Heritage Hand Paints

Triple Triangle Cape

Designed by Betty Balcomb
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I love triangle shawls, the ones made with 2 triangles separated by a narrow center panel of a couple of stitches. I have made many of them through the years from very simple to quite complicated. But I sometimes find them a little awkward to wear. The answer is to add a third triangle. The extra triangle changes the garment from a shawl to a cape which fits great. The middle triangle drapes across the back with a flat edge lying along the waist. The side triangles pull around to the front, meeting nicely in the middle where they can be joined with a shawl pin or brooch. If you are thinking that it means knitting 50% more fabric, it doesn’t. The shape allows for a much shorter piece. The amount of yarn used and number of stitches worked remains about the same. This cape employs the classic leaf pattern but with a vertical double decrease rather than the usual SK2togPSSO so the leaves have a nice spine like real leaves. Then the cape is finished with a spiky border forming a second leaf motif.

Materials: 2 100 gram balls of Heritage Hand Paints. Pictured cape uses Color 9882. Size 7 needles OR SIZE TO OBTAIN GAUGE. Markers.

Gauge: 9 sts to 2 inches. BE SURE TO CHECK GAUGE.

Glossary: DD – Slip 2 sts together knitwise, K1, pass 2 slipped sts over knit st.

Directions

CO 5 sts.

Establishing border rows: This section sits at the neck right in the middle.

Rows 1 and 2. K
Row 3. K1, *M1, K1, rep from * to end or row (9 sts)
Row 4. K
Row 5. K2, *M1, K1, rep from * to last st, K1 (15 sts- 1 border st, 3 for the triangle, 2 border sts, 3 for the triangle, 2 border sts, 3 for the triangle, 1 border st.)
Establishing leaf pattern rows: Place markers around the 5 borders (1 at each edge and 2 separating the triangles) if it helps keep track of the pattern.

Row 1. K3, *YO, K1, YO, K3, rep from * 3X.
Row 2 and all wrong side rows. K3, P to last 3 sts, K3.
Row 5. K3, *YO, K5, YO, K3, rep from * 3X.
Row 7. K3, *YO, K7, YO, K3, rep from * 3X.
Row 9. K3, *YO, K1, YO, K7, YO, K1, YO, K3, rep from * 3X.
Row 13. K3, *YO, K5, YO, K1, DD, K1, YO, K5, YO, K3, rep from * 3X.
Row 15. K3, *YO, K7, YO, DD, YO, K7, YO, K3, rep from * 3X.
Row 17. K3, *YO, K4, K2tog, K3, YO, K1, YO, K3, SSK, K4, YO, K3, rep from * 3X.
Row 19. K3, *[YO, K1, YO, K3, DD, K3]2X, YO, K1, YO, K3, rep from * 3X.
Row 23. K3, *[YO, K5, YO, K1, DD, K1]2X, YO, K5, YO, K3, rep from * 3X.
Row 25. K3, *[YO, K7, YO, DD]2X, YO, K7, YO, K3, rep from * 3X.
Row 26. K3, P to last 3 sts, K3

You should now have a completed set of leaves (1 in each triangle) and half of the second set (2 in each triangle). Now you will work the following 10-row repeat 12 times. With each repeat of the pattern the number in bold type at the close of the bracket will increase by 1 so that with each repeat of the 10-row pattern, 30 stitches will be added to the cape, 10 in each triangle.

**Pattern Repeat.**

Row 1. K3 *YO, K4, K2tog, K3, [YO, K1, YO, K3, DD, K3] 1X, YO, K1, YO, K3, SSK, K4, YO, K3, rep from * 3X
Row 2 and all wrong side rows. K3, P to last 3 sts, K3
Row 3. K3, *[YO, K1, YO, K3, DD, K3]3X, YO, K1, YO, K3, rep from * 3X
Row 7. K3, *[YO, K5, YO, K1, DD, K1]3X, YO, K5, YO, K3, rep from * 3X
Row 10. K3, P to last 3 sts, K3

Remember that with each repeat of the pattern, the number in bold type at the close of the bracket will increase by 1. For example, on the second repeat the bracketed sts in Row 1 are worked twice and the bracketed sts in Rows, 3, 5, 7 and 9 are worked 4 times. Continue in this manner. Stop and look at the fabric and it will be easy. With each repeat you work the top half of one set of leaves and the bottom half of a new set, one more leaf each repeat.

When there are 12 finished leaves in each triangle and 13 bottom halves, you are ready to start the spiky border. First stop and count the sts. Now work 2 more rows to establish the border being sure that you have a multiple of 9 sts. Knit 1 row inc’g as necessary evenly spaced to get the multiple of 9. Purl 1 row. Turn and cable cast on 4 sts and then work spiky border as follows:

Set up row: K1, YO, K1, P1, K1 (5 sts)
Row 1. (wrong side) K2, P3
Row 2. K1, YO, K2, P1, K2tog through the back loops (K2togTBL)

Note: the K2togTBL is worked with the last st of the border and the next st on the needle of the original sts. This is done on every right side row. In working the K2togTBL, 1 st is “bound off.” With each repeat of the wave border, 9 sts are bound off.

Row 3. K2, P4
Row 4. K1, YO, K1, K2tog, YO, P1, K2togTBL
Row 5. K2, P5
Row 6. K1, YO, K1, K2tog, YO, K1, P1, K2togTBL
Row 7. K2, P6
Row 8. K1, YO, K1, K2tog, YO, K2, P1, K2togTBL
Row 9. K2, P7
Row 10. K1, YO, [K1, K2tog, YO]2X, P1, K2togTBL
Row 11. K2, P8
Row 12. K1, YO, [K1, K2tog, YO]2X, K1, P1, K2togTBL
Row 13. K2,P9
Row 14. K1, YO, [K1, K2tog, YO]2X, K2, P1, K2togTBL
Row 15. K2,P10
Row 16. K1, YO, [K1, K2tog, YO]3X, P1, K2togTBL
Row 17. K2, P11
Row 18. BO 9, K1, P1, K1 (back to 5 sts)
Repeat Rows 1-18 until allow of the original stitches have been “Bound Off.” On the last row 18 of the final repeat of the spiky border, bind off all sts.
Weave in ends and block pulling out points of border.

A word about size: The directions as given will result in a cape that sits just about at the waist in the back and about elbow length as it wraps around. There will be enough yarn left to do one or two more repeats of the pattern. A third skein of yarn would allow for several more. Feel free to do additional repeats of the pattern before going to the border for a longer cape. Just be sure that there are a multiple of 9 stitches before starting the border.