

Summit Shawl



DH says, "They're ovals now, not circles!" Yeah--gravity!

Pattern Name: Summit by Mandie Harrington

Source: Knitty, Spring/Summer 2010

Yarn: Miss Babs Woodbury (fingering) in Whitsunday, 1.6 skein, 161 g

Gauge: (I used 3.25 mm)

Started: September 1, 2018

Finished: September 19, 2018

Tags: dropped-stitches, casting-on-casting-off

Notes

Pattern Nit

If you like your shawls to have the same edge top and bottom, then you can't do both the set-up and final sections as written.

However, it's easy to change one or the other to make them match. Since the pattern calls for simple thumb loop CO, then instead of doing the final section as written, do another repeat of just the right curve section, then use EZ's casting-on casting-off to BO, doing the decs in each column per the

instructions for the final section. If, however, you want to have the crochet chains between the columns as instructed in the final section, then alter the set-up section to do crochet chains between the columns.

Note to self: Read through the pattern to make sure top and bottom will match! (I didn't, because I always work from charts, and both a regular grid chart with my knitting font and a stitch map looked nothing like the project pics, so I was reverting to being a blind follower.)

Blocking

Having done simple dry blocking with pins a couple of times to see how many repeats I might have to work, I know that I can pin each repeat to four inches. I'll really only pin the outward curves of each edge, first establishing the spacing between peaks, then adding one pin on either side of the central pin to smooth out the adjacent parts of the curve. I can't see that there's any need to pin anywhere in the interior.

This, of course, assumes the yarn doesn't behave super-differently wet than it does dry!

Getting Started

I had swatched a different pattern on 3.50 mm, which made the stockinette areas a trifle loose after blocking, so I dropped to a 3.25 mm.

This project is the first in a VERY long time that I'm working from written instructions, because it just doesn't chart well either in my own knitting font or in Stitch Maps.

I meant to take lots of pics during the initial set-up, but it really does fly along, so I was done with the entire set-up, and the first two full repeats, before I knew it. :-P

The recipient's favorite color is peach, and according to Miss Babs, that is one of the hardest colors to dye. That would explain why I have so much trouble finding it! ETA: Actually, her favorite color is a pinky peach, so back to searching! :-)

I'm only doing eleven columns, so that it's not much wider than her upper arms.

Things I Wish I'd Done Differently

1. The set-up section has you do some incs and decs, I'm guessing to keep the edge from overexpanding. But the choices mean that some of my rungs from the dropped stitches cross over one another. :(I would have experimented with just doing plain knits or subbing in different incs and decs.
2. I don't like the edge stitches where the stockinette strips are not attached to anything. A one-st selvedge on each edge might have looked better.
3. After dropping the stitch, the stitches on either side of it tend to open up a bit, becoming wider themselves and stealing yarn from the dropped rung instead of staying properly shaped. No idea what could be done different, except possibly working those sts twisted. :-| But then, those sts would have been twisted while the rest weren't. :-\
4. Now that I'm at least halfway, I looked at how the pattern ends. I'm **VERY** unhappy that the top and bottom edges **WILL NOT MATCH**. If I'd looked ahead (note to self for the future: look ahead!) and seen crocheted chain sts between the columns, I would most certainly have

experimented with my usual crochet CO, figuring out how many chains I'd need to match the width of the dropped stitches, and simply CO that way. Note that this also would have obviated issue #1. This one point is why I downgraded the pattern from five stars to three. HOWEVER! See Sep 17 and 18 updates for possible my solution.

