Slippery Slope

The Slippery Slope shawl alternates elongated slipped-stitch sections with simple eyelets to showcase an eye-catching color-changing yarn against a solid background. Once you get going on this shawl it's a slippery slope — you'll want to keep going to see what the yarn is going to do next!

Slippery Slope

Level: Advanced Beginner and up

Skills/Techniques Used: Backwards loop cast on, forming elongated stitches, slipping stitches, integrated I-cord, I-cord bind off, grafting I-cord. Instructions and video links are provided.

Yarn:
Malabrigo Worsted (100% merino wool; 210 yds [192 m]/100 g): Color #179 Black Forest (MC), 3 skeins
Red Heart Boutique Unforgettable (100% acrylic; 270 yds [246 m]/100 g): Color #1975 Gossamer (CC), 1 ball.
Or a smooth worsted-weight yarn in your choice of two strongly-contrasting colors: approximately 600 yards (549 m) of a solid or tonal color for MC and 260 yards (238 m) of a solid, tonal, variegated, or long gradient colorway for CC.

Needles: Size US 8 (5.0mm) straight needles, or 32" (80cm) circulars for knitting flat; or size to obtain gauge.

Notions: Tapestry needle

Gauge: 14 stitches and 23 rows per 4"/10 cm in stockinette stitch after blocking

Sizes: One size

Finished Measurements:
67.25" [171 cm] wide and long and 37" [94 cm] long

Abbreviations:
BO: Bind off
BOR: Beginning of Round
CC: Contrast color
CO: Cast on
K: Knit
K1-wrap 2 (3,4): Knit wrapping the yarn 2 (3, 4) times
K2tog: Knit two together
MC: Main Color
M1l: Make 1 left-leaning decrease
M1r: Make 1 right-leaning decrease
LN: Left needle
P: Purl
RN: Right needle
Sl: Slip stitch as if to purl
Sl wrapped stitch dropping extra wraps: Slip the multiply-wrapped stitch purlwise, allowing all extra wraps to come off the needle.
Sts: Stitches
Wyib: With yarn in back
Wyif: With yarn in front
YO: Yarn over

Techniques:

K1-wrap 2 (3,4): Insert needle into stitch as if to knit. Wrap yarn the specified number of times around the needle before drawing through to complete the stitch. See the video tutorial at
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76syrtHoGyU

Slippery Slope

Slip wrapped stitch dropping extra wraps: Slip the multiply-wrapped stitch purlwise, allowing all extra wraps to come off the needle to create an elongated stitch. See the video tutorial at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNnHPxNk_4s

I-Cord Bind Off: *K2, k2tog tbl, sl 3 sts back to left needle, rep from * until 3 sts remain. Graft the remaining 3 sts to the beginning of round (directions below).

Grafting I-Cord Ends: Cut the working yarn, leaving a generous tail. Thread yarn onto a tapestry needle. With the 3 live stitches on a needle, insert tapestry needle into the right leg of the first stitch on the needle as if to purl. *Next, move to the beginning of the I-cord round and insert needle under the two legs of the first stitch in the first row of the I-Cord. Pull through. Return to the first live stich on the needle and insert tapestry needle as if to knit, taking the stitch off the needle. Insert tapestry needle into next stitch on the needle as if to purl, rep from * until all stitches have been worked. See the I-Cord Grafting tutorial at: https://bit.ly/ICordTut.

Pattern Notes:

Slippery Slope is cast on with just a few stitches at the narrow end; increases at the end of every RS row grow the shawl into its asymmetrical shape. Garter ridges are knit at regular intervals in the contrast color, providing a textural variation against the stockinette background and setting up the contrasting elongated stitches, which grow longer with every repeat within the section. Each section culminates in a row of eyelets in the contrast color.

I-cord edging is knit on as you go, and the shawl is finished with an I-cord bind off. Instructions for the I-cord differ slightly on each side differ in order to give a uniform look to the finished edges.

Carry the color you are not using up inside the I-cord by bringing the working yarn under the unused yarn when slipping the second-to-last stitch of each RS row. The I-cord is also an idea place to hide ends.

When slipping stitches on RS rows, the yarn is held to the back (wyib), when slipping on WS rows, the yarn is held to the front (wyif), thus all floats remain on the WS of the shawl. All stitches are slipped purlwise.

For a larger or smaller shawl, work one more or fewer of the Section repeats.

Pattern

Cast On:
Using MC, CO 6 using backwards loop CO.

Section 1 — Setup

Row 1 (WS): Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, sl3wyif.
Row 2 (RS): K3, m1l, k, sl1wyif, p. (7 sts)
Row 3: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, p, sl3wyif.
Row 4: K to last 2 sts, m1l, sl1wyif, p (8 sts)
Row 5: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, p to last 3 sts, sl3wyif.

