

# Beginner's Lace Shawl

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This shawl is designed for someone who has never knit a triangular lace shawl before and wants a simple pattern to help them understand the basics.

It is also a useful pattern if you have some precious yarn that you want to use every last bit of. The shawl can be finished when you are down to your last few grams.

## Knitters should already be able to:

- Knit & purl
- Make Stockinette (st st) and garter stitch
- Be familiar with increasing using Yarn overs (yo) and decreasing by knitting two stitches (k2tog) together.
- Weave in yarn ends

## Knitters will learn to:

- Select yarn and needle size
- Make a tab cast on, which is a common way of beginning triangular lace shawls
- Make a simple lace stitch with yarn over increases and centre stitch decreases
- Follow a graph chart for lace knitting
- Understand pattern symbols and abbreviations (This pattern is written with many of the full instructions with abbreviations in brackets afterwards, to help you get used to following abbreviations).
- Maintain the lace pattern
- Cast off loosely so that the edge has room to expand
- Block and dress the lace to complete it.

## Tools and materials

- 50 or more grams of yarn. Choose a yarn that is lace, fingering or dk weight. Other yarns can be used.
- Circular knitting needles, one or two sizes larger than listed on the ball band. Ideally a range of needle sizes is best in order to sample. Circular needles are preferred over straight needles because they can hold a large number of stitches.
- T-pins (20+) and a large piece of cardboard or foam for blocking. Blocking wires make blocking shawls easier, but are not essential.

This is a triangular, top-down shawl. It starts with just a few stitches at the top middle of the triangle (circled area of [Illustration A: Shawl Shape and Tab Beginning](#)) and grows as the triangle gets larger.

There are charted and written row-by-row instructions. If you have never used a chart before, it is a good idea to try to follow the chart with back-up from the written instructions.

Notice in Chart A, the wrong side (ws) rows (rws, 2, 4, 6, etc) are missing. This is common in lace shawl patterns where the wrong side is plain knitting or purling (apart from maybe a few edge stitches which are worked in garter stitch) with no decreases or increases. A simple instruction such as, “knit the first and the last 2sts, purl the rest” suffices to explain what happens on all wrong side rows.

Stitch number 29, in Chart A, represents the centre spine stitch of the shawl. Yarn overs will always occur on either side of it on the right-side(rs) rows(rws). It is a good idea to place a stitch marker (pm) just before the centre stitch. When you reach the marker on right side (rs) rows (rws), make a stitch by bring the yarn to the front of the needle (yo), slip the marker (m), knit the centre stitch (k), bring the yarn to the front of the needle (yo).

There are also increase stitches, on the right side (rs) rows (rws), at the shawl edges. These increase the dimensions of the shawl and are unrelated to the lace pattern. After knitting the first 2sts there will always be a yarn over (yo) on all right side rows. In some shawls this increase occurs on both the right and wrong side rows. This makes a shallower, wider triangle. The end stitches mirror the beginning; a yo, followed by 2 knit stitches. Again it is a good idea to place stitch markers 2 stitches from the beginning and end of the

shawl to remind you where your increases are.

## Choosing yarn and needles

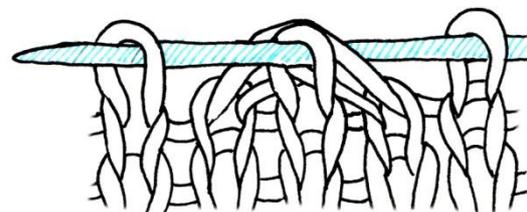
You will need to begin by knitting a gauge swatch. The aim of the swatch is to create a fabric that you like. Lace shawls are typically knit much looser than other kinds of knitting so that the lace shows up well and is airy. It is difficult to know which needle size is best for your yarn until you have tested your pattern and wet blocked a sample. This swatch also gives you an opportunity to get used to knitting the lace pattern without the extra complications of the shawl shaping. Begin by trying a needle size larger than suggested on your yarn ball band. So, if your ball band suggests a 3mm needle, consider trying a 4, 4.5 or 5mm needle. Of course, your own individual tension will affect your results.

## Gauge Swatch

Cast on (Co) 29sts. This allows for three repeats of the pattern and 2 edge stitches on either side. Knit 2 rows (rws) and then begin following chart or written instructions for swatch. The area marked in red on the graph is the repeat pattern.