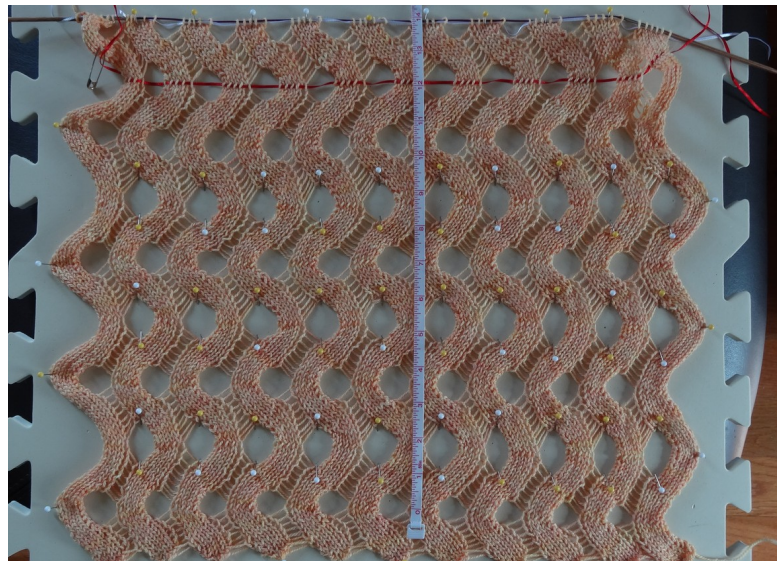


Two repeats completed

September 11, 2018

Just dry blocked and the four full repeats so far look like they'll be about 14 inches, so 3.5 in/rpt, give or take, depending on how much the fabric will relax once wet (not much, based on the swatch for the other pattern I tried).

I'm going to finish it in time to send it to her in October, as a kind of remembrance gift for someone close to both of us.



September 12, 2018

I can now do a full repeat in about three hours, and I think I'll have to do 20-24 repeats to get the length I want.

Normally I write down every row number when I finish it, but given how short the rows are, that started to seem ridiculous pretty quickly. Then I just wrote down the unique row numbers, grouping

those for just the stockinette sections. Now I'm not even writing down that much, just that I've finished the right or left section.

Counting Rows Since the YO

I do, however, need to know when I've finished working enough rows after the YO between each column, so I figured out how to count those rows quickly. See [Camino Bubbles](#) for a pic with yellow labels showing how to count them.

Since I'm not keeping explicit track of every row, I'm putting in a lifeline every half repeat instead, just in case. :-D I put in a **red** lifeline (1/16" ribbon) when I finish a **right** curve section and a **white** one when I finish a **whole** repeat.

Worked rpts 6, 7, and 8.

Turning More Efficiently

If you choose to turn instead of knitting back backwards, then get in the habit of * turning clockwise at the end of one row and counterclockwise at the end of the next, then repeating from *. That means you don't have to pick up and turn the **entire** WIP (which will only get slower the further along you are); you just twist the part between your needles and your lap, and turning in opposite directions at the end of each row means you twist, then untwist the bit that's hanging free.

September 13, 2018

Finished rpts 9 and 10.

I did a test tug and may only need to work 20 rpts.

September 14, 2018

Worked repeats 11 and 12.

September 16, 2018

Worked repeat 13. May only need to do 18 repeats--when I finish it, I'm pulling out the needle and wet-blocking it to see where it is.

September 17, 2018

Maybe EZ's sewn casting off--or is it the casting-on casting-off?--would match the bottom edge. Have to pull out my *Knitting Glossary* DVD again--darn! :-P

Finished repeats 14-16.

Just throwing it around my shoulders still on the needle, it may actually be long enough right now!

September 18, 2018

Read through the final section instructions again this morning. Essentially you do a right curve section with some decs as you BO each column, then you do crochet chains to get to the next column.

But I'm 99.99% sure that I can simply do a right curve section more or less as written, then do EZ's casting-on casting-off for the BO, doing in each column the decs described in the final section instructions to keep the columns pinched in a bit to match the bottom edge.

I have not done this particular BO, although it's quite easy. My main concern is the working yarn getting quite ragged from being pulled through all the stitches.

I will do one more repeat before doing the final right curve section and BO. That will use up most of the yarn from the second skein, and I don't want to have to wind the third just to finish the BO!

Hurray for Lifelines!!!!

Well, my lifelines just saved my bacon! I'm putting one in every half repeat, and in the second half of the last full repeat, about four columns in, I saw I had dropped a stitch. After I fixed it, I saw another dropped stitch.

The lifeline allowed me to frog, as otherwise I think I'd have to tink. Even so, it took a few minutes to puzzle out where I was and get myself back on track.

Final Section

In the end, I thought it would be easier to BO with single sts rather than trying to work the decs while BO. So I worked the right curve section with the following mods:

