



Mitered Nova

Shanel Wu (Piper Nell)

Starts like a mitered square, ends like a mitered square—but something stellar happens in between! You cast on at a short end and knit this shawl sideways with a central spine throughout. As you progress from one tip to the other, the shawl expands like a star in the twilight of its life, then explodes in a nova of lace. Suddenly, the shawl contracts, gradually becoming narrower until nothing is left.

Materials

You'll need two colors (C1 and C2) and a long (at least 32") circular needle.

Yardage, sample gauge, and recommended needle sizes are in the table that follows. Gauge is not important, but may affect yarn consumption and final size of the piece.

Notions

- Tapestry needle
- Removable stitch markers (optional)

Yarn Choice

I designed the shawl to show off a gradient C1, with any C2 suited to your taste. The laceweight weight sample is knit with C1 in Freia Ombre Lace in "Flare", a gradient that shifts through multiple warm hues, and with C2 in Knit Picks Gloss Lace in "Fiesta", a solid color which matches one of the hues in the gradient. The fingering weight sample

is knit with C1 in Wee Chickadee Woolery's gradient yarn, a light-to-dark tonal gradient of warm brown, and C2 is Wee Chickadee's sock base, a speckled yarn that complements the earthy brown C1.

Techniques and Reading

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.

One set of directions is given for both versions of the shawl, lace weight and fingering weight. Repeat and stitch counts differ by yarn weight and are given in the format ***lace(fingering)***. [e.g. knit 45(35) sts]

You may find it helpful to count the repeats by counting garter ridges.

	Lace weight	Fingering weight
Yardage	C1: 75g/645y, C2: 50g/400y	C1: 100g/420y, C2: 100g/420y
Gauge	26 st x 46 rows/4"(10cm)	23 st x 40 rows/4"(10cm)
Needle (32" or longer)	US3 (2.75mm)	US5 (3.75mm)



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 (<i>See appendices.</i>)
	l2t	left twist or left mini-cable (<i>See appendices.</i>)
increases		
	yo	yarn-over
	kfb	knit front back: knit stitch through front loop, then in the same stitch, knit through the back loop; 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
	sssk	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 middle 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 25 (20) repeats of Rows 1-2 as follows, for a total of 50 (40) rows. Each repeat forms a ***straight ridge*** in garter stitch.

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

Row 2: (WS) k to spine, p1, k to end.

You should end Section 1 with the same number of stitches as you started, 91 (71) sts.

Shaping: Shaping (increases and decreases) is worked on WS rows into the yo of the preceding RS row. See Appendix C for tips on modifying the shawl size.

Edge Modification: If your edges in garter stitch tend to be loose, try slipping the first or last stitch of every row.

Stitch markers: Some test knitters found that marking the spine with a stitch marker helped them read their work. Experiment with different marker placements to see what helps you!

Section 2: Expanding Stripes

Set-up stripe (6 rows): Switch to C2 and work one ***straight ridge***. Then switch back to C1, carrying C2 up the edge, and work two more ***straight ridges***.

Next, work 30 (20) repeats of Rows 1-6 as follows. Each 6-row repeat forms one ***increase stripe***, consisting of one ***increase ridge*** in C2 (Rows 1-2) then two ***straight ridges*** in C1, increasing by 1 st per repeat.

Row 1: (C2) k3, yo, k to 1 st 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. (+1 st)
(Rows 1-2 form an ***increase ridge***)

Row 3: (C1) Repeat Row 1.

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

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

At the end of Section 2, you should have 121 (91) sts.

Section 3: Lace Nova

Lace instructions are both written and charted according to the pattern key. The main lace motif is a 5-stitch, 6-row repeat where all wrong side sts (minus edge stitches) are purled. WS rows after Row 2 are omitted in the written instructions. Increases are worked into yo of previous row. Each repeat of **Chart A** increases by 5 sts.

