
Gigantic Cable Scarf with Jill Draper

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

- I think the gigantic cable scarf is a great way to practice your cable knitting. Since you're using three strands of yarn held together and gigantic needles, it's a really quick knit piece. In the end, you get this really sculptural scarf, which is fun to knit and will keep you warm all winter long. (mellow folk music)

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- The first step for making your gigantic cable scarf is to gather your materials together. You'll need the PDF download of the pattern. Size 17 straight needles. A chop stick to use for cabling. A tapestry needle for weaving in your ends. And you'll also need around 450 yards of worsted weight yarn. For the one I'm making today I've gathered together all sorts of odds and ends of yarn. And we're gonna ombre through the color spectrum. But you can easily do it in a solid. Or in a hand spun and solid. We're gonna use three strands of yarn held together throughout the whole scarf. So you'll need 150 yards of three strands or 450 yards total.

Chapter 3 - Wind Center-Pull Ball

Wind ball

- Sometimes, when you buy yarn, it comes in a hank instead of a ball. A hank looks like this. Before you use yarn like this, you have to wind it into a ball. I'm going to wind it into a center-pole ball, without using a ball-winder. You will need something to hold the skein open. As you can see, when you shake it out, it's a big loop. I'm gonna use my swift here, but if you don't have a swift, you could use the back of a chair, or even your own knees. I'm going to put it on the swift. Open it up, and then, the yarn usually has two knots, one on each end. So, I'm going to untie this one. Two ends are attached to the skein, and then this piece is just holding it. I'm going to turn it around, get to the other end here. Untie this knot. And then pull that off. There are two ends. I'm going to pick the one that looks like it's coming from the outside. The first step is, you open your index and middle finger, and I'm going to start to make a figure eight around. So, I'm just winding it back and forth. Making a figure eight. This tail, hanging over my palm, is going to be one end of our ball. This is going to be the side coming from the center, so you want to make sure to hold onto that. So, I'm just going to continue winding my yarn in a figure eight around these fingers. Make sure to keep it loose, so you don't cut off the circulation to the tips of your fingers. After my fingers are pretty well full, I'm going to start to wind the yarn around itself. And then, eventually, when your fingers start to feel full, you can just slide it off. I am going to put my thumb into the center of that figure eight, to hold it together. And pull it off my fingers. So, here's the center pull. I'm going to put my thumb on that to keep it safe. And now, I'm going to start to wrap around the ball. Around and around. The important part is to make sure that you have your thumb on that first strand that's going to be your center pull, so you don't lose it in the middle there. I'm almost at the end. I've been turning the ball around and around, and making sure to keep my thumb right in the center, so I don't lose that tail. Wrap the ends. Alright, now you've finished. You have one end here, on the outside. And the other end is here under your thumb. This is the center, and the outside. You can knit from either end. Or, if you use a

pattern that calls for two ends held together, you can knit from the inside and the outside at the same time.

Chapter 4 - Knit Scarf

Cast on and knit in stockinette

- We're gonna use three strands of yarn, held together, to knit our gigantic cable scarf. I have two center pull balls. I'm gonna use the outside, the inside, and then another inside. I'm gonna treat my three strands of yarn as if they're one throughout the whole project. I'm gonna pull out around an arm's length, this should be enough to use the long-tail cast-on for our 24 stitches. I'm gonna start with my slip knot, the same way you start casting on for almost any knitting project. Make the loop, pull it through, slip it onto my needle, tighten it. And then I'm gonna do the long-tail cast-on to cast on 23 more stitches for a total of 24 stitches cast on. Make a diamond, bring your needle up your thumb, around the loop on your index finger, through. Again, you have a diamond. Up your thumb, around and through that loop. Up around and through. So that's four. Remember to always count three strands together as one. And I'm just gonna cast on 20 more stitches. Twenty-two, there's 23, now I'm casting on my last stitch, same as the previous 23. Up your thumb, around, and through. And as always when your casting on, I just like to double count and make sure that I in fact have 24 stitches before I start my project. Alright 24 stitches cast-on. I have these three strands of yarn here hanging down. I like to tie them up so they're out of my way while I knit my project. I just wrap them around my index finger and my middle finger. Put the tails through. I just wrap it around a few times. There you go. Then it'll stay out of your way while you work. I'm ready to start my first three rows of stockinette. Doing the long-tail cast-on has it set up so you're ready to purl on your first row. So our first row will be a wrong side row, and we're gonna purl all the way across these 24 stitches. Take the empty needle in your right hand, enter the first stitch. The three strands of yarn come over, around. Pull it through and off. Again, we're purling. In from right to left, over the top of the needle, around. Push it through to the back, and off. In, over, through, and off. We're just gonna continue to purl across this whole row of 24 stitches. One more stitch to do here. Alright, that's row one completed. We're gonna move on to row two, which in stockinette stitch is the right side, which means we're just gonna knit across this whole row. You go in from left to right, take your yarn, wrap your empty right-hand needle, pull it through and off. In, around, through and off. In, around, through, off. And we're just gonna continue across the row this way. Knitting all our stitches. While your using this pattern, because your using three strands of yarn together, make sure that you're always entering all three strands, and using all three strands to wrap. So I'm almost done knitting my second row, two more to go. Alright, I have two rows completed. I have one more wrong-side row, where I'm gonna purl across all 24 stitches. And then I'm ready for my first cable row. Row three is exactly like row one, we're just gonna purl across each stitch of the row. Here are my three rows of stockinette stitch. This is the right side, you can see all the knit stitches. The wrong side is all the purl stitches. It's good to take note of this, because we're always gonna be cabling on the right side. We're ready for our first cable row now.

