

NORDIC KNITS

CHRISTMAS JUMPERS NEEDN'T INVOLVE NOVELTY REINDEERS... NOT WHEN YOU CAN COSY INTO THE INTRICATE PATTERNS AND CHUNKY YARNS OF WOOLLIES FROM SCANDINAVIA



PHOTOGRAPHY: CARO WEISS

The patterns for these jumpers and bobble hats are in *Knitting from the North* (Kyle Books). Too tricky? Try the cuffs on page 54

Knitted jumpers come into their own at Christmas. Whether you pull one on over your pyjamas and slouch down to breakfast, or step out briskly on a frosty walk, snug and smug in your knit, they are ideal clobber when the temperature drops. In recent years, the rise of the ironic Christmas jumper (as sported by Mark Darcy in *Bridget Jones's Diary* and countless festive TV presenters) has turned our heads, but there is a more tasteful alternative: the Scandi sweater.

Its distinctive pattern and shape came into the public's consciousness when Sarah Lund ran around in one in Danish crime drama *The Killing*. Hers is the classic sweater: knitted on the Faroe Islands by home knitters and sold by Gudrun and Gudrun (gudrungudrun.com) for £290, it is based on a traditional Faroese fisherman's sweater. Her black and white jumper features the most common Scandi knitting pattern, the *selburose*, which originated in Norway. This rose pattern in the shape of an octagram, is a common motif on mittens as well as traditional *lusefkoft* (sweaters), and originates in folk art.

In the UK, we have our own version of the Nordic knit: the Fair Isle jumper (see *The Simple Things* issue 28), which is hand-knitted on the remote Scottish island. Production of these is labour intensive and skilful, which accounts for their high price, but there are high-street versions of both Fair Isle and Scandi jumpers out there, as well as mittens and scarves. Alternatively, dig out your knitting needles and settle down, preferably by a log fire, and make your own.

If a whole jumper seems ambitious, try something smaller: the arrow cuffs over the page would be a good place to start.

A GOOD YARN

A few of our favourite knitted things with a Scandi flavour



Shetland Fair Isle jumper | £145
toa.st



Wool Cuzco mittens | £29
gudrunsjoden.com



Tweed Fairisle jumper | £29.50
marksandspencer.com

Fair Isle jumper, £195
celticandco.com



Bobble hat | £19.95
joules.com



Dancing Scarf in Wheater Night | £40
seasaltcornwall.co.uk

Belmont Merino gloves | £32
anthropologie.com



Fair Isle fingerless gloves | £24
peopletree.co.uk



Merman sweater | £165
donna-wilson.com



Mohair Icelandic jumper | £125
brora.co.uk



MAKE YOUR OWN NORDIC KNIT

Arrow cuffs

THESE ARE WORKED IN
THE ROUND SO ARE QUICK
TO MAKE AND KEEP WRISTS
WARM ON COLD DAYS

FINISHED SIZE

Length: 10cm

Circumference: 20cm

Yarn

Jamieson's Shetland Spindrift

1 ball Old Gold (MC)

1 ball Natural White (CC)

Needles and notions

2.25mm circular needles

2.75mm circular needles

Stitch marker

Tension

30 sts x 36 rows = 10 x 10cm over
colourwork stocking stitch, using
larger needles

Note

For each round, read chart from right
to left, knit every round.

1 Using MC and smaller needles, cast
on 60 sts.

2 Place marker and join to work in the
round, being careful not to twist.

3 Work 8 rounds of K2, P2 rib.

4 Change to larger needles.

5 Next Round: K.

6 Join in CC.

7 Following chart, work 10-st repeat 6
times across round and complete chart
to end round 22.

8 Next Round: Work 1 round in MC.

9 Change to smaller needles.

10 Work 8 rounds of K2, P2 rib.

11 Cast off.

Finishing

Sew in ends and block.

Chart

MC White Square

CC Black Square

Taken from *Knitting from The
North* by Hilary Grant (Kyle Books).
Photography: Caro Weiss

