
Knit a Log Cabin Shawl with Norah Gaughan

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

- [Host] I'm Norah Gaughan. I'm a knitwear designer, teacher, author. After being a freelance designer for years, I was the design director at a few yarn companies. I was 10 years at Berroco. I like to design projects that are cleverly constructed, that don't require any sewing or any finishing afterwards. Today's project, the log cabin shawl, is just such a project. I'm going to show you how to make a slip stitch edge that makes it's own finishing. I'll show you how to pick up with the wrong side facing so you get a decorative welt on the right side. The shawl is constructed in pieces that build upon each other like a log cabin quilt might. We're going to use a variety of stitches to add texture to the fabric. There's moss stitch and double moss, stockinette, and garter, ^and they're used to create a very light striping. When you're done, you'll have a nice cozy piece that you can wear like a traditional shawl, or in a more modern way with the point in the front.

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- You'll need a few basic knitting supplies for this project. Six 50 gram skeins of Brooklyn Tweed Shelter. It's a worsted weight wool. If you're going to substitute, please be sure to look at the yardage. You'll use a little under 700 yards for the project. You'll need a size 8 knitting needle. This one's 40 inches. You'll need something long to hold all the stitches. A tapestry needle and scissors.

Chapter 3 - Work Section 1

Cast on and work Garter stitch band

- Before you get started you'll want to make a gauge swatch. This way you'll know if you have the right size needles. You're making a shawl so it's not that important but, to make it come out about the right size you'll wanna do it. You have to make a stockinette swatch about 20 stitches wide. I've made mine 28. As long as you can measure 17 stitches across and that's supposed to equal four inches. So now, I'm going to cast on 51 stitches with long-tail method. I'll need an end about 50 inches long, let's just sort of guess. That should do it. Now I'm going to cast on 51 stitches. I have a trick, instead of making a slip knot for the first stitch, I found out you can just put the yarn over the needle and then start your long-tail cast on. My tail is a little too long so I'm going to break it off. We don't need to sew with it later. The first row is a wrong side row. We'll slip two, putting the needle in as if to purl. One and then two. And then we're gonna knit to the last two. (needles rubbing together) So we're at the last two and we purl them. The first segment of the shawl is made of three bands of stitches: garter stitch, stockinette, and moss stitch. So we're starting with garter stitch. We're beginning the row with the slip stitch edging and an increase. So first the slip stitches. Slip as if to purl. Slip as if to purl for two stitches. Then purl one. And then we're gonna make one left. So you're picking up this bar that's between those two stitches. And then putting it onto your left-hand needle and at the same time, knitting it. So I've made a left increase. A left make one. And now I'm gonna knit the rest of the row because garter stitch is just knitting every row. I'm knitting until the last three stitches because I have a slip stitch edge there as well. (needles rubbing together) Last three, purl one, knit two. The row we have just finished is a right side row and I know I have the right side facing me because I want this little ropy cast on edge to be the right side, in this case. A lot of

times, I'll have the other side be the right side but this time I want the ropy side. If you're having trouble telling, you have the option of putting in a safety pin on the right side row. Have it facing you, and that way you always know which side is the right side. You'll repeat the two rows we just did six more times. So that will be a total of 14 rows worked. And that will end the garter stitch section.

Work Stockinette stitch band

- The second band in this segment is knit in stockinette stitch with the three edge stitches on each end. We'll work the first three stitches of edge stitch first. We're on a wrong side row, so we slip, slip, that's as if to purl with the yarn in front, then knit one, and those three are complete. Now to work in stockinette stitch, we'll purl a row and knit a row. Purl on the wrong side, knit on the right side. So we're on the wrong side, we'll purl til we get to those last three stitches that are the edging. I'm up to the last three. We're going to knit one and purl two. Now we're back to the right side row. We're going to continue with the same edging we've been doing before. Slip one as if to purl, slip a second one as if to purl, keep this kind of tight, purl one, and now we're gonna make one just like we've been doing before. The beginning of every right side row on this segment we have that increase. Now, with the stockinette, we just knit to the last three stitches. I have knit to the last three, purl one, knit two. We'll repeat those last two rows four more times for a total of ten rows of stockinette.

