

STITCH of the MONTH *bobbles!*



what's a bobble?

A bobble is a little cluster of stitches that stands up from the face of the fabric adding a three-dimensional element to knitted items. They impart a touch of whimsy and cheerfulness to knitted fabrics. Depending on how they're made, bobbles can be small and subtle or very "center stage". Bobbles can be used as an all-over effect, as a highlight to other knitted stitches or to add color to knitted work. They can be worked over Stockinette stitch, within cable patterns or over Garter stitch.

bobble basics

Usually, Bobbles follow a general method for construction, though there are many ways to knit them. Usually, they're worked over three rows following a recipe like this...

- Multiple increases in a single stitch. (Sometimes two if the bobble is very large.)
- Turn and work back across the new stitches.
- Multiple decreases to return the stitch count to normal

Very small, neat bobbles can be worked in a single row, (similar to a picot edge) like this...

- Add 3 or 4 new stitches to the left needle using a knitted cast on.
- Knit the new stitches.
- Cast the stitches off, leap-frogging one stitch over the previous stitch.



the best bobble ever?

For the Marais Cowl (part of *Wetlands: Knitting in the Deep South Vol. 1*"), I've used a five-row bobble. Aside from adding two rows to the process, the increases are a little different. Using yarn-overs rather than the standard knit-front-back produces a bobble that stands off the face of the fabric a bit more. The two extra rows make the bobble a little bigger.

Row 1 (RS): (K1, yo) twice, k1.

Row 2 (WS): Turn. P5.

Row 3: Turn. K5.

Row 4: Turn. P2tog, p1, p2tog.

Row 5: Turn. Sl 2, k1, p2sso.