

# DANSE MACABRE



The name of this shawl comes from the music written in 1874 by the French composer Camille Saint-Saëns. The piece was originally written as a song for voice and piano with the words taken from a French work by Henri Cazalis but the composer reworked and replaced the vocals with a violin solo and we have the haunting music we hear today. Danse Macabre is a piece of music that immediately transports me back to my childhood - dancing skeletons in graveyards; what better yarn to pair it with than Dye for Yarn Tussah Silk Lace, many perfectly named for such a shawl!

Each new clue will be added to the previous clue(s) so you have a complete and up to date pattern to replace your previous issue. You might like to check the update as you may not need to print out the entire pattern on each release.

**RELEASE DATES** Clue One - April 1, Clue Two - April 5, Clue Three - April 8, Clue Four - April 15 and Clue Five - April 22

## REQUIREMENTS

**Size Options:** The size as written using Dye for Yarn Tussah Silk Lace – 22.5 inches (57 cm) deep and 84 inches (213 cm) wide. **Yarn:** Dye for Yarn Tussah Silk Lace (700m/100g) **Circular Needles:** 3.75mm (US5) and 4mm (US6) (about 1m in length) or needles to create a pleasing fabric – your fabric should not be too dense and should have good drape. **You will also need:** Stitch Markers (one that is different to mark the beginning of your rows), Needle (for weaving in ends), Blocking Pins and Mats, just under 900 Matsuno Size 6 Seed Beads and a 1mm cro-tat hook to apply your beads (or dental floss, 0.6mm crochet hook, fleegle beader . . .). **Gauge** - Gauge is not overly important as this is a shawl. It is better to knit a swatch to ensure that you are happy with your tension and the drape of your fabric. However the gauge achieved on this shawl is 18 sts to 4 ins using 3.75mm (US5) needles on garter stitch using 3.75mm needles after blocking.

**You will find it useful to print your pattern on a colour printer or colour your bead placement in coloured pencils.**

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## ABBREVIATIONS

k – knit

p – purl

kfb – knit forward and back into the same stich to create two stitches from one

kp – knit and then purl into one stitch (two stitches from one)

kpk – knit, purl, knit into one stitch (three stitches from one)

pkp – purl, knit, purl into one stitch (three stitches from one)

pkpk – purl, knit, purl, knit into one stitch (four stitches from one)

ktb – knit through the back of the stitch

k2tog – knit two stitches together

kyok – knit, yarn over, knit into one stitch making three stitches from one

ml – make one stitch by picking up the bar between the two stitches from the front using the left hand needle and knitting into the back of it

mr – make one stitch by picking up the bar between the two stitches from the back using the left hand needle and knitting into the front of it

mlp – make one stitch by picking up the bar between the two stitches from the front using the left hand needle and purling into the back of it

mrp – make one stitch by picking up the bar between the two stitches from the back using the left hand needle and purling into the front of it

p2tog – purl two stitches together

ssk – slip one stitch knitwise, slip another stitch knitwise and then slip both stitches back onto your left hand needle and knit through the back

s2kpsso – slip next 2 stitches together as to knit, k1, pass 2 slipped stitches over (centred 2 stitch decreased)

ssp – slip a stitch knitwise with your yarn to the front, slip another knitwise with your yarn to the front, transfer to left hand needle in their new orientation and purl together through the back

yo – yarn over

	knit on rs/purl on ws
—	purl on rs/knit on ws
O	yarn over
3	kyok into one stitch making 3 from 1
/	k2tog
\	ssk
//	p2tog
\\	ssp
ktb	knit through the back
Λ	s2kpsso
v	kfb
ml	make one left knitwise
mr	make one right knitwise
mlp	make one left purlwise
mrp	make one right purlwise
	yarn overs and stitches that are worked into them on the following row - each box is a single yarn over though some are worked consecutively
	place bead prior to working stitch
	place bead after working that stitch
	pattern repeat
	no stitch