Work Moss stitch band

- The next band in the segment is going to be knit in moss stitch. I want to do one more row of stockinette because my next row is a wrong side row and I really want to start the moss stitch on a right side row. Slip one as if to purl, slip a second one as if to purl, knit one and purl to the last three. Last three, knit one, purl two. Now I'm ready to start my moss stitch. We'll have the same three edge stitches we've been working all along, plus the increase. Slip one as if to purl, slip one as if to purl. Purl one and make one left. Now for the moss stitch we purl one stitch, knit one stitch and then just repeat that. Purl one, knit one, purl one, knit one, purl one, knit one. Until you get to those last stitches. Now to the last three, where we purl one and knit two. The next row is the wrong side row in moss stitch, the first wrong side row in moss stitch. For this wrong side row we start again with slipping two as if to purl, knit one, and then knit one, purl one, knit one, purl one across the row. Now the last three stitches. Knit one, purl two. We have two more rows to work in moss until we get our pattern going right. We slip two, slip as if to purl, slip as if to purl. Purl one, make one. And now we start with a purl. We're going to do the opposite of what this looks like. The stitch is a knit, looks like a knit, so we're going to purl it. The next stitch looks like a purl so we're going to knit it. I notice that I'm running out of yarn so I'm going to join a new ball. It helps if I untwist it a little these last few inches. Kind of get my finger in there and split it open. You can see that was made out of two plies. Put that down for now and do the same to the end that's connected to my knitting. Untwist it, you start to see the two plies. Separate them. And now I'm going to take one end from each of these and twist them together. I like this because it means that I don't have to really weave in ends later. It's like a splice. So I'm going to leave these little half-ends hanging towards the back. Now I can continue with the pattern. Purl one, knit one, purl one. Now let's get these little ends towards the back. And I'm working again with just a normal end of yarn. Purl one stitch, knit one stitch. So you continue to the last three stitches of the row. Up to the last three. So I purl one, and knit two. Slip one purl, slip one purl, knit one. Then you'll purl one, knit one and repeat the purl one, knit one

across to the last three. Now to the last three. I'm going to knit, and purl two. You work those last four rows two more times for a total of 12 rows of moss stitch, and we have two rows left to finish off this segment. One is a stockinette row, and then a bind-off row. So let's do those. I have a piece with all of the rows completed and we're ready for those last two rows. This row is just like the stockinette rows you worked below. You slip two, purl one, make one left and knit to the last three stitches. Last three stitches, purl one, knit two. I'm going to bind off in all purl, ignoring the slip stitches. I'm not going to work them for the bind-off. So you just purl everything. Purl two, and pull the first one over the second one. Purl one more, pull that over until you get to the end. A little trick that I like is to purl the last two together before I do the last pullover. It just keeps it a little neater. And then put the end through the loop. And that completes section one. We'll work section two by casting on and attaching it also to this first piece and it introduces the double moss stitch as well.

