

JUST KNIT IT

BY STITCHNERD DESIGNS



stitchnerd: Lang Nobile and Yak on 6mm (US 10)

For times when you don't want to have to concentrate on your knitting:

- all rows are identical
- the only stitches used are knit (k) and knit front and back (kfb).

This long narrow triangle-shaped shawl/scarf is worked bottom-up; so you can just stop when you've used all your yarn or when you like the size.

You'll need a total of approx. 400m of yarn in any weight and a needle size to suit and 2 stitch markers. It's knitted flat, but you'll need a circular needle to hold all the stitches.

You don't need to swatch: Just start with a needle size you think will work. If you like it continue; if not, restart.

Yarn choice: The original version alternated one solid colour with a self-striping for maximum effect with minimum effort. Of course, you could use just one yarn or more colours. Using yarns with slightly different weights could also produce an interesting effect (e.g. kid mohair and a heavier yarn).

Working with different colours: Be sure to twist your yarns at the edge by always picking up the new colour the same way (I always pick up from below.)

Don't pull the yarn too tight - this edge should have as much give as the opposite one, or your shawl will end up distorted. *Tip - Move the yarn balls when you change colours to prevent your yarns from ending up tangled - which will be very distracting!*

How to make it:

Cast on 3 or 4 stitches with the main colour.
(3 will be pointier; I used 4 because I wanted a slightly rounded tip).

All rows: kfb in first stitch, knit to last stitch, kfb in last stitch.

That's it - just turn and repeat, turn and repeat....

For a striped version, cast on with one colour and then start knitting with the other. Alternate yarns every 2 rows.

You can just stop and bind-off or work a border. If you are planning to work a border, don't break the yarn and be sure to leave enough yarn for the border of your choice. See pgs. 2-4 for 3 options.

Edging/border

If you only use one yarn for the shawl you don't need a border, but you could add a contrasting one. If you use more than one colour for the shawl, a border gives a nice finish at the edge and if you're sitting watching the television, why not?



1-row knitted border

I made my first shawls with a 1-row knitted border. This creates a nice corded effect at the edge. It works if you pick up your stitches right at the edge; otherwise you'll see the twisted yarns.

Before you start the whole edging, you could use some scrap yarn to do a little test on the edge where you have the twisted yarns. If you like how it looks then use this option, if not maybe try one of the others.

Work the body of the shawl until you are ready to stop and have enough yarn to work around the outside twice.

Use the longest circular needle you have or even two in the same size to hold all of the stitches.

If you only have one circular needle you'll need to squash up all the stitches. You may find it easier if you use an extra double-pointed needle to pick up the stitches in the corners. You can then transfer them to the circular needle; just be sure they are all even once on the circular needle.

1-row knitted border

Set-up row

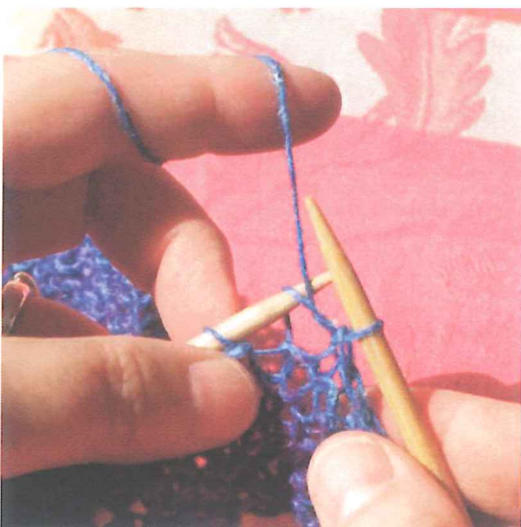
- Work 1 row in the border colour (this will be the top of the shawl).
- Pick up one stitch in the corner. Place a marker to identify the corner stitch.
- Pick up stitches down the side (I do this by poking the needle through and wrapping the yarn around and pulling through - the equivalent of picking up and knitting all in one).

I picked up one stitch for every row (two per ridge) - see photo.

- When you get to the end of this side pick up a stitch or several stitches for the tip (only one if you want it pointy). Place a marker to identify the center stitch.
- Pick up stitches all along the second side in exactly the same way as you did for the first side.



picking up stitches



placing the back loop back on the lh needle

Bind-off row

- Now turn your knitting so that you are on the wrong side.
- Knit 1 stitch, *kfb bind-off* * the next stitch.
- Now use basic bind-off (knitwise) to bind off until the stitch before the first marker. *Kfb bind-off* that stitch.
- Remove the marker. *Kfb bind-off* the next stitch.
- Continue with basic bind-off (knitwise) to the stitch before the second marker.
- Work 2x *kfb bind-off* in this corner the same way as you did in the other corner.
- Then work basic bind-off until you get to the last stitch. *Kfb bind-off* this stitch and then use the yarn end to join the stitches neatly.

**kfb bind-off (perhaps not its technical name ☺): bind off one stitch knitwise; then insert the needle knitwise into the bound-off stitch to place the back loop of the stitch back onto the left hand needle; knit into the back of this stitch and bind off again (2 stitches bound off).*

3-row knitted border

Work the set-up row the same as for the 1-row border. Turn your work so you are on the wrong side. Work two knit rows, working kfb in the first and last stitch of the row and also in the one stitch just before and just after each marker. Turn your work after each row. Then work the bind-off row the same as for the 1-row border.

Crocheted border

You could also use a crocheted edging (no crocheting skills required, just a hook which is approximately the same size as your knitting needle).

The advantage of this version is that it covers the twisted threads on the wrong side and makes the scarf/shawl completely reversible. Work one or two rounds of edging.

For this version bind off all the stitches along the top edge. Do not break the yarn. Transfer it to your crochet hook and then work right around the shawl pulling up a loop in the next stitch and then pulling the yarn through both loops. You can either work just along the two sides and leave the top edge with just the cast-off edge or work around all 3 sides. When you are ready to stop, cut the yarn and pull through the last stitch. Then join neatly.



crocheted edging (2 rows): courtesy of skyhooked

Other border options:

If there's a break in the action or you're feeling particularly motivated, you could also make an I-cord edging or use a picot bind-off, or get fancy with the crochet hook (maybe a scalloped edge).

Blocking:

A light blocking can give a nice finish to your shawl/scarf.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me on ravelry. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

For help, chat and maybe a KAL why not join the stitchnerds group?

We'd love to see how you [JUST KNIT IT](#), so don't forget to post your project and link to the pattern on ravelry to show us your stitches.