



[www.handsonknittingcenter.com](http://www.handsonknittingcenter.com)

909.793.8712

912 New York St. Ste A  
Redlands, CA 92374

## Remedial Brioche

With Molly Conroy

### Rules for the World of Briocheland

Brioche, at its core, is a K1, P1 Rib. The only difference is you work only half the stitches at a time. The stitches that are not worked are slipped and the yarn is carried over them. It is also a very lofty fabric knit on a needle size smaller than normally used for the weight of yarn.

#### Rules for Single Color Brioche

1. At its core, brioche is a K1, P1 rib. Every other stitch (other than edge stitches) will always remain either a Knit column or a Purl column.
2. You will never purl (yay!). All stitches are either knitted or are slipped with the yarn carried over the needle as a yarnover.
3. Brioche is a Serial Monogamist. If a stitch is by itself, it gets a buddy. If the stitch is already buddied up, it gets married.
4. Divorce is illegal in Briocheland. Once you are buddied, you never get to separate or change partners. The paired stitches are such sealed soul mates that they are now referred to as one stitch.
5. Turn at the end of each row. But... it takes two rows of knitting to complete one actual row of fabric.
6. The fabric is totally reversible. If you need to pay attention to "right side" and "wrong side" be sure to place a locking marker on one side. If you used a longtail cast on, the right side will be the side where the working yarn and tail are on the same side.

**For this class:**

**Always knit the first stitch and slip the last with yarn in front.**

NOTES:

## Rules for Two Color Brioche

1. There is a Light Side and a Dark Side – not a right or wrong side. It is more important to have light and dark yarn than contrasting yarn. If you have two yarns that are the same value, just assign one as light or dark and use a locking marker to distinguish the two fabrics.
  - a. Light Side is defined as the side where the knit columns are in the light color and the purl stitches are dark.
  - b. Dark Side is defined as the side where the knit columns are in the dark color and the purl stitches are light.
2. Opposites attract – two color brioche is still a Serial Monogamist, but it will only date and marry the opposite color.
3. Divorce is illegal in Briocheland – once paired you will remain paired and will never switch partners. The paired stitches are such sealed soul mates that they are now referred to as one stitch.
4. Uber Egalitarian – you will always work the least represented color.
5. Each side is worked twice and two-color brioche must be worked on DPNs or circular needles. The first pass is worked in one color and one stitch and then the stitches are slid back to the other end of the needle and the opposite color is worked in the opposite stitch. Generally speaking, it is in the following order but this can vary by pattern:
  - a. Light Side: K light color then purl dark color
  - b. Dark Side: Purl light color then knit dark color
6. How to tell where you are in the pattern: When the two yarns are on the same side you are just beginning that side. When the two yarns are on opposite sides, you have already worked one side.
7. Where you drop your tails matter. Unless otherwise instructed, drop your tail on the opposite side of where you ended the last stitch of the row. The two colors should drop to opposite sides.

**For this Class:**

**Edge Stitches worked only in DC – Knit 1st, slip last w/ yarn in front.**

**DC drops to the front**

**LC drops to the back**

**NOTES:**

## The Language of Briocheland

**Bark** = referred to as BRK is when you knit together two newly matched stitches whose souls are sealed into one.

**Burp** = referred to as BRP is when you purl together two newly matched stitches whose souls are sealed into one.

**Pairing up in Briocheland:** when dating in Briocheland, the way the stitches are paired will vary a little. The single stitch is always slipped with a yarnover. But how to achieve that yarnover will vary by the previous stitch and the following stitch.

**YfS1Yo** = In this case, the last stitch was a knit stitch so you will bring your yarn forward, slip the next stitch purlwise, and knit the next brk with the yarn cascading over the slipped stitch.

**S1Yo** = This is sometimes used as a shortcut to describe the previous step.

**S1YoF** = In this case, you would have just finished a Brp

**YfS1YoF** = This is used usually only as the first stitch in a series to bring the yarn forward before you begin a purl pass.

