

The Netherlands

Seaman's Scarf



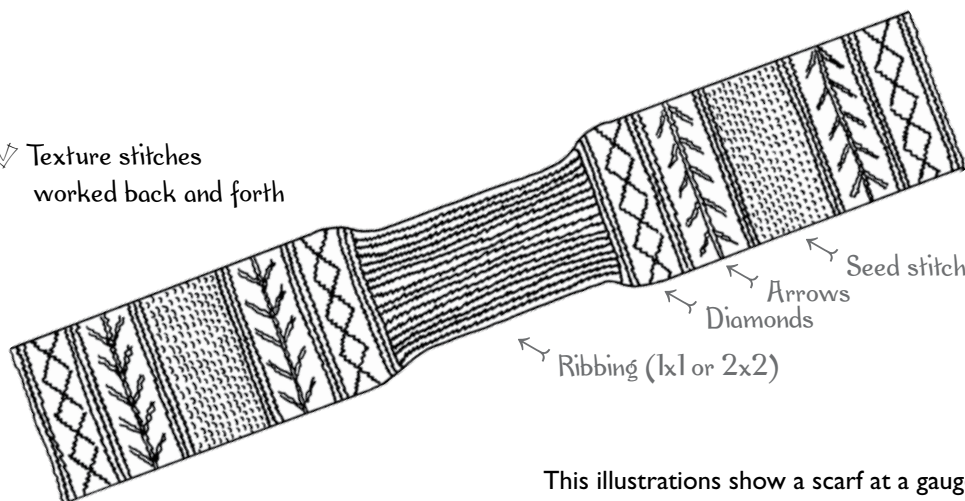
from
Ethnic Knitting Discovery

Although seaman's scarves did not originate in the Netherlands, they have been knitted there for more than a hundred years! The ends of a seaman's scarf are traditionally knitted in garter stitch, but they can also be decorated with pattern stitches as I'm showing here. The center of the scarf is worked in ribbing so that it fits snugly around the neck.

I borrowed this pattern concept because I wanted to offer a project that would give you a chance to practice following charts and working texture-pattern stitches flat. (To practice working similar stitches in the round, with the right side of the work always facing you, check out Danish Cap pattern, available either separately or in Ethnic Knitting Discovery.



✓ Texture stitches worked back and forth



Garter stitch at ends and separating all pattern bands

This illustrations show a scarf at a gauge of 5 stitches and 7 rows per inch (2.5 cm) that is 8 inches (20.5 cm) wide and has 18-inch (45.7-cm) ends. Remember that you can use any gauge and combination of patterns that you would like.

Smooth yarn will show off texture patterns best. For a wind-resistant scarf, choose a tightly spun yarn and knit at a gauge that is fairly dense without producing a fabric that feels board-like. For a softer scarf, select a loosely spun yarn and knit at a gauge that produces a fabric that feels cushy, not floppy.

Any weight of yarn will work, but for practice I suggest a medium-weight yarn and U.S. size 7 or 8 (4.5 or 5 mm) knitting needles.

Approximately 400 yards (365 m) of worsted-weight wool will make a nice-sized scarf.

Stitches and gauge

- ① Select the stitches for your scarf. Use the combination shown on the sample scarf illustration or choose your own combination of knit-and-purl pattern stitches.
- ② Make a gauge swatch in each of the pattern stitches you have chosen.

Even though gauge is not critical for a scarf, it is a good idea to practice each combination to learn the pattern and to make sure you enjoy knitting it. That way you'll make any mistakes on your practice swatch instead of on your scarf. You can also decide whether you like the fabric you are producing. Sometimes a change in needle size, either up or down, can make a big difference in your satisfaction.

- ③ Measure your stitch gauge. Each knit-and-purl pattern stitch will work up to a slightly different gauge, but the different gauges will all be close enough to each other so that you can measure the gauge of any swatch, or measure all of your swatches and take the average. Write the stitch gauge on the planning

worksheet on page 5. The row gauge can also be useful if you want to determine exact placement of your patterns within the scarf ends, but I recommend just winging it on the first end and then reversing the same patterns for the second end.

