R2 Crinoid Columnals

Crinoids were plant like sea creatures. Their stems were made of flat little "columnals" stacked end to end. These came in all sorts of shapes – round, square, star-shaped, pentagonal, spiky – and were usually less than 1cm across. This pattern knits up about 4 times too big unless you use sewing thread and really, really tiny needles!

You will need:

4 ply or sock wool in grey

4 x double ended knitting needles (2.5mm) • tapestry needle • scissors

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Patterns:

Each pattern is worked twice and then the two pieces are sewn together back to back.

Alternatively the second piece can be started by picking up the correct number of stitches from around the edge of the first instead of casting on. This reduces the amount of sewing up but you do need to make sure that you start in the same place for both sides or the corners won't match (see *Notes* for abbreviations).

Cast on 40 sts.

Rounds 1 & 2: k –
Round 3: k2tog x 20 (20)
Rounds 4 to 6: k –
Round 7: k2tog x 10 (10)

Thread yarn through remaining stitches.

Cast on 24 sts.

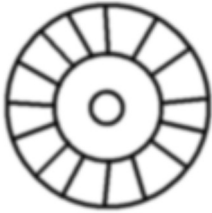Rounds 1 & 2: k –
Round 3: k2tog x 12 (12)

Thread yarn through remaining stitches.

Cast on 32 sts.

Rounds 1 to 3: k −
Round 4: k2tog x 16 (16)
Rounds 5 & 6: p −
Round 7: k2tog x 8 (8)

Thread yarn through remaining stitches.

Cast on 30 sts.

Rounds 1 to 4: [k1, p1] x 15
Round 5: p2tog x 15 (15)
Round 6: p −
Round 7: [p2tog, p1] x 5 (10)

Thread yarn through remaining stitches.

Cast on 25 sts and join into the round.

Round 1: k −
Round 2: [k2tog, k3] x 5 (20)
Round 3: [k2tog, k2] x 5 (15)
Round 4: k −
Round 5: [k2tog, k1] x 5 (10)

Thread yarn through remaining stitches.

Sew over each of the corners to emphasize the points.

Cast on 36 sts.

Round 1: k −
Round 2: [{k1, p1} x 4, k1] x 4 (36)
Round 3: [p2tog {k1, p1} x 2, k1, p2tog] x 4 (28)
Round 4: [{p1, k1} x 3, p1] x 4 (28)
Round 5: [k1, k2tog, k2, k2tog] x 4 (20)
Round 6: k −
Round 7: [k1, k2tog, k2tog] x 4 (12)
Round 8: [k1, k2tog] x 4 (8)

Thread yarn through remaining stitches.

Each point of the star is knitted as part of the cast on row.

[Cast on 5 sts, turn/ p3, turn/ k1, turn/ p2, turn/ k3, turn/ p4, turn/ k5] x 5 (25)

Join into the round and continue.

Round 1: k –
Round 2: [k1, k2tog, k2tog] x 5 (15)
Round 3: k –

Thread yarn through remaining stitches.

Each point of the star is knitted as part of the cast on row.

[Cast on 7 sts, turn/ p4, turn/ k1, turn/ p2, turn/ k3, turn/ p4, turn/ k5, turn/ p6, turn/ k7] x 5 (35)

Join into the round and continue.

Round 1: k –
Round 2: [k1, k2tog, k2, k2tog] x 5 (25)
Round 3: [k1, k2tog, k2tog] x 5 (15)
Round 4: [sl1, k2tog, psso] x 5 (5)

Thread yarn through remaining stitches.

Cast on 28 sts and join into the round.

Rounds 1 to 3: k –
Round 4: k2tog x 14 (14)

Thread yarn through remaining stitches.

When both sides of the columnal have been knitted and joined together we add the spikes around the outside.

Pick up 28 sts around the circumference.

Cast off these 28 sts by repeating the following bullet points until no stitches remain.

- Cast on 2 sts
- Cast off 4 sts
- If your cast off method leaves a stitch on the RH-needle, transfer it back to the LH-needle.

Cast on 20 sts and join into the round.

Round 1: k –
Round 2: k2tog x 10 (10)
Round 3: k –
Round 4: k2tog x 5 (5)

Thread yarn through remaining stitches.

When both sides of the columnal have been knitted and joined together we add the spikes around the outside.

Pick up 20 sts around the circumference.

Cast off these 20 sts by repeating the following bullet points until no stitches remain.

- Cast on 4 sts
- Cast off 8 sts
- If your cast off method leaves a stitch on the RH-needle, transfer it back to the LH-needle.

Notes:

Abbreviations

[ ] x number	Repeat the section in square brackets the required number of times.
(number)	Gives the total number of stitches you should have on needle by the end of the row or sew of rows.
cast off number	Bind off the given number of stitches using a method of your choice.
cast on number	Cast on the given number of stitches using a method of your choice.
k number	Knit this number of stitches.
k –	Knit every stitch to the end of the row.
kfb	Knit into the front and then the back of a single stitch (+1 stitch).
kfbf	Knit into the front and the back and the front again of a single stitch (+2 stitches).
k2tog	Knit the next two stitches together (-1 stitch).
k2togtbl	Knit the next two stitches together through the back of the loop (-1 stitch).

Needle/Yarn Size

As with most ODDknit patterns the yarn and needle sizes in the "you will need" section are just a guide. Feel free to improvise with whatever needles and yarn you have lying around - that's half the fun!