

BUILDING BLOCKS SHAWL

WEST
KNITS

by Stephen West

Choose four colors of fingering or sport weight yarn to knit this large angular shawl. Textured bands with garter stitch, two-color brioche, knit 'n slide, & stockinette stitch decorate the unique shape. The beginning is very small and quickly grows into a long wingspan. Solid or speckled yarns work beautifully with this pattern!

Sizes: Small [Medium, Large]
Sample shown in size Large.

Finished Measurements: 76 [86, 98]" / 193 [218, 249]cm wingspan length, 20 [22.5, 25]" / 51 [57, 64]cm from CO to BO edge.

Yarn: Fingering or Sport weight

Shown in: Hedgehog Fibres Sporty Merino (100% Merino Wool; 400yds / 366m per 100g)

Yardage: Color A - 400yds / 366m
Color B - 400yds / 366m
Color C - 400yds / 366m
Color D - 400yds / 366m

Small & Medium sizes require less yardage, but I recommend to start with full skeins to ensure you don't run out of yarn.

Needles: 47" / 120cm US 5 / 3.75mm circular or size needed to obtain gauge. You can start with a shorter circular cord length, but a long circular needle will be more comfortable throughout the project.



Notions: 32 stitch markers, tapestry needle

Gauge: 26 sts & 44 rows 4" / 10cm in garter stitch
26 sts & 36 rows 4" / 10cm in stockinette stitch

INSTRUCTION

SECTION 1

Use this video tutorial to assist with this week's instructions: <https://youtu.be/R85hJEQD48>

Using A, CO 3 sts using a long tail cast on. *K3, sl3 sts to left needle, repeat from * 51 more times. K3, pick up and k52 sts along l-cord edge, pick up and k3 sts from CO edge. 58 sts. Turn to work WS.

Next Row (WS): P4, k17, p1, pm, k14, pm, p1, k17, p4.

Row 1 (RS): Using B, k4, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, k14, slm, ssk, k16, m1, k4.

Row 2 (WS): P4, k17, p1, slm, k14, slm, p1, k17, p4.

Row 3 (RS): Using A, k4, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, k14, slm, ssk, k16, m1, k4.

Row 4 (WS): P4, k17, p1, slm, k14, slm, p1, k17, p4.

Repeat last 4 rows 4 more times then repeat Rows 1 & 2 once more. There should be 6 garter ridges of each color. Break colors A & B.

SECTION 2

Use this video tutorial to assist with this week's instructions: <https://youtu.be/OR5IMSOkTOs>

Next Row (RS): Using C and with RS facing, slide sts to the other needle to work an l-cord with the last 3 sts. *Slip 3 sts onto left needle, k3, repeat from * 33 more times. There should be 34 total l-cord rows. Break color C.

Slide sts to the other needle to work an l-cord with the first 3 sts. Using C, k3, *sl3 sts onto left needle, k3, repeat from * 32 more times. There should be 34 total l-cord rows. Pick up and k19 sts along l-cord edge, pm, pick up and k14 sts along l-cord edge, pm, k19, slm, k14, slm, k19, pm, pick up and k14 sts along l-cord edge, pm, pick up and k19 sts along l-cord edge, k3. 124 sts.

Next Row (WS): P3, ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, p14, slm, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, p14, slm, ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, p14, slm, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, p3.

Row 1 (RS): K3, *p19, slm, k14, slm, repeat from * twice more, p19, k3.

Row 2 (WS): P3, ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, p14, slm, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, p14, slm, ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, p14, slm, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, p3.

Repeat last 2 rows 10 more times. Break color C.

