

Lace shawl “Iris”



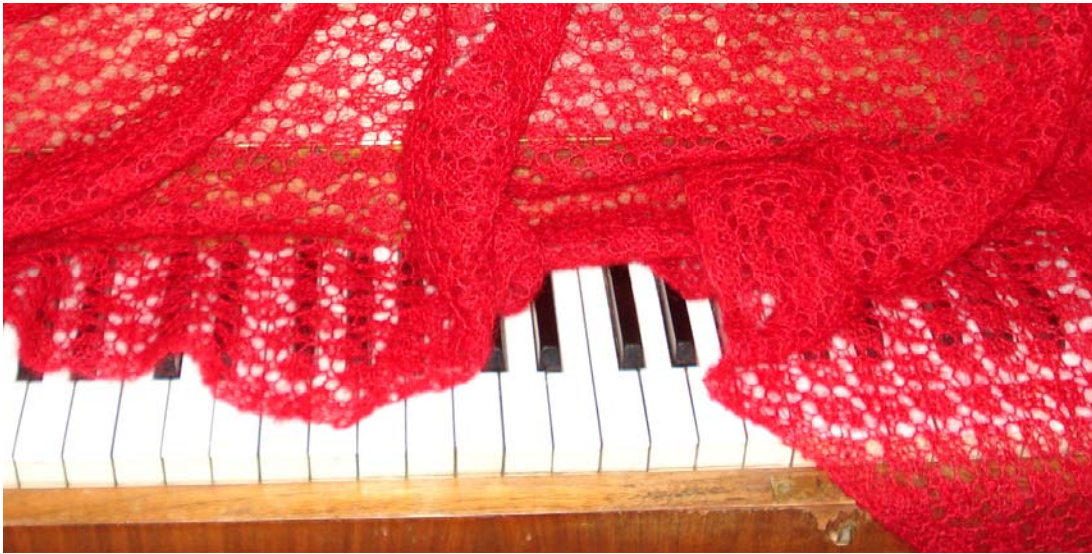
This shawl is especially designed for novice knitters who want to try lace. But it is also very suitable for more experienced knitters who enjoy chatting and watching telly whilst knitting. We made it with DROPS Kid-Silk in red. The shawl will also be very nice in Malabrigo Lace yarn or even DROPS Alpaca for a heavier, wintery shawl.

This shawl is very light and airy, but still warm. The silk base thread of the kid-silk gives it a subtle shine. The lace pattern is an old spider web pattern that we chose because it's not hard to knit but still very open and lacy.

We give you the pattern, but we also give you some basic tips on cast on, knitting and blocking. The pattern is given in charts, but we also provide written instructions.

Material:

- 3 balls of DROPS Kid-Silk in colour nr. 14 Red
- Needles 4 mm (US 6), for instance Addi Lace circulars, but regular needles will do as well.
- Pins that won't rust (when in doubt, lay one or two in a bit of water overnight)
- A surface to block on, for instance a spare mattress.
- An old sheet and plastic (for instance two bin liners cut open).
- Stich markers if you want to use them.



General tips before you begin

Garther stitch

Knit all rows.

Tip for starting with a new ball

Start with a new ball when you have appr. 10 cm of yarn left (4 inches) Lay the new yarn over the old yarn and work a few stitches with both yarns together. The mohair fibers will cling together and this way you don't have knots.

Tip for casting on

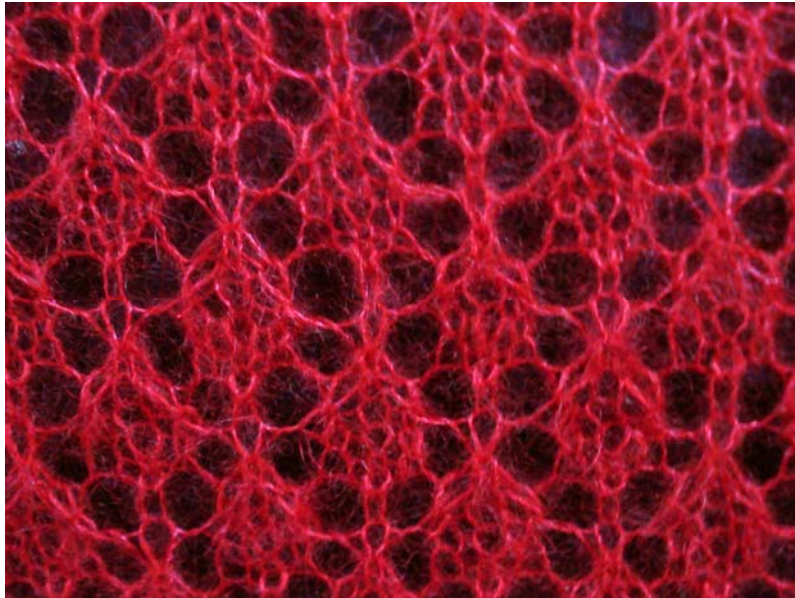
It is important to cast on very loosely. The shawl will later be blocked and to make sure the lace is blocked rectangular, you need the cast on edge to stretch enough. Two methods:

