



# Knitting with Icelandic Wool





A family at the beginning of the 20th century. The woman is knitting and wearing the traditional Icelandic costume.

Fjords of Iceland, the tradition of knitting mittens with elaborate color patterns for special occasions became widespread in the early 20th century. This tradition cannot be traced back further than the late 19th century, however. The same can be said for two types of handknitted shoe inserts. One type was knit in the round, combining two inserts in one piece, and was decorated with stripes or a color pattern. The two inserts were then cut apart, lined, and stitched around the edges in a manner that was common in the north of Iceland. An eight-petaled rose pattern was usually used for these inserts, which were referred to as stitched-rose inserts. The other type of insert was knitted with a garter stitch and decorated with horizontal or vertical stripes, or both, or with a colorful garter stitch intarsia. The intarsia was usually a variant of the eight-petaled rose.



Knitted stranded gloves from the north of Iceland.



An elderly woman sits in front of a row of pack horses and knits. This photo was taken in the south of Iceland in 1898.

### Decorative Single-colored Knitting

Decorative knitting with raised, purl-stitches on a stockinette background was also known to have existed in Iceland in previous centuries, although to what extent remains uncertain. Only two examples of this kind of knitting exist. One is the previously-mentioned small, brown piece found at Stóra-Borg in 1980. This piece is decorated with two parallel diagonal lines of purl-stitches and is thought to have been part of a sock, with the lines running up the back. The other example is a simple thirteen-stitch diamond-pattern repeat on the hem of a men's shaped sweater that dates to the late 18th century, and is now housed in the National Museum of Iceland. Two of the three previously

mentioned pattern drawings for men's undergarments resemble purl-stitch patterns often found on Danish peasant women's nightshirts from the 19th century.

Around 1900 other forms of decorative single-colored knitting became popular in Iceland, including lace stitches such as old shale, feather and fan, and trellis lace, which were often seen in triangular shawls and mittens. Other lace stitches and cabling also gained popularity. Examples of some of these stitches can be seen in mittens and gloves housed in the National Museum of Iceland. Trellis lace was often used for wrist-warmers as well. Finishing schools, which began to be established in the late 19th century, probably had much to do with introducing decorative single-colored patterns to Icelandic knitting. The first book on Icelandic handicrafts, *Leiðarvísir til að nema ýmsar kvenmlegar hammyrðir* (A Guide to Learning Various Feminine Crafts), written by Þóra Þjetursdóttir, Jarðbrúður Jónsdóttir and Þóra Jónsdóttir and published in 1886, contains fourteen knitting patterns, of which eight are for lace knitting. Furthermore, the first and second editions of Elín Briem's *Kvennafræðarim* (The Woman's Educator), published in 1889 and 1891, contained patterns for a handknit lace scarf and two small lace shawls.

New trends in handknitting reached the general public through a variety of channels. For example, Gytha Thorlacius, the wife of a Danish official who lived in Iceland between 1801 and 1814, claims in her



A little girl knits in Reykjavik, photo from about 1921.



# ár trésins

Munstrið er hannað af Jóhönnu Hjaltadóttur sem hannaði mörg munstur fyrir ullariðnaðinn á 7. og 8. áratugnum. Ár trésins, sem var árið 1980, var kveikjan að þessu fallega munstri.

#### STÆRÐIR S (M, L, XL, XXL)

Yfirviðd: 92 (98, 105, 111, 117) cm

Lengd á bol að handvegi: 41 (42, 43, 44, 45) cm

Ermalengd herra: 49 (50, 51, 52, 53) cm

Ermalengd dömu: 45 (46, 47, 48, 49) cm

#### EFNI Álafosslopi 100 g dokkur

A 0051 hvítur 4 (5, 6, 6, 7)

B 0057 grár 3 (3, 3, 3, 3)

C 0005 hærusvartur 2 (2, 2, 2, 2)

Hringprjónar nr 6, 40 og 80 cm, hringprjónar nr 4½, 40 og 80 cm, sokkprjónar nr 4½ og 6

#### PRJÓNFESTA

10 x 10 cm = 13 L og 18 umf slétt prjón á prjóna nr 6.

#### AÐFERÐ

Bolur og ermar eru prjónuð í hring. Við handveg eru lykkjur af ermum og bol sameinaðar á einn prjón og axlastykki prjónað í hring. Umferð byrjar í vinstri hlið á bol en á axlastykki byrjar umferð á samskeytum bols og ermar, vinstra megin á baki.