ABBREVIATIONS

BO: bind off

brk: brioche knit also known as bark, knit the stitch (that was slipped in the previous row) together with its yarn over.

brkyobr: Three stitches spring out of the center of one stitch with this increase. Work a brkyobr as follows: brk1 (leave stitch on the needle), yo (yarn forward under needle then over needle to back), then brk1 into same stitch. 2 sts increased.

brLsl dec: (2-stitch decrease that slants to the left, involving 3 sts) Slip the first stitch knit-wise, brk the following two stitches together, pass the slipped stitch over.

brp: brioche purl also known as burp, purl the stitch (that was slipped in the previous row) together with its yarn over.

brRsl dec: (a 2-stitch decrease that slants to the right, involving 3 sts) Slip the first stitch knit-wise, knit the next stitch, pass the slipped stitch over, place stitch on left hand needle and pass the following stitch over. Place st on right hand needle.

CO: cast on

k: knit

k2tog: knit 2 together

m1: (make 1) increase 1 stitch using the backwards loop cast on method OR increase 1 stitch using a M1L: insert left needle into the front of the ladder between the stitches, knit through the back loop.

p: purl

p2tog: purl 2 together

pm: place marker

RS: right side

sl: slip

sl1yo following a k or brk st: (slip 1 with yarn over) bring the working yarn forward to the front of the work, slip the next stitch purl-wise, then bring the yarn over the needle (and over the slipped stitch) to the back, in position to work the following stitch.

sl1yo following a p or brp st: (slip 1 with yarn over) working yarn is already in front, slip the next stitch purl-wise, then bring the yarn over the needle (and over the slipped stitch), then to the front under the needle, into position to work the following stitch.

slm: slip marker

ssk: (slip slip knit) slip first stitch knit-wise, slip second stitch knit-wise, knit those 2 stitches together through the back loop.

st/s: stitch/es

tbl: through back loop

WS: wrong side

SECTION 3

Use this video tutorial to assist with this week's instructions: <https://youtu.be/uc2NWXx5dS4>

Row 1 (RS): Using D and with RS facing, slide sts to the other needle to work an I-cord with the last 3 sts. *Slip 3 sts onto left needle, k3, repeat from * 33 more times. There should be 34 total I-cord rows. Break color D.

Slide sts to the other needle to work an I-cord with the first 3 sts. Using D, k3, *sl3 sts onto left needle, k3, repeat from *32 more times. There should be 34 total I-cord rows. Pickup and k19 sts along I-cord edge, pm, pick up and k14sts along I-cord edge, pm, *k19, slm, k14, slm, repeat from*twice more, k19, pm, pick up and k14 sts along I-cordedge, pm, pick up and k19 sts along I-cord edge, k3. 190sts. Do not turn. Slide sts to work the same side with colorA.

Row 2 (RS): Using A, k3, *k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, k14, slm, ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, k14, slm, repeat from * once more, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, k14, slm, ssk, k16, m1, k4. Turn to work WS.

Row 3 (WS): Using D, p3, k to last 3 sts, p3. Do not turn. Slide sts to work the same side with color A.

Row 4 (WS): Using A, p3, *k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, k14, slm, ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, k14, slm, repeat from * once more, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, k14, slm, ssk, k16, m1, k1, p3. Turn to work RS.

Row 5 (RS): Using D, k all sts. Do not turn. Slide sts to work the same side with color A.

Row 6 (RS): Using A, k3, *k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, k14, slm, ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, k14, slm, repeat from * once more, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, k14, slm, ssk, k16, m1, k4. Turn to work WS.

Repeat Rows 3-6 four more times then repeat Rows 3 & 4 once more. There should be 6 bumpy ridges of reverse stockinette on the RS.

SECTION 4

SECTION 4 is just like SECTION 2, but you will have more stitches on your needle by this point.

Next Row (RS): Using B and with RS facing, slide sts to the other needle to work an I-cord with the last 3 sts. *Slip 3 sts onto left needle, k3, repeat from * 33 more times. There should be 34 total I-cord rows. Break color B.

