

A woman with long, wavy blonde hair is shown in profile, looking towards the right. She is wearing a vibrant, multicolored shawl with a complex geometric pattern in shades of red, blue, yellow, and green. The shawl has a black and white striped border. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with greenery.

Online extract

Christel Seyfarth

Mongolia Shawl

Stunning multicoloured shawl uses 'Magic Ball'
colourwork technique and steeks



Christel Seyfarth Mongolia Shawl

CHRISTEL SEYFARTH'S stunning shawl looks complicated, but you'll be surprised by just how easy it is. It is created using the 'Magic Ball' technique. For the main section, two separate balls of yarn are used – one of pattern colours, and one of background colours. This is achieved by cutting lengths of the yarns and rewinding them into balls.

MAKING MAGIC BALLS

Lay all the balls in one colour group (for example, background colours) in front of you. Decide whether each of the colours is light, medium or dark. Begin with the lightest colour shade and work all the way to the darkest. Then work your way back from light to dark and so on.

Wind up 3 to 9 metres of one colour, break the yarn, take the next colour (you decide which one), and wind up another 3 to 9 metres. Do not measure the length, but you should make more pieces that are between 5 and 9 metres long than pieces less than 5 metres long. Continue like this using all the colours in this colour group and make a new ball with these colours.

Think about how you want the colours to work together. Be careful not to choose too many contrasting colours one after the other – they should blend into each other,

SIZE

Recommended sizing is given, but due to the garment construction, it is flexible. Suggested minimum size: 2.5m x 1.05m Suggested maximum size: 3.1m x 1.3m

YARN

Mongolia Shawl kit from Christel Seyfarth (Light 4ply weight; 100% lambswool; 540m/591yds per 100g)

Alternatively, any 3ply to 4ply woollen-spun pure wool yarn is suitable. We have given shade numbers for the colour scheme specified, but this is a great opportunity to create your own colour scheme. Superwash yarns are not suitable for this project.

Suggested yarns:

Jamieson & Smith 2ply Jumper Weight (4ply weight; 100% wool; 114m/125yds per 25g ball)

Jamieson's of Shetland Shetland Spindrift (4ply weight; 100% wool; 105m/115yds per 25g ball)

Background colours: 135m/148yds of each – Light turquoise, light grey, golden, mélange

green/beige, mustard, light blue, sand, olive, and light green.

Pattern colours: 135m/148yds of each – Light rose, medium rose, light purple, medium blue, dark plum, dark purple, light plum, and very light purple/rose.

Border colours: 432m/472yds each of charcoal and black; 324m/354yds each of dark blue, medium blue and light blue.

Jamieson & Smith shades

Background: FC34, 203, 121, FC24, 91, FC15, FC45, FC12, 29

Pattern: 1283, FC22, 123, FC37 or FC47, 134, 20, 133, FC50 or FC51

Border: 77, 81, 21, FC37 or FC47, FC15

Jamieson's of Shetland shades

Background: 135, 122, 289, 1130, 425, 134, 375, 147, 769

Pattern: 268, 570, 617, 168, 239, 1290, 563, 562

Border: 101, 999, 726, 168, 134

but avoid a set pattern. Make a ball the size of a tennis ball, and do not wind up all the yarn at once.

Wind up the colours of the other groups into separate balls in the same way. For the border, make balls in 2 colourways: 1 in black/charcoal and 1 in the blue shades.

GUIDE TO SPIT SPLICING

If you would like to join the ends together on the Magic Ball, rather than weaving in as you go, you can use a technique known as 'spit-splicing'.

Fray the two ends you wish to join and dip them in warm water. Place the two ends on top of each other in your palm and rub together in a back and forth motion. You should find after a few seconds that the yarns are meshed together. This technique does not work on superwash yarns.

SHAWL

Note: This shawl is worked flat until there are enough sts to join to work in the round comfortably. When working flat, knit RS charted rows from right to left, and purl WS charted rows from left to right.

After joining into the round, knit all rounds, reading chart from right to left each round. As you work, increase 1 st at the beginning and end of EVERY row/round, taking new sts into charted pattern repeat.

Using background colour Magic Ball and 3.5mm straight needles, cast on 3 sts.

Work 8 rows in Fair Isle st st by alternating between background and pattern colour every stitch to create a chequered effect.

Next row (RS): K1, M1, knit to 1 st before end, working from the chart, M1, K1.

