

# Brioche Confidence Camp



BY LESLEY ANNE ROBINSON

Weekend Retreat Workbook:  
A practical guide to understanding, fixing, and loving brioche knitting.

## CLASS OVERVIEW:

Welcome, and thank you for attending this wonderful retreat!

Think of this handout / workbook as your own personal brioche field guide. Not only does this have plenty of resources and cheats included for you to take home after the retreat is over, there is also space for you to journal and take notes during the retreat. By the end of this retreat, I am hoping that you have newly gained confidence in your brioche knitting, whether it's knowing the basics of brioche, or learning how to fix your mistakes...maybe even both! Happy brioche-ing and let's get to it!



## CLASS OUTLINE & WORKBOOK:

**Introduction to weekend** - Welcome, chat about goals, what you will learn

**Day 1: Foundations & Confidence**

**Brioche Basics** - Anatomy, how to read your fabric, fundamentals of two-color brioche

*Brioche Fabric, Quick Tips + Cheats: Pages 2 & 3*

**Weekend Projects** - Brioche Meow Hat, Ketchum All Shawl - which one will you cast on?

*Brioche Abbreviations + Increases & Decreases: Page 4*

*Journal for notes: Pages 5 - 6*

**Knitting + One-on-one time** - Fixing common brioche mistakes, lifelines and continue working

*Mistake Rescue Guide: Page 7*

*Don't Panic - FlowChart: Page 8*

**Day 2: Skill Expansion & Independence**

**Troubleshooting** - Any questions from overnight knitting

**Skill Growth & Confidence:** Continue working on your projects

**Color Play:** Page 9

**Next Steps + Resources:** Pages 10

## MATERIALS:

### » Yarn & Needles:

**Path 1: Brioche Meow Hat (beginner)**

Two high contrasting yarn colors in full skeins DK weight (smooth, non-fuzzy recommended)

16" circular US 5 or 6 (3.75 or 4 mm) + DPNs or magic loop + 1 additional gauge needle for Three Needle Bind Off

**Path 2: Ketchum All Shawl (advanced)**

Longer circular needle for two-color brioche knitting in size US 4 / 3.5 mm

Three full skeins of fingering / sock weight yarn

### » Other notions and materials:

Stitch markers

Split ring marker or locking stitch marker for placing stitch on hold

Tapestry needle

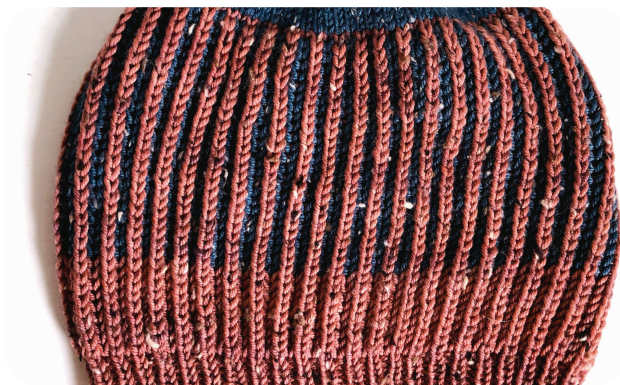
Scissors

Lifeline Thread

## BRIOCHE FABRIC:

Follow these diagrams to help you learn how to read the anatomy of two-color brioche fabric, shown here in the same hat knit in the round, in even brioche rib.

BRK BRP



### MAIN SIDE:

This photo shows the Main Side of the fabric, where the “brioche knit” stitches are in the Main Color and the “brioche purl” stitches are in the Contrast Color.

**Interactive:** Label each stitch using an arrow.

BRK BRP



### CONTRAST SIDE:

This photo shows the Contrast Side of the fabric, where the “brioche knit” stitches are in the Contrast Color and the “brioche purl” stitches are in the Main Color.

**Interactive:** Label each stitch using an arrow.

You can also see the difference in one-color brioche and two-color brioche. I always teach two-color brioche because it is much more straightforward to seeing the anatomy of the fabric and how it's constructed.

## QUICK TIPS:

It may take a few rounds or rows to distinguish the stitch pattern.

All slipped stitches are slipped purl-wise (don't twist), except when decreasing.

Working brioche in the round vs flat is very different. I always recommend learning this technique in the round to get the basic brioche stitches down without having to worry about which side of the fabric you're working on.

When knitting brioche in the round OR flat, every TWO worked rounds / rows are equal to ONE completed brioche round / row.

**IN THE ROUND:** For Two-Color Brioche, you will work through the round first with the Main Color, and then drop the Main Color yarn, and work the round again with the Contrast Color. This means that brioche knitting uses extra yarn, up to twice as much as other stitch patterns.

**FLAT:** When knitting both Two-Color brioche flat, you will work the first row with the Main Color, and then drop the Main Color yarn, and slide back to the other end of your needle and work the row again with the Contrast Color. This means that you're doing this on BOTH sides of the fabric.