# CLUE ONE – CHART ONE – SET UP SECTION – 3.75mm (US5) – WORK ONCE ONLY

Start with a garter stitch tab - cast on three stitches, knit eleven rows, at the end of the last row do not turn work but rotate 90 degrees, pick up and knit one stitch in each of the five garter ridges, turn and knit three stitches in the cast on edge. (11 sts) Here is a good YouTube video if you struggle with this.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaQHMMElvgU>

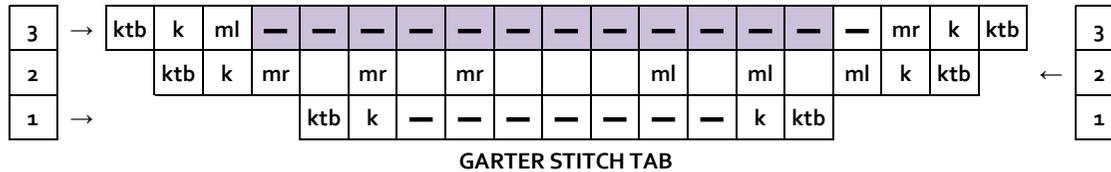
**HELPFUL HINT** - It is really important to keep those edge stitches nice and loose to ensure the top edge of your shawl does not pucker.

**Row 1 :** (Wrong Side Row) ktb, k9, ktb (11 sts)

**Row 2 :** ktb, (k1, ml)x3, k3, (mr, k1)x3, ktb (17 sts)

I tend to use a contrasting stitch marker as the first one on my right side row or you could tie a small piece of contrasting thread on the right side of your shawl so you can tell the difference.

**Row 3 :** ktb, k1, ml, place marker, k12, place marker, k1, mr, k1, ktb (19 sts)



Remember – all right side rows are read right to left whereas all wrong side rows are read left to right















**Row 7** : ktb, k1, ml, k1, ml, k3, k2tog, k1, yo, k2, yo, k2tog, k1 [ssk, yo, k2, yo, k1, ssk, k1, k2tog, k1, yo, k2, yo, k2tog, k1] repeat to last thirteen stitches, ssk, yo, k2, yo, k1, ssk, k3, mr, k1, mr, k1, ktb

**Row 9** : ktb, k1, ml, k1, ml, k3, yo, ssk, k1, k2tog, yo, k2, yo, k2tog, k2 [k1, ssk, yo, k2, yo, ssk, k1, k2tog, yo, k2, yo, k2tog, k2] repeat to last sixteen stitches, k1, ssk, yo, k2, yo, ssk, k1, k2tog, yo, k3, mr, k1, mr, k1, ktb

**Row 11** : ktb, k1, ml, k1, ml, k1 [k2, ssk, yo, k1, yo, ssk, k1, k2tog, yo, k1, yo, k2tog, k3] repeat to last three stitches, mr, k1, mr, k1, ktb

**Row 13** : ktb, k1, ml, k1, ml, k4 [k2, k2tog, yo, k1, yo, k1, s2kpsso, k1, yo, k1, yo, ssk, k3] repeat to last six stitches, k3, mr, k1, mr, k1, ktb

**Row 15** : ktb, k1, ml, k1, ml, k1, yo, k1, yo, k1, ssk, k2 [k1, k2tog, k1, yo, k1, yo, k1, s2kpsso, k1, yo, k1, yo, k1, ssk, k2] repeat to last nine stitches, k1, k2tog, k1, yo, k1, yo, k1, mr, k1, mr, k1, ktb

**Row 17** : ktb, k1, ml, k1, ml, yo, k2tog, k1, ssk, yo, k2, yo, k1, ssk, k1 [k2tog, k1, yo, k2, yo, k2tog, k1, ssk, yo, k2, yo, k1, ssk, k1] repeat to last thirteen stitches, k2tog, k1, yo, k2, yo, k2tog, k1, ssk, yo, mr, k1, mr, k1, ktb

