Sky and Sea Scarf

Sky & Sea Scarf from the book Ultima Thule – Patterns Inspired by the Shetland Islands Designed by Denise Bell of Lost City Knits
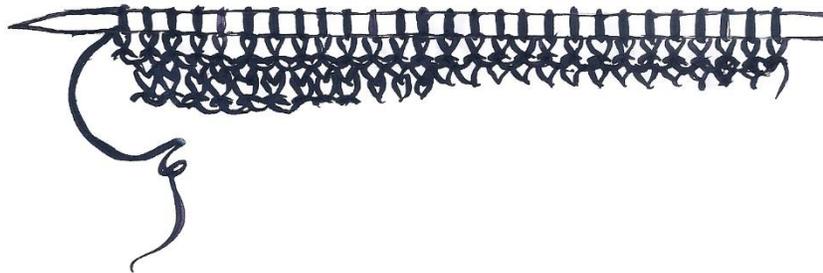
The themes of sky and sea are frequently represented in Shetland designs. Would you expect anything less from the beautiful but hard-to-reach islands located where the Atlantic Ocean meets the North Sea?

From colorful puffins to eider ducks, fowl have long been a draw for visitors to Shetland. The sea, filled with herring, seals, otters, and colorful non-vertebrate life forms, is part of everyday life there as well.

Kayaking with Angus Nicol and listening to his descriptions of the fowl and fish was one of my favorite activities when visiting Shetland. A naturalist as well as a kayaker, he educated us on his Shetland as we paddled around the peninsula known as East Burra.

No place on Shetland is farther than five miles from the sea The two traditional Shetland stitches in this garment reflect the two constant themes of sky and sea.

Materials:

Yarns: Jamieson & Smith Shetland Supreme 1 ply Lace Weight Cobweb (2 balls)
Alternate Yarn: Lost City Knits North Pasture Alpaca Lace Weight (2 skeins)
Yardage: 600 yds 549 / meters (J&S); 550 yds / 503 meters (LCK)
Colors Shown in Samples: Grey and Black (J&S); Artemesia and Extra Virgin (LCK)
Needle Size: 3 US / 3.25 mm (J&S) ; 4 US / 3.25 mm (LCK) circular needle
Finished Size: approximately 17 inches / 43 cm x 56 inches / 142 cm

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BASIC INSTRUCTIONS

Sky and Sea Scarf is knit using two traditional Shetland stitches, creating a garter stitch background. There is patterning on both the right side (RS) and the wrong side (WS) of the fabric.

Begin Bird's Eye Chart

Cast on 57 stitches using the provisional cast on of your choice. Personally, I like to use Judy's Magic Cast On as a provisional for this particular scarf. This method requires you to cast on the appropriate stitch count on both needles. If you do this, begin stitching into one needle, leaving the stitches on the other needle live, but suspended until you need them later. An extra needle or cable from an interchangeable needle is handy for this maneuver.

Some knitters prefer to slip the first stitch on every row (RS and WS). I highly recommend this trick, which makes it easier to pick up stitches later.

Knit 4 rows of garter stitch. The first and last 3 stitches per side will be your garter stitch edging. The edging stitches are not charted; separate them using stitch markers, and be sure to mark the RS of your fabric for easy reference. This pattern has increases and decreases on both sides of the fabric. Work the decreases in the direction the symbols lean whether you are on the RS or the WS.
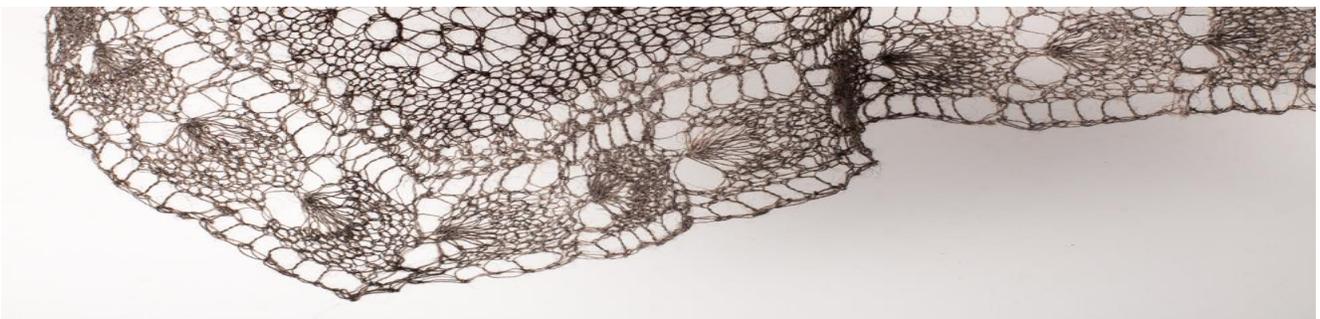

Bird's Eye chart

Work 46 repeats of the 8 rows of the Bird's Eye chart for a nice long scarf, then knit 4 rows of garter stitch. Do not bind off.

If you are changing colors for the edging, cut your yarn leaving a 6-inch tail, then change to the new color.

