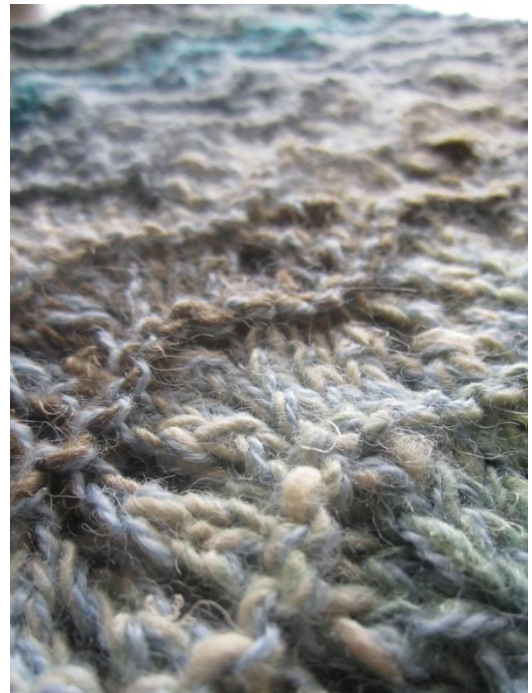


Cowl Before the Storm

all content (unless otherwise specified) by Jinger Roy (<http://jingersnaps.wordpress.com>)



A friend of mine once dyed her hair a lovely shade of lilac, and another friend of hers said that it made her look like a beautiful storm cloud. When I combined together the extremely different strands of hardwearing, rustic cotton-wool blend Noro Taiyo and soft, delicate Misti Alpaca Lace for this project, I feel as though they combined into something completely unique from either yarn. They merged into a lovely, light fabric that is super soft, yet very warm and cozy. Something about the light blue alpaca tempered down the wild color variations of the Taiyo, turning it into a beautiful storm cloud of my own. In fact, when I was working on it, a co-worker told me that it looked like the sky right before a storm, hence the name.



This is a very simple lace project worked in the round, fantastic for lace beginners or for those who love to play with color and texture combinations. You end up using very little of each skein of yarn, so you can save this project for when you need to have some fun with leftovers from other projects. The Lacy Scallops pattern is adapted for knitting in the round from the fantastic stitch reference guide *Big Book of Knitting Stitch Patterns* published in 2005 by Sterling Publishing.

Yarn:

Noro Taiyo Sock Yarn (50% cotton, 17% wool, 17% polyamide, 16% silk blend, 462 yds. per skein)
Misti Alpaca Lace (100% baby alpaca, 437 yds. per skein)

Supplies:

US size 8 (5.0 mm) 16-inch circular needle
stitch marker (to mark beginning of round)
tapestry or yarn needle
scissors

Gauge:

approximately 5 sts per inch on US 8 (5.0 mm) needles in Lacy Scallop pattern (*Gauge is not terribly important here, as long as you don't end up with a cowl hanging to your knees. Unless that's your style, then go right ahead.*)

Pattern:

CO 108 sts with both strands of yarn held together on circular needle. Join into round, being careful not to twist. Knit 1 row.

Begin Lacy Scallops pattern (adapted from *Big Book of Knitting Stitch Patterns*):

Round 1: *k1, yo, k2, sl 1, k1, pss0, k2tog, k2, yo* until end of round (12 repeats total)

Round 2: knit all sts

Round 3: *yo, k2, sl 1, k1, pss0, k2tog, k2, yo, k1* until end of round

Round 4: knit all sts

Round 5: purl all sts

Round 6: knit all sts

Repeat Rounds 1-6 eight more times, for a total of 9 repeats, easily tracked by counting the purl rows.

Knit Rounds 1-4 once more.

Bind off all sts purlwise. Break yarn and weave in ends.

Block lightly, enough to open up the pattern and smooth out the scallops on the edges, but not so much so as to stretch or distort the shape.