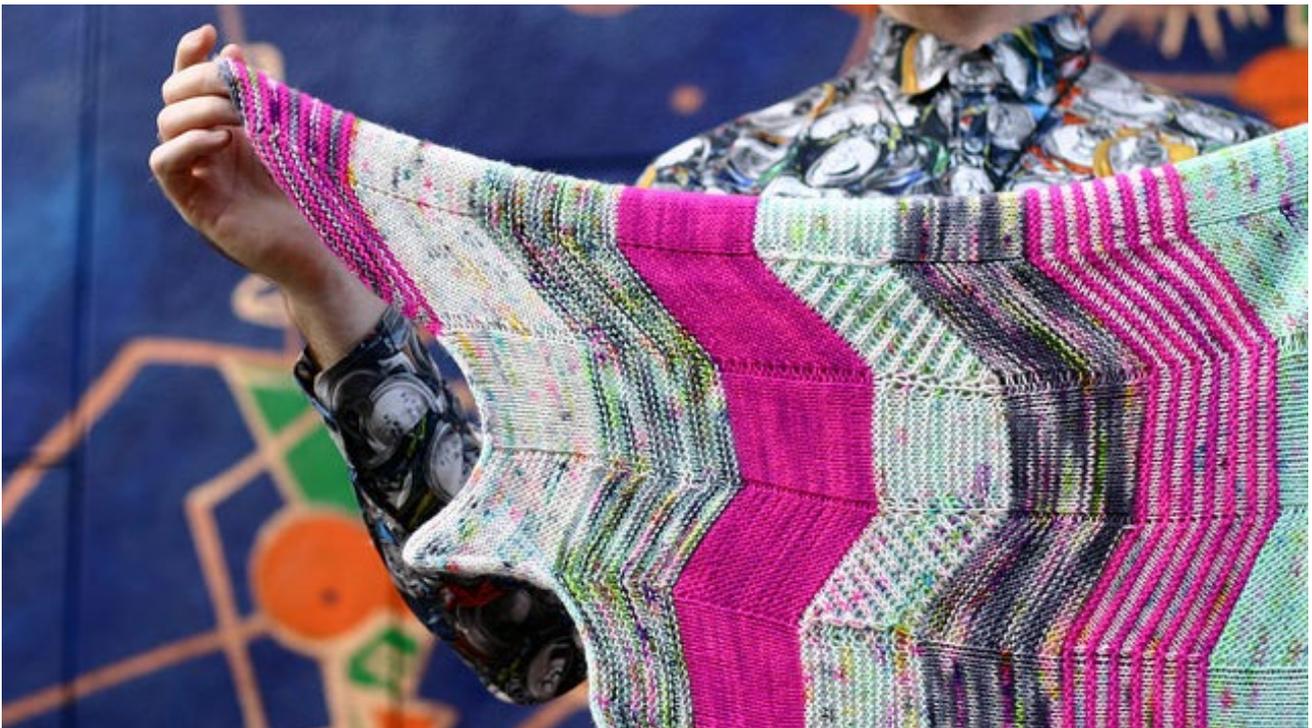
Slide sts to the other needle to work an I-cord with the first 3 sts. Using B, k3, *sl3 sts onto left needle, k3, repeat from *32 more times. There should be 34 total I-cord rows. Pickup and k19 sts along I-cord edge, pm, pick up and k14 stsalong I-cord edge, pm, *k19, slm, k14, slm, repeat from *4 more times, k19, pm, pick up and k14 sts along I-cordedge, pm, pick up and k19 sts along I-cord edge, k3. 256sts.

Next Row (WS): P3, *ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, p14, slm, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, p14, slm, repeat from * twice more, ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, p14, slm, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, p3.

Row 1 (RS): K3, *p19, slm, k14, slm, repeat from * 6 more times, p19, k3.

Row 2 (WS): P3, *ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, p14, slm, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, p14, slm, repeat from * twice more, ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, p14, slm, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, p3.

Repeat last 2 rows 10 more times. Break color B.



TWO-COLOR BRIOCHE

In two-color brioche stitch, two rows are worked for each counted row that appears on the face of the fabric. The first color is worked across the row and then the row is worked again using the second color. The next row is worked the same way, once across with the first color and worked again with the second color. When counting rows, count only the stitches going up on a knit column. For example, when you work 4 rows, count 4 knit column stitches, even though you will have worked 8 rows. 2 worked rows = 1 counted row.

