

Shawl Instructions

Materials:

It is important that the fringed shawls be made of very soft yarns. At Walmart, Michael's, Jo-Ann's and A.C. Moore, you can find the following suggested yarns. Equally soft yarns are also acceptable.

Bernat: Boucle, Mirage or Illusions

Red Heart: Baby Clouds and Light-n-Lofty

Lion Brand: Homespun

Make sure all the skeins have the same dye lot numbers. Be aware that Lion Brand Homespun yarn tends to unravel when cut. The fringe will need to be knotted at its ends for a more presentable look.

Amount of yarn needed:

Knitted: 555 yards (for 54 or 57 inches) using size 11 or 13 needles. Usually 3 skeins. For larger shawls of 60+ stitches, you will need 740 yards. Please note that some of the knitters felt that 57 inches made the shawls too narrow and chose to cast on more stitches. If you choose to do so, cast on extra stitches in multiples of six so that the suggested pattern will work. Yardage will increase if you choose to do so.

Crocheted: 740 yards (3 ½ skeins)

Before you begin:

When you are ready to begin, we suggest that you say a prayer for the individual for whom you are making the shawl. Usually the recipient isn't known at the time you are making the shawl, so the prayers are general.

Please pray for healing, good health and peace for the one who will receive the shawl. Prayer is good for you as well as the one who will wear the shawl.

We have added a section in this brochure with beautiful beginning prayers, ending prayers and other ideas on prayers.

Knitting Directions

Cast on 57 stitches, using size 11 or 13 needles. The pattern for the shawl is called a 3-stitch seed pattern. You will knit 3 stitches and then purl 3 stitches.

If you use 57 stitches, when you start the next row, you will always start by knitting 3 stitches. If you choose to use either 54 or 60 stitches, you will have to pay attention to the beginning of each row. (We ask that you always choose a multiple of 3 for the number of stitches in your shawl because three is representative of the Trinity.)

As you create your shawl, you are knitting a purl stitch and purling a knit stitch. This pattern will give you a popcorn-type effect. If you knit a stitch that looks like a knit stitch and purl into a purl stitch, you will be creating a

ribbing, and this will make the shawl very narrow – more like a scarf. *Knit the purls and purl the knits.*

The normal length of the shawl measures from one wrist, up the arm, over the back and down to the other wrist – approximately 60 inches – without the fringe. A fringe is added any length from 3 to 8 inches.

Crocheting Directions

Using crochet hook size M or N, chain 54 stitches (add more or less stitches in multiples of 3 for wider or narrower shawls). Please note that some crocheters opted to add more stitches. Yardage will increase if you choose to do so.

Chain 1, turn and single crochet in each of the spaces. At end of row, chain 3, turn and double crochet in top of each single crochet. Repeat this row 2 more times, then chain 1 and do 1 row of single crochet. At end of that row, chain 3 and turn. Do 3 rows of double crochet. Repeat pattern to end (1 row single, 3 rows double). End with 1 row of single chain stitches. Finish with fringe.

Note: Crocheting typically uses more yarn than knitting, so you might have to adjust the width and size of hook or use another ½ skein. It has been suggested that 7 skeins of the same dye lot be purchased and two shawls can be made each using 3 ½ skeins.

Adding the Fringe:

Before you start to knit with the third skein of yarn, cut the fringe pieces that you will add on when the shawl is done. Generally speaking, there is one piece of fringe for each stitch that you cast on – for each end of the shawl.

To add the fringe, decide which side you consider the “back side.” Using a crochet hook, take a piece of fringe, fold it in half, put the crochet hook through a stitch at the bottom of the shawl and pull through the “loop” at the midpoint of the folded piece of fringe. Pull half way then catch the two cut ends of the fringe and pull them through the loop end and tighten. Once you have put on all of your fringe, you will want to lay the shawl on a flat surface, straighten out the fringe and snip the ends that are too long.

If your yarn frays easily, you may knot the ends of the fringe, you may use a different type of yarn that is the same color as the shawl, or you may make several pieces of fringe and make them into a tassel by making a knot with several pieces of fringe.

A Note About Colors:

You should choose colors that are pleasing to you since you will be completing a labor of love. Remember that some shawls will be given to women and others to men. Some shawl colors will be appropriate for either, and at other times, you will choose colors that are appropriate specifically for a man or woman or child.

A Beginning Prayer

Gracious and loving God, as I begin this work of love, I remember your Spirit which permeates every corner of my life.

Be present here as I remember all those for whom I knit this shawl . . . those who are lonely and need to know how they are loved . . . those who are ill and yearn for healing of body, mind and spirit . . . those who are grieving and welcome comforting words and actions . . . those who are celebrating newness of life and rejoice in the warmth and richness surrounding them.

May Your love and grace be upon them and in each stitch of mine. Amen.

An Ending Prayer

May this work which I now set aside continue to gather the love and energy I have poured out during this time of labor and love. Amen