



## Friendship Cowl

*With bright colours inspired by stained glass windows, this cowl is the perfect stash buster project and provides a splash of colour on misty grey autumn days. It's truly flexible in the number of different ways it can be worn.*

Difficulty: intermediate

Techniques: picking up stitches, decreasing, intarsia, short rows, optional i-cord cast off.

### Measurements

The cowl is 30cm (12 inches) wide and 170cm (67 inches) circumference.

### Materials

Yarn: oddments of DK yarn; approximately 10g (30m) per strand and 60g (180m) of border colour. I used the following yarn:

Stylecraft Special DK in teal, royal blue, emperor, empire, lobelia, cypress, storm blue, plum, violet, lapis, petrol, boysenberry, bottle green, aster, grape, turquoise and black.

Paintbox DK in pansy purple and rich mauve.

Needles: 1 set of 4mm needles, 4mm cable needles for edging (optional, for an alternative edging which does not require cable needles, please see my blog).

Other: darning needle for sewing ends, waste yarn for holding stitches.

Tension: 22st and 30 rows to 10cm, worked in stocking stitch with 4mm needles.

## Abbreviations

**cm** centimetres, **in** inches, **k** knit, **k2tog** knit 2 together, **k2tog-tbl** knit 2 together through the back loop, **LH** left hand, **mm** millimetres, **p** purl, **p2tog-tbl** purl 2 together through the back loop (it is also possible to purl together through the front loop, but this will not give as neat a finish), **RH** right hand, **RS** right side of work, **s** slip as if to purl, **st(s)** stitch(es), **st-st** stocking stitch.

## Picking up stitches

There are three different ways that the stitches are picked up throughout the pattern. All stitches are picked up either from a cast on edge, or a chain selvedge edge.

**One stitch on right side of fabric:** insert needle from front of work to back under both legs of the stitch. Pull loop to the front and place on needle. It should feel akin to knitting (see photo A below).

**One stitch on wrong side of fabric:** insert needle from RIGHT SIDE of fabric under both legs of the stitch. Pull loop through and place on needle. It should feel akin to purling (see photo B below).

**Two stitches from one stitch on right side of fabric:** insert needle from front of work to back under both legs of the stitch (see photo A below). Pull loop to the front and place on needle. Repeat in same stitch but only go under the back leg of the stitch (see photo C below).



## Working short rows:

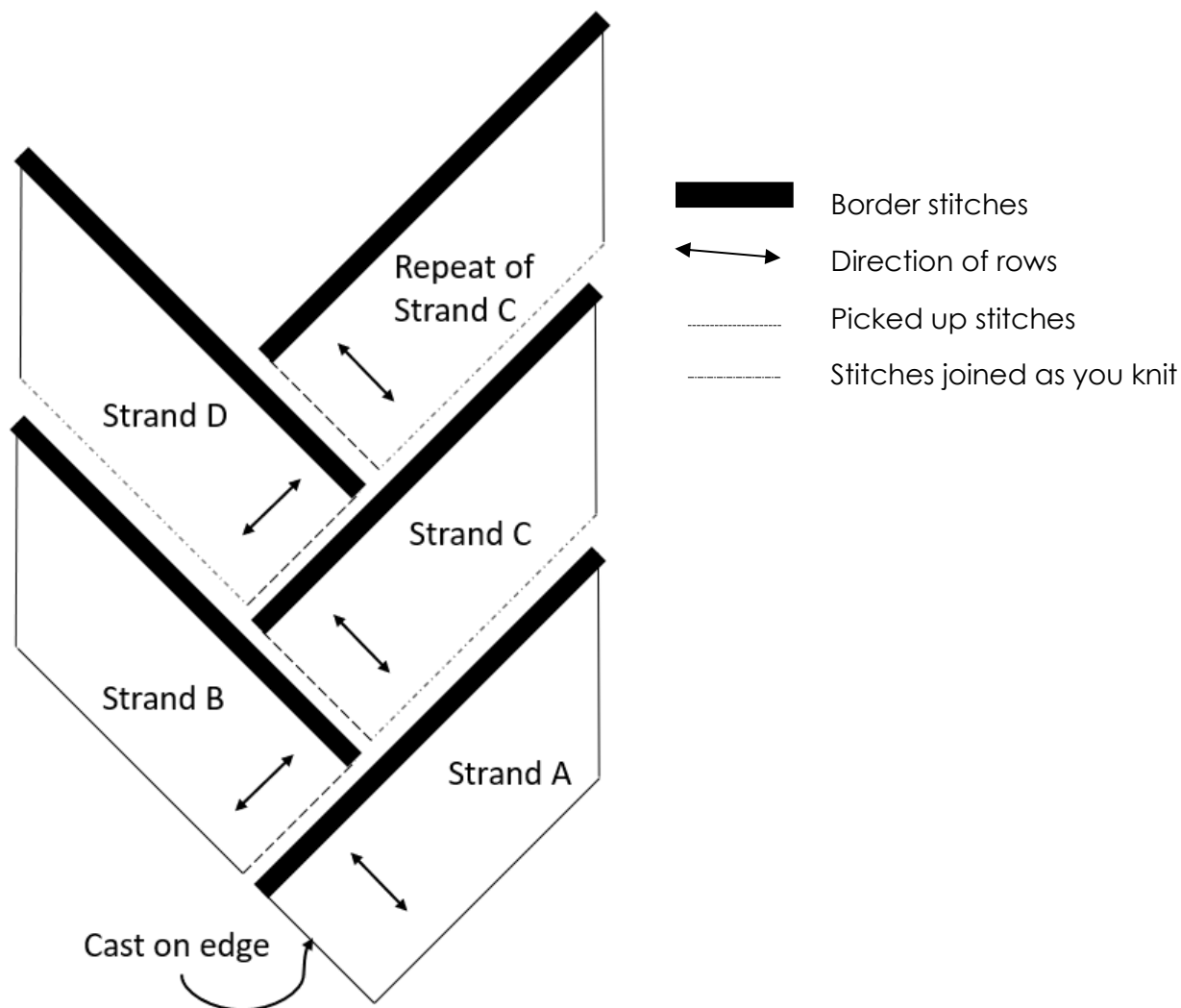
I did not wrap my stitches when turning the short rows, as I didn't want to have to worry about the wraps when I placed the stitches on waste yarn. This does mean that there will be a series of small holes along the edge of the cowl next to the border. This did not matter to me – the edge rolls over them, and I was happy to include them as part of the edge design. However, if you feel this would bother you, then by all means use your favourite wrapping technique.

