

The Countess of Landsfeld

Home Ec Knits



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Materials

600 yds (2 1/2 skeins) in Great Northern Yarns
70% mink 30% cashmere in Chamonix DK
weight (colour shown is natural).

Gauge

14 1/2 sts to 4" in garter stitch after blocking.

17 sts/27 rows = 4" in pattern stitch after
blocking.

Wingspan: 66"; height at the middle: 17";
height of the lace border: 10".

Needles

One 32" circular needle, suggested size US 6
(4.0mm).

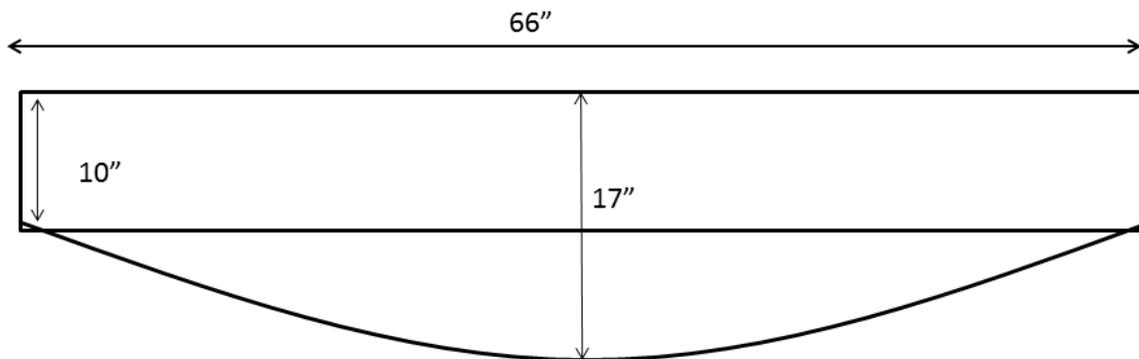
One 32" circular needle, suggested size 7
(4.5 mm) or 8 (5.0 mm), for cast on.

Tools

Stitch markers

Tapestry needle

Blocking supplies – either t-pins or blocking
wires



Special Notes

The shawl is begun at the bottom. Since a large number of stitches are cast on, the suggested technique is the **no-tail long-tail**, which is a method that uses 2 pieces of yarn to cast on, rather than guesstimating length and doubling up one strand of yarn:

No-tail long-tail:

1. Get two strands of the same yarn: either 2 skeins, or 1 skein from which you use both ends.
2. Hold both strands together, about 6 inches from the end of both, and make a slip knot. Don't worry if the slip knot looks ugly– you will not use it in the stitch count. Place slip knot on one needle.
3. Separate the strands over thumb and forefinger, as in a traditional long tail cast on. It doesn't matter which strand is over which digit. Use the strands to make a long tail cast on. At some point, remove the double stranded slip knot, and just undo it.
4. When you have cast on all the stitches, cut one of the strands, leaving about 6 inches to weave in. It doesn't matter which strand. Use the other strand for the project.

Picot Edge

The edges of the lace pattern, unadorned, are rather unimpressive. This shawl solves this issue by picking up stitches along these edges, knitting a few rows in garter stitch, and binding them off in the same picot edge that is used to bind off the shawl. You can substitute any border you would like for these edges, either by picking stitches up and working a border perpendicular to the edge, or by casting on the extra stitches required for your chosen border and working your border as you work the lace section.

To work a picot bind off:

1. At the start of the bind off row, cast on 2 extra stitches using a cable cast on: i.e., hold your yarn in the back, and insert your right needle *under* your left needle, *between* the 2 last stitches. Catch the yarn, and pull it through from under the needle. Pull your new stitch in front of the last stitch on the left needle, and place it on the end of this needle. Using this as your new last stitch, insert needle again between the last 2 stitches, and pull out another loop. Place this loop on the end of the left needle.
2. Perform a basic bind off of 4 stitches (i.e. k 2, insert left needle into the first stitch on the right needle, and slip it off over the second stitch. *K1, slip the first stitch on the right needle over the second stitch* and repeat twice).

3. Slip the remaining stitch from your right needle to your left.
4. Repeat steps 1 – 3 to the end of the row, and draw yarn through the very last stitch.

4 to 1 Slanted Decreases

Most instructions describe these decreases as k4tog (slanted to the right) and k4togtbl (slanted to the left). However, this abbreviation suggests a technique rather than an outcome; unfortunately for many knitters, these techniques can be difficult and time consuming to perform. In order to avoid limiting knitters to one technique, this pattern uses the names Dec4R and Dec4L. The following list describes different possible techniques for performing these decreases, all of which have the same outcome – namely, a 4 to 1 decrease that slants to the left or the right. You can experiment with all the techniques while you knit the shawl – there is no discernible difference in the outcome, so don't worry about switching techniques in the middle of your project.

