

Frankie's Knitted Stuff

Lightning Shawl



This shawl is a variation on my Ten Stitch Zigzag pattern where narrow garter stitch strips are made to zigzag by regular increases and decreases and are knitted together as you go to make the finished fabric. For the shawl I have used 15 stitch wide strips and an irregular pattern of increasing and decreasing so that it is shaped round the neck and forms a point at the centre back. The elongated zigzags reminded me of streaks of lightning, hence the name.

Any yarn and needles can be used for this pattern but I knitted mine in Mini Mochi (180m / 50g), colour 105, Tapestry Rainbow. I used 250g of yarn and 4mm / US size 6 needles. My finished shawl is about 94cm / 37" wide and 66cm / 26" from top to bottom.

Things to Remember

Throughout this pattern I refer to ridges rather than rows. A ridge in garter stitch consists of two rows. It is easier to count ridges than rows.

I also use the terms 'zig' and 'zag'. The right hand edge of the strip being knitted increases for a zig and decreases for a zag. One zig and one zag make a zigzag.

Although the pattern is simple to learn, it can be easy to miscount stitches or to work the wrong number of ridges. Check your number of stitches regularly, you should always have 15 sts on the needle at the end of a ridge. To keep track of the number of ridges worked it can be helpful to put a safety pin in the knitting at the start of each zig or zag and count the ridges from that.

The First Strip

Cast on 15 sts.

Row 1: Kf&b, K12, K2tog.

Row 2: Knit.



Work these two rows fifteen times, fifteen ridges in all.

Now work the following two row pattern for the next five ridges.

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: Kf&b, K12, K2tog.



This will give you your first zigzag. For the first fifteen ridges the right side increases (the zig) and for the next five ridges it decreases (the zag).

Continue working alternate zigs and zags as described above until the strip is half as wide as you want your finished shawl to be, ending with a fifteen ridge zig. This width will shrink a little once other strips are added so bear this in mind when deciding how much to knit. I worked 4½ zigzags for my shawl.



The second half of this first strip needs to be a mirror image of the first so, although the zigs and zags are worked in the same way, the number of ridges to be worked is reversed.

First work the second half of the central zigzag.

Work 15 ridges in the following two row pattern:

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: Kf&b, K12, K2tog.

Now begin working the zigzags for the second side.

Work 5 ridges in the following two row pattern:

Row 1: Kf&b, K12, K2tog.

Row 2: Knit.

Then work 15 ridges in this two row pattern:

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: Kf&b, K12, K2tog.

Work as many complete zigzags as you did for the first half of the strip but only complete 14 ridges of the last zag before working the turn ready for the next strip.

The Turn

Next row: Knit.

Now cast off 14 sts, leaving you with just one stitch on the needle. Turn the work so that you are ready to begin working back along the strip.



Begin the next strip by casting on 14 sts to get back to the original 15.



From now on each strip has to be joined on to the previous strip as well as shaped. This joining is done at the end of the first row of each ridge by slipping the last stitch of the row knitwise, picking up and knitting a stitch from the end of the next ridge on the previous strip and then passing the slipped stitch over. This is the same join as that used in my other Ten Stitch patterns although the second rows are different.

Joining a Zig



Work 15 ridges in the following two row pattern:

Row 1: Kf&b, K13, sl 1 kwise, pick up and K1, psso.

Row 2: P2tog, K14.

Joining a Zag



Work 5 ridges in the following two row pattern:

Row 1: K14, sl 1 kwise, pick up and K1, psso.

Row 2: P1, kf&b, K11, K2tog.

Carry on across the strip as before, working a zigzag with fifteen ridges on both sides in the centre and reversing the number of ridges worked for the zigs and zags for the second half of the strip as you did on the first strip.

This way of joining the strips gives a neat raised edge on the side facing you but, as the work is turned over at the end of each strip, this raised edge will appear evenly on both sides of the work so the shawl is reversible.

Turning a Joined Strip

At the end of the strip work 14 ridges of the final zag.

Next row: K14, sl 1 kwise, pick up and K1, psso.

Now cast off 14 sts, turn the work and cast on 14 sts ready to start the next strip.

Just carry on joining strips until your shawl is big enough, casting off all the stitches at the end of the last strip. I worked ten strips for my shawl. That's it!

Abbreviations

st / sts	stitch / stitches
K	knit
P	purl
kf&b	knit into the front and back of the stitch
K2tog	knit two stitches together
P2tog	purl two stitches together
kwise	knitwise
psso	pass slipped stitch over



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