



Tamarind Cowl

by Kristen Hanley Cardozo

Cowls are simple to knit, take little yarn, and make great gifts. Unlike long scarves, they don't get tangled, and there's so little to knit that it's done before you can get too bored with the process. They're perfect for trying out a new stitch pattern, or just relaxing after a long day. The Tamarind Cowl was created as a way to use up some of my leftover stash before it joined up with the rest of my yarn and overthrew me. The simple ruching pattern makes this a relaxing knit with an interesting texture. The pattern includes a just-like-mine version and a custom version so you can use your favorite yarn to make a little something special.

SIZE

9.5 inches in height, 21 inches in circumference.

MATERIALS

- * 1 skein Malabrigo Merino Worsted [100% Merino; 210 yds per 100g skein] - shown in Rich Chocolate
- * U.S. size 7 (4.5 mm) 16" circular needle
- * 1 stitch marker
- * tapestry needle

GAUGE

16 sts/24 rows = 4 inches in stockinette stitch

ABBREVIATION KEY/STITCH GUIDE

BO: Bind off

CO: Cast on

Inc: Increase. To increase, insert the tip of the right needle into the stitch below the one you are about to knit and slip it onto the left needle. Knit the new stitch through the back loop.

K: Knit

k2tog: Knit two together

PM: Place marker

Rep: Repeat

Rnd(s): Round(s)

st(s): Stitch(es)



Notes

The Tamarind Cowl is made through a simple series of knit stitches punctuated with increase and decrease rounds. Each increase round doubles the number of stitches on the needles and each decrease round halves that number to return to the amount cast on. These increase and decrease rounds create the ruching and the simplicity allows for an endless variety of modifications.

Choose a yarn that feels comfortable against the neck, and with a little structure to show off the ruching to advantage. The suggested Malabrigo Merino Worsted is a soft one ply merino wool.

Have fun!

The Just-Like-Mine Version

CO 84 stitches, PM, and join to work in the round.

Set Up

Round 1: K to end of rnd.

Rep **Round 1** 10 more times.

Body

Increase Round: [Inc 1, k1] to end of rnd. 168 sts

K for 6 rounds.

Decrease Round: K2tog to end of rnd. 84 sts

K for 6 rounds.

Repeat **Body Instructions** 2 more times. K 4 rounds more. BO loosely.

Finishing

Weave in loose ends. Block gently. Wear!

The Custom Version

The same cowl can be made in yarn of any weight just by changing a few numbers.

Using your chosen yarn and a 16 inch circular needle in a size appropriate to your yarn's weight, work a gauge swatch as follows. CO as many sts as required to join to work in the round. K for at least 4 inches. You'll need to take the swatch off the needles to measure it accurately. Since you may need the swatched yarn later, I recommend slipping it onto a length of scrap yarn. If you plan on blocking, block the swatch as you will with the finished cowl. Count the sts and rounds that make up 4 inches of your swatch. Divide the resulting numbers by 4 to get your sts and rounds per inch.

Multiple your stitches per inch times 21 for a 21 inch cowl as shown. You can, of course, adjust this to any size you like. CO the resulting number of sts.

Set Up

K for about 2 inches.

Body

Increase Round: [Inc 1, k1] to end of rnd.

K for 1 inch.

Decrease Round: K2tog to end of rnd.

K for 1 inch.

Rep Body instructions 2 more times. K for 1 inch more. BO loosely.

Finishing

Weave in loose ends. Block gently. Wear!

For pattern support, or if you think you have found an error, please email knittingknight@gmail.com.