In brioche knitting, a stitch with its yarn over is considered ONE stitch. This is very important. The yarn over is not counted separately. When you count 4 stitches, you will actually have 6 loops of yarn on the needle. When you are told to sl1 at the beginning of a decrease be sure and slip the entire stitch (kwise) and to pass the entire stitch, don't separate the stitch from its yarn over. When you put down your knitting and forget which color you just used and which color to use next, look at the color of the yo in the row just worked. That is the last color you used.

My favorite brioche knitting resource is Nancy Marchant's book entitled Knitting Fresh Brioche.
www.briochestitch.com

SECTION 5 BRIOCHE VERSION ONLY

Use this video to assist with the brioche knitting techniques: https://youtu.be/bQaZVpZ_Nyl

Row 1 (RS): Using C and with RS facing, slide sts to the other needle to work an I-cord with the last 3 sts. *Slip 3 sts onto left needle, k3, repeat from * 33 more times. Break color C.

Slide sts to the other needle to work an I-cord with the first 3 sts. Using C, k3, *sl3 sts onto left needle, k3, repeat from * 32 more times. There should be 34 total I-cord rows. Pick up and k19 sts along I-cord edge, pm, pick up and k14 sts along I-cord edge, pm, *k19, slm, k14, slm, repeat from * 6 more times, k19, pm, pick up and k14 sts along I-cord edge, pm, pick up and k19 sts along I-cord edge, k3. 322 sts. Do not turn. Slide sts to work the same side with color D.

Row 2 (RS): Using D, sl3, *(sl1yo, p1) 9 times sl1yo, slm, p14, slm, repeat from * 8 more times, (sl1yo, p1) 9 times, sl1yo, sl3 wyif. Turn to work WS.

Row 3 (WS): Using C, p3, *(brp1, sl1yo) 9 times, brp1, slm, p14, slm, repeat from * 8 more times, (brp1, sl1yo) 9 times, brp1, p3. Do not turn. Slide sts to work the same side with color D.

Row 4 (WS): Color D should be hanging in back. Using D, sl3, *(sl1yo, brk1) 9 times, sl1yo, slm, k14, slm, repeat from * 8 more times, (sl1yo, brk1) 9 times, sl1yo, sl3 wyib. Turn to work RS.

Row 5 (RS): Using C, k3, *brkyobrk, sl1yo (brk1, sl1yo) 7 times, brRsldec, slm, k14, slm, brLsldec, sl1yo, (brk1, sl1yo) 7 times, brkyobrk, slm, k14, slm repeat from * 3 more times, brkyobrk, sl1yo (brk1, sl1yo) 7 times, brRsldec, slm, k14, slm, brLsldec, sl1yo, (brk1, sl1yo) 7 times, brkyobrk, k3. Do not turn. Slide sts to work the same side with color D.

Row 6 (RS): Color D should be hanging in front. Using D, sl3, *sl1yo, p1, (sl1yo, brp1) 8 times, sl1yo, slm, p14, slm, (sl1yo, brp1) 8 times, sl1yo, p1, sl1yo, slm, p14, slm, repeat from * 3 more times, sl1yo, p1, (sl1yo, brp1) 8 times, sl1yo, slm, p14, slm, (sl1yo, brp1) 8 times, sl1yo, p1, sl1yo sl3 wyif. Turn to work WS.

Repeat Rows 3-6 four more times then repeat Rows 3 & 4 once more. Break colors C & D.

SECTION 5 GARTER STITCH VERSION ONLY

Row 1 (RS): Using C and with RS facing, slide sts to the other needle to work an I-cord with the last 3 sts. *Slip 3 sts onto left needle, k3, repeat from * 33 more times. Break color C.

Slide sts to the other needle to work an I-cord with the first 3 sts. Using C, k3, *sl3 sts onto left needle, k3, repeat from * 32 more times. There should be 34 total I-cord rows. Pick up and k19 sts along I-cord edge, pm, pick up and k14 sts along I-cord edge, pm, *k19, slm, k14, slm, repeat from * 6 more times, k19, pm, pick up and k14 sts along I-cord edge, pm, pick up and k19 sts along I-cord edge, k3. 322 sts. Do not turn. Slide sts to work the same side with color D.