## BOLUR

Fitjið upp 114 (122, 130, 138, 146) L með lit B á hringprjón nr 4½. Tengid saman í hring og prjónid stroff: \*1 L sl, 1 L br\*, 3 cm langt. Skiptið yfir á hringprjón nr 6 og aukið út 6 L jafnt yfir umf => 120 (128, 136, 144, 152) L. Prj **munstur 1** og síðan sl með lit A þar til bolur mælist 41 (42, 43, 44, 45) cm frá uppfitjun. Geymið bol og prj ermar.

## ERMAR

Fitjið upp 32 (34, 36, 38) L með lit B á sokkprjóna nr 4½. Tengid saman í hring og prjónid stroff: \*1 L sl, 1 L br\*, 3 cm langt. Skiptið yfir á prjóna nr 6, prj 1 umf sl og aukið út um 4 (2, 4, 4, 2) L jafnt yfir umf => 36 (36, 40, 40, 40) L. Prj **munstur 1** (ath að munstur gengur ekki upp í stærðum S og M. Setjið merki við byrjun umf og passið upp á að byrja alltaf umf á viðeigandi stað í munstri, sjá bls. 259). Prj áfram með lit A, aukið strax út um 2 L (1 L á eftir fyrstu lykkju og 1 L fyrir síðustu lykkju í umf) í 13. (12. 9. 8.) hverri umf alls 4 (6, 5, 8, 8) sinnum => 44 (48, 50, 56, 56) L. Prjónid áfram þar til ermi á herrapeysu mælist: 49 (50, 51, 52, 53) cm eða á dömupeysu: 45 (46, 47, 48, 49) cm frá uppfitjun. Setjið 8 (8, 9, 10, 10) L undir miðermi á hjálparband/-nælu => 36 (40, 41, 46, 46) L. Prj seinni ermi á sama hátt.

## AXLASTYKKI

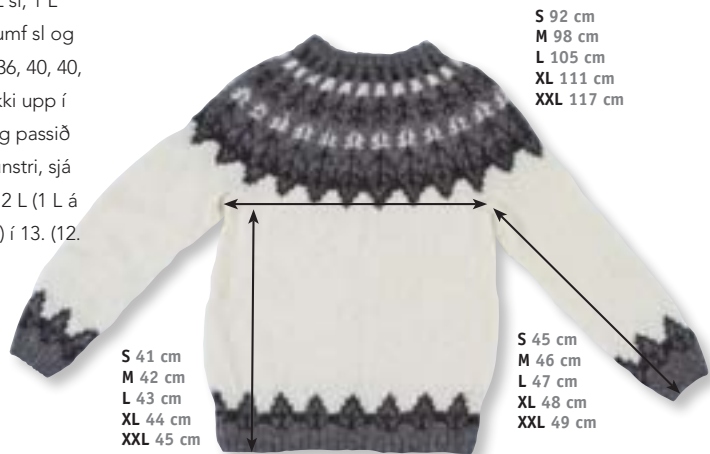
Sameinið lykkjur af bol og ermum á lengri hringprjón nr 6. Setjið síðustu 4 (4, 4, 5, 5) L umferðar og fyrstu 4 (4, 5, 5, 5) L umferðar á hjálparband/-nælu. Prj fyrri ermi við, 36 (40, 41, 46, 46) L. Prj 52 (56, 59, 62, 66) L af bol (framstykki). Setjið næstu 8 (8, 9, 10, 10) L á hjálparband/-nælu, prj seinni ermi við, 36 (40, 41, 46, 46) L og prj að lokum 52 (56, 59, 62, 66) L af bol (bakstykki) => 176 (192, 200, 216, 224) L. Prj **munstur 2** og takið úr eins og sýnt er á teikningu. Skiptið yfir á styttri hringprjón þegar lykkjum fækkar. Þegar munstri lykjur eru eftir => 66 (72, 75, 81, 84) L.

## HÁLSLÍNING

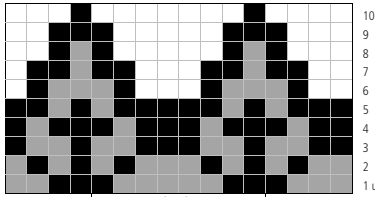
Skiptið yfir á prjón nr 4½, prj áfram með lit B, 1 umf sl og takið úr 4 (6, 5, 7, 8) L með jöfnu millibili => 62 (66, 70, 74, 76) L. Prj stroff \*1 L sl, 1 L br\* 8 cm (4 cm ef kraginn á ekki að vera tvöfaldur). Fellið laust af. Brjótið hálslíninguna til helminga inn að röngu og saumið laust niður.

