

2014 Afghan Square or Scarf of the Month Club in 2018

Information Sheet

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It's been 10 years since I designed and taught the original Year-Long Afghan. During those 10 years, I've thought a lot about the original YLA and what I would do differently if I were to design a new one. So, it's time for an update! The idea of this project is that each square teaches a specific set of skills. The squares build on each other to increase your skills and create an afghan. Unlike the previous YLA, this one consists of 13 classes instead of just 12. The 13th class will be for finishing and assembly.

I've also learned that afghans aren't for everyone. I get it, and that's cool. I've worked out something for you too! Each month's design will also feature instructions for a scarf using the same techniques. Some of the scarves will be the traditional long rectangle, but others will be short cowls, long cowls, seaman's scarves, and even a triangle.

This class is designed for knitters of all skill levels. Beginners should not feel intimidated; as long as you know how to knit, purl, cast on, and bind off, you are welcome in this class. Each month, the skills that are taught build on what was taught the previous month. It's an excellent way to expand your knitting repertoire. That said, more advanced knitters will enjoy the class as well, adding skills and ending up with some really cool scarves or a gorgeous afghan.

Materials:

All of the afghan squares have been knit and yarn quantities are listed below; quantities for individual squares are listed with the monthly descriptions on the following pages. I have test knit a few of the scarves, but I will admit I have not knit all of them. At this point, yarn estimates for the scarves are based entirely on yarn requirements for the squares I have knit. I believe the estimates for the scarves are very close, but to be safe, you might want to get a little extra yarn.

The afghan pattern is written for 6 colors, but you may use as few as two or as many colors as you wish. The sample afghan was knit using Cascade 220 along with one color of Schachenmayr SMC Northern Wool (which is discontinued). Both of these are basic worsted weight wool yarns. Feel free to use other yarns, but know that thinner or thicker yarns will affect your gauge and the finished size of your afghan. Substituting yarns may also affect the amount of yarn required. To choose colors, follow your own taste. It is best to choose at least one dark color and one fairly light color. This contrast will help your other colors stand out. The rest of your colors can be anywhere in between.

Below are the yarns I used for the afghan squares. Numbers are the total yardage used for each color along with the number of skeins of Cascade 220 that will be needed to complete all squares. Assembly requires about 100 yards of yarn; I used Chartreuse and did not have to dip into a 4th skein. An additional 2 skeins will be needed for the edging in the color of your choice; I used Purple Hyacinth. Total yardage required is 2913 yards of yarn.

Cascade 220:

7814 Chartreuse (524 yds + 100 yards for assembly, 3 skeins)

8910 Citron (292 yds, 2 skeins)

9467 Delphinium (348 yds, 2 skeins)

7808 Purple Hyacinth (389 yds + 440 yards for edging, 4 skeins)

7824 Jack O'Lantern (493 yds, 3 skeins)

Schachenmayr SMC Northern Wool:

1737 Lavender (A good substitute for this color is Cascade 220 8912, Lilac Mist.) (327 yds, 2 skeins)

In addition to the materials listed on the following pages for each square, please bring your standard knitter's kit with you to each class. This kit should include scissors, stitch markers, stitch holders (or scrap yarn), a crochet hook, a darning needle, and a pencil or pen.

Finished Size of Afghan:

Approximately 48" x 62", using Cascade 220 to make twelve 14" squares plus border.

Schedule:

The following is a schedule of what will be covered each month, including special skills that will be taught and a brief description of the scarf instructions that will be included, along with any additional skills that might be required to complete the scarf.

SEPTEMBER: Texture Knitting

Tuesday, September 18, 7-9pm

With simple knit and purl combinations, you will create a lovely brocade square.

Skills taught: how to read a chart, measuring your knitting, gauge.

Scarf: long, rectangular scarf, about 8"x60"

Materials: Square: 185 yards (Delphinium), US 6 needles

Scarf: 450 yards, US 6 needles (I knit the sample using 3 skeins of Berroco Ultra Alpaca Light. This is a sport weight yarn. If you are using worsted weight, you may need a bit more yarn and size 7 or 8 needles)

Homework: Square: Cast on 71 sts. Work in seed stitch for 4 rows. Every row is (K1, p1) across.

Scarf: Cast on 41 sts. Work in seed stitch for 4 rows. Every row is (K1, p1) across.

OCTOBER: Short Rows

Tuesday, October 16, 7-9pm

Create a lovely, colorful fabric while learning the German short-row technique.

Skills taught: short rows, following written instructions.

