



Elizabeth's handspun hap made for grandson Keyaan

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# Shetland Old Shell Hap and Half Hap

ELIZABETH JOHNSTON

*The Shetland old shell knitting* pattern was—and is—so commonly used in the borders of Shetland haps that it became known as the hap shell. Haps are square, but some are now knitted as triangles—half haps. The construction for both full and half haps is mostly from the outside, but in a few areas in Shetland, haps were worked from the inside. The way it was done depended on who taught you. I learned working from the outside, and that is what I will share with you here.

This construction method was used to create a range of haps and shawls in different sizes—small for wrapping baby, larger for work wear—and with a range of yarns. Instructions are provided for three yarn sizes: jumper weight, laceweight, and two-ply fine lace (equivalent to cobweb). Thick yarns are best for a warm hap, while finer yarns produce a more delicate shawl.

Haps are worked in garter stitch, and once blocked, the lace motifs are best seen when the garter ridges lie flat. This works with a wool yarn, so suitable yarns for this textile are 100% wool or yarns with a high wool content.

As this is a very “Shetland” garment, I have used Shetland abbreviations. For a hole (yarnover) in lace, we say “cast up,” which is abbreviated “CU.” For decreases, we say “two together” and “three together,” which are abbreviated “2T” and “3T,” meaning k2tog and k3tog.

## SPINNING NOTES

In my work, I use wool from Shetland sheep raised on Shetland. For a warm hap like the one shown here, I usually drumcard and spin in the grease. Spinning with a long draw creates a soft, lightweight woolen yarn that is then washed. Depending on the type of fleece or wool blend you want to use for a hap, you may find that the quantity of fiber needed will vary. Your yardage and weight does not have to be the same as mine (see page 65); different fibers,

preparations, and spinning methods create yarns that vary in grist.

I knitted this shaded hap using handspun Shetland wool in white, fawn, three shades of gray, and indigo blue. It was knitted for a grandson of mine. This hap with its particular sequence of shaded colors does not have a name, but if it needed one, it is Keyaan’s Hap. You do not have to follow the colors or the number of garter ridges in any color. You can select your own colors and decide on the design of the quarters yourself—that is part of the fun of knitting shaded haps.

## MATERIALS

**Fiber** 100% Shetland wool, total 11¾ oz (334 g): light gray (MC), 5¾ oz (163 g); dark gray (CC1), 2 oz (57 g); 1 oz (28 g) of the following colors: medium gray (CC2), fawn (CC3), white (CC4), indigo blue (CC5).

**Yarn** 2-ply laceweight (3,380 ypp; 25 wpi), 850 yd MC, 340 yd CC1, 170 yd CC2, 90 yd each CC3 and CC4, 110 yd CC5.

**Needles** Size 3 (3.25 mm); haps are traditionally worked using two long double-pointed needles (dpn); a circular needle (cir) may be substituted. Adjust needle size if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

**Other Supplies** Markers (m); spare wool for provisional CO; smooth, contrasting thread or thin yarn for holders; 7 yd (6.5 m) strong wool for blocking the square shawl.

**Gauge** 21 sts and 38 rows = 4" in garter st. Exact gauge is not essential for the success of this project.

**Finished Size** Square hap, about 48" (121.9 cm) square, after blocking.

**Note:** Materials are listed for the square hap shown in laceweight yarn. For adjustments to jumper-weight or 2-ply fine lace yarns or the triangle hap, see page 65.

Visit [spinoffmagazine.com/spin-off-abbreviations](https://spinoffmagazine.com/spin-off-abbreviations) for terms you don't know.

## Notes

- Instructions are given in two sets of numbers. The first set is for the triangle half hap in jumper-weight (laceweight, 2-ply fine lace) yarn, and the second set is for the square hap in (jumper-weight, laceweight, 2-ply fine lace) yarn. If there is only one set of numbers or instructions, they apply to both the triangle and the square. Instructions in brackets [ ] apply to both shapes in all yarn sizes.

