

THE CHAIN REACTION SCARF



BY CONNIE (FAIRYSPUNFIBERS)

A simple, fast, no-purl-stockinette-rib-that's-really-just-plain-garter-stitch (or something like that) scarf. Because this really is garter stitch, this fabric doesn't curl at all and it will look the same both front and back. It also has good stretch width-wise, but little lateral stretch; typical of garter stitch. Due to the slubbed & slightly thick-and-thin nature of the yarn, the edges and stitches will be somewhat uneven, so don't think it's your knitting! The unevenness just adds to its charm. The loose gauge achieved by using comparatively large needles (U.S. 8) gives the yarn a very slinky, silky "hand". It feels like a million bucks around the neck!

The "No-Purl Stitch" is called "Brioche Stitch" in *A Treasury of Knitting Patterns*, compiled by Barbara Walker. This is not a true brioche stitch as the stitches below the working ones on the needles are never knitted into (which makes life a whole lot easier, I think).

While there are any number of ways to begin the scarf: seed stitch, garter or k1/p1 ribbing, I've found that simply starting the scarf with the No-Purl Rib Stitch immediately after cast-on seems to work best, but it's knitter's choice - of course!

Materials:

Berroco Seduce (2 skeins); 100 yards, 40 gm; 47% Rayon, 25% Linen, 17% Silk, 11% Nylon;

Earth Stone #4430 used for scarf model

Size US 8 (5mm) needles or whatever size gives you a fabric you like. This particular yarn should not be knitted tightly!

Abbreviations:

k: knit

yo: yarn over

sl: slip

k2tog: knit 2 together

No-Purl Rib Stitch Pattern:

Row 1: (set up row - worked only once): *yo, sl 1 as if to purl, k1; repeat from *

Row 2: *yo, sl 1 as if to purl, k2 together (slip stitch and yo from previous row); repeat from *

Directions:

I used 18 stitches, with 2 stitches on each edge worked in plain garter and the middle 14 stitches knitted in the No-Purl Rib stitch. The garter edges can be made wider, narrower or left out; I simply don't like starting rows with yarn-overs!

Here are the directions for my original version of the scarf, which began with a few rows of seed stitch:

Cast on an even number of stitches. 18 st will give you about a 2.5-to-3 inch width.

Knit 6 to 8 rows of seed stitch (or your choice) border - or no beginning border at all.

Row 1: k2, * yo, sl 1, k1; rep from *; k2.

Row 2: k2, * yo, sl 1, k2tog; rep from *; k2

Repeat Row 2 only, until your scarf is long enough for you, or until you run out of yarn. End the scarf with 6-8 rows of seed stitch, if you started out that way. You can save a bit of yarn from the 2nd skein for fringe, if you like. If fringe is added, each end should be knotted and a dab of Fray-Check or clear-drying glue added.

Wash very gently in luke-warm water, rinse, roll in towel and squeeze dry (never twist or wring the item!). Lay flat to dry, shaping the edges.