

Tracy's Shawl

Wendy D. Johnson



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Materials:

Yarn: 600 yards fingering weight yarn. The shawl pictured was knit using 133 grams of Aade Lông "Artistic 8/2" wool.

Needles: US size 6 (4mm), or size to get gauge, and for the cast-on only, a U.S. size 8 (5mm), or a needle two or three sizes larger than the size you use for the shawl. I recommend knitting this shawl back and forth on a circular needle at least 24" long.

Notions: stitch markers in two colors, tapestry needle for weaving in ends, blocking wires (optional) and t-pins for blocking.

Gauge:

Gauge worked in stockinette stitch using the smaller needle, unblocked, is about 5 stitches to 1 inch. Remember that gauge is not terribly important when knitting lace. If your gauge is dramatically off, however, it will affect the finished size of your shawl as well as the amount of yarn you need.

Size:

The unblocked shawl measures approximately 54" across the top and 26" down the center back. Blocked, it measures 62" across and 33" down the center back. These measurements are approximate because they depend on how severely you block your piece.

Abbreviations:

K – knit
P – purl
K2tog – knit 2 together
P3tog – purl 3 together
PM – place marker
PSSO – pass slipped stitch over
RS – right side
SL – Slip
SSK – slip one stitch as if to knit, then slip the next stitch as if to purl. Insert left needle into the front loops of the slipped stitches and knit them together from this position (through the back loops)
YO – yarnover
WS – wrong side

Notes:

To help you keep track of the pattern, use stitch markers in one color to mark the edge and center stitches (edge and center stitches are not shown on the charts) and use stitch markers in a second color to mark pattern repeats.

Odd-numbered (right side) rows only are shown on the charts. On even-numbered rows you will knit the first 3 stitches, purl across to the last 3 stitches, and knit those 3 stitches.

Set up the shawl:

Using the larger needle, cast on 309 stitches using a lace cast-on. Change to the smaller needle and knit 2 rows.

Work Chart A:

Row 1: K 3, *pm, work the first 19 stitches of chart, work across the 28-stitch pattern repeat 4 times, work across the remaining 20 stitches of chart, pm,* k1 (center stitch), repeat between * *, k3.

Note that you will decrease 1 stitch at the beginning and end of the chart on every odd-numbered row, so that at the end of Row 1 you will have on the needle 18 stitches before the first repeat and 19 stitches after the last repeat.

Row 2: K3, purl to the last 3 stitches, k3.

Work all 26 rows of Chart A, working the even-numbered chart rows as Row 2.

At the end of Chart A you will have 257 stitches on the needles.

Start Chart B:

Row 1: K 3, *work the first 24 stitches of chart, work across the 14-stitch pattern repeat 6 times, work across the remaining 17 stitches of chart,* k1 (center stitch), repeat between * *, k3.

Note that you will decrease 1 stitch at the beginning and end of the chart so that at the end of Row 1 you will have on the needle 23 stitches before the first repeat and 16 stitches after the last repeat.

Row 2: K3, purl to the last 3 stitches, k3.

Work all 24 rows of Chart B, working the even-numbered chart rows as Row 2.

At the end of Chart B you will have 209 stitches on the needles.

Work Chart C:

Row 1: K 3, *work the first 26 stitches of chart, work across the 14-stitch pattern repeat 4 times, work across the remaining 19 stitches of chart,* k1 (center stitch), repeat between * *, k3.

Note that you will decrease 1 stitch at the beginning and end of the chart so that at the end of Row 1 you will have on the needle 25 stitches before the first repeat and 18 stitches after the last repeat.

Row 2: K3, purl to the last 3 stitches, k3.

Work all 24 rows of Chart C, working the even-numbered chart rows as Row 2.

At the end of Chart C you will have 161 stitches on the needles.

Work Chart D:

Row 1: K 3, *work the first 28 stitches of chart, work across the 14-stitch pattern repeat 2 times, work across the remaining 21 stitches of chart,* k1 (center stitch), repeat between * *, k3.

Note that you will decrease 1 stitch at the beginning and end of the chart so that at the end of Row 1 you will have on the needle 27 stitches before the first repeat and 20 stitches after the last repeat.

Row 2: K3, purl to the last 3 stitches, k3.

Work all 24 rows of Chart D, working the even-numbered chart rows as Row 2.

At the end of Chart D you will have 113 stitches on the needles.

Work Chart E:

K 3, work across the chart, k1 (center stitch), work across the chart again, k3.

Row 2: K3, purl to the last 3 stitches, k3.

Work all 52 rows of Chart E, working the even-numbered chart rows as Row 2.

At the end of Chart E you will have 9 stitches on your needles.

Next row: (sl1 k2tog pss0) three times. 3 stitches remain.

Next row: p3tog and fasten off this last stitch.

Block Your Shawl:

Weave in all ends, and soak the shawl in warm water with a tablespoon or so of woolwash or a mild detergent for fifteen minutes or so. Rinse the piece in clear water of the same temperature and gently squeeze out any excess water.

Spread the piece out on your blocking surface and stretch it as needed to open up the lace pattern and pin it down, stretching out each point on the bottom edge. Use blocking wires if desired, and rust-proof T-pins to hold the knitted piece in place and let it dry completely.

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Chart Key

- K on RS, P on WS
- Yarn over
- K2tog
- Ssk
- S11 k2tog pss0



