



# The Crow Waltz Shawl



*Designed by Juju Vail for Loop, London*

This cosy shawl was inspired by the colours of [Old Maiden Aunt](#) yarns, hand-painted in West Kilbride, Scotland, by Lilith. We were very excited to get them into the [Loop](#) shop! The colours are unusually subtle, moody and mysterious for hand-paint yarns and they blend interestingly together.

I “unvented” this simple weave-style slip stitch to highlight the way the OMA colours work together. Only one yarn is used at a time ~ the trick is in varying the needle size in each direction.

Lilith has named many of her new colourways after songs, in a hark back to the mix tapes of her youth. Riffing on her theme, I named this shawl after a little ditty by my favourite band, The Be Good Tanyas.

## Abbreviations

K ~ knit	Sl wyif ~ Slip stitch as if to	St(s) ~ stitch(es)	P2tog ~ purl 2 together
Bo ~ bind off	purl, holding yarn in the front	Yo ~ yarn over	P ~ purl
K2tog ~ knit 2 together		Yo2 ~ yarn over twice	Rw ~ row

## Yarn Recommendations

[Old Maiden Aunt](#)~ Alpaca Silk sport/dk ~ 80% superfine Alpaca, 20% silk, 100grams/256 metres (280 yards), 1 Skein each of Hebridean (Colour A) and Derelict Daughter (Colour B)

If you are making substitutions, this is a sportweight yarn with a lot of drape and a pretty Alpaca halo. You could substitute a sock weight yarn but remember, your shawl will be smaller when finished.

The two colours are each softly variegated, with some areas of each skein blending together, and some contrasting. For a more striking combination, choose a skein of yarn for colour B with a strongly contrasting variegation. This could be a good pattern to use the yarn you bought that looked great in the hank but too blotchy knit-up. Choose a second colour that is a plain or semi-solid to complement it and provide some relief in the borders.

See the [post](#) on Loop Knit Lounge for some suggestions.

## Size

Approx. 126cm wide by 53cm deep (50" x 21")

## Needles

Circular: small ~3.25mm (US 3), medium ~3.75mm (US 5) and large ~5mm (US 8). When knitting the Odd Slip Stitch with different needles, either use an [interchangeable needle set](#) with a 3.25mm (US 3) tip on one end and a 5mm (US 8) tip on the other or use two separate circular needles in these sizes. If you are using two separate circulars, you may wish to cap the unused ends with [point protectors](#).

If you are using a different yarn, it may not make sense to match gauge exactly. The point is to create a "weave" fabric that is not too tight or dense. The picture at top right gives you an idea of the texture of the fabric.

Also needed: crochet hook (about 3.5mm or size E), some smooth scrap yarn for temporary crochet cast-on and a darning needle and scissors.

## Gauge

In Odd Slip Stitch, with the small and large needles; 10cm x 10cm (4" x 4") = 17sts x 40rws.



When counting Odd Slip Stitch rows, each slipped stitch of colour A, is worked every 4 rows. Therefore, 10 colour A slipped stitches = 40 rows of pattern.

## Odd Slip Stitch

Worked over an odd number of stitches with the smallest and largest needle sizes and two colours of yarn: (The rows are highlighted by yarn colour.)

- Row 1: With stitches on small needle, knitting onto the larger needle, in colour A, \*k1, sl1 wyif\* repeat until 1st remains, k1.
- Row 2: Working from large needle, onto small needle, purl every stitch.
- Row 3: Working from small needle, onto large needle, in colour B, \*sl1 wyif, k1\* repeat until 1st remains, sl1 wyif.
- Row 4: Working from large needle, onto small needle, purl every stitch.

These four rows form the Odd Slip Stitch.

## Picot Bind Off

Cast on a stitch by inserting the right needle between the first two stitches on the left needle, wrap the yarn around the right needle, pull the newly made stitch to the front and place on the left needle. Cast on one more stitch in the same way. Bind off 4 stitches. Transfer the remaining stitch on the right needle to the left needle. Repeat these steps until all the stitches are bound off.

## Crow Waltz Lace Edge

Worked on the middle sized needles (3.75mm or US 5). Cast on with a smooth scrap yarn by chaining 12 crochet stitches. Pick up 10 knit stitches from the back of the crochet loops. You will be making double yarn-overs and then working them as a knit one, purl one, on subsequent rows.

Row 1: knit 10sts.

Row 2: Sl wyif, k1, yo, p2tog, k1, yo twice, k2tog, yo twice, k2tog, k1 (12sts)

Row 3: K3, p1, k2, p1, k1, yo, p2tog, k2 (12sts)

Row 4: Sl wyif, k1, yo, p2tog, k3, yo twice, k2tog, yo twice, k2tog, k1 (14sts)

Row 5: K3, p1, k2, p1, k3, yo, p2tog, k2 (14sts)

Row 6: Sl wyif, k1, yo, p2tog, k5, yo twice, k2tog, yo twice, k2tog, k1 (16sts)

Row 7: K3, p1, k2, p1, k5, yo, p2tog, k2 (16sts)

Row 8: Sl wyif, k1, yo, p2tog, k7, yo twice, k2tog, yo twice, k2tog, k1 (18sts)

Row 9: K3, p1, k2, p1, k7, yo, p2tog, k2 (18sts)

Row 10: Sl wyif, k1, yo, p2tog, k14 (18sts)

Row 11: Cast off 8, k5, yo, p2tog, k2 (10sts)

This finishes one repeat of the lace edge. Repeat rows 2-11 for lace edging.

