

# Biratu

by Lee Meredith - [leethalknits.com](http://leethalknits.com)

This intensely cabled shawl, in squishy aran weight yarn, features intricate cables running throughout every section, and around all the edges. But wait, don't let those words scare you, as you can also make the simple version, without all the intensity and intricacy, in any weight yarn you like; just the fun cable twists running around all the edges, with an easy body.

The parts of either version are connected modularly, using short rows, no picked up stitches or seaming. No matter how huge your shawl is, you'll only cast on 16 total, and bind off about 6 stitches. The wedges, which help it flare out into a big U shape, are filled with seed stitch.

All versions and sizes are rounded - the fully cabled shawl is more deep/taller height, while the simple version is wider/shorter height, but fully customizable.

This design uses the same construction as the *Betiko* shawl; *Betiko* is a Basque name meaning eternal, as that shawl is forever customizable, and *Biratu* is a Basque word for twist or rotate, as cables do.

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## You need

estimates are for sizes small{medium, large}

- ▶ for fully cabled version: approx 440{620, 800} yards / 400{570, 740} meters aran weight yarn
- approx 350{500, 650} yards / 320{460, 600} meters in main color yarn
- approx 90{120, 150} yards / 80{110, 140} meters in contrasting edge color yarn
- the medium size sample used Quince & Co *Osprey*, 3 skeins in Storm, 1 skein in Frank's Plum
- ▶ for fully cabled version: size US 10 / 6mm long circular needle (60" is ideal, but 32" or longer will work), or size to get gauge
- ▶ for simple variation: enough yarn in any weight, mostly in main color, approx 1 skein worth in contrasting edge color yarn; very approximate estimates here are for main color yarn (MC)
- bulky: 240{290, 340} yards / 220{265, 310} meters MC
- worsted: 310{390, 470} yards / 280{360, 430} meters MC



- sport: 340{430, 520} yards / 310{390, 475} meters MC
- fingering: 400{510, 620} yards / 370{470, 570} meters MC
- the medium size sample used Quince & Co *Lark* worsted, 3 skeins in Frost, 1 skein in Split Pea
- ▶ for simple variation: needles sized to match yarn - a long circular (60" is ideal, 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)
- ▶ a cable needle if you choose to use one

## Gauge

Fully cabled version: 3.25 sts per inch / 2.5 cm, in stockinette.

Simple variation, use any weight yarn for any gauge (the sample is worsted, with a gauge of 4 sts per inch). There is no need to make a gauge swatch or measure your gauge at all for this version.



## Sections

So that you understand what's happening, here are how the modular sections/panels work, all connected as you knit.

**Section 1:** Make a long strip of braided cable, leaving stitches all along the side using the sideways edge cast-on technique, which is a combination of increases and simple short rows (no wrapping).

**Section 2:** Work down from those sideways stitches (leaving the edges of the section 1 braided cable on hold for later, on the needle), dividing the stitches into thirds. The center third (center panel) is worked straight down, the two side thirds (first and last side panels) moving inwards with short rows, to begin to create the U shape. Between the thirds will form your first two seed stitch wedges, increasing out with yarn overs.

**Section 3:** Start by working up over all the short row wrapped stitches and held cable stitches from section 1, as this section is worked all the way around all stitches (the only section with no short rows). Start four new seed stitch wedges, which appear in between the section 1 cable braid and the body on either side, and out from where the short rows came to in section 2 - these wedges divide the section into the top edges (the same cable as in section 1, continued outwards), the four side panels, and the center panel. Throughout the section, you'll work around first edge, both side panels, center panel, both side panels once again, and last edge, each with a seed stitch wedge between.

**Section 4:** Work a cable edging in a contrasting color yarn around the entire shawl, using simple short rows to knit sideways and attach it as you go, or essentially to bind off the live stitches.

## Sizing/shape

The fully cabled and simple versions of the shawl differ in sizing/shape, as the simple version is much more customizable. The small{medium, large} sizes for the two versions are very different from each other, the fully cabled being larger in all sizes.

The fully cabled version will get wider and deeper the bigger you make it, as you add to the entire shawl, full body edge to edge.

The simple variation sizes given make for a more narrow shape, longer width with a shorter height, but the size and shape can be customized as you like.

The shawl will grow significantly with blocking! The overall shape will appear much less rounded on the needles than the shape you see in the diagram, but when you block it out, the outer edging will smooth and stretch the whole shawl into the big rounded shape.

**For the fully cabled version,** sections 1 and 2 are set numbers of stitches/rows, so the only way to adjust the size is by choosing how long to work section 3 (the full body section). You can work this for as long as you want.



The braid along the top is section 1; everything below the braid (stockinette and seed stitch wedges) is section 2 - this is section 2 complete, after working the first "Setup partial WS row" of section 3, to the end through the provisional stitches at the top left.

The cables are all repeatable so you can go as huge as you choose, or work until your yarn runs out.

Fully cabled small{medium, large} measurements as the pattern is written will block out to approx:

- ▶ 52{60, 68} inches / 132{152, 172} cm wide (with top edge measured held in a straight line)
- ▶ 12{16, 20} inches / 30{40, 50} cm high (in center)

Of course, you can also adjust the size of the fully cabled version by changing the gauge if you want to, making larger or smaller sizes with different weights.

**The simple pattern variation** can be made in any size you like, and you can customize the shape specifics as well. By deciding how long to make section 1 (the top edge), and how big to work section 3 (the main body), you can make the shawl more long and narrow or more large and deep, as you prefer.

Simple version small{medium, large} measurements as the pattern is written will block out to approx:

- ▶ 45{55, 65} inches / 115{140, 165} cm wide (with top edge measured in a straight line)
- ▶ 9{11, 13} inches / 23{28, 33} cm high (in center)

To make an even more long and narrow shaped shawl, make section 1 extra long, then work section 3 smaller than normal, until the height is as you like.

To make a larger/deeper/taller kind of shape, work section 1 for less length, then work section 3 bigger, so that you are adding to the shawl around the whole thing, until you are happy with the size.

## Colors/yarns

The pattern is designed to use one solid yarn for the whole body, sections 1-3, and then a contrasting solid color for section 4, the outer edging. If you are making the fully cabled version, it's recommended that you stick with these types, using true solids.

If you are making the simple variation, feel free to experiment a little with colors - a self-striping yarn with long color sections might look cool, especially a long gradient type yarn (slowly changing colors throughout the whole skein). Striping isn't recommended, since stripes would conflict with the edging cables, which are worked in every section except for section 2. Or, a semi-solid (like a kettle dyed or hand-dyed yarn) would work nicely for the body of the simple version. A true solid (or almost solid) is recommended for the outer edge since that cable design is a bit more complex.

