

THAT NICE STITCH (COWL)

by Stitchnerd Designs



stitchnerd: Malabrigo Sock yarn on 4mm (US 6)

Yarns: I used Malabrigo for the original, but you can use any similar variegated yarn.

The stitch also works well with semi-solids.

I did try the stitch with self-striping yarn, but found it didn't work very well.

Use the weight of your choice: for a double loop allow about 250-400m (280-440yds) . For a single loop: allow the same amount for a deep one or a little more than half that for a narrower one.

If you want to make a huge version, allow even more yarn.

Gauge: isn't critical, but will affect size and yarn requirements (the tighter you knit, the more yarn you'll use).

Needle size and yarn choice: A needle size that will produce a gauge you like in stockinette.

Needle size suggestions (for knitters with average tension - if you are a tight or loose knitter adjust up or down accordingly):

fingering/sock: approx. 4mm (US 6)

DK: 4.5 - 5mm (US 7 or 8)

Worsted/Aran: approx. 5mm (US 8)

Abbreviations

p	purl
k	knit
kfb	knit into the front and back loops of the stitch (makes 1 new stitch)
k2tog	knit 2 together (reduces by one stitch)
sl	slip stitch (purlwise)
pw	purlwise
wyif	with yarn in front (front being the side of the knitting facing you as you work)

[For ideas of specific yarns that work well, why not check out the THAT NICE STITCH or G'DAY BOOMERANG projects on ravelry - or join us in the stitchnerds group?](#)

[And don't forget to post pics of your cowl so we can see how your yarns work with the pattern.](#)

Making the cowl: Using your favourite method of provisional cast-on and waste yarn, cast on 42 stitches (or any other even number - see page 3 for sizing tips).

Work 2 set-up rows:

Set-up Row 1 (rs): kfb, knit to the last 2 stitches, k2tog.

Set-up Row 2 (ws): sl1 pw wyif, purl to the last stitch, then sl1 pw wyif.

Now alternate **textured sections** (12 rows) and **stockinette sections** (4 rows) until you have the length you want.

Stop any time, but always after a Stockinette Row 1. Then kitchener/graft together the two ends. Once you have joined to the set-up rows, the cowl will be seamless and you'll be able to wear either side as the "right side" (see photo on page 3) or show a bit of each (see ravelry).

If you want to test the size, I recommend using a circular needle or a bit of waste yarn to roughly "baste/tack" the two sections together.

Textured section (12 rows)

TS Row 1 (rs): kfb, * p1, sl1 pw wyif - repeat from * to the last 3 stitches, then p1, k2tog.

TS Row 2 (ws): sl1 pw wyif, * p1, k1 - repeat from * to the last stitch, then sl1 pw wyif.

TS Row 3: kfb, knit to the last 2 stitches, then k2tog.

TS Row 4: sl pw wyif, purl to the last stitch, then sl1 pw wyif.

Repeat these 4 rows, 3 times in total (= 12 rows).

Stockinette section (4 rows)

Stockinette Row 1 (rs): kfb, knit to the last 2 stitches, k2tog.

Stockinette Row 2 (ws): sl1 pw wyif, purl to the last stitch, then sl1 pw wyif.

Repeat the 2 rows, once more (= 4 rows).

Note: If you count the stockinette rows on the knitting you'll have 6 rows (2 from the textured section plus these 4).

Extra tips

Weave the ends in neatly and you'll be able to wear both sides as the right side (photo on pg. 3).

If you have to join yarn, don't do it right at the edge - this creates a lump - join about 5 stitches from the edge.

Sizing and swatching tips

The original double loop was knitted using Malabrigo sock yarn and 42 stitches.

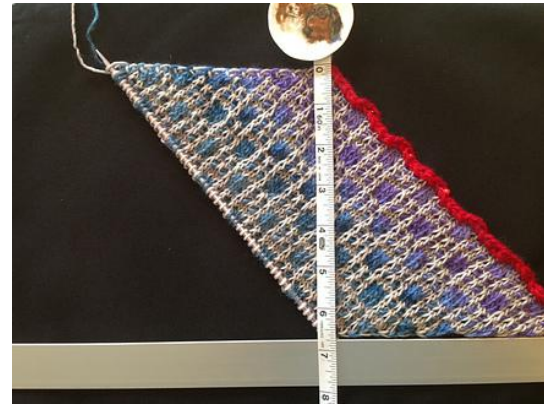
My gauge was approx. 22 stitches per 10cm/4" and the depth is about 13cm/5".

I didn't want it too deep because it would be doubled. The length is approx. 120cm/48".

For a cowl like this knitted on the bias and with a limited number of stitches, I tend not to make a small swatch. I just cast on the number of stitches I think I'll need, knit a couple of rows and then check the size.

If it's working I keep going; if not, then I just consider that an oversized swatch and figure out how I want to adjust it and start again.

The photo shows how to position your knitting for measuring - you can actually measure with fewer rows, just measure down to the straight line you create with the ruler.



covelady

Note: the photo shows a PaintBoxes cowl, but the principle is the same for all bias cowls.

So how many stitches?

It can be any even number.

You can use the 42 stitches I used for the sock weight version as a starting point for your calculations.

If you use the same number of stitches with DK weight you'll get a deeper cowl (about 13cm/6").

Other examples:

For a cowl using sock yarn but 50% deeper, use 64 stitches ($42 + 21 = 63$, but you need to round up or down to get an even number).

If you want it to be about 30% deeper, then use 56 stitches: ($1/3$ of $42 = 14$; $42 + 14 = 56$). For double the depth, use 84 stitches.

Riverwaters used 60 stitches with aran-weight Malabrigo to make a really tall single loop - 10"/25cm - you can see it on ravelry.



Wrong side while knitting, but also looks "nice" as the right side. ☺