



Floating Ribs

By Cate Carter-Evans
v 0.1



This pattern is a triple love letter – first, to the amazing way brioche ribs interlace and float above one another, second, to precious handspun yarn, and third, to my very sweet but horrendously destructive cat.

I designed this shawl to use up every possible yard of handspun salvaged from a formerly favorite shawl in which my cat chewed several holes.

Floating Ribs features a faux i-cord edging, a central column of increases, and uses two colors of yarn to create a subtle striped effect. The elongated heart-shape of the shawl keeps it on your shoulders, and it's a great size for multi-season wear – scrunch it up and wear it as an oversized winter scarf, or wear it around your shoulders as a transitional layer for fall and spring.

About this Pattern

Skill Level: Intermediate, with some experience knitting brioche.

Skills Needed: Basic knitting skills, plus brioche knits and purls (brk and brp, brioche knit–yarn over–brioche knit (brkyobr), Brioche knit four stitch increase (br4st), Judy's Magic Cast-on, i-cord, and grafting.

Finished Size: 62 inches / 158 cm tip to tip, and 18 inches / 46 cm deep at the center point.

Yarn: MC – Infinite Twist Halo Heather Handspun, 100% Merino wool, 300 y. CC - Infinite Twist Umbra, 300 y.

Needles: U.S. size 7 / 4.5 mm circular needle, at least 80 cm long, or any size yielding correct gauge, plus one set of DPNs in same size as circular needle.

Gauge: 7 CC ribs & 19 CC rows over 4 inches / 10 cm in brioche stitch pattern after blocking.

Notions: At least one locking stitch marker, yarn needle.

Abbreviations

Brk – Brioche knit; knit stitch together with its accompanying yarn-over.

Brp – Brioche purl; purl stitch together with its accompanying yarn-over.

Brkyobrck – Brioche knit – yarn over – brioche knit. Brk1, leave stitch on left-hand needle, yarn over, then brk into the same stitch. Increases 2 sts.

Br4st – Brioche knit four stitch increase. Brk1, leave stitch on left-hand needle, yarn over, brk into the same stitch again, yarn over again, brk into the same stitch a third time. Increases 4 sts.

CC – Contrast color

CS – Central stitch, the column of brp stitches that make up the central column of the shawl.

ES – Edge stitches

K – Knit

MC – Main Color

P – Purl

Rem – Remain

RS – Right side

RSES – Right side edge stitches. K3, sl 3 sts just knitted back to left hand needle, bring yarn around back of work into working position (like i-cord), k3 again.

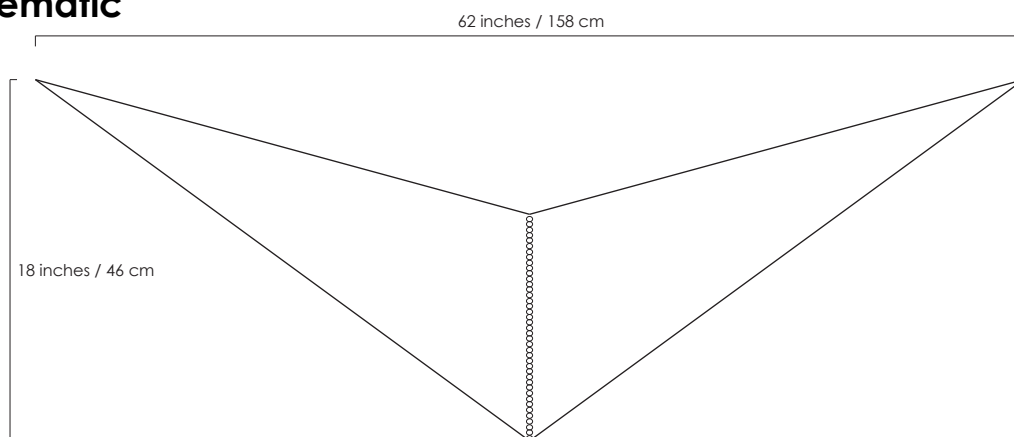
Slyfyo – Slip one stitch while adding a yarn over. Slipped stitch and accompanying yarn-over are considered one brioche stitch.

St(s) – Stich(es)

WS – Wrong side

WSES – Wrong side edge stitches. P3, sl 3 sts just purled back to left hand needle, bring yarn around back of work into working position (like i-cord), p3 again.

Schematic



Pattern Notes

This shawl is comprised of an edging in MC, sections that feature the CC yarn (CC-dominant sections), and sections that feature the MC yarn (MC-dominant sections).

While brioche produces a fabric that has no visual wrong side and this shawl can be worn with either side facing, the “right side” starts with a CC-dominant section.

The elongated heart shape of the shawl is created by use of a rather aggressive increase – the br4st – which increases four stitches every time you work it. To accommodate the speedy growth of the width of the shawl along the top edge, you will work the edge stitches (abbreviated as ES) twice every time you work an MC row.

All increase rows happen on the RS of the shawl. The rows following your increase rows (identified as follow-on rows) include regular purl stitches where you are converting non-brioche knit stitches from your previous row's increases into brioche stitches. Curly brackets are used to flag the sections containing the regular purl stitches. Edge stitches are only worked with MC.

Instructions

Using two dpns and Judy's Magic Cast On and MC yarn, cast on 3 sts (6 sts total, two sets of 3 sts). These stitches will become the border along the top of your shawl.

