

Damask Blue Shaped Cabled Scarf by LFSalden BETA!!!

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Basics This very wide, very warm scarf is knit as two long stockinette tubes which loop around and under and over one another. Short rows and wrap-and-turn accomplish the various corners. This particular cable is copied from the beautiful collarbone tattoos of the talented web spinner at Damask Blue Designs.

Yarn 1100 yards of bulky; I used Encore Colorspun Chunky.

Needles long circular for Magic Loop (recommended)
or two circulars
to make a gauge of 12 stitches = scant 4 inches, 3 rows to the inch (*row gauge is flexible if you're willing to insert a row here and there to make distance as needed*).

Supplies four *different-looking* stitch markers, A, B, C, and D
2 large stitch holders
needle caps
tapestry needle
large safety pins

Skills cast-on & cast off
knit
make 1 (half-hitch)
make 1 leftward, make 1 rightward
knit 2 together
knit 2 together through back loop
Magic Loop or Two Circulars
sense of humor
confidence to look at your work and say, "I'm going to go a few more rows than the pattern says..."

Gauge 12 stitches = scant 4 inches; 3 rows to the inch.

Hope you enjoy the project and the finished product! May it keep you and your loved ones toasty warm. I plan to chart other cable patterns with the same technique, so keep your eyes on BirchIslandBooks.com My heartfelt thanks to my brave test knitters and to Ravelry.com.

LFSalden

The Pattern

Cast on 6, place marker A, and join into a round, dividing the stitches 3 and 3 on front and back of the round.

Round 1: Knit across the front; place marker D, knit across the back. Now you can slide stitches around your loop to avoid laddering if you wish.

Mark the center stitch of each side - obviously eyeballing it is enough!

Round 2: Knit from marker A across the front until just before the center stitch, make 1 rightward, knit center stitch, make 1 leftward, knit across to marker D. Repeat across the back.

Round 3: Knit.

Repeat rounds 2 and 3 until you have 44 stitches total. Knit past marker A and through the center front stitch.

Place onto stitch markers 22 stitches from *after* the back center stitch through marker A and through the front center stitch. Call this strand of the cable Abigail (because it will include markers A and B), and let it rest for a while.

Call the remaining strand Diccon (for markers D and C). Continue knitting past marker D through the center stitch of the back (should be the last remaining stitch on your needle!). Make 1 stitch (half hitch). Place marker C. Make 1 stitch. Join into a round.

Cable Section 1

Diccon:

Turn 45 degrees in place, centered on marker D (see techniques)

Knit straight, stockinette stitch, for 8 inches.

Place Diccon on stitch holder, break yarn with an 8 inch tail. *It is possible, of course, to leave Diccon's ball of yarn attached as it is, but I get hopelessly tangled if I do.*

Abigail:

Slide stitches from holder onto needle. Beginning after the last stitch, the one that was the center of the front, make 1 stitch, place marker B, make 1 stitch, and knit straight, stockinette stitch, for 4 inches.

Turn 45 degrees in place, centered on marker A.

Knit 4 inches. *Be sure this stretch will go all the way across under the end of Diccon.*

Turn 180 degrees in place, centered on marker A.

Knit 4 inches. *Be sure this stretch will go all the way across over Diccon. Then you'll be going under the B edge of Abigail.*

Turn 90 degrees in place, centered on marker A.

Knit 4 inches.

Stop and pass Abigail under and over Diccon and under herself, as in the illustration.

Use large safety pins to hold the strands of the cable in place relative to one another.

Cable Section 2

Abigail:

Knit 4 inches.

Turn 45 degrees in place centered on marker A.

Knit 8 inches, place on stitch holder, breaking yarn with an 8 inch tail.

Diccon:

Knit 4 inches plus an extra row or two.

Turn 90 degrees in place, centered on marker D.

Knit 4 inches.

Turn 180 degrees in place, centered on marker D

Knit 8 inches

Turn 135 degrees across 4 inches, centered on marker D. *Note: look at the illustration! This turn hugs the outside of a previously knit edge D curve. Keep laying your work down flat, and when your stitches are headed off at the proper tangent to go under Abigail at a 90 degree angle, consider the turn complete.*

Pass Diccon under himself, over and under Abigail, and over himself, as in the illustration.

Use large safety pins to hold the strands in place relative to one another.

Cable Section 3

Diccon:

Knit straight for 12 inches.

Place on stitch holder.

Abigail:

Knit straight until the current stretch passes completely over Diccon - *you may be there already!*

Turn 135 degrees across 4 inches, centered on marker B. *Note: look at the illustration! Your turn is complete when the stitches are perpendicular to the line of the whole scarf.*

Knit 4 inches

Turn 45 degrees in place, centered on marker B.