Row 2 (RS): Using D, k3, p to last 3 sts, k3. Turn to work WS.

Row 3 (WS): Using C, p3, *p1, m1, p16, p2tog, slm, p14, slm, p2tog, p16, m1, p1, slm, p14, slm, repeat from * 3 more times, p1, m1, p16, p2tog, slm, p14, slm, p2tog, p16, m1, p4.

Do not turn. Slide sts to work the same side with color D.

Row 4 (WS): Using D, p3, k to last 3 sts, p3. Turn to work RS.

Row 5 (RS): Using C, k3, *k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, k14, slm, ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, k14, slm, repeat from * 3 more times, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, k14, slm, ssk, k16, m1, k4. Do not turn. Slide sts to work the same side with color D.

Row 6 (RS): Using D, k3, p to last 3 sts, k3. Turn to work WS.

Repeat Rows 3-6 four more times then repeat Rows 3 & 4 once more. There should be 12 total garter ridges. Break colors C & D.

SECTION 6

BOTH VERSIONS

There are 2 options for Next Row (RS). Follow the appropriate RS row for the Brioche OR Garter Stitch version.

Next Row (RS) Brioche Version ONLY: Using A and with RS facing, slide sts to the other needle to work an I-cord with the last 3 sts. *Slip 3 sts onto left needle, k3, repeat from * 33 more times. There should be 34 total I-cord rows. Break color A.

Slide sts to the other needle to work an I-cord with the first 3 sts. Using A, k3, *sl3 sts onto left needle, k3, repeat from * 32 more times. Pick up and k19 sts along I-cord edge, pm, pick up and k14 sts along I-cord edge, pm, *(brk1, k1) 9 times, brk1, slm, k14, slm, repeat from * 8 more times, (brk1, k1) 9 times, brk1, pm, pick up and k14 sts along I-cord edge, pm, pick up and k19 sts along I-cord edge, k3. Skip ahead to follow Next Row (WS).

Next Row (RS) Garter Stitch Version ONLY: Using A and with RS facing, slide sts to the other needle to work an I-cord with the last 3 sts. *Slip 3 sts onto left needle, k3, repeat from * 33 more times. Break color A.

Slide sts to the other needle to work an I-cord with the first 3 sts. Using A, k3, *sl3 sts onto left needle, k3, repeat from * 32 more times. Pick up and k19 sts along I-cord edge, pm, pick up and k14 sts along I-cord edge, pm, *k19, slm, k14, slm, repeat from * 8 more times, k19, pm, pick up and k14 sts along I-cord edge, pm, pick up and k19 sts along I-cord edge, k3. 388 sts. Continue following Next Row (WS) for all versions.

Next Row (WS): P3, *ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, p14, slm, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, p14, slm, repeat from * 4 more times, ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, p14, slm, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, p3.