## Working the edging

The edging instructions in this pattern require a cable needle as you will be working in the round with 216 sts. If you do not have a cable needle or prefer not to work in the round, please see [my blog](#) for an alternative way to finish the edges.

## Overview of the construction

Before you start knitting, it may help to have an idea of how the cowl is constructed, so that you can work out where you are as you go. Each strand is knitted separately but joined to the previous strand as you knit. Strands E and F are used to join the cowl into a circle (joining the last strands C and D to strands A and B respectively). Please see the diagram below for more on the construction techniques.



## Pattern Starts

### Strand A

Cast on 4 sts in border colour and 20 sts in main colour.

The 20 sts will be worked in main colour throughout, and the 4 sts in border colour throughout.

**Foundation row:** s1, p to end

**Row 1:** s1, k to end

**Row 2:** as foundation row

Repeat rows 1 and 2, working another 48 rows.

### Shape top

**Row 51:** s1, k22 turn

**Row 52:** p

**Row 53:** s1, k20 turn

**Row 53:** p

Continue working in st-st, working 2 stitches fewer on each right side row until no sts remain. Make sure that you finish with a wrong side row.

Break yarn, and place live sts on waste yarn.

### Strand B

With RS facing and working along border sts just completed, pick up and knit 1 st from first st, 2 sts from next 9 sts, 1 st from the next st. Change to border colour and pick up 2 sts in each next 2 sts. (24sts)

The 20 sts will be worked in main colour throughout, and the 4 sts in border colour throughout.

**Foundation row:** s1, p to end

**Row 1:** s1, k to end

**Row 2:** as foundation row

Repeat rows 1 and 2, working another 48 rows.

### Shape top

**Row 51:** s1, k to end

**Row 52:** s1, p 22 turn

**Row 53:** k

**Row 54:** s1 p 20 turn

Continue working in st-st, working 2 stitches fewer on each wrong side row until no sts remain. Make sure that you finish with a right side row.

Break yarn, and place live sts on waste yarn.

### Strand C

With RS facing, and working on border sts just completed, start picking up st. Start 13 sts from end nearest to strand A. Using border colour pick up 2 sts from each of first 2 sts (4sts). Change to main colour and pick up 1 st from first st, 2 sts from next 9 sts, 1 st from the next st (24 sts).

The 20 sts will be worked in main colour throughout, and the 4 sts in border colour throughout.

**Foundation row:** s1, p to end

**Row 1:** s1, k to end, pick up st from the border edge of strand A

**Row 2:** p2tog-tbl, p to end

Repeat rows 1 and 2, working another 48 rows. You should use all the sts from the border edge of strand A.