Each slipped stitch with its yarn over is counted as ONE stitch.

When counting rows / rounds in brioche, just count the knit stitches (looks like a “V”) on the Main Side of work.

Lifelines are a Lifesaver!!! Especially for projects involving increases and decreases.

**Brioche increases** - Blooming out of one stitch, no slanting in any direction

**Brioche decreases** - slanting, and can create direction for your brioche to create those twists and turns.

## BRIOCHE CHEATS:

If you can't remember which color you just worked, simply look at the yarn overs you created! That is the color with which you just worked. For example, in the photo below, I am working with my Main Color (blue), therefore the yarn-overs around the stitches I'm about to work are in my Contrast Color (black).



Place a locking stitch marker on the Main Side of your work (or the outside of a piece you're working in the round). This will help you remember which is the Main Side (MS) and which is the Contrast Side (CS). This is especially helpful when you're working brioche flat (one or two-color). This will also help you note which color is your Main Color and which is your Contrast Color.

Below, you can see I placed a split ring marker on the MS of my sweater, which doubled as a tool to use for the "br4st dec".



## CASTING ON & BINDING OFF:

It's very important to choose the best cast on and bind off techniques with brioche knitting. You want to make sure they stretch with the fabric, especially for shawls.

Here are a few of my favorite Cast On and Bind Off techniques to stretch with brioche, with corresponding links to video tutorials on my Youtube channel (methods used in most of my patterns):

**Twisted German / Old Norwegian Cast On**

<http://bit.ly/TwistedGermanCO>

**I-Cord Tab Cast On**

<https://bit.ly/i-cordTabCastOn>

**Elastic Bind Off**

<http://bit.ly/ElasticBO>

**I-Cord Bind Off**

<https://bit.ly/icordbrioche>

**Three-Needle Bind Off**

<https://bit.ly/3NeedleBOBrioche>

## OTHER VIDEO RESOURCES

Here are a few other video resources you can refer to:

**Picking up dropped stitch:**

<https://bit.ly/BriocheDroppedStitch>

**Weaving in ends:**

<https://bit.ly/WeavingEndsBrioche>

## BRIOCHE ABBREVIATIONS:

### » Basic Brioche:

**Brk** : Brioche knit (bark); knit st together w/ its yarn over

**Brp** : Brioche purl (burp); purl st together w/ its yarn over

**CC** : Contrast color

**CS** : Contrast side

**MC** : Main color

**MS** : Main side

**Sl1yof** : (Used when brping stitches) Leaving the working yarn in front, slip stitch purl-wise, then bring yarn over and across the stitch, then back to the front (creating a little shawl), ready for next stitch or brp

**Yf sl1yo** : (Used when brking stitches) Bring yarn under right needle to front of work, slip next stitch purl-wise, then bring yarn over needle and across slipped stitch to back of needle, ready for next stitch or brk



BR4ST INC AFTER BEING WORKED WITH MC YARN



BR4ST DEC

### » Brioche Increases and Decreases:

**Brkyobrck** : 2-st increase; brk1, leaving st on LH needle, yo, then brk1 into the same st.

**Br4st inc** : 4-st increase; into one st - (brk1, yo) twice, brk1

**BrLsl dec** : 2-st decrease slanting left, involving 3 sts (noted as A, B, & C);

**Step by Step instructions:**

1. Sl first st knit-wise with its yarn over (A)
2. Brk next 2 sts together (B & C)
3. Pass slipped st over (A)

**BrRsl dec** : 2-st decrease slanting right, involving 3 sts (noted as A, B, & C);

**Step by Step instructions:**

1. Sl first st knit-wise with its yarn over (A)
2. Knit next st (B)
3. Pass slipped st over (A)
4. Place worked st on LH needle and pass the following st over with its yarn over (C).
5. Place final worked st on RH needle.

**Br4st dec** : 4-stitch decrease, involving 5 sts (noted as A, B, C, D, & E);

**Step by Step instructions:**

1. Sl 2 sts separately knit-wise, (A & B)
2. Place following st on stitch marker or cable needle to front of work, (C)
3. Knit the next st, (D) (note about how far back yarn comes from)
4. Pass the second slipped st over, (B)
5. Place the worked st on the LH needle and pass following st over, (E)
6. Place worked st on RH needle and pass first slipped st over, (A)
7. Place st from stitch marker / cable needle to LH needle (be sure not to twist st), (C)
8. Place worked st on LH needle and pass st from stitch marker / cable needle over, (C)
9. Place finished decreased st on RH needle.