**There are no Wrong-side rows on the chart.** These will always be; k2, p25, k2.

**The Central Double Decrease (cdd)** will give you a decrease with the centre stitch lying on top, under the top stitch, the right and left stitches lean into it. It is worked like this: Slip 2 stitches as if to knit them together, knit the next stitch, pass the 2 slipped stitches over the knit stitch.



## Swatch Chart

29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	15
		↘			○		○		↑			○		○			↑		○		○		○		○		↘		13
		↘			○		○		↑			○		○			↑		○		○		○		○		↘		11
		↘			○		○		↑			○		○			↑		○		○		○		○		↘		9
			○			↑			○		○			↑			○		○			↑			○				7
			○			↑			○		○			↑			○		○			↑			○				5
			○			↑			○		○			↑			○		○			↑			○				3
			○			↑			○		○			↑			○		○			↑			○				1
29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	

### Swatch Written Instructions

**Rows 1, 3, 5, 7 (right-side rows):** k2, \*k1, yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo\*. Repeat \*to\* two more times, k3.

**Row 2 and all following wrong-side rows:** k2, p25, k2

**Rows 9, 11, 13, 15:** k2, k2tog, k1, \*k1, yo, k1, yo, k2, cdd, k1\*. Repeat \*to\* once more, k1, yo, k1, yo, k2, ssk, k2.

Repeat these 15 rows three times. Knit 2 rows and then cast off.

### Block your Sample

Fill a basin with warm water. Add a teaspoon of shampoo or wool wash. Put your sample in the basin and leave for 5 minutes. Take sample out and place in an old, clean towel. Roll the towel around the sample to remove excess water. Use some T-pins and foam board or cardboard to stretch out your sample. Keep the edges straight and really

pull the lace so that it opens out. Leave to dry or use a blow-drier if you are in a hurry.

When sample is completely dry you can unpin it and you will know how the lace looks when blocked out. It should look quite different to how it looked fresh off the needles.