### Crow Waltz Lace Edging Chart

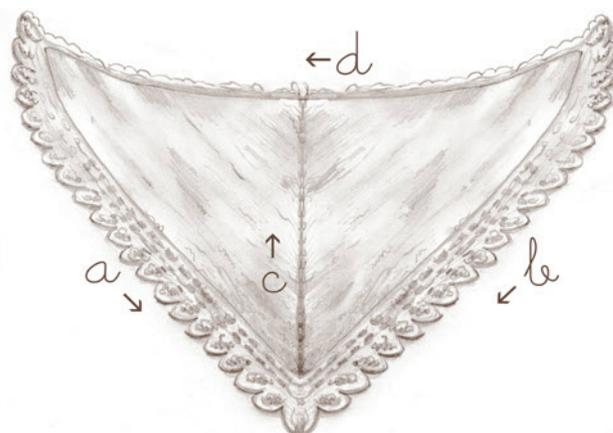
	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
11																		○/○
9																		∇
7																		∇
5																		∇
3																		∇
1																		∇

### Chart Key

K		Bo	
P		Sl wyif	
K2tog		Yo	
P2tog		Yo2	

## Pattern

The shawl is begun by knitting the Lace Edge (a and b). The stitches are picked up from the edge and the shawl is decreased to the top along a centre spine and the edges (c). When the body of the shawl is complete, the top edge is picked up, including the open edges of the lace border, and a picot edging is knit on (d).



I made the original shawl by knitting the lace border in two pieces and then grafting these together in the middle so that the lace leaves in the border are symmetrical. I know this is important to some knitters, however if you prefer not to graft live stitches, you can just knit the border all in one piece – the direction of the lace leaves is not very noticeable. I have included instructions for both ways so that you can pick which you prefer.

**Knit one of the following edges in colour A:**

### Crow Waltz Lace Edging in Two Parts

This edging is worked in two parts using the middle sized needles and then grafted in the middle to make the ends match.

Begin lace edge by chaining 12 crochet stitches in scrap yarn and picking up 10 knit stitches in Colour A, with the medium needles. Follow the Crow Waltz Lace Edge pattern for a total of 25 repeats. Put the open stitches on a holder or scrap yarn and cut yarn, leaving a 30cm tail. Repeat for the other half of the lace border, this time making 24 repeats. Graft the two ends of the lace edging together with the thread tail using a garter kitchner stitch.

## Crow Waltz Lace Edging in One Part

Begin lace edge by chaining 12 crochet stitches in scrap yarn and picking up 10 knit stitches in colour A, from this cast-on. Follow the Crow Waltz Lace Edge pattern for a total of 49 repeats. Put the open stitches on a holder or scrap yarn and cut yarn, leaving a 10cm tail.

### Picking up the Lace Edge

Each repeat of the lace edge (10 rows) will have 5 slipped edge stitches to pick up from. Pick up the first 120 of these (24 repeats of the lace border) using the smallest (3.25mm, US 3) needle and colour B.

For the centre tip of the shawl, decrease the rate of pick-up for one repeat, so that the border can curve around the point of the shawl. Do this by picking up every second slipped stitch from the border for 3 stitches. Continue to pick up the final 120 stitches at the normal rate. There will be 243 stitches on the smallest (3.25mm, US 3) needle.

Still using colour B, and smallest needle, purl back over all the stitches, placing a centre stitch marker after the 122nd stitch.

Work rows 1 and 2 of the odd slip stitch in colour A, with no decreases, but changing needles as stated, to begin the pattern.

### Decreasing

From now on, you will be decreasing on every row 1 and 3 of the pattern. To work a decrease row: begin with a SSK, continue in pattern until centre marker, sl2 knitwise, k1, PSSO (decreasing two), knit in pattern until the last two stitches, k2tog. You will need to move the centre stitch marker along one on every wrong side row to keep it aligned.

Continue knitting in pattern, making decreases on rows 1 and 3 until there are just three stitches left (122 worked rows). Knit 1 row and cast off the three stitches.

### Picot Trim at Upper Edge

Which colour you choose to knit the top edge in may depend on how much yarn you have left. I knit my edge in the same colour as the lace trim but this used up all the yarn! If you don't think you will have

enough, use the other colour or a combination of the two by picking up in one colour and then making the picot bind-off in the other.

With the "weave" side facing, using the middle sized needles (3.75mm/US 5), begin picking up stitches along the upper edge by picking up the 10 stitches held on waste yarn from the right edge. Continue picking up edge stitches, 70 before the mid-point and another 70 after. Pick up the remaining 10 stitches from the waste yarn at the end. There will be a total of 160sts picked up.

Knit 5 rows in garter stitch and then make picot bind-off.

### Finishing

Wet block shawl. Weave in and trim the ends.

Thank you to [Loopknitting.com](http://Loopknitting.com) for supplying the yarn and Lydia for modelling the shawl.



Copyright agreement: This pattern is the property of the designer. It is copyrighted, and is for personal and non-profit use only. This means that you can knit it for yourself, for a gift or for charity. You may not sell a garment made from this pattern. You may not reproduce this pdf pattern on, or distribute it from, a website. Merchants may not download or print this pattern for sale, distribution, or class use (without prior permission). This pattern may not be translated, reproduced or circulated in another language without prior agreement. Downloading or printing the pattern constitutes agreement within these terms. Thank you, and enjoy your Crow Waltz! Juju Vail, for Loop London, April 2010