

Rata Scarf

MARGARET STOVE

OCEANIA



This breathtaking scarf combines traditional Shetland lace-knitting techniques and New Zealand flowers.

Photos by Jee Coeg

This scarf has a central panel inspired by New Zealand Maori Taniko weaving, and the rata edging was Margaret Stove's first New Zealand flower motif.

Materials

- Margaret Stove Artisan Gossamer Lace (100% New Zealand Merino wool); laceweight; 547 yd [500 m]/ $\frac{5}{8}$ oz [18 g]; natural undyed, 1 skein.
- Size US 0 (2 mm) straight needles. Adjust needle size if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.
- Markers (m); tapestry needle.

FINISHED SIZE: About 8" (20.5 cm) wide and 46" (117 cm) long, after blocking.

GAUGE: 43 sts and 46 rows = 4" (10 cm) in patts from Fern and Center charts, washed and blocked.

Notes

The scarf begins by working the lower border first. Stitches are picked up along the straight selvedge of the lower border, and then the center panel and left border are worked upward at the same time.

After completing the center panel and left border, the top border is joined to the live stitches of the center section as it is worked across the top of the scarf.

The right border is worked along the remaining long side of the scarf from the top down, joining to loops picked up along the plain selvedge of the center section. The end of the right border is grafted to the cast-on edge of the lower border. This construction allows the edging pattern to run continuously around all four sides of the scarf.

The center panel contains 504 rows, and the left and right borders contain 510 rows each. In the left border, 3 pairs of extra rows are worked on the border stitches only to compensate for the 6-row difference. The right border compensates in a similar way by working some edging rows without joining to stitches picked up from the center panel.

You may need to experiment to find the best way of picking up stitches for the right border. If picking up a single loop from one-half of each edge stitch produces holes along the join, try picking up both halves (two loops) of each edge stitch. If you decide to pick up two loops from each edge stitch, remember to count both loops as a single picked-up stitch when joining them to the right border.

Stitch Guide

P2tog, K2tog in Same 2 Sts:

Purl 2 sts tog but do not slip sts from left-hand needle, then knit the same 2 sts tog and slip both sts from left-hand needle—2 sts made from 2 sts.

SI 1, K2tog, Pss:

SI 1 st as if to knit, k2tog, pass slipped st over—2 sts dec'd.

SI 2, K1, P2sso:

SI 2 sts as if to k2tog, k1, pass 2 slipped sts over—2 sts dec'd.

K1 Wrapping Yarn 3 Times:

Knit the next st, wrapping the yarn around the needle 3 times before drawing the triple loop through—counts as 1 st because extra wraps are dropped on following row.

K9 Elongated Sts Tog:

SI the next 9 triple-wrapped sts to right-hand needle one at a time as if to purl, dropping the extra wraps for each st—9 elongated sts. Return 9 elongated sts to left-hand needle and knit all 9 sts tog—9 sts dec'd to 1 st.

CO Sts at End of Row:

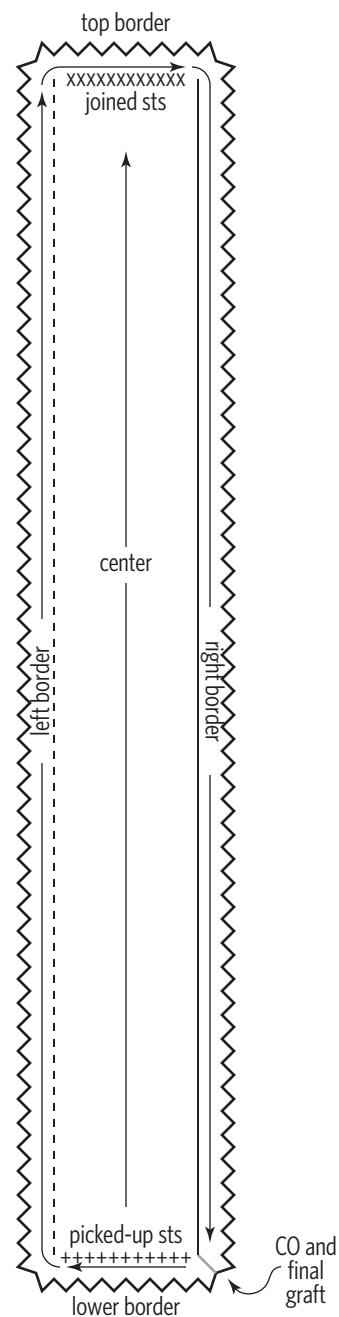
In Row 9 of Edging chart, use the knitted method (see Glossary) to CO 4 sts loosely at end of row. On Row 10, knit across the new CO sts as shown.

Instructions

Lower Border

CO 13 stitches very loosely. **Note:** A provisional cast-on is not recommended. Work Rows 1–10 of Edging chart 7 times, then work Rows 1–9 once more, ending with a RS row.