Chapter 4 - Work Section 2

Work Double Moss stitch band

- I'm going to begin the second segment of the shawl by casting on 51 stitches long tail method, and then I'll be picking up across the end of the piece we just finished. I've cast-on all 51 stitches. Now I'm just going to get my tail out of the way here by putting it over the yarn. That'll kind of lock it in place, and I'm going to pick up along the short edge of the piece that we just finished, the straight edge without the make one increases. So, with the wrong side facing, you'll see this line of knit, that's where I want to pick up into. Put the needle through and pick up. Now, I'm picking up 21 across here. I know from experience that I wanna pick up two in a row down here, and then pick up every other row. So I'm gonna skip that hole. and pick up into there Skip that hole, pick up into there till I get close to the end. Now I'm picking up this deep because I want this hole welt, the stitches that we slipped before, to really be an element on the right side. Now that I'm close to the end here, not quite at the end, I'm going to count to see how many I got. So these are the ones I cast-on, and these are the ones I've picked up. Two, four, six, eight, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, I only need one more, so I'm gonna put it close to the end here. Now I'm ready for my first row. Do this slip stitch edge again. Slip one as if to purl, slip one, purl one, and now I knit to the last three stitches. I'm working two rows in stockenette with the slip stitch edge at each end before we start with the double moss stitch. Last three stitches. Pearl one, knit two. Slip to pearl wise with yarn in front. Knit one, and pearl to the last three. I've pearled it to the last three, so I'm going to knit one and pearl two. Now we're ready for our first row of double moss. This row begins with the edge stitches as normal. Slip two with the yarn in the back, pearl one. Now we're going to start the double seed stitch, so we pearl two, knit two. And then repeat those four stitches. Pearl two, knit two. Repeating two of each until you get to the last three stitches. I'm up to the last three stitches, and now I want to make a make one, because my last two that I knit here are pearls. The one I want to make is a knit one, and I wanna make it the opposite direction that I did in that first segment. So it's a make one right. I put the yarn on like that, and make one. And the last three are pearl, knit two. We'll work the three edge stitches as normal. Slip slip with yarn in front. Knit one. Now let's look at our knitting. These two are knits. This one's a pearl. It looks like a pearl, we're gonna pearl it, and it looks like a knit, we're gonna knit it. Now we're definitely into pattern, so that was knit two, pearl two, knit two, all the way back to those last three. First three stitches just like we expect them. Slip two, pearl one. Now, you'll notice that we have two rows that look identical. We pearled those last two rows, so now we're going to knit them. So we start with knit two. These were knit before, so now we're gonna pearl them, pearl two, and continue the pattern to the last three. We're up to the last three. I

need to make one now, and let's see, my pattern was knit two, pearl one. So my next stitch, the one I'm making, has to be a pearl. Put the yarn there, then pearl it. Now I have my two pearls. And then work the last three like you expect to, pearl one, knit two. When you turn it over, you work the edges. Slip two, knit one. And then look at your work to see where you are. See sometimes these ones at the end are very hard to tell what they are, so let's look here. That's clearly a pearl, clearly a pearl. So those are my two pearls. So these two are knits. So we knit two, pearl two, knit two, keep doing what it looks like you should do. If it's a pearl, you pearl it. if it's a knit, you knit it back to the end of the row to those last three stitches. The last three, knit one, then pearl two. You'll continue doing the double moss stitch until you have 14 rows completed. So remember, on the right side row you do the opposite of what it looks like. So if it looks like it's a pearl two, you knit two on top of it. And remember that at the end of the row you have to make sure you know what kind of a make one by reading your knitting. If you have trouble reading your knitting, we have it written out more precisely in your written instructions.

Work Stockinette stitch band

- The double moss stitch band is now complete and it's time to work another band of stockinette stitch. Work the three edge stitches like you expect to, slipping two, purl one, and then knit to the last three. We're up to the last three. We need to add an increase here, so I'm doing a Make One Right, which is the opposite of the one I did on the first segment. It doesn't really matter which Make One you use, but it's nice to have them mirror each other. It's a nice touch. Place this bar on the left-hand needle, and then knit into it and that does your Make One. We're left with the last three stitches, which we purl one and knit two. On the wrong-side row, slip two with the yarn in front and knit one and then purl to the last three stitches. The last three, knit one, purl two. You repeat those last two rows four more times, so that's a total of 10 rows of stockinette, and then you've completed your stockinette stitch band.

