

Cowl



Sizes: Small (Medium; Large) (in general, small is for children or teens, medium for teens or adults, and large for adults who want a less snug-fitting cowl)

Yarn: [A Secret Stash Ninja DK](#) (100% Merino; 255 yards [233 meters]/100 grams); Ebony & Ivory - one skein (one skein; one - two skeins)

Needles: one 16" circular needle in size US 6

Notions: Tapestry needle, stitch marker

Gauge: 24 stitches = 4 inches in stockinette

So let's get started! First, then, cast on 108 (126; 144) stitches loosely, place marker, and join in round. Then we'll knit a few set-up rows, as follows. To do this, we'll need the following notation:

fisherman's rib stitch (frs): knit next stitch in stitch below, slipping right-hand needle into stitch and then between the two stitches looped around the back of the stitch, such that you're knitting both the stitch on the needle and the top loop (see video below if this seems confusing)

And now that we're caught up on terminology, let's get started. As a side note, if you have any trouble with the long slip stitches (which, yes, use a lot of words to describe but are essentially just cables), remember that you can perform them exactly like cables, but with no cable needle, of course! :) Anyway, let's work like so:

Set-up Row 1: * k4, p2, k1, p2; rep from *

Set-up Row 2: * slip 1 stitch with yarn in back (sl1), k3, p2, k1 in stitch below, p2, k3, sl1, p2, k1 in stitch below, p2 *

Set-up Rows 3 & 4: * sl1, k3, p2, frs, p2, k3, sl1, p2, frs, p2 *

Set-up Row 5: * drop slipped stitch from needle, then slip the next three stitches from your left-hand needle to your right-hand needle purlwise, and, using your left-hand needle, pick up the dropped stitch, being careful not to twist it. Slip the 3 stitches you previously slipped back to left-hand needle and k4; then, p2, frs, p2, and slip the next three stitches from left-hand needle to right hand needle purlwise. Drop next, slipped stitch from needle, and slip the three stitches back to left-hand needle. Pick up slipped stitch, place back on left-hand needle, and then k4, p2, frs, p2 *

Knit these five set-up rows, and then we'll work the pattern, as follows:

Row 1: * k4, p2, frs, p2 *

Rows 2 - 4: * k3, sl1, p2, frs, p2, sl1, k3, p2, frs, p2 *

Row 5: * slip the next three stitches from left-hand needle to right hand needle purlwise. Drop next, slipped stitch from needle, and slip the three stitches back to left-hand needle. Pick up slipped stitch, place back on left-hand needle, and k4; then, p2, frs, p2, and drop slipped stitch from needle, then slip the next three stitches from your left-hand needle to your right-hand needle purlwise, and, using your left-hand needle, pick up the dropped stitch, being careful not to twist it. Slip the 3 stitches you previously slipped back to left-hand needle and k4, p2, frs, p2 *

Row 6: * k4, p2, frs, p2 *

Rows 7 - 9: * sl1, k3, p2, k1 in stitch below, p2, k3, sl1, p2, k1 in stitch below, p2 *

Row 10: * drop slipped stitch from needle, then slip the next three stitches from your left-hand needle to your right-hand needle purlwise, and, using your left-hand needle, pick up the dropped stitch, being careful not to twist

it. Slip the 3 stitches you previously slipped back to left-hand needle and k4; then, p2, frs, p2, and slip the next three stitches from left-hand needle to right hand needle purlwise. Drop next, slipped stitch from needle, and slip the three stitches back to left-hand needle. Pick up slipped stitch, place back on left-hand needle, and then k4, p2, frs, p2 *

Knit rows 1 - 10 until piece measures roughly 8" (10"; 12") and you've just finished row 5 or 10 of the pattern. Bind off loosely, in pattern (which means knitting the knits and purling the purls). Tuck in ends, block, and wear or gift proudly, meow.

Sugar Plum Cowl



This easy one-skein worsted weight cowl is a great beginner project or some easy ‘tv knitting’ for an experienced knitter. Worked in the round, there is no increasing or decreasing, just a simple 2 x 2 ribbing on each edge and some easy stockinette stitch. The skills required include knitting in the round, working the knit stitch, the purl stitch, and casting on and binding off. You might think a plain stockinette cowl would be kind of boring, but the yarn does the work here, so be sure to choose something pretty!

Yarn Choice

This is a great project for those single skeins of pricey yarn we often buy but don’t have a particular project in mind. And if you have a skein of hand-dyed or tonal or variegated yarn, the plain stockinette will show it off beautifully. Of course, expensive yarn is not a requirement. Choose any yarn that speaks to you. Or, dig into your stash and combine some leftovers.

My cowl weighs in at 92 grams and uses 184 yards [168 m] of [Madelinetosh Tosh Vintage](#). (Your yarn usage, even with the same yarn, will be slightly different. Always check your gauge.) If you are choosing a different yarn, any worsted weight yarn will work and a 100 gram/200-ish yard [182 m] skein is what you will need. Many of the popular worsted weight yarns come in 200, 210, or 220 yard

skeins per 100 grams. That's what you need. And this is a pattern that will show off a tonal or variegated yarn very well. The plain stockinette stitch allows the yarn colour to shine!

