



The lace pattern refers to the wheat, and the cable stands for the braided challah itself. Blue and white are traditional Jewish colors as now reflected on the flag of Israel. White is also especially associated with Shabbat, which is often referred to as a bride.

Notes

1 See *Techniques* for M1, ssk, and duplicate st. **2** Cover is worked in 3 pieces: the center section; then the lace edging and cabled piece, which are worked separately then sewn on. **3** Hebrew letters of Chart B may be knitted in or worked in duplicate st, or a combination of both as shown on chart.

Center section

With MC, cast on 88 sts. P 1 row. **Next row** (RS) K1, M1, k to last st, M1, k1—90 sts. P 1 row. **Beg Charts A and B:** **Row 1** (RS) K1, M1, k1, place marker (pm), work 15 sts of Chart A, pm, 56 sts of Chart B, pm, 15 sts of Chart A, pm, k1, M1, k1—92 sts. Cont to work charts as established between markers, AT SAME TIME, cont to work M1 at each side (working incs into St st) every RS row 4 times more—100 sts. Work even until Chart A has been worked twice, then work rows 1-12 once more. **Next (dec) row** K1, ssk, k to marker, work in pat to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1—98 sts. Rep dec row every other row 5 times more, AT SAME TIME, when Charts A and B are complete, remove markers and work these sts in St st—88 sts. P 1 row. Bind off. Work duplicate st as necessary. Block piece.

(continues)

IN OTHER WORDS

Stitch key

- K on RS, p on WS
- P on RS, k on WS
- Ssk
- K2tog
- Yo

Color key

- White
- Blue
- Work in duplicate st

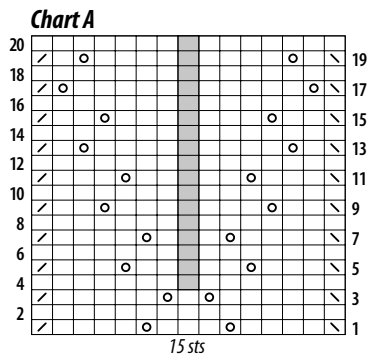
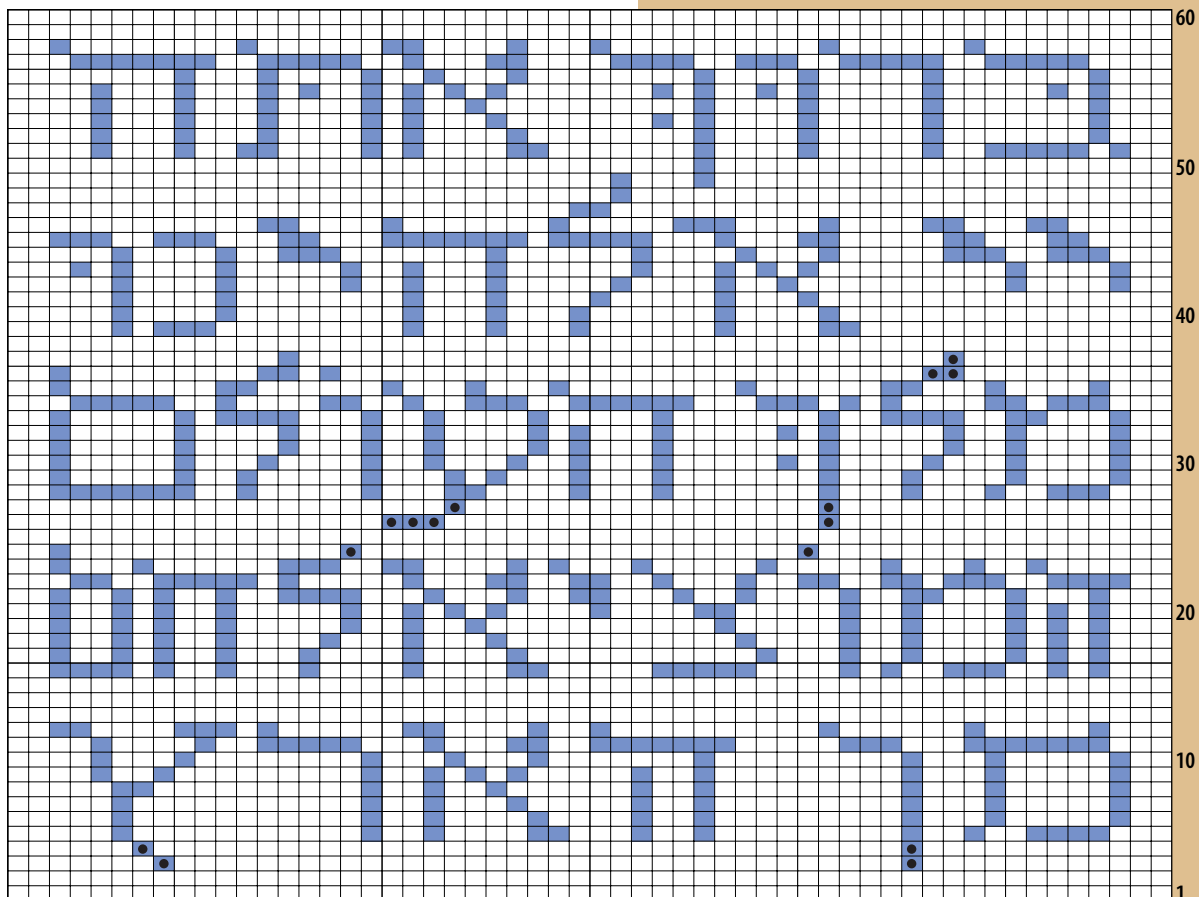