Knit 4 inches.

Turn 180 degrees in place, centered on marker B

Knit 8 inches.

Pass Abigail over Diccon, under herself, over and under Diccon and over herself as in the illustration.

Use large safety pins to hold the strands in place relative to one another.

Cable Section 4

Abigail:

Turn 90 degrees in place, centered on marker B
Knit straight 12 inches.
Place stitches on stitch holder.

Diccon:

Turn 90 degrees over 4 inches, centered on marker C
Turn 45 degrees in place, centered on marker C.
Knit straight 4 inches, plus two extra rows.
Turn 180 degrees in place, centered on marker C.
Knit straight until the D edge of Diccon passes completely past the A edge of Abigail
as Abigail crosses up and over Diccon.
Turn 45 degrees in place.
Knit straight 4 inches.
Turn 90 degrees in place.
Pass Diccon over himself, under and over Abigail, and under himself, as in the
illustration.
Use large safety pins to hold the strands in place relative to one another.

Cable Section 5

Diccon:

Knit straight 12 inches.
Place on stitch holder.

Abigail:

Turn 180 degrees across 4 inches, centered on marker A.
Knit straight 4 inches.
Turn 180 degrees in place, centered on marker A.
Knit straight 4 inches.
Turn 45 degrees in place, centered on marker A.
Knit straight 4 inches. *Make sure to go far enough to pass all the way under Abigail
as in illustration plus one or two rows!*
Cast off 1 stitch before marker B, remove marker B, cast off the next stitch, place
marker B again and place stitches on stitch holder.

Diccon:

Turn 45 degrees in place, going further or shorter as needed to wind up parallel to the
last stitches of Abigail.
Knit straight as needed to get past Abigail and be even with the end of her.
Cast off 1 stitch before marker C, remove marker C, cast off the next stitch, place
marker C again.

End section:

Continue by knitting stitches from Abigail from the stitch holder, beginning after the
cast off stitches. Knit past marker A (you can remove it at this time), knit remaining stitches

from Abigail, slip marker B, cross to Diccon, and knit past marker D (which you may also remove at this time).

On this round, before each marker, knit two together. Pass marker, knit two together through back loop.

Knit one round plain (no decreases).

Alternate decreasing rounds and plain rounds until 4 stitches remain.

Cast off and weave in the yarn tail.

Finish

Sew down all edges which cross another strand.

Sew together edges which touch one another. Pay special attention to the cast-ons and cast-offs where the strands separate from one another and rejoin.

Don't forget to flip the work over and finish both sides!

Wash according to the directions from your yarn maker.

Block flat.

Techniques

Turn 180 degrees in place, centered on marker X

This turn is the paradigm from which all the other turns are derived, so find complete detail here.

- Row 12: *I am counting **backwards** so we can remember which stitch to wrap around!*
Knit to marker X, knit 11 stitches, wrap and turn around previous stitch 12, slip one
Purl past marker X, purl 11 stitches, wrap and turn around previous stitch 12, slip one
- Row 11: Knit to marker X, knit 10 stitches, wrap and turn around previous stitch 11, slip one
Purl past marker X, purl 10 stitches, wrap and turn around previous stitch 11, slip one
- Row 10: Knit to marker X, knit 9 stitches, wrap and turn around previous stitch 10, slip one
Purl past marker X, purl 9 stitches, wrap and turn around previous stitch 10, slip one
- Row 9: Knit to marker X, knit 8 stitches, wrap and turn around previous stitch 9, slip one
Purl past marker X, purl 8 stitches, wrap and turn around previous stitch 9, slip one
- Row 8: Knit to marker X, knit 7 stitches, wrap and turn around previous stitch 8, slip one
Purl past marker X, purl 7 stitches, wrap and turn around previous stitch 8, slip one
- Row 7: Knit to marker X, knit 6 stitches, wrap and turn around previous stitch 7, slip one
Purl past marker X, purl 6 stitches, wrap and turn around previous stitch 7, slip one
- Row 6: Knit to marker X, knit 5 stitches, wrap and turn around previous stitch 6, slip one
Purl past marker X, purl 5 stitches, wrap and turn around previous stitch 6, slip one
- Row 5: Knit to marker X, knit 4 stitches, wrap and turn around previous stitch 5, slip one
Purl past marker X, purl 4 stitches, wrap and turn around previous stitch 5, slip one
- Row 4: Knit to marker X, knit 3 stitches, wrap and turn around previous stitch 4, slip one
Purl past marker X, purl 3 stitches, wrap and turn around previous stitch 4, slip one

If you like a rounded corner, as in the photographs, skip Rows 3 and 2 both now and on the way back up. If you like a more pointed arch, continue as written.

