

Out Campaign Scarlet Letter

If you're knitting in a public place and someone asks, "what are you knitting?" now you can come out as an Atheist Knitter. This pattern was written in support of The Out Campaign (<http://outcampaign.org>), a movement to raise the visibility of atheists in their communities.

This pattern uses a technique known as 'shadow' or 'illusion' knitting. When viewed from above, the fabric appears to be ordinary stripes. When viewed from an angle, a red A appears. The illusion created by this pattern can always be seen by those who change their point of view.

Use this pattern to create a standalone placemat or an element within a larger project such as a panel in a sweater, blanket, or scarf.

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Valley Yarns Northampton (worsted)
Width: 16"
Height: 21"

GAUGE (garter stitch)

5 stitches/inch
6 rows/inch

MATERIALS

Yarn

2 balls Valley Yarns Northampton (100 gm/247yards/ball, worsted weight), one of red and one of white or other background color

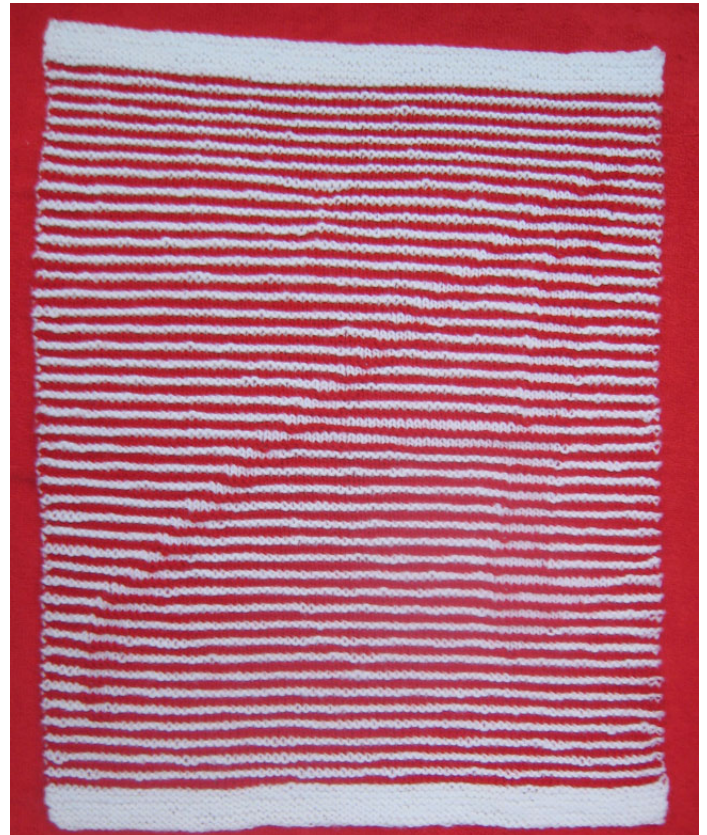
Needles

1 set US #5 (3.75mm) needles, circular or straight.

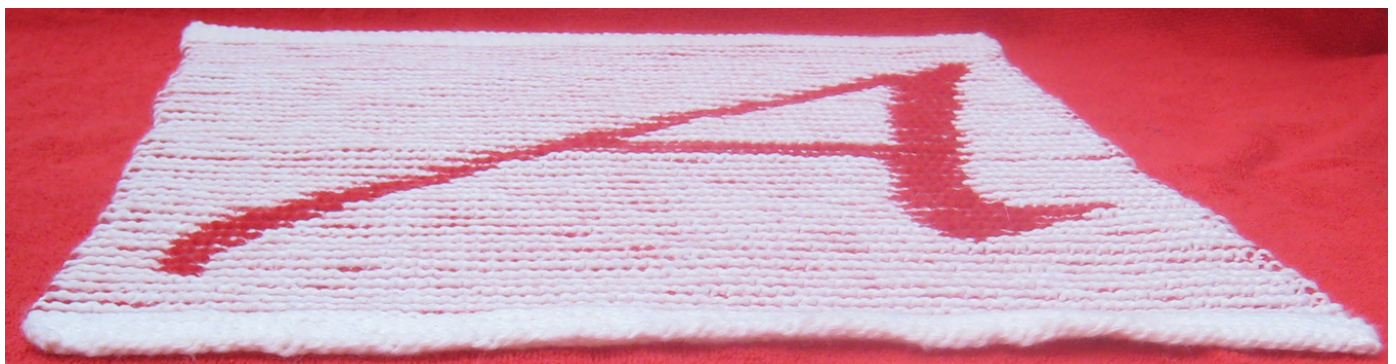
Notions

tapestry needle, stitch markers (optional)

When substituting yarn, choose yarn with good stitch definition. Choose needles slightly smaller than would normally be used for the yarn. The illusion depends on clear definition between knit and purl. Choose a background color with high contrast to the red A.



A faint A can be seen in an otherwise striped pattern



When viewed at a low angle, the A becomes quite visible.

PATTERN OVERVIEW

The design emerges from matched sets of two rows of white followed by two rows of red. Each set of four rows begins with two rows of white, the background color. The first row, a right side row, is knit plain. The second row follows the chart, knitting the plain stitches and purling the marked stitches. For the third row in the sequence, switch to red yarn and knit one row. To finish the sequence of four rows, follow the chart and purl the plain stitches and knit the marked stitches.

The odd numbered right side rows are always knit plain. In each four row sequence, the even numbered rows correspond with each other. For example, compare row 2 with row 4 or row 14 with row 16.

Row 1: With white yarn, knit across.

Row 2: Knit across.

Row 3: Switch to red yarn. Knit across.

Row 4: Purl across.

Row 13: With white yarn, knit across.

Row 14: k8, p2, k to end.

Row 15: Switch to red yarn. Knit across.

Row 16: p8, k2, p to end

PATTERN

Bottom Border

Cast on 80 stitches with white yarn. Knit 12 rows garter stitch by knitting every row.

A - Chart

Row 1 and all other right side rows are knit plain. Continue with white yarn.

Row 2: Follow chart by knitting unmarked stitches and purling marked stitches.

Switch to red yarn.

Row 3: Knit plain

Row 4: Follow chart. Purl unmarked stitches and knit marked stitches.

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Continue in this manner to the end of the chart.

Top Border

After finishing row 164 of chart in red, switch to white yarn. Knit 12 rows of garter stitch by knitting every row. Cast off loosely.

FINISHING

Sew all ends. Block by soaking the A in water and laying flat on a towel.

For best effect, lay the finished work on a table. Viewing from directly above will show a plain red and white striped pattern. Viewing from an angle to the bottom border will result in the scarlet A popping out. The A is always there. Whether the A is visible depends on the perspective of the viewer.

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