Cactus

Shawl

Size: As big as you like!

Yarn: 1 set of mini skeins for a small shawl, 160-200 g. Angel for a larger one

Needle: 3,5 – 4,5 / US 4 – 7 / UK 9 – 7

Gauge: 22 – 24 sts = 10 cm

This shawl has an i-cord edge on both sides which is created while you knit, and you also use an i-cord bind off. This gives you a nice, seamless edge all around the shawl, and you don't need to pick up any stitches at the end.

I have chosen to call the structured pattern in the middle «cactus pattern».

You increase on the right every row, and you decrease on the left every other row. This gives you an asymmetrical shawl.

This shawl is lovely as a gradient knit. You can use the minis (as mentioned above) or a variegated yarn like, for instance, Kauni.

If you use a small set of mini skeins (5x20 g), this will give you a small shawl. If you want a bigger shawl using the same set, you can add a thread of mohair. Alternately, 150-200 g of fingering weight yarn will give you a nice, big shawl. Make sure to use sufficiently thick needles, as the cactus pattern tends to scrunch.

Abbreviations:

WS   -   Wrong Side

RS   -   Right Side

k   -   knit

p   -   purl

slwyif - slip with yarn in front

slwyib - slip with yarn in back

M1L - make one left (left leaning increase)

M1R – make one right (right leaning increase)

k2tog - knit two together

k2togbl – knit two together through the back loop

Cactus Pattern:

If you don't have any experience with this type of pattern, it is a good idea to knit a swatch as follows:

Cast on 10 sts.

Row 1, WS: Purl

Row 2, RS: Knit

Row 3, WS: *sl1wyif, k1*, repeat *-* until the end of the row.

Row 4, RS: *k1, sl1wyib*, repeat *-* until the end of the row.

First you knit 2 rows stockinette, then you knit the cactus pattern. The slipped stitches should be right on top of each other, and you should have one purled and one knit stitch on top of each other on either side of the slipped stitches.

When you increase and decrease, you need to make sure that the abovementioned stitches stay on top of each other. As you increase, you expand the cactus pattern out towards either side. Check your swatch if you need extra clarification.

Pattern:

Cast on 9 sts. Turn

Row 1, WS: sl3wyif (= i-cord edge), p until 3 sts. remain, M1R (purled), s3wyif.

Row 2, RS: k3, M1L (knit), k until 5 sts. remain, k2tog, k3

Row 3, WS: sl3wyif, *k1, sl1wyif*, repeat *-* until 3 sts. remain, M1R (purled), sl3wyif.

Row 4, RS: k3, M1L (knit), *knit the purled stitch, sl1wyib (you're slipping the same stitch you slipped last row)*, repeat *-* until 5 sts. remain, k2tog, k3.

Repeat rows 1-4 until your shawl is the desired size.

I-Cord Bind Off

Start by knitting 3 times into your first stitch. Put those 3 stitches back onto your left needle. *k2, k2togbl, put all 3 stitches back onto your left needle*. Repeat *-* until the end of the row.

Using the kitchener stitch, sew the end of the i-cord you just created to the tip of the i-cord edge directly facing it.

Do the same thing on the other side.

I would love to see your finished project on Instagram! Use the hashtag #kaktussjal and mention me @hettestrikk if you like. Good luck! ♥

Elisabeth