

Mini Mania Scarf

by Sarah Core



Join the mini mania! There is just something utterly addicting about knitting together tiny, bright skeins of sock weight yarn, watching the shades shift below your fingertips as the strands form new and glorious color combinations. Knit this scarf by using up all those little bits of leftover yarn you've been saving like a dragon guarding its hoard, or collect more from others. Then make it yours by knitting it big or little, fat or skinny, in a random cacophony of color or with a subtle, ordered transition.

This scarf uses the eponymous fabric stitch, or linen stitch, so named because it looks similar to a woven linen fabric. The stitch uses simple slipped stitches to create a dramatic finished project and is knit lengthwise to most accurately replicate the style of a woven garment. After receiving many requests from

others asking how mine was made, I decided to share the method to my madness. This certainly isn't a unique pattern; it is just one of the many ways you can duplicate my results and achieve a truly maniac scarf.

MATERIALS

Size US 6 (4.25mm) circular needles, 40" or longer (Tight knitters might want to go up a needle size).

225 – 2,000 yards / 205 – 1,830 meters of sock or fingering weight yarn, at minimum 12 minis (for smallest size), weighing 5 grams each.

SIZES

based on scarf's total length, excluding fringe

Small 'n Skinny: ~300 stitches, 3.25 ft long

Middle-of-the-Road: ~400 stitches, 4.33 ft. long

Large & In Charge: ~500 stitches) 5.5 ft. long

Epic/Ridiculously Epic: ~600 stitches, 6.5 ft. long

DIRECTIONS

I am a fan of the old adage: “There is more than one way to skin a cat.” There are two basic variations of the linen stitch, which differ between having an even or odd number of stitches. I find it handy to have both sets of instructions, because who wants to get to the end of 600 stitches and discover an extra one? Who wants their knitting arm to start twitching in short stabby motions as they frog the whole thing? No one, that’s who.

Warning: Once you start you just can’t stop and you may find yourself knitting a scarf of epic and ridiculous proportions (Ask me how I know). If knitting a Ridiculously Epic scarf (270 rows), follow the cast-on guidelines for the Epic version and keep knitting ’til the cows come home, invite the rest of the barnyard over, and have a huge all-night party. I recommend the knitted cast-on as opposed to the long-tail, so you don’t kill yourself trying to measure 10 ft. long strands of yarn against your body or anything like that (Ask me how I know).



TO MAKE FRINGE

At the beginning and end of each row, leave a 3-inch tail of yarn (or length of your choosing). Every two rows, tie two tails of yarn together. You may choose to wait longer, and tie the yarn together every 3, or 5, or 10 rows. It’s your call.

The fringe is designed to keep you from the arduous duty of weaving in ends in the middle of the scarf. (Yes!)

THE EVEN VERSION

CO even number of stitches.

Row 1 (RS): *k1, yfwd, sl1, yb; rep from * to end.

Row 2 (WS): *p1, yb, sl1, yfwd; rep from * to end.

THE ODD VERSION

CO odd number of stitches.

Row 1 (RS): *k1, yfwd, sl1, yb; rep from * to last st, k1.

Row 2 (WS): p2, *yb, sl1, yfwd, p1; rep from * to final two sts, p2.

BO with WS facing you. Weave in all ends (if needed).

Wrap around your neck and enjoy!



TIPS & FINISHING

- Switch between a highly variegated yarn and a more semi-solid color for dramatic results. Knit until you run out yarn or get bored.

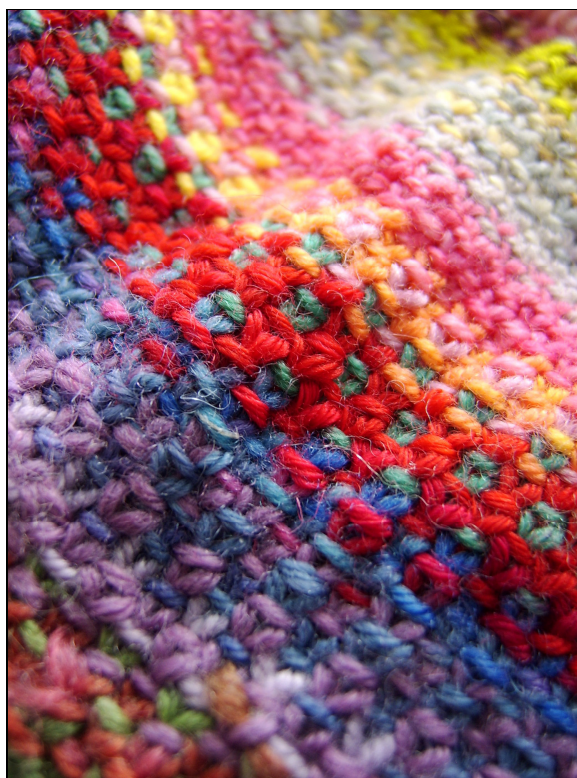
- Scared of all of those purl rows? Try “swing knitting” instead! When you reach the end of a row, simply turn your work around so the right side is facing you and begin knitting again. Caution: If knitting an odd number of stitches

you’ll need to remember which stitch you are beginning with, so you don’t knit when you were supposed to slip or vice versa.

- For a 600-stitch scarf, it takes about 2 to 3 grams of fingering weight per row (switch yarns every two or three rows). I recommend a minimum of 9 to 12 miniskeins for the skinny version. For fellow crazies like me, mine used approximately 150 miniskeins (and that’s just a ballpark figure, really).

- Follow the two-by-two rule and save yourself some precious frogging time! You should always be knitting or purling into the slipped stitch from the previous row. On the knit side, this is easy to spot, because the slipped stitch and the previously worked stitch like to hang out together on the needles. You’ll see this pair of stitches sitting there two-by-two, and you should always knit into the first stitch in the “set” and then slip the second. Watch carefully for your first few rows, as you can easily knit an entire row without noticing you’ve done it wrong.

- Lastly, blocking is not necessary for this scarf. However, if you do decide to wet-block it, make sure to have good ventilation or lay it in the sun, otherwise the dense fabric may take some time to dry.



ABBREVIATIONS

CO – cast on
BO – bind off
k – knit
p – purl
rep – repeat
sl – slip

st – stitch
sts – stitches
RS – right side
WS – wrong side
yb – move yarn to the back
yfwd – move yarn forward (to front)

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!