THE CREABEA

Daft Days Shawl

Finished Measurements:
Wingspan – 165 cm/65 inches
Depth – 70 cm/27.5 inches

Yardage:
MC: 370 meters/404 yards
CC: 325 meters/355 yards

Gauge:
22 stitches and 29 rows in slip stitch pattern = 10cm/4 inches

Suggested Needles:
3.25 mm needle or needle required to get gauge in slip stitch pattern

Creabea Knitting Podcast

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About

The Daft Days shawl is a slip-stitch patterned shawl that allows the knitter to play with colours and textures. It's a simple triangular construction, increasing at the centre and at the edges. This makes for easy-to-follow, relaxed knitting and an opportunity to let the colours shine.

Gauge

You can play with gauge to your liking, using a needle size that you're more comfortable with or a thicker yarn weight than suggested. Just note that this will change the size of the final shawl and the yardage specified.

Yarn

The yarn used for the sample is Mendip 4-ply yarn [100% pure British wool, 180m/50g]. It uses 3 contrast colours, striped in sequence, with 1 Main Colour.

The sample uses 24 contrast colour stripes, but you could alter this to suit your preferences.

Any yarn that meets gauge can be used in this pattern.

At the end of the pattern, you'll find a chart of estimated grams needed for a version that uses 24 contrast colours and one main colour which may help with planning.

Planning your colours

This pattern is worked with 4 rows in each colour at a time. This means that you could stripe the pattern with just a handful of colours, use an advent calendar or a selection of minis with a main colour, or fade continuously throughout the whole shawl.

You could also change the number of rows in each colour, using just 2 rows at a time for less distinctive stripes, or more than 4 rows for thicker stripes. You might want to work in one colour until you use it all up and then fade to the next.

If using a MC with 4-row stripes, you can carry the MC yarn up the side to save having more ends to weave in.

Stitch Pattern (repeated over an even stitch count)
Row 1 (RS): *K1, sl1wyif, repeat from * to end.
Row 2 (WS): Purl to end.

For the colour repeat, work Rows 1 and 2 twice (4 rows total) in colour 1, then Rows 1 and 2 twice more (4 rows) in colour 2. Continue to work each colour for 4 rows in your chosen colour cycle.

Note: You could choose to make your stripes thicker or thinner by working more/fewer than 4 rows per colour.

Abbreviations
k - knit
kfb - insert your right needle into the front of the stitch, knit one but don't remove the stitch from your needle. Insert your needle again into the back of the stitch, knit one. Slide stitch off needle. [1 stitch increased]
M1R - Make one right: insert the left-hand needle from back to front under the bar between the stitches, knit this bar through the front loop. [1 stitch increased]
M1L - Make one left: insert left-hand needle from front to back under the bar between the stitches, knit this bar through the back loop. [1 stitch increased]
p - purl
pm - place marker
sm - slip marker
sl1wyif - slip stitch purlwise with yarn carried in front

Start here
Garter tab cast-on
Using your main colour, cast on 2 stitches using the backwards-loop method. Work 10 rows in garter stitch (knitting both stitches on both the right side and wrong side). Turn your work 90 degrees clockwise with your stitches on your right-hand needle. Using the left-hand needle, pick up 1 stitch in each of the five garter ridges along the edge of the work, inside each garter bump. Knit across these stitches.

Turn your work another 90 degrees and pick up the two stitches along your cast-on edge. You now have 9 stitches on your needles.

Main body
Continue working the set-up rows in the MC. If striping, start working stripes from Row 1 onwards.

Set-up Row 1 (RS): K2, pm, kfb, p1, pm, p1, pm, p1, kfb, pm, k2. [2 stitches increased]
Set-up Row 2 (WS): K2, purl until 2 stitches remain, k2.

Row 1 (RS): K2, sm, M1L, *sl1wyif, k1; repeat from * until 1 stitch before marker, sl1wyif, M1R, sm, k1, sm, M1L, *sl1wyif, k1; repeat from * until 1 stitch before marker, sl1wyif, M1R, sm, k2. [4 stitches increased]
Row 2 (WS): K2, purl until 2 stitches remain, k2.
Row 3 (RS): K2, sm, M1L, *k1, sl1wyif; repeat from * until 1 stitch before marker, k1, M1R, sm, k1, sm, M1L, *k1, sl1wyif; repeat from * until 1 stitch before marker, k1, M1R, sm, k2. [4 stitches increased]
Row 4 (WS): K2, purl until 2 stitches remain, k2.

Repeat Rows 1 through 4 until your shawl reaches your desired length, following the colour repeat of your choice. End by repeating Rows 1 and 2 in the border colour of your choice.
The sample had 24 contrast colour stripes (48 stripes total) and measured approximately 68.5 cm/27 inches deep and 181.5 cm/71.5 inches wide. It had a total of 399 stitches here.

Border
The border is a simple 1x1 rib border. Increases continue in this section at either side of the markers. The pattern calls for 5 cm/2 inches of ribbing but, again, this is customisable, and you can lengthen or shorten the border accordingly.

Row 1 (RS): K2, sm, M1L, *k1, p1; repeat from * until 1 stitch before marker, k1, M1R, sm, k1, sm, M1L, *k1, p1; repeat from * until 1 stitch before marker, k1, M1R, sm, k2.
Row 2 (WS): K2, knit the knits and purl the purls to end of row, k2.
Row 3 (RS): K2, sm, M1L, *p1, k1; repeat from * until 1 stitch before marker, p1, M1R, sm, k1, sm, M1L, *p1, k1; repeat from * until 1 stitch before marker, p1, M1R, sm, k2.
Row 4 (RS): K2, knit the knits and purl the purls to end of row, k2.

Repeat Rows 1-4 until your border measures 5 cm/2 inches or the desired length. Finish on a WS row.

Bind off in pattern or using your preferred bind-off method.

Finishing
Weave in all of your ends, wash and block your shawl.