Set-up (2 rows): Break C1, switch to C2, and work one **straight ridge** as follows:

Row 1: (RS) k3, yo, k to 1 st before spine, **cdd**, k to 3 sts from end, yo, k3.
Row 2: (WS) k to spine, **p1**, k to end.

Next, work 8 (8) repeats of **Chart A**.

Chart A

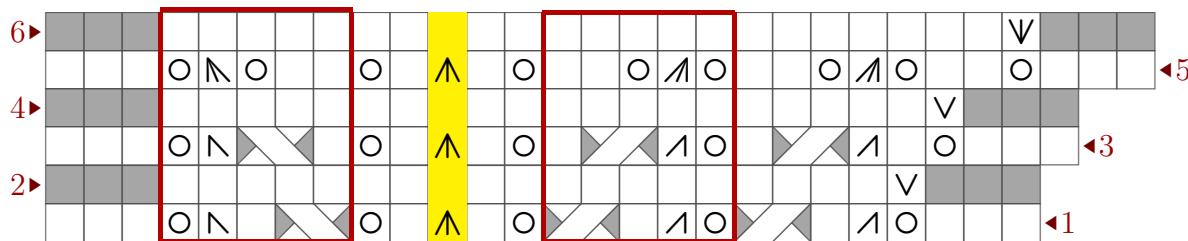


Chart A (written)

- Row 1:** k3, yo, k2tog, k1, r2t, *[yo, k2tog, k1, r2t]* to 2 sts before spine,
 yo, k1, **cdd**, k1, yo, *[**k2t**, k1, ssk, yo]* to 3 sts from end, k3
Row 2: k3, p to 4 sts from end, kfb, k3 (+1 st)
Row 3: k3, yo, k1, k2tog, r2t, k1, *[yo, k2tog, r2t, k1]* to 2 sts before spine,
 yo, k1, **cdd**, k1, yo, *[k1, **k2t**, ssk, yo]* to 3 sts from end, k3
Row 4: Repeat Row 2. (+1 st)
Row 5: k3, yo, k2, yo, k3tog, yo, k2, *[yo, k3tog, yo, k2]* to 2 sts before spine,
 yo, k1, **cdd**, k1, yo, *[k2, yo, sssk, yo]* to 3 sts from end, k3 (+1 st)
Row 6: k3, p to 4 sts from end, kyok, k3 (+2 sts)

After the last lace repeat, work one more **straight ridge** before moving onto the next section. At the end of Section 3, you should have 161 (131) sts.

Section 4: Contracting

Break C2 and switch to C1. Work 40 (30) repeats of Rows 1-2 as follows. Each repeat decreases 1 st and forms a **decrease ridge**.

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

Row 2: k to spine, [p1], k to 6 sts from end, k2tog, k4. (-1 st)

At the end of Section 4, you should have 121 (101) sts on your needles.

Section 5: Contracting Stripes

Rejoin C2. Work 15 (15) repeats of Rows 1-6 as follows, decreasing while striping C1 and C2. Each 6-row repeat forms one **decrease stripe**, consisting of two **decrease ridges** in C2 followed by one **straight ridge** in C1, decreasing by 2 sts per repeat.

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

Row 2: (C2) k to spine, [p1], k to 6 sts from end, k2tog, k4. (-1 st)

Rows 3 & 4: (C2) Repeat Rows 1 & 2. (-1 st)

Row 5: (C1) Repeat Row 1.

Row 6: (C1) k to spine, [p1], k to end.

At the end of Section 5, you should have your original stitch count, 91 (71) sts.



Section 6: Lace Steady State

Set-up (2 rows): Break C1, switch to C2, and work one **straight ridge**.

Row 1: (RS) k3, yo, k to 1 st before spine, **cdd**, k to 3 sts before end, yo, k3.
Row 2: (WS) k to spine, **p1**, k to end.

Next, work 8 (10) repeats of **Chart B**.