Cowl Construction

This cowl is worked in the round. When working in the round, always check that your cast-on stitches are not twisted before you join and begin knitting. The 2 x 2 ribbing is worked this way: *K2, p2; rep from * to the end of the round. Work this ribbing somewhat tightly to get a nice finished look. I always pull my yarn tight after the knit stitch and before the first purl stitch. This keeps gaps from forming between the ribs and makes the ribbing look tight and neat instead of loose and sloppy. Then, to work the stockinette section in the round, simply knit every stitch.

When casting off, you will cast off 'in pattern.' This means knit the knit stitches and purl the purl stitches while working the cast-off. Casting off in the 2 x 2 rib adds elasticity to the ribbing and matches the cast-on edge. Also remember to work the cast-off loosely. If this is difficult, use a needle one or two sizes larger.

Modifying Your Cowl

Of course, this pattern is modifiable. To make a longer cowl, that maybe hangs lower or even wraps twice around the neck, ***you will need more than one skein of yarn***. Cast on more stitches than called for in the pattern. You must cast on a total number of stitches that divides by 4. This is because the k2, p2 ribbing is worked over 4 stitches. How many more stitches should you cast on for a longer cowl? Use the gauge measurement to decide this. The gauge is 18 stitches for every 4 inches. To add 4 more inches, you would need 18 more stitches for a total of 118. This number does not divide by 4, however, so add 2 more stitches for a total of 120 (or reduce by 2 stitches for a total of 116). To add 8 more inches, you would need 36 more stitches. That divides by 4. Perfect! For a cowl that wraps twice around the neck, I would suggest doubling the number of cast-on stitches to 200. And if you do make a different size cowl, comment below and tell us how it worked out!

Sugar Plum Cowl Instructions

Materials

- 1 skein of [Madelinetosh Tosh Vintage](#) (100% superwash merino wool; 200 yd [182 m]/3.53 oz [100 g]). Shown here in Sugar Plum. Or, approximately 200 yards [182 m] of any worsted weight yarn.
- US size 8 [5.0 mm] 16 inch [40 mm] circular needle, or size needed to obtain gauge.
- 1 stitch marker.

Gauge

- 18 sts and 28 rows = 4 inches [10 cm] in Stockinette Stitch, worked in the round, after blocking.

Measurements

- Block to these measurements: 11 inches [28 cm] wide and 10.5 inches [26 cm] tall, laid flat. Cowl will shrink back a bit when dry.
- Finished measurements: Approximately 10.5 inches [26 cm] wide and 10 inches [25 cm] tall, laid flat, after blocking. Circumference of cowl is approximately 22 inches [56 cm].

Stitch Guide

- k2, p2 rib: *K2, p2; rep from * to end.

Abbreviations

- k – knit
- p – purl
- rnd(s) – round(s)
- st(s) – stitch(es)

Instructions

Cast on 100 sts. Place marker and join for knitting in the rnd, being careful not to twist the sts. Work k2, p2 rib until piece measures 1.5 inches [4 cm] from cast-on.

Knit until piece measures 8.5 inches [22 cm] from cast-on.

Work k2, p2 rib for 1.5 inches [4 cm].

Finishing

Bind off loosely in pattern (knit the knit sts and purl the purl sts). Weave in all ends. Wash and block to blocked measurements as shown below.

Pattern by Michelle Krause.

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Sailor's Rib Cowl



Sailor's Rib Cowl

I bought this yarn nearly a year ago, I believe, with the intention of making a nice scarf for my husband with it. But since he was never very enthusiastic about said scarf, it never got made. And then he renewed his determination to bike commute this winter and it dawned on both of us: he didn't need a scarf, he needed a cowl. A nice, snug, long cowl that he can pull up over his face when the temperatures dip into the teens and the winds are blowing. And, to be quite honest, I'm kind of amazed that the idea never occurred to me before. After all, while I doubt he'll start wearing this cowl as a new man fashion statement (not because it isn't pretty, but because I haven't seen many men in cowls), it tucks into a jacket with much less bulk than a scarf, and looks just as nice.

Yarn: Cascade Yarns Cascade 220 (100% Peruvian Highland Wool; 220 yards [200 meters]/100 grams); #9458 Bainbridge Island Heather - 1 skein

Needles: 16" circular needle in size US 7

Notions: Tapestry needle, stitch marker

Gauge: 20 stitches = 4 inches

So let's make this bad boy! First, cast on 100 stitches, place marker, and join in round. And then we'll move straight to the main pattern, which is Fisherman's Rib from page 4 of Barbara G. Walker's [A Second Treasury of Knitting Patterns](#), except adapted for the round. Anyway, it goes as follows:

Row 1: * p1, k2, p1, k1 *

Row 2: * p1, k2, p1, k1 through back loop (k1-tbl) *

Row 3: * p4, k1 *

Row 4: * p4, k1-tbl *

Knit rows 1 - 4 until piece measures between 8 and 12 inches, depending on preference (I stopped at 10"), and you've just finished row 2 of the pattern. Bind off loosely in pattern and tuck in ends.