

Betiko

by Lee Meredith - leethalknits.com

This is a uniquely constructed shawl (or shawllette) designed to work with any weight yarn, and to be made any size you like; not just that, but the construction makes it somewhat easy to plug different stitch patterns (like cables or simple lace) into the piece, if you're adventurous enough! *Betiko* is a Basque name meaning *eternal*, as you can knit this shawl forever, different every time.

A couple fun things about this pattern: regardless of how big you make your shawl, you'll never cast on or bind off more than a couple inches worth of stitches. There is also no seaming, no picking up stitches, and only as many ends to weave in as the 2 ends of each yarn you use.

Included are two full patterns; the first is for the most basic, garter stitch edged *Betiko*, written as a normal pattern. The second is a customizable version, which explains how you'd go about plugging in your choices of stitch patterns, and also tells you how to make the wavy version, with a waving ribbed top section and a simple lace wavy outer edge.

Any version of the pattern can be made with stripes if you choose, and any version can be made in the standard three sizes pictured, or any other size, by simply working the sections until they are the size you want. Diagrams and notes explain how to work out the sizing and more, which is all included for ultimate customization, but don't be afraid of the length of this pattern, as the actual piece is not hard to knit!

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You need

- ▶ enough yarn in any weight, 1 color or multiple for striping; very approximate estimates for sizes small{medium, large}
- bulky: 250{325, 400} yards / 230{300, 370} meters
- worsted: 300{425, 550} yards / 275{390-500} meters
- sport: 400{550, 700} yards / 370{500, 640} meters
- fingering: 500{750, 1000} yards / 450{690-920} meters



- ▶ needles sized to match yarn - a long circular (60" is recommended, but 32" or longer will work)
- ▶ crochet hook for provisional cast-on
- ▶ 12 stitch markers (10 the same color/type, 2 different from those and each other)

The samples

Purple solid: Size small, garter stitch edged version, Malabrigo *Twist aran* (Velvet Grapes), approx 240 yards / 220 meters.

Orange/teal/grey stripes: Size medium, wavy version with random striping, Austermann *Natura* bulky, approx 320 yards / 290 meters total.

Brown with stripes: Size large, wavy version, Imperial Yarn *Columbia* worsted (Osprey with Rich Soil outer edge), approx 420 yards / 385 meters, and Noro *Kureyon* worsted, approx 100 yards / 90 meters.

Gauge/yarn choice

Betiko is an any-gauge pattern, so you can choose any yarn you want, and needles to match. A drapery fabric is best, so aim for a somewhat loose gauge rather than too tight, maybe a size or two larger needles than the ball band recommends.

Choose a yarn that will block well (wool or other animal fibers are best) as blocking is an essential step to get the right shape.

Changing colors or adding some random stripes can look great, so even if you're not making a striped version it can work well to have a second yarn on hand which coordinates with your main yarn. If you are starting to run low on yardage, you can use a different color for the outer edging to avoid running out, or add just a few stripes throughout the body to make your main yarn yardage stretch further.

Sections

The pattern is divided into 4 sections, all connected seamlessly, for a modular finished piece that ends up blocking into a rounded semi-circle or U shape. Everything is worked flat, and short rows of some kind are involved in three of the four sections.

The way the outer edging is applied around the curve of the whole thing helps the shawl to stretch significantly into the rounded shape when blocked - keep in mind that it will block out much larger than it looks on the needles.

Section 1 will start out with a crochet provisional cast-on, and follow with a sideways edge cast-on technique worked across the top edge part. This simply increases and short rows worked to leave stitches along the side of your piece, so you won't have to pick up the stitches later.

To begin **section 2**, you'll be working over that row of sideways edge stitches made during the first section, adding some extra stitches as you go across. Then you'll work down from there, dividing the stitches into thirds to begin working two wedges of yarn over increases, with short rows along both sides to start the U shape of the whole piece.

Section 3 is the largest part, working the full body of the piece - no short rows in this section, just working back and forth across the entire thing, with six wedges total of yarn over increases.

Lastly, **section 4** knits on the edging around the whole outside, working sideways with decreases and short rows joining the edge onto the body as you go.

The diagram here shows the sections, with the directions in which each is worked, just to give a basic idea of how the shawl is constructed. It's important to know that the diagram shows the shawl shape post-blocking - the shape won't appear nearly as rounded when it's on the needles, so don't worry!

Sizing/shape

Small{medium, large} size measurements as the pattern is written are approx:

- ▶ 38{45, 58} inches / 96{115, 148} cm wide (with top edge measured held in a straight line)
- ▶ 11{14, 17} inches / 28{35, 43} cm high (in center)

It may end up quite a bit larger if you block it out hard; take measurements while working with piece stretched a bit.

The two elements that most affect the size of your finished piece are how long you work section 1 (the inner segment of the top edge), and how long you work section 3 (the main shawl body, which goes around the whole thing out to the top edge).

The cast-on number in section 1 does not affect the size; the cast-on number in section 4 does determine the width of your outer edging, which does indeed affect the size, but that shouldn't be wider than about 3 inches / 8 cm or it might not block out well.

Suggested lengths for **section 1** are given in the pattern for small{medium, large} sizes - if you want your shawl larger, longer, or differently shaped, adjust this section as follows.

If you'd like your shawl wider, but not necessarily taller, go much longer, getting closer to how wide you want the whole piece. Lengthening section 1 causes section 2 to be taller, so you'll work section 3 (full body) very little to reach the full shawl size.

If you'd like the shawl taller (from top to bottom), but not necessarily wider, make section 1 shorter, so you'll work more of section 3, which will widen it while also lengthening it, in all directions.

Suggested heights for ending **section 3** are given for the standard small{medium, large} sizes - once you get to the end of this section, your shawl will be getting close to its full size, so if you can picture it with the edging added on, then blocked out to stretch into the rounded shape, then you can simply keep working until it's the size you want. Just remember that it will end up significantly larger than it looks on the needles!

If the shawl is scrunched onto a circular cord and you have a hard time seeing its size, go by the top to bottom measurements given - if you want yours larger, work up to an inch or more taller than the given size.

Striping

There are specifics for striping within each section along with the patterns (follow instructions which correspond with each footnote); knowing some general things beforehand about how you'll work the stripes will be helpful:

Always carry yarns alongside inner seams (not outside edges), making for a clean right side of your shawl, and neat outer edges.

All strands carried throughout the first two sections will be worked into the stitches when knitting across later, making a neat line along the back.

Sections 3 and 4 strands are twisted at every other row, keeping them along fabric on the wrong side.