Row 9: P2tog, P2, SSP, P6, yo, P5, turn
Row 17: P2tog, P1, SSP, P6, yo, P5 turn

For the final repeat of the right curve section, I substituted

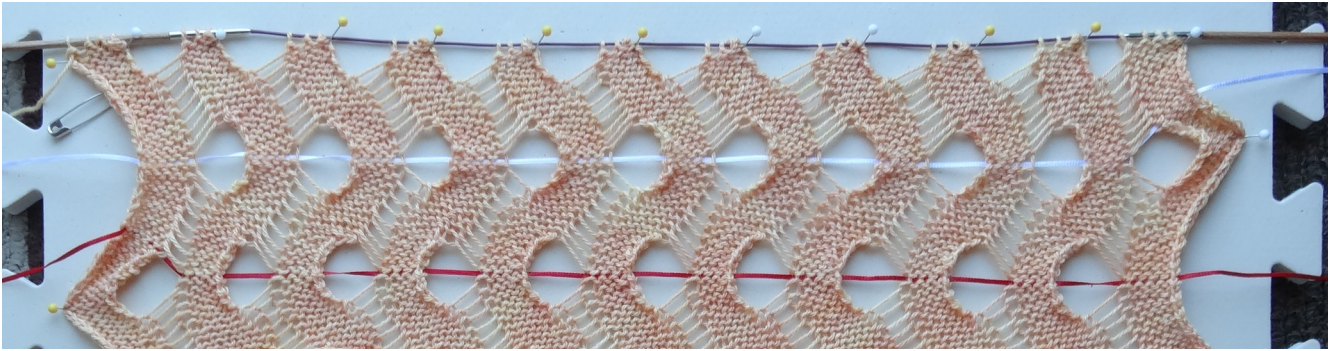
Row 8: P2tog, P2, SSP, P7, turn
Row 9: K6, drop next st, turn

Instead of working to row 27, I worked 6 rows after the row where I dropped the final stitch, then on the next row I worked P2 tog, P2, SSP.

Preliminary BO Plan

It's only preliminary, because I think I need to sleep on it.

The outer columns have 4 sts, and the inner all have 3. To make the top match the bottom, I will do the casting-on casting off, but to get the yarn to the next column, I'll run it through the WS purl bumps downwards along the free edge of the column, where the pins are stuck in the top edge. Hopefully, the strand moving from one column to the next will be disguised by the rungs from the dropped stitches.



Ready to BO. Have done decs in last row of each column to match stitch counts of CO edges.

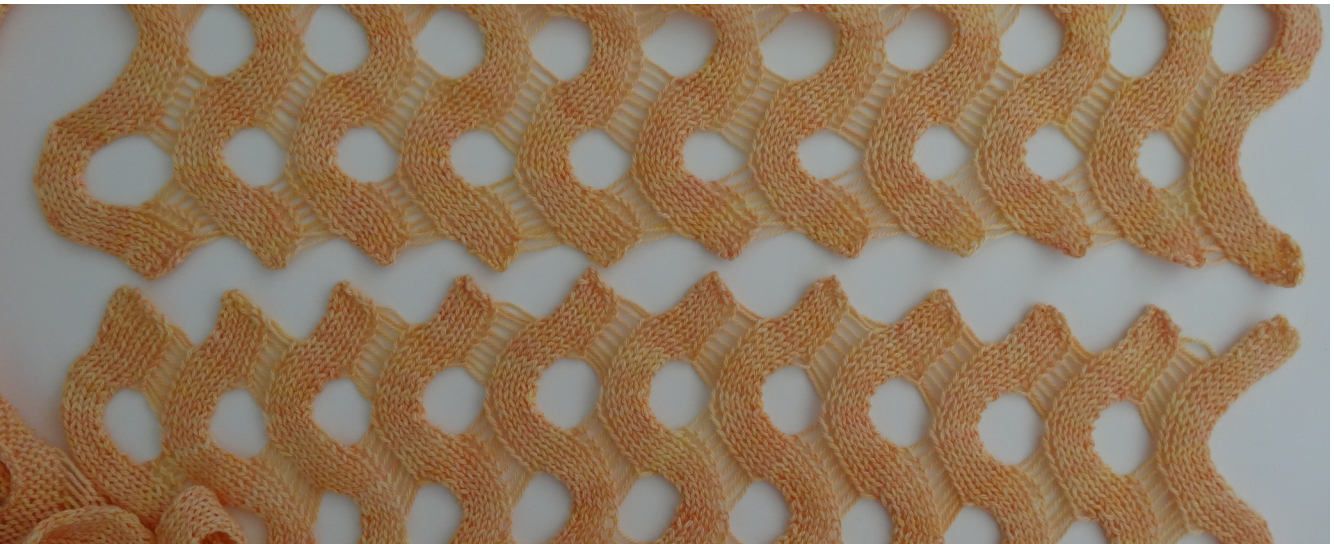
September 19, 2018

So I did the BO as described above.



Working yarn pulled through WS purl bumps to get to the next column.

The BO reminds me of why I hate long-tail CO: it's hard to control the tension (which is why I switched to crochet CO for everything, after I found it). Also, I don't think casting-on casting-off works well in a situation where there are groups of stitches constantly starting and stopping, with big gaps in between them. Also, I hate pulling a long tail through stitch after stitch.



