

Ixora Starflower Scarf

by Danielle Jones

This scarf is reminiscent of the Ixora genus of flowering plants (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hitoea>), with their large leaves and clusters of tiny, star-like flowers. It is cast on at both ends with a single stitch and worked toward the center, where the two halves are joined by grafting.

Finished Measurements

4" x 70"

Materials

Yarn

Handspun merino, 1 oz, 160 yd (somewhere between lace and fingering)

Substitute freely

Needle Size

US #6/4 mm needles

Use the size that gives the best look and feel with your yarn. For finer yarn you might go down a size or two, and for fingering weight, a size 8 would do better.

Notions

Waste yarn (smooth, and thicker than your scarf yarn)
Yarn needle

Pattern Notes

Estonian Star Stitches

The “flowers” in this scarf are based on the basic 3-into-3 star stitch. Three stitches are worked together to form three new stitches, and the result looks like a four-point star. The other variations in this pattern are used to make increases or to balance the ends of rows. This star pattern tends to draw the fabric in quite a bit, so working the star stitches (and the WS purls) loosely will help open it up, as well as making it easier to work. A tip I find helpful is to get a finger or thumb on the right needle to hold the loops as you form them.

3-into-3 star: Knit three sts together and leave them on the left needle. Make a yarn over, and knit the same three sts together again, then slip them off the needle.

2-into-3 star: (Same as above, but worked into only two sts.) Knit two sts together and leave them on the left needle. Make a yarn over, and knit the same two sts together again, then slip them off the needle.

1-into-3 star: (Same as above but worked into only one st, and worked through the back loop to twist the st so it doesn't gap open wide.) Knit through the back loop and leave st on the left needle. Make a yarn over, and knit the same st through the back loop again, then slip it off the needle.

2-into-2 star: Knit two sts together, then purl the same two sts together. Your stars will look a little nicer if you always put the purl st towards the outside—so in the first half of the row, work it as purl two together then knit two together.



1-into-2 star: Knit and purl in same st. Like the 2-into-2 star, these will look nicer if you put the purl to the outside—so in the first half of the row, work it as purl then knit in same st.

On the return row, purl every loop of the star sts. Working the three-st stars forms three very closely spaced loops on the needle. The knits emerge from their sts on the right side of the work, and the yarn overs emerge on the wrong side. As you purl back, work a loop that comes from behind, then the one that comes from in front, then the last which comes from behind. Working the loops out of order will obscure the star pattern that forms on the front.

Other Stitches

sl st pwise wyf: Slip st as if to purl, with the yarn held in front.

k2tog on RS, p2tog on WS: On a right side row, knit two together. On a wrong side row, purl two together. Right-leaning decrease.

Ssk: Slip-slip-knit: Slip two sts knit-wise one at a time, then knit them together through the back loop. Left-leaning decrease.

k2tog tbl on RS, p2tog tbl on WS: On a right side row, knit two together through the back loop. On a wrong side row, purl two together through the back loop. Left-leaning decrease, twisted.

k3tog: Knit three sts together. Right-leaning double decrease.

k3tog tbl: Knit three sts together through the back loop. Left-leaning double decrease, twisted.

S2KP2: Slip two sts together as if to k2tog, knit the next st, pass the two slipped sts over the knit st. Centered double decrease.

SK2P: Sl, k2, pssso: Slip one st as if to knit, knit the next two sts together, pass the slipped st over and off the needle. Double decrease.

How to tell it's time to start the Final Chart

Wrap your yarn loosely around your needle 14 times, as if you're making yarn overs. (Hold the loops as they go on the needle so they don't tighten up on you.) This is (theoretically) the length of yarn needed to make 14 stitches. Or, work 14 stitches and rip them out, measuring the length of yarn they used up. Measure an equal length, so you have twice the original length. Then double the new length (to get four times the first length). Continue till you've doubled it six times. (Or measure it in inches and multiply by 64.) Add a foot or three, for a tail and for insurance. This is enough yarn to knit another repeat of the LEAF CHART and the entire FINAL CHART. For example, if you're knitting from both ends of a center-pull ball, you can knit both ends of the scarf at once. As you get close to the middle of the skein, work the FINAL CHART on one end. Measure out a tail for that end, and the length found above for finishing the second end. Mark that point in the yarn. Then you can knit until you get to that marker. Once you reach it, continue until you finish row 14 of the LEAF CHART, then start the FINAL CHART.

Directions

First end of scarf

Make a slip knot and put the loop on the needle. K this st through the front, through the back, and through the front again. (3 sts) Turn. Slip the first st, k the next two. You have completed the first two rows of the TAIL A chart. Continue working TAIL A chart. Rows 21-24 may be worked as many times as you wish. (Scarf shown uses four repeats.) Work to the end of TAIL A chart.

Begin LEAF CHART at row 1, working it as many times as you wish. End after row 14, as the blue arrow indicates. (Scarf shown uses nine repeats.)

Work the FINAL CHART through row 21 and stop. (Last row worked is a RS row.)

Second end of scarf

Begin with a slip knot as for the first end, and work the chart for TAIL B. You may repeat rows 21-24 if you wish. (Scarf shown worked these rows only once.) Work to the end of TAIL B chart.

Begin working LEAF CHART on **row 3**. Again work chart as many times as you wish, ending after row 14. (Scarf shown uses eight repeats.)

Work the FINAL CHART through row 22. Work row 23 using waste yarn, knitting the first st (instead of slipping).

Finishing

Cut the yarn hanging from the first half of the scarf so it's long enough to graft both halves together (about four times the width of stretched scarf, plus a little for weaving in the end). Thread a tapestry needle onto it. Arrange the two halves for grafting, with the waste yarn on the front needle, the other half of the scarf on the back needle. Cut the waste yarn on the right-hand side to leave a short tail of about 1 inch.

Grafting the two ends together: On the front needle, follow the tail of the waste yarn through the loops. You may want to remove the waste yarn as you go. You've completed one stitch when the waste yarn goes over the top of the needle. Then use Kitchener stitch as you would normally on the back needle.

Begin by following the tail of the waste yarn up through the back of the first loop below the front needle. Then it flips over the needle, so now go to the back needle and go through the first stitch purl-wise. Now to the front needle, follow the waste yarn down through the front of the first loop and up through the back of the next. It flips over the needle, so go again to the back needle. Go through the first stitch knit-wise and slip it off the needle, go through the next stitch purl-wise (the first three stitches are in garter—do purl-then knit when it changes to stockinette). Then back to the front needle and follow the waste yarn again.

Weave in ends. Block, pinning out the border to form points as shown.