

Fair Isle Gansey

I called this the Fair Isle because it combined patterns from Orkney and Shetland, and Fair Isle is geographically between Orkney and Shetland.

While I was knitting it, I found a book about fishing in Fair Isle, and there, in a picture from about 1900, is a young man in this gansey!!

Materials

2 x 500 g cones Frangipani yarn for all sizes.
2.5 and 3 mm circular needles (or sets of dpns)
pairs of 2.5 and 3 mm needles
stitch holders or lengths of yarn
row counter; stitch markers or loops of yarn

Actual Measurements

chest 39 (42, 45, 49) ins
length 25 (26, 26, 27) ins adjustable
sleeve 16 (17, 17, 18) ins adjustable

Tension

27 sts and 36 rows to 4 ins over stocking stitch on 3 mm needles **after washing and blocking**. Adjust your needle size to get the correct tension.



Fair Isle Gansey XL Sizes

Materials

2 x 500 g cones Frangipani yarn for the first 4 sizes,
3 cones for the 67 and 70 in sizes
2.5 and 3 mm circular needles (or sets of dpns)
pairs of 2.5 and 3 mm needles
stitch holders or lengths of yarn
row counter; stitch markers or loops of yarn

Actual Measurements

chest 52 (56, 59, 63, 67, 70) ins
length 27 (27, 28, 28, 29, 29) ins adjustable
sleeve 18 (18, 18, 19, 19, 19) ins adjustable

Basic Ribbed Gansey – Chest 33 to 46 ins

This is the basic ribbed gansey seen in so many photos from both England and Scotland. It was worn by both fishermen and the gutters - women who gutted and salted the herring caught by the men. While they had fancier ganseys for Sunday wear, this was the everyday, working gansey.

The man's version was usually knitted in navy in England and black in Scotland and had long sleeves. The gutters used a wide variety of colours for their version, and had buttons down the front, the exact number of buttons and their spacing depending largely on the fashion of the day.

Some gutters knitted their ganseys with long sleeves they could roll up; other chose to knit elbow length or short sleeves to keep the wool away from their salty, fishy forearms.

Here both the man's version and several women's versions are given.

Materials

1 (1, 2, 2, 2,) cones Frangipani 5 ply gansey yarn
2.5 mm circular needle or set of 5, 2.5 mm dpns
3.0 mm circular needle or set of 5, 3 mm dpns
pair 3 mm needles or extra circ
a 2 mm or smaller needle for picking up stitches
(optional but makes life easier!)
2 stitch markers; row counter
stitch holders and spare lengths of yarn for holding stitches
Men's gansey: 2 (2, 3, 3, 3) small buttons if required for neck
Women's gansey: 3 buttons, about 11 mm



Size

Note - the ribbing is very stretchy so it is difficult to get exact sizes. The chest measurements below are with the ribbing stretched slightly, but not excessively.

actual size at underarm about 33 (36, 39.5, 43, 46.5) ins
length 23 (23, 24.5, 25, 26) ins (adjustable)
sleeve 16 (16, 17, 17, 18) ins (adjustable)

XL Sizes

actual size at underarm about 50 (53, 56.5, 60, 63.5) ins
length 26 (27, 28, 28, 28) ins (adjustable)
sleeve 18 (18, 18, 18, 18) ins (adjustable)

Tension

28 sts and 40 rows to 4 ins over pattern on 3 mm needles **after washing and blocking.**

Stromness Gansey

*This is a copy of a gansey in a photo of fishermen at Stromness, Orkney.
The photo is held by the Orkney Library and Archive in Kirkwall, Orkney*

Materials

2 x 500 g cones
Frangipani yarn for each
size
2.5 and 3 mm (US 2 and
3) circular needles (or
sets of dpns)
pair 3 mm (US 3) needles
stitch holders or lengths
of yarn
row counter; stitch
markers or loops of yarn

Actual Measurements

chest 34 (39, 44, 49)
ins
length 24 (25, 26, 27)
ins adjustable
sleeve 16 (17, 17, 18)
ins adjustable

Tension

26 sts and 38 rows to 4
ins over body pattern on
3 mm needles **after
washing and blocking**
taken from your swatch.



