



Dreambird Shawl by Nadita Swings

Cathy Briscoe is teaching this Dreambird class with the written permission of Nadita Swings.

Swing-Knitting™ is a very special practice of short row knitting – a very old technique that is also referred to as German Short Rows. But we will use it to form a very special design.

Why is it called **Swing-Knitting™**? Well, that's because swing-knitting™ "swings" – it's like knitting music! You knit with only one color at a time, and your "knitting melody" gives the beat. You knit "stanzas" – defined knitted areas. This kind of knitting is at the same time exciting and relaxing – it just

"swings"!

Like instruments in a Big Band, the knitted stanzas of the whole knitting swing together: they seem to move with each other, side by side, one upon the other. And even the keenest knitter won't see at once how you have worked THIS pattern!

The Dreambird pattern is open to creativity, so use yarns that make you happy. Just make sure the yarn weights are of a compatible size with each other. You can add as many feather sections, as you want. The photo in the pattern has 22 feathers and the photo above has 23 feathers. You may want to check out the project pages on Ravelry for color and size inspiration.

Materials:

I used fingering weight yarn (459 yards/100gr for the background and 396 yards/100gr for the feathers) 1 skein of the background color was enough to make 15 repeats, 1 skein of the feather color made 18 feathers. I joined my shawl in the round to make a poncho/caplet with 18 feathers, using 1 skein of the feather yarn and 1½ skeins of the background color.

To help you calculate your yarn yardage, each repeat section used approximately 54 yards of yarn; Feather - 5.5g/22yards, Background - 6.5g/32 yards. The estimated yardage for 23 feathers as pictured above would be 506 yard for the feathers and 704 yards for the background.

Needle size will depend on your yarn choice, use the size needle recommended on the yarns ball band. I preferred a less dense fabric so I used a US size 4 for the fingering weight (one size larger than recommended on the ball band). If in doubt, knit a gauge swatch with the selected needle size to determine if you like the drape and density of the fabric.

Stitch Markers – 17 total of varying colors or styles, 6 of one color or type, 7 of another color or type, 3 of a 3rd color or type, and 1 special marker to be used to designate the feather tip.

Scrap Practice Yarn - 32 yards and needles of an appropriate size for your scrap yarn to be used for practicing.

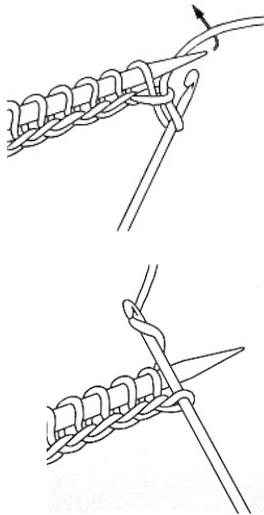
To Purchase the pattern, and for color inspiration click on the link below and the project tab:

<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/dreambird-kal>

Please print out page 16 of the pattern to use in class. The pattern must be purchased through Ravelry prior to the class. Due to copyright law I cannot print or make copies of the pattern page for you, you must purchase and print your own copy. Please be respectful to the designer, who has graciously allowed me to teach this class, by not sharing photocopies with fellow students. I will also be providing additional handouts, notes and helpful tips for knitting the shawl.

The pattern is a bit confusing in that the 22 pages contain 4 versions of the pattern written in narrative and row-by-row style as well as 2 size variations. You may want to read through the pattern prior to class. If you are easily confused by narrative style patterns, you may want to skip reading the pattern. If you do read through the pattern and are confused by the pattern writing style, have no fear, I will have handouts and lots of tips to help you through. I promise, the shawl is fairly easy to knit once you understand the short row concept. Students in a prior class joked that I should name this class “Dreambird for Dummies”.

Homework: with background color, chain cast on 5 stitches, place a marker, continue to chain cast on 127 more stitches (132 sts total).



Chained Cast On (aka crochet cast on)

The chained cast on uses a knitting needle and a crochet hook of equal size. This cast on gives a lovely chained edge that resembles the standard cast off, and is a great cast on for scarves and shawls that are worked side to side.

With your working yarn make a slip knot, and place it on the crochet hook.

The crochet hook will be held in your right hand and the knitting needle in your left hand.

Take the working yarn to the back, going under the knitting needle as illustrated in figure 1, on the left.

With the crochet hook over the needle chain 1, yarn over the hook and pull through the loop on the hook, as illustrated in figure 2 at left.

Repeat steps 2 & 3 until you have one less stitch than the required

number of cast on stitches (for the Dreambird this would be 131 stitches). Place the loop from the crochet hook onto the needle (the loop counts as your last cast on stitch).

Video link - <http://newstitchaday.com/crochet-cast-on/>

Note: Nadita’s pattern also gives you a smaller child size version of the Dreambird. Knitting the smaller version with worsted weight yarn (yarn quantities listed below) will give you a similar sized shawl as the fingering weight version using fewer stitches. In class, we will be using my fingering weight pattern revisions for an adult size shawl. My revisions for the smaller version of the shawl will only be provided upon request.

Worsted Weight Yarn Quantities for knitting smaller version:

Note: The shorter version is listed as a child’s size pattern using fingering weight yarn. Using worsted weight yarn, and the short pattern version, the short pattern will make a slightly larger shawl than the adult sized fingering weight pattern.

Feather -Deluxe Classic Shades “Lucky Rose” 394 yards (2 skeins)

Background - Deluxe Classic Shades Solid “Turquoise” 394 yards (2 skeins) Note: for the caplet you will want more feathers and will need a 3rd skein of the background color.

Using a US size 7 needles, each section used 27g/54yrds total; each feather used 11g/22yrds, the background sections used 16g/32yrds. 2 skein of each color (4 skeins total) made 11 backgrounds repeats and 12 feathers, with enough feather yarn left over to complete 2 more feathers.