

Holey Moley Wrap

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Sketched-on-a-Napkin Designs

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I designed this wrap to feature a now-discontinued yarn that slept in my stash for several years before it woke up and spoke to me. I flipped through a stitch dictionary looking for a suitable stitch – something open and airy – that would be reversible so that it would be suitable for a scarf or wrap. I didn't find anything, so I made one up. It's not entirely reversible, but almost. And the texture of this wonderful yarn camouflages the fact that the two sides are not quite identical.

The pattern employs two different types of decreases, the “knit two together” and the “slip one, knit one, pass the slipped stitch over.” They achieve the same result, but one leans right and the other leans left. Alternating the two types of decrease serves two purposes. First, in a pattern with this many decreases, the fabric has a tendency to distort if all the decreases lean in the same direction. Second, it keeps the pattern interesting.

Materials

Yarn: several hundred yards of a tiny boucle or “loopy” yarn with an *advertised* gauge of 22 to 25 sts per 4” but actual gauge is 14 sts per 4” in pattern st.

Needles: Size US #11 or size needed for gauge

Size: 10” x 68”

Abbreviations

ST = Stitch(es); **K** = Knit; **YO** = Yarn Over; **K2tog** = Knit 2 Together; **SKP** = Slip 1, knit 1, pass the slipped st over the knit st; **SSK** = Slip-Slip-Knit (slip 2 sts knitwise, return to left needle, and knit them together through the back); **K1B** = Knit indicated number of sts through the Back loop; **SI** = Slip the indicated number of stitches (purlwise, unless otherwise noted, *e.g.* working an SSK); **WYIF** = With Yarn In Front.

Instructions

Cast on 35sts and repeat the following eight rows until you have just enough yarn to bind off, ending with row 3 or row 7.

- Row 1: K1b, K to last st, SI1 wyif
Row 2: K1b, K to last st, SI1 wyif
Row 3: K1b, K to last st, SI1 wyif
Row 4: K1b, K1, (YO, SKP) to last st, SI1 wyif
Row 5: K1b, K to last st, SI1 wyif
Row 6: K1b, K to last st, SI1 wyif
Row 7: K1b, K to last st, SI1 wyif
Row 8: K1b, (YO, K2tog) to last 2 sts, K1, SI1 wyif

Bind off very loosely. Weave in ends. Use light steam to bring the boucle to life, but avoid using any pressure.

Hints

Use a marker to keep track of rows so that you do not need to count. After knitting row 5 for the first time, turn the work to begin row 6. Pin the marker into the hole created by the first YO at the beginning of row 4. Move the marker up each time you complete row 5. When deciding whether the next YO/decrease row should be row 4 or row 8, you need only look at the position of the marker. If the last set of decreases was row 4, it is time to do row 8.

When joining the second ball of yarn, use the spit splice method so that you do not have to weave in ends.

The wrap can be made wider or longer. For a generous sized shawl (24” x 72”), cast on 85 sts. You will need approximately 750 – 800 yards of yarn.

If you prefer, the SSK decrease can be used instead of the SKP.