



SAOIRE SHAWL & KERCHIEF-HAT

woven baskets and cobblestones
blankets, sandals, bicycle gears
narrow lanes and market stalls
campfire grates and lounge chairs
ice-creams melting in waffle cones
sunburnt skin under thermal layers...

...Our memories of being on holiday are not limited to images, sounds, and scents. They can also be richly tactile. It was this idea of textural nostalgia that I sought to capture with Saoire (pronounced 'seerah'), which means holidays, or vacation, in Irish.

The idea came to me while I worked on the design on a camping trip in County Sligo. Feeling the textured motif with my fingers, I imagined wearing the shawl later on and being transported back to our little tent in the dunes, through the magic of touch and memory. A tactile snapshot of that indescribable west of Ireland summer holidays feeling.

MATERIALS & INFORMATION

MEASUREMENTS

shawl measures 150cm/ 60" x 50cm/ 20" approximately
kerchief measures 65cm/ 22" in circumference and 20cm/ 8" in length approximately
(suitable for head circumference 50-60cm/20-24")

YARN

suitable for a wide range of yarn weights, including:
fingering weight yarn (400m/ 100g)
DK weight yarn (200m/ 100g)

YARN QUANTITIES

fingering - sportweight yarns: up to 100g for kerchief-hat; up to 200g for shawl
DK weight yarns: up to 150g for kerchief-hat; up to 300g for shawl

GAUGE

select gauge to suit chosen yarn; for example:
for fingering-weight yarn, try: 23 sts x 32 rows = 10cm x 10cm
for DK weight yarn, try: 17 sts x 24 rows = 10cm x 10cm

NEEDLES

sized as needed to suit chosen yarn and preferred gauge; for example:
for fingering weight yarn, try: 2.5mm needles or as needed to meet gauge
for DK weight yarn, try: 4mm needles or as needed to meet gauge

NOTIONS

measuring tape, tapestry needle

SPECIAL TECHNIQUES

increasing and decreasing in pattern;
picking up sts from selvage edge

.....

ABBREVIATIONS

CO = cast on
DEC = decrease
K = knit
INC = increase
P = purl
P2Tog = purl 2 stitches together
PU&K = pick up and knit
RS = right side of work
SKP = slip 1 stitch, knit the next stitch, pass the slipped stitch over
st(s) = stitch(es)
WS = wrong side of work
YO = yarn over



PATTERN NOTES

NOTES ON YARN & GAUGE

Gauge guidelines for DK and fingering weight yarns are provided because it is customary to include this information. However, gauge is irrelevant in this design. Because the shawl is worked sideways, with length guidelines provided in cm/" rather than rows, the pattern works with any yarn and any gauge. In fact, it is not even necessary to measure gauge. Simply choose your preferred yarn, and swatch (see below) to determine what needle size looks and feels right. Then follow pattern instructions as-written, regardless of what yarn and needle size you are using.

SWATCHING

Swatching is recommended for two reasons. First, to determine what needle size suits your yarn. And moreover, to get used to the stitch motif before you jump straight into increasing.

To swatch: CO at least 21 sts (total st count should be a multiple of 7). Then work according to Main Chart on Page 5, for at least 3 complete repeats. Block the swatch. When examining the result, there is no need to measure gauge. Instead, pay attention to whether you like the drape and density of the fabric - and, if needed, adjust the needle size accordingly.

INCREASE TECHNIQUES

Increases are worked at the start of WS rows.

When instructions state to INC, use one of the following methods, whichever you find easiest:

Option A: YO

The YO method creates a very 'clean' and minimalist increase.

Work a YO before starting the row (from back to front seems easiest).

As you proceed to K or P the initial st of the row, this YO twists to become a loop.

Option B: CO1

Some knitters find it tricky to work the YO increase, or simply do not like it.

In this case, CO1 can be used just as effectively.

At the start of the row, CO 1st onto the right needle using the backward loop method.