Repeat Rows [4-5] 4 more times. (12 sts)

Section 2
Join CC yarn.
Row 1 (RS): With CC, k to last 2 sts, m1l, sl1wyif, p. (13 sts)

Row 2 (WS): Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k4, k1-wrap 4, k2, sl3wyif.

Row 3: With MC, k to last 2 sts slipping wrapped sts wyib dropping extra wraps, m1l, sl1wyif, p. (14 sts)

Row 4: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, p to last 3 sts slipping the CC elongated st wyif, sl3wyif.

Row 5: K to last 2 sts slipping the CC elongated st wyib, m1l, sl1wyif, p. (15 sts)

Rows 6-10: Rep Rows [4-5] 2 more times, then rep Row 4 one more time. (17 sts)

Row 11: With CC, k to last 2 sts, m1l, sl1wyif, p. (18 sts)

Row 12: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k4, k1-wrap 4, k7, sl3wyif.

Row 13: With MC, k to last 2 sts slipping wrapped sts wyib dropping extra wraps, m1l, sl1wyif, p. (19 sts)

Row 14: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, p to last 3 sts slipping the CC elongated st wyif, sl3wyif.

Row 15: K to last 2 sts slipping the CC elongated st wyib, m1l, sl1wyif, p. (20 sts)

Rows 16-20: Rep Rows [14-15] 2 more times, then rep Row 14 one more time. (22 sts)

Row 21: With CC, k to last 2 sts, m1l, sl1wyif, p. (23 sts)

Row 22: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k4, k1-wrap 3, k9, k1-wrap 3, k2, sl3wyif.

Row 23: With MC, k to last 2 sts slipping wrapped sts wyib dropping extra wraps, m1l, sl1wyif, p. (24 sts)

Row 24: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, p to last 3 sts slipping the CC elongated st wyif, sl3wyif.

Row 25: K to last 2 sts slipping the CC elongated st wyib, m1l, sl1wyif, p. (25 sts)

Rows 26-28: Rep Rows [20-21] once, then rep Row 20 one more time. (26 sts)

Row 29: With CC, k to last 2 sts, m1l, sl1wyif, p. (27 sts)

Row 30: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k3, k1-wrap 3, K9, k1-wrap 3, k7, sl3wyif.

Row 31: With MC, k to last 2 sts slipping wrapped sts wyib dropping extra wraps, m1l, sl1wyif, p. (28 sts)

Row 32: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, p to last 3 sts slipping the CC elongated st wyif, sl3wyif.

Row 33: K to last 2 sts slipping the CC elongated st wyib, m1l, sl1wyif, p. (29 sts)

Rows 34-36: Rep Rows [28-29] once, then rep Row 28 one more time. (30 sts)

Row 37: With CC, k to last 2 sts, m1l, sl1wyif, p. (31 sts)

Row 38: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k2, k1-wrap 2, *k9, k1-wrap 2; rep from * to last 5 sts, k2, sl3wyif.

Row 39: With MC, k to last 2 sts slipping wrapped sts wyib dropping extra wraps, m1l, sl1wyif, p. (32 sts)

Row 40: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, p to last 3 sts slipping the CC elongated st wyif, sl3wyif.

Row 41: K to last 2 sts slipping the CC elongated st wyib, m1l, sl1wyif, p. (33 sts)

Row 42: Rep Row 40 once.

Row 43: With CC, k to last 2 sts, m1l, sl1wyif, p. (34 sts)

Row 44: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k1-wrap 2, *k9, k1-wrap 2; rep from * to last 10 sts, k7, sl3wyif.

Row 45: With MC, k to last 2 sts slipping wrapped sts wyib dropping extra wraps, m1l, sl1wyif, p. (35 sts)

Row 46: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, p to last 3 sts slipping the CC elongated st wyif, sl3wyif.

Row 47: K to last 2 sts slipping the CC elongated st wyib, m1l, sl1wyif, p. (36 sts)

Row 48: Rep Row 46 once.

Row 49: With CC, k to last 2sts, m1l, sl1wyif, p (37 sts)
Row 50: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k to last 3 sts, sl3wyif.
Row 51: With MC, k to last 2 sts, m1l, sl1wyif, p. (38 sts)
Row 52: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, p to last 3 sts, sl3wyif.
Rows 53-54: Rep Rows 51-52 once. (39 sts)

Row 55: With CC, k to last 2 sts, m1l, sl1wyif, p. (40 sts)
Row 56: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k to last 3 sts, sl3wyif.
Row 57: K3, *YO, k2tog; rep to last 3 sts, YO, k, sl1wyif, p. (41 sts)
Row 58: Rep Row 57 once.