Scarf: Infinity scarf/long cowl or long rectangular scarf, 14" wide x 56-60" long

Materials: Square: You can use as few as 2 or as many colors for this square as you like. I used all of my colors, with Jack O'lantern as the main color with stripes of the other colors. About 224 yards of yarn in total, distributed as follows: Jack O'lantern: 104 yds, Delphinium: 31 yds; Lavender: 27 yds; Purple Hyacinth: 22 yds; Citron: 20 yds; Chartreuse : 20 yds. US 6 needles, 4 each of 3 different stitch markers (these will be Marker A, Marker B, and Marker C).

Scarf: Use slightly larger needles (US 7 or 8) and quadruple the yarn requirements.

Homework for both square and scarf: Cast on 62 sts. K 3 rows.

NOVEMBER: Mock Cables

Tuesday, November 20, 7-9pm

It looks like cables, but it's actually strategically placed increases, decreases, knits and purls.

Skills Taught: reading a chart, increases, decreases.

Scarf: long, rectangular scarf, 8" x 56-70"

Materials: Square: 160 yards (Chartreuse), US 6 needles

Scarf: For a scarf measuring 8" x 56": 356 yards. For one measuring 8"x70": 445 yards (this could probably be done with 2 skeins of Cascade 220).

Homework: Square: Cast on 72 sts. Row 1 (WS): P2, (K4, p4) 8 times, K4, p2. Row 2: K2 (P4, K4) 8 times, P4, K2. Repeat rows 1 and 2 once. Work row 1 once more. (5 rows worked; ready to work a RS row).

Scarf: Cast on 40 sts. Row 1 (WS): K2, (p4, k4) 4 times, p4, k2. Row 2: P2 (k4, p4) 4 times, k4, p2. Repeat rows 1 and 2 once. Work row 1 once more. (5 rows worked; ready to work a RS row).

DECEMBER: Log Cabin

Tuesday, December 18, 7-9pm

Create a knitted copy of the famous quilt block by the same name.

Skills Taught: counting rows, picking up stitches.

Scarf: long, rectangular scarf or cowl, 10" wide x 60" long

Materials: Square: This square uses multiple colors. You can use all of your colors if you like. For mine, I used one color for the center square (the homework), and 4 colors for the bands around the center square. I used a total of 229 yds distributed as follows: Jack O'lantern: 7 yds, Purple Hyacinth: 47 yds, Lavender: 53 yds, Chartreuse: 62 yds, Citron: 60 yds. US 7 needles.

Scarf: If you are knitting the scarf or cowl, your options are more open. You can use any yarn you like, but I would recommend using a slightly larger needle size than you would normally use for that yarn in order to give the

fabric some drape. I haven't knit a sample yet, so I can only give you a rough estimate of yarn quantity based on the square. If you are using worsted weight yarn and knitting your squares to 10" instead of 14," a scarf measuring 10" wide x 60" long will take about 700 yds.

Homework for both Square and Scarf/Cowl: With center color, cast on 10 sts. Knit 19 rows (10 ridges of garter stitch). Bind off 9 stitches. This leaves one stitch on your needle. Cut yarn to about 4-6" (enough to weave in later).

JANUARY: Twist Stitches

Tuesday, January 22, 7-9pm (NOTE: This is the 4th Tuesday instead of the 3rd)

Often confused with cables, twisted stitches are accomplished by (what else?) twisting stitches and rearranging them through unique stitch manipulation.

Skills taught: right twist, left twist, reading a chart.

Scarf: close-fitting cowl; knitting in the round, about 10" deep x 20" circ.

Materials: Square: 185 yds (Lavender), US 7 needles

Cowl: About 200 yds, 16" circular US 8 needles

Homework: Square: Cast on 81 sts. Row 1 (WS): P2, (p1, k2, p1, k4, p1, k2, p2) 6 times, p1. Row 2: K1, (k2, p2, k1, p4, k1, p2, k1) 6 times, k2. Repeat Row 1. (3 rows have been worked, and ready to begin a RS row.)

Cowl: Using a 16" circular needle, cast on 117 sts. Join in the round, being careful not to twist sts around needle and placing a marker to signify the beginning of the round. Rounds 1: (K2, p2, k1, p4, k1, p2, k1) 9 times. Work Round 1 twice more. (3 rounds have been worked.)

FEBRUARY: Entrelac

Tuesday, February 19, 7-9pm

Knit connected little squares that fit together to look like basketweave. (*No Homework*)

Skills taught: picking up stitches, entrelac, knitting backward (optional).

Scarf: cowl; entrelac in the round, 10" deep x 28" or 60" circumference

Materials: Square: About 37 yards each of 6 colors for a total of 222 yards (if you are doing this square all in one color, you will be able to do it with one skein of Cascade 220, US 6 needles)

Scarf: For a short cowl (about 10" deep by 30" around), about 400 yds of worsted weight yarn. For a longer cowl that you can double around your neck (60" around), about 800 yds, US 7 needles.