CHART A OVER 15 STS

Row 1 (RS) Ssk, k4, yo, k3, yo, k4, k2tog. **2** Purl. **3** Ssk, k5, yo, k1, yo, k5, k2tog. **4 and all foll WS rows** P7, k1, p7. **5** Ssk, k3, yo, k2, p1, k2, yo, k3, k2tog. **7** Ssk, k4, yo, k1, p1, k1, yo, k4, k2tog. **9** Ssk, k2, yo, k3, p1, k3, yo, k2, k2tog. **11** Rep Row 5. **13** Ssk, k1, yo, k4, p1, k4, yo, k1, k2tog. **15** Rep Row 9. **17** Ssk, yo, k5, p1, k5, yo, k2tog. **19** Rep row 13. **20** Rep row 4. Rep rows 1-20 for Chart A.

Chart B



However we pause, however we praise, the works of our hands celebrate the meaning of our lives. Judith Johnson unites knitting's 3 voices—lace, texture, and color pattern—in this weekly blessing.

"A challah cover is used in traditional Jewish homes every Friday as part of the family ritual of welcoming Shabbat (the Sabbath). The Shabbat table is generally covered with a white tablecloth, and the three Shabbat symbols are placed on it: candles, wine glass, and challah. The candles are two long white tapers usually set in silver candlesticks. The wine glass is usually silver and is called the Kiddish cup. The challah is an unsliced loaf of egg bread, always braided. In the most tradition-bound families, the challot (plural) are used. This symbolizes the double portion of manna that God gave the Israelites on the sixth day, which was to last them through the Sabbath, when no work could be done. Though the use of two challot is 'correct,' it is very common for only one challah to be used.

Intermediate
Sizes
One size
Finished Measurements (incl. edging)
14" x 9"
Yarns
Crystal Palace <i>Baby Georgia</i> 100% cotton
1½oz (40g); 152yd (139m)
MC #019 Bleached White - balls
2
CC #8095 French Blue - balls
1
Needles Size 1 (2.25mm) or size to obtain gauge
Extras Stitch markers; Cable needle (cn)
Blunt yarn needle
Gauge 34 sts and 42 rows to 4" (10cm) over St st (k on RS, p on WS)

CHALLAH COVER



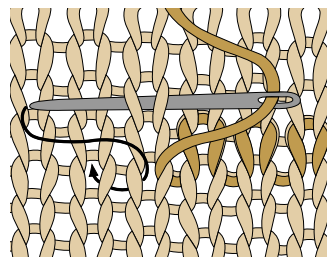
"Until sundown, when Shabbat begins, the challah remains covered, either by a napkin or by a special challah cover. In the home, Shabbat is ushered in by the mother as she chants the blessing over the candles, her head covered with a piece of lace. Next, the father (whose head is covered with a skullcap, or yarmulke) says the blessing over the wine, drinks from the Kiddish cup, and everyone has some wine (or grape juice). He may say some other prayers at this point. Then the challah is uncovered and the blessing over it is said by the father, or, commonly, by the whole family. Actually, there are delightful melodies for all of the Shabbat blessings and they are more likely to be sung than simply recited. After the 'Ha Motzi' (the challah blessing) is sung, the challah is passed around and each person tears a small piece off and eats it.

