

The Snowdrop Shawl

Stephanie Pearl-McPhee

The Snowdrop shawl is a lace shawl knit from the bottom point to the top edge, which is finished with an attached I-cord edge. Stitches are then picked up along the edges and worked off together with the lace edging. This pattern is not painfully difficult, but may require thinking and persistence from the less experienced, since I have not charted the whole thing. The pattern is written a little “quick and dirty” but help will be happily given if you write to “Stephanie[at]yarnharlot.ca”

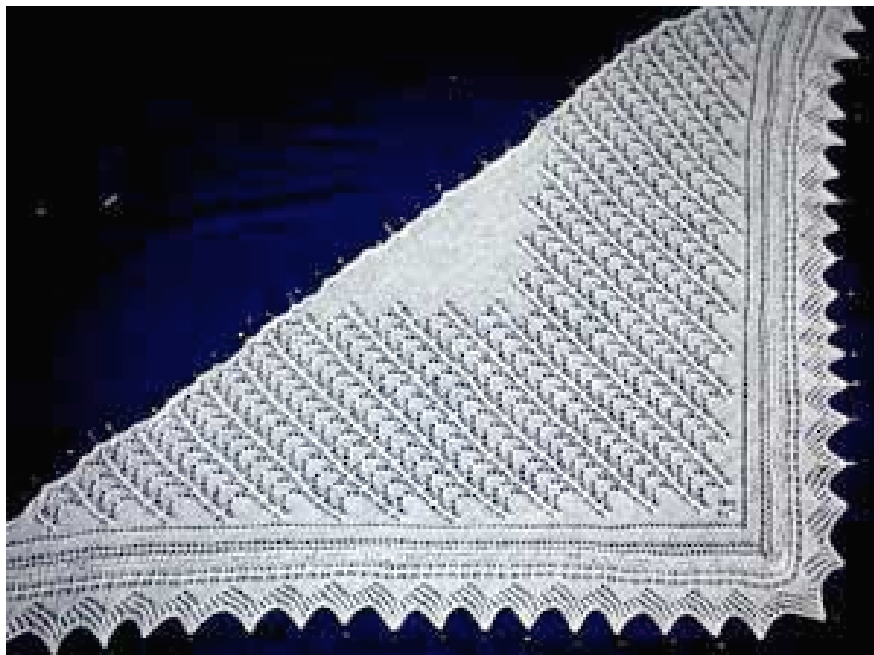
Materials

-approximately 1200 metres of laceweight yarn, about 40 wpi. (Be warned, I am guessing at the amount. 1200 metres seems about right, but you might want to take out a little fibre insurance on my guess)

-4mm needles. (I used 14” straights, you may prefer a circular if you like your stitches uncrowded.

-double pointed needle a few sizes larger (6mm suggested) for working I-cord edge.

Tension: Not tremendously important, (how would a shawl not fit?) but I got about 16 stitches to 10cm. (After blocking)





Begin the shawl by casting on one lonely stitch. Leave the starting piece of yarn hanging so that you can find this first stitch later.

First row of the chart: knit into the front of this stitch, yarn over, then knit into the back. (3 sts) turn.

Row 2: k1, p1, k1.

Continue following the chart, placing a marker at the centre stitch. Take note that this chart shows only right side rows.

Each wrong side row is “knit 1, purl to last stitch, knit 1”.

Work the chart noting that after two repeats of a snowdrop (16 rows), a repeat is added to each end. Every time you have worked the pattern rows twice (16 rows) an additional snowdrop is added on each end.

Continue in this fashion until you have 15 snowdrops in a row. On the row where you are to add your 16th and 17th snowdrops, take out the centre snowdrop by knitting plain across the centre 5 stitches. These five stitches remain knitted plain from now on, and each time you add snowdrops at the edges remove another snowdrop from each side of the centre. The next time you remove a snowdrop you will have 21 stitches to knit plain in the centre, an additional 8 either side of your original 5 (this step is not charted, if it makes you feel nervous just keep going without removing any snowdrops. Nothing bad will happen, you just won't have the plain triangle at the centre back).

Continue like this until you have seven snowdrops on either side of your plain centre, and are ready to add another set. Add this next set, but only work 1 repeat (8 rows). Go get a cup of tea (or something stronger) and your 6mm needle to begin to work the I-cord edging along the top. Don't break the yarn off here; you just keep knitting with it.

Top Edging. The I-cord edging is worked loosely, and with a needle larger than the rest of the shawl so that it will stretch with the rest of the shawl during blocking. I used a 6mm dpn, but follow your instincts and go larger if you need to.

Put the needle with the shawl in your left hand, and using your working yarn cast 3 stitches onto the left needle. With the dpn, *knit 2, then knit the next 2 together (one I-cord stitch and one stitch from the top of the shawl), move the three stitches now on your right needle back to the left and repeat from * until only 3 stitches remain. Cast these 3 off by breaking the yarn and passing it through them.

Quit now if you like the shawl the way it is. The lace edging for the bottom edges is not necessary, but I think it pretty.

Lace Edging. Take a deep breath, then **with the wrong side facing you** pick up and knit (beginning with a stitch in the I-cord) 218 stitches down the first side, then 2 stitches (place a marker before and after these two stitches) in the point (the very first stitch you cast on) then another 218 up the other side, ending with a stitch in the I-cord on that side (total of 436 stitches; have a lie down if you feel dizzy). With the right side of the shawl facing you, cast on 18 more stitches to the needle with the shawl on it, and work Row 11 of Chart 2, knitting the last of the edge stitches together with a shawl stitch. Turn, purl 6, knit to end. **Note that the chart only shows right side rows.** Each wrong side row is “purl 6, knit to end”.

Continue working the chart, knitting an edge stitch together with a shawl stitch at the end of each right side row until you are at the stitch before the markers (the two centre point stitches) and ready to begin a Row 5.

Point Shaping: Work the chart, noting these changes.

Row 5 knit together with the stitch before the point.

Row 6 Slip 1, purl 5, knit to end

Row 7 **do not join** (knit the last stitch instead of knitting 2 together)

Row 8 Slip 1, purl 5, knit to end

Row 9 knit together with the first of the two point stitches

Row 10 Slip 1, purl 5, knit to end

Row 11 **do not join**

Row 12 Slip 1, purl 5, knit to end

Row 13, knit together with the 2nd point stitch

Row 14 Slip 1, purl 5, knit to end

Row 15 do not join

Row 16 Slip 1, purl 5, knit to end

Row 17 Resume knitting each right side end stitch with a stitch from the shawl.

Continue until you have edged the entire shawl, ending (hopefully) with a Row 11.

Cast off.

Block the shawl as severely as you dare, pinning out each point.

When it is completely dry, unpin and celebrate by emailing me.

Chart 1

