

# THE DOOR COUNTY SLOUCH HAT

## 2025 Wild and Woolly Colorado Yarn Crawl Knit pattern

By Deb Powers, Everything Alpaca



I developed this pattern while my husband drove our coach to beautiful Door County in my home state of Wisconsin for a vacation in July 2025, so decided to name it the Door County Slouch hat and its matching Door County cowl. Door County is the “thumb” of the state of Wisconsin, and it gets cold there in the wintertime with brisk winds whipping over the peninsula from both Green Bay and Lake Michigan. Mostly Swedes, Dutch, and Norwegians founded this area in the 1800s, and these hardy people love the winter outdoor sports. Many of them are dairy farmers, and cows need to be milked every day year round. A nice warm alpaca hat and cowl would be much appreciated in Door County in the winter, especially double layered like these dual color items! This hat is a great skillbuilder pattern for advanced beginners and also keeps the attention of intermediate and advanced knitters with its engaging changes of color and technique. The mosaic pattern of this hat is used with permission from Schoolhouse Press and can be found in Barbara G Walker’s book, Mosaic Knitting, and can also be purchased from Schoolhouse Press. Barbara’s book is chock full of mosaic patterns and much more in-depth instructions on this technique in flat work and in the round. My explanation here is very simplistic, but if you like how it works up, I encourage you to get the book to learn more about mosaic knitting and try more patterns.

**Materials:** 2 skeins, 1 of each color, sport weight yarn. Sample is Blue Sky Fibers Baby Alpaca in Light Gray and Eggplant, 110 yards each skein and I had some left over.

Smooth waste yarn for provisional cast on

16” circular needle, US 5 (3.75 mm)

Hat decreases: You can use one of these 3 methods for decreases: US 5 in 1) double point needles, 2) long cord circular (30" or more) for magic loop technique, or 3) Addi FlexiFlips, US5. I prefer the FlexiFlips.

Stitch markers

Tapestry needle to weave in ends.

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

CO	cast on
K	knit
P	purl
yo	yarnover
wyif	with yarn in front
wyib	with yarn in back
PW	purlwise
tog	together

**GAUGE:** 20 stitches and 15 rows/4 inches on US 5, unblocked

**SPECIAL STITCHES/TECHNIQUES** Depending on your level of confidence, you might want to practice some of these techniques on practice yarn before starting your project

**Tubular cast on** – Do a provisional cast on of 45 stitches, half of the total desired stitches for the project. To do this, use a crochet hook and smooth waste yarn. Place a loop of waste yarn on the crochet hook chain 2 or 3 stitches. Then holding crochet hook in right hand and the yarn in the left, place the knitting needle to the left of the crochet hook and in front of the yarn strand. Crochet a stitch around the knitting needle. Once this stitch is done, the yarn will be in front. Take the yarn to the back of the knitting needle and repeat this process until you have half of your desired number of stitches, 45 in this case. Chain a few stitches at the end, cut the yarn and pass the tail loosely through the last chain. Place a locking stitch marker or safety pin in this stitch to help you undo this when you wish to take the waste yarn off and to mark which end of the crochet chain to start unraveling.

Set up round: With Yarn A, K1, yo. Repeat around until you have 90 sts.

## **MAIN ROUNDS**

Rnd 1: Being careful to not twist stitches, place a marker and join in the round. Then, K1, bring yarn to front, slip next st PW (purlwise), take yarn to back. Repeat around.

Rnd 2: Wyib, slip 1 PW, bring yarn to front, purl 1, take yarn to back and repeat these 2 stitches around.

Rounds 3 and 4: Repeat rounds 1 and 2

When you are comfortable, you can take off the waste yarn. Undo the yarn end slipped through the last chain and unravel and remove the crochet stitches. You are left with a nice stretchy cast on edge.

GAUGE 20 st and 15 rows on US 5 (3.75 mm) needles

**Corrugated Ribbing:** Stitch color is alternating every stitch. Thus, even number stitches are Yarn A and odd number stitches are Yarn B. To perform this ribbing, K1 with A, bring B to front, P1, take B to back. K next stitch, bring B to front, P1, take yarn to back. Continue in this pattern around to end of round.

### **Latvian (Vikkel) braid, left**

Set-up round: K1 with A, K1 with B; repeat around. When changing colors, on the back side of the work, bring the next color to be used under the color just completed. When the round is completed, bring both yarns to the front of your work.

Rnd 1: P1 with A and drop A; pick up B and bring B UNDER A and P next st. Drop B and bring A UNDER B and P next stitch. Continue around, alternating colors each stitch, bringing each color of yarn under the other. The A color stitches should correspond to the A color stitches from the row below, and the same for the B color stitches.