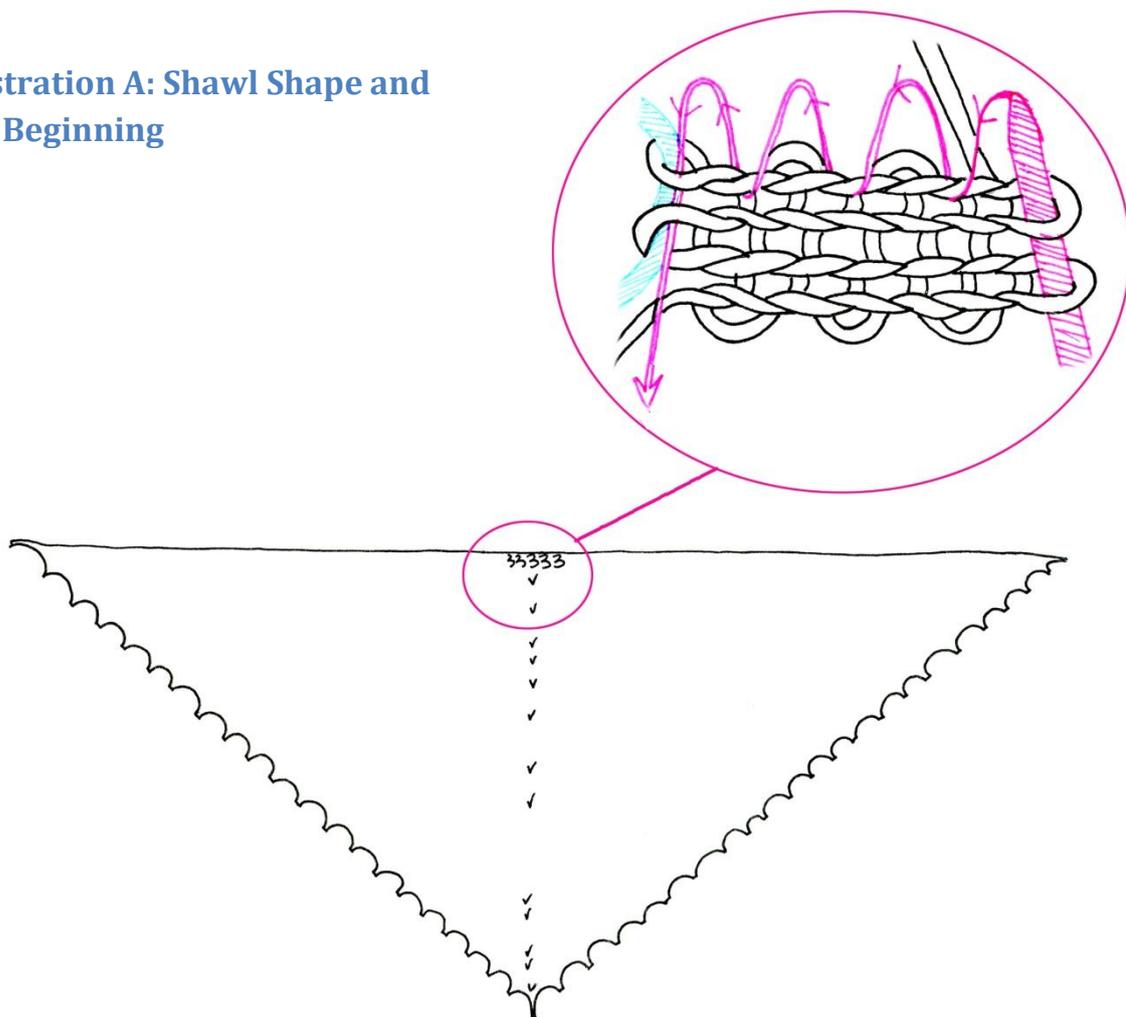
### Assessing your Needle Size

is largely a matter of personal taste. If you think your lace looks too holey, go down in needle sizes. If the lace holes aren't opening up enough, go up in needle sizes. There are many internet resources illustrating gauge differences. You may wish to make more than one sample to test different possibilities.

This is the **Beginner's Lace Shawl** made with exactly 100g of Isager Tvinni in 57S Light Blue with Grey



## Illustration A: Shawl Shape and Tab Beginning



### Tab Beginning

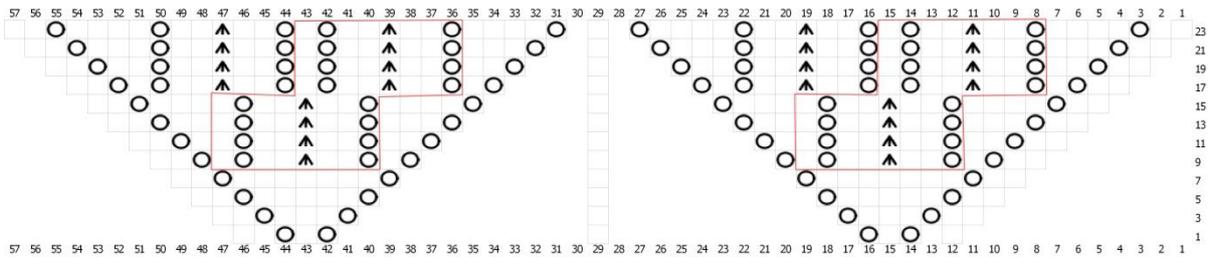
This is a common method for beginning a triangular lace shawl. It will make the centre-middle beginning match the top edging of the shawl.

Begin by casting-on 2sts. It is best to use a temporary method for this, but any cast-on can work. Knit 6 more rows so that you have a total of 7rws in garter stitch, including the cast-on. You are now going to be picking up stitches from three sides of this rectangle of garter knitting. You have 2 sts on your needle already, which will be the first side. Now you need to pick up 3sts from the edge of the garter rectangle (see illustration B). Finally pick up the 2sts from the cast-on edge. If you

did a temporary cast-on, you can pick up the open stitches and remove the waste yarn. You now have 7sts on your needle. Knit back and place makers (pm) as follows;

**Marker set-up row:** K2, pm, k2, pm, k1, pm, k2. Begin Chart A.

## Chart A



### Chart A Written Instructions

The centre stitch and its increases are written in blue to help you keep track of where you are in the pattern.

**Row 1 (right-side):** k2, m, yo, k1, yo, sm, k1, yo, k1, yo, sm, k2. (11sts)

**Row 2 and all wrong-side Rows:** k2, p to last 2 sts, k2, slipping all markers as you come to them.

**Row 3:** k2, sm, yo, k3, yo, sm, k1, yo, k3, yo, sm, k2. (15sts)

**Row 5:** k2, sm, yo, k5, yo, sm, k1, yo, k5, yo, sm, k2. (19sts)

**Row 7:** k2, sm, yo, k8, yo, sm, k1, yo, k7, yo, sm, k2. (23sts)

Row 9 begins the lace pattern. The segments \*to\* form the repeat of the lace pattern. In subsequent rows you will be repeating these stitches.

