



Mitered Nova

Shanel Wu (Piper Nell)

Starts like a mitered square, ends like a mitered square. Something stellar happens in between! This shawl is knit sideways with a central spine throughout. As you progress from one tip to the other, the shawl will expand like a star in the twilight of its life, then explode in a nova of lace. Next, the shawl will suddenly start contracting, gradually becoming narrower until nothing is left.



One set of directions  given for both versions of the shawl, lace weight and fingering

weight. Repeat and stitch counts are given in the format *lace (fingering)*.

[e.g. knit 52(40) sts]



This pattern is for intermediate knitters with some lace experience, so knowledge of k2tog, ssk, and yarn overs is assumed. Instructions included for double increases and decreases, striping with carrying yarn up the side, and right- and left-twist stitches (i.e. 1x1 cables). Some experience with mitered square construction is recommended.

Yarn

Two colors (C1 and C2) are recommended for this shawl. For the laceweight version, you will need roughly 50g of C1 and 50g of C2. For the fingering weight version, you will need 100g of C1 and 100g of C2.

Color Choice

This design was created to show off a gradient C1, with any C2 suited to your taste. For the laceweight sample, C1 is a gradient that shifts through multiple hues. I chose C2 to match one of the hues within the gradient. C1 is Freia Ombre Lace (colorway: Flare) and C2 is Knit Picks Gloss Lace (colorway: Fiesta Red). For the fingering weight sample, C1 is a light-to-dark gradient that shifts through different tones of the same hue. I chose a speckled colorway for C2 that complemented the earthy brown C1.

Needles

You will need a long (at least 40") circular needle. I used US 3 (2.75mm) needles for the laceweight sample and US 5 (3.75mm) needles for the fingering weight version. Adjust needle size to obtain a fabric you are happy with, but be mindful of how much yarn you use!



Pattern Key

Pattern repeats will be indicated with thick borders (chart) or asterisks *[stitches]* (written). Spine stitches will be highlighted. All odd-numbered rows will be on the right side of the work (RS) and all even-numbered rows will be on the wrong side (WS).

Chart	Written	Name & Description
	k (RS); p (WS)	knit (RS); purl (WS)
	p (RS); k (WS)	purl (RS); knit (WS)
N/A	s1 wyib	slip one stitch with yarn in back
	r2t	right twist or right mini-cable
	l2t	left twist or left mini-cable
increases		
	yo	yarn-over
	kfb	knit front back: knit stitch through front loop, move yarn forward and purl through front loop of the same stitch; single increase
	kyok	knit yarn-over knit: in a single stitch, knit, yarn over, then knit again; double increase
decreases		
	k2tog	knit 2 together: single decrease, right-leaning
	ssk	slip slip knit: single decrease, left-leaning
	cdd	central double-decrease: slip two stitches as if to k2tog, k next stitch, pass 2 slipped st over
	k3tog	knit 3 together: double decrease, right-leaning
	s3k	slip slip slip knit: slip 3 knitwise individually, k3tog through back loop; double decrease, left-leaning

Section 1: Steady State

Cast On: With C1, CO 91 (71) stitches using the long-tail cast on. The idle stitch, the 46th (36th) stitch, will be referred to as the *spine stitch* or the *spine* and will be highlighted when appropriate. On every RS row, the spine stitch will be the center stitch in a centered double-decrease (cdd). On every WS row, the spine stitch will be purled.

Set-up row: (WS) k 45 (35) sts, p1, k to end.

Next, work the following two rows to form a *straight ridge* in garter stitch.

Row 1: k3, yo, k to 1 st before spine, cdd, k to 3 sts before end, yo, k3.

Row 2: k to spine, p1, k to end.

You may find it easier to count the ridges instead of repeats. Work a total of 25 (20) **straight ridges** [i.e. repeat Rows 1 and 2 a total of 25 (20) times] including the first time until section is desired length.

NOTE: All shaping (increases and decreases) are worked on WS rows into the yo of the preceding RS row. Sections 2 and 3 increase stitch count and can both be modified for a larger or smaller shawl. Keep in mind that the more stitches you end up with after Section 3, the more yarn you'll need for Sections 4 and 5. See appendices for more tips on modifying the pattern.

Section 2: Expanding Stripes

Set-up: Switch to C2 and work one **straight ridge**. Then switch back to C1, carrying C2 up the edge by twisting it with C1, and work two more **straight ridges**. Next, switch to C2 and work an *increase ridge* as follows:

Row 1: k3, yo, k to 1st before spine, cdd, k to 3 sts before end, yo, k3.

Row 2: k to spine, p1, k to 4 sts from end, kfb, k3.

Switch to C1 and work two **straight ridges**. This 6-row repeat of one **increase ridge** (C2) and two **straight ridges** (C1) increases one stitch per repeat and forms one **increase stripe**:

Row 1: (C2) k3, yo, k to 1st before spine, cdd, k to 3 sts before end, yo, k3.

Row 2: (C2) k to spine, p1, k to 4 sts from end, kfb, k3.

Row 3: (C1) Repeat Row 1.

Row 4: (C1) k to spine, p1, k to end.

Row 5 & 6: (C1) Repeat Rows 3 & 4.

Work 30 (25) **increase stripes** in addition to the set-up stripe, or until desired. At the end of this section, you should have 121 (96) sts. If you work additional stripes, make sure the number of increase stripes is a multiple of 5 so that your final stitch count at the end of Section 2 is a multiple of 5 plus 1 extra.

Section 3: Lace Nova

Lace instructions are both written  charted according to the pattern key. The main lace motif is a 5-stitch, 6-row repeat where all wrong side sts (minus border) are purled. Increases are worked into  of previous row.

Set-up: Work C1, switch to C2, and work one **straight ridge**.

