

SUNFLOWER DESIGNS

Turn Your Face to the Sun!

WAFFLING

A deeply textured infinity scarf

Size: 10 inches wide by 54 inches long

Materials: 4 skeins Malabrigo Twist (or 600 yds. heavy worsted)

Size 10 (US) needles (or to obtain gauge)

Cable needle, spare needle & yarn needle for grafting

Gauge: 5 st = 1 inch



A waffle is like a pancake with a syrup trap.

- Mitch Hedberg

I've waffled before. I'll waffle again.

Howard Dean



DIRECTIONS

Using the following provisional method, cast on 64 sts.

Provisional Cast On

Also known as an "invisible cast-on," since the waste yarn used can be pulled out later to allow the knitter to continue the knitting in the opposite direction. This cast-on is also the best method for double-knit fabrics, since the knitting has no boundary; the knitting is continuous from one side of the fabric to the other. Holding the ends of a waste yarn and the working yarn, make an overhand knot. Place a needle held in the left hand between the two yarns, with the knot below, the waste yarn held underneath and parallel to the needle out to the right, and the working yarn up and in front of the needle. Bring the working yarn down behind the needle and in front of the waste yarn; up behind the waste yarn and over-and-up then down in front of the needle; down behind the waste yarn; then up in front of the needle. Repeat for each two stitches. When desired number of stitches is reached, loosely fasten the waste yarn and work as usual with the working yarn. To take out the provisional cast-on, unfasten the end of the waste yarn and carefully pull it out, picking up the now loose loops on a needle and working from the opposite direction of previous work.

For a tutorial with pictures, go here:

<http://mimknits.com/wordpress/?p=379>

Now you are ready to begin your pattern.

Rows 1 & 5: Slip 1, k3, *k8; rep from * to last 4 sts. K4.

Row 2 & all WS rows: Slip 1, k3, purl to last 4 sts. K4.

Row 3: Slip 1, k3, *C4L, C4R; rep from * to last 4 sts. K4.

Row 7: Slip 1, k3, *C4R, C4L; rep from * to last 4 sts. K4.

Row 8: Work as for row 2.

Repeat these eight rows 42 times. Leave stitches on needle for grafting.

FINISHING

Carefully remove provisional tail as outlined above, slipping live stitches from cast on edge onto spare needle. **Using yarn needle, graft 2 halves together at back of neck as follows:**

Hold both knitting needles parallel with tips pointing in same direction and wrong (purl) sides facing inwards. Insert threaded tapestry needle into first stitch on knitting needle closest to you as if to purl and pull through, leaving stitch on knitting needle.

Then insert tapestry needle into first stitch on back needle as if to knit, leaving stitch on knitting needle. Pull yarn through.

These steps are only done once.

For clarity, I will from this point refer to the tapestry needle as TN, to distinguish it from the knitting needles.

Complete as follows:

1. Insert TN into first stitch on front needle as if to knit, while slipping it off end of needle.
2. Insert TN into next stitch on front needle as if to purl, but this time, leave it on needle.

Gently pull yarn through.

3. Insert TN into first stitch on back needle as if to purl, and slip it off end of needle.
4. Insert TN into next stitch on back needle as if to knit, and leave it on needle. Pull yarn through.

Sunflower suggestion: After you've worked a couple of inches, pause (being sure to complete step 4 so you'll know where to begin again) and check your tension. Too tight and you will feel a ridge on the backside of the fabric. Too loose and you will see unevenness in the fabric's front side.

Tighten up or loosen stitches by using end of TN to tug at each loop in turn, working from beginning of join towards last stitches worked if tightening, and from last stitches worked backwards if loosening.

It is easier to tighten stitches than to loosen them, so I recommend running yarn loosely through the stitches during the process of grafting, then adjusting tension on yarn to match gauge of knitting as closely as possible every three or four stitches. It may seem tedious, but will ensure a smooth join.

Sunflower suggestion: It is easy to lose track of where you are in the grafting process. Repeating to yourself "knit, purl -- purl, knit" while grafting helps. Don't worry; if you get off, you will be able to see it with the naked eye when adjusting your tension. Simply undo a stitch at a time, correct and move forward again.

Keep repeating steps 1-4, pausing to tighten up the stitches now and then until all the stitches are worked. The last two stitches remaining on the needle will require you to perform step 1 then go directly to step 3.

Should you want a thorough tutorial on grafting (with pictures!) I recommend Theresa Vinson Stenersen's excellent article, which I consulted for this pattern, found at the following URL address:

<http://knitty.com/ISSUEsummer04/FEATtheresasum04.html>

Weave in your ends & wear with pride. Scarf may be worn long or looped twice around your neck.

STITCH NOTES

C4L (cable 4 left): Slip 2 sts to cable needle & hold to front of work. Knit 2 sts, then knit 2 sts from cable needle.

C4R (cable 4 right): Slip 2 sts to cable needle & hold to back of work. Knit 2 sts, then knit 2 sts from cable needle.

Remember: always turn your face to the sun!

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<http://afewstitchesshort.blogspot.com>

Questions, comments, and corrections may be submitted by email to:

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