Both ends match. Can you tell which one is CO and which is BO?

In a word (OK, two): NEVER AGAIN. This BO method, not the pattern. If I make another Summit, I will DEFINITELY use my standard crochet CO, swatching to see how many chains are needed

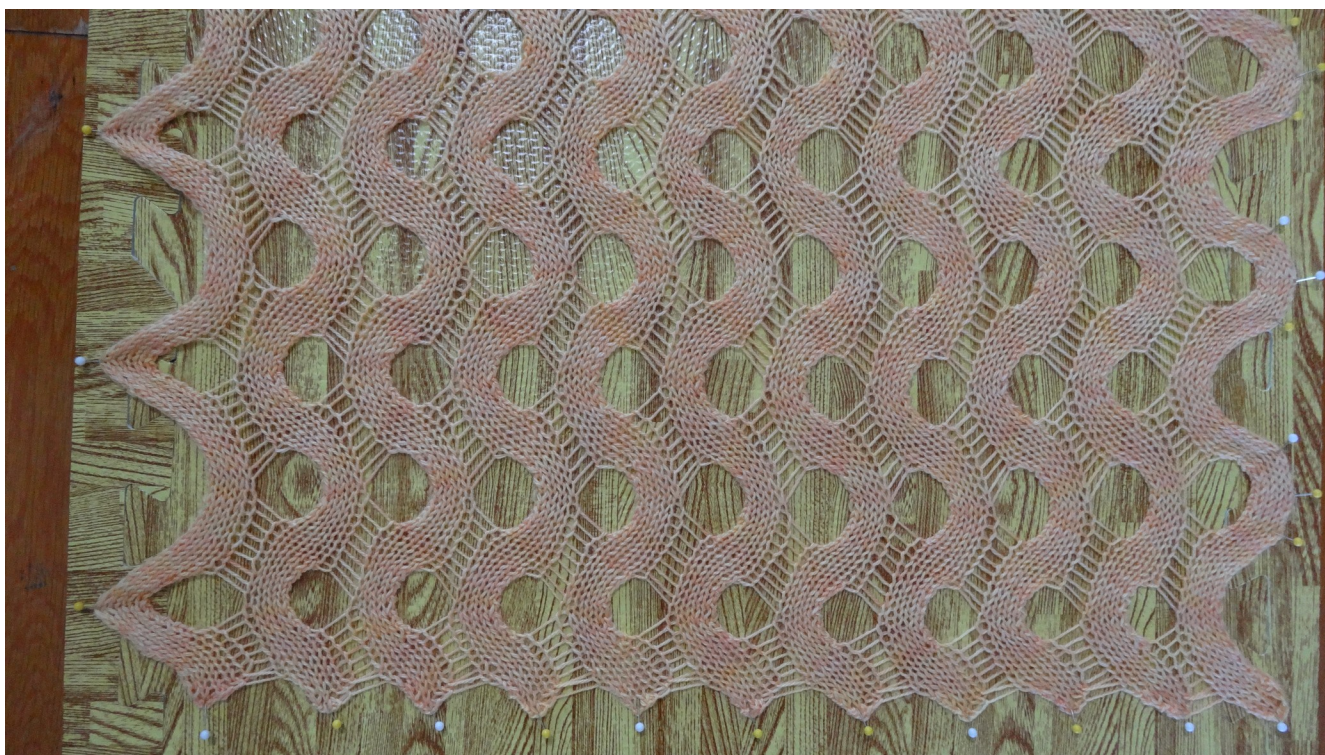
between each column to match the width of the rungs of the dropped stitches, which will then match to the pattern's as-written finishing directions.

Blocking

Those of you who have read Maggie Righetti's knitting books will understand when I say "The shawl didn't want to be blocked that way."

As I was pinning it out, it wanted to be wider, so I concentrated on making the lines of large circles be straight across the width. I pinned the outermost point of the outward curves of the right and left edges with just one pin, then when the whole thing was pinned out, I added a pin on either side of the pin in the center of each curve. After all, the edges should be curvy, not pointy. I unrolled the edge under those three pins.

I didn't bother pinning the inward curves of the edges nor anything in the entire center of the shawl. The outer pinning did enough (YMMV).



Right edge has three pins per outer curve, left edge awaiting extra pins

Off the needle: 13x53 inches

Blocked: 21.5x74

Sorry for the poor contrast. I use jewel tones for myself, not pastels, so I bought lighter-colored blocking pads.