

Nostalgia Neck Warmer



This subtly patterned, buttoned cowl practically knit itself from a skein of handspun, obtained years ago at a farmers market in Wanaka, New Zealand. I had just finished a 14-day hike through some of the most spectacular terrain, volcanic and glacial, that I had ever encountered. But on that particular day, marveling at the wealth of gorgeous, carefully crafted yarns, my mind turned to domestic pursuits. Ten years later I reencountered the yarn during a stash-busting mission. Voila!

You will need:

Set of size 7 needles (or size to obtain correct gauge)
Tapestry needle
Measuring tape
4 buttons, each 1-inch in diameter
Matching embroidery thread
Embroidery needle

Yarn:

1 generous skein of handspun, worsted to heavy worsted weight (The sample yarn was charmingly thick and thin.)

Gauge: 5 stitches per inch, in pattern stitch (below) on size 7 needles

Stitch Pattern: Reverse Hunters Stitch

Row 1: *P4 (k1B, p1) 3 times, k1B*, p4.

Row 2 (RS): K 4, p1 (k1B, p1) 3 times, k4*.

Dimensions: 8 inches wide and 24 inches long

Directions:

1. CO 39 stitches onto size 7 needles. *Note: first and last stitches are always knit, to form a garter stitch selvedge.*
2. Row 1: K1, *p4 (k1B, p1) 3 times, k1B *, repeat from * until 5 sts remain, p 4, k1.
3. Row 2 (RS): K1, *k4, p1 (k1B, p1) 3 times, k4 *. Repeat from * until 1 st remains, end k1.
4. Repeat rows 1 and 2 until piece measures 23 inches, ending with a WS row.
5. Buttonhole row: K2, BO next 2 sts, k1. Work in pattern until next st st panel, k1, BO 2, k 1. Repeat twice more, ending with k2. 4 buttonholes total created, one in each k4 panel.
6. Next row: Work in pattern, casting on 1 st for every 2 bound off in the preceding row, 35 sts total. (The st st panels will now consist of 3 sts. This makes the buttonhole tighter.)
7. Continue to work in pattern until scarf measures 24 inches, ending with a WS row. Bind off in pattern.
8. Weave in loose ends. Sew buttons to side of scarf, starting at bottom right, CO row corner, and corresponding to buttonhole placement.