Work Garter stitch band

- It's time to begin the garter stitch band of this section. The right side row is exactly like the right side row in stockinette so I already have mine complete. We're starting the wrong side row. Slip two with yarn in front, knit one, and now just knit to the last three stitches, actually to the last two. You'll work those two garter rows, the right side row and the wrong side row, six more times, so that's a total of 14 garter rows, you'll have seven garter ridges to count, after that you'll want one more right side row and you'll be ready to bind off. The bind off is almost exactly like the last one on segment one, you bind off all the way to the end but don't break the yarn off and leave that last loop.

Chapter 5 - Work Section 3

Continue knitting shawl

- For segment three, we don't have to cast on. We're picking up all the stitches. We're done with the casting on. With the wrong side facing, we'll pick up 21 stitches across the short end of segment two, and continue across the top edge of segment one, picking up 70 stitches across there, so we'll have a total of 91, and this loop will count as the first stitch. So this loop counts as one, and I'm gonna go down to the middle of this stitch here, that will be two, and now let's do every other row. So we'll skip that, go in that hole. Skip that, go in that hole. This is just like when we picked up across the end last time. I know this is gonna give me approximately the right number of stitches. I look like I'm close to the end of the short end. I want to count them. Two, four, six, eight, 10, 12, 14,

16, 18, 20, 21. Very good. No we're gonna start across here, and we really want to pick up one stitch in every stitch. Remember, we've lost a few stitches in here, so we'll have a few to make up for. So I'm going to pick up one in there, one in there. Now, I'm going in here, and one for every stitch here. I'm not very good at counting as I go, so I'm gonna have to go back and count. I've got about a half an inch left. Let's see how many stitches I've picked up so far. Sixty-two, four, six, so I have four more left to put in here. One, two, three, four. And it works out that they're a little jammed in at the end because they're gonna be part of that slip stitch edge. Oops, there we go. There's the last one. Because we picked up on the wrong side row, we have this nice, welt on the right side row that really highlights the construction and acts like a seam. I'm going to work one row of stockinette with the edge stitches on each end but no increase to set up for the rest of my pattern, which you work exactly like segment one. Slip two with the yarn in back and pearl one, and knit into the last three stitches. And those last three stitches are worked as you'd expect, pearl one, knit two. You'll work the rest of this segment, segment three, just like you worked segment one, that's rows one through 38, and then the bind off as well, and you're done with this segment.

Finish the shawl

- Section four is picked up with the wrong side facing along the top of section two and the end of section three. I'm starting to pick up at the right hand corner. And I know I want to put as many stitches as I can on this end. One, two, three, I'm gonna put four. Cause that's what happened the last time we picked up. Was about four at the end. And then, I'm going to pick up one for every stitch here. We are close to the point where I have the welted seam from before. I'm almost to the end. I wanna count to see if I have the 91 I'm going for. 89, so I need two more. That'll be really easy to put in here. That's my 91. Now, I have 21 to pick up across here, like we've done several times before. We'll pick up one, two, and then start skipping. So we'll skip that one and go in there. So, every other row now. One. Now that I'm close to the end, I'll count this bit; 18, 20, 21. I want that a little closer to the edge so I'm gonna move these last two. Actually, let's move these last three. So, I'll skip a little one, two, three. The rest of section four is worked just like you worked section two. Remember, at the end, you have one loop left over. So, you're gonna turn the piece over and use that loop to pick up for section five. And then, you'll pick up the long part of section three. You'll start to recognize this because this is a pattern that's repeating over and over again. You'll have 131 stitches picked up. And then you'll work that just like you did section three. And you have one left. You're picking up the last section which is six. You'll pick up 21, and then 131, for a total of 152. When you bind that off, you're done. No finishing. You have a few ends to weave in and then, that's it. This is what your final shawl will look like. You have all these pieces that have been built upon one another. Self finishing at each end. And, this great zig-zag that comes down the end where all of the slip stitch ends are coming together. The shawl is really versatile. If you're going out in the evening, and you just need something to cover your shoulders, you'll wear it in the traditional way. And if you want to wear it in the more modern way as a huge scarf, you wrap it with the point in the front, and have it all cozy around your neck.