



Super Simple Shawl

Use any yarn for many different looks

Materials: Any yarn will work. An average size shawl will take about 350-450 grams (12-16 oz) of a light worsted weight yarn such as Brown Sheep Nature Spun Worsted. Finer yarns can take as little as 250 grams (8 oz); heavier yarns as much as 700-900 (24-32 oz), depending on the finished size and the openness of the knitting. A light shoulder wrap or triangular scarf can be made with as little as 100 grams (4 oz).

Gauge: It doesn't matter! The shawl starts at the center back of the neck and grows outward until it is large enough.

Needles: Whatever size is appropriate to your yarn. The heavier the yarn, the larger the needle should be. The needle size will also determine the "laciness" or openness of the fabric. Knitting a few rows of the pattern will tell you if you have a fabric you like. If it is okay, simply keep knitting; if you think it is too tight, rip it out and start over with a larger needle. If it is too loose and open, start over with a smaller needle. Eventually you will want to be working on a 24" or longer circular needle, as there will be too many stitches to fit on a straight needle, but you may start the knitting on straight needles. When it is time to change needles, simply begin knitting the next row onto the circular needle.

NOTE: Instructions for the basic triangular shawl, with finishing options are given first. Then the three- and four-section variations are given, with other decorative options. Be creative!

Tech Tip - Knitting back and forth on "circular" needles

"Circular" needles aren't really circular; they are called that because it is possible to knit a seamless tube on them. They consist of a pair of needle tips connected by a flexible plastic cord. They come in lengths ranging from 12" to 40" or longer. The lengths up to 20" are good for hats and baby things. The longer lengths are for adult sweaters and such, and they are also indispensable for knitting large flat pieces that won't fit on straight needles. When using them for flat items, think of them as two short straight needles that happen to be connected. When you get to the end of the row, turn your knitting over and work in the opposite direction, changing the needle tips from one hand to the other just as if they were separate needles. If you have a lot of stitches on your needle, the edges of the knitting may get bunched together so it can be easy to knit right across to the other edge, thus joining your knitting into a circle. Be sure to keep an eye on when you are nearing the end of the row so you can tell when to turn around.



Above: Basic Triangular Shawl.

Right: Shawl in 4 sections with crochet bind off (see page 4).



Before you begin knitting, you will need to plan for your finishing and reserve enough yarn (unless you're sure you have plenty). Look at the finishing options below for guidelines in estimating amount of yarn to reserve for finishing - ALWAYS ESTIMATE GENEROUSLY! You can estimate by weight as your shawl grows if you know the yards per ounce or gram of your yarn. As the shawl gets about the size you want, count the number of stitches on the needle; and estimate the number of yards needed. Weigh your remaining yarn and calculate the number of yards you have left.

Abbreviations and special stitches:

K = Knit

P = Purl

st or *sts* = stitch or stitches

YO = Yarn Over: This "increase" adds a stitch, and makes an open "eyelet": Bring the yarn forward between the needle tips as if to purl the next stitch, then take the yarn to the back OVER the right-hand needle. Work the next knit stitch with the yarn in back as usual.

K2tog = Knit two together: Knit the next two stitches together as if they were one. This makes a decrease that slants to the right.

Super Simple Triangular Shawl

Note: The shawl is knitted from the neck down, so it is difficult to see the triangular shape while it is on your needles.

Cast on 3 stitches and knit one row.

Row 1 (Right Side): K into the front and back of the first stitch, K1, K into the front and back of the last stitch (5 sts).

Row 2 (Wrong Side): K5.

Row 3: K2, YO, K1, YO, K2 (7 sts). Place a safety pin (coilless pins work well) in the center stitch (the K1 between the YO's). You will need to move this pin up as knitting progresses to continue to mark the center stitch.

Row 4 and all wrong side rows: K2, P to last 2 sts, K2.

Row 5: K2, YO, K1, YO, K1 (marked center stitch), YO, K1, YO, K2 (11 sts).

Row 7: K2, YO, K3, YO, K1 (center), YO, K3, YO, K2 (15 sts).

Row 9: K2, YO, K5, YO, K1 (center), YO, K5, YO, K2 (19 sts).

Row 11: K2, YO, K7, YO, K1 (center), YO, K7, YO, K2 (23 sts).

Row 13 (right side): K2, YO, K to center st, YO, K1, YO, K to last 2 sts, YO, K2.

Row 14 (wrong side): K2, P to last 2 sts, K2.



By now there should be an easy-to-see center stitch with holes (yarn-overs or eyelets) on either side. Photo shows the marked center stitch. Be sure this line is maintained throughout, with the number of stitches in the two stockinette sections on either side increasing by two every other row (always an odd number of stitches). You will be adding 4 sts (yarn overs) on every right-side (odd-numbered) row, one at each edge and one on either side of the center stitch.

Repeat Rows 13 & 14 until shawl is nearly the size you like.