Shape top as for strand A.

### Strand D

Pick up sts as for strand B.

The 20 sts will be worked in main colour throughout, and the 4 sts in border colour throughout.

**Foundation row:** s1, p to end, pick up sts from the border edge of strand B

**Row 1:** k2tog, k to end

**Row 2:** as foundation row

Repeat rows 1 and 2, working another 48 rows.

Shape top as for strand A.



Repeat strands C and D another 6 times (or to desired length) for a total of 8 paired strands.

## Joining the cowl

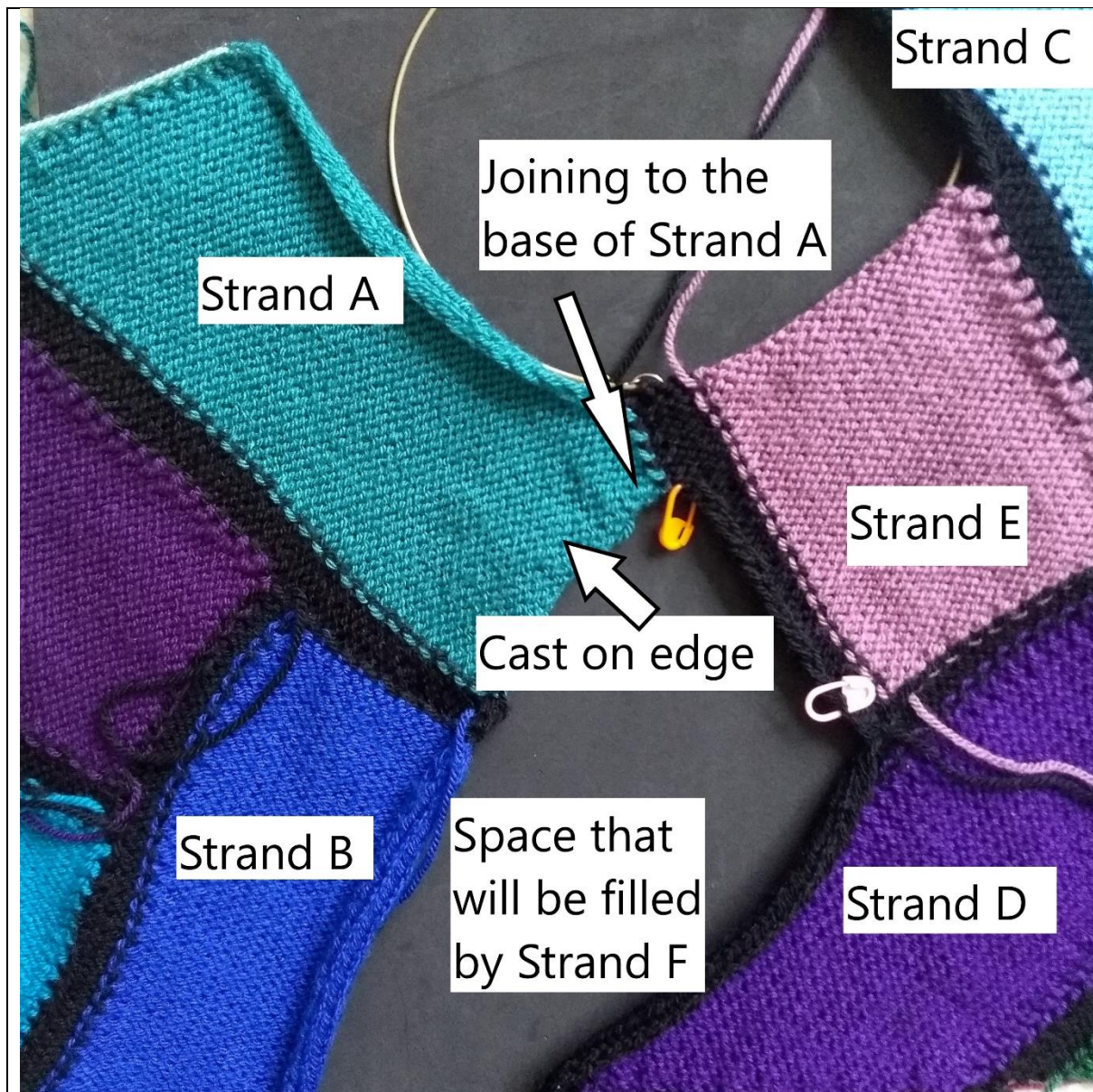
### Strand E

Pick up sts as for Strand C.