DECREASE TECHNIQUES

Decreases are worked using the final two sts of RS rows.

When instructions state to DEC, use one of the following methods, as appropriate:

When the st before last is a K st: SKP

When the st before last is a P st: P2Tog

(Note that these are both left-leaning decreases.)

CUSTOMISING SIZE

The size of the Saoire Shawl / Kerchief Hat can be easily customised. Simply keep increasing until the shawl/ hat reaches approximately 45% of preferred length (multiply your total preferred length by 0.45).

CUSTOMISING SHAPE

The shape of the Saoire Shawl / Kerchief Hat can be easily customised by adjusting the Centre section. For a shape that closer resembles a triangle, work only 1 Centre repeat. For a shape that closer resembles a semi-circle, work 5 or more Centre repeats. For a symmetrical aesthetic, there should be an odd number of Centre repeats.

INSTRUCTIONS

SETUP

Using a firm method, CO 3 sts.

Work Setup Rows according to Increase Chart, or as follows -

Row 1 (RS): P3

Row 2 (WS): INC, K3

Row 3 (RS): P1, K3

Row 4 (WS) INC, P3, K1

Row 5 (RS): P1, K3, P1

Row 6 (WS): INC, K1, P3, K1

Row 7 (RS): P1, K3, P1, K1

Row 8 (WS) INC, P1, K1, P3, K1

There are now 7 sts on the needles, and the first complete pattern repeat has been established.

RIGHT SIDE

Shape the right side of the shawl by increasing at the rate of 7 sts every 16 rows, according to Increase Chart, or as follows -

Row 9: P to end.

Row 10: K to end.*

Row 11: (P1, K3, P1, K2) to end.

Row 12: INC, (P2, K1, P3, K1) to end.

Row 13: (P1, K3, P3), until 1 st remains, P1.

Row 14: INC, K1, (K3, P3, K1) to end.

Row 15: (P1, K3, P1, K2) until 2 sts remain, P1, K1.

Row 16: INC, P1, K1, (P2, K1, P3, K1) to end.

Row 17: P to end.

Row 18: INC, then K to end.

Row 19: (P1, K3, P1, K2) until 4 sts remain, P1, K3.

Row 20: INC, P3, K1, (P2, K1, P3, K1) to end.

Row 21: (P1, K3, P3) until 5 sts remain, P1, K3, P1.

Row 22: INC, K1, P3, K1, (K3, P3, K1) to end.

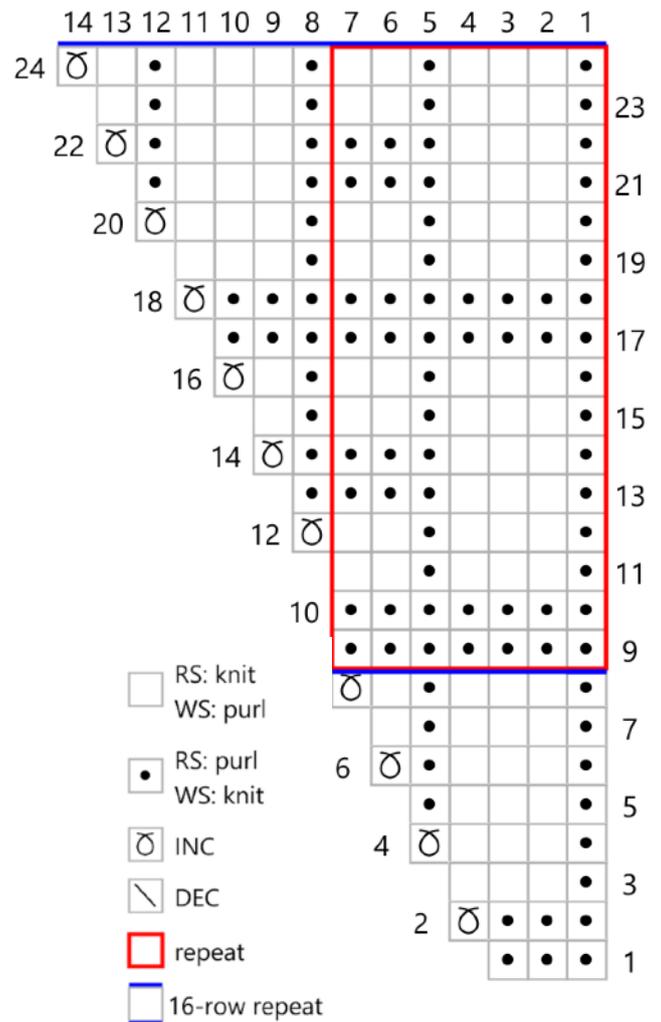
Row 23: (P1, K3, P1, K2) until 6 sts remain, P1, K3, P1, K1.

