

Sierra Sunset Cowl

by: Kristen Ashbaugh Helmreich for
Jimmy Beans Wool

Everyone at Jimmy Beans Wool just loves Sweet Grass Wool's lofty, soft, and lightweight Mountain Silk DK yarn! It's precisely the texture and feel of the yarn that inspired this design. In the high desert, spring is often comprised of warm days and cold evenings, so this cowl fits the bill as the perfect shoulder-season neck warmer. This design features a simple garter stitch pattern, rapid increases, short-row shaping, and a border of Shell Lace that adds a little bit of elegance to the cowl.

The name is inspired by the stunning sunsets that we are lucky to have in Reno on an almost daily basis. Just last week as I was relaxing after work by knitting in the backyard and looking out over the Sierra Nevada mountain range, I noticed that the sky was the exact shade of coral pink as this yarn! At that moment I knew the perfect name for this cowl would be the "Sierra Sunset Cowl" as the peaks of lace are reminiscent of mountains while the fluffy yarn is as lofty as the clouds that surround them. Whichever color you choose from Sweet Grass Wool's spring-like color palette, this cowl is sure to become a wardrobe favorite!



Materials:

- 1 Skein of Sweet Grass Wool Mountain Silk DK yarn (we used Ember)
- US Size 8- 24" or larger circular needle.
- Scrap yarn for a short provisional cast on.
- 2 stitch markers
- Three ¾"-1" buttons
- A darning needle for weaving in ends

Gauge:

16 sts and 27 rows = 4" in garter stitch after blocking on US size 8 needles.

*Designer's note: Take time to save time, please check your gauge! I used almost all of one skein of the yarn for this cowl, so after knitting your gauge swatch, you may need to reuse that yarn to be able to finish the project. If you know you tend to use more yarn than a project calls for, I recommend buying an extra skein and returning it if you don't need it. Better safe than sorry!

Finished Dimensions:

27" wingspan X 14" center height after blocking.

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Directions:

Set up rows:

- Using a provisional cast on and some scrap yarn, cast on 3 sts.
- Knit 5 rows, pick up 2 sts along one side, remove provisional cast on, place the 3 sts from the provisional cast on onto the left needle and knit them.
- Next row: K3, pm, M1R, K1, M1R, K1, M1L, pm, K3 (11 sts)

Increase section:

- Row 1: k3, sm, M1R, k1, M1R, k to 1 stitch before the marker, M1L, k1, M1L, sm, k3
- Row 2: k3, sm, M1R, k to marker, M1L, sm, k3
- *Repeat rows 1&2 until you have 117 sts between the markers.

Short Row Section:

- Row 1: K3, sm, Knit to last stitch before the marker, and wrap stitch as follows: slip next stitch purlwise bring yarn to front, return slipped stitch to left needle, move yarn to back. Turn work.
- Row 2: Knit to last stitch before the marker on the opposite side, wrap stitch the same way as Row 1 and turn work again.
- Row 3: Knit to 3 sts before the last wrapped stitch, wrap stitch and turn.
- Row 4: Repeat row 3.

*Repeat rows 3 & 4 until there is just 1 stitch left between the last short row.

Next row: After your last wrap and turn, knit all the way across that half of the row to the outer edge, CO two additional stitches at the end of your row. You will now have 5 stitches on the outer tab.

Final row: Knit all the way across and cast on 2 additional stitches at the end of your row. You should now have 5 sts on the outer tab on this side as well. Now you are ready to begin the Shell Lace section!

Shell Lace Section (repeats of 13 sts):

*Note: The 3 stitch edging on either side is now a 5 stitch button band. You will maintain knitting in garter stitch outside the markers as usual throughout this section and place a buttonhole on the band at the beginning of Row 3 in each of the three lace repeats for a total of 3 buttonholes. See lace pattern for details on the buttonhole. The Shell Lace pattern is knit inside of the markers.

Shell Lace pattern:

- Row 1: k5, sm, *ssk, k9, k2tog; repeat from * to end of row, sm, k5.
- Row 2: k5, sm, purl to marker, sm, k5.
- Row 3 (buttonhole row): k2, yo, k2tog, K1, sm, *ssk, k7, k2tog; repeat from * to marker, sm, k5.
- Row 4: k5, sm, purl to marker, sm, k5.
- Row 5: k5, sm, *ssk, (yo, k1) 5 times, yo, k2tog; repeat from * to marker, sm, k5.
- Row 6: knit across entire row
- *Repeat rows 1-6 three times.

Finishing:

- Bind off loosely using a needle at least 1 size larger than the size you knit with.
- Soak and block your cowl by pinning out the top edge as straight as possible, and pinning the points on the lace pattern either super taut for a sharp point, or a little less for a more rounded point.

Terms/Abbreviations:

k- knit

p- purl

sts- stitches

pm- place marker

sm- slip marker

sl1- slip 1 stitch knit wise

yo- yarn over

ssk- slip 1 knitwise, slip one purlwise, insert left needle into the back of both stitches and knit.

k2tog- knit 2 sts together

M1L- Make one left. Using the left needle, from the front pick up ladder between the stitches and knit into the back of the loop.

M1R- Make one right. Using the left needle, from the back pick up the ladder between the stitches and knit into the front of the loop.