Next row: (WS) Work Row 10 of Edging chart, place marker (pm), then with WS of lower border still facing, pick up and knit 61 sts (about 3 sts for every 4 rows) along straight selvedge of lower border—80 lower border rows completed; 74 sts total: 61 center section sts, 13 lower border sts.



Arrows show direction of knitting.

See pieceworkmagazine.com/abbreviations for terms you don't know.

beg—beginning; begin; begins
bet—between
BO—bind off
CC—contrasting color
cm—centimeter(s)
cn—cable needle
CO—cast on
cont—continue(s); continuing
dec(s)—decrease(s); decreasing
dpn—double-pointed needle(s)
foll—following; follows
g—gram(s)
inc—increase(s); increasing
k—knit
k1f&b—knit into front and back of same st
k2tog—knit two stitches together
kwise—knitwise
LC—left cross
m(s)—marker(s)
MC—main color
mm—millimeter(s)
M1 (P)—make one (purl)

M1R (L)—make one right (left)
p—purl
p1f&b—purl into front and back of same st
p2tog—purl two stitches together
patt(s)—pattern(s)
pm—place marker
pssso—pass slipped stitch over
p2sso—pass two slipped stitches over
pwise—purlwise
RC—right cross
rem—remain(s); remaining
rep—repeat; repeating
rev St st—reverse stockinette stitch
rib—ribbing
rnd(s)—round(s)
RS—right side
rev sc—reverse single crochet
sc—single crochet
sk—skip
sl—slip
sl st—slip stitch (sl 1 st pwise unless otherwise indicated)

ssk—slip 1 kwise, slip 1 kwise, k2 sl sts tog tbl (decrease)
ssp—slip 1 kwise, slip 1 kwise, p2 sl sts tog tbl (decrease)
st(s)—stitch(es)
St st—stockinette stitch
tbl—through back loop
tog—together
WS—wrong side
wyb—with yarn in back
wyf—with yarn in front
yo—yarn over
*—repeat starting point (i.e., repeat from *)
* *—repeat all instructions between asterisks
()—alternate measurements and/or instructions
[]—instructions that are to be worked as a group a specified number of times

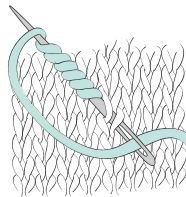
Backward-Loop Cast-On

*Loop working yarn and place it on needle backward so that it doesn't unwind. Repeat from *.



Bullion Stitch

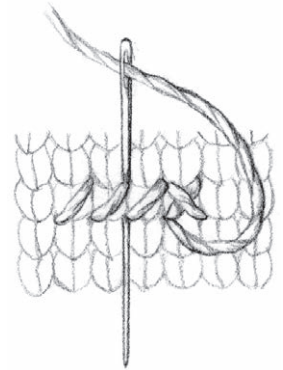
Bring the threaded needle from back to front of the fabric. Bring the needle down again a stitch away from the first point, then to the front again in the first point, leaving a loose loop on the front of the work. Wrap the loop around the needle as many times as desired (as shown).



Keeping steady tension on the loops and working yarn, bring the needle to the back in the second point. Pull firmly to gather, but be careful not to distort the surrounding fabric.

Cross-Stitch

Bring threaded needle out from back to front at lower left edge of the knitted stitch (or stitches) to be covered. Working from left to right, *insert needle at the upper right edge of the same stitch(es) and bring it back out at the lower left edge of the adjacent stitch, directly below and in line with the insertion point. Work from right to left to work the other half of the cross.



Cable Cast-On

Begin with a slipknot and one knitted cast-on stitch if there are no established stitches. Insert right needle between first two stitches on left needle (Figure 1). Wrap yarn as if to knit. Draw yarn through to complete stitch (Figure 2) and slip this new stitch to left needle as shown (Figure 3).



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

Crochet Chain (Provisional) Cast-On

With waste yarn and crochet hook, make a loose chain of about four stitches more than you need to cast on. With needle, working yarn, and beginning two stitches from end of chain, pick up and knit one stitch through the back loop of each crochet chain (Figure 1) for desired number of stitches. Work the piece as desired, and when you're ready to work in the opposite direction, pull out the crochet chain to expose live stitches (Figure 2).



Figure 1

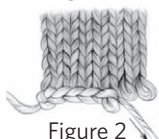
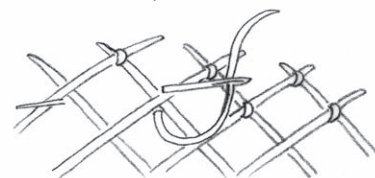


Figure 2

Couching

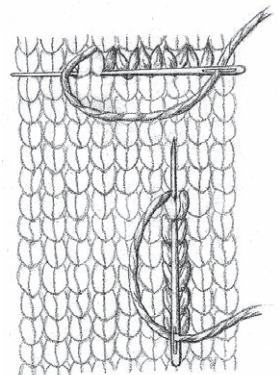
Make a layer of several long, straight stitches. Make a second layer at right angles to the first in desired pattern on knitted surface. Couch with small stitches over the resulting intersections to secure desired pattern as shown.