Work foundation row, and 24 rows as for Strand C.

You should now have 12 selvedge chain sts on the border edge.

The next step is a little tricky to line up correctly, so please use the photo D to help orient yourself. We are going to join Strand E to both the last Strand C and Strand A at the same time.



D: joining the cowl

**27<sup>th</sup> row:** s1, k to end, pick up st from border edge

**28<sup>th</sup> row:** p2tog-tbl, p to end, pick up one st from edge of strand A

**29<sup>th</sup> row:** k2tog, p to end, pick up st from border edge

**30<sup>th</sup> row:** as 28<sup>th</sup> row

Repeat rows 29 and 30 another 9 times. You should have used all the sts from the previous strand

### Shape top

You should have 13 chain selvedge sts remaining on the side still needing to be joined. Unless you are an amazing and extremely careful knitter, it is unlikely that the numbers will have worked out exactly. You may need to do a little tweaking to get the edges to meet. I recommend that you first read through the instructions for shaping the top, and then use the advice below to help adjust as necessary BEFORE starting to knit.

**49<sup>th</sup> row:** k2tog, k to end

**50<sup>th</sup> row:** p to end, pick up st

**51<sup>st</sup> row:** k2tog, k22 turn

**52<sup>nd</sup> row:** p to end, pick up st

**53<sup>rd</sup> row:** k2tog, k 20 turn

**54<sup>th</sup> row:** p to end, pick up st

Continue working in pattern working 2 stitches fewer on each right side row until no sts remain. Make sure that you finish with a wrong side row.

If you have the wrong number of sts – don't panic. You can adjust the pattern to make the edges meet and most importantly: **NOBODY WILL EVER KNOW!** I used all the techniques below to make my edges meet:

If you have too many sts you can

- Turn the row with 1 st left instead of two.
- Skip rows 49 and 50, going straight to row 51.

If you have too few sts you can:

- Turn the row with 3 sts left instead of 2.
- Join two rows into the same selvedge chain st.

Try to plan ahead – work out how many sts you need to adjust by and try and spread the adjustments throughout the whole of the shaping, rather than leaving all adjustments to the end.

Break yarn, and place live sts on waste yarn.

### Strand F

Using the remaining 13 selvedge chain sts of Strand E, pick up and knit as for Strand B.

**Foundation row:** p to end, pick up 1 st from cast on edge

**1<sup>st</sup> row:** k2tog, k to end, pick up st

**2<sup>nd</sup> row:** p2tog-tbl, p to end, miss one st in cast on edge and pick up in the next st

Repeat rows 1 and 2 another 11 times. You should have used up all the cast on sts.

**25<sup>th</sup> row:** as row 1:

**26<sup>th</sup> row:** p2tog-tbl, p to end, pick up st

Repeat rows 25 and 26 another 11 times. You should have used all the sts from the previous strand.

### Shape top

Again – if you need to adjust the final shaping, use the techniques described earlier in the pattern.

**51<sup>st</sup> row:** k to end, pick up st

**52<sup>nd</sup> row:** p2tog-tbl, p22 turn

**53<sup>rd</sup> row:** k to end, pick up st

**54<sup>th</sup> row:** p2tog-tbl, p20 turn

Continue working in pattern, working 2 stitches fewer on each wrong side row until no sts remain. Make sure that you finish with a right side row.

Break yarn, and place live sts on waste yarn.

### Finishing (both edges are the same)

If you do not have a cable needle or prefer not to work in the round, please [see my blog](#) for an alternative way to finish the edges. If you are happy with these techniques, read on:

Pick up all stitches around edge from waste yarn (216 sts).

Join in the round and knit 5 rounds (to create st-st)

The edge can be cast off normally, or you can use and i-cord cast off. Instructions for this technique are given below. [This video](#) is also very helpful to explain all the techniques required; including grafting the final edges together.

Cast on 3 sts.

**1<sup>st</sup> row:** k2 k2-tog-tbl.

Put sts from RH needle back on to LH needle, then repeat 1<sup>st</sup> row. Keep going until you have no sts left. Graft the ends together using kitchener stitch. To do this, cut the yarn leaving a long tail and thread it onto a tapestry/ wool needle. You are going to use this needle to help work the live sts off the knitting needle by joining them to the first row of the i-cord cast off.

Put needle through the first st on knitting needle as if to purl, pass needle though both legs of back st at the start of the i-cord cast off, pass needle though next st on knitting needle as if to knit. Take sts off the knitting needle and repeat twice more. You can tighten up the yarn as you go, or when you have finished. Weave in ends.