



Faux Entrelac Wrap

© 2008 Janice Farrell Pea for
Sketched-on-a-Napkin Designs

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Entrelac technique makes knitting appear to be woven by knitting bands of squares with the squares of each band oriented at a right angle to the bands before and after it. The technique is not difficult, but it does require picking up stitches.

In *faux entrelac*, on the other hand, the effect is created by combining knit and purl stitches to create an illusion of woven bands. Only basic skills are needed — cast on, knit, purl, and bind off.

Gauge: 16 sts = 4”

Materials

Yarn: 6 skeins, 100g each, of Araucania Aysén. Aysén is a single ply yarn; 70% merino, 10% alpaca, and 10% silk; 191 yards/skein. Color #810 was used in the model. Although the pattern calls for six skeins of Aysén, I weighed my six “leftover” balls and found that I had the equivalent of one full ball remaining. So, if one is using a solid or nearly solid color, 1000 yards should be sufficient. I preferred to use yarn from all six skeins so that I did not have to use two different balls in the same band. I made a hat with the leftovers.

Needles: Size US #9 (24” circular) or size needed for gauge

Notions: stitch markers

Size: 20” by 76” (without blocking)

Abbreviations

CO = Cast On (using the knitted cast-on); **ST** = Stitch(es); **K** = Knit; **P** = Purl; **BO** = Bind Off; **RS**

= Right Side; **WS** = Wrong Side; **BEG** = Beginning; **REP** = Repeat.

General Instructions

Following the “recipe” below, increase until the *faux entrelac* band is 9 squares wide (108 sts).

Maintain width of 9 squares until you have completed 15 bands at that width (19 total bands).

Decrease as described below.

Basic “Recipe” for *Faux Entrelac*

Phase 1: establishing the pattern and increasing to achieve the desired width.

CO 12 sts.

K 20 rows in garter st (end with WS row – 10 garter ridges appear on the RS). First band of *faux entrelac* is completed (1 square wide).

At beg of next row (RS), CO 12 sts, using knitted cast-on method; then K to end of row [24 sts total].

At beg of next row (WS), CO 12 sts, using knitted cast-on method; then K12, P12, K12 [36 sts total]. The foundation row for the second band of *faux entrelac* (3 squares wide) has been established.

Rep the following two rows until the second band has 10 garter ridges appearing on the RS):

RS rows: K

WS rows: K12, P12, K12

The second band of *faux entrelac* is now completed (3 squares).

At beg of next row (RS), CO 12 sts, using knitted cast-on method; then K to end of row [48 sts total].

At beg of next row (WS), CO 12 sts, using knitted cast-on method; then K12, P12, K12, P12, K12 [60 sts total]. The foundation row for the third band of *faux entrelac* (5 squares wide) has been established.

Rep the following two rows until the third band has 10 garter ridges appearing on the RS:

RS rows: K

WS rows: (K12, P12) repeat to last 12 sts, end K12.

Third band of *faux entrelac* is completed (5 squares). Place markers every 12 sts from this point on, to help you keep in pattern on the wrong side.

By this point, the *faux entrelac* design should be clearly visible. The first band of the *entrelac* is a single garter stitch square. The second band of the design is 3 squares across – the first in garter stitch, the second in stockinette stitch, and the third in garter stitch. The third band is 5 squares across; the fourth band will be 7 squares across, and so on. Continue increasing in this manner until the piece is as wide as you wish.

Phase 2: keeping the same width.

Continuing to increase as described in this manner will result in a large triangular piece of knitting. To create a rectangle, you must continue in pattern while maintaining the same number of squares in each band so that you increase in length but not in width. When you have reached the total number of squares that you want your *faux entrelac* panel to have, maintain the width of the piece in the following manner:

At beg of next row (RS), CO 12 sts, using knitted cast-on method (adding 1 new square) and K to end of row.

At beg of next row (WS), BO 12 sts (reducing 1 square); then (K12, P12) to last 12 sts, end K12.

Rep the following two rows until the band has 10 garter ridges appearing on the RS:

RS rows: K

WS rows: (K12, P12) to last 12 sts, end K12.

Phase 3: decreasing.

At beg of next row (RS), BO 12 sts (reducing 1 square) and K to end of row.

At beg of next row (WS), BO 12 sts (reducing another square); then (K12, P12) to last 12 sts, end K12.

Rep the following two rows until the band has 10 garter ridges appearing on the RS:

RS rows: K

WS rows: (K12, P12) to last 12 sts, end K12.

When 12 sts (1 square) remain, K until 10 garter ridges appear on RS and then bind off remaining 12 sts.

Variations

You may also use the *faux entrelac* design to make a triangular shawl by continuing to increase until the desired width is reached and binding off after completing a band (several rows of garter stitch before binding off will stabilize this edge).

A square piece (a baby blanket or afghan) can be made by increasing until the desired size is reached, completing that band, and then beginning to decrease.

To Block Or Not To Block

Because the row gauge in garter stitch is different from the row gauge in stockinette stitch, the *faux entrelac* fabric will have a “puffy” appearance – the stockinette stitch squares will appear raised against the flat, garter stitch background. You may block the piece if you would like to reduce the effect, but I prefer to leave the fabric unblocked.

Working With Hand-Painted Yarns

One of the challenges of working with hand-dyed or hand-painted yarns is that the colors may pool. Another challenge is that some of these yarns do not have dyelots and can vary substantially from skein to skein.

One way of dealing with these challenges is to work with two balls of yarn, alternating every two rows.

When the yarn you are using is readily “spit-spliced”, I prefer to change balls periodically:

Work the first 2 or 3 bands of *faux entrelac* from Ball #1; (1 square, 3 squares, 5 squares). Break off yarn, leaving a tail of 2-4 feet.

Spit-splice this tail to Ball #2. Cast-on sts for the new square and continue knitting all of band four (7 squares). Break off yarn, again leaving a tail of 2-4 feet.

Spit-splice to Ball #3. Cast on sts for the new square.

Continue in this manner, randomly changing balls of yarn at the end of each band. Be sure to leave a sufficiently long tail that the spliced yarn will not be used for casting on new stitches.

The yarn used for the model varied greatly from skein to skein, but because of the stitch pattern and the diagonal orientation, the differences between balls look more like shadows than like stripes.