



The Shetland Trader



Riggies Cowl
By Gudrun Johnston

Size

Circumference: Approx. 20 (25)" / 51 (63.5) cm

Depth at Center Front: Approx. 14 (16 ½)" / 35.5 (42) cm

See note on gauge below.

Needles

US 6 / 4mm circular needle, 24" / 60 cm length (a second needle in the same size is needed for the Three Needle Bind Off).

Note: You can really use any length of the above needles as no stitches are joined for working in the round. I have listed a length I think is most comfortable for accommodating the number of stitches being worked at one time.

Yarn

Approx. 200 (300) yds / 183 (275) m of fingering weight yarn.

shown in:

Jamieson's Of Shetland Spindrift (100% Pure Shetland Wool; 115 yds / 105m per 25g ball)

Samples shown use:

Smaller Size- *Sunglow* + *Mogit* with *Mimosa* for front TNBO.

Larger Size- *Burnt Ochre* with *Mint* for front TNBO and *Royal* for Purlled I Cord Bind off on neck edge.

Find a list of Jamieson's of Shetland North American Stockists [here](#).

Notions

Scrap yarn to hold stitches, 2 split ring markers (to mark RS of knitting, scrap thread can also be used), tapestry needle for weaving in ends.

Gauge

21 sts & 36 rows = 4" / 10cm worked flat over Garter Stitch on US 6 / 4mm needles.

Note On Gauge: *Although gauge is important to aim for there is a lot of flexibility with this project as garter stitch has a lot of give in the fabric. The row gauge is what will determine the circumference of the cowl. The stitch gauge will determine the overall length. It will also make a difference what type of yarn you use. To more easily match the gauge and fabric shown here a woolly and lofty yarn, like Shetland wool, is recommended.*

Smoother yarns will yield a different result in the fabric.

Construction

This cowl is worked in two halves and joined at the center front using a Three Needle Bind Off. The two halves are shaped using yarn overs at the beginning of every other row and the top neck edge is worked in a slipped garter stitch edge. The cowl comes in two sizes but can be easily adjusted. The cowl can be worked in a single color or different colors for each half (or more) and contrast pops can be added in the Three Needle Bind Off and/or if you choose to pick up stitches at the top neck edge for a Purlled I-Cord Bind Off.

Pattern

Note: You are going to be working two separate segments that will then be joined together using a Three Needle Bind Off. It's helpful to mark which is the RS of each piece for assembly. This can be done by either attaching a split ring marker or threading some contrast yarn through the garter ridges.

A slipped garter stitch edge is worked on each segment and yarn overs are made at the beginning of every other row to shape the cowl.

A video for an overview of construction and techniques can be found [here](https://youtu.be/5ZDPgXFh8No).

Right Half

With US 6 / 4mm needle, CO 30 sts using the Long Tail Cast On (or preferred method).

Set Up Row (WS): Knit to last st, bring yarn forward, sl1 pw.

See how to work a yarn over at the beginning of a row [here](https://youtu.be/REiySOzmW3s).

Row 1 (RS): Knit.

Mark RS of knitting.

Row 2 (WS): YO, knit to last st, bring yarn forward, sl1 pw, (1 st increased).

Repeat last 2 rows until you have 74 (86) sts on the needle.

Knit one more RS row.

45 (57) garter ridges with RS facing.

Break working yarn leaving a tail.
Leave sts on needle.

Left Half

Using the other US 6 / 4mm needle CO 30 sts using the Long Tail Cast On.

Set Up Row (WS): Knit.

Next Row (RS): YO, knit to 1 st before end of row, bring yarn forward, slip last stitch purlwise. (1 st increased).

Mark RS of knitting.

Next Row (WS): Knit.

Repeat last two rows until you have 74 (86) sts on the needle.

Knit one more RS row without making a yarn over at the beginning and without slipping last st.

45 (57) garter ridges with RS facing.

Keep working yarn attached to Left Half (or break if using a contrast color for the TNBO).

Three Needle Bind Off

With both sets of stitches on two separate needles and with WS facing each other join the two halves of the cowl down the center front using a TNBO checking tension as you go (see Special Techniques).

It is easier to block the cowl flat at this point before joining back seam.

Finishing

Weave in any ends.

Soak cowl in a gentle wool wash (or plain cool water) for at least 20 mins.

Block to desired measurements.

To open up the yarn over edge use blocking wires to catch each loop when stretching out the cowl.

Seam together the back neck edge.

Optional Purl I-Cord Bind Off

Beginning at center back neck edge, with WS facing, using US 6 / 4 mm needle and contrast color yarn, pick up and knit 1:1 in each slipped stitch along the top edge of the cowl.

Turn work to RS and cast on 2 sts using a backwards loop cast on (see Special techniques). Work Purl I-Cord Bind Off (see Special Techniques) across all sts. Seam the two ends of the I-Cord together at end.
Best worn with the top edge folded down to see the purl I-Cord.

Special Techniques

Three Needle Bind Off

With stitches for pieces to be joined on needles and holding needles parallel to each other with tips pointing to the right, use a third needle to knit together one stitch from the front needle and one stitch from the back needle, *knit together one stitch from the front needle and one stitch from the back needle, bind off one stitch; repeat from * until all stitches are knit together and bound off. Break yarn leaving a tail and pull through remaining stitch.

Purled I-Cord Bind Off

See video tutorial available here: <https://youtu.be/pnOS8a40nQk> (Note: this video demonstrates the Purled I-Cord Bind Off on a different pattern).

With 2 sts cast on work as follows * P2, p2tog, take yarn to back of work, slip 3 sts on RH needle back to LH needle, bring yarn to front of work; rep from * across all sts until 3 sts remain of the I-Cord. Cut yarn leaving tail and draw through remaining sts as if to purl.

Backwards Loop Cast On

See video tutorial available here: <https://youtu.be/MGNUcJQpRn8>

Step 1: Hold the needle to receive cast on stitches in your right hand with needle tip pointing to the left. Hold the working yarn over your left thumb so that the yarn end attached to the work is behind your thumb and the yarn end attached to the ball (the tail) is in front of your thumb. Grasp the tail end of the yarn with the fingers of your left hand.

Step 2: Bring your right needle tip towards you, so that the yarn attached to the work crosses over the tail.

Step 3: Bring the right needle tip up, parallel with your thumb, into the backwards loop of yarn that has formed on your thumb.

Step 4: Drop the loop off your thumb and onto the needle tip, tightening the loop on the needle.

Repeat Steps 1–4 until all stitches are cast on.

Abbreviations

CO: cast on

LHN: left hand needle

PM: place marker

RHN: right hand needle

RS: right side

TNBO: three needle bind off (see special techniques)

Sl 1 pw: slip 1 stitch purlwise

st(s): stitch(es)

WS: wrong side.

YO: yarn over

Like the Riggies Cowl?

Check out the Riggies Beanie [here!](#)