

Back & Forth Neckwarmer Cowl

By Donna Herron



This colorful cowl was designed using slipped stitches and knit stitches to imitate the look of weaving. Similar to my Reindeer Tracks Cowl pattern, this cowl pattern was created to show off the changing colors of variegated yarn but would also look wonderful in a solid color. This pattern is easy and appropriate for beginners who are familiar with knitting in the round and slipped stitches.

This pattern is shown as a long cowl that can be doubled around the neck for a snug fit (about 36 inches in length). However, you can adjust it to knit a shorter draping cowl, or make it longer for a looser doubled cowl. Please remember: the slipped stitches can tighten up your gauge as you knit. Be careful not to pull the yarn carried in front or behind the stitches too tightly, as it will make it difficult to knit and pull the cowl out of shape. If you are a tight knitter, you may need to use a needle size or two larger.

My Materials

about 200 yards of worsted weight yarn (I bought this beautiful variegated merino yarn from Insouciant Studios on Etsy.com)

Size #7 and #8 circular needles (20 inch length) or size needed for gauge

one stitch marker

Knitting Gauge

4.5 stitches per inch or 18 stitches = 4 inches

Terms Used in this Pattern

rnd = round

sl = slip stitch (all stitches in this pattern are slipped purlwise)

yb = bring yarn to back of work

yf = bring yarn to front of work



Sizes

I cast on **184 stitches** for my long cowl. If you would like a shorter cowl that slips on and off easily with a little drape, I would suggest casting on **120 stitches**. If you would like a longer, doubled cowl with a looser fit than mine, cast on **220 stitches**.

You can adjust the length as you choose using stitches in **multiples of 4**.

To Begin:

Cast on desired number of stitches on a #7 needle and join in the round. Be careful not to twist stitches. Place marker at end of round.

Knit 5 rounds in k2, p2 ribbing. Change to larger needle and begin pattern as follows:

Rnd1: *P1, yb, sl 1, yf *, repeat to end of rnd.

Rnd 2: *K2, yf, sl 2, yb*, repeat to end of rnd.

Rnd 3: *K2, yf, sl 2, yb*, repeat to end of rnd. (same as Rnd 2)

Rnd 4: *Yb, sl 1, yf, p1*, repeat to end of rnd.

Rnd 5: *Yf, sl 2, yb, k2*, repeat to end of rnd.

Rnd 6: *Yf, sl 2, yb, k2*, repeat to end of rnd. (same as Rnd 5)

Rnd 7: *Yb, sl 1, yf, p1*, repeat to end of rnd.

Rnd 8: *K2, yf, sl 2, yb*, repeat to end of rnd.

Rnd 9: *K2, yf, sl 2, yb*, repeat to end of rnd. (same as Rnd 8)

Rnd 10: *P1, yb, sl 1, yf*, repeat to end of rnd.

Rnd 11: *Yf, sl 2, yb, k2*, repeat to end of rnd.

Rnd 12: *Yf, sl 2, yb, k2*, repeat to end of rnd. (same as Rnd 11)

Repeat rounds 1-12 until cowl measures 6 inches from cast on edge or desired height. Switch back to #7 needle and knit 4 rnds in k2, p2 ribbing. Then bind off in pattern and weave in ends.

Blocking

Because the slipped stitches can collapse on themselves a bit when knitting, this pattern can benefit from some gentle blocking. When pinning the piece down, you might want to stretch it a bit in height *gently* to open up and show off the stitch pattern.



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