



## Gansey Patterned Pin Cushion



Photograph courtesy of Noble and Buchan families, Fraserburgh



This pin cushion uses a pattern that is part of our coastal heritage. It is a local pattern known as Caithness flags. This, and many others, were used on “ganseys” - the seamless, fine-knitted jumpers traditionally worn by fishermen and seamen around the British coast, up to the late 1950’s, to help keep them warm and dry at sea. Different areas of the coast used different patterns or pattern combinations, and it is said a fisherman’s home port could have been identified from his gansey.

This pattern is brought to you by the Moray Firth Gansey Project (2009-2012) which is researching gansey patterns traditionally used round the Moray Firth in the north east of Scotland, conserving old examples of these beautifully and cleverly constructed garments and recording local stories and traditions. The project will also make the patterns and knitting skills available to a new generation to use and enjoy through developing school and community knitting groups, and in a booklet and online pattern library. For more information, see our website [www.gansey-MF.co.uk](http://www.gansey-MF.co.uk).

### Instructions

**Measurement:** the sample is approx 7.5 cm / 3 inches square

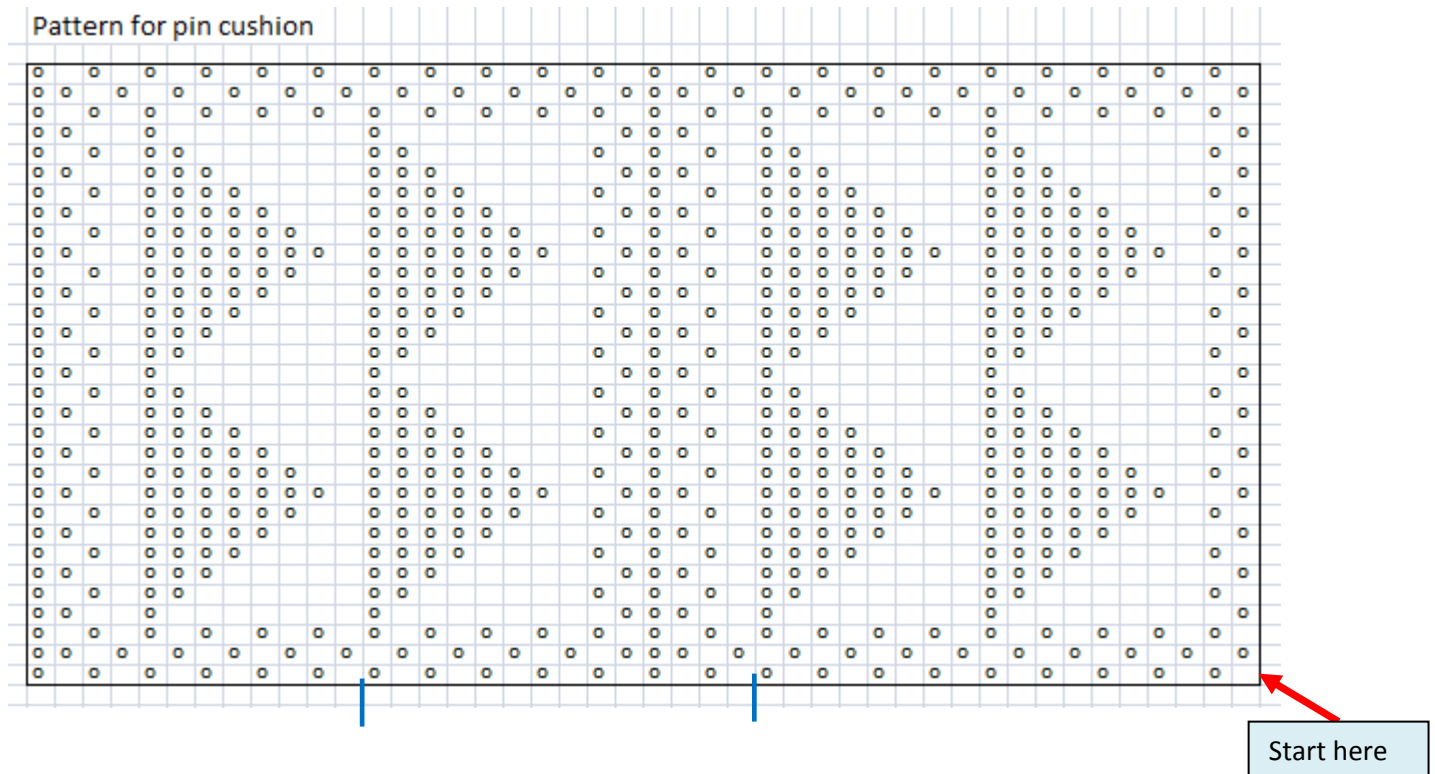
**Materials:** the sample is knitted in 5 ply gansey yarn on 2.75mm needles, however any smooth, self coloured yarn could be used, with the appropriate size of needles, as the finished piece does not have to be any particular size.

The logo for The Scottish Government, featuring a white saltire on a blue background.	The LEADER logo, which includes a stylized green and yellow figure holding a plant, with the word "LEADER" written vertically.	The logo for The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, featuring a blue background with yellow stars.	The logo for Lottery Funded, featuring a stylized blue figure holding a plant, with the text "LOTTERY FUNDED MAONICHTHE LEIS A' CHRANNCHUR" below it.	<p>This project is being part-financed by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and by the Scottish Government and The European Community Rural Aberdeenshire, Highland and Moray LEADER 2007 – 2013 Programmes.</p>	The logo for Moray Firth Partnership, featuring a stylized blue and yellow figure holding a plant, with the text "MORAY FIRTH PARTNERSHIP" around it.
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## Symbols:

**Blank boxes** are stitches which appear as **knit** stitches on the right side of the work

**O** = stitches which appear as **purl** stitches on the right side of the work



**The chart** shows both sides of the pin cushion. You can knit it in the round using a set of 4 double pointed needles or flat using 2 needles.

**Cast on** 44 stitches

**To knit in the round on 4 double pointed needles:**

Distribute the stitches so that there are 18 on the first needle, 14 on the second and 12 on the third. The short blue lines at the bottom of the pattern mark where a new needle starts. Make sure the cast on row has not become twisted, before starting to work in the round. (Note: form the three needles into a triangle so that the last stitch on the third needle is next to the first stitch on the first needle.) Start your first round by knitting into the first stitch that you cast on, with the 4<sup>th</sup> needle. Pull the yarn up fairly tightly on the first stitch to ensure there is not a large gap between the needles.

Starting at the red arrow, follow each row of the chart from right to left until you get to the top. Cast off.

**To knit flat on two needles**

**Row 1:** start at the red arrow and work across from **right to left**

**Row 2:** start at the left hand side of the second row of the chart and work from **left to right** – remember that as this is a **wrong side row** a **blank square = Purl** and **O = Knit**

Continue in this way until you get to the top. Cast off

## Finishing

On the wrong side, stitch up all but one side; turn right side out; stuff; sew up remaining side.