Size

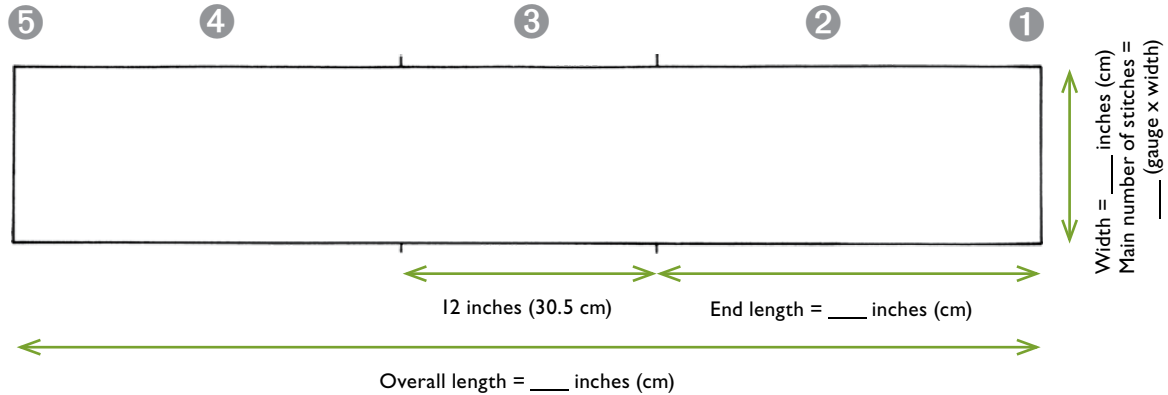
- ① Determine how wide and long you want your scarf to be. Write the measurements on the visual plan and the planning worksheet on page 5.
- ② Use the calculations on the worksheet on page 5 to figure all the remaining numbers before you start, or just calculate each new number as you need it.
- ③ Transfer the resulting numbers to the visual plan on page 5 or the step-by-step instructions on page 6, depending on how much guiding detail you would like to have while you knit. The visual plan can be helpful even if you are using the step-by-step project sheet as a confidence-builder.

Knit!

option 1: using a visual plan

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For knitters who are ready to work from the basic concept



- ① Cast on
- ② Work first end
- ③ Work center ribbed section (no shaping required; ribbing draws in naturally)
- ④ Work second end
- ⑤ Bind off

Knit!

option 2: using a planning worksheet

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For knitters who want to plan thoroughly in advance

Measurements and stitch counts

	Calculation	Example	Description
<i>Stitch gauge</i>	___ stitches = 1 inch or 1 cm	5 stitches = 1 inch	Gauge is not critical for a scarf. "Close" is good enough.
<i>Width</i>	___ inches (cm)	8 inches	Desired width of scarf.
<i>Total length</i>	___ inches (cm)	48 inches	Desired length of scarf.
<i>End length</i>	___ - 12 = ___ ___ ÷ 2 = ___	48 - 12 = 36 36 ÷ 2 = 18	Subtract 12 inches from the total length, and divide the result in half to calculate the length of each end .
<i>Main number of stitches</i>	___ × ___ = ___	5 × 8 = 40 stitches	Multiply the stitch gauge by the width to calculate the main number of stitches . See <i>tip</i> .

Need a slightly different stitch count? Increase or decrease by a few.

Do the calculations on the planning worksheet on page 46 so you have the numbers to fill in here.

1 Cast on

a

Cast on **main number of stitches:** ____ stitches.

2 Work first end

*Work 3 garter ridges (6 rows).

Work a full repeat of the texture pattern stitch of your choice. (For comment on edges, see technical note below.)

Remember to center your stitch patterns or adjust the stitch count (to a multiple of the new repeat) when you begin each new pattern.

B

Repeat from * 4 times, or until the end of the scarf measures approximately ____ inches (cm) (**end length**).

Work 3 garter ridges (6 rows).

3 Work center ribbed section

You need an odd number of stitches. If you have an even number of stitches, decrease 1 stitch; you can do this by working one k2tog in place of a knit stitch in the middle of your first row of ribbing.

Work in k1, p1 ribbing as follows:

Row 1: K1, *p1, k1. Repeat from * to end of row.

Row 2: P1, *k1, p1. Repeat from * to end of row.

Repeat rows 1 and 2 until center portion of scarf measures 12 inches (30.5 cm).

If you decreased 1 stitch for the ribbing, increase 1 stitch so that you have the same number of stitches in the second end as you did in the first end. You can do this by increasing 1 stitch in the middle of your last row of ribbing—don't worry that the added stitch will interrupt the ribbing pattern; just maintain the established sequence, matching the previous row, for the rest of the row.

4 Work second end

Work as for the first end, reversing the order of the pattern stitches for balance.

5 Bind off

Bind off loosely. Weave in the ends.

Tip: For some patterns, like seed stitch and ribbing, some knitters prefer to work on an odd number of stitches. I personally prefer to always work these on an even number, but if you like the other approach and you get an even number for your main number of stitches, add or subtract 1 stitch.

Tip: Average scarves can have widths that range between 5 and 8 inches (12.5 and 20 cm), with end lengths between 10 and 15 inches (25.5 and 38 cm). You may want to make your scarf wider or narrower, and longer or shorter, for special purposes or people.

Technical note: The edges of the scarf will undulate as you change from garter ridges to knit-and-purl pattern stitches worked on a stockinette-stitch background. I like this effect. However, if you prefer straight edges on your scarf, work a garter-stitch border along each lengthwise edge.

To prepare for this, add an extra 3 or 4 stitches at the beginning and end of every row. On both right-side and wrong-side rows, knit these stitches. Place a marker inside each set of border stitches as a reminder to switch to your pattern stitch.