## FRÁGANGUR

Gangið frá endum og lykkið saman undir höndum. Skolið úr peysunni og leggið til þerris.



## Munstur 1 – bolur og emmar



10  
9  
8  
7  
6  
5  
4  
3  
2  
1

1 umf 120 (128, 136, 144, 152) L

endurtaka

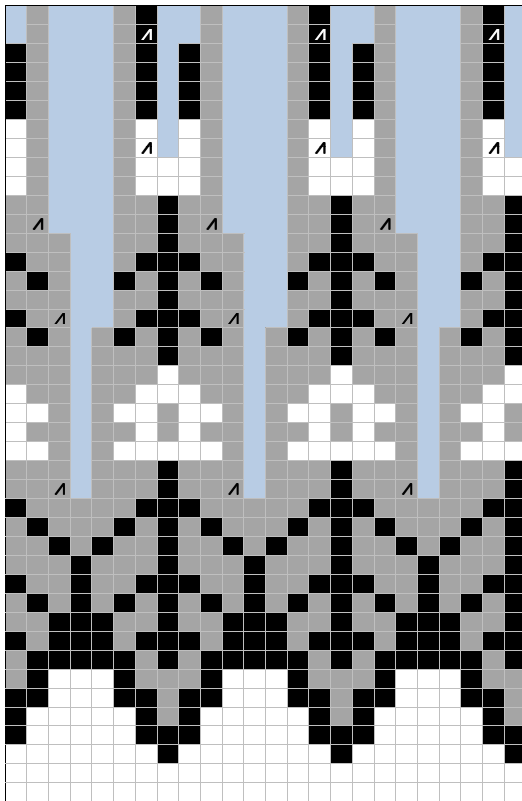
byrja hér á ermi í st S og M

(ath. munstur gengur ekki upp í þessum stærðum, sjá bls. 259)

## Lykill

- A – 0051
- B – 0057
- C – 0005
- 2 L saman
- engin L

## Munstur 2 – axlastykki



Umf 42: taka úr jafnt yfir umf: 4 (6, 6, 8, 8) L

42 umf 62 (66, 69, 73, 76) L

41 umf 66 (72, 75, 81, 84) L

40 sleppa umf í stærð S

39

38

37 sleppa umf í stærðum S (M, L, XL)

36

35 umf 88 (96, 100, 108, 112) L

34

33

32 sleppa umf í stærðum S (M, L, XL)

31 umf 110 (120, 125, 135, 140) L

30 sleppa umf í stærðum S (M, L)

29

28

27

26 umf 132 (144, 150, 162, 168) L

25

24

23

22

21

20

19

18 sleppa umf í stærðum S (M)

17 umf 154 (168, 175, 189, 196) L

16

15

14

13

12

11

10

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2 sleppa umf í stærð S

1 sleppa umf í stærðum S (M)

umf 176 (192, 200, 216, 224) L

endurtaka



## sweaters and other garments for women

1 x var • 26  
 aftur • 30  
 astrid • 34  
 birta • 60  
 endurreisn • 78  
 faðmur • 82  
 fjara (skirt) • 92  
 frjáls • 96  
 gjöf • 104  
 hraði • 122  
 keðja (dress) • 130  
 klukka (slip) • 134  
 kross • 142

land • 148  
 ljúfa • 160  
 miðja (dress) • 168  
 nost • 176  
 nú • 180  
 prýði • 188  
 ranga • 192  
 regla • 196  
 vor (vest) • 246  
 vormorgunn (vest) • 92  
 þel • 248  
 æði • 250



## sweaters for men

álafoss • 38  
 árni • 46  
 grein • 108

riddari • 200  
 stapi • 212  
 strax • 216  
 vetur • 240



## unisex sweaters

ár trésins • 42  
 dalur • 68  
 dropar • 74  
 gefjun • 100

órói • 184  
 strýta • 222  
 útjörð • 230







## sweaters for children

ása • 50  
 bára • 56  
 bláklukka • 64  
 skotta • 86  
 hlökk • 116

kambur • 126  
 kría • 138  
 lappi • 152  
 sigur • 206  
 verur • 236

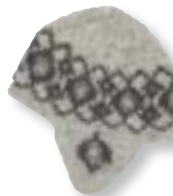


## miscellaneous



bjalla (child's mittens) • 146  
 dísa (doll's sweater) • 72  
 fiðrildaslóð (girl's dress) • 86  
 handtak (mittens) • 112  
 haddur (child's hat) • 116  
 hosur (child's socks) • 120  
 kambur (child's hat) • 126  
 kría (child's hat) • 138  
 lamb (child's hat) • 146  
 leggur (leggings) • 156

leistar (socks) • 158  
 mark (hat) • 164  
 rjúpa (collar) • 204  
 sjónvarpssokkar (socks) • 210  
 strik (scarf) • 220  
 toppur (hat) • 226  
 upp (wrist warmers) • 228  
 varmi (socks) • 234  
 voff (dog coat) • 244





