

Christmas Ball – Star of Bethlehem

by [Mary Ann Stephens](#)

Pattern overview:

Circularly-knit, ball-shaped ornament with symmetrical, stranded knitting motif repeated across all four panels. I-cord hanging loop is shown, but the common crocheted chain loop will work, too. For more discussion, see my blog post. For more designs in PDF format, click [here](#).

Suggested yarn:

A (background): One 50g ball of Dale of Norway "[Heilo](#)" 100% Norwegian wool or "[Falk](#)" 100% superwash wool

B (motif): One 50g ball of Dale of Norway "[Gullfasan](#)" 90% viscose / 10% polyamide metallic yarn

Colors shown: A = Off-White #0017; B = Gold #2633

FAQS: If you prefer, you can use either Heilo or Falk for both the background and motif. In fact, if you have scraps of both Heilo and Falk to use up, you can mix them in the same ball, as long as you hand wash and air dry the resulting ball. All of these Dale of Norway yarns are available through my retail website, [Kidsknits.com](#).



GAUGE:

The gauge on the ball shown is about 28 stitches per 4" / 10cm. But, in this case, the gauge is not crucial. What matters is that you're happy with the resulting fabric and that you keep your gauge consistent across multiple balls, especially if they will be hanging together on your tree.

NEEDLES:

US #3 / 3.25mm, or whatever size needle you need to obtain your preferred gauge. You can use double-pointed needles (extra helpful, but not essential, for the I-cord hanging loop), one long circular needle with the magic loop method, or two circular needles.

NOTIONS:

Wool or polyester batting, to stuff the balls. I always love wool, and it makes a nice, firm stuffing, especially for balls that are meant to be decorative keepsakes. But, the ball shown will hopefully be over-loved by messy little hands. So, I filled it with common polyester batting, which will wash and dry easily. It works just fine!

Tapestry needle(s)

Used in defining the height and shape of the ball; you'll prefer the longest tapestry needle for that purpose. **Crochet hook**, only for optional hanger method, not shown here, but commonly used.

ABBREVIATIONS:

A = background color

B = motif color

K = knit

K2tog = knit two stitches together as one stitch.

M = make one, back = insert left needle *back-to-front* under horizontal strand between previous stitch and next stitch; knit into *front* of stitch to increase one stitch.



View from top or bottom

m = make one, front = insert left needle *front-to-back* under horizontal strand between previous stitch and next stitch; knit into *back* of stitch to increase one stitch.

rd(s) = round(s)

rem = remaining

rep = repeat

ssk = "slip, slip, knit" = slip one stitch knitwise, slip another stitch knitwise, knit both slipped stitches together as one.

INSTRUCTIONS:

It's a good idea to read through the entire pattern before starting to knit!

Using A, cast on 12 sts, leaving a yarn tail about 6"/15.2cm long. Distribute the sts evenly among your needles. Work chart rows 1 through 34 as follows: Start at lower right corner, always read from right to left; each square equals 1 st to be worked in color and method indicated in chart legend; 4 repeats of one chart row equal 1 complete rd of knitting. Turn the ball inside out and weave in any loose ends. Turn the ball right side out and knit the remainder of the chart. Do *not* bind off.

HANGER METHODS:

I-cord loop (shown): *K2tog, rep from * until only 3 sts rem. Align the 3 rem sts on one needle and work the I-cord hanging loop as follows: Without turning work, * slide sts from left end of needle to right end of needle; bring yarn around back of sts, from left to right; K 3 sts; rep from * until I-cord is about 2 ½ "/6.4cm long, or desired length; bring yarn around back of sts, knit all 3 sts together (1 st rem). Break off yarn, leaving a tail of about 8" / 20.3cm inches; run the loose end through the 1 rem st and tighten. OR...

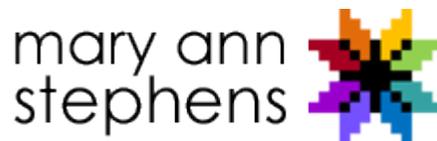
Crocheted chain: Leaving about 39"/1 meter of yarn, break off yarn from work and run the cut end through each of the rem 12 sts; tighten. Starting at the top of the ball, crochet a chain to desired length, leaving a yarn tail about 6" / 15.2cm long; run the cut end through your last chain st and tighten.