The row on your needles is the V-shaped edge of the shawl; the top (neck) edge of the triangle is formed by the 2-stitch selvages. As the shawl grows, transfer stitches

temporarily (see directions for moving stitches below) onto two or more spare long circular needles so you can spread it out flat to measure (wrap rubber bands around the tips of the spare needles so the stitches don't slip off).

Tech Tip - Moving Stitches from One Needle to the Other

Sometimes you may want to move stitches from one needle to another; for example, to spread the stitches out onto several needles so you can measure your knitting accurately, or try something on. Hold the needle with the stitches on them in the left hand and the needle you want to transfer them to in the right hand. Slide stitches one or two at a time onto the right-hand needle by inserting the point of the right needle into the next stitch(es) as if to purl and transfer it (them) from the left needle to the right needle without working it (them).

Garter Stitch Border: When the shawl is almost big enough, an 8-row garter stitch border is worked in order to keep the long edges of the shawl from curling: Keep working the right-side rows as before, but on the wrong side, knit all the stitches across. When there are 4 garter stitch "ridges" on the right side (8 rows), finish at the end of a wrong-side row.

Finishing Options

Here is where you can start getting creative. The stitches you have on your needle form the two long sides of the triangle, with the point in the center. You may do one of the following:

Bind off loosely: This takes about 1 row's worth of yarn; figure about 1 inch of yarn per stitch for medium wt. yarn. This is the easiest, but is the least decorative and tends to be too tight to form a nice edge. You might try binding off with a needle several sizes larger than what you have been using.

Bind off loosely (see above) and finish with a crocheted edging of your choice: Do not break yarn after the bind-off; just enlarge the last loop and pass the ball of yarn through and tighten; then use the yarn for your edging. The amount of yarn for this option depends on the edging chosen. To help in estimating, crochet a sample, rip it out, and measure the yarn it takes for the length worked.

Bind off loosely and finish with fringe: The amount needed for fringe can vary a lot depending on the number of fringes, the length of fringes, and the number of strands in one fringe. For example, if the two edges (the V) of your shawl are 30" each, and you want one fringe every 1", you may want three 12" strands in each fringe, which would be 1 yard per fringe times 60 fringes = 60 yards. Be sure to set aside plenty of yarn if you are not sure when you start how large your shawl will be.

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To make the fringe: For medium weight yarn, cut three pieces of yarn 12" long (length may be varied, of course) for each fringe. For heavier yarn, use two pieces; for lighter yarn, use four to six pieces. Fold the strands in half forming a loop. With a large crochet hook, pull the loop of strands through the bound off edge at one corner. With the hook still in the loop, reach down and pull the ends through the loop. Pull the ends and tighten the loop, forming a Lark's Head knot. Repeat as often as desired along the bound off edge.

Work a crochet bind-off: This is a quick, easy and flexible edge, with lots of possible variations (photo next page of garter stitch sample shows crochet bind-off). The variation given here requires about 1 yard of yarn for every 8 to 10 stitches on the needle. With a crochet hook of an appropriate size for your yarn, insert the hook through the first three stitches on the knitting needle, take them off the needle, yarn over hook, pull a loop through all three stitches, YO, pull a loop through the loop on hook, chain 5, * insert the hook through the next three stitches on the knitting needle and remove from needle, yarn over hook, pull a loop through all three stitches, YO, pull a loop through the two loops on hook, chain 5*; repeat from * to * until there are either two, three or four stitches left on the knitting needle (depending on how many stitches you started with). Work the last repeat through all these stitches. The number of stitches taken off the needle together may be varied, as well as the number of chains between, for many different effects.

Knit an edging: This takes the most time and yarn, but forms a lovely, decorative and flexible edge. Edgings are knitted perpendicularly to the knitting, and "eat up" one stitch left on the knitting needle for every two rows of edging. The simplest knitted edging is a 5 stitch garter border. It will take about 1 1/2 feet of yarn for every stitch on your needle. In other words, if you end up with 287 stitches on your needle, you will need 287 times 1.5 = about 420 feet, divided by 3 = 140 yards of yarn to complete your edging; figure extra to be on the safe side. Cast on 5 sts by "knitting on": Hold one point of the needle in your left hand with the knitting pushed to that

side. Insert the point of the right needle BETWEEN the 1st and 2nd stitch on the left needle. Wrap the yarn around the right needle as if to knit and pull a loop through to the front. Place this loop onto the left needle. Insert the right needle between the new stitch and the next stitch on the left needle, pull a loop through as before and place it on the left needle. Repeat three times more. You will be now be knitting only the edging stitches, except the one shawl stitch that is knitted together with an edging stitch on every other row. Thus you will be attaching the edging automatically to the shawl, and "eating up" the shawl stitches on your needle as you go.

Hold the needle with the new stitches in the left hand. **Row 1:** K4, K2tog (one edging st and one shawl st.), turn. **Row 2:** K5. Repeat these two rows until all the shawl stitches are used up. Bind off 5 stitches.