Next row (WS): P1, M1Pwise, purl to 1 st before end, working from the chart, M1Pwise, P1.

Continue as set until you have enough sts on your needle to work comfortably in the round on the 40cm circular needle, ending with a WS row.

Next row (RS): K1, M1, knit to 1 st before end, working from the chart, M1, K1, cast on 6 sts for steek, using cable cast-on method. Join to knit in the round and place marker for beg of round.

Note: Your steek should be worked in both background and pattern yarn, alternating every stitch. This will create the strongest steek as the yarns will be well 'meshed'.

Next round: K1, M1, knit to 1 st before end (7 sts before end of steek), M1, K1, knit 6 sts of steek.

Continue as set by last round, changing to longer circular needles as required. When your shawl has reached the desired length, you work the upper border using the border colours.

NEEDLES & ACCESSORIES

1 pair 3.5mm (UK 10–9/US 4) knitting needles
1 set each of 3.5mm (UK 10–9/US 4) circular knitting needles, 40cm, 60cm and 80cm (or 100cm) long
Crochet hook or sewing machine (for reinforcing steek)

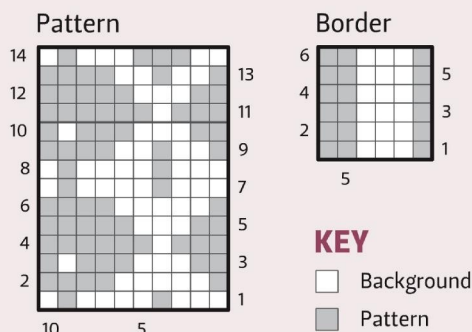
TENSION

26 sts and 24 rows over 10cm in Fair Isle pattern, using 3.5mm needles.
Exact tension is not important, as long as you are happy with the fabric created.

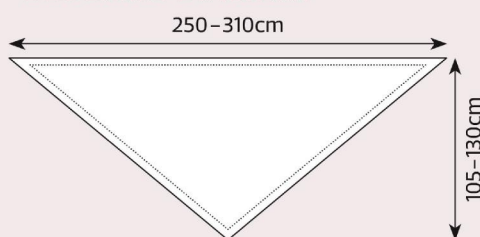
NOTE

This shawl is worked in the round and then steeked – the fabric is cut open. The two lower edges are then picked up and a border of corrugated ribbing is worked.
When there are more than 5 to 7 stitches between colour changes, weave in the yarn not being worked at regular intervals – approx every 3 to 4 sts.

CHARTS



BLOCKING DIAGRAM



TOP BORDER

Knit 2 rnds in black/charcoal yarn, cont to inc as set.
Now work border in vertical stripes: 3 sts in black/charcoal and 3 sts in blue colours.
Continue to inc 1 stitch at each side every round, taking new sts into striped pattern.
Knit 14 rounds of stripes in total.
Change to black/charcoal yarn only.
Knit 2 rounds, cont to inc as set.
Purl 1 round to create a garter st edging.

HEM

You will now work a mirror image of the border so far, to create a hem.
Beg dec 1 st at each side every round, knit 2 rounds of black/ charcoal, then 14 rounds of stripes, cont to dec as set, and cast off.

STEERING

Dampen the garment.
Reinforce the steek, either by crocheting a chain up either side or sewing small stretch stitches using a sewing machine.
Cut open in the middle of these sts.

LOWER BORDERS

You will now work the two lower borders in the round, with a further steek, picking up along the edge where the steek meets the main patterning.
Using black/charcoal yarn and a 100cm circular needle, begin picking up stitches

where the top border starts.

Pick up and knit 2 out of every 3 sts along first edge, place marker, pick up and knit 2 sts at the point of the shawl, place marker, pick up and knit 2 out of every 3 sts along the second edge, cast on 6 sts for steek and join to work in the round. Your work needs to be a multiple of 3, so inc or dec accordingly in the next round.
Knit 1 round in black/charcoal yarn.
Now work 14 rounds in the striped pattern, as for upper border. Continue to inc 1 stitch at beg of round, before the first marker, and after the second marker, and at end of round (before the steek) every round, taking new sts into the striped pattern.
Change to black/charcoal yarn only.
Knit 2 rounds, cont to inc as set.
Purl 1 round to create a garter st edging.

HEM

Complete as set by Top Border.
Finish and cut steek as before. Fold over the raw edges, and slip stitch in place. ☺