**Row 19** : ktb, k1, ml, k1, ml, k1, k1, yo, k2tog, k3, ssk, yo, k1, k1, yo, ssk, k1 [k2tog, yo, k1, k1, yo, k2tog, k3, ssk, yo, k1, k1, yo, ssk, k1] repeat to last sixteen stitches, k2tog, yo, k1, k1, yo, k2tog, k3, ssk, yo, k1, k1, mr, k1, mr, k1, ktb

**Don't forget to work a wrong side row before moving onto the next chart/section.**



# CHART EIGHT – BORDER – 4mm (US6) needles – WORK ONCE ONLY

ENLARGED CHART ON PAGE 15

HELPFUL HINT – It might be useful to insert a lifeline now

Stitch markers will move on Row 5 as the double centred decrease straddles the pattern repeat.

In this section we are creating the 'Grand Finale' of the shawl. There will be a series of double and triple yarn overs that create large holes. You will work knit and purl stitches into these on the following row to create new stitches – these will block wonderfully. Note – each box represents a single yarn over.

- Row 1** : (Right Side Row) ktb, k1, ml, k1, ml, k1 [k1, k2tog, yo, k2, k2tog, **kfb**, ssk, k2, yo, ssk, k2] repeat to last three stitches, mr, k1, mr, k1, ktb
- Row 2** : ktb, k1, mlp, p3, [p8, yo, yo, yo, p7] repeat to last six stitches, p4, mrp, k1, ktb
- Row 3** : ktb, k1, ml, k1, ml, k1, yo, ssk, k1 [k2tog, yo, k3, k2tog, pkp into first yarn over, pkp into second yarn over, pkp into third yarn over, ssk, k3, yo, ssk, k1] repeat to last six stitches, k2tog, yo, k1, mr, k1, mr, k1, ktb
- Row 4** : ktb, k1, mlp, purl to last two stitches, mrp, k1, ktb
- Row 5** : **Stitch markers will move on this row as the double centred decrease straddles the pattern repeat.** ktb, k1, ml, k1, ml, ssk, k3, yo, s2kpsso [yo, k3, k2tog, k10, ssk, k3, yo, s2kpsso] repeat to last eight stitches, yo, k3, k2tog, mr, k1, mr, k1, ktb
- Row 6** : ktb, k1, mlp, purl to last two stitches, mrp, k1, ktb
- Row 7** : ktb, k1, ml, **k1**, ml, yo, k2tog, k1, ssk, k3, **k1** [k3, k2tog, k2, yo, yo, k3, yo, yo, k3, yo, yo, k2, ssk, k3, **k1**] repeat to last eleven stitches, k3, k2tog, k1, ssk, yo, mr, **k1**, mr, k1, ktb

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**Row 8** : ktb, k1, mlp, p10 [p7, kp into first yarn over, kp into second yarn over (making four stitches from the two yarn overs), p3, kp into first yarn over, kp into second yarn over, p3, kp into first yarn over, kp into second yarn over, p6] repeat to last thirteen stitches, p11, mrp, k1, ktb

**Row 9** : ktb, k1, ml, k1, ml, k1, yo, k2tog, k3, ssk, k3 [k2, k2tog, k22, ssk, k3] repeat to last thirteen stitches, k2, k2tog, k3, ssk, yo, k1, mr, k1, mr, k1, ktb

**Row 10** : ktb, k1, mlp, purl to last two stitches, mrp, k1, ktb,

**Row 11** : ktb, k1, ml, k1, ml, yo, k2tog, yo, k2tog, k5, ssk, k2 [k1, k2tog, k22, ssk, k2] repeat to last fifteen stitches, k1, k2tog, k5, ssk, yo, ssk, yo, mr, k1, mr, k1, ktb

