

Storm Cloud Shawlette

By Hanna Breetz



This airy, half-circle shawl is inspired by Elizabeth Zimmerman's pi shawl. It's beautifully simple.

It can be knit to any size, with or without a ruffle. Wear it draped over your shoulders like a small shawl or wrapped around your neck like a scarf.



Materials

Yarn: Fingering weight yarn, at least 150 yards, more if you want a ruffle. Drapier yarns recommended. (Note: The original gray shawllette used 150 yards of handspun mohair. The blue version with a ruffle used 210 yards of wool sock yarn from the Northeast Fiber Arts Center.)

Needles: Size 8 (5.0mm) circular needle, at least 24" in length.

Notions: tapestry needle

Sizing

Gauge: 4.5 stitches and 6 rows = 1 inch (but note: gauge doesn't matter too much!)

Size: The gray version is 36" wide and 14" deep. The blue version has a ruffle added to the edge, making it 41" wide and 16" deep. These are unblocked.

Summary

Here's the intuition behind it: You start with four stitches, which will be in the center of the half-circle. The shawl is shaped and enlarged by doubling the stitches at increasing intervals.

The stitch pattern is an elongated garter stitch: On the right side, you always do a row of [knit one, yarnover]. On the wrong side you knit the knit stitches and drop the yarnovers, except when you need an increase row, when you knit all the way across.

Pattern

Cast on 4 stitches

Row 1 and all odd rows: knit 1, {yarnover, knit 1} to end

Rows 2, 4, 10, 20, 38, and 72: knit across (note: this is what I call an "increase row")

All other even rows: knit the knit stitches and drop the yarnovers

The best way to remember where to put the "increase rows" is to count the number of plain garter ridges between them on the right side of the fabric. The first two increase rows have no plain ridges between them. The next one comes after 2 plain ridges, then 4, 8, and finally 16. (This might be hard to visualize before you start to knit it, but it will make sense once you start .)

For the grey version, I bound off after row 70, which is to say after the 16th plain ridge. For the blue version, I did the final increase at row 72, then knit 12 more rows in elongated garter stitch for the ruffle. Be sure to use a stretchy bind off, perhaps binding off on larger needles.

To make it bigger, just keep working in the set pattern: knit in elongated garter stitch until you have a section of 32 plain garter ridges, then do an increase row, then a section of 64 plain garter ridges, etc.



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