Row 24: INC, P1, K1, P3, K1, (P2, K1, P3, K1) to end.

*Note there is no increase on Row 10

Repeat Rows 9-24, until work measures 70cm/ 28" for shawl length, 25cm/ 10" for kerchief-hat length, or as preferred - ending with a completed repeat.

INCREASE CHART



CENTRE

No longer increasing, work according to Main Chart, or as follows -

Row 1: P to end.

Row 2: K to end.

Row 3: (P1, K3, P1, K2) to end.

Row 4: (P2, K1, P3, K1) to end.

Row 5: (P1, K3, P3) to end

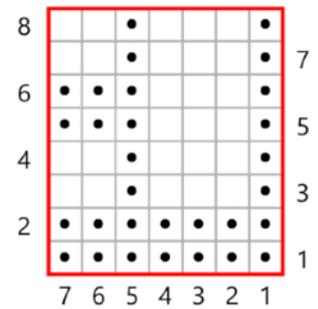
Row 6: (K3, P3, K1) to end

Row 7: (P1, K3, P1, K2) to end

Row 8: (P2, K1, P3, K1) to end.

Repeat Rows 1-8 until you have completed 3 repeats (24 rows in total).

MAIN CHART



LEFT SIDE

Shape the left side of the shawl by decreasing at the rate of 7 sts every 16 rows, according to Decrease Chart, or as follows -

Row 1 (RS): P to end.*

Row 2 (WS): K to end.

Row 3: (P1, K3, P1, K2) until 7 sts remain, P1, K3, P1, DEC.

Row 4: P1, K1, P3, K1, (P2, K1, P3, K1) to end.

Row 5: (P1, K3, P3) until 6 sts remain, P1, K3, DEC.

Row 6: K1, P3, K1, (K3, P3, K1) to end.

Row 7: (P1, K3, P1, K2) until 5 sts remain, P1, K2, DEC.

Row 8: P3, K1, (P2, K1, P3, K1) to end.

Row 9: (P until 2 sts remain, DEC.

Row 10: K to end.

Row 11: (P1, K3, P1, K2) until 3 sts remain, P1, DEC.

Row 12: P1, K1, (P2, K1, P3, K1) to end.

Row 13: (P1, K3, P3) until 2 sts remain, DEC.

Row 14: K1, (K3, P3, K1) to end.

Row 15: (P1, K3, P1, K2) until 8 sts remain, P1, K3, P1, K1, DEC.

Row 16: (P2, K1, P3, K1) to end.

Repeat Rows 1-16 until only 7 sts remain on the needles.

(*Note there is no decrease on Row 1.)

Finish shaping by working the Final Decrease Chart, or as follows -

Row 1: P7.

Row 2: K7.

Row 3: P1, K3, P1, DEC.

Row 4: P1, K1, P3, K1.

Row 5: P1, K3, DEC.

Row 6: K1, P3, K1.

Row 7: P1, K2, DEC.