**Row 9:** k2, sm, yo, k1, \*yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo, k1.\* Repeat \*to\* until centre stitch marker, yo, sm, k1, yo, k1, \*yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo, k1.\* Repeat \*to\* until last stitch marker, yo, sm, k2. (27sts)

**Row 11:** k2, sm, yo, k2, \*yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo, k1.\* Repeat \*to\* until one stitch from the centre stitch marker, k1, yo, sm, k1, yo, k2, \*Repeat \*to\* until one stitch from last marker, k1, yo, sm, k2. (31sts)

**Row 13:** k2, sm, yo, k3, \*yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo, k1.\* Repeat \*to\* until two stitches from the centre stitch marker, k2, yo, sm, k1, yo, k3, \*yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo, k1.\* Repeat \*to\* until two stitches from the last stitch marker, k2, yo, sm, k2. (35sts)

**Row 15:** k2, sm, yo, k4, \*yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo, k1.\* Repeat \*to\* until three stitches from the

centre stitch marker, k3, yo, sm, k1, yo, k4, \*yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo, k1.\* Repeat \*to\* until three stitches from the last stitch marker, k3, yo, sm, k2. (39sts)

**Row 17:** k2, sm, yo, k1, \*yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo, k1.\* Repeat \*to\* until the centre stitch marker, yo, sm, k1, yo, k1, repeat \*to\* until the last stitch maker, yo, sm, k2. (43sts)

**Row 19:** k2, sm, yo, k2, \*yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo, k1.\* Repeat \*to\* until one stitch from the centre stitch marker, k1, yo, sm, k1, yo, k2, Repeat \*to\* until one stitch from the last stitch marker, k1, yo, sm, k2. (47sts)

**Row 21:** k2, sm, yo, k3, \*yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo, k1.\* Repeat \*to\* until two stitches from the centre stitch marker, k2, yo, sm, k1, yo, k3, repeat \*to\* until two stitches from the last stitch marker, k2, yo, sm, k2. (51sts)

**Row 23:** k2, sm, yo, k4, \*yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo, k1.\* Repeat \*to\* until three stitches from the centre stitch marker, k3, yo, sm, k1, yo, k4, repeat \*to\* until three stitches from the last stitch marker, k3, yo, sm, k2. (55sts)

Rows 9-24 form the repeat pattern rows of the lace shawl. The pattern repeat is marked in a red box on Chart A. As the shawl grows, you will repeat the pattern in this box an extra time each repeat. Thus, when you have finished row 24, repeat row 9 for the second time, this time the repeat of \*to\* will be twice. When you come to Row 17 for the second time you will be repeating the \*to\* pattern three times and so on. The row counts listed above only go to Row 23 but each right side row will add 4sts to the pattern.

## Ending the Shawl

There are two ways of deciding when to end your shawl. The first is applicable to a 100g shawl:

1: Carry on working the shawl until you have 8g of yarn left. When you have eight grams of yarn, complete the pattern cycle (up to rw 24) that you are working on and then begin **Chart B**.

2: Only the last wrong-side row of **Chart B** is different, therefore you can decide to end the shawl when you feel you might only have enough for one more row and a cast-off. How much yarn is that? It is approximately eight times the length of the shawl hem. Thus if your hem measures 3m long (stretch it a little as you measure), you want 24m to complete the last row and cast-off.

**Chart B** shows the last 14 rows before bind off, the wrong side rows *have* been included in the chart. You can tell by the row numbering and the fact that the numbers are on the *left and right* sides of the chart. Both sides are charted because you work a wrong side row with extra yarn over stitches in the last row to give the shawl extra stretch at the bind off, allowing it to fall into a scalloped border.

## Written Instructions for Chart B

**Row 1 (right-side):** k2, sm, yo, k1, \*yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo, k1.\* Repeat \*to\* until centre stitch marker, yo, sm, k1, yo, k1, \*yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo, k1.\* Repeat \*to\* until last stitch marker, yo, sm, k2.

**Row 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 & 12 (wrong-side):** k2, p to last 2 sts, k2, slipping all markers as you come to them.

**Row 3:** k2, sm, yo, k2, \*yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo, k1.\* Repeat \*to\* until one stitch from the centre stitch marker, k1, yo, sm, k1, yo, k2, \*Repeat \*to\* until one stitch from last marker, k1, yo, sm, k2.

