



HYDROGEN SHAWL

Top-down triangular shawl

Gauge
DYE WORKS

DESCRIPTION

Like its namesake, the Hydrogen Shawl is a simple, no-frills basic. Classic and effective on its own, it is also a starting point for a whole world of possibilities.

This pattern is intended as an introduction to working with our self-striping shawl yarn, and includes an [FAQ](#) and suggestions for customizing your shawl.

SPECIFICATIONS

SKILLS REQUIRED

This pattern is suitable for an absolute beginner and requires basic knitting skills: casting on, knitting, purling, increasing, binding off.

GAUGE

20 sts = 10 cm (4" in) stockinette stitch after blocking. Gauge is not critical, and the stripes will "work" at any gauge. However, gauge will affect the size of the final shawl.

SIZES AND DIMENSIONS

Gauge Dye Works yarns are available in two put-ups, resulting in regular [large] shawls. At gauge given:

Regular	width	127 cm (50")
	depth	56 cm (22")
Large	width	178 cm (70")
	depth	71 cm (28")

MATERIALS

YARN

1 skein Gauge Dye Works MCN Fingering SHAWL

115 g [170 g] (4 oz [6 oz])

370 m [548 m] (405 yd [599 yd])

70% superwash merino, 20% cashmere, 10% nylon

Photographed in Concrete and Tulips, 170 g (6 oz).

NEEDLES

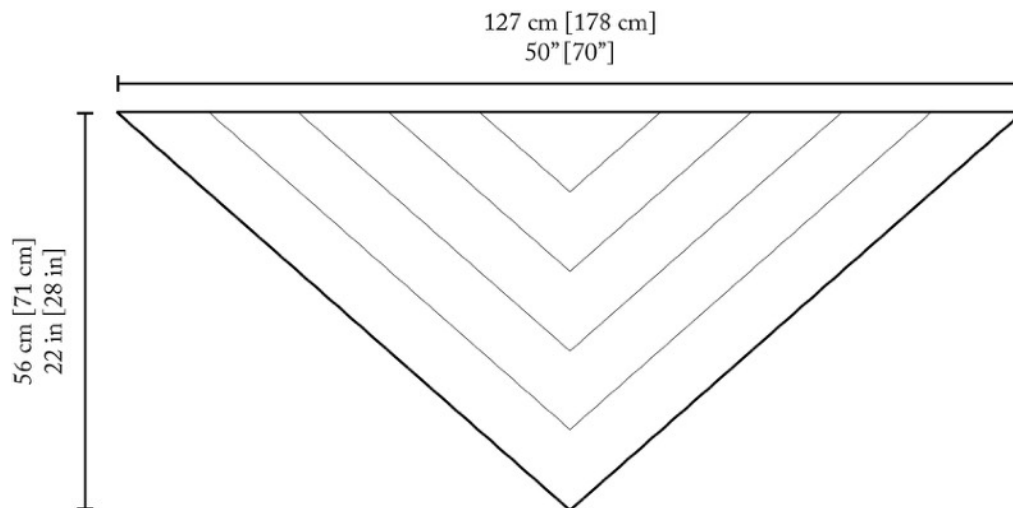
4 mm / US 6 circular needle 60 cm / 24" or longer

5 mm / US 8 circular or straight needle (optional for bind off)

NOTIONS

Stitch marker, tapestry needle, tape measure (optional), blocking pins and wires (optional).

SCHEMATIC



INSTRUCTIONS

YARN PREP

Discard any scrap white or pale-coloured yarn at the ends of the skein. Find the top of the yarn as you wind the hank into a ball. The top has shorter lengths of each colour, corresponding to shorter rows in the shawl, while the bottom has longer sections of colour.

GARTER TAB

Using the top of the yarn, cast on 3 sts. Knit 14 rows.

SHAWL SET-UP

Setup row: k3, rotate work 90° clockwise, pick up and k7 stitches along the garter tab selvedge, rotate work 90° clockwise, pick up and k3 sts along cast-on edge. (13 sts)

Row 1 (WS): k3, p4, pm, p3, k3. (13 sts)

Row 2 (RS): k3, yo, k3, m1r, slm, k1, m1l, k3, yo, k3. (17 sts)

SHAWL BODY

Row 1 (WS): k3, p to 3 sts from end, k3

Row 2 (RS): k3, yo, k to marker, m1r, slm, k1, m1l, k to 3 stitches before end, yo, k3.

Repeat rows 1 and 2 to create the stockinette body of the shawl.

There are suggestions in the FAQ section for customizing your project. The sample in *Concrete and Tulips* has a row of reverse stockinette at each colour change.

If you are using a colourway with wide, even stripes, continue as established until you reach the final stripe colour, ending with a RS row.

If you are using a more variegated colourway, continue as established until you have approximately 250 [350] stitches on the needles.

Note that the colour changes won't necessarily occur at the beginning of a row. If you wish to control exactly where a colour change happens, you can adjust your gauge accordingly or simply cut the yarn.

