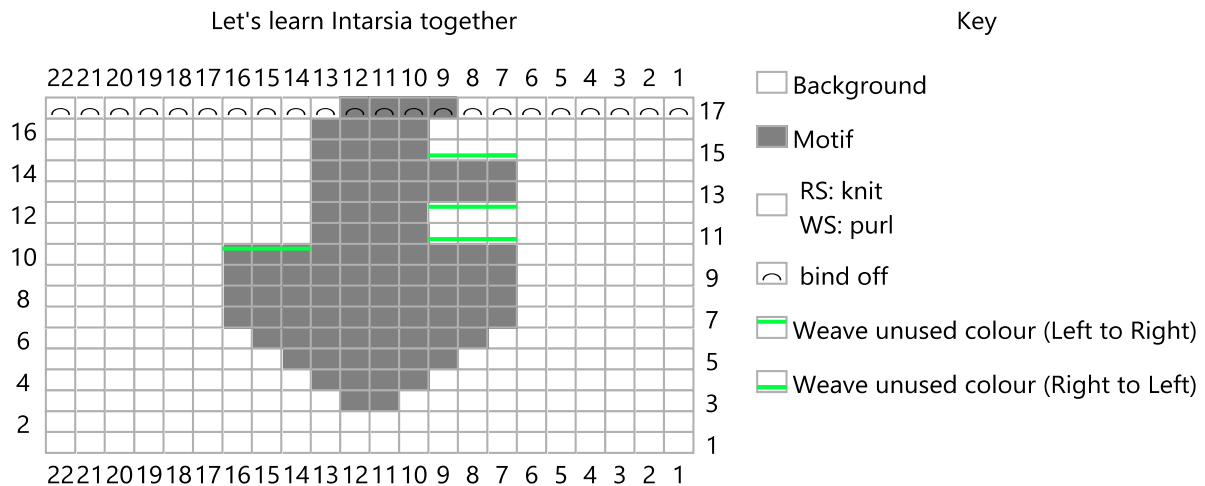




## Workshop notes

### Chart for use in workshop



- Charts show what the fabric will look like on the public ("right") side.
- Work the first (bottom) row of the chart first. The fabric below your needles looks like the chart.
- Always read the key and written instructions about the chart.
- **Working flat:**
  - work odd rows right to left, even rows left to right (row numbers are often on the starting side);
  - usually odd rows are the public side. The instructions should tell you if they are not.
- **Work in the round** from right to left on each chart row.
- Place a ruler or removable sticky note above the row you are on – so you can compare your fabric with the chart. You might also want to tick off completed rows (in case your marker slips).

### Setting up swatch for practising intarsia in the round

Use four contrasting colours. Choose one and cast on 40 stitches. Join in the round and work two rounds. Knit ten more stitches, and then ten stitches in each of the remaining colours. Move stitches so changes of needle (or magic loops) are mid-block (this makes it easier to see what is happening).

### Finding out more

You can download pdf versions of the workshop notes.

- Flat intarsia (<https://teabreakknitter.uk/workshop/learn-intarsia-notes/>)
- Advanced intarsia (<https://teabreakknitter.uk/workshop/learn-intarsia-advanced/>)
- Workshop leader: (<https://teabreakknitter.uk/workshop/learn-intarsia-tutor/>)

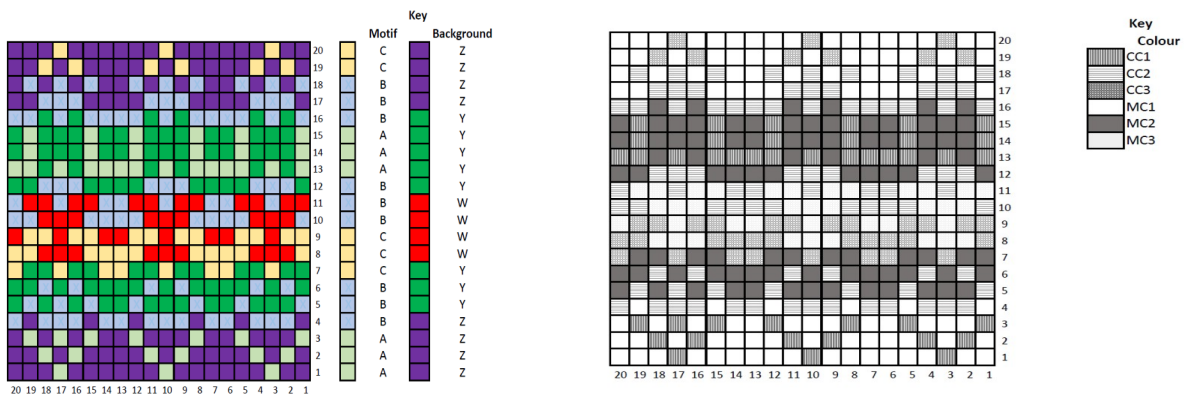
## Types of colourwork

Method	Best for
Embroidery	Isolated stitches, single lines of stitches or small blocks. Typically duplicate stitch.
Horizontal stripes	Bands across the width of fabric.
Stranded	Motif and background colours interspersed, usually only 2-3 colours per row.
Mosaic	Two colours in row, usually geometric patterns. Use one colour at a time.
Double knitting	Enclosed floats, reversible fabric.
Intarsia	Blocks of colour (as in picture jumpers).