**Row 5:** k2, sm, yo, k3, \*yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo, k1.\* Repeat \*to\* until two stitches from the centre stitch marker, k2, yo, sm, k1, yo, k3, \*yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo, k1.\* Repeat \*to\* until two stitches from the last stitch marker, k2, yo, sm, k2.

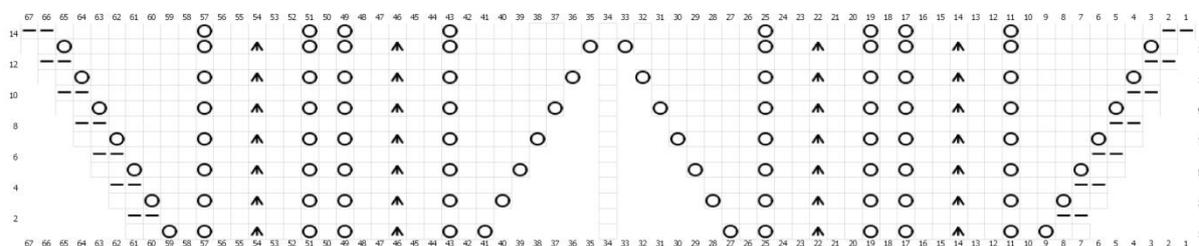
**Row 7:** k2, sm, yo, k4, \*yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo, k1.\* Repeat \*to\* until three stitches from the centre stitch marker, k3, yo, sm, k1, yo, k4, \*yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo, k1.\* Repeat \*to\* until three stitches from the last stitch marker, k3, yo, sm, k2.

**Row 9:** k2, sm, yo, k5, \*yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo, k1.\* Repeat \*to\* until four stitches from the centre stitch marker, k4, yo, sm, k1, yo, k5, \*yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo, k1.\* Repeat \*to\* until four stitches from the last stitch marker, k4, yo, sm, k2.

**Row 11:** k2, sm, yo, k6, \*yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo, k1.\* Repeat \*to\* until five stitches from the centre stitch marker, k5, yo, sm, k1, yo, k6, \*yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo, k1.\* Repeat \*to\* until five stitches from the last stitch marker, k5, yo, sm, k2.

**Row 13:** k2, sm, yo, k7, \*yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo, k1.\* Repeat \*to\* until six stitches from the centre stitch marker, k6, yo, sm, k1, yo, k7, \*yo, k2, cdd, k2, yo, k1.\* Repeat \*to\* until six stitches from the last stitch marker, k6, yo,

## Chart B



sm, k2.

**Row 14:** k2, sm, p8, \*yo, p1, yo, p5 \* Repeat \*to\* until eight stitches from the centre stitch (the marker will be on the other side of the centre stitch, 9 stitches away). Purl the centre stitch and sm, p8. Repeat \*to\* until eight stitches from the last marker, p8, sm, k2.

### Binding Off

The bind-off (bo) needs to be loose in order for the shawl edge to stretch into the scalloped shape. There are a number of bind-offs that will achieve this. The Beginner's Lace Shawl uses the knit 2 together (k2tog) bind-off (bo):

k2, k2tog, \*k1, k2tog.\* Repeat \*to\* until the last stitch. Cut yarn with a 15cm tail and thread through the final loop.



This Beginner's Lace shawl uses [Tilli Thomas Lace mohair with beads and glitter](#) in Golden Rod.

### Blocking and Finishing

Weave in all yarn ends. Block shawl by washing as described for the sample. Give the shawl an extra soak in a soap-free basin of water before rolling in a towel.

If you have blocking wires weave them in and out of the garter stitch edge. If they are not long enough, use two wires, overlapping in the middle. Weave one wire along each of the shawl sides; into each of the stitches between the yarn over (yo) lace tips. The stitches in between, including the central double decrease (cdd) stitches will not be pinned out, allowing them to fall into scallops.

Begin by pinning the top edge of your shawl straight, to your cardboard or foam. If you do not have blocking wires, you will need to put pins at regular intervals of about 5cm. Pull the spine tip down and pin. Pin each of the lace points out. Once the shawl is pinned, you may need to readjust and pin it out again to stretch further. Don't be afraid to really stretch your shawl. Leave shawl to dry before unpinning and wearing. Enjoy.

### Symbols Key

	Knit: k
	Central Double Decrease: cdd: slip 2sts, k1, pass slipped sts over knit st
	Yarn Over: yo
	Slip, Slip, Knit: ssk: slip1, slip1, knit slipped sts together
	Knit 2 Together: k2tog: Knit 2 stitches together