Loomed Mermaid Tail with Raised Paving Stitch

Words and photography by Zoe MacLean, Stitch converted to loom by Renita Harvey.

If you have any questions about this pattern, please feel free to contact me on Facebook (facebook.com/ZoeMacLean) or via email (zoe@veryzoe.com).

The stitch used in this mermaid tail is called the Raised Paving stitch. Renita Harvey of String Theory Fiber Works converted this stitch for the loom. You can read her post on how to do the stitch (and a pattern for a raised paving hat) here. She's also made video tutorials for the stitch which are here and here. I have adapted the stitch from an 8 peg pattern repeat, to a 6 peg pattern repeat and have reduced the purl rows by one to create something that was proportionally smaller and able to be done on a 36 peg round Knifty Knitter style loom. If you read Renita's blog post and watch the videos, you'll get a good idea of how the stitch is worked.

You will need:

- 200g of Colour A yarn, DK weight, wound into two balls
- 200g of Colour B yarn, DK weight, wound into two balls
- A 36 peg round loom with a gauge similar to the KK looms
- A 5-6mm crochet hook
- Scissors
- Tapestry needle
- A way to count rows (such as a row counter, or a notebook and pen)
- A way to mark pegs (such as masking tape or contrasting yarn)
- A print-out of the stitch graphs at the end of this document (optional, but helpful)

Knowledge required:

- E-wrap cast on
- Crochet cast on
- Crochet cast off
- U knit stitch, purl stitch, slip stitch
- Invisible blanket seam join

Each colour is worked with two strands held as one. When changing from one colour to the other, simply drop the first colour down, out of the way and pick up the second colour. Colours are shown in brackets after the row number. Colour A will be the colour that is seen behind, as the knit stitch. Colour B is the colour that is seen outlining the "paving" in the purl stitch. The pattern could be worked with one colour, but it would not stand out as much. In my example above, Colour A was the multi-coloured pinks and purples and Colour B was the hot pink plain yarn. It would also look nice to alternate Colour A and Colour B throughout the first 11 rows, in the waistband.

To Make The Body

R1. (B) Cast-on using an e-wrap cast-on and knit off each peg.
R2. (B) Purl all pegs
R3. (B) Knit all pegs
R4-7. (B) Repeat R2-3
R8. (B) Purl all pegs.
R9. (A) Knit all pegs
R10-11. (B) Purl all pegs
R12-17. (A) K2, *S2K4, repeat from * to the last four pegs, S2, K2
R18. (B) K2, *S2K4, repeat from * to the last four pegs, S2, K2
R19-20. (B) Purl all pegs
R21-26. (A) S1, *K4S2, repeat from * to last five pegs, K4, S1
R27. (B) S1, *K4S2, repeat from * to last five pegs, K4, S1
R28-45. Repeat R10-27

R46-63. Repeat R10-27
R64-81. Repeat R10-27
R82-99. Repeat R10-27
R100. (B) Purl all pegs

This is where we split the loom in half to work the decreases that form the middle triangles that the fins will join on to. Mark pegs 4 and 21, we will be working this half of the loom first in a flat panel. Cut and tie off Colour A and Colour B. Using a slip knot, attach Colour B to Peg 1 as an anchor. Start working from Peg 4. See the graph at the end of the document to help understand how to work the decrease. Row 1 is worked from peg 4 across to peg 21 (in whichever direction you were working the body above. I work anti-clockwise, but my graphs go clockwise, so you can work in either direction).

R1. (B) Purl all pegs (pegs 4-21)
R2-7. (A) Attach colour A with a slip knot to peg 4 and knit off, K3, S2, K4, S2, K4, S1
R8. (B) S1, K4, S2, K4, S2, K4, S1
R9-10. (B) Purl all pegs
R11-16. (A) Starting on peg 8- K4, S2, K4 (work only pegs 8-17)
R17. (B) Starting on peg 6- P2, K4, S2, K4, P2
R18. (B) Purl pegs 18-7
R19. (B) Purl pegs 8-17
R20-25. (A) Starting on peg 11- K4 (work only pegs 11-14)
R26. (B) Starting on peg 16- P2,K4, P2
R27. (B) Purl pegs 10-15
R28. (B) Purl pegs 14-11
R29. (B) Purl pegs 12-13
R30. (B) Purl pegs 13-12

Cut and tie the ends of Colour A and Colour B yarns. Use a contrasting piece of yarn to remove the loops from the loom and crochet using two strands of Colour B yarn. To bind off, use a crochet bind off with one chain between each stitch, and two chains between the middle stitches, 12 and 13. (This is the YouTube video that I learnt how to do this from ages ago when I first started http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCY-Zq62G_E).

Now working with pegs 22-3, repeat the decrease.

R1. (B) Purl all pegs (pegs 22-3)
R2-7. (A) Attach colour A with a slip knot to peg 22 and knit off, K3, S2, K4, S2, K4, S1
R8. (B) S1, K4, S2, K4, S2, K4, S1
R9-10. (B) Purl all pegs
R11-16. (A) Starting on peg 26- K4, S2, K4 (work only pegs 26-35)
R17. (B) Starting on peg 24- P2, K4, S2, K4, P2
R18. (B) Purl pegs 36-25
R19. (B) Purl pegs 26-35
R20-25. (A) Starting on peg 29- K4 (work only pegs 29-32)
R26. (B) Starting on peg 34- P2,K4, P2
R27. (B) Purl pegs 28-33
R28. (B) Purl pegs 32-29

R29. (B) Purl pegs 30-31
R30. (B) Purl pegs 31-30

Again, remove from the loom using s contrasting piece of yarn and cute and tie Colour A and Colour B. Then using two strands of Colour B, crochet bind off the edges, using two chains between pegs 30 and 31.