Row 1: K3.

Row 2: P3.

Row 3: K3. Place removable marker in last st.

Row 4: P3.

Row 5: K3.



Join CC yarn to begin first CC-dominant section.

Row 1, CC, RS: Turn work 90 degrees clockwise so stitch with removable marker is up. Using a 3rd dpn and CC, k-yo-k into marked st.

Row 2, MC, RS: MC is at the left edge of the edge stitches after row 5. Pick up MC, and slyfyo, p1, slyfyo, into CC sts, k the remaining 3 es. You should have 3 es, 3 sts in brioche section, 3 es. Turn work.

Row 3, CC, WS: Sl 3 es, brp, slyfyo, brp, sl 3 es.

Row 4, MC, WS: WSES, slyfyo, brk, slyfyo, WSES.

Row 5, CC, RS, increase row: Sl ES, br4st, slyfyo (CS), br4st, sl es. You should now have 3 ES, 11 sts in brioche section, 3 ES.

Row 6, MC, RS, follow-on row: RSES, {slyfyo, p, slyfyo, p, slyfyo}, brp (CS), {slyfyo, p, slyfyo, p, slyfyo}, RSES.

Row 7, CC, WS: Sl ES, *[brp, slyfyo], repeat from * until 1 st remains in brioche section, brp, sl ES.

Row 8, MC, WS: WSES, *[slyfyo, brk] repeat from * until 1 st remains in brioche section, slyfyo, WSES.

Work rows A – D (next page) three times to complete first section.

Subsequent Shawl Sections

2nd section, MC-dominant: Work rows E – H five times.

3rd section, CC-dominant: Work rows A – D five times.

4th section, MC-dominant: Work rows E – H five times.

5th section, CC-dominant: Work rows A – D five times.



Edge Stitches (worked on MC rows only)

RSES – Right side edge stitches. K3, sl 3 sts just knitted back to left-hand needle, bring yarn around back of work into working position (like i-cord), k3 again.

WSES – Wrong side edge stitches. P3, sl 3 sts just purled back to left-hand needle, bring yarn around back of work into working position (like i-cord), p3 again.

Rows A – D, CC-dominant Sections

Row A, CC, RS, increase row: Sl ES, br4st, *[slyfyo, brk], repeat from * until two sts rem before CS, slyfyo, brkyobr, slyfyo (CS), brkyobr, slyfyo, [brk, slyfyo] to last st in brioche section, br4st, sl ES.

Row B, MC, RS, follow-on row: Work RSES, work brioche section - {slyfyo, p, slyfyo, p, slyfyo} brp, *[slyfyo, brp], repeat from * until 3 sts rem before CS, {slyfyo, p, slyfyo}, brp (CS), {slyfyo, p, slyfyo}, *[brp, slyfyo], repeat from * until 6 sts rem in brioche section, brp, {slyfyo, p, slyfyo, p, slyfyo}, work RSES.

Row C, CC, WS: Sl ES, [brp, slyfyo] until 1 st rem in brioche section, brp, sl ES.

Row D, MC, WS: Work WSES, work brioche section - [slyfyo, brk] until 1 st rem in brioche section, slyfyo, work WSES.

Rows E – H, MC-dominant Sections

Row E, CC, RS, increase row: Sl ES, br4st, *[slyfyo, brp], repeat from * until 1 st before CS, brkyobr, slyfyo (CS), brkyobr, [slyfyo, brp]* until 1 st rem in brioche section, br4st, sl ES.

Row F, MC, RS, follow on row: Work RSES, {slyfyo, k, slyfyo, k, slyfyo}, *[brk, slyfyo], repeat from * until 3 sts before CS, {slyfyo, k slyfyo}, brp (CS), {slyfyo, k slyfyo}, *[brk slyfyo], rep from * until 5sts rem in brioche section, {slyfyo, k, slyfyo, k, slyfyo}, work RSES.

Row G, CC, WS: Sl ES, brp, slyfyo, *[brk, slyfyo], repeat from * until 1 st before CS, brp, slyfyo (CS), brp, *[slyfyo, brk], repeat from *, until 2 sts rem in brioche section, slyfyo, brp, sl ES.

Row H, MC, WS: Work WSES, *[slyfyo, brp] until 1 st rem before CS, slyfyo, brk (CS), slyfyo, *[brp, slyfyo], repeat from star to end of brioche section, work WSES.

Binding off

MC yarn should be on right edge of work. Using MC and dpns, k3. Slip 3 just-worked sts to left hand needle. Work 3 rows as i-cord (these rows form the corner of your edging). Sl 3 just-worked sts to left-hand needle.

Continuing with MC, bind off body stitches as follows: k2, sl1 as if to knit (across your 3 selvedge stitches), k1 or brk (depending on which type of body stitch is next on your circular needle), pss0. Sl 3 sts back to left-hand needle. Repeat until all body stitches are bound off and 3 MC selvedge sts remain on your circular needle.

Work 3 rows of i-cord to form the corner of your edging. Graft the remaining 3 live sts with the 3 left side selvedge stitches.

Finishing

Weave in ends with a yarn needle. Soak your finished wrap in warm water and wool wash or mild detergent for 15 minutes. Remove excess water, and block to desired dimensions.