Fancier Knitted Edging



This edging is a little fancier; many more elaborate versions can be found in knitting books. For this edging you will need about 1 foot of yarn for each stitch you have on your needle. In

other words, if you end up with 287 stitches on your needle, you will need 287 feet, divided by 3 = 95.67 yards of yarn to complete your edging; figure extra to be on the safe side.

Cast on 4 sts as above.

Row 1: K1, YO, K2, K2tog (1 edging st and 1 shawl st). Turn.

Row 2: K5. Turn.

Row 3: K2tog, K2, K2tog. Turn

Row 4: K4. Turn.

Row 5: K2tog, K1, K2tog. Turn.

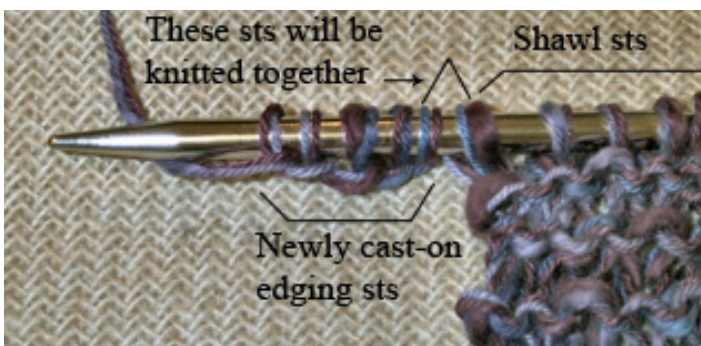
Row 6: K3. Turn.

Row 7: K1, YO, K1, K2tog. Turn.

Row 8: K4. Turn.

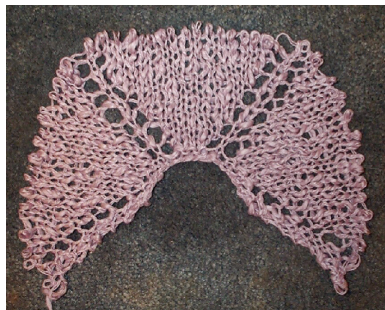
Repeat these eight rows until all the shawl stitches are "eaten up". The row you end on will depend on how many stitches you started with. Bind off.

Finishing: Weave in all ends. Wash your shawl gently and lay it out flat to dry, or lay it flat and steam it by running a steam iron just above the surface.



Variations

By adding “sections”, the shawl can grow into almost a cape instead of a shawl. Please read the basic instructions first so you have an idea of how the shawl grows. Here are instructions for starting a three or four section version; other creative ideas follow.



Two increase lines (3 sections):

Cast on 15 sts and knit 2 rows.

Row 3: K2, YO, K3, (YO, K1, YO, K3) twice, YO, K2 (21 sts).

Row 4 and all wrong side rows: K2, P to last 2 sts, K2.

Row 5: K2, YO, K5, (YO, K1, YO, K5) twice, YO, K2 (27 sts)

Row 7: K2, YO, K7, (YO, K1, YO, K7) twice, YO, K2 (33 sts)

Continue, adding 2 sts in each of the 3 sections (6 sts total) on every right-side row.

Three increase lines (4 sections, photo on page 1):

Cast on 19 sts and knit two rows.



Row 3: K2, YO, K3, (YO, K1, YO, K3) 3 times, YO, K2 (27sts)

Row 4 and all wrong side rows: K2, P to last 2 sts, K2.

Row 5: K2, YO, K5, (YO, K1, YO, K5) 3 times, YO, K2 (35sts)

Row 7: K2, YO, K7, (YO, K1, YO, K7) 3 times, YO, K2 (43sts)

Continue, adding 2 sts in each of the 4 sections (8 sts total) on every other row.

Garter Stitch Shawl



Follow the instructions for any variation above, except on the even-numbered rows, knit all stitches across. Because it can be difficult to tell which is the “right

side” the pin you put in to mark the center stitch on the right side will tell you which is which. Since you are already working garter stitch, the “Garter Stitch Border” above can be skipped.

Horizontal Eyelet Rows for a Lacy Look

Eyelets are the “holes” you have been making to increase the size of the shawl as you knit down from the neck. They may also be used across a row, with corresponding decreases so as not to change the number of stitches on a row. A single row may be used at regular intervals, say, every 4th, 6th, 8th row (or any other spacing), substituting either of the following rows for any right-side row. You may use them as a border, with most of the shawl worked in stockinette or garter stitch, alternating the two rows to offset the eyelets on each right side row, making a wider lacy section.

1st Eyelet Row: K2, YO, *K2tog, YO*; repeat from * to * to 1 stitch from the first increase line (stitch between the YO's), K1, YO, K1, YO. Repeat from first * for each section; end last repeat K1, YO, K2.

2nd Eyelet Row: K2, YO, K1, *YO, K2tog*; repeat from * to * to the first increase line (stitch between the YO's), YO, K1, YO, K1. Repeat from first * for each section; end last repeat YO, K2.

Many thanks to my first “Super Simple Shawl” class, who “beta-tested” this pattern, and all the students who came after and provided invaluable comments and suggestions.