

Stole with Swimming Jewels

A pattern by
Cat Bordhi

It took longer to name this stole than to knit it, because there seemed to be no words to mirror the feeling and sight of the fabric. It's fluid, evocative of cellular life, and radiant with colors of sun and sky and water. The turquoise jewel-ponds were unplanned and a surprise to me. Let them be a surprise to you as well. That is, do not try to copy my placements exactly, but allow yourself to listen for the song of the jewels as they show you where they want to dive in next.

Needle: 10.5 (7 mm) circular needle, 29" length
Yarn: Fleece Artist "Making Waves" Kit, shown here in amber colorway - Baby Alpaca Bouclé (50% alpaca, 50% wool, 250 g/ 330 m) and Hand Dyed Mo (78% kid, 13% wool, 9% nylon, 250 g/ 450 m); plus several ounces of contrast color yarn (I used leftover Fleece Artist Rapunzel Bouclé - feel free to choose from your stash of interesting textures and colors)
Gauge: 10.5 sts = 4" (10 cm) in Baby Alpaca Bouclé, worked in garter stitch
Finished size: about 20" x 80"

A summary in plain English . . .

A two-stitch cast-on increases at the start of each row, until four garter rows of Baby Alpaca and eight garter rows of Mo are complete. Then four garter rows of Alpaca alternate with eight lattice lace rows of Mo, continuing with the increases, until a total of 67 stitches is reached at the end of an

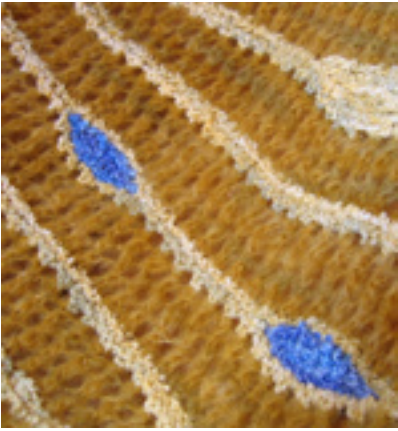


Alpaca stripe. This triangle forms the base of a long rectangle which is shaped by an increase at the beginning and a decrease at the end of each right side row, maintaining the stripes established earlier. When the stole is the desired length, decreases are worked at both ends of each right side row, finishing with a second triangle.

As the knitting progresses, swimming jewels of blue (or any contrasting color, or several colors if you wish) are sandwiched between garter rows of Alpaca. The swimming jewels are knitted free form, and once you understand how to shape them (see following page), you'll revel in the spontaneity of surrendering to their call. Some are knit in blue, some in pale yellow Alpaca, and some in a combination of both. Allow their size and placement to be choreographed not by your logical mind, but by a more instinctual dance within you, something akin to the elemental feel of "rightness," like Feng Shui. Don't forget to leave some Alpaca garter stripes plain, so the jewels can float in a spacious and balmy sea.

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Knitting jewels

The sleek jewels swim between lines of soft yellow Alpaca garter stitch. If you can picture a slow motion movie of a pendulum swinging to and fro, covering a slightly shorter distance with each

swing, you will understand the first half of the pathway the short rows take. Now imagine the movie being played in reverse. This is the second half of the pathway. Here's a drawing of the whole pathway. It begins on the bottom right, reaches the middle, and rocks to and fro on its way back to its origin. Make your jewels all different sizes!



Try knitting one with these row-by-row instructions:

The first half of the pendulum's pathway:

Row 1: Complete 2 rows of an Alpaca stripe, begin the third row, and stop where you want to place a jewel.

Drop Alpaca, and with jewel yarn, k 11, w&t.

Row 2: Knit 10, w&t.

Row 3: Knit 9, w&t.

Row 4: Knit 8, w&t.

Row 5: Knit 7, w&t.

Row 6: Knit 6, w&t.

And now the pendulum movie plays backwards:

Row 7: Knit 7, w&t.

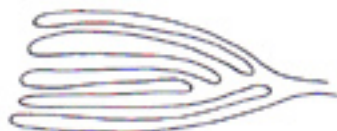
Row 8: Knit 8, w&t.

Row 9: Knit 9, w&t.

Row 10: Knit 11.

In row 10, the knitting continues right on to the end of the jewel to meet the Alpaca strand which has been waiting there. The Alpaca garter rows continue, until 4 garter rows are complete.