Rows 59-62: Rep Rows 51-54 once. (43 sts)

Section 3

Rep Section 2, replacing the following rows:

Row 2: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k5, k1-wrap 4 ,*k9, k1-wrap 4; rep from * to last 5 sts, k2, sl3wyif.
Row 12: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k5, k1-wrap 4, *k9, k1-wrap 4; rep from * to last 10 sts, k7, sl3wyif.
Row 22: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k5, k1-wrap 3, *k9, k1-wrap 3; rep from * to last 5 sts, k2, sl3wyif.
Row 30: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k4, k1-wrap 3, *k9, k1-wrap 3; rep from * to last 10 sts, k7, sl3wyif.
Row 38: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k3, k1-wrap 2, *k9, k1-wrap 2; rep from * to last 5 sts, k2, sl3wyif.
Row 44: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k1, k1-wrap 2, *k9, k1-wrap 2; rep from * to last 10 sts, k7, sl3wyif.

31 sts inc; 74 sts total

Section 4

Rep Section 2, replacing the following rows:

Row 2: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k6, k1-wrap 4,*k9, k1-wrap 4; rep from * to last 5 sts, k2, sl3wyif.
Row 12: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k6, k1-wrap 4, *k9, k1-wrap 4; rep from * to last 10 sts, k7, sl3wyif.
Row 22: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k6, k1-wrap 3, *k9, k1-wrap 3; rep from * to last 5 sts, k2, sl3wyif.
Row 30: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k5, k1-wrap 3, *k9, k1-wrap 3; rep from * to last 10 sts, k7, sl3wyif.
Row 38: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k4, k1-wrap 2, *k9, k1-wrap 2; rep from * to last 5 sts, k2, sl3wyif.
Row 44: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k2, k1-wrap 2, *k9, k1-wrap 2; rep from * to last 10 sts, k7, sl3wyif.

31 sts inc; 105 sts total

Section 5

Rep Section 2, replacing the following rows:

Row 2: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k7, k1-wrap 4,*k9, k1-wrap 4; rep from * to last 5 sts, k2, sl3wyif.
Row 12: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k7, k1-wrap 4, *k9, k1-wrap 4; rep from * to last 10 sts, k7, sl3wyif.
Row 22: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k7, k1-wrap 3, *k9, k1-wrap 3; rep from * to last 5 sts, k2, sl3wyif.
Row 30: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k6, k1-wrap 3, *k9, k1-wrap 3; rep from * to last 10 sts, k7, sl3wyif.
Row 38: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k5, k1-wrap 2, *k9, k1-wrap 2; rep from * to last 5 sts, k2, sl3wyif.
Row 44: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k3, k1-wrap 2, *k9, k1-wrap 2; rep from * to last 10 sts, k7, sl3wyif.

31 sts inc; 136 sts total

Section 6

Rep Section 2, replacing the following rows:

Row 2: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k8, k1-wrap 4,*k9, k1-wrap 4; rep from * to last 5 sts, k2, sl3wyif.
Row 12: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k8, k1-wrap 4, *k9, k1-wrap 4; rep from * to last 10 sts, k7, sl3wyif.
Row 22: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k8, k1-wrap 3, *k9, k1-wrap 3; rep from * to last 5 sts, k2, sl3wyif.
Row 30: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k7, k1-wrap 3, *k9, k1-wrap 3; rep from * to last 10 sts, k7, sl3wyif.
Row 38: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k6-wrap 2, *k9, k1-wrap 2; rep from * to last 5 sts, k2, sl3wyif.
Row 44: Sl1wyib, k, sl1wyif, k4, k1-wrap 2, *k9, k1-wrap 2; rep from * to last 10 sts, k7, sl3wyif.

31 sts inc; 167 sts total

Bind Off:
BO using I-cord bind-off. Graft the first 3 sts to the last 3 sts, as in the video tutorial linked in the Techniques section.

Finishing

Break yarn, leaving at least a 10" tail. Graft final 3 sts of bind-off to 3 sts from side I-cord. Weave in ends. Wash and block, gently spreading the shawl to open up the eyelets.

Amy Snell is a knitter, instructor, and designer with an eye for the unusual or unusually captivating. Her designs focus on color, contrast, and texture — often exploring unusual stitch patterns and clever construction in ways that are interesting but accessible.

Amy loves to help other knitters explore new techniques and expand the way they think about their knitting. Her goal is to make complex concepts accessible and approachable for all knitters, while sharing tips that simplify and improve your process, whether you've been knitting for several weeks or several decades. Amy has taught knitting for more than 15 years both locally and at national events such as Vogue Knitting Live, Stitches, and Rhinebeck. She frequently shares tips and tricks on her website, www.DeviousKnitter.com.