- Row 3: Knit to marker X, knit 2 stitches, wrap and turn around previous stitch 3, slip one
Purl past marker X, purl 2 stitches, wrap and turn around previous stitch 3, slip one
- Row 2: Knit to marker X, knit 1 stitch, wrap and turn around previous stitch 2, slip one
Purl past marker X, purl 1 stitch, wrap and turn around previous stitch 2, slip one
- Row 1: *Now we may count forward again*
Knit 1 complete round

- Repeat Row 2
Repeat Row 3
Repeat Row 4
Repeat Row 5
Repeat Row 6
Repeat Row 7
Repeat Row 8
Repeat Row 9
Repeat Row 10
Repeat Row 11
Repeat Row 12

Turn 45 degrees in place, centered on marker X

From the Techniques page, knit even numbered rows 12 down through 2 once

Turn 90 degrees in place, centered on marker X

From the Techniques page, knit Rows 12 down through 1 once

Turn 135 degrees in place, centered on marker X*

From the Techniques page, knit Rows 12 down through 1, then even numbered rows 2 up through 12.

Turn 180 degrees in place, centered on marker X

From the Techniques page, knit Rows 12 down through 1, then knit Rows 2 up through 12.

Turn 45 degrees across 4 inches, centered on marker X*

From the Techniques page, knit even numbered rows 12 down through 2 once; after each row, knit two complete rounds. *Insert complete rounds evenly as needed to make 4 inches!*

Turn 90 degrees across 4 inches, centered on marker X

From the Techniques page, knit Rows 12 down through 1 once; after each row, knit one complete round. *Insert complete rounds evenly as needed to make 4 inches!*

Turn 135 degrees across 4 inches, centered on marker X

From the Techniques page, knit Rows 12 down through 1, knitting two complete then even numbered rows 2 up through 12. After rows 12 through 6 and again rows 6 through 12, knit one complete round. *Insert complete rounds evenly as needed to make 4 inches!*

Turn 180 degrees across 4 inches, centered on marker X

From the Techniques page, knit Rows 12 down through 1, then knit Rows 2 up through 12. After each even-numbered row, knit one complete round. *Insert complete rounds evenly as needed to make 4 inches!*

make 1 leftward:

Insert left needle into the yarn strand between the stitches so the tip points away from you. Knit into the back of this loop.

make 1 rightward:

Insert left needle into the yarn strand between the stitches so the tip point toward you. Knit into the front of this loop.

The Magic Bits

Cables, like a labyrinth, offer winding, seemingly random paths. At any point in the path it is easy to feel that you are lost. Press on, make it by the work of your hands, trace the finished piece with your fingers or eyes. Communicate with your subconscious that the chaos does eventually resolve itself, that by every row knit and every chore done, you create beauty.

Remember your color correspondences when choosing yarn - and shop at your local yarn store if you can!

Bless your needles and fiber before you begin work.

The Jocular Bits

Yes, it's really two very long socks with lots of heels.

I thought that this would be my pay-very-little-attention-to-it and hold conversations while I knit project. I was wrong.

This scarf is four layers thick in several places. Not for tropical use.

This scarf is very wide. Not for a decorative little splash of color with your tailored suit.

This scarf goes absolutely fabulously with a Navy pea coat.

You will probably use less yarn than I did. Where *did* those extra stitches come from?

I am *so* sorry about the amount of finish work required. Really, really sorry. I hate finish work, too. Here's what got me through it: go to your Local Yarn Store and sit at the table and spread your work out. Let the words of amazement and praise from the store owner and your fellow knitters carry you through.

Don't make this in black, you'll go blind.

I am *not* going to make a teeny-tiny bookmark sized version of this with the left over 3/4 skein. I'm *not*. (And now it's in my head. I'm going to let Left Brain and Right Brain fight it out over this one.)

Entrelac knitters, make room.

After watching and listening to me make this over the course of two months, rip out, cuss to myself, erase my drawing until the paper wore through and despair of ever being able to write it up as a pattern, my Dear Spouse suggested that it would be really cool to do in colors that brighten and darken as the strands go over and under one another... Scary thing, he's right and instead of actually killing him, I'm thinking I'm going to have to make him one.

The Illustration

Aargh! No illustration yet! I need access to a scanner!

Do not print this page! Check the pattern again in a week when I hope I will have scanned and put up good copies of this very-Beta pattern.

Until then, please be inspired by the photo on the website!