

Basic Brioche Information and Abbreviations

Casting on: There are a lot of different cast-on techniques, but a simple long-tail cast-on, worked loosely, is just fine. Faina uses this cast-on throughout her workshop.

Note that when Faina casts on, she adds an extra stitch at the beginning and end of the row to work as a selvaige stitch. These stitches are not worked as brioche stitches; they simply create a smooth edge on any knitted piece. When working selvaige stitches, slip the first stich of every row, and knit the last.

Brioche uses of funny-looking abbreviations. Here are the basic ones used in this workshop and elsewhere.

Sl1yo: this creates the stitch/yarnover pair that Faina calls a “set” throughout the workshop.

After a knit stitch: bring yarn to front, slip the next stitch purlwise and bring yarn over needle to back of work.

After a purl stitch: with yarn in front, slip the next stitch purlwise and bring yarn over needle to back of work.

Brk or brioche knit, usually pronounced “bark”

With yarn at back of work, insert right needle knitwise into a sl1yo and knit together to make 1 st.

Brp or brioche purl, usually pronounced “burp”

With yarn at the front of your work, insert right needle into a sl1yo and purl together to make 1 st.

Right-leaning brioche decrease, or brRsl dec

This decrease maintains the integrity of brioche rib, and is worked over 3 st: sl1yo, p, sl1yo.

Slip first sl1yo (or “set”) as if to knit, purl the next stitch, and pass slipped sl1yo over that stitch. Now slip that stitch BACK to the LH needle and pass the next “set” purlwise over that stitch. Place the new stitch on the RH needle.

Left-leaning brioche decrease, or brLsl dec

This decrease maintains the integrity of brioche rib, and is worked over 3 st: sl1yo, p, sl1yo.

Slip first sl1yo as if to knit, brk the next 3 st tog (the purl stitch along with the sl1yo), then pass slipped “set” over that stitch.

Brioche Increase, or brkyobrk

Brk into next sl1yo, leaving stitch on LH needle, yo into that stitch, then brk into same stitch again.

On the next row, work up to your increase, sl1yo, k1, then sl1yo to restore the brioche rib.

Basic Brioche (even number of stitches)

Set-up row: Sl1, *sl1yo, k1; rep from * to last st, k1.

Pattern Row: Sl1, *sl1yo, brk; rep from * to last st, k1.

Rep pattern row for basic brioche rib.

Basic Brioche (odd number of stitches)

Set-up row: Sl1, *sl1yo, k1; rep to end.

Row 1: Sl1, *brk, sl1yo; rep to last 2 st, brk, k1.

Row 2: Sl1, *sl1yo, brk; rep to last 2 st, sl1yo, k1

Repeat rows 1 and 2 for pattern.