

Spring Lightning Lacy Scarf

SPRING LIGHTNING LACY SCARF

A knitting pattern

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Here's another lacy scarf to combat giant needle/novelty yarn burnout. The center panel of this one is completed first, and then the fluttery zigzag edging is knit onto the existing center strip. The fanciful name comes from the strong zig-zag elements and the fluttery edging, whose petal-like eyelets reminded me of cherry blossoms shredded by the wind.

I used Greenwood Hill Farms' Two Ply Lace Weight Merino. Greenwood Hill is a small sheep-to-skein business located in central Massachusetts, USA. I found my yarn at a local sheep and wool festival. A scarf of the same dimensions as mine took about 500-550 yards because I had leftover from my 600 yards. Making a very conservative guess, I could probably have kept going for an additional two to three inches and come out with much less left over from my three full skeins.

I really enjoyed working with the Greenwood Hills yarn, it is the most buttery soft no-itch wool I have ever used. It's named "2-Ply Lace Weight" but I think it's closer to being closer to a very airy

fingering weight. There is additional texture interest in this yarn because of occasional puffier, less twisted, slubbier bits. I deliberately chose the most

uniform/least slubby skeins available. If you can't find this boutique specialty yarn, I'd suggest substituting any light, airy fingering weight yarn, preferably something with a traditional 2-ply type construction rather than something dense and tightly spun for socks. Possibilities include Jaeger 4-ply Alpaca and Rowanspun 4-ply. The Rowanspun is closer in look to the original, but it would be both a bit heavier/denser and slightly less soft than the Greenwood Hill laceweight.

The edging of this piece is knit onto the body of the scarf after the center strip is completed. The logic of the method isn't mine. I learned it doing the famous Forest Path Stole by Faina Letoutchaia, as published in the Summer 2003 issue of *Interweave Knits*.

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Skills required: Stranded knitting; following a complex long-repeat charted design; provisional crochet chain cast-on, preferably worked directly onto the knitting needle; Kitchener grafting.

Materials

- US #6 (4mm) needles or size needed to achieve gauge.
- 3 skeins Greenwood Hill Farm's 2-Ply Lace Weight Merino - 1.2 ounces/200 yards (34g/183 meters) This soft, fluffy hand-spun yarn comes only in white.
- Tapestry needle for weaving in the ends

Gauge and Dimensions

Approximately 7 stitches = 1 inch in stockinette; and approximately 6 stitches = 1 inch (2.5cm) following the zig-zag rib of chart segment C.

Approximate post-blocking finished dimensions of the sample scarf are 65 inches long by 10.5 inches wide (about 165cm x 26.7cm), measured from edging zig-zag point to edging zig-zag point across at the widest possible dimension. Before edging, the diamond motif ends should measure approximately 6 inches (15.25cm) across.

Pattern

Bottom Diamond Panel (Chart A)

Cast on 27 stitches using a half-hitch cast on. Purl one row, placing markers as follows: P1, place marker; P12, place marker; P12 stitches, place marker; P2 stitches. This will help you keep your place on two repeats of a 12 stitch wide pattern, plus three edge stitches.

Follow chart segment A, starting from Row #1 on the right side. CHART WARNING: Although it's not shown, ALWAYS work the first stitch of every row as a slip one knitwise; and the last stitch of EVERY row as a knit. Take care on rows 3 and 19 to move the center marker so that it remains in the center between the two 12-stitch repeats. After you complete Row #23, work one row of wrong-side knit then begin again with Chart A, Row 1. After completing the second pass of Chart A, work one row of purl for the reverse side before moving on to Chart B.

Eyelet and Welt Panel (Chart B)

Continue working from chart segment B, starting on the right side, with Row #1. After you have worked chart segment B one time, work one row of knit followed by one row of purl (not shown on the

Special instructions

These abbreviations and symbols are used in this pattern.

Right Side		Wrong Side
	K - Knit	Purl
	P - Purl	Knit
	YO - Yarn over (make an eyelet increase by laying the yarn on top of the needle)	Yarn over
	SSK - Slip one stitch knitwise. Slip 1 stitch knitwise. Return both stitches to the left hand needle, then knit them both together through the back of the loop. Any left leaning decrease may be substituted.	P2togb – Purl two stitches together through the back of the loop
	K2tog - Knit two stitches together	P2tog – Purl 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.	--

chart). Remember to ALWAYS work the first stitch of EVERY row as a slip one knitwise, and the last stitch of every row as a knit.