## Using charts

- Work from right to left on the chart when working on the public side of your fabric.
- Do nothing where the chart says “no stitch”.
- Charts are often repeated horizontally and vertically.
- Numbering of rows – often row number is on side you start.

## Charts for colour knitting



Colours may not match that of the yarn. Monochrome printing is cheaper, so sometimes different symbols are used for different colours.

## Links

- More on using charts. (<https://teabreakknitter.uk/t-ref/read-chart/>)
- Video on using colour charts. (<https://teabreakknitter.uk/t-torial/read-chart-t201908/>)

## Knitting intarsia (flat)

### Adding a new colour



Lay the added colour over the previous yarn and start knitting until you reach the next colour.

After you have finished several rows of that colour block, go back and adjust the tension of the initial stitch so that it matches its neighbours. You can leave this until you are weaving in the ends. You should also adjust the final stitch in a colour block (where you cut the yarn).



On return, when you reach the point the colour was added, bring the next colour up from under both the tail and the working part of the added colour.

### Changing colour

#### Working on the private (wrong) side



When you reach the next colour, take the next colour yarn, pass it under the current colour, and then start purling.

When you start the second stitch, tug the working yarn to tighten it and also the previous colour. This tightens up the loops in the running thread to prevent a gap.

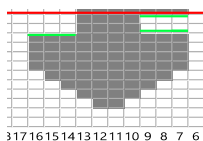
#### Working on the public (right) side



When you reach the next colour, take the next colour yarn, pass it under the current colour, and then start knitting.

When you start the second stitch, tug the working yarn to tighten it and also the previous colour. This tightens up the loops in the running thread to prevent a gap.

### What if the colour change is not in the same column?



If the change in colour between rows shifts by one column (as near the bottom of this motif), just work as normal.

For a bigger shift, you can cut the “waiting” yarn or carry it and weave it in

- on the row below if the colour will not be used in the same row, or
- on the row being worked if it is needed later in that row.

You can find out more about weaving-in carried colours at

<https://teabreakknitter.uk/t-ref/catching-floats-in-stranded-knitting/>.

### Avoiding gaps

Wrap the old and new colours so the pull against each other when you change colours. Use the mantra: “Next yarn **from left** goes **under** the old yarn. Next yarn **from right** goes **over** the old yarn.” After a stitch or two, pull the old yarn tight to make the stitches snug. This makes a series of loops up the edge of your motif that stops the two colours pulling apart. Join new yarns by bringing them over the previous yarn, but make sure they also pass under the adjacent colour when you weave them in.

If you knit by moving stitches from the right to left needle, swap left and right in the mantra.

## **Avoiding a rats nest**

When working intarsia, you will be using at least three different yarns in a row. If it's a Kaffe Fassett design you might have tens! Here are tips to reduce tangles – but they will still happen.

### ***Only use a small amount of yarn at a time***

Don't use a whole ball for each of your motifs, Usually, it is only the background colour that is worth keeping on the ball. For blocks of colour, guesstimate the length you will need.

### ***Keep your yarn tidy***

If you are using

- Short lengths of a metre or so – leave the end dangling
- A few metres – wind the yarn into a “butterfly”
- Many metres – use a “yarn bobbin”
- Enough for most of a garment – use a ball.

### ***Keep your yarns “in order”***

Keep the free yarn from your dangling ends, butterfly or bobbins short. If you have balls, arrange them in the order they are used on the public side of your work. Keep them in that order, perhaps putting them in a box so they can't move when you start or stop work.

### ***Alternate how you change needles***

Change from a public to private side row by rotating the needles clockwise. From private to public, turn them anticlockwise. If you do this every time, the yarns will “unwind”. You will forget sometimes, in which case take the time to untangle the yarns and put them back in order.

### ***Tie your join ends together***

Tie together the ends of tails from joins to stop them tangling and stop you knitting with them.

## **Finishing**

### ***Cast-off***

When using a “chain” cast-off, you knit two stitches and then pass the first stitch over the most recently knit stitch. This places the first stitch over the top of the second column of stitches. Change colour a stitch earlier than in the row below and the colours on the cast-off edge will align with the fabric below.

### ***Mis-shaped stitches at the start and end of blocks of colour***

Nothing is holding the ends of the yarn in place at the start and end stitches of blocks of colour, so they often distort until the ends are woven in. Working on the private (wrong) side, start by taking the tail end in the direction of the next block of colour and thread it under the purl bump. Gently pull the end stitch into shape. Then weave in the end across the stitches of its own colour to hold it in place.

### ***Uneven stitches***

With all those colour changes, it is likely that your knitting is not as even as usual. You can even it out by gently pulling yarn out of large stitches into smaller ones a stitch at a time.

### ***Stitches in the wrong colour***

Use duplicate stitch (Swiss darning) to cover the stitches with ones in the correct colour.