The body is now complete. There will be a lot of loose ends that need to be woven in. Take the time now to weave in your ends and cut off any excess yarn. Don't forget about the waistband too.

To Make The Fins

The fins are made the same way as the triangular parts of the body. There is a graph at the end of this document that shows the stitches, but I will also describe it here. I find it useful to have a copy of the graph to refer to while I'm knitting. A way of marking off or counting rows is helpful too.

R1. (B) Crochet cast on all 36 pegs as a flat panel and purl off.
R2. (B) Purl all pegs
R3-8. (A) Tie a slip knot and attach to peg 2 and knit off, K3, *S2, K4, repeat from * to last peg, S1
R9. (B) S1, K4, *s2, K4, repeat from * to last peg, S1
R10-11. (B) Purl all pegs
R12-17. (A) Starting on peg 5- K4, S2, K4, S2, K4, S2, K4, S2, K4 (work only pegs 5-32)
R18. (B) Starting on peg 34- P2, K4, S2, K4, S2, K4, S2, K4, S2, K4, P2
R19. (B) Purl pegs 4-33
R20. (B) Purl pegs 32-5
R21-26. (A) Starting on peg 8- K4, S2, K4, S2, K4, S2, K4 (work only pegs 8-29)
R27. (B) Starting on peg 6- P2, K4, S2, K4, S2, K4, S2, K4, P2
R28. (B) Purl pegs 31-7
R29. (B) Purl pegs 8-30
R30-35. (A) Starting on peg 11- K4, S2, K4, S2, K4 (work only pegs 11-26)
R36. (B) Starting on peg 28- P2, K4, S2, K4, S2, K4, P2
R37. (B) Purl pegs 9-27
R38. (B) Purl pegs 26-10
R39-44. (A) Starting on peg 14- K4, S2, K4 (working only pegs 14-23)
R45. (B) Starting on peg 12- P2, K4, S2, K4, P2
R46. (B) Purl pegs 24-13
R47. (B) Purl pegs 14-23
R48-53. (A) Starting on peg 17- K4 (work only pegs 17-20)
R54. (B) Starting at peg 22- P2, K4, P2
R55. (B) Purl pegs 16-21
R56. (B) Purl pegs 20-17
R57. (B) Purl pegs 18-19
R58. (B) Purl pegs 19-18

Again, remove from the loom using s contrasting piece of yarn and cute and tie Colour A and Colour B. Then using two strands of Colour B, crochet bind off the edges, using two chains between pegs 18

and 19. Use a single crochet without the chain stitch in between each stitch to tidy up the top edge of the fin (the edge that was cast-on).

Make a second fin in exactly the same way. Weave in all the ends and trim leftover yarn on both fins.

To Join It All Together

Now to piece them together. Fold each fin in half and line up with the bottom of the body. Note that they do look a bit too big, that's okay because it all comes together in the stitching. Start with the middle of one fin and the side of the body. Using a doubled over strand of Colour B yarn, stitch half of the fin to the body. When you come to the tip of the body, start stitching on the front half of the second fin. In order to keep the second fin lined up correctly, attach the middle stitch to the side of the body to keep everything aligned. Work your way around to the back of the body, attaching the second half of the second fin and then the second half of the first fin. Tie the end of your working yarn to the tail left at the start and weave in the ends. Now stitch up the opening left at the bottom of the fins, Making sure to stitch the flat sections at the ends of the fins together too. Tie and weave in the ends. It doesn't really matter what stitch you use here, as long as it's neat. I kind of use an invisible blanket join, as much as I can, and make do on the bits where I can't.

↓ Colour of Yarn　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Row number/s ↓

Colour	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Row
B	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	1
A	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	2-7
B	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	8
B	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	9-10
A					k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k						11-16
B			p	p	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	p	p				17
B			p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p					18
B					p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p					19
A									k	k	k	k							20-25
B							p	p	k	k	k	k	p	p					26
B									p	p	p	p	p	p					27
B									p	p	p	p							28
B											p	p							29-30

← This is the stitch graph for the first decrease in the body.

↓ Colour of Yarn　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Row number/s ↓

Colour	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	1	2	3	Row
B	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	1
A	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	2-7
B	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	8
B	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	9-10
A					k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k						11-16
B			p	p	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	p	p				17
B			p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p					18
B					p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p					19
A									k	k	k	k							20-25
B							p	p	k	k	k	k	p	p					26
B									p	p	p	p	p	p					27
B									p	p	p	p							28
B											p	p							29-30

And this is the stitch graph for the second decrease in the body →

This is the stitch graph for the fins.

↓ Colour of Yarn

Row number/s ↓

Colour	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	Row number/s
B	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	1-2
A	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	3-8
B	s	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	9
B	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	10-11
A				k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k				12-17
B			p	p	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	p	p			18
B			p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p			19
B				p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p				20
A								k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k								21-26
B							p	p	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	p	p							27
B								p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p						28
B									p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p							29
A											k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k											30-35
B										p	p	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	p	p										36
B											p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p									37
B												p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p										38
A														k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	k	k														39-44
B													p	p	k	k	k	k	s	s	k	k	p	p													45
B														p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p												46
B															p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p													47
A																	k	k	k	k																	48-53
B																p	p	k	k	k	k	p	p														54
B																	p	p	p	p	p	p															55
B																		p	p	p	p																56
B																			p	p																	57-58