### Edges:

In general, you will follow the instructions for edges given in a pattern. But if you are just creating your own piece there are a couple of things to consider. Because each row is worked twice, you will work the edge stitches only once per side. If you are working one color brioche, consider slipping either the first or last stitch of each row and knitting that stitch on the other row. When working two color brioche, only work the edge stitches in one color and continue with slipping the first or last stitch and knitting it on the alternate side only when working the designated color.

### Increases or Decreases

When making increases or decreases you have to maintain the K1, P1 Rib. So all increases and decreases must use a minimum of 3 columns of knitting. All increases and decreases will use an uneven number of knitting columns.

### Notes:

## Trouble Shooting Brioche

### Missed Yarnover:

**Buddy Retrieval Basics:** One of the most common mistakes is either failing to take the yarnover over the stitch or losing the yarnover.

1. Look for a float on both the front and back of work.
2. Lift the float back up on the needle - oriented correctly - and work the two stitches.
3. If you have an entire row of slipping the stitches with the yarn in front or back but not OVER the needle you might tink back that row. The floats are not as long as a yarnover and will shrink your gauge on that row.

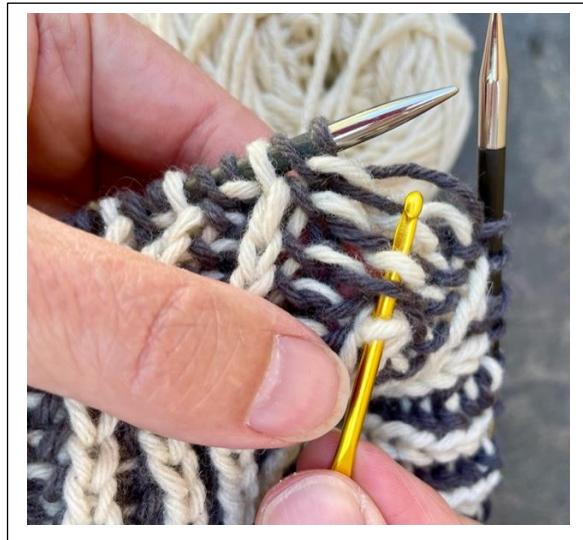


### Worked Single Stitches

If you are looking for a lost buddy but cannot find it, it may be that you worked the stitch. Particularly on the brp side it is very common to work the single purl stitches. You will easily spot these as purl bumps on the columns of knit stitches. Just tink the stitch and place the float on the needle with the stitch and work the brk or brp as usual.

### Laddering Down Brioche

One of the scariest things is finding a mistake several rows down. But many of these mistakes can be fixed. If you slowly, and carefully pull out the stitches you can leave them laced correctly so that it is quite easy to pick up. If you did not do it carefully, it can still be fixed.



There are some mistakes that cannot (to my knowledge) be repaired. The most common is when you have changed partners.

## **Tinking Brioche**

The key to tinking it to remember that only half of the stitches were actually worked. Any “paired” stitch was only slipped so you need to slip this stitch purlwise and unwrap it. The single stitches were worked so these you can unknit - make sure to get the stitch and its buddy.

## **Ripping Brioche**

When you need to rip brioche try this technique. Rip both colors at the same time until you are one row above the mistake. Then very carefully pull out three stitches at a time, pinching under them with your thumb, and picking them up from back to front. It can be a little tricky to identify which stitches have a buddy so take your time and look at the stitches. It will be fairly obvious, once you have pulled out the yarn, which stitches are paired.

### **Notes:**

No material in this handout, partial or whole, may be reproduced, transmitted, or shared or sold by any means without express written permission of designer. Please direct any questions or comments to: [conroyungerecht@gmail.com](mailto:conroyungerecht@gmail.com)

©2023 Molly ConroyUngerecht, All Rights Reserved