XL sizes to come!!

Scottish Herring Girl's Gansey

This is a copy of an original gansey held in the archives of the Scottish Fisheries Museum, Anstruther, Fife. Although the original was knitted in pink, you can knit it in any of Frangipani's glorious colours. The herring girls gutted and packed the herring caught down the East coast of Scotland and England, moving South during the year with the shoals of 'the Silver Darlings'.

Many of them wore their own versions of ganseys, in a range of colours from navy to raspberry and pistachio.

Materials

2 x 500 g cones Frangipani yarn for all sizes.
2.25 (Europe) or 2.5 (USA), 3 and 4 mm
circular needles (or sets of dpns)
pair 3 mm needles
stitch holders or lengths of yarn
row counter; stitch markers or loops of yarn

Actual Measurements

chest 36 (41, 46, 50, 55) ins
length 23 (24, 25, 26, 26) ins adjustable
sleeve 16 (16, 16.5, 17, 17) ins adjustable

Tension

28 sts to 4 ins over pattern on 3 mm needles
after washing and blocking. Adjust your
needle size to get the correct tension.



Gansey Sampler Cushions

This is a great way of using up ends of cones! Have both sides the same colour, or different. The patterns are all taken from ganseys in the collection of the National Fisheries Museum, Anstruther, Fife, Scotland

Materials

100g Frangipani yarn
pair 3 mm needles
row counter
3 buttons about 15 mm
crochet hook about 4.5 mm
knitters pins

Actual Measurements

To fit 12 in cushion pad.

Tension

23 sts to 4 ins over pattern on 3 mm needles **after washing and blocking**. Adjust your needle size to get the correct tension.



Basic Scarf in a Gansey Pattern

Scarves can be made either in 5 ply yarn, DK or light aran weight. The patterns give them extra thickness and warmth. Make them fairly short for men to tuck in their overcoats, or longer for women and children to wrap round their necks.

Materials

140 g Frangipani 5 ply gansey yarn
pair 4.5 mm needles
row counter

Size

About 9 ins wide and 40 ins long

Tension

About 21 sts to 4 ins over moss stitch on 4.5 mm needles **after washing and blocking**. The tension is not critical!



Pattern also gives instructions for designing your own scarves.

Gansey Swatch Pin Cushion **and Swatch Mobile Cover**

Explore the effect of different patterns by making a pin cushion which is ideal for holding blunt knitting pins and needles or by making small bag which is ideal for holding your phone, iPod or MP3 player round your neck or wrist

Materials

10g Frangipani yarn
pair 3 mm needles (US 3)

Size and Tension

If your tension is about 7 sts and 9 rows to the inch the pincushion will be about 3 ins square when finished. Tension is not critical.



Materials

10g Frangipani yarn
pair 3 mm needles
row counter
blunt needle for sewing up
crotchet hook or bought cord

Size and Tension

If your tension is about 7 sts and 9 rows to the inch the bag will be about 2 1/2 ins wide when finished and as long as you want. Tension is not critical.



Pattern give instructions for making up your own stitch patterns, along with grids to chart them.

Panel Pattern Mitts and Hats

These mitts and hat have a 13 st panel on the front and back which can be used for any gansey pattern. Several possibilities are shown.

Materials

for the mitts

80 (90) g Frangipani or other 5 ply gansey yarn

for the hat:

80 (90, 100, 110) g Frangipani or other 5 ply gansey yarn

for either:

pair 3 mm and 3.5 mm needles (US 3 and 4)
stitch holders or lengths of yarn
row counter; stitch markers or loops of yarn

Size

Mitts to fit an average woman (man). The length at the wrist and palm can easily be adjusted.

Hat to fit an average child (teen, woman, man)

Tension

24 sts and 36 rows to 4 ins over pattern on 3.5 mm needles **after washing and blocking**. Adjust your needle size to get the correct tension.

Pattern includes the charts for 2 different heart motifs (one shown in the hat above), 2 anchors, and the zig zags of the pink gutter's gansey (see the mitts above).

