



# Comforting Scarf

I knit this scarf some 29 years ago, when I first learned to knit. It began as an afghan for my father, who had been diagnosed with cancer. I felt helpless and reached for the only thing I could think of to make him more comfortable. Sadly, I had knit only a few inches on the afghan I planned for him when he died. The afghan became the scarf you see here, which has kept me warm and cozy all these years.



The knitting could not be easier. The yarn is broken off at the end of each row, leaving an 8-inch fringe that is knotted together in clumps of 6 or 8. The purl rows are actually knitted, but from the wrong side. This texture and color pattern makes a reversible scarf.

**Yarn:** a fuzzy sport-weight acrylic in 6 colors. Just make sure it's snuggly. I think Rowan Kidsilk Haze would make a lovely replacement.

**Quantity:** The scarf weighs 5.5 ounces. As a rough estimate, I think you need:

- Color A 400 yards
- Color B 218 yards
- Color C 116 yards
- Color D 66 yards
- Color E 124 yards
- Color F 58 yards

But of course, there is nothing set in stone about the proportions of colors you could use, so don't worry about this over much.



**Size:** 84 inches long when resting, not including the fringe; 28 inches wide when stretched out, 14 inches wide when relaxed.

**Gauge:** originally 4 stitches per inch, but it has stretched out to 3.5 stitches per inch

**Needle size:** I'm not sure what I used originally, probably a size 7 or 8 circular needle—you must use a circular needle for this scarf. The fabric is rather loose.

## Instructions

Cast on (loosely! loosely!) some 230 stitches. Break off the yarn, leaving about 8 inches.

Knitting this scarf is an exercise in looking at your knitting to know where you are. When the instructions say to knit the row, push the fabric back so that it is in position to begin knitting with the front side of the fabric facing you. When the instructions say to purl, turn the knitting around so that the back side is facing you and move the knitting so that it is in position to start another row—of course, if you love to purl, then purl to your heart's content. I was a brand new knitter and I didn't really know how to purl when I made this.

## Color and Texture Sequence

The colors I used were medium beige (A); light beige (B); dark green (C); gold (D); dark brown (E); orange (F)—very '70s!

The chart indicates whether the rows should be knit (K) or purled (P).

Be sure to leave an 8-inch tail at the beginning and end of each row!

Row 1	P A	Row 42	K D	Row 74	P A	Row 104	P E
Rows 2-3	K A	Row 43	P B	Rows 75-76	K A	Row 105	K E
Rows 4-6	K B	Row 44	K F	Row 77	K F	Rows 106-107	P E
Row 7	K C	Rows 45-46	K A	Row 78	K A	Row 108	P C
Rows 8-10	P A	Row 47	K E	Row 79	K E	Row 109	K A
Rows 11-12	K D	Rows 48-50	P C	Row 80	K D	Row 110	K B
Row 13	K E	Row 51	K B	Row 81	K B	Rows 111-112	K A
Row 14	P B	Row 52	K A	Row 82	P A	Row 113	K D
Rows 15-18	K B	Row 53	K D	Row 83	K A	Row 114	K A
Row 19	K A	Rows 54-56	K B	Rows 84-87	P C	Row 115	P A
Row 20	P F	Row 57	K A	Rows 88-89	K E	Row 116	K A
Rows 21-24	K A	Rows 58-60	P A	Row 90	K A	Row 117	K F
Rows 25-28	P A	Row 61	K A	Row 91	P A	Row 118	K B
Rows 29-30	K E	Rows 62-63	K E	Row 92	K B	Row 119	K A
Row 31	K F	Row 64	K D	Row 93	K D	Rows 120-121	K E
Row 32	K B	Row 65	P F	Rows 94-95	K F	Rows 122-124	P B
Rows 33-34	K C	Row 66	K D	Row 96	P F	Row 125	K E
Row 35	K A	Row 67	K B	Row 97	P A	Row 126	K C
Row 36	P B	Row 68	K C	Rows 98-99	K A	Row 127	K A
Rows 37-39	K A	Row 69	K E	Row 100	K C	Rows 128-129	P A
Rows 40-41	K B	Rows 70-72	P B	Row 101	K B	Rows 130-131	K A
		Row 73	K A	Rows 102-103	K C		

Bind off—do I need to say it? Loosely!

Tie the fringe into bundles of 6 to 8 ends, snugging the knot up against the knitting.

That's it!

[Note: I've tried this pattern in Rowan Kidsilk Haze and was disappointed at the hand and stretch of the scarf. If you want to use Kidsilk Haze, cast on about 170 stitches and knit more rows to compensate for the inevitable lengthening—or else try doubling the Kidsilk Haze. The original yarn was much heavier than Kidsilk Haze.]

Enjoy your knitting!

Janine Bajus

[www.feralknitter.typepad.com/feral\\_knitter](http://www.feralknitter.typepad.com/feral_knitter)