

Deplorable Scarf



My supurrvisor approves.



Pattern Name: Deplorable Scarf

Source: personal pattern

Yarn: Hobby Lobby I Love This Yarn! Red (1.1 skein, 217 g) and White (0.8 skein, 153 g)

Gauge: (I used 3.5 mm)

Tags: seamless, in-the-round, stranded, jacquard

Started: November 15, 2018

Finished: November 24, 2018

Notes

November 15, 2018

Played around with different fonts, then made them into text boxes, put them behind a table in my word processor, and put a stylized knit stitch from my knitting font into the appropriate cells. Since the text images are still behind the tables, you can see where I had to make some editorial decisions.

I used the method described in [appendix H](#) of [my charting book](#).

I'm going to cut the individual words apart, turn some on their heads, then tape them together to make a project chart.

November 16, 2018

The chart, at almost 600 rows, is much too long for Aran, so I'll take a word off each side for that, down to about 400 rows, leaving the 6-word version in its own link.

Colorwork Ideas

I'll work in the round this time, which will take care of too-long floats, so I'm pondering how exactly I want to do the colors, assuming red, white, and/or navy.

1. Do x number of rounds in two CCs for the words.
2. Do x number of rounds or inches in two MCs with words all in one CC.
3. Use a red, white, and blue variegated for either MC or CC.
4. Do each letter in its own color using festive knitting.
5. Do a different MC/CC combo every round, and even do the opposite pairing on each side to avoid the jog. With three colors, the combos wouldn't repeat for six rounds.

November 17, 2018

Redid the chart to only four fonts. New PDF is on my website project page. Left to right and top to bottom the fonts are Old English, Showcard Gothic, Magneto, and Princeton.

I think I'll do the scarf in navy, with the words in red on one half and in white on the other. Since there's a bit of overlap between the words on the two sides, I'll do just a bit of festive knitting during the transition.

Oh, I will work in the round so I don't have to piddle too much with the floats. They'll just be long, but they'll be hidden in the tube, nice and safe.

November 18, 2018

Crochet CO 50 on size 4. Worked 9 rounds of 3x2 rib, knit one round, and started chart. Did not try to do anything with the floats, but there was a huge gap to the top of the D, and it was just silly, even knowing they'd be inside the tube.

Ripped the 3 stranded rounds, re-read the It's Not About the Hat tutorial and re-watched a couple of the videos, drew some lines on my chart, and started again.

Skipped making some extra MC stitches

It works REALLY well, though if I happened to not hold my needles and yarn EXACTLY the same way as Susan does, I don't know how easy it would be to do this method. But it works a treat and should get better as I get further along the scarf.

I will probably try to switch from two circs to traveling loop, just to make all the mechanics easier.

November 19, 2018

OK, so I got a little further, and I'm still having trouble with dead-vertical columns, at least those that are more than one stitch wide. I'm simply not leaving the float long enough.

The places where I've tried to start a new extra stitch are showing up a bit, so I'll not worry about attaching the carried yarn to the main fabric. It will all be inside the tube, where being unattached won't matter.

Bind off and will restart.

May also do first half BG in red, then switch to navy for second half, leaving words all white.

I'm doing better with the wide vertical columns after restarting in the red. It's just a matter of really exaggerating how much I pull the stitches over before wrapping, and even leaving a little extra slack on top of that.



Added an MC extra stitch along the diagonal

November 20, 2018

Got through chart row 68, so 20 percent done with the stranding.

November 21, 2018

At halfway point in chart, I'm going to switch the background color to navy. Nope, scratch that. Red all the way!!!



Skipped making some extra CC stitches

November 23, 2018

Through row 307, so the “De” and the “ble” left, plus the top ribbing.

My stranded technique stinks, but I don’t care if the scarf is--dare I say it?--a bit **deplorable**.

Hahahahahahahahahahahahaha

This project is the one that has finally made me really interested in knitting machines.

November 24, 2018

Lesson learned: There’s a reason traditional stranded color patterns run on diagonal lines, with Xs and diamonds/octagons between them. The places where there were about four or more stitches in dead vertical lines have big gaps between the colors. The narrower vertical lines, like in the Princeton font, are OK, but the Magneto and Showcard Gothic are really bad. The Old English has less dead vertical, but those areas are gappy too.

The invisible stranding technique worked well, but I was consistently much too loose, being paranoid about not being loose enough. Just need to practice more.

Also want to try magic and/or traveling loop, as I was afraid of differences if I switched from two circs mid-project.

Yes, I’d like it to have been knitted a bit more smoothly, but it’s good enough. And it is WARM!

November 28, 2018

FO Observations

Now that I've worn it a few times (woot!) and had time to ponder, I have the following observations.

1. No need to have worked inside-out to help maintain good float length for stretchiness, as no arm or foot will ever go through it.
2. When I stuck my hands inside the WIP and spread them apart, the invisible-stranding extra stitches behaved as expected, and what I could see of the RS looked great--neat stitches along all the color changes, no humping up/pulling in along the vertical color changes, etc. After finishing and turning it right-side out, there is no longer any of that tension to make the stitches look good.

Alternate Techniques to Try

1. Ought to have done a little two-stitch checkerboard across BOR/EOR and at halfway point of round, so that CC would be anchored as actual stitches instead of as invisibly stranded ones. (Though the technique itself is fine, just misapplied here, I think.)
2. Could have worked each side flat, because intarsia would handle dead vertical color changes perfectly, then seamed or crocheted them together (but I hate that kind of finishing work).

Swatching

Just to further investigate my theory of traditional stranded colorwork being designed with diagonal lines instead of vertical ones, I'm going to do some swatching. I'll also use that swatch to test an idea I have to make sure floats behind vertical color bars remain loose: doing a YO in the carried color (whether MC or CC) every x stitches, then dropping the YO on the next round.

See Vertical stranding swatching.