

I HEART LACE

By Inese Andzane



Materials:

420 -550 yards (384-500m) of heavy lace weight or fingering weight yarn, for a medium size shawl, and about 700 yards (650m) for the largest version.

US size 4 (3,5 mm) circular needles.

2 stitch markers for marking center stitch – optional.

The shawl in the photo is done using 100% merino yarn, but it will look well in any lightweight yarn that has a good drape, like alpaca, silk, cashmere, to name a few. You might want to use a slightly larger needle for mohair.

I used about 460 yards (420m) of fingering/4ply weight merino, and it is a medium size shawl.

The shawl is worked from center outwards, increasing stitches at the center and both sides.

Abbreviations:

k – knit

p – purl

yo – yarn over

st – stitch/stitches

Cast on

Using provisional yarn, cast-on 2 stitches. With shawl yarn, knit 14 rows, then pick-up 1 stitch from each garter stitch ridge (there should be 7 ridges). Undo provisional cast on and knit these 2 stitches.

(2+7+2 stitches = 11 stitches).

Turn work. K2, p7, k2.

Stockinette section

Row1: k2, yo, k3, yo, place marker, k1, yo, k3, yo, k2.

Row2 and all wrong side rows: k2, p till last 2 st, k2.

Row3: k2, yo, k till marker, yo, move the marker, k1, move the marker, yo, k till last two stitches, yo, k2.

First and last two stitches will form the upper line of the triangle shawl; the stitch marked with markers is the center stitch.

The pattern is calculated for three sizes, larger sizes in parenthesis. The smallest version will be a shawlette, really – just enough to cover your shoulders and easily can be worn as a scarf. The largest one is a full size shawl that you can wrap yourself into.

Continue increasing at both sides and center till you have 203 (247 or 291) stitches total on the needles (2 edge stitches+99 (121 or 143) stockinette+1center stitch+99 (121 or 143) stockinette+2 edge stitches).

Start chart.

Chart only shows right side rows. Wrong side rows are knit as before: k2, p till last 2 st, k2.

The chart shows one side of the triangle. Start the row with knitting 2 edge stitches, knit chart once, knit the center stitch, knit chart once more, and knit the 2 edge stitches.

All rows of the shawl increase by 4 stitches EXCEPT for chart row one. Row 1 of chart will increase your stitch count by 20 (24 or 28) resulting in 223 (271 or 319) stitches.

If you use stitch markers to mark the pattern repeats, pay attention to rows 11, 17 and 27! The marker will shift in these rows by one stitch to the left. (Before the shift – it will be ‘sitting’ between the stitches that will make the double decrease (chart symbol “Λ”), when you knit the “slip 1, knit two, pass slipped stitch over” it will be placed right after the double decrease, before the yarn over.

Purl row 28 and cast off loosely on the right side of the shawl.

Cast Off

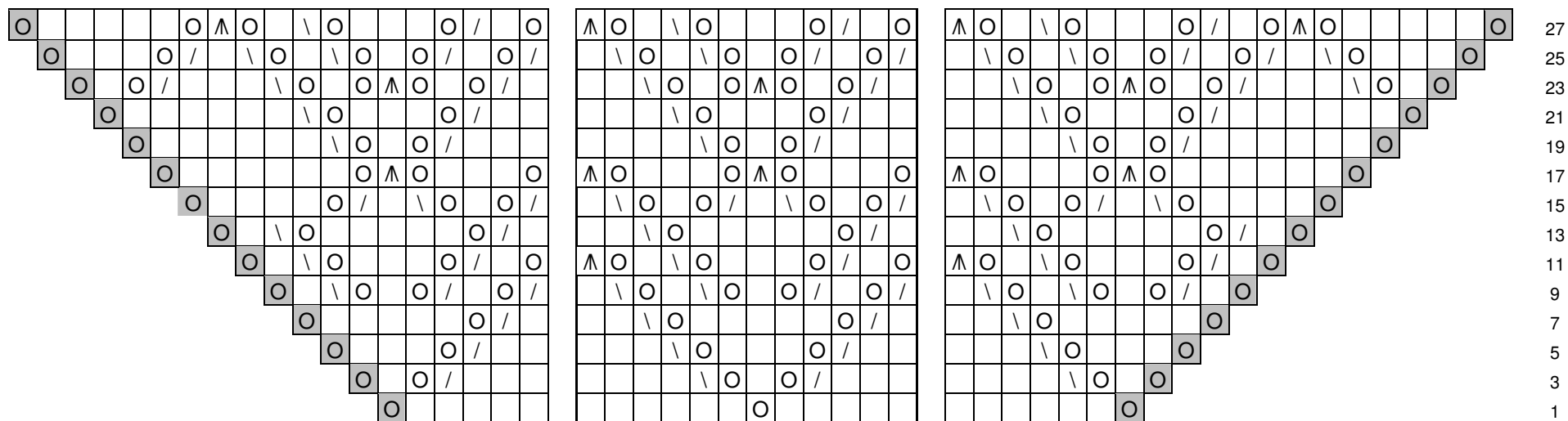
For a stretchy cast off I recommend the “surprisingly stretchy bind off” method: k1, *yo in reverse (from the opposite direction around the needle than you normally do), k1, pass the first stitch AND the yarn-over over the second stitch both at the same time*. You have one stitch on your right needle again. Repeat the part between * until last stitch, cut your yarn and pull it through the stitch, weave in the ends.

If this method seems complicated, you can just go up a needle size or two, although I recommend at least trying it out – it really makes a difference when you block your project.

Block the shawl by soaking it in warm water, adding some softener is optional, and then pin every tip of the “heart”.

Let it dry completely before taking you unpin.

Lace edge chart



- \ - left leaning decrease - knit 2 together through back loop
- / - right leaning decrease, knit 2 together
- knit
- Λ - slip1, knit 2 together, pass slipped stitch over
- - yarn over
- - yarn over - center/side increase