## STITCH GUIDE

**Two together (2T)** K2tog.

**Three together (3T)** K3tog.

**Cast Up (CU)** Yarn over.

**Quarters** The four sections of the border.

**Lace Edge:** (stitch count varies; begins and ends with 6 sts)

**Row 1** (RS) CU, k4, CU, k2—8 sts.

**Row 2** (WS) K2, CU, k4, 2T.

**Row 3** CU, k6, CU, k2—10 sts.

**Row 4** K2, CU, k6, 2T.

**Row 5** CU, k8, CU, k2—12 sts.

**Row 6** K2, CU, k8, 2T.

**Row 7** CU, k10, CU, k2—14 sts.

**Row 8** K1, 2T, CU, 2T, k7, 2T—12 sts.

**Row 9** CU, k7, 2T, CU, 2T, k1.

**Row 10** K1, 2T, CU, 2T, k5, 2T—10 sts.

**Row 11** CU, k5, 2T, CU, 2T, k1.

**Row 12** K1, 2T, CU, 2T, k3, 2T—8 sts.

**Row 13** CU, k3, 2T, CU, 2T, k1.

**Row 14** K1, 2T, CU, 2T, k1, 2T—6 sts.

**Row 15** CU, k4, CU, 2T—7 sts.

**Row 16** K2, CU, 2T, k1, 2T—6 sts.

Rep Rows 1–16 for pattern.

**Old Shell:** (multiple of 20 sts)

**Row 1** (RS) \*2T 3 times, k1, [CU, k1] 6 times, 2T 3 times, k1; rep from \* to end.

**Rows 2–6** Knit.

Rep Rows 1–6 for pattern.

**Quarters:** (multiple of 20 sts + 51 decreased to multiple of 20 sts + 21)

See instructions below for how to work these directions for your chosen yarn weight.

Place markers (pm) to indicate the pattern repeats if desired.

**Row 7** (RS) \*CU, 2T, k4; work Row 1 of Old Shell patt (see Stitch Guide) over 120 (140, 160) sts working 20-st patt rep 6 (7, 8) times, k5; rep from \*.

**Rows 8–12** (counts as Rows 2–6 of Old Shell) \*CU, 2T, k129 (149, 169); rep from \*.

**Rows 13–18** Rep Rows 7–12 once more.

**Row 19** \*CU, 2T, k5, 2T 3 times, k1, [CU, k1] 5 times, 2T 3 times, k1; work Row 1 of Old Shell patt over 80 (100, 120) sts working 20-st patt rep 4 (5, 6) times; 2T 3 times, k1, [CU, k1] 5 times, 2T 3 times, k7; rep from \*—multiple of 20 sts + 49.

**Rows 20–24** \*CU, 2T, k127 (147, 167); rep from \*.

**Row 25** \*CU, 2T, k4, 2T 3 times, k1, [CU, k1] 5 times, 2T 3 times, k1; work Row 1 of Old Shell patt over 80 (100, 120) sts; 2T 3 times, k1, [CU, k1] 5 times, 2T 3 times, k6; rep from \* once more—multiple of 20 sts + 47.

**Rows 26–30** \*CU, 2T, k125 (145, 165); rep from \*.

**Row 31** \*CU, 2T, k4, 2T 3 times, k1, [CU, k1] 4 times, 2T 3 times, k1; work Row 1 of Old Shell patt over 80 (100, 120) sts; 2T 3 times, k1, [CU, k1] 4 times, 2T 3 times, k6; rep from \*—multiple of 20 sts + 43.

**Rows 32–36** \*CU, 2T, k121 (141, 161); rep from \*.

**Row 37** \*CU, 2T, k4, 2T twice, k1, [CU, k1] 4 times, 2T 3 times, k1; work Row 1 of Old Shell patt over 80 (100, 120) sts; 2T 3 times, k1, [CU, k1] 4 times, 2T twice, k6; rep from \*—multiple of 20 sts + 41.

**Rows 38–42** \*CU, 2T, k119 (139, 159); rep from \*.

**Row 43** \*CU, 2T, k4, 2T twice, k1, [CU, k1] 3 times, 2T 3 times, k1; work Row 1 of Old Shell patt over 80 (100, 120) sts; 2T 3 times, k1, [CU, k1] 3 times, 2T twice, k6; rep from \*—multiple of 20 sts + 37.

**Rows 44–48** \*CU, 2T, k115 (135, 155); rep from \*.

**Row 49** \*CU, 2T, k4, 2T twice, k1, [CU, k1] 3 times, 2T twice, k1; work Row 1 of Old Shell patt over 80 (100, 120) sts; 2T twice, k1, [CU, k1] 3 times, 2T twice, k6; rep from \*—multiple of 20 sts + 35.

