KOMBU SCARF
A knitting pattern

This pattern is a present for everyone else who has spent way too much time knitting up beautiful but boring-to-make garter stitch scarves on oversize needles. I did a flock of these and was looking to work up something more interesting as an antidote. The Kombu Scarf was my result. The colors of the Schaefer Yarn’s Little Lola I had reminded me of a a photo of sunlit kelp forest, seen underwater. (Kombu is the Japanese word for kelp, I thought it sounded more graceful than the English).

Little Lola is a 100% Merino wool, marked as knitting up at 5 stitches per inch, although I like it better as a DK at 5.5 stitches = 1 inch. This merino yarn is soft and easy to wear next to the skin. No two skeins even of the same color number are going to be exactly alike, so even if you happen to find the same color I used, chances are that your scarf will look slightly different. That’s the joy of using an artisanal yarn. Every object knit is one-of-a-kind. This particular skein had more colors in it than other skeins of Little Lola I’ve used on other projects. My brown-green cycle lasted only a couple of stitches for each color before shifting to the next. The colors were particularly well chosen, and shaded into each other beautifully, with no harsh jumps or muddy sections between them.

If you don’t have any hand-dyed yarn available, this pattern would look quite nice in a solid color DK weight wool or wool blend, preferably a smooth-finish yarn that is soft enough to be comfortable against the skin.

Because the edging of this scarf is knit right along with the work, there is no seaming. Skills needed for this project include knitting two or three stitches together, ssk (a three-stitch version of the standard ssk decrease), doing a yarn over, picking up along an edge, and knitting an edging across a group of live stitches. As such, it covers some of the same skills as more complex lace pieces, and might be a nice intro for someone who is thinking of graduating to lace shawls in the future.

Materials
- US #4 (3.5mm) needles or size needed to achieve gauge.
- 1 skein Schaefer Yarn’s Little Lola - 4 ounces/280 yards (113g/256 meters)
- Two stitch markers, preferably in contrasting colors
- Tapestry needle for weaving in the ends

Special Instructions

Right Side
- K Knit
- P Purl
- YO Yarn over
- M1 Knit into the back of the bar between the stitch just knit and the next one to be knit. Note: Any increase that doesn’t produce an eyelet may be substituted
- K2tog Knit two stitches together
- K3tog Knit three stitches together
- SSSK Slip one stitch knitwise; slip 1 stitch purlwise; slip another stitch purlwise. Return all three stitches to the other needle, then knit them together. This forms a decrease equivalent to K3tog, but slanted in the other direction.

Wrong Side
- Knit

Gauge and Dimensions
Approximately 8 stitches = 1 inch in k1, p1 ribbing
Approximate finished dimensions of the sample scarf are 62 inches long by 5 inches wide (about 157cm x 13cm)

Instructions

Bottom Edge
Cast on four stitches
Row 1: K1, yo, k1, yo, k2 [6 st on needle]
Rows 2 and 4: Knit
Row 3: K2, yo, k2tog, yo, k2 [8 st]
Row 5: K3, yo, k2tog, yo, k2 [8 st]
Row 6: Cast off four stitches, knit 3 [4 stitches remain]
Repeat rows 1-6 until you have completed seven dags or points. As you finish the last dag, cast off seven stitches, so that only one remains on the needle.

Scarf Body
Pick up a total of 30 stitches across the top of the strip of edging you just completed, placing markers in this manner: pick up three stitches, place a marker. Pick up 23 stitches, place a marker, pick up 4 stitches. Note the color of the first marker you placed. It will be the first marker you encounter on all front (right side) rows. The other color marker will alert you that you should be doing a back (wrong side) row.