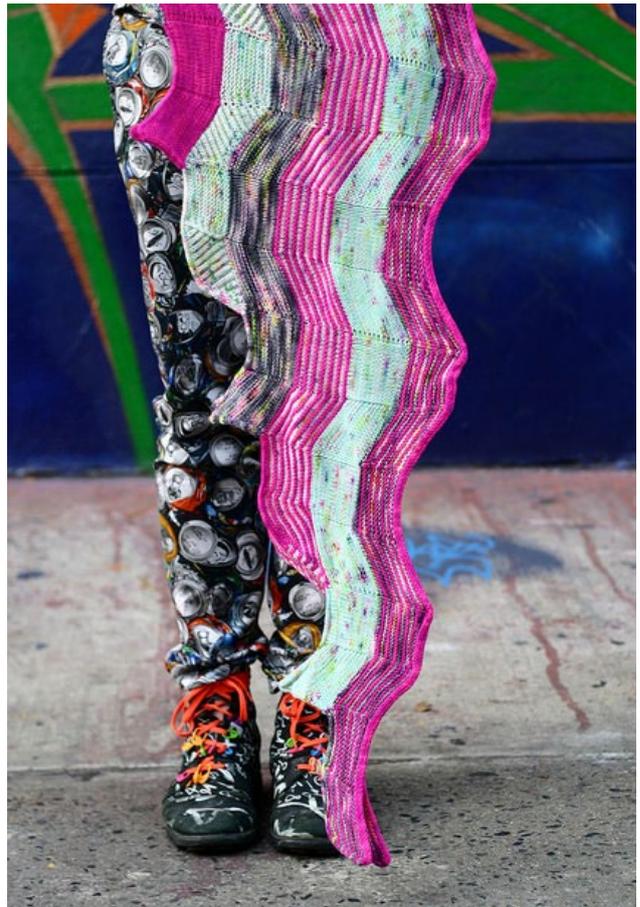
Row 1 (RS): K3, *p19, slm, k14, slm, repeat from * 10 more times, p19, k3.

Row 2 (WS): P3, *ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, p14, slm, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, p14, slm, repeat from * 4 more times, ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, p14, slm, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, p3.

Repeat last 2 rows 10 more times. Break color A.

SECTION 7

Row 1 (RS): Using B and with RS facing, slide sts to the other needle to work an I-cord with the last 3 sts. *Slip 3 sts onto left needle, k3, repeat from * 33 more times. There should be 34 total I-cord rows. Break color B.



Slide sts to the other needle to work an I-cord with the first 3 sts. Using B, k3, *sl3 sts onto left needle, k3, repeat from * 32 more times. There should be 34 total I-cord rows. Pick up and k19 sts along I-cord edge, pm, pick up and k14 sts along I-cord edge, pm, *ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, k14, slm, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, k14, slm, repeat from * 4 more times, ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, k14, slm, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, pm, pick up and k14 sts along I-cord edge, pm, pick up and k19 sts along I-cord edge, k3. 454 sts.

Row 2 (WS): P3, k to last 3 sts, p3.

Row 3 (RS): Using C, k3, *k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, k14, slm, ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, k14, slm, repeat from * 5 more times, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, k14, slm, ssk, k16, m1, k4.

Row 4 (WS): P all sts.

Row 5 (RS): Using B, k3, *k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, k14, slm, ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, k14, slm, repeat from * 5 more times, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, k14, slm, ssk, k16, m1, k4.

Row 6 (WS): P3, k to last 3 sts, p3.

Repeat Rows 3-6 four more times. There should be 6 color B stripes and 5 color C stripes.

Small Size Only

If you would like a small size shawl, do not break your yarn.

Medium & Large Sizes Only

Break colors B & C. Continue to SECTION 8 for medium and large sizes.

SECTION 8

Next Row (RS): Using d and with RS facing, slide sts to the other needle to work an I-cord with the last 3 sts. *Slip 3 sts onto left needle, k3, repeat from * 33 more times. There should be 34 total I-cord rows. Break color d.

Slide sts to the other needle to work an I-cord with the first 3 sts. Using d, k3, *sl3 sts onto left needle, k3, repeat from * 32 more times. There should be 34 total I-cord rows. Pick up and k19 sts along I-cord edge, pm, pick up and k14 sts along I-cord edge, pm, *k19, slm, k14, slm, repeat from * 12 more times, k19, pm, pick up and k14 sts along I-cord edge, pm, pick up and k19 sts along I-cord edge, k3. 520 sts.

Next Row (WS): P3, *ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, p14, slm, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, p14, slm, repeat from * 6 more times, ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, p14, slm, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, p3.

Row 1 (RS): K3, *p19, slm, k14, slm, repeat from * 14 more times, p19, k3.

Row 2 (WS): P3, *ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, p14, slm, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, p14, slm, repeat from * 6 more times, ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, p14, slm, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, p3.

Repeat last 2 rows 10 more times. There should be 24 total color d rows. Break color d.