**Rows 50–54** \*CU, 2T, k113 (133, 153); rep from \*.

**Row 55** \*CU, 2T, k4, 2T twice, k1, [CU, k1] twice, 2T twice, k1; work Row 1 of Old Shell patt over 80 (100, 120) sts; 2T twice, k1, [CU, k1] twice, 2T twice, k6; rep from \*—multiple of 20 sts + 31.

**Rows 56–60** \*CU, 2T, k109 (129, 149); rep from \*.

**Row 61** \*CU, 2T, k4, 2T twice, CU, k1, CU, 2T twice, k1; work Row 1 of Old Shell patt over 80 (100,



Square hap. Learn more about the half-hap version of this pattern on our website: [LT.Media/Half-Hap](http://LT.Media/Half-Hap).

120) sts; 2T twice, CU, k1, CU, 2T twice, k6; rep from \*—multiple of 20 sts + 27.

**Rows 62–66** \*CU, 2T, k105 (125, 145); rep from \*.

**Note:** For jumper-weight yarn only, the quarter pattern now is complete; see special instructions in the directions for how to continue in jumper weight. For laceweight and 2-ply fine lace yarns, continue as follows:

**Row 67** \*CU, 2T, k4, 2T, k1, CU, 2T twice, k1; work Row 1 of Old Shell patt over \_\_ (100, 120) sts; 2T twice, CU, k1, 2T, k6; rep from \*—multiple of 20 sts + 23.

**Rows 68–72** \*CU, 2T, k\_\_ (121, 141); rep from \*.

**Row 73** \*CU, 2T, k4, 2T, k1, CU, 2T, k1; work Row 1 of Old Shell patt over \_\_ (100, 120) sts; 2T, CU, k1, 2T, k6; rep from \*—multiple of 20 sts + 21.

**Rows 74–78** \*CU, 2T, k\_\_ (119, 139); rep from \*.

**Row 79** \*[CU, 2T] \_\_ (60, 70) times, k1; rep from \*.

**Row 80** \*CU, 2T, k\_\_ (119, 139); rep from \*.

## INSTRUCTIONS

### Lace Edge (for all haps)

With spare wool, CO 6 sts, and knit 1 row. Break spare wool.

Join main yarn and knit 1 row.

Work Rows 1–16 of Lace Edge pattern from chart or written directions (see Stitch Guide) 34 (40, 44) (68, 80, 88) times, ending last repeat with Row [14] [16]—6 sts rem; 542 (638, 702) (1,088, 1,280, 1,408) rows total.

Place sts on thread holder. Do not break yarn.

### First Quarters

The quarters are worked two at a time. For the triangle half hap, you will work only one pair of quarters over the full length of the lace edge. For the square hap, you will work the first pair of quarters over half the length of the lace edge, followed by a second pair worked over the remaining half of the lace edge.

With WS of lace edge facing, pick up 271 (319, 351) (272, 320, 352) CU edge sts (two quarters' worth)

along straight selvedge; these loops are simply placed on the needle, not picked up and knitted. Using yarn attached to lace edge and WS facing, knit these sts tbl. Turn work so RS is facing.

Begin working Quarters pattern for all yarn weights as follows; if there is only one set of numbers, it applies to both the triangle and square:

**Row 1** (RS) CU, 2T, k134 (158, 174) while dec 5 (9, 5) sts evenly, CU, 2T, k133 (157, 173) (134, 158, 174) while dec 4 (8, 4) (5, 9, 5) sts evenly—262 (302, 342) sts rem.

**Rows 2–6** \*CU, 2T, k129 (149, 169); rep from \*.

Continue according to your yarn weight as follows from the Quarters pattern written directions (see Stitch Guide) or the Quarters chart. The 74-row chart corresponds to Rows 7–80 of the written pattern. When following the chart, work the entire chart over the first half of the sts, then work the entire chart again over the second half of the sts.

### Jumper Weight

Work Rows 7–66 of Quarters patt—214 sts total; 107 sts each half.

Continue as follows:

**Row 67** \*CU, 2T, k3, 2T twice, CU, 2T twice, k1; work Row 1 of Old Shell patt over 80 sts; 2T twice, CU, 2T twice, k5; rep from \*—202 sts; 101 sts each half.