Long Center Zig-Zag Motif (Chart C)

Continue working from chart segment C, starting on the right side, with Row #1. Repeat rows 1-4 of chart segment C until your piece is approximately 48 inches (about 122cm) long, measured from the cast-on edge. Finish this segment by working one row of knit and one row of purl (not shown on the chart). Remember to ALWAYS work the first stitch

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of EVERY row as a slip one knitwise, and the last stitch of every row as a knit.

Eyelet and Welt Panel #2 (Chart B)

Continue working from chart segment B, starting on the right side, with Row #1. After you have worked chart segment B one time, work one row of knit followed by one row of purl (not shown on the chart). Remember to ALWAYS work the first stitch of EVERY row as a slip one knitwise, and the last stitch of every row as a knit.

Top Diamond Panel (Chart A)

Follow chart segment A, starting from Row #1 on the right side. After you complete Row #23, work one row of purl (not shown on the chart). Remember to ALWAYS work the first stitch of EVERY row as a slip one knitwise, and the last stitch of every row as a knit. Bind off VERY LOOSELY. I strongly suggest using needle two sizes larger to do the bind-off to ensure that it remains loose. Break off the yarn leaving a tail long enough for convenient darning in later.

Edging

Starting with the right side of the scarf facing you, measure up approximately two inches up from the cast on row along the left hand edge. This is where you will start attaching the edging. NOT beginning at a corner will make life much easier.

Using half-hitch cast-on (to make the final grafting join as un-bulky as possible), cast nine stitches onto a DPN. Hold the DPN with the cast on tail at the left, and the working yarn on the right. Using the tip of your needle, pull a large loop through a stitch on the left-most chain selvedge of your scarf's body. This works much like picking up a stitch along the edge, but the loop formed should be huge - around 18 inches of yarn. Now using this loop, work Rows 1 and 2 of Chart D. When you have completed the last stitch of Row 2, draw any remaining slack yarn from your oversize loop back to the rear of the piece, then pick up another oversize loop through the next chained edge stitch of the scarf body. Use this second loop to work Rows 3 and 4 of Chart D. Continue in this manner, picking up oversize loops and using them to work the next two rows of the 8 row Chart D repeat, all the way around the scarf.

Corners are not mitered. Instead they are handled by adding extra ease. To do this, about five selvedge chains before and after each corner, pull up a working loop through a chain at the edge of the scarf, work two rows of Chart D, and then pull ANOTHER loop through the same edge chain

stitch, effectively working four rows of the chart into one edge stitch unit of the scarf body. I find that this eases best if a "valley" - Rows 8 and 1 of the repeat coincide with the actual tip of the scarf corner. You may need to eyeball this and dither around with adding an extra loop unit of knitting to make everything come out even. Since this isn't a precision fit piece, and extra fullness isn't evident in the fluttery edging, kludging the corners this way is perfectly acceptable. When you get to the cast-on and cast-off edges you'll find that attachment is a bit more clumsy because it's harder to pick up stitches there than it is on the neatly chained side selvages. Do the best you can, remembering that your row gauge to stitch gauge ratio isn't 1:1. My own pick-up ratio was to skip every third stitch of the scarf body when picking up loops on the top and bottom of the piece.

You may also need to do some eyeballing and addition of a couple of extra rows after you have circumnavigated the entire scarf. Your last row should be Row 8. As you near your original first cast-on row (about 4 inches or so away) stop at Row 8 and count the remaining selvedge edge chain loops in your scarf body. Four are consumed in every 8-row repeat of Chart D. If you have fewer than a multiple of 4 selvedge loops, add an extra two rows of edging by pulling up a second working loop in one of the remaining selvedge chains. By doing this far from the attachment point you have room to make one or two spaced adjustments before ending off.

When you have completed your edging all the way around the scarf, and you've arrived back at the original attachment point, having completed Row 8 of Chart D, break off your yarn leaving a tail of about a foot. Draw the tail through the first selvedge chain (the stitch to which the first row of the edging is attached) then thread it through a tapestry needle, and graft Row 8 to the bottom of Row 1 using Kitchener grafting. Work the grafting in plain stockinette rather than trying to accomplish any sort of pattern in it. Finally, darn in all ends and your scarf is complete.

For lace to show to its best advantage, wet blocking is advised. Wash or dampen your piece. Find an area where it can be pinned out flat (a couple of thicknesses of flat sheets on top of a carpet works well). Starting from the center point of each side, and pinning across the piece to stretch it, pin it out gently stretching the lace. The sequence would be something like center top, center bottom; center left, center right, and so on. If you are using individual pins, place one in the tip of each point. If you are using blocking wires, thread them through the tip of each point, as shown to the right.

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Charts

On row 8 of Chart D, note that after you cast off five you have one stitch on your needle, knit the next five stitches. That remaining stitch plus the five knit make up the six that precede the YO on the chart.

