Betty & Veronica Scarf

by Sarah Core

This scarf, named after two infamous girls constantly vying for one man's heart, will war with yours as well. Designed to showcase complementary handspun and single ply yarns, I conceived of this idea after seeing so many great yarns that didn't have much yardage to them. What could you do with 50 yards here, and another 75 yards there? The unlikely answer is to pair them together. Just like Betty & Veronica are better when they are bickering, some yarns shine when they share the spotlight.

Suitable for beginner and intermediate level knitters, this scarf uses a technique called ruching, where the fabric is pulled together to create a lift through a dramatic amount of increases and decreases. Two versions are available, the simpler girl-next-door "Betty" that has a simple, clean ribbed edging and the more flamboyant, dramatic ruffled edging of "Veronica." It's easily adaptable as either a neckwarmer or a full-fledged scarf, depending on how much yarn you have in your possession. Knit lengthwise so that you never "run out" of yarn, this scarf features a soft ribbed edging and a ruched center panel to create texture and interest. Sizing is provided for scarf and slightly shorter neckwarmer versions.

MATERIALS

75 – 100 yards / 69 – 91 meters of worsted, aran or bulky weight yarn (MC)
40 - 85 yards / 37 – 78 meters of worsted, aran or bulky weight yarn (CC)
Size 8 to 10 US (5.0 to 6.0 mm) circular needles, or size needed to obtain correct gauge
Tapestry needle

GAUGE

Gauge is not really important, but if you are a stickler it should be as follows in St st:
Worsted: 4.5 stitches = 1 inch on 8 US needles
Aran: 4 stitches = 1 inch on 9 US needles
Bulky: 3.5 stitches = 1 inch on 10 US needle

THE BETTY

Split the CC yarn evenly into two balls based on weight.

Using half of CC, cast on 180 [160] stitches.

Row 1: *k2, p2 * rep from * to * end of row to create ribbing.

Rows 2-5: Repeat row one.

Row 6: Change to MC and continue k2, p2 ribbing.

BEGIN RUCHED CENTER PANEL:

Row 7: *k1, k2tog* rep from * to * end of row.

Row 8: Purl.

Row 9: kfb. Rep to end of row. Stitches are doubled.

Row 10: Purl.

Rows 11-20: Knit in St st for 10 rows or until center panel is about 3 inches wide. (want a challenge? See end of pattern.)

Row 21: k2tog. Rep to end of row.

Row 22: Purl.

Row 23: *k1, kfb* rep from * to * end of row. Stitches return to original amount.

Row 24: Change to CC. *k2, p2* rep from * to * end of row to create ribbing

Rows 25-28: Repeat Row 24.

BO in pattern. Weave in all ends. Wrap it around your neck and enjoy!

Keep in mind that pairing together two different weights of yarn could dramatically change the way your scarf looks. If you use a thicker yarn for the center panel (MC) than the edging (CC), your ruffled border could turn out ribbed, even if that wasn't the look you were going for. Naturally, the reverse is true as well – if you want your border to be extra ruffled, make sure the yarn weight for CC is thicker.

THE VERONICA

Split the CC yarn evenly into two balls based on weight.

Using half of CC, cast on 200 [180] stitches.

Row 1: *k2, p2 * rep from * to * end of row to create ruffle.

Rows 2-5: Repeat row one.

Row 9: kfb. Rep to end of row. Stitches return to original amount.

Row 10: Purl.

Rows 11-20: Knit in St st for 10 rows or until center panel is about 3 inches wide. (want a challenge? See end of pattern.)

Row 21: k2tog. Rep to end of row. Stitches are halved.

Row 22: Purl.

Row 23: *kfb* rep from * to * end of row. Stitches return to original amount.

Row 6: Change to MC and continue k2, p2 ribbing.

BEGIN RUCHED CENTER PANEL:

Row 7: *k2tog* rep from * to * end of row.

Row 8: Purl.

Row 24: Change to CC. *k2, p2* rep from * to * end of row to create ribbing

Rows 25-28: Repeat Row 24.

BO in pattern st. Weave in all ends. Wrap it around your neck and enjoy!

CHALLENGES

PUT YOUR HANDS UP AND SHOUT

If you run short of yarn in the center panel section just *one* row early and find yourself on a dreaded purl row, don't scream, don't cry and whatever you do, don't frog! Challenge yourself instead, and turn those k2togs and kfbs into p2tog and pfb stitches. The p2togs aren't too difficult, but the real challenge comes with the pfb. It's a tricky stitch, because you have to purl twice into one stitch – first bringing your needle down into the front leg for the first stitch and then poking it up through the back leg for the second. But it's highly rewarding in the end because you've taught yourself something new!

DO THE TWIST

Have a little extra yardage with your yarn? Want to add a twist to Betty or Veronica? Give both girls a run for their money with a double ruched center panel! Knit either scarf or neckwarmer as instructed above until you are past the increase row (row 9) in the center panel. Then follow these alternative directions below:

For The Betty:

Row 10: Purl.

Rows 11-15: Knit in St st for 5 rows or until center panel is about 1.5 inches wide.

Row 16: *p1, p2tog* rep from * to * end of row.

Row 17: *k1, kfb* rep from * to * end of row.

Row 18-22: Continue in St st for 5 rows or until second half of center panel is 1.5 inches wide.

Return to row 21 in the pattern above to finish the pattern.

For The Veronica:

Row 10: Purl.

Rows 11-15: Knit in St st for 5 rows or until center panel is about 1.5 inches wide.

Row 16: *p2tog* rep from * to * end of row.

Row 17: *kfb* rep from * to * end of row.

Row 18-22: Continue in St st for 5 rows or until second half of center panel is 1.5 inches wide.

Return to row 21 in the pattern above to finish the pattern.

Finishing

Blocking is not necessary for this scarf because the natural wave is an essential element to the design. If you block your scarf, only wet the portion of the piece where the k2togs and kfbs were made (that little valley between the border and center panel), as soaking the ruched area tends to flatten the ripple effect created by the increases and decreases. If you don't mind losing the wave, block by wetting and pinning down the center panel, since it has a tendency to curl inward due to the Stockinette stitch. Then leave the ribbed section unpinned and unblocked to maintain the ruffle feature.

ABBREVIATIONS

CC – contrast color

CO – cast on

BO – bind off

k – knit

k2tog – knit two stitches together (decrease)

kfb – knit through the front and then the back of the same stitch (increase)

MC – main color

m1 – make one (increase)

p – purl

p2tog – purl two stitches together (decrease)

pfb – purl through the front and back of the loop (increase)

rep – repeat

st – stitch

sts – stitches

St st – Stockinette stitch

RS – right side

WS – wrong side

KNITTING RESOURCES

For online assistance with any of the techniques used in this pattern, please check out a few of my favorite knitting resource websites, listed below:

• www.craftyarncouncil.com/weight.html – Standard weight chart from the Craft Yarn Council will guide you in choosing the right yarn. Then check out their helpful standard body measurements sizing and knitting chart abbreviations and symbols.

• www.knittinghelp.com/videos/learn-to-knit – Informative videos and succinct descriptions cover almost everything, from the basic stitches right up to advanced techniques.

• www.ravelry.com/groups/exchanging-fire – Join the Exchanging Fire group on Ravelry, an online knitting community where you can find full pattern support and chat with me.

Visit my blog, exchangingfire.wordpress.com, to learn more about me and my upcoming designs!