**Rows 68–72** \*CU, 2T, k99; rep from \*.

**Row 73** \*[CU, 2T] 50 times, k1; rep from \*.

**Row 74** \*CU, 2T, k99; rep from \*—74 rows total; 202 sts; 101 sts each half.

### Laceweight

Work Rows 7–80 of Quarters patt—80 rows total; 242 sts; 121 sts each half.

### 2-Ply Fine Lace

Work Rows 7–12 of Quarters patt twice.

Work Rows 13–80 once—86 rows total; 282 sts; 141 sts each half.

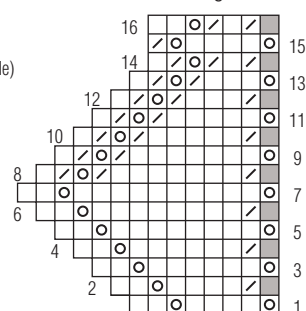
### All Yarn Weights

For the triangle, the two quarters are complete; skip to Triangle Center (*right*).

#### Key

- knit on RS and WS
- 2T on RS and WS (see Stitch Guide)
- CU (see Stitch Guide)
- no stitch
- repeat

#### Lace Edge



For the square, break yarn, leaving a tail about 30" (76.2 cm) for sewing the opening between the two sets of quarters later, place sts on holder, and continue with second set of quarters as follows.

### Second Quarters

With WS of lace edge facing, pick up 272 (320, 352) CU edge sts from the second half of the lace edge; these sts are simply placed on the needle, not picked up and knitted. Join yarn with WS facing, and knit these sts tbl. Turn work so RS is facing. Continue according to your yarn weight as follows:

### Jumper Weight

Work Rows 1–74 as for first pair of jumper weight quarters—74 rows total; 202 sts; 101 sts each half.

### Laceweight

Work Rows 1–80 as for first pair of laceweight quarters—80 rows total; 242 sts; 121 sts each half.

### 2-Ply Fine Lace

Work Rows 7–12 of chart or written directions twice, then work Rows 13–80 as for first pair of 2-ply fine lace quarters—86 rows total; 282 sts; 141 sts each half.