1. Take two knitting needles 4 mm and hold them together; cast on over both needles. When you have cast on enough stitches, you pull out one needle carefully.
2. Take a large needle (for instance 7 or 8 mm) and cast on your stitches. Knit the first row directly from the large needle to your needle size 4 mm.

Tip for binding off

Two ways:

1. Bind off as usual, but widen the stitches a bit before you lift the 1st on your right hand needle over the 2nd.
2. Work the last row from a needle size 4 mm to a larger one (7 mm for instance.) Bind off from the large needle.



Using stitch markers

Stitch markers are little rings you can place on a knitting needle between two stitches. You don't need to use them, but they can be a nice tool to keep your pattern straight.

You can place a marker between every pattern repeat. That way you know that your pattern is correct and if you make a mistake, it was only between this marker and the one before last.

Example:

Our pattern B in this shawl is repeated 13 times on the row. The first row of pattern B is as follows:

K 2 tog, YO, K 1, YO, ssk, K 1.

When you work the row and you place a marker between every pattern repeat, your last stitch before the marker is K 1. If it's not, you have made a mistake. *But that mistake is at most 6 sts back, since your last pattern repeat ended right - you only have to look back a few stitches.*

Attention: You don't knit the markers, when you get to a marker, you simply place it from your left hand needle to your right hand needle.

Symbols and abbreviations:

	K	Knit on the right side, purl on the wrong side
O	YO	Yarn over
/	K 2 tog	Knit 2 sts together
\	ssk	Slip two stitches to the right hand needle knitwise. Insert the left hand needle into the front of both stitches and knit them together
V	3tog	Slip to stitches together as if to knit, knit one stitch, pass slipped stitches over together

Written directions

Work the pattern as follows:

Row 1: K4, * K2tog, YO, K1, YO, ssk, K1*, repeat from * to* 13 times, K4.
Row 2: K3, P80, K3.
Row 3: K3, K2tog, *YO, K3, YO, 3tog*, repeat from * to* 13 times, YO, K3.
Row 4: K3, P80, K3.
Row 5: K4, *YO, ssk, K1, K2tog, YO, K1* repeat from * to* 13 times, K4.
Row 6: K3, P80, K3.
Row 7: K4, * K1, YO, 3tog, YO, K2*, repeat from * to* 13 times, K4.
Row 8: K3, P80, K3.

Repeat row 1 - 8 until you have at least 25 meters of yarn left.



Continue pattern:

Make sure you end with a full pattern repeat. Work 5 more rows in garter stithcc and bind off (see Tip for binding off.)

Block the shawl as follows:

Make a bath with luke warm water and let the shawl soak in it for 20 minutes. Move a little so the water can penetrate the fibers, but don't rub. The project only needs to become wet. Remove the shawl from the water and push out the water a little without wringing or squeezing. Lay it between two towels and press a little.

Prepare you blocking surface. Lay some plastic on it and lay an old sheet over it. Lay the shawl on the surface and block it with pins. This might be a bit scary to do at first, but you can pull the thin yarn quite hard. First stretch the shawl and pin down the four corners. Than stretch the sides and put more pins in. Finally distribute more pins evenly with a with of 3-5 cm between each pin (1-2 inches.)

Let the shawl dry for at least 24 hours and then remove the pins.

For a nice straight edge, you can use "blocking wires". This system is used a lot in the US. Blocking wires are thin metal wires that you can thread trough the edge stithes. Wolhemel sells the blocking kit "Blockit" for this purpose.

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