MARCH: Cables

Tuesday, March 19, 7-9pm

Cables are stunning and surprisingly easy to achieve!

Skills taught: reading a cable chart, cable stitches, using a cable needle, (optionally) cabling without a cable needle.

Scarf: seaman's scarf, about 10" wide x 52" long; provisional cast on

Materials: Square: 235 yards (Jack O'lantern), cable needle, US 7 needles

Scarf: about 600 yds, cable needle, US 7 needles

Homework: Square: Cast on 96 stitches. Row 1 (WS): (P1, K1) 4 times, k2, p13, k3, p4, k8, (p4, k4) twice, p4, k8, p4, k3, p13, k2, (k1, p1) 4 times. Row 2: (P1, K1) 4 times, p2, k13, p3, k4, p8, (k4, p4) twice, k4, p8, k4, p3, k13, p2, (k1, p1) 4 times. Repeat Row 1. (3 rows have been worked, and you are ready to begin a Right Side row.)

Scarf: Provisionally cast on 64 stitches. Ribbing Row 1 (RS): K2, (p4, k4) 7 times, p4, k2. Row 2: P2, (k4, p4) 7 times, k4, p2. Repeat Ribbing Rows 1-2 until ribbing measures 10" from provisional cast on, ending ready to work a Wrong Side row. Set up for Cables: Row 1 (WS): (P1, k1) twice, k2, p9, k7, (p4, k4) twice, p4, k7, p9, k2, (p1, k1) twice. Row 2 (RS): (K1, p1) twice, p2, k9, p7, (k4, p4) twice, k4, p7, k9, p2, (k1, p1) twice. Repeat Row 1. (10" of ribbing plus 3 rows of Cable Set Up have been worked and you are ready to begin a RS row.)

APRIL: Mosaic Knitting

Tuesday, April 16, 7-9pm

It may look like stranded color work, but you will only carry one color per row!

Skills taught: reading a mosaic chart, color work using one color at a time, slipping stitches.

Scarf: long, rectangular scarf, about 11" wide x 70" long

Materials: Square: about 100 yards each of two colors (Chartreuse and Purple Hyacinth), US 7 needles.

Scarf: about 385 yards each of two colors, US 7 needles

Homework: Square: Using background color (mine is green), cast on 70 sts. K1 row (WS).

Scarf: Using background color, cast on 54 sts. K1 row (WS).

MAY: Embellishments

Tuesday, May 21, 7-9pm

Learn how to embellish plain stockinette stitch to bring interesting features to a plain knit.

Skills taught: embroidering on knitting, surface crochet.

Scarf: seaman's scarf not requiring provisional cast on, about 8" wide x about 44" long

Materials: Square: 155 yds main color (Citron) plus scraps of other colors. US 6 needles. Darning needle, 4mm crochet hook

Scarf: About 300 yards of main color, plus scraps of other colors. US 7 needles

Homework: Square: CO 70 stitches. K 7 rows (4 ridges of garter stitch). Begin pattern: Row 1: K. Row 2: K4, p62, k4. Repeat rows 1 and 2 until piece measures 13.25" from cast on edge, ending ready to knit a WS row. K 7 rows (4 ridges). Bind off.

Scarf: CO 40 sts. K 7 rows (4 ridges). Begin pattern: Row 1: K. Row 2: K4, p32, K4. Repeat rows 1 and 2 until piece measures 10". Do not bind off. The rest of the scarf pattern will be provided in class.

JUNE: Fair Isle

Tuesday, June 18, 7-9pm

Begin at the perimeter and work to the center in stranded color work.

Skills taught: knitting in the round, reading a chart in the round, stranded color work, decreasing.

Scarf: close-fitting cowl, about 22" circumference x 11" high; knitting in the round

Materials: Square: MC (Main Color; this is the color I used for the patterning; Jack O'lantern): 110 yds. CC (Contrasting Colors, these are the colors used for the background; in mine, I striped all of these colors): A total of 120 yds, divided as follows: Chartreuse: 25 yds; Citron: 20 yds; Delphinium: 15yds; Purple Hyacinth: 35 yds; Lavender: 25 yds. , US 7 needles (Set of 5 DPN, 16" and 24" circular; some knitters might like to have a 32" or 40" circular to start on; square can be completed with just two circular needles; I used a 16" and 24"), 4 stitch markers (one should be different from the other three)

Cowl: About 160 yds each of MC and CC, US 7 16" circular needles.

