

Mood Cowl

by Shaina Bilow



A simple cowl to knit using leftover fingering weight yarns.



Sizing and Materials Details

Sizes: Small (Large)

Finished measurements: 22 (48)" circumference and 13 (9)" depth.

Gauge: 16 stitches = 4" in stockinette stitch worked in the round. The fabric shouldn't feel dense because this cowl is meant to be soft and flexible when finished.

Needles: US 9 (5.5 mm) 24 (32 or 40)" circular needle. *Adjust needle size as necessary to obtain correct gauge.*

Yarn: 100-120 (165-180) grams or 350-420 (575-630) yards of fingering weight yarn (CYCA #1).

Other Materials: stitch marker, tapestry needle.

Pattern Notes

- Yarn should always be held doubled for this cowl.
- Change colors wherever in the cowl you like. You don't have to change colors at the beginning of the rounds. In fact, your cowl will be less bulky with tails if you stagger them throughout the piece.
- I suggest fading colors into one another by never abruptly changing both colors of yarn at the same time. If you work two strands of color A at the beginning, cut one strand and attach color B. Then work AB for a little while. Then cut color A and attach another strand of color B or a strand of color C. If you change both strands abruptly, you will have defined stripes rather than a subtle fading of one color to another. Of course defined stripes aren't a bad thing, if that's what you're looking for. And, if you follow my suggestions but your colors are highly contrasting, you may get "abrupt" looking stripes anyway.
- You might have a few balls of yarn that might work well together in terms of colors – mix and match those combinations at will. If, on the other hand, you have a few colors that don't work with one another, plan a little bit in advance so you don't end up using a combination that you find unappealing. For me, contrasting colors on the color wheel (red & green, yellow & purple, blue & orange) combinations are not my favorite for stranding so I would avoid putting those colors together directly. I might put red with a deep yellow and then put that deep yellow with the green to soften the contrast of red and green.
- ABOUT MY COWLS: For the smaller cowl, I used leftover bits from hats that I've been making. Some of it was Three Irish Girls, Mothy and the Squid, Zen Yarn Garden, and Dale of Norway Baby Ull. For my larger cowl, I used two full balls of Koigu KPPPM and one full ball of Rhichard Devrieze Fingering weight.



Instructions

Instructions for the smaller cowl are written first and the instructions for the larger cowl are written in the parenthesis.

Holding yarn doubled, cast on 88 (168) stitches. Place a marker and join the work in the round without twisting.

Work 5 rounds of k1p1 ribbing or k2p2 ribbing. *This is your preference – my samples are in k1p1 ribbing.*

Continue in stockinette stitch, a.k.a. *knitting every round in the round*, changing colors as desired using the suggestions above, until piece is about 12 (8)" from the cast-on edge.

Work 5 rounds of ribbing to match the bottom. Bind off in rib pattern.

Finishing

Weave in tails. Weave in tails and wet block. *Wet blocking really loosens up the stitches and softens the work. To wet block, soak the piece in a tub of cool water with a little wool-friendly soap. Pull the piece out and roll it in a towel to "wring" out excess moisture. Lay the piece out in a dry area of your home (for me, that's near my boiler closet or heaters once they're on for the season) and let it dry.*



Thanks for knitting this pattern!

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