Duplicate Stitch

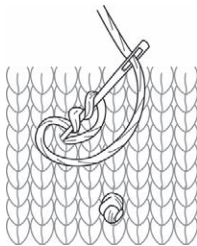
Horizontal: Bring threaded needle out from back to front at the base of the V of the knitted stitch you want to cover. *Working right to left, pass needle in and out under the stitch in the row above it and back into the base of the same stitch. Bring needle back out at the base of the V of the next stitch to the left. Repeat from *.

Vertical: Beginning at lowest point, work as for horizontal duplicate stitch, ending by bringing the needle back out at the base of the stitch directly above the stitch just worked.



French Knot

Bring threaded needle out of knitted background from back to front, wrap yarn around needle three times, and use your thumb to hold the wraps in place while you insert the needle into the background a short distance from where it came out. Pull the needle through the wraps into the background.



Horizontal-to-Horizontal Grafting

Working with the bound-off and cast-on edges opposite each other, right sides of the knitting facing you, and working into the stitches just below the bound-off and cast-on edges, bring threaded tapestry needle out at the center of the first stitch on one side of the seam, then bring needle in and out under the first whole stitch on the other side (Figure 1). *Bring needle into the center of the same stitch it came out of before, then out in the center of the next adjacent stitch (Figure 2). Bring needle in and out under the next whole stitch on the other side (Figure 3). Repeat from #, ending with a half-stitch on the first side.

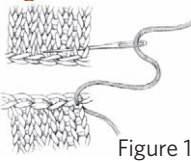


Figure 1

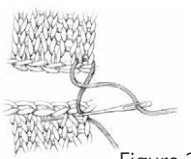


Figure 2

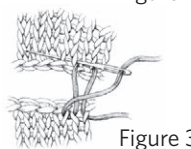


Figure 3

I-Cord

With double-pointed needle, cast on desired number of stitches. *Without turning the needle, slide the stitches to other end of the needle, pull the yarn around the back, and knit the stitches as usual; repeat from * for desired length.



K1f&b Increase

Knit into a stitch and leave it on the needle (Figure 1). Knit through the back loop of the same stitch (Figure 2). Slip stitch off the left needle (Figure 3).



Figure 1



Figure 2

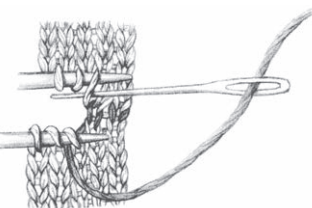


Figure 3

Kitchener Stitch (St st Grafting)

STEP 1: Bring threaded needle through front stitch as if to purl and leave stitch on needle.

STEP 2: Bring threaded needle through back stitch as if to knit and leave stitch on needle.



STEP 3: Bring threaded needle through first front stitch as if to knit and slip this stitch off needle. Bring threaded needle through next front stitch as if to purl and leave stitch on needle.

STEP 4: Bring threaded needle through first back stitch as if to purl (as illustrated), slip this stitch off, bring needle through next back stitch as if to knit, leave this stitch on needle.

Repeat Steps 3 and 4 until no stitches remain on needles.

Knitted Cast-On

Place slipknot on left needle if there are no established stitches. *With right needle, knit into first stitch (or slipknot) on left needle (Figure 1) and place new stitch onto left needle (Figure 2). Repeat from *, always knitting into last stitch made.

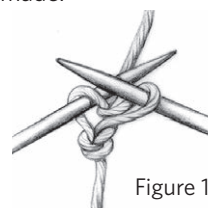


Figure 1

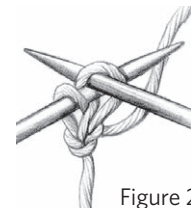


Figure 2

Long-Tail Cast-On

Also called the Continental method, this cast-on creates a firm, elastic edge that's appropriate for most projects. This method is worked with one needle and two ends of yarn, and it places stitches on the right needle. The resulting edge is smooth on one side (the side facing you as you work) and knotted or bumpy on the other (the side facing away from you as you work). Most knitters choose to designate the smooth side as the "right" side.

Leaving a long tail, make a slipknot and place on a needle held in your right hand. Place thumb and index finger of your left hand between the yarn ends so that the working yarn is around your index finger and the tail is around your thumb, secure the ends with your other three fingers, and twist your wrist so that your palm faces upwards, making a V of yarn around your thumb and index finger (Figure 1). *Bring needle up through loop on thumb (Figure 2), grab the first strand around index finger with needle, and go back down through loop on thumb (Figure 3).

Drop loop off thumb and, placing thumb back in the V configuration, tighten resulting stitch on needle (Figure 4). Repeat from *.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4