

## Fair Isle Hat Workshop

What better way to experiment with color and pattern than a weekend retreat. In a relaxed atmosphere, we will learn the basics of fair isle hat design.

In the first session we'll learn the importance of swatching and make a game plan for our hat based on our personal gauge. We'll choose or design our own motifs, and chart them ourselves. Color will be considered and preliminary choices made. Looking at the actual knitted swatches from Mary Jane's book [200 Fair Isle Motifs: A Knitter's Directory](#) will inspire us. We'll analyze how different color combinations can completely change how a motif looks. We'll also see how the same colors, used in a different placement will also change the look of a motif. We'll have a better understanding of how actual knitting differs from how a printed chart looks. Using the 19 beautiful colors of Green Mountain Spinnery's Wonderfully Woolly or the 34 luscious colors of Mountain Mohair (or a combination of both) we'll create our own personal colorway.

In the afternoon we'll get underway on our unique hats. We'll explore different ways of holding our yarn and Mary Jane will offer tips on perfecting your two color stranded knitting technique. By knitting our hats we'll discover if our color choices are working out the way we want them to and make changes if need be. You'll have as much fun with your own work as you will have by examining the work of your classmates. We'll discuss different crown shaping and decide on how to finish off our hats.

Sunday morning in a cozy knitting circle we will discuss what we have learned and ask any nagging questions we may have. Mary Jane will share her thoughts on the importance of finishing in Fair Isle knitting and her favorite methods, including weaving in those dreaded ends. We'll take time to show off what we've accomplished and admire everyone's work.

**Prerequisites:** Knitters should be comfortable with the following techniques: knit and purl stitches, knitting in the round on circular and double pointed needles, some stranded knitting experience is helpful.

**Homework:** No homework is absolutely necessary, however great progress can be made by swatching with Green Mountain Spinnery Mountain Mohair or Wonderfully Woolly. If inclined, make both a stockinette stitch swatch and one of simple stranded knitting. This will help you decide what needle size you prefer for the yarn used.

**Note:** Mary Jane will provide a cheery new hat design for all attendees. Those not interested in designing their own hat will still find a lot to learn, and can simply follow the pattern.