Work 8 (10) repeats of **Chart A** for a total of 161 (146) sts, or as desired. After the last lace repeat, work one more **straight ridge** before moving onto the next section.

Chart A (written)

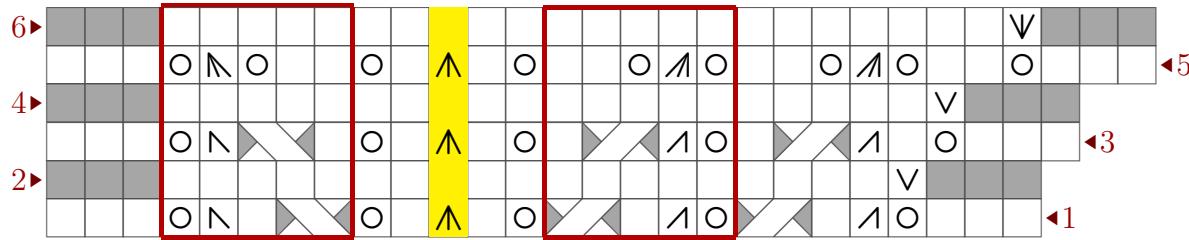
Row 1: k3, yo, k2tog, k1, r2t, *[yo, k2tog, k1, r2t]*, yo, k1, cdd, k1, yo, *[l2t, k1, ssk, yo]*, k3

Row 2: k3, p to 4 from end, kfb, k3 (*all WS rows are identical to Row 2*)

Row 3: k3, yo, k1, k2tog, r2t, k1, *[yo, k2tog, r2t, k1]*, yo, k1, cdd, k1, yo, *[k1, l2t, ssk, yo]*, k3

Row 5: k3, yo, k2, yo, k3tog, yo, k2, *[yo, k3tog, yo, k2]*, yo, k1, cdd, k1, yo, *[k2, yo, s3k, yo]*, k3

Chart A



Section 4: Contracting

Break C2 and switch to C1. Work a **decrease ridge** as follows:

Row 1: k3, yo, k to 1 st before spine, cdd, k to 3 sts before end, yo, k3.
Row 2: k until spine, p1, k to 6 sts before end, k2tog, k4.

Each repeat decreases by 1 st. Work a total of 40 (45) **decrease ridges**, including the first one, to end up with 121 (101) sts on your needles.

Section 5: Contracting Stripes

In Section 5, continue decreasing while striping C1 and C2.  Work 2 **decrease ridges** (C2), then one **straight ridge** (C1). This 6-row repeat decreases two stitches per repeat and will form one **decrease stripe**:

- Row 1:** (C2) k3, yo, k to 1 st before spine, **cdd**, k to 3 sts before end, yo, k3.
Row 2: (C2) k until spine, **p1**, k to 6 sts before end, k2tog, k4.
Rows 3 & 4: (C2) Repeat Rows 1 & 2.
Row 5: (C1) Repeat Row 1.
Row 6: (C1) k to spine, **p1**, k to end.

Work 15 (15) **decrease stripes** so that you end with your original stitch count, 91 (71) sts.

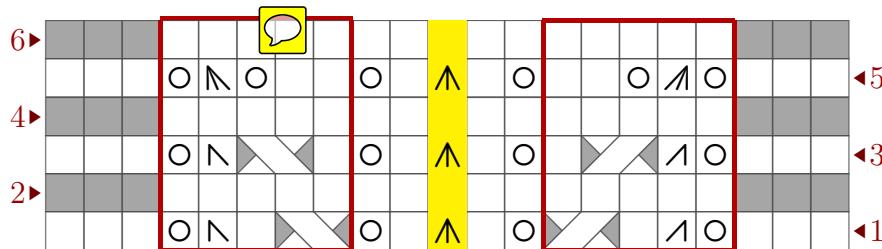
Section 6: Lace Steady State

Switch to C2 and work one **straight ridge**. Work 8 (10) repeats of **Chart B**, or as desired. After the last lace  repeat, work one more **straight ridge** before moving onto the next section.¹ This second lace section is  optional, but highly recommended if you want to use up C2! You should end Section 6 with the same number of stitches as you started, 91 (71) sts.

Chart B (written)

- Row 1:** k3, *[yo, k2tog, k1, r2t]*, yo, k1, **cdd**, k1, yo, *[l2t, k1, ssk, yo*], k3
Row 2: k3, p to 3 from end, k3 (*all WS rows are identical to Row 2*)
Row 3: k3, *[yo, k2tog, r2t, k1]*, yo, k1, **cdd**, k1, yo, *[k1, l2t, ssk, yo*], k3
Row 5: k3, *[yo, k3tog, yo, k2]*, yo, k1, **cdd**, k1, yo, *[k2, yo, s3k, yo*], k3

Chart B



Section 7: Mitered Square

Break C2 and switch to C1 for this last section. Work a mitered  square by repeating the following two rows:

- Row 1:** (RS) slip 1 with yarn in back (**s1 wyib**), k to 1 before spine, **cdd**, k to end
Row 2: (WS) **s1 wyib**, k to spine, **p1**, k to end

Each repeat decreases by 2 sts. Repeat Rows 1 and 2 until 5 sts are left at the end of a WS row. Work the last rows as follows:

Row 1: (RS) s1 wyib, cdd, k1 (3 sts)

Row 2: (WS) k1, p1, k1 (3 sts)

Row 3: (RS) cdd (1 st)

Break yarn, leaving a 6 inch tail. Pull the loop of the last stitch through to finish the piece.

lock the piece and enjoy your new shawl! I would recommend blocking wires for the edges.

I also suggest pinning down the spine to help the shawl lay correctly.

Appendix: Carrying Yarn Up the Side of Your Work

Appendix: Right and Left Twists (Mini-Cables)

Appendix: Tips for Modification