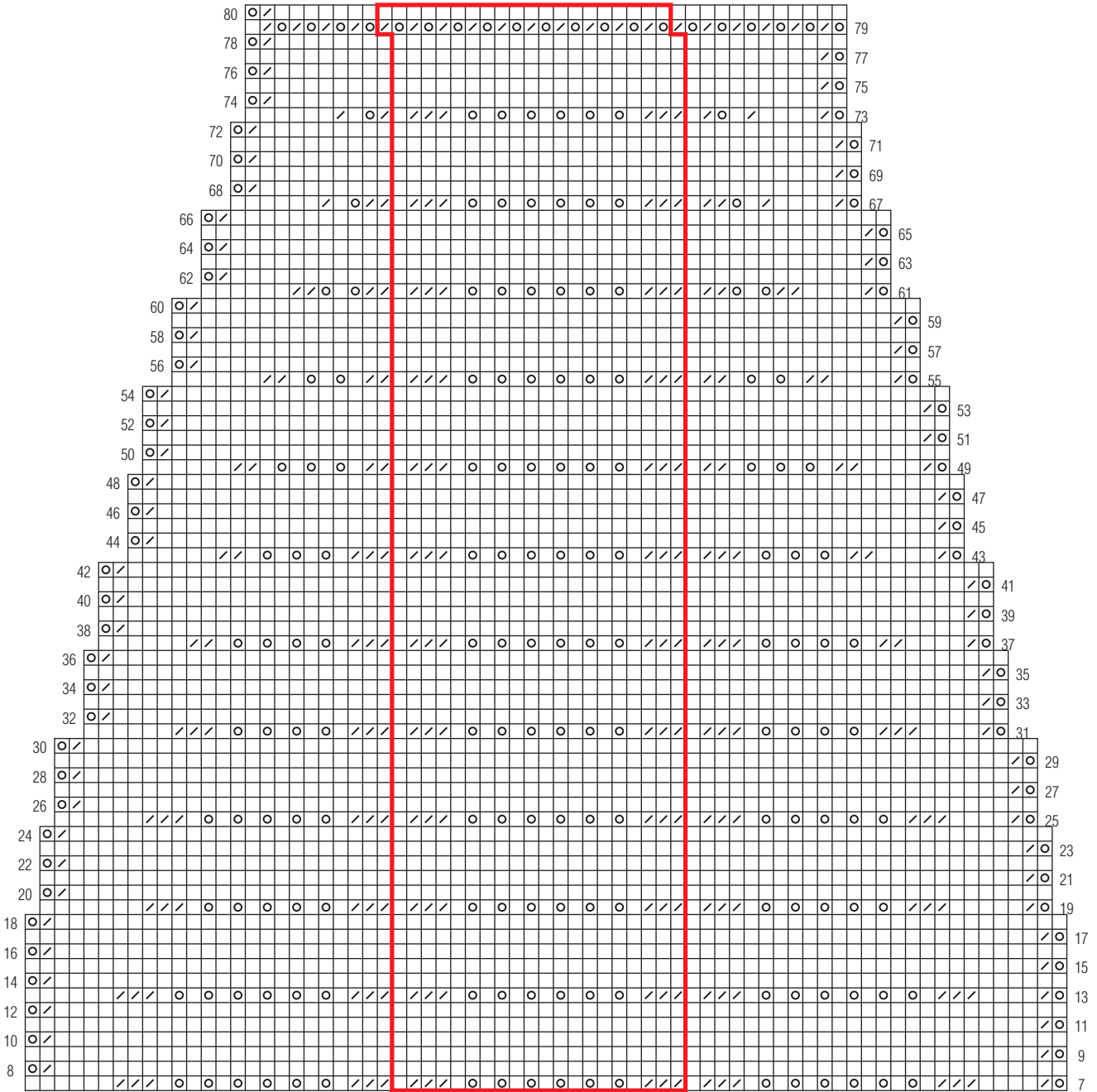
### All Yarn Weights

With RS facing, place the last 101 (121, 141) sts on holder, leaving the first 101 (121, 141) sts on needle. Skip to Square Center below.

### Triangle Center (half hap only)

Continue on 202 (242, 282) sts (101 [121, 141] sts each half) with yarn attached as follows:

Quarters



20-st repeat  
work 4 (5, 6) times

### Shading Pattern for Keyaan's Hap

**Rows 1-6** Dark gray (CC1).

**Rows 7-8** Blue (CC5).

**Rows 9-14** Medium gray (CC2).

**Rows 15-20** Light gray (MC).

**Rows 21-22** Blue (CC5).

**Rows 23-28** Fawn (CC3).

**Rows 29-32** White (CC4).

**Rows 33-34** Light gray (MC).

**Rows 35-40** Medium gray (CC2).

**Rows 41-42** Blue (CC5).

**Rows 43-48** Dark gray (CC1).

**Rows 49-54** Medium gray (CC2).

**Rows 55-56** Blue (CC5).

**Rows 57-62** Light gray (MC).

**Rows 63-68** Fawn (CC3).

**Rows 69-72** White (CC4).

**Rows 73-74** Blue (CC5).

**Rows 75-78** Dark gray (CC1).

**Rows 79-80** Light gray (MC).

**Next row** \*CU, 2T, k97 (117, 137), 2T; rep from \*—2 sts dec'd.

**Next row** \*CU, 2T, k96 (116, 136), 2T; rep from \*—2 sts dec'd.

**Next row** \*CU, 2T, k95 (115, 135), 2T; rep from \*—2 sts dec'd.

Continue in this manner, working 1 less st between the pair of 2Ts in each half every row, until 8 sts rem.

**Next row** \*CU, 2T twice; rep from \* once more—6 sts rem.

**Next row** \*CU, 3T; rep from \* once more—4 center sts rem. Place 4 sts on hold.

Break yarn.

### Top Edge (triangle half hap only)

With RS facing, carefully remove spare wool from 6 sts of lace edge CO and place these sts on a needle, pick up 87 (100, 113) CU edge sts across half of top edge of hap (first Quarter and one side of the center), pick up the 4 sts on hold at the end of the center, pick up 87 (100, 113) CU edge sts across the second half of top edge of hap (other side of the center and second Quarter), and slip 6 sts of the lace edge from holder onto the needle; these loops are simply placed on the needle, not picked up and knitted—190 (216, 242) sts. Rejoin MC and with RS facing, knit 6 lace edge sts, knit the next 87 (100, 113) picked-up sts tbl while increasing 4 (5, 5) sts evenly, work center 4 sts as



A mix of natural and dyed colors embellish the Old Shell border.