Pick up and knit 1 stitch for every 2 rows (or every slipped stitch) along one long side. Recover the live stitches from the provisional cast on, and knit into each of these stitches. Pick up and knit 1 stitch for every 2 rows (or every slipped stitch) along the second long side. Knit into every stitch of the last garter stitch row. (490 stitches total)
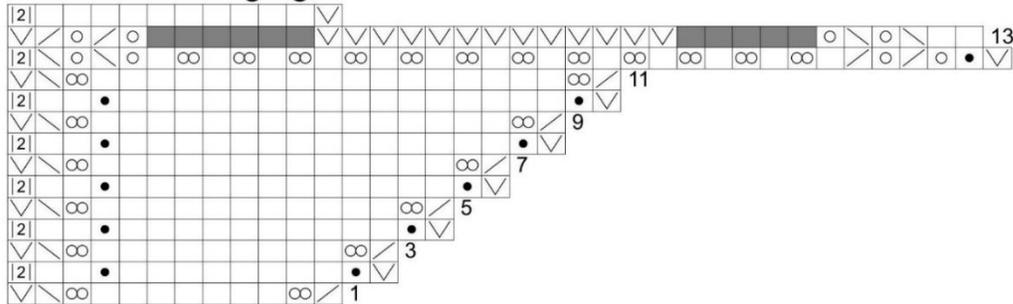
Work 1 round of *p2tog, yo*.
Knit 1 round even. Cut yarn, leaving a 6-inch tail.

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Begin the Cockleshell Edging Chart

Using a provisional method (the Invisible Cast On is a good choice for this situation), cast on 12 stitches. Row 1 begins at the outer edge of the border and returns to the body of the scarf while knitting in pattern. You will be knitting the first and purling the second stitch of the double yarn over on each subsequent row. This chart, like the body of the scarf, creates a garter stitch fabric.

Cockleshell Edging

Key:
- ▨ No stitch
- ☐ k
- • p
- ∨ s1
- ○ yo
- ╱ k2tog
- ╲ ssk
- ∞ Double YO
- |2| Join 2 together
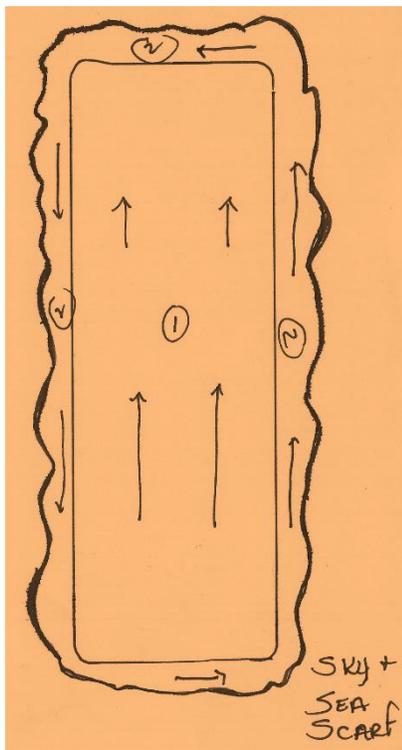- ⋉ s1-k2tog-psso

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTION NOTE:

When slipping the purled stitches on Row 13, drop the double yarn overs between the 13 purled stitches, being sure to slip the purled stitch after the last double yarn over for a total of 13 slipped stitches. Transfer the 13 stitches back to the left needle, **THEN** purl the cluster together as one stitch before executing the rest of the stitches on that row. It is a tricky maneuver; take the time to make sure every one of the slipped stitches is caught when purling them together. A dropped stitch can ruin the exacting work you've accomplished.

Work 70 repeats of the 14 rows of the Cockleshell Edging Chart. When all 70 of the cockleshells that surround the scarf have been worked, remove the provisional cast on and recover the live stitches to a second needle. Graft the cast on and the last row of the edging together using the Kitchener stitch. Weave in ends after blocking.

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STITCH GLOSSARY AND SCHEMATIC

RS	Right side of fabric	WS	Wrong side of fabric
k	Knit	yo	Wrap the working yarn around the right needle, from front to back (counter clockwise) (single increase).
p	Purl	double yo	Wrap the working yarn around the right needle twice, from front to back (counter clockwise) (double increase).
s1	Slip 1 stitch from the left to the right needle without knitting or twisting the stitch.	k2tog	Knit 2 stitches together (single right leaning decrease).
ssk	Slip 2 stitches separately knitwise, move stitches back to the left needle, then knit the slipped stitches together.		Knit 2 stitches together through the back of the loop (single left-leaning decrease).
No Stitch	This stitch does not exist on your needle. Ignore the cell in the chart and move to the next stitch.	Join 2	Join 1 stitch from the body of the shawl with an edging stitch by purling them together.
s1k2togpsso	Slip 1 stitch knitwise, knit 2 stitches together, then pass the slipped stitch over the k2tog.		

Sky and Sea is a rectangle scarf knit from end to end, with an applied edging along all four sides.

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