

Cloudsoft Cowl

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This simple 2x2 rib extra roomy cowl is a great way to use up an extra skein or two of Rowan Kidsilk Haze or any other fuzzy laceweight yarn.

Designed to use up just about every last inch of your yarn, and to stretch to loop around your neck twice, you can wear it doubled up and cozy under your chin, with one half pulled down so it drapes decoratively while the upper half is snug under your neck, or draped around your shoulders like a lightweight shoulder wrap that won't fall off. Quick to knit, this is a lovely cloudweight treat to wear, and will keep you cozy through the chilly weather!

SIZE

Sample is approximately 42 inches around (21 inches across when laid flat) and 11 inches high, unstretched, before blocking (one size fits most)

MATERIALS

Alchemy Haiku (60% mohair, 40% silk; 325 yd/297 m per 25 g skein); color used in sample knit: foxglove

Suggested substitute yarn: Rowan Kidsilk Haze (70% mohair, 30% silk; 229 yd/209m per 25 g skein)

32 inch US #5 circular needle

NOTIONS (OPTIONAL)

Consider using a half dozen or so stitch markers to help you stay on track with the ribbing with this fuzzy yarn - I placed them more or less evenly around my work following two purl sts, so that I knew whenever I came to a marker and slipped it, the next two sts in the rib were knit sts.

GAUGE

16 sts = 4 inches in 2x2 rib (row gauge is not critical)

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PATTERN

Cast on 172 stitches - use your preferred cast on method; sample was worked using the knit on method.

DO NOT JOIN (first two rows are worked flat to be sure work does not end up twisted in the round - if you are very sure of yourself, feel free to work row 1 and then join your work in the round and continue working in 2x2 rib). Working the first two rows flat also gives you the chance to see if the cowl is the right size, or if you might like to adjust your st count.

Row 1: (k2, p2) across

Row 2: work all sts as they appear

Row 3: work all sts as they appear; when you come to the end of row, without twisting, join work in a circle

Continue working in rib, working all sts as they appear

Work in 2x2 rib until your work is approximately 11 inches tall OR you are nearly out of yarn - be sure to leave enough for your bind off row.

Bind off in rib *loosely*- use a larger needle size if you know you tend to bind off a bit tightly, or consider using the Yarn Over Bindoff (you can find instructions here:

<http://www.knitty.com/ISSUEfall09/FEATjssbo.php>).

FINISHING

Weave in ends. Block if desired. If you notice the piece stretching out and becoming wider, gently stretch it by pulling on the CO and BO edges to get back to the original height. Experiment with different ways to wear your Cloudsoft Cowl!



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