

Willow Cowl

by Amelia Lyon, © 2008

This project is perfect for that single skein of sock yarn that you simply don't want to use for socks. Instead, display its beautiful colours around your neck to be in view all day long! This cowl scarf is ideal for dressing up a tank top or t-shirt on those cold winter nights, or for wearing with a jacket in the cooler seasons. It looks complex, but it is simply a combination of regular knit stitches, a basic decrease stitch, and yarn-overs.

Yarn: at least 350-420 yards of any sock yarn (pictured here: purple1 = Fibranatura Yummy; purple2 = Malabrigo Sock in *Abril*; multi = Fleece Artist Merino 2/6)

Needle: One 3.75mm (US5) 16" or 20" circular needle (or size needed to obtain gauge)

Notions: One stitch marker, one tapestry needle

Gauge: 24sts = 4" (approximately)

CO = cast on

BO = bind off

YO = yarn over

K2tog = knit two stitches together

CO 160 sts

Place marker at beginning of round. Slip this marker each time you pass the beginning of the round.

K 8 rounds straight.

K1 picot round: *YO, K2tog* (repeat from * to * around)

K 8 rounds straight



Picot edge: Fold the first eight rows inside so that they are back-to-back with the last eight rows. Picking up the first stitch of the cast on row, knit it together with the first stitch of the current row. Pick up the second stitch of the cast on row, and knit it together with the second stitch of the current row. Continue in this fashion until all 160 stitches of the cast on row are attached the back of the current work, creating a picot edge. (If you wish to skip this step, you may leave the picot edge for now and simply sew it to the back of your work at the end. See bottom of pattern for instructions)

K 1 round

K30, K2tog (repeat from * to * four additional times - five times total) 155 sts

K1 round

K29, K2tog (repeat from * to * four additional times - five times total) 150 sts

K1 round



Begin lace pattern:

* YO, K2tog * (repeat from * to * all around)

Repeat round for a total of twelve lace rounds

K1 round

K28, K2tog (repeat from * to * four additional times - five times total) - 145 sts

K1 round

K27, K2tog (repeat from * to * four additional times - five times total) - 140 sts

K1 round

K26, K2tog (repeat from * to * four additional times - five times total) - 135 sts

K1 round

K25, K2tog (repeat from * to * four additional times - five times total) – 130sts

K6 rounds

Work twelve rounds of lace pattern (2nd time)

K14 rounds

Work twelve rounds of lace pattern (3rd time)

K14 rounds

Work twelve rounds of lace pattern (4th time)

K 6 rounds

K24, K2tog (repeat from * to * four additional times - five times total) – 125 sts

K1 round

K23, K2tog (repeat from * to * four additional times - five times total) – 120 sts



K1 round

K22, K2tog (repeat from * to * four additional times - five times total) – 115 sts

K1 round

K21, K2tog (repeat from * to * four additional times - five times total) – 110 sts

K1 round

Work twelve rounds of lace pattern (5th time)

(At this point, you may have enough yarn left to complete a 6th repeat of the lace pattern, as seen in the picture on pages 2 and 3. Use your judgment – either creates a beautiful product)

K14 rounds

K1 picot round (K2tog, YO around)

K8 rounds

BO all stitches

Second picot edge: It is probably possible to finish the second picot edge in a similar way as the first one by picking up 160 stitches from nine rows down on the inside and binding off as you go. I have tried this however, and it proves to be way more frustrating than it sounds, and the results don't look as nice as if you simply bind off keeping a long tail, fold the last 8 rounds under your work, and sew the bind off edge to the back of your work, taking care that your stitches don't show through to the front.

* Another option is to use a second circular needle in the same size to pick up the 160 stitches from the cast-on edge, hold both circular needles together and knit each stitch together with its matching stitch from the edge. This may also be an option for the bind-off edge. I however have never actually tried it this way. If you have success with it, drop me a line!!