## Yarn and Needle Requirements

### Total quantity of yarn required for square haps [half haps]

**Jumper weight:** 1,560 yd, 15½ oz (440 g); [780 yd, 7¾ oz (220g)].

**Laceweight:** 1,640 yd, 7¾ oz (220g); [820 yd, 4 oz (110 g)].

**2-ply fine lace (equivalent to cobweb):** 1,560 yd, 4¼ oz (120 g); [780 yd, 2¼ oz (60 g)].

**For half haps,** calculate 50% of the quantities above, plus about 30 yd for the top edge.

### Yarn required for 1 garter ridge (2 rows) for all 4 quarters

- Jumper weight, 24 yd.
- Laceweight, 22 yd.
- 2-ply fine lace (equivalent to cobweb), 19½ yd.

### Needles

Jumper weight, size 6 (4 mm); laceweight, size 3 (3.25 mm); 2-ply fine lace, size 1 (2.5 mm).

Haps are traditionally worked using two long double-pointed needles; a circular needle may be substituted. Adjust needle size to obtain the correct gauge.

[k1tbl, k1] twice, knit the next 87 (100, 113) picked-up sts tbl while increasing 4 (4, 5) sts evenly, then knit 6 lace edge sts—198 (225, 252) sts.

**Row 1** (WS) K1, 2T, knit to last 3 sts, 2T, k1—2 sts dec'd.

**Row 2** (RS) K1, 2T, \*CU, 2T, k1; rep from \* to last 4 sts, CU, 3T, k1—2 sts dec'd.

**Row 3** Rep Row 1—2 sts dec'd.

**Row 4** K1, 2T, \*CU, 2T, k1; rep from \* to last 3 sts, CU, 3T—2 sts dec'd.

**Rows 5 and 6** Rep Row 1—186 (213, 240) sts.

BO all sts loosely. Weave in ends.

## Square Center (square hap only)

With RS facing and with the yarn that is attached, work on the first 101 (121, 141) sts on the needle. The remaining sts can be placed on hold.

**All Rows** (RS and WS) Sl 1 kwise, k to end.

Rep this row 200 (240, 280) more times, ending with a RS row—201 (241, 281) rows total.

Using the yarn attached, graft the live sts in garter st at the top of the square center to the corresponding section of the held sts of the first quarters section. Pick up the slipped sts along one side of the square center and graft them in garter st to the held sts of the corresponding quarter, then graft the other side of the square center to the rem quarter in the same manner.

Carefully remove spare wool from 6 sts of lace edge CO, and graft in garter st to the 6 held sts at the end of the lace edge.

Using herringbone stitch, join the two open sections between the quarters.

Weave in ends.

## FINISHING

Before wet-finishing, thread a length of strong wool through the eyelet hole at the tip of each lace point on all four sides of the square, or through the tip of each lace point on two sides of the triangle plus the outermost row of holes along its top edge.

Wet-finish by handwashing and rinse in hand-hot water. Wrap in a soft towel and press to remove as much water as possible. Stretch as far as possible and pin to shape on carpeted floor or mattress, pinning into the strong wool threaded around the outer edges. Allow to dry completely before removing the pins. ●

For more details on creating a half-hap version, visit our website: [LT.Media/Half-Hap](http://LT.Media/Half-Hap).

**Elizabeth Johnston** is a Shetland spinner and knitter. She learned much of her craft as a child, observing and learning from family and friends. She uses these age-old skills, handed down through generations, to turn Shetland fleece into beautiful soft yarns and knitted Fair Isle and lace items in her business, Shetland Handspun. She is coauthor of *The Warp-Weighted Loom* and contributed to *Shetland Textiles: 800 BC to the Present*. Elizabeth has demonstrated, lectured, and taught workshops in spinning, lace, Fair Isle knitting, and natural dyeing in Shetland and throughout the UK, Europe, Scandinavia, and the United States. Learn more at [shetlandhandspun.com](http://shetlandhandspun.com).