

Spring Feverish 2025: Leafy Kerchief.

by the Mouse Army Mitten Co.



Leafy uses simple wrap-and-turn short rows to create a contrasting series of leaf shapes along the kerchief's edges. This design also combines bias- and top-down triangle shawl constructions for an easy but interesting project—plus a neat i-cord bindoff

This project requires a few more materials than the others for the 2025 series: it's a smaller kerchief, so you can add a button in case tying the ends isn't workable.

Materials:

- About 166 yds of MC and 40 yds CC sportweight yarn; sample shown in Paton's Kroy Socks in Taupe (MC) and Cascade Colors (CC)
- 1 24" circular needle in US4-5/3.5-3.75mm, or size needed for gauge, used to work flat.
- Stitch marker
- Tapestry needle
- Button (1" or preferred size; the button loop is knit to suit), optional

Gauge:

Gauge is 20 sts and 40 rows over 4"/10cm of garter stitch, worked flat and blocked.

Abbreviations used:

CC/MC—contrast color, main color

k—knit

p—purl

m—marker

m1l/r—make one left, make one right; a single-stitch increase.

mst—marked stitch

RS/WS—right side, wrong side.

sl1—slip one

st/s—stitch/es

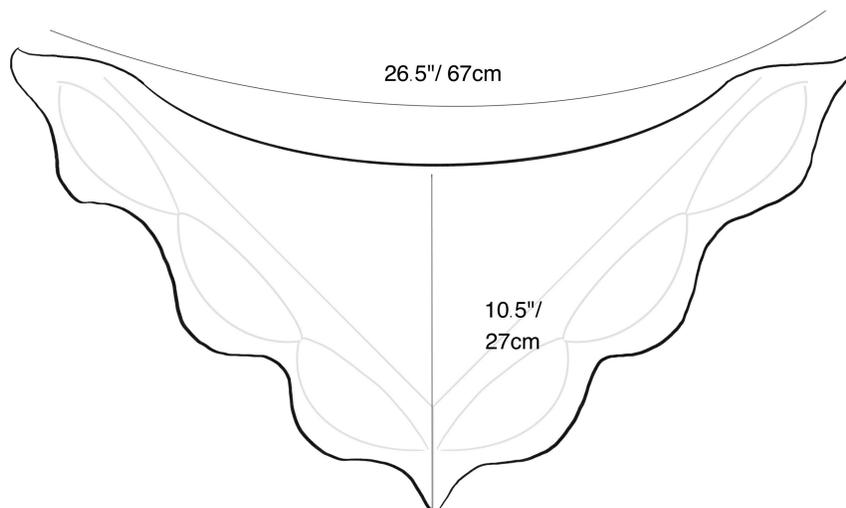
w&t—wrap and turn

wst—wrapped st

Measurements:

This kerchief measures about 26.5"/67cm across by 10.5"/27cm deep.



Schematic:**Begin Work: Cast On.**

Using the cable cast-on method and MC, CO 4 sts.

Work flat.

Work is on the bias for this part, and starts from the upper corner.

Row 1. sl1, k3.

Row 2. sl1, p1, k2.

Row 3 (RS). sl1, k1, m1r, k2 (1 st inc) 5 sts total.

Row 4. sl1, p1, k to end of row.

Row 5. sl1, k to last 2 sts, m1r, k2 (1 st inc) 6 sts total.

Row 6. sl1, p1, k to end of row.

Repeat Rows 5 & 6 until you have 64 sts total.

End with a WS row.

On the RS, bind off all sts.

Do not break yarn! Leave the last bind-off st live on the needle.



Pick up stitches from the wrong side, as described below.

Picking Up Sts.

Turn work, so that you're picking up stitches on the WS.

Pick up 64 sts along the bindoff edge from right to left. This works out to about 1 st per bindoff loop, and 65 sts including the bindoff loop.

Place a marker on Stitch 65.