Chart B

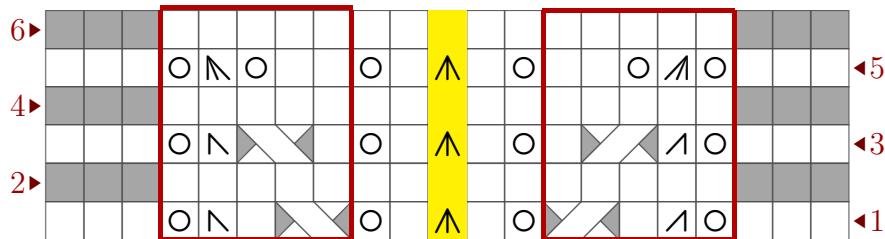


Chart B (written)

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

After the last lace repeat, work one more **straight ridge** before moving on. You should end Section 6 with the same number of stitches as you started, 91 (71) sts.

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 3 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.

Finishing: Block the piece, weave in all ends, and enjoy your new shawl! I would recommend blocking wires for the edges. I also suggest pinning down the spine as you block to help shape the shawl.

Appendix A: Carrying Yarn Up the Side of Your Work

While working the striped sections (2 and 5) of the Mitered Nova, you'll be working with one color at a time and carrying the other color up the side. The technique in this tutorial is based on my personal preference.

Adding the Contrast Color

1. At the start of a RS row, drop main color (MC) working yarn. Add in contrast color (CC) for stripes by working the first stitch of the row in CC. *Tip: hold the tail of CC with MC with your non-tensioning hand.*



2. Work the rest of the row in the new color, turn the piece, then work a WS row. You should have two yarns attached to your work, as shown below. *Tip: make sure to use CC tail to tighten the first stitch that you worked, if it was loosened.*



Carrying Yarn

1. At the start of a RS row, you should have two yarns. In the following picture, the most recent 2 rows were worked in green (top) and the previous 2 rows were worked in white (bottom).



2. Cross the top and bottom yarns by twisting once. The direction of the twist does not matter, as long as you are consistent throughout your work. If you are switching colors for this row, skip Step 3 and work the next 2 rows in the new top color.



3. If you are not switching colors, twist the top and bottom yarns again to cross them a second time. Work the next 2 rows in the top color (which has not changed).



Appendix B: Right and Left Twists (Mini-Cables)

The method in this tutorial shows you how to create a true 1x1 cable without a cable needle. The right and left twists are worked over two stitches, labeled as Stitch 1 (S1, *blue*) and Stitch 2 (S2, *red*) in the photos. Working yarn is labeled in *green*.

Left Twist

1. Insert needle between S1 and S2 from behind.



4. Bring right needle to front of work and knit into S1.



2. Knit into S2, keeping both stitches on the left needle. The new stitch will be in front of the work.



5. Drop both stitches off the left needle.

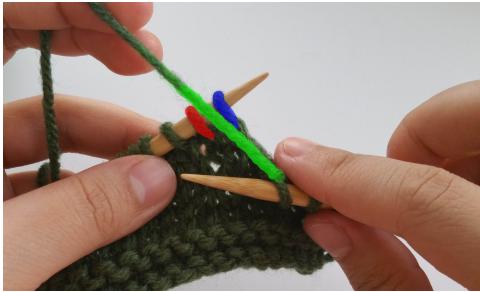


3. Bring right needle behind work by going back between S1 and S2.



Right Twist

1. Bring yarn to front and bring right needle in front of yarn.



2. Knit into S2, keeping both yarn and needle in front.



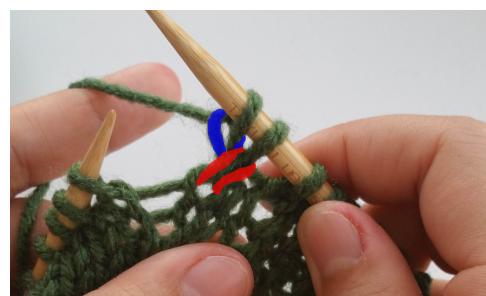
3. Keeping both S1 and S2 on the needle, bring working yarn to back.