Rnd 2: P1 with A, drop A, and bring B OVER A and P next stitch. Complete around to end, alternating stitch colors. This is the same as Rnd 1 except you are changing the yarns OVER each other instead of under.

NOTE: Your yarns will twist around each other with every stitch; however, when you do the second row, they will untwist, so don't waste a lot of time untwisting your yarn after the first row because you will end up doing it again. If you can manage your yarn twists by keeping them loose and not inhibiting your yarn feed, they will take care of themselves on the 2<sup>nd</sup> row. Also, after the braid is completed, take your yarns to the back side and cut them leaving a tail long enough to put on a tapestry needle to use to fix up the braid join so you can disguise the join. 4 to 5" should be adequate. There are videos online for this, but you can just look at your braid and figure out where a leg or two need to be added to make it look even and hide the join. Then take the tails to the back and weave in. Rejoin your yarns as needed to continue the project.

### **Latvian (Vikkel) braid, right**

Same as for LEFT Latvian braid except reverse the order, i.e. do Rnd 2 (change yarns OVER each other) and then do Rnd 1 (change yarns UNDER each other)

### **Mosaic knitting**

Set Up Row: K one round with Yarn B (light color yarn).

Rnd 1: You will knit this round with A (dark color) according to the chart, slipping the light color stitches and knitting the dark color stitches.

MORE DETAILS FOR MOSAIC KNITTING: The concept of mosaic knitting involves only knitting with one color at a time, thus each row will use just one color of yarn. The yarn stitches not of the color of

the working yarn for that row are slipped PW. On the charts, the white boxes are yarn B stitches and the black boxes are yarn A stitches. When knitting with the light yarn, light boxes are knit and the dark boxes are slipped stitches PW. For example, if there are 3 white boxes and then 3 dark boxes, K 3 stitches, then slip 3 stitches PW. If working with the dark yarn, knit the dark boxes and slip the light boxes.

On the chart, each horizontal line of boxes is 2 rows, thus you will see odd numbers to the right of the rows and even numbers to the left ON THE SAME LINE. With mosaic knitting in the round, all rows are read right to left, just as the stitches appear on your needles. The pattern round is performed first (odd number rows) and then the next round is a repeat of that same pattern round just finished (even number rows) with the same color of yarn used in the previous row. Thus, you will just follow the color of stitches as they appear on your needles for the even rows. You will be knitting the same stitches that were knit in the previous round and slipping the same stitches as the previous round.

**2-color stranded knitting:** This is used for the hat decreases at the end of the pattern. Two colors will be used and carried in each round. Yarn B is the main color of the top of the hat and Yarn A is the contrast that forms the 6-legged star pattern. That means Yarn A will be single stitches done 6 times in each round. As you carry A behind while working B, you will need to catch up yarn A about every 4 stitches so you don't have long "floats" of Yarn A on the backside of your work. To perform this, lay Yarn A over the B yarn strand on the back side of the work before you knit the 4<sup>th</sup> stitch with B. Yarn A will stay on the backside of the work but will be "caught" by B to keep it tucked in and not hanging loosely in the back. Be mindful of your tension when changing yarn colors – not too tight and not too loose. The strand of color being carried should be loose enough to not pucker the work, yet taut enough to keep tension even. This part of the hat will not be stretched when worn, so it does not need to have a lot of "give" when working the stranded colors. Just keep it loose enough to not pucker the knitting. There are several ways to manage the yarn in your hands to be proficient at stranded color work, but it takes practice and trying the several techniques. For this hat, you can just knit with the main color for this section, drop it and pick up the contrast to use it, then drop it and pick the main color back up. You can place your yarn on a table in front of you and move it over and under as you work to avoid tangles. Just remember to "carry your floats" every 4<sup>th</sup> stitch. When that drives you a bit crazy, take some practice yarn and try methods you can find on line that make stranded color work faster and more fun. Once you manage this, you will have a hard time putting your project down as you watch the pattern progress as you knit.

**Two color striped knitting:** Each row is knit using one color for a complete round and then the other for the next round. The only issue is the join from the end of one row to the 1<sup>st</sup> stitch on the next row. Since round knitting is like a spiral and doesn't have an even start and end point, i.e. the last stitch is higher than the first, special techniques are employed to make these 2 stitches look like they are on the same plane. For this project with smaller needles, the join may not be that noticeable. The method I used was to make sure to pass the yarn I was dropping underneath the yarn I was picking up to start the next round. That elevated the yarn used for the 1<sup>st</sup> stitch of the round, lining it up better with the stitch at the end of that next round. There are other more complicated methods to accomplish this, but I don't think they are necessary for this project.