Continuing from Stitch 65, pick up 64 sts along the selvedge loops. This works out to about 1 st per loop.

You'll have 129 sts total.

Knit Down.

Garter Stitch.

Row 1. sl1, k to end of row.

Row 2. sl1, p1, k to marked st, p mst, k to last 2 sts, p1, k1.

Row 3. sl1, k1, m1l, k to mst, m1r, k1, m1l, k to last 2 sts, m1r, k2 (4 sts inc) 133 sts total.

Row 4. sl1, p1, k to marked st, p mst, k to last 2 sts, p1, k1.

Repeat Rows 3 & 4 four more times (16 sts inc) 149 sts total.

Short Rows.

Row 1 (RS). (MC) sl1, k1, m1l, (attach CC), k to mst, m1r, k1, m1l, l to last 2 sts, m1r, w&t (4 sts inc) 153 sts total.

The short row leaf design is worked over 24 sts. There are six 24-st sections, three on either side of the triangle's midpoint.

To set up short rows: k1.

*Row 2 (WS, CC). k23, w&t.

Row 3 (RS). k22, w&t.

Row 4. k to 2 before next wst, w&t.

Repeat Row 4 until only six unwrapped sts are left between the wraps.

Row 5. k to wst, k wst, k1, w&t.

Repeat Row 5 until all wrapped stitches have been worked—either knit or wrapped again.

Row 6. k22, k wst.

After finishing Row 6, do not turn work!

Working Row 6 brings you to the next 24-stitch subsection. Stay on the WS and return to Row 2.*

Continue the next short-row subsection over the next 24 sts, and repeat the short row pattern

Rows 2-6 as written until you have 1 st left before the mst.

Midpoint: k1, p1, k1.

The next side of the triangle continues in short row pattern:

*Row 2. k23, w&t.

Row 3 (RS). k22, w&t.

Row 4. k to 2 before next wst, w&t.

Repeat Row 4 until only six unwrapped sts are left in the middle, between the wraps.

Row 5. k to wst, k wst, k1, w&t.

Repeat Row 5 until all wrapped stitches have been worked.

Row 6. k22, k wst.

After finishing Row 6, do not turn work!
Stay on the WS and return to Row 2.*

Repeat *Rows 2-6* as written until you have 3 sts left in the overall row.

For those three final sts, break CC yarn, leaving enough to weave in, and switch back to MC:
sl1, p1, k1.

Turn work, and continue over the entire 153-st row.

Garter Stitch.

Row 7 (MC). sl1, k1, m1l, k to mst, m1r, k1, m1l, k to last 2 sts, m1r, k2 (4 sts inc) 157 sts total.

Row 8. sl1, p1, k to marked st, p mst, k to last 2 sts, p1, k1.

Repeat Rows 7 & 8 three more times (12 sts inc) 169 sts total.

I-Cord Bind Off & Finishing.

Bind off applied i-cord method.

Setup: sl1, m1l, k1. Slip these three sts back onto LH needle.

Work is over these three stitches, and the next live stitch on the needle. The ssk incorporates the third i-cord stitch and the next

Row 1. k2, ssk. Slip all 3 sts back to LH needle.



Repeat Row 1 until all live sts are bound off.

Optional Button Loop.

Continue to work i-cord (k3, slip all 3 sts back to LH needle, repeat) until you have a length of i-cord that works with the button you've chosen. Break yarn, and use a darning needle to graft the live sts to the base of the loop.



(Grafting live sts to static ones is done like basic grafting/Kitchener st: bring yarn through first st on needle as if to purl, bring yarn around base of static st, bring yarn through first st on needle as if to knit and slip st off; bring yarn through next st as if to purl, and continue in this fashion until all sts are secured. It should look very close to standard stockinette.)

Add Button.

Position button on opposite corner, and stitch into place using yarn or thread.

Weave in any remaining yarn ends, block to match schematic, and enjoy!