4. Knit into S1.



5. Drop both stitches off the left needle.



Appendix C: Tips for Modification

I've included some tips for adapting this shawl for different yardages or desired sizes. Mitered Nova is structured in 7 sections, most of which can be shortened or extended by modifying the number of repeats in the section.

To help you out with the math, I've included a table below with possible combinations of section sizes. In each section's column, the left number is the number of repeats of the section to work, while the right number is the resulting stitch count at the end of the section. Fill in the last section of the table with your chosen modifications (a , b , c , and d for the number of section repeats). Your numbers must satisfy the equation $a + 5b = c + 2d$ in order for the stitch counts to work.

lace weight version - CO: 91 sts								
	Section 2		Section 3		Section 4		Section 5	
sample & written	30	121 sts	8	161 sts	40	121 sts	15	91 sts
smaller shawl	25	116 sts	8	156 sts	35	121 sts	15	91 sts
larger shawl	35	126 sts	10	176 sts	45	131 sts	20	91 sts
more stripes	35	126 sts	5	151 sts	10	141 sts	25	91 sts
fingering weight - CO: 71 sts								
	Section 2		Section 3		Section 4		Section 5	
written	20	91 sts	8	131 sts	30	101 sts	15	71 sts
sample (larger)	25	96 sts	10	146 sts	45	101 sts	15	71 sts
smaller shawl	15	86 sts	7	131 sts	30	101 sts	15	71 sts
more stripes	30	101 sts	5	126 sts	11	125 sts	27	71 sts
your modified shawl - CO: _____ sts								
	Section 2		Section 3		Section 4		Section 5	
	$a:$ _____	sts	$b:$ _____	sts	$c:$ _____	sts	$d:$ _____	sts

In the following lists, I've outlined the some effects on the required yardage (C1 and C2) and on the mathematics of each section. Sections 2 and 3 both increase the number of stitches on your needles, while Sections 4 and 5 decrease the stitch count. Hence, any change in the size of the increase sections will *require* changing the decrease sections.

Section 1

- Section 1 does not increase or decrease the stitch count (hence the name “steady state”), so the number of repeats may be modified to any arbitrary number. Your stitch count at the end of Section 1 should be the same as the stitch count at CO, 91 (71) sts.
- If you have a shorter skein of C1, you may wish to work fewer repeats in Section 1.

Section 2

- If you change the number of stripes in Section 2, make sure the number of *increase stripe* repeats is a multiple of 5 so that your stitch count at the end of Section 2 is a multiple of 5 plus 1 extra $[5n + 1]$.

Section 3

- Section 3 is where the stitch count changes most rapidly, so any change to the number of lace repeats will have a significant effect on the required amounts of C1 and C2.
- Your final stitch count at the end of Section 3 should be a multiple of 5 plus 1 extra $[5n + 1]$.

Section 4

- Section 4 can eat up a lot of yardage from C1, so if you are concerned about running out of C1, work fewer repeats in this section.
- Your modifications for Section 4 will depend on how many stitches you had at the end of Section 3. After finishing Section 3, take your stitch count and subtract the original stitch count, 91 (71) sts, from it. If the difference is *even*, then work an even number of *decrease ridge* repeats in Section 4. If the difference is *odd*, then work an odd number of repeats in Section 4. This will ensure that you have an even number of stitches to decrease in Section 5.

Section 5

- The ultimate goal of Section 5 is to decrease the stitch count until it is at the original number of stitches. Since each *decrease stripe* repeat in Section 5 decreases the total stitch count by 2 sts, you want to make sure that the difference between your stitch count at the beginning of the section and the original stitch count is *even*.

Section 6

- Like Section 1, Section 6 does not change the number of stitches on your needles. It is also the last section in which you’ll need C2, so you can work as many repeats as desired in order to use up C2.