Dec4R Options (4 to 1 decrease, slanting to the right)

OPTION 1: K4tog – just like K2tog, except the right needle goes knitwise through 4 stitches instead of 2.

OPTION 2: K2tog, then slip the new stitch back to the left needle. With the yarn in back, pass the next 2 stitches, either together or separately, over the new stitch. Slip the stitch back to the right needle.

OPTION 3: Bring the yarn forward through the needles, and lay it over the top of the *left* needle. Holding the yarn in back, pass the next 4 stitches purlwise – together or separately - over this strand and off the needle. Slip this strand purlwise to your right needle.

Dec4L Options (4 to 1 decrease, slanting to the left)

OPTION 1: K4tog tbl – insert your right needle through the back loops of the next 4 stitches on the left needle, and knit them together.

OPTION 2: Slip the next 4 stitches knitwise - one at a time - to your right needle. Insert left needle into these 4 stitches, and knit them together through the back loop. Think of this as SSSSK – an unusually large SSK.

OPTION 3: Slip the first two stitches purlwise to your right needle. Knit the next 2 stitches on your left needle together through the back loops. Pass the two slipped stitches, separately or together, over the new stitch and off the needle.

OPTION 4: Slip the next 4 stitches knitwise - one at a time - to your right needle. Take the yarn from behind these stitches to the front through the needles, and lay it on the

top of the *right* needle. Pass the 4 slipped stitches over the top of this strand.

Stitch Markers and Whether You Need Them

The lace pattern is a repetition of 14 stitches, with the first of each 14 always worked through the back loop on both RS and WS, making embossed striations that clearly separate the repetitions. Once the pattern is well established, this tbl stitch will be easy to spot on both sides, making it very simple for you to keep track of exactly where you are in your 14 stitch repeats. However, you may find the tbl stitch difficult to spot on the WS, particularly on the first two rows. This can be easily addressed by placing a marker before each repeat, and remembering on the RS row to knit tbl of the first stitch after every marker, and on the WS row to purl tbl of the last stitch before every marker.

For those with a particularly poor memory and an abundance of stitch markers, feel free to place a marker on either side of each tbl stitch. No way to miss it now!

Wrap and Turn – Short Rows

To wrap and turn: Knit the stated number of stitches, then bring your yarn to the front through your needles, slip the next st purlwise, bring your yarn to the back through your needles, slip the st back to the left needle, and turn your work.

For garter stitch, there is no need to pick up wraps, since the garter bumps hide the wraps.

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BOTTOM BORDER:

Using larger needles, CO 281 sts using no-tail long-tail (see special notes). (Tip: the stitch pattern is a repeat of 14 stitches plus 1, and so the shawl consists of 20 repetitions of this lace pattern. You can easily adjust this shawl by simply casting on for fewer or more repetitions, using any multiple of 14 plus 1).

Switch to smaller needles, and work 4 rows of garter stitch.

LACE:

Chart Version (find chart on last page):

Row 1 of lace: (RS) work across all stitches in row 1 from lace chart (place marker before and/or after each k tbl if desired).

Rows 2 – 56 work lace from chart straight.

Row 57 – k tbl, k2tog, k10, then continue with row 57 of chart, k to 3 stitches before the end, SSK, ktbl (241 sts).

For those who dislike charts: Old school written out version

Row 1 ((RS) *k tbl, k 13, pm* rep from * 19x.

Row 2 (WS) *p tbl, p13* rep across

Row 3 (RS) *k tbl, Dec4R (see special notes), yo, k, yo, k, yo, k, yo, k, yo, k, yo, Dec4L (see special notes)* rep across

Row 4 (WS) *p tbl, p13* rep across

Repeat rows 1 – 4 13 more times.

Row 57 – k tbl, k2tog, k 10, *ssk pssso, k11* rep from * 18x, k to 3 stitches before end, SSK, ktbl (241 sts).

Short Row Shaping

Next row (WS) k across all sts

Next row (RS) locate the centre stitch and place marker. (Hint: use your pattern repeats to find the centre). K to marker, k7, wrap and turn.

Next row (WS) k 15, wrap and turn.

Next row (RS) k to 3 sts after wrapped stitch, wrap and turn.

Repeat this last row on both sides until all stitches have been worked.

Picot Bind Off

Work picot bind off (see Special Notes) across all stitches. Cut thread and pull through last stitch.

With right side facing, pick up and knit stitches along one side of the lace border. The work shown has 50 sts picked up, but please pick up whatever is best for your work.

Work 3 rows of garter stitch.

Work picot bind off.

Repeat for the other side of the lace border.

Finishing

Weave in ends. Wet block the shawl, gently pulling on the bottom of the tbl stitches to enhance the natural scalloped edges of the pattern. Pin into a shawl-like shape.