SHAWL BORDER

Row 1 (WS): k all sts

Row 2 (RS): k3, yo, k to marker, m1r, slm, k1, m1l, k to 3 stitches before end, yo, k3.

Repeat rows 1 and 2 until you have no less than 12 m (13 yd) [15 m (17 yd)] of yarn remaining. (If you have more than 18 m (20 yd) [22 m (24 yd)], you probably have enough for one more row.)

BIND OFF

To avoid a tight edge, you may wish to switch to a larger needle to work the bind off.

If the last row you worked was a row 1, bind off as follows:

Bind off (RS): k2, *slip the 2 worked sts back to the left needle, k2tog tbl, k1, repeat from * until 2 sts remain. Slip both stitches to the left needle, k2tog tbl, break yarn leaving a 15 cm / 6" tail, and draw yarn tail through final stitch to secure.

If the last row you worked was a row 2, bind off as follows:

Bind off (WS): p2, *slip the 2 worked sts back to the left needle, p2tog, p1, repeat from * until 2 sts remain. Slip both stitches to the left needle, p2tog, break yarn leaving a 15 cm / 6" tail, and draw yarn tail through final stitch to secure.

FINISHING

Weave in ends. Wet block the shawl by allowing it to soak in a sink full of lukewarm water for approximately 20 minutes. Squeeze out as much water as possible without twisting or stretching the piece. Lie flat to dry, stretching to desired dimensions. Optionally, use blocking pins and wires to hold the shawl in place as it dries.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is self-striping shawl yarn? How is this different than regular self-striping yarn?

Self-striping shawl yarn is specifically designed for triangular shawls worked from the top-centre outwards. The sections of colour are dyed to match the rows of the shawl: shorter at the beginning and longer at the end. For example, in the photographed sample, you can see that there is much more blue at the bottom of the shawl than purple at the top, even though the stripes are both approximately 6 rows high.

What's with the pale yarn at the ends?

The scrap white or pale-coloured yarn at one or both ends of the skein is a side-effect of the dyeing process. It can be discarded.

What about swatching?

You may choose swatch-as-you-go by simply casting on for your project and working until you have at least 50 stitches on your needles. At that point you can transfer the live stitches to a piece of scrap yarn and block before measuring gauge. If you prefer to do a proper swatch, you should swatch with yarn from the bottom of the skein and be prepared to unravel the swatch if needed. Getting a fabric you like is more important than matching pattern gauge.

How do I know when to start my bind off?

You will need at least 12 m / 13 yd of yarn for the regular size, and 15 m / 17 yd for the large size.

Many of our colourways work up into shawls with even widths of stripes. In that case, you can count how many rows are in each stripe and start your bind off when you have worked one row less than that number in the final colour.

What shapes can I make and still preserve the stripes?

The stripes will “work” for several variations of triangular and crescent shawls. A simple modification to the Hydrogen Shawl pattern is to move the increases to different locations in the same row. For example, the two central increases can be placed 1/3 and 2/3 of the way along the row, creating a crescent shape.

The stripes will also “work” in sideways shawl (e.g. one increase at the end of every 2nd or 4th row), or a bottom-up triangle (e.g. one increase at the beginning of every row).

Can I customize my shawl?

You betcha.

You may find the shawl is too busy if you pair an all-over lace pattern with high-contrast stripes. However, there are plenty of simple stitch patterns that will complement the stripes beautifully. You can also let the stripes dictate the placement of stitch patterns like so:

At each transition: add a row of reverse stockinette, ribbing, or eyelets (pairs of yo/k2tog) on the first row of the new colour. The sample shown in this pattern has a row of reverse stockinette at each colour change.

For each stripe: work different colours in different stitch patterns. One- or two-row textured patterns are particularly effective: garter stitch, moss stitch, broken rib, etc. Geometric lace patterns (e.g. gull lace, mesh) are also a great choice.

Edging: To prevent rolling, this pattern calls for a garter stitch edging, but you can substitute any other stitch that will lie flat. Or, weigh the edge down a bit with beading or a fringe!

ABBREVIATIONS

k: knit

k2tog: knit two stitches together

m1l: make one left (use the tip of the left needle to pick up, from front to back, the strand between the two needles; knit through back loop. 1 stitch increased.)

m1r: make one right (use the tip of the left needle to pick up, from back to front, the strand between the two needles; knit through front loop. 1 stitch increased.)

p: purl

p2tog: purl two stitches together

pm: place marker

RS: right side

slm: slip marker

sts: stitches

tbl: through back loop

WS: wrong side

yo: yarn over

CREDITS

Design: Catherine Gamroth

Photography: Kelly Brown

Model: Kelly Brown

Sample Knitting: Jeni Mummery

© 2018 Gauge Dye Works. This pattern, text and photos are for personal use only unless prior permission has been given.

Pattern last updated February 2018.

For questions, please contact me at info@gaugedyeworks.com.