Homework: Square: With longer circular needle and Main Color, cast on 288 sts. Join so that you are working in the round, being very careful to make sure the stitches aren't twisted around the needle; pm to indicate beginning of round. Round 1: *(K1, P1) 36 times, place marker, repeat from * three more times. You should have all 4 markers placed evenly, with 72 sts between markers. Round 2: *K1, (k1, p1) 35 times, k1, slip marker, repeat from * three more times. You now have two rows of seed stitch, and you are ready to start the Fair Isle portion of the square.

Cowl: Using 16" circular needles and Main Color, cast on 112 sts. Place marker and join, being very careful not to twist the stitches around the needle. Work K2P2 ribbing until piece measures about 1½".

JULY: Lace

Tuesday, July 16, 7-9pm

Create a beautiful lacey square that is knit in the round, beginning at the center and growing outward. (No homework!)

Skills taught: Emily Ocker's Cast On, reading a lace chart in the round, lace stitches.

Scarf: triangle scarf; provisional cast on

Materials: Square: 150 yards (Purple Hyacinth), US 8 needles (set of 5 DPN, 16" and 24" circular. may be done with just the two circular needles), crochet hook 5mm, 4 stitch markers (one should be different from the other three)

Scarf: 385 yards sport weight yarn, size 8 needles. (Sample was knit using Cascade Yarns Heritage 150 Paints, Celtic.)

AUGUST: Intarsia

Tuesday, August 20, 7-9pm

Create vertical and diagonal stripes knitting with one color at a time.

Skills taught: reading a chart, intarsia.

Scarf: long, rectangular scarf, about 10" wide x 60" long

Materials: Square: 120 yds Main Color (Chartreuse), 80 yds Contrasting Color (Delphinium), US 6 needles.

Scarf: 300 yds MC, 275 yds CC, US 6 needles

Homework: Square: Cast on 72 sts. K 3 rows. (2 ridges of garter stitch worked and ready to start a RS row.)

Scarf: Cast on 48 sts. K 3 rows. (2 ridges of garter stitch worked and ready to start a RS row.)

SEPTEMBER: Finishing and Assembly

Tuesday, September 17, 7-9pm

We'll talk about different ways to assemble your afghan and how to add a nice edging.

Additional Notes

Homework

For most months, there will be homework. It is absolutely imperative that homework be completed before attending class. This will allow us to jump right in and start on the featured technique rather than wasting time casting on, working garter stitch borders, etc. In the case of the May square (embellishments), the entire square (or part of the scarf) will be the homework so that we can work solely on the embellishments in class.

Gauge

As with just about any knitting project, gauge will be somewhat important for these squares if you want all of them to end up the same size. If you are knitting the scarves, it won't matter quite as much, although gauge does affect the quantity of yarn required. Different stitch patterns will require different numbers of stitches and different sized needles. In the homework and instructions, I will tell you what size needles I used. However, your requirements might be different.

An excellent test would be to just knit the base square for May (which is just stockinette stitch with a garter stitch edge). Is it 14" wide? Too narrow? Go up a needle size. Too wide? Go down a needle size. Continue to do this until you get the right size for you. Ultimately, this will show you how your needle requirements compare to what I'm using. I used a size 6 to knit the May square. If you need to go up to a 7 to get a 14" square for February, you know that on all of the squares, you will probably have to go up a needle size. If you don't want to knit the entire February square, you can knit a 6"x6" stockinette stitch gauge swatch. I got 5 sts/inch on size 6 needles.

One more thing to keep in mind: If you choose not to worry about gauge, err on the side of too small. It's quite easy to add a little border to a too-small square to make it the same size as the others. However, if your square is too large, there's not much you can do to fix it.

Class Format

It is imperative that anyone taking this class has an email address. Reminders, updates, and occasionally corrections (nobody's perfect!) sometimes need to be sent out.

Printed instructions will be handed out each month in class. If you prefer PDF instructions, I'm happy to email them to anyone who is signed up and paid for the class. Just let me know ahead of time so I can email them to you before the class starts or let me know after, and I can email them to you then.. If we find any errors during class, I will also send out PDFs of corrected instructions.

At one point, I thought I might be able to make the instructions available in KnitCompanion format, but, due to the restrictions within KC, this will not be an option.

Class Fees:

\$20 for individual classes.

OR

Register for the entire year at once for \$220 (it's like getting two classes free!) AND receive an electronic copy of the complete pattern booklet after the class is complete.

Class size is limited to 8 students, and preference will be given to those signing up for the complete year. Please sign up early to reserve your place in class! If this class is very popular and we end up with a waiting list of at least three people, I will add another session on Thursday evenings.

PS: I've also posted pictures of the finished squares on the Gaea-Creations blog at <http://www.gaea-creations.com/2014/05/yla2.html>