Vanessa Knits

The MIRIAM || A Classic Lace Cowl

My goal in designing this cowl was first and foremost, to demystify the world of lace patterns for those who have not yet ventured to try it. With a six row repeat and just a few yarn overs, you'll soon create your own lace cowl. Named after a family friend who I always thought was the classiest woman I knew, the MIRIAM is sure to be a wardrobe staple that you'll reach for year after year. Both written instructions and a chart are included.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

YARN
220 yards of Morehouse Farm Gator densely-spun sport yarn.

NEEDLES
US Size 9 (5.5mm) 16" or 20" circular knitting needles

NOTIONS
9 Stitch Markers (1 of a different color/style to mark the beginning of the round), darning needle, scissors

FINISHED SIZE (after blocking)

Approx. 14.5" tall x 12.75" wide

GAUGE (In lace pattern) — *Take time to check gauge!*

4in x 4in / 10cm x 10 cm approx. 14 stitches x 22 rows

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ABBREVIATIONS

CO	Cast on		SKP	Slip one knitwise, knit one, pass slip stitch over
K	Knit			
K2Tog	Knit two together		SK2P	Slip one knitwise, knit two together, pass slip stitch over
P	Purl			
PM	Place marker		SM	Slip marker
Rep	Repeat		SSK BO	Slip slip knit bind off
Rnd(s)	Round		ST(s)	Stitch(es)
			YO	Yarn over

PATTERN NOTES

▷ Simple in its design, but high on visual impact, you will create a lightweight, lacy cowl by using a simple six row repeat.

▷ Placing markers in your work will help you keep track of when the stitch pattern changes. I like to place a different color marker to designate the beginning of a row vs mid-row markers.

▷ Using a lifeline in lacework will save you a lot of time (and effort) if you miss a stitch and need to rip back your work. If you do make a mistake, you will only have to rip back to the lifeline and slip those live stitches back onto your needles. Without it, it is very hard to capture all those stitches again. To do it: Thread a scrap piece of yarn (in a contrast color) long enough to go around the work onto a tapestry needle. At the beginning of each 6 row repeat, thread this yarn through the active stitches on the needle, making sure NOT to go through the stitch markers (go around/under them). After each 6 row repeat is complete, remove the scrap yarn and do it again. The photos below show a lifeline in use.

▷ When doing yarn overs to create the lace detail, you are essentially increasing the stitch count of your work. This needs to be countered by the same number of decreases in the row. Note that every row will have a total of 90 stitches with 10 stitches in between each of the markers. Be sure to count your stitches often to catch any errors.

▷ To create a stretchy bind off, you will use the SSK bind off method. To do it: slip the first two stitches from the left hand needle knitwise. Slip the left hand needle into the front of these two stitches on the right needle. Knit these two stitches together (similar to a K2TOG through the back loop). Place single stitch from the right hand needle back onto the left and repeat until bind off is complete.

PATTERN

On US Size 9 (5.5mm) 16" or 20" circular knitting needles, CO 90 ST(s) using the Long Tail cast on method. Join to work in the round being careful not to twist your work. PM.

Rnd 1: P all st(s)
Rnd 2: K all st(s)
Rnds 3 - 4: Rep rnds 1 & 2
Rnd 5: *K1, YO, SKP, K3, K2Tog, YO, K2, PM [rep from * to end of row]
Rnd 6: K all st(s)
Rnd 7: *K2, YO, SKP, K1, K2Tog, YO, K3, SM [rep from * to end of row]
Rnd 8: K all st(s)
Rnd 9: *K3, YO, SK2P, YO, K4, SM [rep from * to end of row]
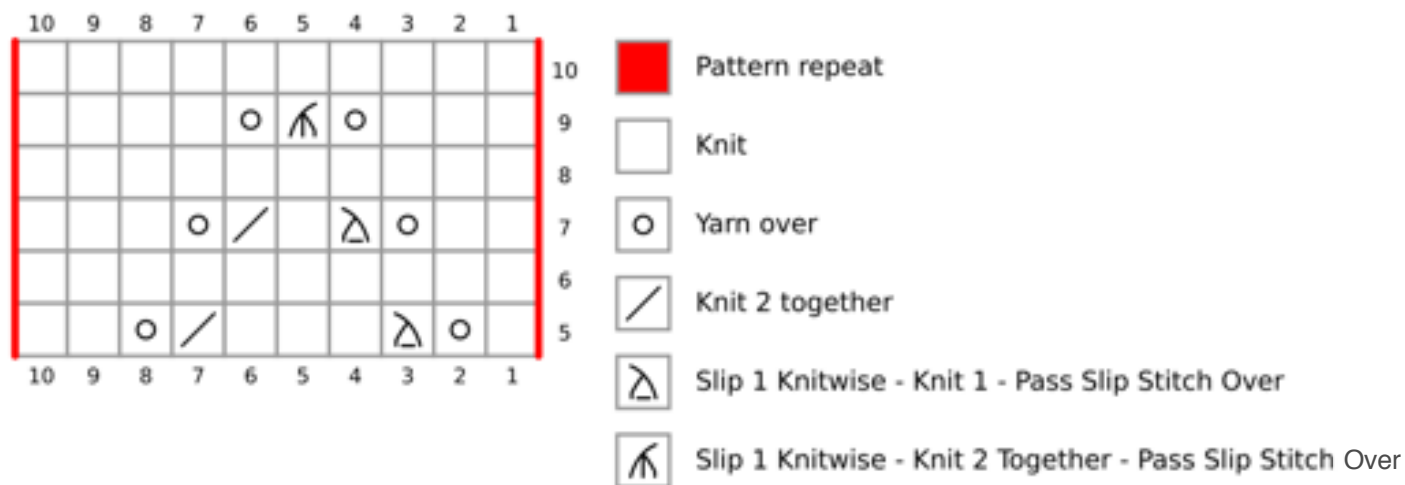Rnd 10: K all st(s)
Rnds 11 - 76: Rep rows 5 - 10 a further 11 times
Rnd 77: K all st(s)
Rnd 78: P all st(s)
Rnds 79 - 80: Rep reds 77 & 78

* *Rows 5 - 10 are also charted below.*

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Use these handy charts to keep track of your work.
Just check off each row as you go.

Garter Stitch Border (Bottom)			
1	2	3	4

Body									
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74
75	76								

Garter Stitch Border (Top)			
77	78	79	80

FINISHING

Loosely bind off all stitches using the SSK bind off method. Cut the yarn, leaving a 12" tail to weave in ends. Wet block your new MIRIAM cowl to achieve greater lace stitch definition.

DON'T BE A STRANGER!

I would love to see your in-progress and finished MIRIAM cowl on Instagram. Tag @vanessaknits #vanessaknits and #miriamcowl so I can see your unique work — I may even feature your photos! If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at vanessaknits@gmail.com. Happy knitting and THANK YOU so much for your support!
xo, Vanessa