FINISHING THE BALL:

Stuff the ball: Push batting clumps in through the bottom opening to fill the ball. Thread the cast-on yarn end through a tapestry needle; run the end through each of the sts around the bottom opening; tighten to close the bottom hole; weave the loose end in place.

Secure the hanger: Thread the I-cord or crochet chain loose yarn end through a tapestry needle; run the threaded needle through the base of the I-cord / crochet chain loop, through the center of the ball, out the bottom of the ball; weave the loose end in place at the bottom of the ball, ensuring that it is pulled to the proper length to ensure a nicely rounded ball - not droopy (too loose) and not squat (too tight)...*juuuuust right!*

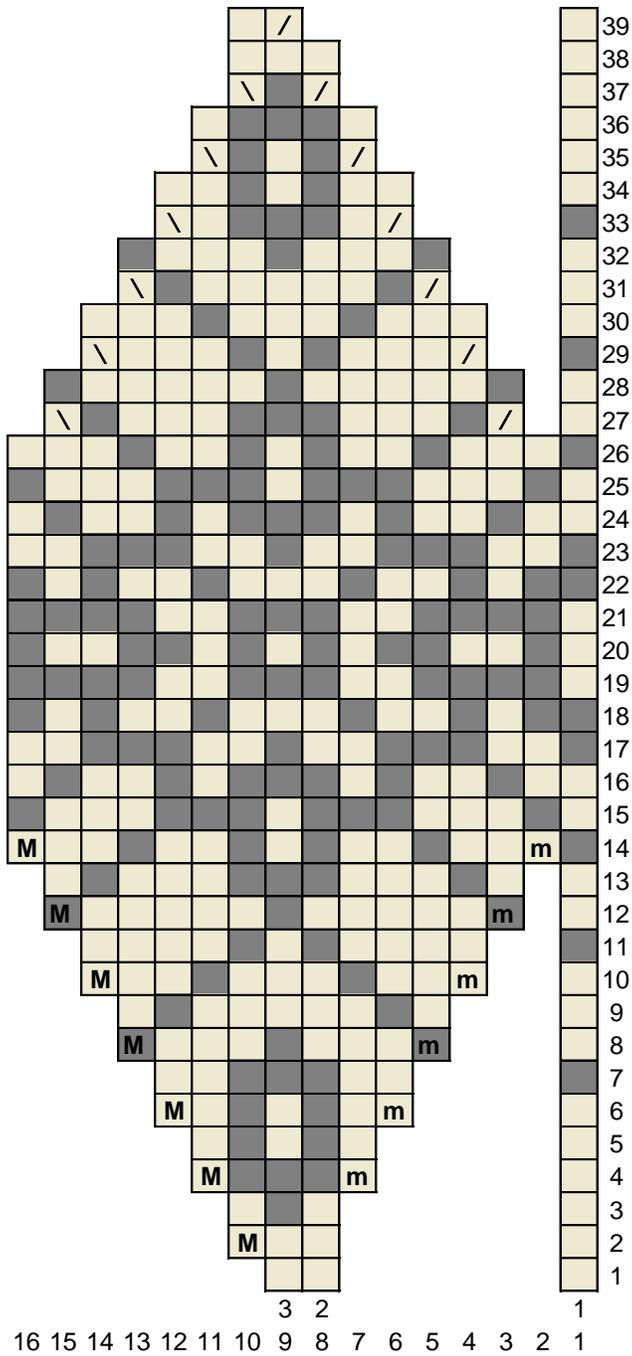
HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS!



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My [Kidsknits.com Yarn Store](#)

My [Two Strands Ravelry Group](#)



Legend:

Each square = 1 stitch

Work each square without a symbol as a knit stitch, using the color shown:

 = A, Off-white shown

 = B, Gold shown

Work squares with symbols as follows, using color shown within that square:

M = "Make one, back" = insert left needle BACK-to-front under horizontal strand between previous stitch and next stitch; knit into front of stitch to increase one stitch.

m = "Make one, front" = insert left needle FRONT-to-back under horizontal strand between previous stitch and next stitch; knit into back of stitch to increase one stitch.

/ = K2tog, a right-leaning decrease = knit two stitches together, using this stitch and the next stitch.

**** = SSK, a left-leaning decrease = slip this stitch knitwise, slip the next stitch knitwise, knit both of these slipped stitches together. (Alternatively, you may "K2tog through back loop".)