

Mikkey

by Lee Meredith - leethalknits.com

This reversible cowl uses a 2-color slip-stitch pattern which makes for completely different looks on the two sides; and the fit of the cowl will differ depending on which side is out, and on how it's positioned, giving you multiple different looking cowls in one!

The construction makes a cozy double-layered cowl with no twists like a normal cowl wrapped double around your neck, and with lots of different ways to wear it, tight or loose.

There is a simple version, in which the same colors act as the main and contrasting colors throughout the whole thing (but you can add stripes or color blocks if you want to!); and then there's the more complex switching colors version, in which you make diagonal lines back and forth throughout, flipping which is acting as the main color and which is the contrasting color. Use any weight from worsted to super bulky, and pick out your cowl's height and length according to your gauge and your style preferences.

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You need

- ▶ 2 (or more) colors in any weight yarn from worsted to super bulky (or a finer weight to hold double or triple stranded); sizes vary significantly, as any height can be paired with any length, so yardage estimates are just given in ranges, not by size
- worsted: 320-700 yards / 290-640 meters
- aran: 275-600 yards / 250-550 meters
- bulky: 250-500 yards / 230-460 meters total
- super bulky: 230-400 yards / 210-370 meters total
- for the simple color version, approx 60% in the main color, 40% in the contrasting color
- for the switching colors version, approx the same yardage in main and contrasting, half and half
- ▶ needles sized to work with your yarn - a circular of any length
- ▶ crochet hook for provisional cast-on
- ▶ a yarn needle
- ▶ 1 stitch marker for the switching colors version



The samples

Grey and orange/pink simple color version: Space Cadet *Elara* bulky weight (Dark Skies, How Dare You, Tickled) - 3 skeins grey, 1 full skein orange, and 1 partial skein pink (290 yards / 265 meters used in main color, 190 yards / 175 meters used in contrasting colors); size US 13 (9mm) needles.

Medium size height, short size length.

Red and aqua switching colors version: Stonehedge Fiber Mill *Shepherd's Wool Worsted*, held triple stranded (Red, Lakeshore) - 2 full skeins each color (250 yards / 230 meters per skein, so approx the same as 333 yards / 305 meters of super bulky weight yarn total); size US 15 (10mm) needles.

Small size height, long size length.

Greens and yellows simple color version: Madelinetosh *Tosh Merino* heavy worsted (Filiigree, Terrarium) - approx 75 yards / 70 meters of the dark shade, 35 yards / 30 meters of the light shade, and Jill Draper Makes Stuff *Adirondack* aran weight (Antique Gold, Straw into Gold) - approx 90 yards / 80 meters each color; size US 10 (6mm) needles.

Small size height, medium size length.

Gauge

Use a needle size that works well with your yarn, in the stitch pattern (you can follow directions below for making a swatch to test it out) - you may want to use a size or two larger than normal.

The red and aqua sample was knit at a normal/tight gauge, for a very dense, warm fabric. The grey and orange/pink sample was knit at a looser gauge, using needles a bit extra large; when blocking, it was not stretched, so that it would retain its squishiness and stay approx the same length it was on the needles. The greens and yellows sample was knit at a looser gauge as well, then stretched a bit when blocked.

If you want a cowl with a looser fabric, for more drape, use needles a couple sizes larger than the recommended size, and then when you wash and block your piece, stretch it out so that the stitch pattern opens up more.

Sizing

There are three height measurements to choose from, which all depend on your gauge; and there are three length measurement options, which are independent of gauge and height.

weight	needle	small	medium	large
worsted	US 7-9 / 4.5-5.5 mm	extra small	small	medium
aran	US 9-10.5 / 5.5-6.5 mm	small	small/medium	medium/large
bulky	US 10.5-13 / 6.5-9 mm	small/medium	large	extra super large
super bulky	US 13-19 / 9-15 mm	medium/large	extra large	too large - not recommended

Height (this is width as you knit)

If you don't care too much about exact size, then check out the chart and pick a height based on that. If you want to be exact, then make a swatch in the stitch pattern and use that, as follows.

Cast on 15 stitches; work rows 1-4 of strap pattern (page 3) until piece measures approx 3 inches / 8 cm (this isn't to get an accurate gauge, just to get height estimates for the size options).

Bind off; wash your swatch, and let it dry flat.

Measure across 1 pattern repeat in the center of the swatch - across 4 columns of stitches, 2 knit columns and 2 purl columns. Get as accurate as possible a measurement of this pattern repeat.

Multiply that measurement by 7{10, 13} for approx cowl heights for the small{medium, large} options.

Length (which is total loop size)

Your cowl's length measurement, the size of the loop around your neck, has no relationship to the height; you can pair any height option with any length.

Lengths are given styled as *short*{*medium, long*} to differentiate them from heights - you'll use length options when ending straps, placing holes, and when ending, measuring length as you knit.

Wearing the cowl as a double-layer piece, circumference around your neck will be approx 24{{29, 34}} inches / 61{{74, 86}} cm.

Wearing it flipped the other way, pulled so there's a snug inner layer and a looser outer layer, the inner layer circumference can get as tight as 12{{16, 20}} inches / 30{{40, 50}} cm, and the outer layer can get as big as 36{{41, 46}} inches / 91{{104, 117}} cm.

Lying flat, post-blocking, before seaming, approximately to scale with each other.

Left = simple color version with grey MC, orange CC for 1 skein, then pink CC to end.

Center = simple color version with 4 colors all sometimes MC, sometimes CC, in varying size color blocks; no-grafting modification.

Right = switching colors version.



left: as double layer piece



inner layer

outer layer