy water. Rinse and lay flat to dry. (Rolling in a towel and stepping on the roll will remove remaining excess water. Blocking with pins is not necessary as long as you can coax the work reasonably into shape.

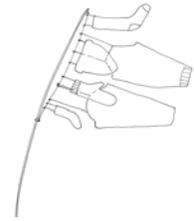
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# Cast-offs pattern: *Toque*

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## YARN

Use the Briggs & Little Sport provided or any other sport or lightweight double knitting yarn from your stash. *Please use only natural materials.*

## YARDAGE

You will require approximately 155 yards/40 grams for size A and 268 yards /70 grams for size B. No specific colour scheme is provided. Knitters are encouraged to devise their own. (As you knit, embellishment and invention are also your prerogative!)

## GAUGE

14 stitches and 24 rows = 10 cm/4 inches square in garter stitch using a needle that will allow you to obtain the gauge (6 to 7 mm needle suggested). *A circular needle will allow you to skip placing leg stitches onto a holder.*

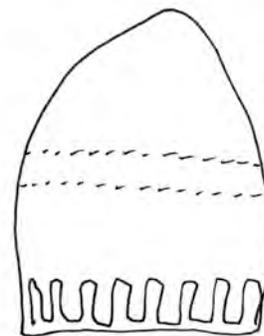
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## SIZES

This piece may be knit in one of two sizes:

A = 12.5 x 18 inches B = 17 x 25.5 inches



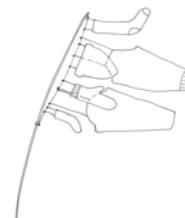
Instructions for size A are listed first.

Instructions for size B are in parentheses.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

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**p** = purl

**p2tog** = purl 2 stitches together

**RS** = right side

**ssk** = slip, slip, knit (slip 1 knitwise, slip 1 knitwise, knit 2 slipped stitches together through back loops)

**st(s)** = stitch(es)

**tbl** = through back loop

**t&w** = short row turn and wrap

**WS** = wrong side

**yo** = yarn over needle

## KNIT CAST-OFFS TOQUE

**Brim:** Cast on 44 (60) sts using a long tail or other cast on method. Work in k2, p2 rib for three rows.

Insert eyelets into the ribbing (used for hanging piece) as follows: RS [k2, yo, p2tog] repeat to end. WS [k1, k1tbl, p2] repeat to end.

Continue in k2, p2 until ribbing measures 2 (3.5) inches.

**Hat:** Change colour if desired and continue in garter stitch until piece measures 10 (14) inches from cast on.

**Decrease shaping:** k1, ssk, knit to last three stitches, k2tog, k1, then work three rows in garter stitch. Do this three times for size A and four times for size B.

k1, ssk, knit to last three stitches, k2tog, k1, then work two rows in garter stitch. Do this four times for size A and five times for size B.

k1, ssk, knit to last three stitches, k2tog, k1, then work one row in garter stitch. Do this five times for size A and six times for size B.

Continue decreasing every row until 4 stitches remain (for both sizes) then cast off.

Embellish with a flat knit circle or an actual pom pom using leftover yarn (optional).

**Finishing:** Darn in ends and lightly full piece in hand warm soapy water. Rinse and lay flat to dry. (Rolling in a towel and stomping on the piece will remove remaining excess water. Blocking with pins is not necessary as long as you can coax the work reasonably into shape.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

As pieces are produced, they will be mounted on three to five (or more) poles installed on the grounds of the ICCA. It is hoped that these will accumulate fairly quickly throughout the summer and that the poles will be nearly full by the time the exhibit opens in August. Calgary knitters will ship completed pieces July 31, August 19 and September 4 (if necessary). Knitting will continue throughout the exhibition. *At the end of the exhibition all knitting will become property of Mackenzie Kelly-Frère for future exhibition. All contributing knitters will be credited.*

[Join the “CAST-OFFS KAL” on Ravelry for tips, project information and group discussion. Share your work with us!](#)