Medium Size Only

If you would like a medium size shawl, do not break your yarn.

Large Size Only

Break color d. Continue with SECTION 9.

Skip to Small or Medium Size instructions or continue with SECTION 9 for a Large Size.

If you want to attempt the Large Size with SECTION 9, you will need approximately 140yds / 128m of each color. I used only 120yds / 110m of each color for my Hedgehog Fibres Skinny Singles version. If you are worried about having enough yardage and still want to achieve a large size, add extra colorful stripes using your leftover yarns to maximize your yardage.

SECTION 9

Four stitch markers are required for this section.

Row 1 (RS): Using A and with RS facing, slide sts to the other needle to work an I-cord with the last 3 sts. *Slip 3 sts onto left needle, k3, repeat from * 33 more times. There should be 34 total I-cord rows. Break color A.

Slide sts to the other needle to work an I-cord with the first 3 sts. Using A, k3, *sl3 sts onto left needle, k3, repeat from * 32 more times. There should be 34 total I-cord rows. Pick up and k19 sts along I-cord edge, pm, pick up and k14 sts along I-cord edge, pm, *ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, k14, slm, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, k14, slm, repeat from * 6 more times, ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, k14, slm, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, pm, pick up and k14 sts along I-cord edge, pm, pick up and k19 sts along I-cord edge, k3. 586 sts.

Row 2 (WS): P3, *p1, k17, p1, slm, k14, slm, repeat from * 16 more times, p1, k17, p4.

Row 3 (RS): Using B, k3, *k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, k14, slm, ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, k14, slm, repeat from * 7 more times, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, k14, slm, ssk, k16, m1, k4.

Row 4 (WS): P3, *p1, k17, p1, slm, k14, slm, repeat from * 16 more times, p1, k17, p4.

Row 5 (RS): Using A, k3, *k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, k14, slm, ssk, k16, m1, k1, slm, k14, slm, repeat from * 7 more times, k1, m1, k16, k2tog, slm, k14, slm, ssk, k16, m1, k4.

Row 6 (WS): P3, *p1, k17, p1, slm, k14, slm, repeat from * 16 more times, p1, k17, p4.

Repeat Rows 3-6 four more times. Then repeat Rows 3-4 once more. If you are concerned about not having enough yarn, add some extra stripes in this section with colors C or D. Make it your own! There should be 6 color A stripes and 6 color B stripes or 12 total garter ridges.

Small Size

I recommend binding off with color B.

Medium Size

I recommend binding off with color D.

Large Size

I recommend binding off with color A or color B if you have enough yarn. Otherwise, bind off with color C.



I-CORD BO (ALL SIZES)

Follow these instructions for a regular solid color I-cord BO or skip to the Striped I-cord BO.

BO all sts using an I-cord BO as follows, *k2, k2tog tbl, slip 3 sts onto left needle, repeat from * until all sts are bound off.

Break yarn and pull the strand through the remaining 3 sts.

Weave in ends and block the finished shawl.

Striped I-cord BO option

If you want to get fancy, try doing a striped I-cord bind off!

This variation is just like the regular I-cord bind off, but you are working 1-row stripes. For example if you are using colors A & B...

Using A, k2, k2tog tbl, slip 3 sts onto left needle.

*Using B, k2, k2tog tbl, slip 3 sts to left needle. Drop color B on top of color A and bring color A up to knit.

Using A, k2, k2tog tbl, slip 3 sts onto left needle. Drop color A on top of color B and bring color B up to knit.

Repeat from * until all sts are bound off.

Break yarn and pull the strand through the remaining 3 sts. Weave in ends and block the finished shawl.

BLOCKING

I recommend wet blocking the fabric by soaking it in cold water. Squeeze out the water and roll the shawl into a towel and squeeze or step on the towel to remove excess water. Lay the shawl flat. Pull and smooth the edges outward to expand the shape. I didn't use pins to stretch my fabric. However, you can use pins to stretch each corner/point of the wingspan and border if you would like a more severe shape.