



Very Simple Garter Stitch Shawl

a pattern in notes by Annmarie Aquino
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Very Simple Garter Stitch Shawl, page 2

This simple shawl is meant to be knit with worsted or aran weight wool on US 7 or US 8 needles. The size of the shawl is determined by the weight of the yarn and how many yards you use. A good sized shawl can be knit with 500 or so yards of wool. This triangular shawl increases in width by working four yarnovers on every other row, one at the beginning and one at the end of the right side rows, and one on either side of the center stitch.

After a few rows have been worked, it might be helpful to place a safety pin on the front side of the shawl near the beginning of the row to help keep track of which rows you are working the yarnovers on. By knitting through the back loop of the yarnovers, the holes that are created are snugged up. If you like the look of the eyelets running along the edges of the shawl and on either side of the center stitch down the back, simply knit the yarnovers in the usual way.

k: knit

k1tbl: knit stitch through the back loop

YO: yarn over

PM: place marker

SM: slip marker

RS: right side

WS: wrong side

The **k1** in boldface is the center stitch. You will be making yarnover increases on either side of this center stitch on every right side row. You can either place a stitch marker on either side of this center stitch or place a safety pin directly in the stitch. I prefer to use the stitch markers since I don't have to remember to keep moving the safety pin up as I'm knitting.

To set up for knitting, cast on five stitches. Knit across and turn work.

Row 1 (RS): K1, YO, k1, YO, PM, **k1**, PM, YO, k1, YO, k1.

Row 2 (WS): K1, k1tbl, k1, k1tbl, SM, **k1**, SM, k1tbl, k1, k1tbl, k1.

Row 3: K1, YO, knit to marker, YO, SM, **k1**, SM, YO, knit until last stitch, YO, k1.

Row 4: K1, k1tbl, knit until yarnover from previous row, k1tbl, SM, **k1**, SM, k1tbl, knit until yarnover from previous row, k1tbl, k1.

Repeat rows 3 and 4 until the shawl is the size you want or until you have only enough yarn left to bind off!

Very Simple Garter Stitch Shawl, page 3

To work an attached I-cord border, you will need to use either the same yarn that you knit the shawl with or a different yarn of the same weight. You will need to have two double pointed needles of the same size or one size larger than the needles you used to knit the shawl. It's important that the I-cord be knit fairly loosely or it will cause the shawl draw up and not hang right.

To begin the I-cord, pick up a number of stitches along the edge of the shawl, starting at a corner, with one of the double pointed needles. It might be easiest if you pick up only ten or so stitches at a time.

Using the border yarn, cast three stitches onto the other double pointed needle and then slip these three stitches onto the needle holding the stitches from the shawl edge. Using the now freed up double pointed needle, knit two of the border stitches and then knit the last border stitch together with one stitch from the shawl edge, through the back loops of these stitches. You will now have three stitches on the right hand needle again.

Slip these stitches back onto the needle holding the shawl edge stitches, bring the yarn around the back of the needle, keeping the knitting facing you. It's important NOT to turn the work at any time, or you will not form the I-cord. Knit two stitches, then knit the last border stitch together with the next stitch from the shawl edge, through the back loops of these stitches.

Keep repeating the steps from * to * across the first edge of the shawl. Every now and then you will need to pick up more stitches from the edge of the shawl as you work your way around the shawl.

When you reach a corner, you will want to work a few I-cord stitches unattached so that the cord can form a nice point at the corner. Here's how to do it. **Slip the three stitches from the right needle onto the needle holding the shawl edge and knit all three stitches without knitting the third stitch together with an edge stitch.** Slip the stitches back again to the left needle and repeat between the ** ** once or twice more until you see that the I-cord is able to curve around the corner without pulling.

Once you've rounded the corner, you go back to knitting the I-cord attached as in the first set of directions between the single asterisks. When you have worked your way all the way around the shawl and are back to where you began the attached I-cord, you might want to work one row of unattached I-cord before you bind off the three stitches. Sew the end of the I-cord, tucking it in as necessary to make as invisible a join as possible, to the beginning of the border.