Cable front

- The first cable that you're gonna work is a cable 16 front. What that means is you're gonna take eight stitches, put it on your chop stick, hold it in front of the work, and then knit the next eight stitches on the needle. A cable 16 front looks like this. It's hard to tell when you only have one cable on, what is really gonna happen, but it's literally just holding stitches in front of other stitches and

working them out of order. So let's go ahead and do that. I have my 24 stitches, I'm taking my chop stick, and as if to purl, so entering from right to left, I'm gonna move eight stitches onto my chop stick. You might be wondering why I'm only moving eight stitches if it's a cable 16 front; the number in between the C and the F, or the C and the B in the case of a back cable, refers to the total number of stitches in the cable. You're always taking half onto your needle and leaving half behind. So here we go, moving, that's three, four, five, six, seven, and eight. And they're just gonna hang out here on my chop stick. Since this is a front cable, the chop stick goes in front of my working needle. I'm gonna take the empty needle in my right hand, I'm entering the first stitch on my left-hand needle, which is actually stitch number nine. Take the yarn that's attached to the first stitch way over here on the right-hand side, bring it over, wrap your right-hand needle, pull the stitch through, and off. You have this long strand here, and you can tighten that up, you just don't want to tighten it too much, or it'll be really hard to work into those stitches. I'm gonna work my eight stitches. The center eight stitches are now on my right-hand needle. I'm gonna take the chop stick that holds those first eight stitches, and knit the stitches off of that. You want to make sure to work the stitches in the same order they were in originally. So this stitch over here was originally stitch number one, so I'm gonna work that stitch first. Take your right-hand needle, go into that first stitch, wrap, and just continue to work across these eight stitches. The stitches might feel a little tight at first, and it might feel slightly awkward, but the result will be really beautiful. Okay, and this is my last stitch, stitch eight, off my cable needle. In this case it's actually a chop stick. And I'm ready to work the last eight stitches on my left-hand needle. These stitches are just plain knit stitches. I've finished my first cable row. As you can see, to start, it doesn't really look like much of anything. You'll need to get a couple cable repeats done before it really starts to show the pattern. You're gonna continue with nine rows of stockinette stitch. What that means is you're gonna purl on the wrong side and knit on the right side, until you have nine rows on there. Then we're ready for our back cable.

Cable back

- I'm gonna start by knitting my first eight stitches. As you can see in my oddball scarf, I've stopped one of the red strands and joined in one of these light orange strands. My cable doesn't start until the ninth stitch, so the first eight stitches I'm just gonna knit across as normal. Eight stitches knit and I'm ready to cable. The main difference between a cable 16 front and a cable 16 back is that, after we move our stitches to our cable needle, for a 16 back we're gonna hold it behind the working needle. If you remember, for the cable 16 front, we held it in front of the working needle. I'm gonna move these eight stitches to my chopstick just like I did before, as if to purl. So going in from right to left and just moving the stitches over, one at a time. So there are my eight stitches. I'm gonna put them in back of my working needles, take my right-hand needle and work into the next stitch in my left-hand needle. Knit these eight stitches. Eight stitches knit, now I'm ready to knit the stitches from my cable needle. Again, remember to knit the stitches in the same order they started out in. So here's my chopstick that I'm using as a cable needle. The first stitch I put on was this one back here so that's gonna be the first stitch I knit off. It's also easy to tell which order to go in because you can see, here's your stockinette knit stitches and if you wanted to go in the wrong order, you'd be looking at purl stitches. Slide them down to the end. Making sure to grab three strands of yarn each time. Okay, I'm almost finished here. One more stitch to come off my cable needle. And again, when you're cabling, sometimes those stitches feel tight, that's perfectly normal. Now I have one front cable and one back cable completed. You can see, the front cable points towards the left and the