**IMPORTANT** – Do not work a wrong side row, move directly to next chart.





# CHART NINE – BORDER – 4mm (US6) needles – WORK ONCE ONLY – ENLARGED CHART

CO <sub>3</sub> B08	CO <sub>3</sub> B06	CO <sub>3</sub> B08	CO <sub>3</sub> B06	CO <sub>3</sub> B04															
Λ										Λ					o / o / o / o	ml	ml	k	ktb
	- -	v	- -		- -	v	- -		- -	v	- -						mrp	k	ktb
/	\									/	\					ml	ml	k	ktb
	o //	o	// o //	o //	o //	o //	o //	o //	o //	o //	o //	o //	o //	o //	o //	o //	o //	o //	o //

Right hand side of chart and pattern repeat above – left hand side of chart below

PICOT BIND OFF	CO <sub>3</sub> B06	CO <sub>3</sub> B08	CO <sub>3</sub> B06	CO <sub>3</sub> B08														
4	ktb	k	mr	mr	o	\	o	\	o	\	o	\	o	\	o	\	o	Λ
3		ktb	k	mlp													v	- -
2			ktb	k	mr	mr	o	\	o	\	o	\	o	\	o	\	o	/
1				ktb	k	mlp											o //	o //

**PLEASE NOTE** – The s2kpsso straddles the pattern repeat and therefore your stitch markers will move on Row 4. The bind off is worked on a wrong side row. This will be worked from left to right as shown on the chart above. The vertical lines show where the picots will fall between stitches.

# BLOCKING YOUR SHAWL

Here are a series of notes on blocking shawls. This is not the only way but it is the way I do mine and it works for me.

You will need:- Blocking Mats, blocking pins (stainless steel, rustproof), blocking wires (for triangular shawls and stoles but not always necessary for crescent shaped shawls), an undisturbed, large, flat surface.

It is important to marry the right yarn to your project. If you want to create a very dramatic and thuggishly blocked shawl you need to select a yarn that will tolerate and accommodate that treatment. Silk is excellent for dramatic blocking whereas cashmere demands more gentle treatment. Choose your yarn carefully and block accordingly.

1. Once your shawl is complete and bound off you will need to soak it. Soak for about an hour. Gently squeeze out excess water and lay your shawl onto a dry, fresh towel. Roll the towel up into a sausage/roll and you can then squeeze the towel to absorb as much moisture as possible.
2. Lay your shawl out onto your blocking mats, ensuring you have plenty of space. Coax the shawl into the correct shape – it usually lets you know what shape it wants to be.
3. Stretch and pin your top edge in a curve (this will sit on your shoulders nicely).
4. Thread a blocking wire through the bottom, centre, points of your shawl or pin individual points with your blocking pins. Pin your wire into place along the bottom of your shawl, stretching the points down as you go. The bottom points will move further and further down your mats as you stretch your shawl. Move your points along the wire to ensure that they are even or adjust your pins as necessary.



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5. Gently pull your shawl to the sides, easing the top and the bottom until you have a lovely even curve at the top sides and the bottom points are pulled into nice even points.
6. Check to see that your beads and stitches are lined up as you stretch.
7. Move from the centre out to the sides, a little each side, as you go.
8. The ends usually curl around – let them do their own thing and pin them into place, easing out any points you go.
9. Remove the pins along the top edge of your shawl and pull down on your blocking wires again to get a nice taut top edge.
10. I pinned the beaded centre stitch down just to keep it in place but this is not totally necessary as I removed the pins before the shawl was left to dry.
11. Pin out the picots that are halfway up the point.
12. Pin the top picots and then go back around and pin the picots that are either side of the centre point. You should now have a nice rounded edge right along your shawl.
13. Once you are happy you have a lovely even shawl leave your shawl in a safe place to dry. I am usually quite thuggish when blocking shawls but I was a little gentler this time.



**Don't forget that some yarns are more fragile than others. You can be more thuggish with silk than cashmere – always treat and choose your yarn accordingly.**