There are many video tutorials for each of these techniques on line, but I highly recommend master

knitter Suzanne Bryan, certified by the TKGA (The Knitting Guild of America). She is my knitting guru.

I find her instructions very easy to follow and with good knowledge and insight on the reasons she is doing the things she shows you. You can find her videos on YouTube. Just search her name and the technique. Another great knitting resource is Meg Swanson of Schoolhouse Press, daughter of knitting legend Elizabeth Zimmerman. She has expertise in many areas, but specifically in stranded color techniques. We also use videos from Michelle Hunter (KnitPurlHunter.com) when teaching at Everything Alpaca.

## **DOOR COUNTY SLOUCH HAT INSTRUCTIONS**

With US 5 16" circular needles, do a tubular cast on of 90 stitches (see special stitches/techniques).

Knit a left Latvian braid, including the set-up round, odd stitches with A color and even stitches with B color.

Then do Corrugated Ribbing for 1 ½ inches.

Knit another left Latvian braid. No need for a Latvian braid set-up row here since you already have alternating stitch colors from the corrugated ribbing.

K one round with B

K a second round with B, increasing 6 stitches evenly around: now 96 stitches.

Knit the Mosaic chart 3 times.

Knit a right Latvian braid

Stripe pattern: K 1 round in A, decreasing 6 stitches evenly to 90 stitches. K next round with B. Pick up A, and alternating colors each row, K 5 more round, ending with row in A. See note in 2-color striped instructions for how to avoid jogs at beginning and end of rounds when changing colors.

HAT DECREASES: NOTE that the K2 together are K with Yarn A and in between the stitches are K with Yarn B.

1<sup>st</sup> decrease round: K13, K2 tog; repeat to end of round

2<sup>nd</sup> decrease round: K12, K2 tog; repeat to end of round

3<sup>rd</sup> decrease round: K11, K2 tog; repeat to end of round

Repeat each round in this fashion, noting that the knit sections between the K2 tog will decrease by 1 stitch in each section every round. At some point when the knitting gets too tight on the 16" circular needles, you will need to switch to FlexiFlips or double points or magic loop; whichever method you prefer.

Continue until there are 12 stitches remaining. Cut the yarn, leaving a tail to put on a yarn or tapestry needle and weave through these 12 stitches, removing them from all needles. Bring the tail to inside of the hat and weave in ends. While knots are generally a No-No in knitting, this is one area I like to do a knot before weaving in the end, just as a safety check to make sure it does not come undone. This will not be felt when worn in this

slouchy hat. Wet block. You can make braids with remaining yarn to add to the top of the hat as an accent if you wish, or a pom pom.

## DOOR COUNTY COWL (WIP)



This is a WIP at the time of pattern writing. The striped section is the inside lining. Materials: 1 skein each of sport weight yarn, contrasting colors. Sample made with Blue Sky Fibers Baby Alpaca sport in Eggplant (Yarn A) and Light Gray (Yarn B)

US 5 16" circular needles

Stitch markers

Tapestry needle

### INSTRUCTIONS

Tubular CO 108 stitches on US 5 16" circular needles. After the set-up row, place a marker and join in the round, being careful not to twist stitches.

Left Latvian braid, including set-up row

Purl 1 round in A

K 1 round with B as set-up row for Mosaic pattern.

Start with A and knit the Mosaic chart, repeating the 12-stitch pattern around to the end. Complete 24 rows of the chart, then rows 1-9 again.



Right Latvian braid, including set-up round.

Knit 4 main rounds of tubular cast on with A.

\*Purl 1 round around with A. This is where the cowl will be folded in half with the wrong sides together.

#### LINING (INSIDE OF COWL)

Knit 4 main rows of tubular cast on with A

K2 rounds with B, then 1 round with A. Repeat these 3 rows until lining piece measures 4 ½ inches. (measure from \*purl row in between the 8 main rows of tubular cast on). Bind off LOOSELY. Cut yarn, leaving a tail 4 times the circumference of the cowl and pass this tail through the last stitch. Fold cowl along the P1 row between the 8 main rows of the tubular cast on with wrong sides together. Put the tail on a yarn or tapestry needle and stitch the cast-off edge down just above the initial tubular cast-on on the inside. Wet block.

WEAR AND ENJOY!

Mosaic cable graph pattern provided with permission from Schoolhouse Press and Mosaic Knitting book by Barbara G. Walker, available for purchase at [www.schoolhousepress.com](http://www.schoolhousepress.com)

NOTE: This graph has been edited from the original to correspond with the Door County projects.