back cable points towards the right. I'm gonna work nine rows of stockinette, again beginning with a wrong-side row, purling on the wrong side, knitting on the right side. And then I'm ready for another front cable.

Continue cabling

- I've gradually incorporated two strands of orange yarn, and now I have three strands of orange and no red. I have two front cables, one here, and one here. They point up to the left. And I have two back cables, here, pointing to the right. I have nine rows of stockinette, and I'm ready for one more front cable. Remember your front cables are on the first eight stitches, so, with your chopstick, take the first eight stitches off as if to purl, one at a time. So now I have eight stitches on my cable needle, it's a cable 16 front, so it's gonna go in front of my working needle. Grab the yarn from behind, wrap your right-hand needle. I'm knitting the center eight stitches. Now I'm ready for the stitches from my cable needle, or in this case, my chopstick. Slide them to the end. Beginning with the first stitch, now I'm gonna knit these eight stitches off. Okay, my eighth stitch is coming off my cable needle. I'm gonna knit the last eight stitches now. I'm just gonna show you how to count your rows, so you're always cabling in the right spot. The first trick is that you're always cabling on the right side, so if you're not looking at the knit stitches, if you're looking at the purl stitches, you're not on the right side yet. This is always gonna be the side that you cable on, and now we're gonna count, so you wanna find your last cable row. Here it is in here. You can see, there's kinda a hole where the stitches have crossed in front of each other. This loop here is made when you're cabling, so we're going to start counting with the loop above that. So, one row, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine. So I've cabled in exactly the right spot. Again, you're always gonna look for the hole, skip the stitch directly above the hole, and then count this column of knit stitches up. Two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine. You're going to continue following the pattern until you have just enough yarn to bind off. I like to finish three rows after a cable row. It doesn't really matter if it's a cable front or cable back, but this'll make sure that the ends of your scarf are symmetrical.

Chapter 5 - Bind Off

Bind off

- I'm on the right side row, and this is a perfect spot to bind off. The bind off for the gigantic cable scarf is worked the exact same as bind offs on any other project. I'm going to knit the first few stitches, one stitch knit, a second stitch knit. I'm gonna take my left hand needle, go into the first stitch, lift it up and over the second stitch. Knit another. Up and over. Knit. Up and over. Knit. Up and over. Knit. Up and over. And just continue across the row this way until you've bound off all your stitches. Okay, almost finished binding off. I have one stitch left on my needle. I'm gonna pull it up, make a nice big loop, and cut the yarn, giving myself about a six inch tail. Take the end, pull it through the loop, pull it down. Now all that's left is to weave in my ends, and my scarf is ready to wear. My darning needles. I like these darning needles because they have a big eye, and a bent tip, so it's really easy to scoop inside those stitches. When we're weaving in our ends, we're still gonna treat all three strands as one, and thread them through the needle together. Flip it over to the wrong side. And I like to weave in my tails by just scooping right underneath those purl stitches. So right in this bump here. Go underneath. Down. And up. Down. I just alternate which direction I'm going with the yarn. I work across about two inches. Then I'm gonna drop down a row and work back in the other direction. The reason that you wanna do this is because knitting is stretchy, and if you only weave your ends in one direction, when the fabric stretches, the tail will pop back out. That

looks good. Gonna take my scissors, cut that yarn nice and close. I'm gonna weave in all the ends from every place that I've joined a new skein. And then my scarf will be completely finished and ready to wear. As you can see here, my scarf ombres from solid red, the I gradually switch out one strand of red for one strand of orange, two strands of orange, three strands of orange. I do this the whole way through, gradually switching from one color to the other. But this isn't the only way to make a gigantic cable scarf. I've done it many different ways. This one is three strands of a superwash merino, held together. This one is two strands of merino and one strand of handspun yarn. As you can see, this is a really flexible pattern. As long as you have 450 yards of worsted weight yarn, it really doesn't matter what kind of yarn you use, any of them will give you a really interesting and sculptural result.