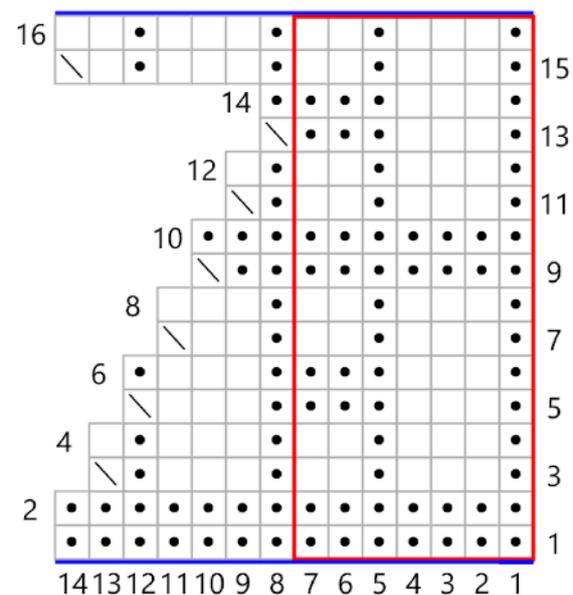
Row 8: P3, K1.

Row 9: P2, DEC.

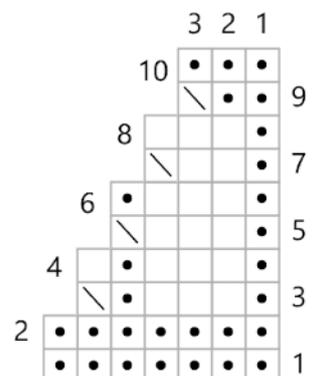
Row 10: K3.

There are now 3 sts on the needles.

DECREASE CHART



FINAL DECREASE CHART





EDGINGS

For Shawl:

K3. Then PU&K evenly* around the entire perimeter edge of the shawl, ensuring total number of sts is divisible by 4. Work in the round, in 2x2 rib (K2, P2 to end), until Edging is approximately 3cm/ 1.25", or as preferred. Bind off using an elastic method.

For Kerchief Hat:

PU&K 3 sts from the CO edge.

Using 3-needle bind-off, bind them off together with the remaining 3 live sts, on WS.

The right & left 'points' have now been connected, creating a kerchief-hat with inner (smaller circumference) and outer (larger circumference) selvage edges. Without breaking yarn, you can start at the inner edge.

PU&K evenly* along the inner edge, ensuring total number of sts is divisible by 4.

Work in the round, in 2x2 rib (K2, P2 to end), until Edging is approximately 3cm/ 1.25", or as preferred. Bind off using an elastic method. Repeat this process for the outer edge.

*Picking up sts evenly: Assuming average tension tendencies, I suggest PU&K 5 sts from every 7st repeat.

This can be done as follows: From a segment of K3 -> PUK&2; from K2 ->PU&K1; from P1 -> PU&K1.

Note the total st count might need to be adjusted, in order to be divisible by 4 so as to accommodate the 2x2 rib. After the pickup round, count sts. Then, when working the initial round in 2x2 rib, increase by 1-3 sts as needed randomly throughout the round. (Example: If your total st count after pickup is 205, this is not divisible by 4. You need 208 sts. Therefore, increase by 3 sts - using any preferred increase method - while working the initial round in 2x2 rib.)

FINISHING

Weave in ends. Block using preferred method, ensuring fabric is smooth and flat.



STYLING THE SAOIRE SHAWL & KERCHIEF-HAT

The Saoire Shawl can be worn traditionally around the shoulders, wrapped around the neck like a scarf, or tied in the front bandana-style (the unisex design makes for an excellent short bandana for men).

The kerchief-hat can be worn around the face, balaclava-style, or at the back of the head, like a kerchief. It can also be worn around the neck as a cowl, with the pointed end at front. This design is particularly suitable for children, for easy ear coverage while accommodating a variety of hair styles.