

Little Twig

Luxury lace cowl

by Cheryl Niamath

This is a somewhat complicated but ultimately satisfying project that uses one skein of luxury laceweight yarn. Be sure to read the Helpful Hints section before starting.

Difficulty: Intermediate

Gauge: 30 sts and 39 rounds = 4"/10cm in twig lace pattern (blocked)

Finished measurements: 19" circumference (unstretched); 15.5" long.

Materials

1 skein cashmere or cashmere blend laceweight yarn (50g, approx. 247y/225m). I used one 50g skein of Chianti Sustainable Cashmere® Two-Ply, 85% Cashmere 15% Bamboo). This project took 44g, but it could easily be made one—or even two—repeats shorter or longer, depending on your yarn supply.

3mm 16" circular needle

12 stitch markers (one should be different from the others)

Tapestry needle

Pattern notes and abbreviations

CO - cast on

BO - bind off

Garner stitch in the round:

Round 1: knit all sts

Round 2: purl all sts

Repeat rounds 1 & 2 for garner stitch in the round

K2tog - knit 2 sts together

Rnd - round

Sl1-k2tog-ssso - Slip one, knit two together, passover:

slip one st knitwise, k2tog. Using the left hand needle tip, lift the slipped stitch up and over the k2tog.

SSK - slip, slip, knit

Sts - stitches

Stretchy bind off: work 2 sts in patt. Then, insert LH needle into front of the 2 sts just worked. Wrap yarn around RH needle and knit these 2 sts together. 1 st bound off. Continue in this manner until all sts are bound off.

YO - yarn over

Helpful hints

This project requires **a lot of concentration**. The stitch pattern is not easy to memorize, and it never really develops a rhythm. Don't try to work on it while looking after small children, watching anything with subtitles, or will be otherwise easily distracted.



twig lace, shown upside down

Place st markers after every 12th stitch, using a different style or colour to indicate the end of the round. This way,

- on lace rounds, you'll notice right away if you've made a mistake, because you'll have too many (or too few) stitches at the end of a **12-stitch** repeat.
- on knit rounds, you can make sure you have 12 sts between each marker. (If you end up with 13 sts but your repeat starts with a YO, check to make sure a YO hasn't slipped over the maker *before* trying to fix anything.)

Watch out for the YO at the end of the Rnd 5 repeat!

This twig lace pattern might look even nicer upside down.

Instructions

CO 132 sts using a stretchy method of your choice (I used the long-tail method), **and join to work in the round. Place marker to indicate beginning of round.** Work 4 rounds garter stitch.

Work 12 repeats Twig Lace pattern (chart below if you prefer):

Rnd 1: *Yo, k2tog, yo, k1, yo, k2, ssk, k1, k2tog, k2, repeat from *.

Rnds 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12: Knit.

Rnd 3: *Yo, k2tog, yo, k3, yo, k2, sl1-k2tog-*psso*, k2, repeat from *.

Rnd 5: *K2tog, yo, k2, ssk, k1, yo, k1, k2tog, k2, yo, repeat from *.

Rnd 7: *Ssk, yo, k2, ssk, k1, k2tog, k2, yo, k1, yo, repeat from *.

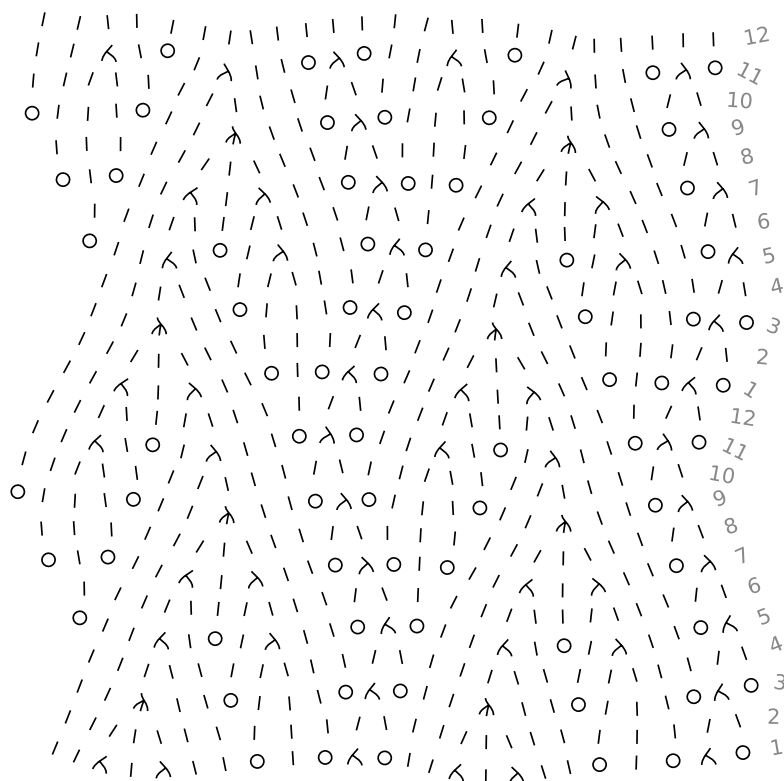
Rnd 9: *Ssk, yo, k2, sl1-k2tog-*psso*, k2, yo, k3, yo, repeat from *.

Rnd 11: *Yo, ssk, yo, k2, ssk, k1, yo, k1, k2tog, k2, repeat from *.

Work 4 more rounds garter stitch.

BO using stretchy BO.

Weave in ends, wet block.



↖	sl1-k2tog- <i>psso</i>
↘	k2tog
λ	ssk
○	yo
	k

Chart shows twig lace pattern worked over 24 sts