"All of the challah covers I have seen—whether in books or in synagogue gift shops—have been embroidered cloth. Some are very beautiful, and the embroidery usually includes some Hebrew lettering, spelling out the word Shabbat or a prayer associated with it. My design includes the complete blessing that is said over the challah. This is one of the most familiar prayers to Jews. It translates as 'Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has brought forth the bread from the earth.'"

Designer
Judith Goodman Johnson

TECHNIQUES

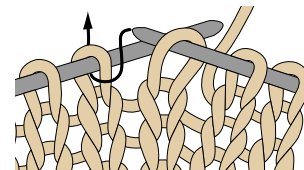
DUPLICATE STITCH



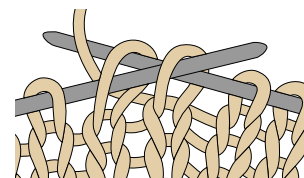
Duplicate stitch (also known as Swiss darning) is just that: with a blunt tapestry needle threaded with a length of yarn of a contrasting color, cover a knitted stitch with an embroidered stitch of the same shape.

SSK

Uses A left-slanting single decrease.



1 Slip 2 sts separately to right needle as if to knit.

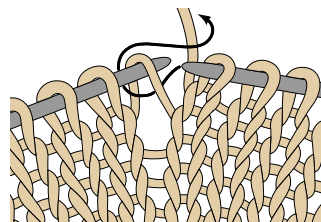


2 Knit these 2 sts together by slipping left needle into them from left to right. 2 sts become one.

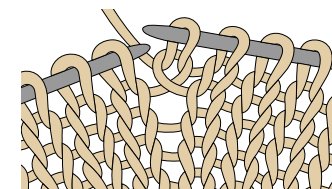
MAKE 1 (M1) KNIT

If instructions don't specify, use M1 knit either left or right slanting.

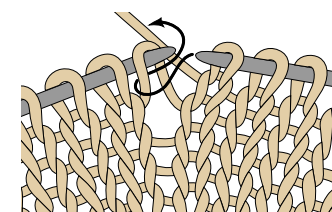
Uses A single increase.



1 For a left-slanting increase (M1L), with right needle from back of work, pick up strand between last st knitted and next st. Place on left needle and knit, twisting the strand by working into the loop at the back of the needle.



2 This is the completed increase.



3 Or, for a right-slanting increase (M1R), with left needle from back of work, pick up strand between last stitch knitted and next stitch. Knit, twisting the strand by working into the loop at the front of the needle.

Lace edging

Cast on 9 sts. P 1 row. Work Chart C until edging fits around entire outside edge of center section, end with chart row 11. **Next row** (WS) Bind off 15 sts. With WS of edging and RS of center section facing up, sew edging to center section. Sew ends of edging tog when most of edging is attached.

Cable

Cast on 12 sts. P 1 row. Work Chart D until piece is long enough to cover entire seam between center section and edging, end with chart row 6. Bind off. Sew cable in place centered over seam, taking short sts along center of cable on WS. Sew ends of cable tog. ☺

IN OTHER WORDS

4/4 RC Sl 4 to cn, hold to back, k4; k4 from cn.

4/4 LC Sl 4 to cn, hold to front, k4; k4 from cn.

Stitch key

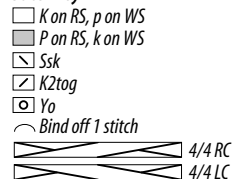


Chart C

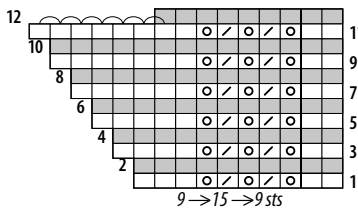


CHART C OVER 9 TO 15 TO 9 STS

Row 1 and all RS rows K2, [yo, k2tog] twice, yo, k to end. **2, 4, 6, 8, 10** Knit. **12** Bind off 6 sts, k to end. Rep rows 1-12 for Chart C.

CHART D OVER 12 STS

Row 1 (RS) K4, 4/4 LC. **2 and all WS rows** Purl. **3 and 7** Knit. **5** 4/4 RC, k4. Rep rows 1-8 for Chart D.

Chart D

