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NORTHERN LIGHTS

BY SHARON BALLSMITH



A never-ending soft and lacy scarf, in beautiful colors, that will brighten up a dreary winter day. The fun of making and wearing this chunky scarf is never ending too! An open-scallop border finishes the edging. It's particularly lovely in a multi-colored yarn.

CRAFT

Crochet

DIFFICULTY



EASY

MATERIALS

Yarn: Misti Alpaca Hand Paint Chunky (100% baby alpaca; 108 yd [98 m]/3.5 oz [100 gm]; CYCA 5): #CP03 hyacinth, 2 skeins

Hook: US L/11 (8 mm) Adjust hook size to obtain correct gauge.

Notions: Removable stitch marker (m); tapestry needle

AVAILABLE SIZES

One size fits all.

MEASUREMENTS

Approximately 8" wide and 46" circumference, including twist. Size is easily adjustable (see Notes).



GAUGE

13 sts and 7 rows = about 3.75" square (or about 4" square, slightly stretched) with size L hook.

To make gauge swatch:

Row 1: Ch 14 (not too loosely), sc in bb (see Stitch Guide) of 2nd ch from hook, *sl st in bb of next ch, ch 3, sk 3 ch, sl st in bb of next ch, sc in bb of next ch; rep from * once, turn.

Row 2: Beg dc (see Stitch Guide), *ch 1, v-st (see Stitch Guide) in 2nd ch of next 3-ch-grp (see Stitch Guide), ch 1**, dc in 2nd st of next 3-st-grp (see Stitch Guide); rep from * to ** once, dc in last sc, turn.

Row 3: Beg dc, *ch 1, dc in ch-1 sp of next v-st, ch 1, sk next dc of same v-st**, v-st in next dc; rep from * to ** once, dc in last dc, turn.

Row 4: Ch 1, 2 sc in first dc, *ch 3, sk next dc**, sc in next dc of next v-st, sc in next ch-1 sp of same v-st, sc in next dc of same v-st; rep from * to ** once, 2 sc in last dc, turn.

Rows 5-7: Rep rows 2-4 once.

Measure swatch to check gauge, adjust hook size if necessary.

STITCH GUIDE

Back bar (bb): The horizontal loop in back of a ch-st.

Beginning double crochet (beg dc): Ch 2, sc in 2nd ch from hook.

V-stitch (v-st): (Dc, ch 1, dc) in indicated st.

3-ch-grp: refers to ch 3.

3-st-grp: refers either to (sl st, sc, sl st) or (sc, sc, sc).

Lace Pattern: (multiple of 6 sts)

Rnd 1: Beg dc (see Stitch Guide), *ch 1, v-st (see Stitch Guide) in 2nd ch of next 3-ch-grp (see Stitch Guide), ch 1**, dc in 2nd st of next 3-st-grp (see Stitch Guide); rep from * around, ending last rep at **, join with sl st in beg-dc, turn - 52 (ch 1, dc, ch 1), with 52 v-sts in between.

Rnd 2: Beg dc (counts as second dc of first v-st, which you will complete at end of rnd), *ch 1, dc in ch-1 sp of next v-st, ch 1, sk next dc of same v-st**, v-st in next dc; rep from * around, ending last rep at **, (dc, ch 1) in same st as beg-dc, join with sl st in beg dc (this completes first v-st), turn - 52 v-sts, with 52 (ch 1, dc, ch 1) in between.

Rnd 3: Ch 1, sc in ch-1 sp of first v-st, *sc in next dc of same v-st, ch 3, sk next dc, sc in next dc of next v-st**, sc in ch-1 sp of same v-st; rep from * around, ending last rep at **, join with sl st in beg sc, turn - 52 3-st-grps, with 52 3-ch-grps in between.

Rep Rnds 1-3 for pattern.

NOTES

Northern Lights is a true möbius, worked in the round from the center out in an easy to memorize pattern. It increases on both edges in the same round, which is important to remember when you are planning the size you want to make. Piece is turned every rnd.

Pattern size is easily adjustable, from a snug cowl to one that can be looped around the neck more than once. To adjust the size: working in lace pattern stitch, use a multiple of 6 sts for the circumference and rep rnds 1-3 for the width, before beginning edging.

Gauge matters if you are making Northern Lights in the finished size, with the specific yarn listed. If your gauge is looser, you will not have enough yarn to complete the scarf.

Any weight yarn, with appropriate size hook, could be used and gauge would not be critical for this pattern in that case. The scarf size and the yarn you choose will determine how much yarn you will need; please consider purchasing a little more yarn than determined to ensure you will have enough.

INSTRUCTIONS

SCARF

Foundation rnd: Ch 156 (not too loosely), being careful not to twist ch, join with sc in bb (see Stitch Guide) of beg ch-st, place marker (pm) in base of same sc (in un-worked lps of beg-ch-st), *sl st in bb of next ch, ch 3, sk next 3 ch, sl st in bb of next ch**, sc in bb of next ch; rep from * around, ending last rep at **, join with sl st in base of next sc (where m was placed) removing m as you come to it, turn - 26 3-ch-grps, with 26 3-st-grps in between. You now have a möbius strip! (Note: It is a good idea at this point to make sure you have only one twist in your mobius strip. If you have more than one, take out your last sl st and untwist any extra twists, re-work last sl st.)

Rnds 1-6: Work rnds 1-3 of lace pattern twice; do not fasten off, cont for edging.

EDGING

Ch 1, *6 sc in next ch-3 sp, sc in 2nd st of next 3-st-grp; rep from * around, join with sl st in beg-sc - 52 open scallops.

FINISHING

Fasten off and weave in loose ends. Block according to yarn label instructions if desired.

Sharon Ballsmith is a member of the Crochet Guild of America. Her patterns have been published in Crochet! (January, 2010; July, 2010), Interweave Crochet (Fall, 2010) and Oh, Baby! Crochet, Judy Crowe [Editor] (DRG, 2010). If you have any questions concerning this design, she can be contacted by email at Sharon@StitchesAndStones.com.

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