**Br4st Dec Tutorial:**

<https://bit.ly/Br4stDec>

## PROJECT PATH NOTES:



### **My Path:**

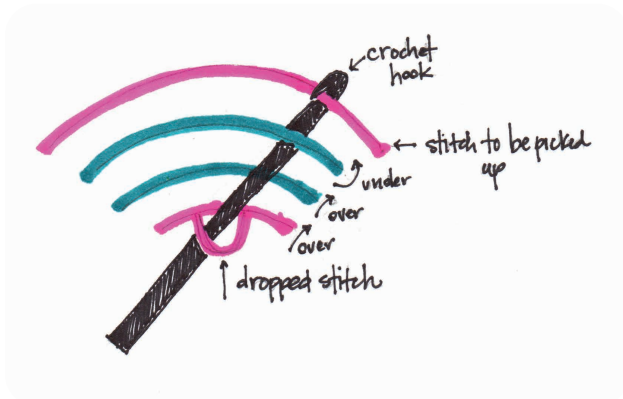
#### **A few things to add here:**

- Modifications
- Row reminders
- Yarn usage
- Future Me Notes



## MISTAKE RESCUE GUIDE:

**Dropped Stitch:** Picking up a dropped stitch, or dropping down to fix a mistake in even brioche rib, follow the diagram below.



**Dropped Yarn-over:** A dropped yarn-over is not the end of the world. Your work will not unravel, unlike a dropped stitch.



**Placing a Lifeline:** Ensure you place your lifeline through both the slipped stitch and yarn-over wrapping the stitch when you come to a brioche stitch.



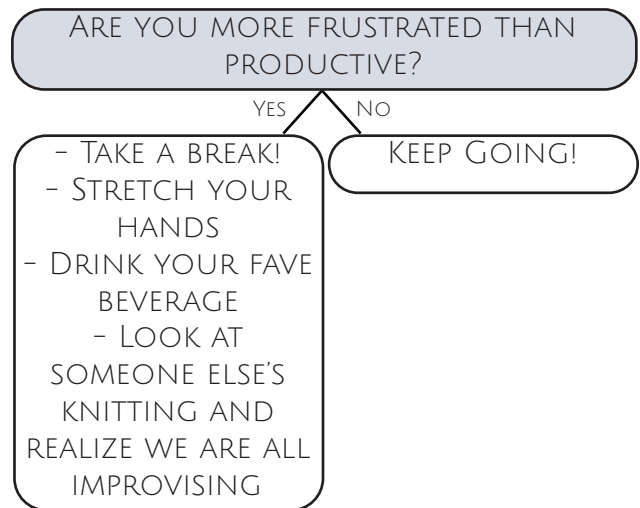
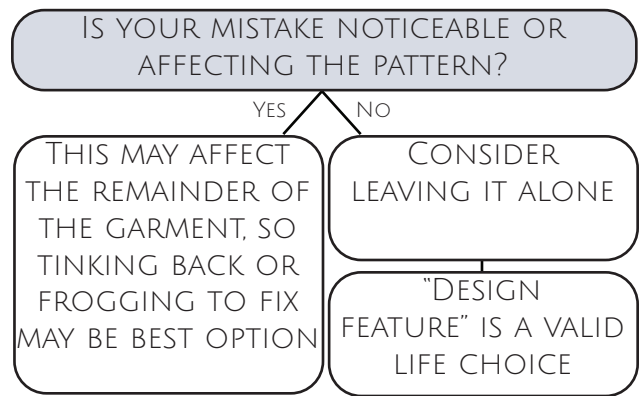
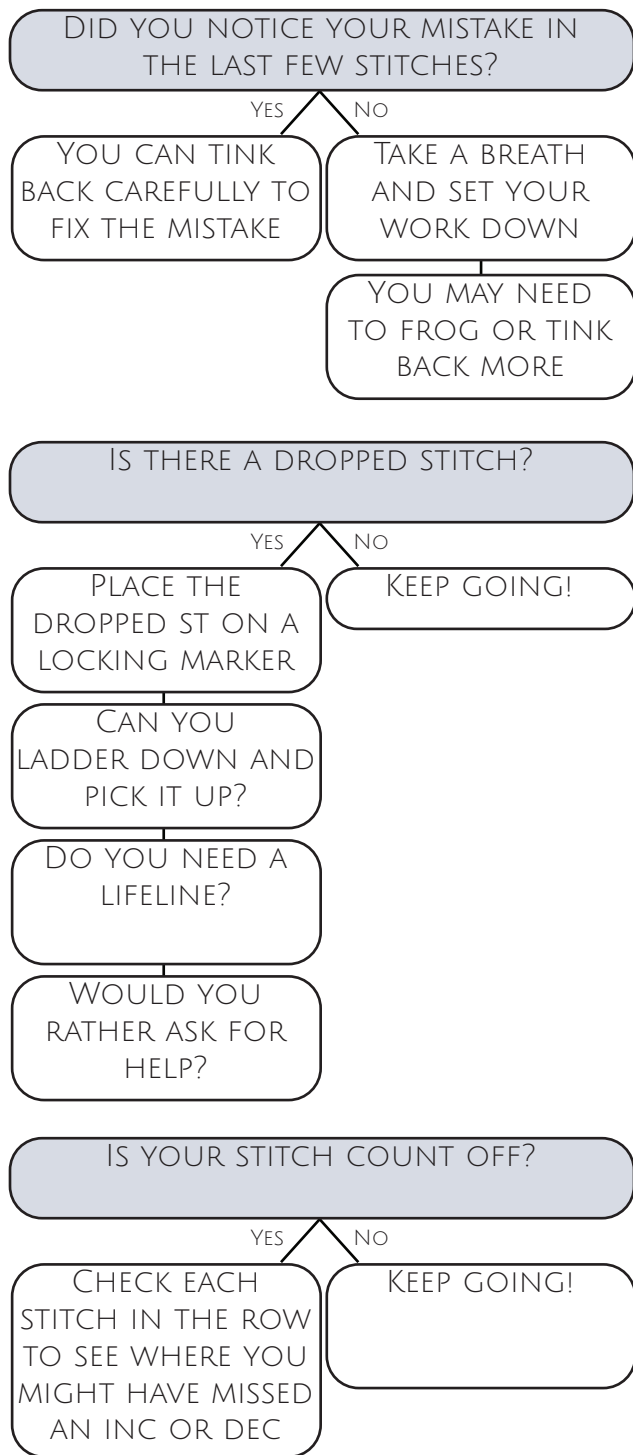
**Weaving in Ends:** It's my favorite.  
<https://bit.ly/WeavingEndsBrioche>



