

Showcase Cowl



YARN

Approx 100g of 4ply yarn in a gradient of colours to hold double. This can also be made with 100g of DK yarn held singly.

Samples used WCY Miniball gradient (purple to green) – 10x10g of 4ply – 100g/500m total.

Alternative sample used 5x20g Kinross 4ply miniskeins (turquoise to grey) – 100g/410m total.

TENSION

20 sts per 4"/10cm over stocking stitch after blocking.

NEEDLES AND NOTIONS

4mm 60cm or 80cm circular (or size required to meet tension – you may prefer the fabric of a 4.5mm needle)

8 stitch markers – it helps if one is different to the other 7 to denote start of round.

Darning needle for weaving in ends.

SIZE

Approx 11.5"/29cm width when laid flat and 13"/33cm height.

This is a lovely simple pattern to knit and is great for showing off a delicious gradient of colours. Made more mindless by careful selection of stitch markers you can make the most of the yarn without having loads of ends to weave in! Techniques used are: knitting in the round, M1 increases, K2tog and SSK decreases.

The cowl is knit with two strands of 4ply held double. You will change colour as you knit to blend the gradient. Start with two ends of the first colour of the gradient, knit with that until you have used 75% of colour 1, then join in colour 2. Continue until colour 1 runs out then work with two strands of colour 2. Work with just colour 2 until you have about 25% of colour 2 left, then break off one strand of colour 2 and join in colour 3. Continue like this until the final colour, work with 2 strands of the final colour until it runs out.

Miniballs – 10g

As the Miniballs are wound as little cakes you should be able to find the inside and outside end of the ball fairly easily. As each miniball is 10g you will switch to the next colour when approximately 2.5g of it remain.

Kinross 4ply Miniskeins – 20g

Wind the skeins into cakes or centre-pull balls so you can use both ends of the same colour. Use each colour until about 5g remains before changing to the new colour.

You don't need to be exact about when you change colour, you can do it in the middle of a round wherever suits. To change colour I work with 3 strands for a few stitches and then snip any ends so I don't have to weave ends in. You will only ever change one strand at a time so it won't come unraveled. If you don't have scales to hand just guess when you're down to 25% of the colour – it looks better if it's not too exact!

Cast on:

With two ends of colour 1 cast on 136sts

Join in round being careful not to twist the sts, place marker to denote start of round.

1: [K17, PM] x7, K17

2: P

3: [K1, M1, K to 2 sts before marker, SSK, SM, K1, K2tog, K to marker, M1, SM] x8

4: P

(it helps to check how much yarn you've used for these 4 rows so you know how much to leave for the border at the end)

5: Repeat row 3

6: K

Rows 5 and 6 form the pattern, repeat these two rows until you are ready for the end border. Change colours as they are used up by following the directions at the start of the pattern.

Continue until you have about 7g of your final colour left (or the amount you used for the first 4 rounds), or earlier if you don't like the stress of playing yarn chicken. Ideally start the border after working a pattern row (row 3). Work the final border by repeating rows 2-4 then cast off loosely knitwise.

Abbreviations

Sts – Stitches

K – Knit

P – Purl

PM – Place marker

SM – Slip marker

M1 – make one by lifting the bar between the two sts on the left and right hand needle and knitting into the back of it. If you want you can make your increases symmetrical by doing a M1R followed by a M1L each side of the marker. To do a M1R you need to pick up the bar from back to front then knit into it, where as for the M1L you pick up the bar from front to back then knit into the back of it.

SSK – slip slip knit – slip the next two sts knitwise separately, then insert the left hand needle into them and knit them together. This can also be worked as a knit two together through back of loop (K2togTBL)

K2tog – knit two together



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