This pathway forms a flat side to border an edge. You may want to try a few of them.



Begin

With Alpaca, cast on 2 sts.

Row 1: Knit 1, k1f&b.

Row 2: Knit 1, k1f&b, k1.

Row 3: Knit 1, k1f&b, k2.

Row 4: Knit 1, k1f&b, k3.

Row 5: Knit 1, k1f&b, k4. (7 sts total).

Cut tail of Alpaca and knit lattice lace with Mo.

Row 6: Knit 1, k1f&b, *yo, ssk, repeat from * until 1 st remains, k1.

Row 7: Purl 1, p1f&b, p to end.

Row 8: Knit 1, k1f&b, *yo, k2tog, repeat from * until 1 st remains, k1.

Row 9: Purl 1, p1f&b, p to end.

Rows 10 - 13: repeat rows 6-9.

Cut tail of Mo and resume knitting with Alpaca.

Rows 14 - 17: Knit 1, k1f&b, k to end.

Cut tail of Alpaca and resume knitting with Mo.

Repeat rows 6-17 four more times (67 sts total).

For a a wider stole, repeat rows 6-17 as many additional times as you wish. Each additional repeat adds 12 stitches to the stitch count and increases the width by 3.5".

Work length of stole

Check your stitch count during the last rows of each garter Alpaca stripe, and correct it if necessary, since in garter stitch an increase or decrease disguises itself well.

Mo stripe:

Row 1: Knit 1, k1f&b, *yo, ssk, repeat from * until 3 sts remain, ssk, k1.

Even rows: Purl.

Row 3: Knit 1, k1f&b, *yo, k2tog, repeat from * repeat from * until 3 sts remain, ssk, k1.

Repeat rows 1-4 once. Cut tail of Mo.

Alpaca Stripe:

Row 1: Knit 1, k1f&b, k until 3 sts remain, ssk, k1.

Row 2: Knit.

Repeat rows 1-2 once. Cut tail of Alpaca.

Repeat Mo and Alpaca stripes, working jewels within Alpaca stripes at whim, until stole measures approximately 80" long. Finish with an Alpaca Stripe, decreasing 1 st during the final row (66 sts total).

Taper off for end of stole

Mo stripe:

Row 1: Knit 1, ssk, *yo, ssk, repeat from * until 3 sts remain, ssk, k1.

Even rows: Purl.

Row 3: Knit 1, k2tog, *yo, k2tog, repeat from * repeat from * until 3 sts remain, ssk, k1.

Repeat rows 1-4 once. Cut tail of Mo.

Alpaca stripe:

Row 1: Knit 1, k2tog, k until 3 sts remain, ssk, k1.

Row 2: Knit.

Repeat rows 1-2 once. Cut tail of Alpaca.

Repeat Mo and Alpaca stripes, adding jewels as desired, until 18 sts remain (an Alpaca stripe was just completed). Work one garter Mo stripe, following Alpaca stripe instructions, but for 8 rows (10 sts remain). Work final Alpaca stripe, continuing until only 2 sts remain. Knit 2 tog, and weave in all ends.

Abbreviations

K1F&B: Knit one front and back - to make this increase, knit into front of the stitch and then again into back.

P1F&B: Purl one front and back - to make this increase, purl into front of the stitch and then again into back.

K2TOG: Knit two stitches together from left to right.

SSK: (slip, slip, knit) Slip the next two sts on the left needle one at a time to the right needle as if to knit, replace them on left needle, and knit together through the back loops from right to left.

W&T: (wrap 1 stitch and turn) This closes the gap that might otherwise be left in a short row. Bring the yarn to the front. Slip the next stitch to the right needle, and move yarn to back. Replace the slipped stitch on left needle, and turn work. You have now wrapped the yarn around the throat of the slipped stitch.

Yo: Yarn over

*A glorious array of
Fleece Artist Yarns is available
on-line at WWW.COLORSONGYARN.COM*

Every time I look at this photo, I can almost taste one of those thin, chewy candy bars from my childhood that you could warm in your hands and bend into interesting shapes before eating it . . . were they called Big Hunks? I include this full-length photo not to inspire you to seek out the candy of your childhood, but in case you are afraid to let jewels swim freely. Go ahead and attempt to copy these placements if that makes you feel better. But you will be working instead of playing . . . so I hope you won't!