# information

## THE HANDKNITTED ICELANDIC LOPI SWEATER

The Icelandic lopi sweater is designed to be worn by both sexes as it doesn't usually have waist-shaping. It's a unisex sweater and only the different sizes determine whom it fits best.

### SIZES

Most of the patterns in this book are written in a range of sizes. Instructions for the smallest size are given first, with the larger sizes following. If only one figure is given it applies to all sizes. When choosing which size to make, check the finished measurements at the beginning of each pattern.

### GAUGE

In order to achieve the correct measurements of the finished garment, it is essential to work to the recommended gauge given at the beginning of each pattern. The size of needles given for each pattern is only a recommendation. We urge you to knit a swatch before starting your project to check whether your knitting corresponds to the recommended gauge.

Measure 10 cm horizontally across the stitches for the stitch gauge and vertically down the rows for the row gauge.

- If there are too many stitches to 10 cm try again with larger needles.
- If there are too few stitches to 10 cm try again with smaller needles.

### BRIOCHE STITCH

Work back and forth:

Row 1: \*k1, yo, slip 1 as to purl\*, rep from \*to\* to end.

Turn work.

Row 2: \*k1 (into the stitch with the yo from previous row), yo, slip next st as to purl (the knitted stitch from previous row)\*, rep from \*to\* to end. Turn work and rep.

### MOSS STITCH

Row 1: \*k1, p1\* to end.

Row 2: p the k sts, k the p sts. Rep row 1 and 2.

### KNITTING WITH TWO COLORS

When knitting in the round with two colors, the color not in use is carried loosely across the wrong side. Always carry the same color across the top throughout the round for an even appearance.

### CHANGING TO A NEW BALL OF YARN – SPLICING

Never tie two ends together. Split the last 8 cm of each of the ends to be joined into two strands, and tear one strand off each. Overlap remaining strands and twist lightly together. Knit both strands together as one. Most knitters prefer to start a new ball of yarn by pulling the yarn from the inside of the ball rather than from the outside.

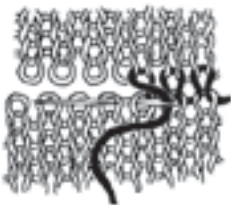
### KNITTING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

This is a way of working without turning the work: Insert left needle into back of stitch, warp yarn down front and up back of left needle, lift right needle tip and draw new stitch through.

### GRAFTING SHOULDER STITCHES OF FRONT TO BOUND-OFF STITCHES OF BACK



### GRAFTING UNDERARM STITCHES TOGETHER



### PLÖTULOPI

Plötulopi is unspun Icelandic wool or roving available as circular wool plates. Plötulopi needs to be knitted carefully and can be used 1-ply, 2-ply or 3-ply. Knit straight from the plate or wind the strands together in a ball. If the strand breaks it is easy to join by overlapping the ends and twisting them lightly together. Hand wash like other lopi garments but do not leave the garment to soak.

### EINBAND

Einband is lace-weight Icelandic wool. It feels a bit rough but when it has been washed or soaked it softens up considerably. Garments knit with einband tend to be very stretchy and difficult to measure so it's essential to knit a swatch which is then soaked and blocked to ascertain the correct gauge.

### CARE OF BULKY LOPI, ÁLAFOSS LOPI AND LÉTT-LOPI

Hand wash only. Use lukewarm water and mild soap or wool detergent. Soak the garment in the suds for about 10-minutes, do not rub or wring. Rinse thoroughly in lukewarm water. Wrap in towels and squeeze out as much water as possible. If necessary, spin for a few seconds to remove excess moisture. Smooth the garment out on a dry towel and pull gently into shape. If you wish, you may press the garment gently on the wrong side, with a damp cloth on top of it using a warm iron.

### ZIPPER

Choose zipper for your garment after knitting and rinsing to ensure right length. Take care not to pull the knit as you attach the zipper.

### FRONT OPENING

Using a machine, sew two rows of small straight