The side edgings will be knit at the same time as the scarf body. They will be offset by one row, so every row will start off with an even-numbered row of the edging pattern (usually all knits), and will end with an odd-numbered row of the
edging. The edging pattern repeats independently of the main pattern.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Row</th>
<th>Edging 4 to 8 stitches</th>
<th>Main Pattern - 23 stitches</th>
<th>Edging 4 to 8 stitches</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Set-up</td>
<td>K4</td>
<td>P23</td>
<td>K1, yo, k1, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 1</td>
<td>K6</td>
<td>K1, p1, sssk, p1, (k1, p1)6x, yo, p1, yo, (p1, k1)2x</td>
<td>K1, yo, k1, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 2</td>
<td>(P1, k1) to second marker</td>
<td>K2, yo, k2tog, yo, k2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 3</td>
<td>K7</td>
<td>K1, p1, sssk, p1, (k1, p1)5x, yo, p1, yo, (p1, k1)3x</td>
<td>K2, yo, k2tog, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 4</td>
<td>K7</td>
<td>(P1, k1) to second marker</td>
<td>K3, yo, k2tog, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 5</td>
<td>Cast off 4, k3</td>
<td>K1, p1, sssk, p1, (k1, p1)4x, yo, p1, yo, (p1, k1)4x</td>
<td>K3, yo, k2tog, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 6</td>
<td>K6</td>
<td>(P1, k1) to second marker</td>
<td>K1, yo, k1, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 7</td>
<td>K6</td>
<td>K1, p1, sssk, p1, (k1, p1)3x, yo, p1, yo, (p1, k1)5x</td>
<td>K1, yo, k1, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 8</td>
<td>K6</td>
<td>(P1, k1) to second marker</td>
<td>K2, yo, k2tog, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 9</td>
<td>K7</td>
<td>K1, p1, sssk, p1, (k1, p1)2x, yo, p1, yo, (p1, k1)6x</td>
<td>K2, yo, k2tog, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 10</td>
<td>K7</td>
<td>(P1, k1) to second marker</td>
<td>K3, yo, k2tog, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 11</td>
<td>Cast off 4, k3</td>
<td>K1, p1, sssk, p1, (k1, p1)7x</td>
<td>K3, yo, k2tog, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 12</td>
<td>Cast off 4, k3</td>
<td>(P1, k1) to second marker</td>
<td>K1, yo, k1, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 13</td>
<td>K6</td>
<td>K1, p1, sssk, p1, yo, p1, yo, (p1, k1)8x</td>
<td>K1, yo, k1, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 14</td>
<td>K6</td>
<td>(P1, k1) to second marker</td>
<td>K2, yo, k2tog, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 15</td>
<td>K7</td>
<td>K1, p1, sssk, p1, (k1, p1)9x</td>
<td>K2, yo, k2tog, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 16</td>
<td>K7</td>
<td>(P1, k1) to second marker</td>
<td>K3, yo, k2tog, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 17</td>
<td>Cast off 4, k3</td>
<td>K1, p1, m1, p1, yo, (p1, k1)9x</td>
<td>K3, yo, k2tog, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 18</td>
<td>Cast off 4, k3</td>
<td>(P1, k1) to second marker</td>
<td>K1, yo, k1, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 19</td>
<td>K6</td>
<td>K1, p1, p1, yo, p1, (p1, k1)6x, k3tog, p1, k1</td>
<td>K1, yo, k1, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 20</td>
<td>K6</td>
<td>(P1, k1) to second marker</td>
<td>K2, yo, k2tog, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 21</td>
<td>K7</td>
<td>K1, p1, p1, yo, p1, (p1, k1)5x, k3tog, p1, k1</td>
<td>K2, yo, k2tog, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 22</td>
<td>K7</td>
<td>(P1, k1) to second marker</td>
<td>K3, yo, k2tog, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 23</td>
<td>Cast off 4, k3</td>
<td>K1, p1, p1, yo, p1, (p1, k1)4x, k3tog, p1, k1</td>
<td>K3, yo, k2tog, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 24</td>
<td>Cast off 4, k3</td>
<td>(P1, k1) to second marker</td>
<td>K1, yo, k1, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 25</td>
<td>K6</td>
<td>K1, p1, p1, yo, p1, (p1, k1)3x, k3tog, p1, k1</td>
<td>K1, yo, k1, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 26</td>
<td>K6</td>
<td>(P1, k1) to second marker</td>
<td>K2, yo, k2tog, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 27</td>
<td>K7</td>
<td>K1, p1, p1, yo, p1, (p1, k1)2x, k3tog, p1, k1</td>
<td>K2, yo, k2tog, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 28</td>
<td>K7</td>
<td>(P1, k1) to second marker</td>
<td>K3, yo, k2tog, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 29</td>
<td>Cast off 4, k3</td>
<td>K1, p1, p1, yo, p1, (p1, k1)1x</td>
<td>K3, yo, k2tog, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 30</td>
<td>Cast off 4, k3</td>
<td>(P1, k1) to second marker</td>
<td>K1, yo, k1, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 31</td>
<td>K6</td>
<td>K1, p1, p1, yo, p1, k3tog, p1, k1</td>
<td>K1, yo, k1, yo, k2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 32</td>
<td>K6</td>
<td>(P1, k1) to second marker</td>
<td>K2, yo, k2tog, k2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continue working the scarf until you have completed 9 and a half repeats - stopping after Row 15. At that point you should have also just finished the first of the two cast off rows on the edging. At the completion of this row, seen from the front and counting across, you should have four stitches, a marker, 21 stitches, a marker, and 8 stitches.

Top Edge and Finishing

Cast off four stitches as usual to end off the last side-edge dag and set yourself up to knit the edging onto the top of the scarf.

On your needle you will now have four stitches, a marker, the 21 center motif stitches, a marker, and four stitches. Turn. Cast on three stitches. Turn. You will be starting the edging on the first four stitches on your needle. The remainder of live stitches across the top of the scarf will sit dormant (sleeping), waiting to be knit together with the stitches from the edging. In effect, you will be knitting the edging on to the live stitches across the top of the scarf, finishing off the work and eliminating the need to cast off along the entire top of the piece.

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Row 1: K3, k3tog, turn and head back in the other direction (that k3tog contains one edging stitch, plus two sleeping stitches from the scarf top).
Row 2: Slip the first stitch as if to purl, yo, k1, yo, K2
Row 3: K5, k2tog (that's one edging stitch, plus one sleeper). Turn.
Row 4: Slip the first stitch as if to purl; k1, yo, k2tog, yo, k2
Row 5: K6, k2tog (that's one edging stitch, plus one sleeper). Turn.
Row 7: Cast off 4 stitches. K2, k3tog (that's one edging stitch, plus two sleepers). Turn. Repeat rows 2 through 7 until you have completed 7 dags or points, working the last row like this:

Final row: Cast off 6 stitches. K3tog. Pass the previous stitch over the final stitch so that only one stitch remains on the needle. Pull the yarn through this final stitch, cut it and darn in all ends.

Kombu Scarf


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Center motif - 23 stitches, except on rows 15-16

Front Side
- Knit
- Purl
- Yarn over (eyelet increase)
- Make one (non-eyelet increase)
- Knit two together
- Knit three together
- SSSK - Slip, slip, slip, knit 3 slipped stitches together (like SSK, but with three stitches)

Reverse Side
- Knit
- Purl
- Yarn over (eyelet increase)
- Make one (non-eyelet increase)
- Knit two together
- Knit three together
- SSSK - Slip, slip, slip, knit 3 slipped stitches together (like SSK, but with three stitches)

All stitches that make up the edging repeats are shown in shading

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- Purl
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- Make one (non-eyelet increase)
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