## PERSONAL RESCUE NOTES:

# DON'T PANIC!!

Use this guide / flowchart to help you if something looks wrong in your brioche knitting.



## REMEMBER...

It's just knitting. It can usually be fixed and if you're feeling frustrated or panicked, it's probably best to set your work down and take a break.

Take it one row at a time.

Lifelines are lifesavers!!

Take deep breaths and relax your shoulders.

Set timers to ensure you take breaks!

Mistakes are going to happen, it's completely normal. Knowing how to fix them helps but troubleshooting is ok too! That's how I learned how to fix my brioche knitting. Worst case, you have to rip out and start over.

Or learn to live with the mistake if it's not too bad!

You can email me anytime!! I love chatting about brioche and love seeing photos. If you make a mistake you can't identify when you get home, send me a photo!

## COLOR PLAY:

» **Two-Color Brioche creates a new color:** See how the yarn looks together in skein form, then how it changes once you look at the brioche fabric!

Also, see how drastic the difference is between the two sides of the fabric. This is an instance of very high contrast. If you look at the bottom photo, you can see what lower contrast looks like.



## COLOR TIPS:

- When you're choosing colors for two-color brioche projects, remember that the colors are going to combine together in a way that almost creates a NEW color
- Most of the time, swatching or starting your brioche project is the BEST way to see if the colors work well together
- Not happy with the color combo that you've chosen? Flip over your swatch or project over and look at the Contrast Side, you might like that better! You can always start over and change which color is your Main and which is your Contrast.
- When in doubt, choose your LIGHTEST color for your Main Color. The stitch pattern will really POP.
- There are no RULES for choosing colors for your brioche projects! If you are still learning and getting used to the technique, choosing high contrast is always a great idea. But once you feel more comfortable with it, low contrast can also be so beautiful!
- **Question for you:** What color combos are you excited to try?

## COLOR NOTES:

## NEXT STEPS:

### » Exercise:

- Find at least 3 patterns or new brioche techniques you'd like to try!
- Pattern Ideas:

- Brioche techniques I'd like to try:

Want a digital copy of this workbook? Click the QR code below!



## CHECKLIST:

### Things I Can Do Now Checklist:

- I can read my brioche stitches, whether in the round or knit flat
- I can fix simple mistakes
- I am getting the rhythm of these new stitches
- I can recognize the different increases and decreases
- I feel more confident trying brioche patterns

## RESOURCES:

Take my online course, [Mastering Brioche with Knit Graffiti!](#)

Link: <https://knitgraffiti.com/online-courses/>

Take my Craftsy class, [Modern Brioche Lace!](#)

Link: <https://www.craftsy.com/class/modern-brioche-lace/>

Check out my first book, Brioche Knitting for Beginners and Beyond:

Link: <https://knitgraffiti.com/books/>

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

Thank you so much for taking my workshops, and happy brioche-ing!

## PATTERNS YOU MAY ENJOY:



Sizzle Pop (square & triangle shapes)



Rebel

## CONNECT:



WEBSITE



RAVELRY



INSTAGRAM



FACEBOOK



YOUTUBE



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For pattern support or any questions, please email [Lesley@knitgraffiti.com](mailto:Lesley@knitgraffiti.com).