

FW107



Flying Geese Shawl  
Designed by Betty Balcomb



I call this shawl Flying Geese because the pattern is reminiscent of the V formation of migrating geese flying across the sky. I did an internet search to find a romantic sounding word for this phenomenon to use as the name for the shawl. Interestingly, according to Wikipedia, the scientific term for this V formation is "skein." Skein Shawl did not sound very elegant so I went with the simple descriptive title.

The directions look long and a little daunting, but the shawl is very easy once you get going. The terminology is a little unconventional, borrowing from the Elizabeth Zimmerman way to knit. Trust it and do exactly what it says, stopping to look at your work and the picture to be sure the shawl looks like nesting Vs. The pattern is so geometric that the decreases and yarn overs just flow into place and the directions become almost unnecessary.

**Materials:** 3 skeins of Cascade Heritage Paints, pictured shawl is color #9884. Size US7 32" circular needles **OR NEEDLES REQUIRED TO OBTAIN GAUGE.** Markers

**Gauge:** Gauge is not crucial, but the pictured shawl had a gauge of about 5 stitches to 1 inch in stockinette before blocking.

**Size:** Finished shawl after blocking is about 32x76 inches. For a larger shawl, work more rows in pattern before starting ruffle border or make the ruffle border longer or go up a needle size; for a smaller one, do the reverse. There was ample yarn left from the 3<sup>rd</sup> skein of yarn to go a couple of inches bigger.

**Directions:**

CO 5 sts

Rows 1 and 2: K

Row 3: K2, M1, K1, M1, K2 (M1 by lifting the horizontal bar between sts and knitting into the back of the st)

Row 4: K

**Finishing:** Block and weave in ends.

Row 5: K3, M1, K1, M1, K3

Row 6: K3, P3, P3

Row 7: K3, YO, K3, YO, K3

Row 8 and **all** even (WS) rows for remainder of shawl except row 2 of the ruffle border: K3, P to last 3 sts, K3

Row 9: K3, YO, K2, YO, K1, YO, K2, YO, K3

Row 11: K3, YO, (K2tog, YO)2x, K1, (YO, SSK) 2x, YO, K3

Row 13: K3, YO, (K2tog, YO)2x, K3, (YO, SSK) 2x, YO, K3

Row 15: K3, YO, (K2tog, YO)3x, K1, (YO, SSK) 3x, YO, K3

Row 17: K3, YO, (K2tog, YO)3x, K3, (YO, SSK) 3x, YO, K3

Row 19: K3, YO, (K2tog, YO)4x, K1, (YO, SSK) 4x, YO, K3

Row 21: K3, YO, (K2tog, YO)4x, K3, (YO, SSK) 4x, YO, K3

All right side rows from 23 to beginning of ruffle edge, start w/ K3, YO, (K2tog, YO)4x, and end w/(YO, SSK) 4x, YO, K3. Directions as written do **NOT** include these 24 sts. **DO NOT FORGET THEM.** Don't worry, they are right there and hard to miss.

Row 23: SSK, YO, place marker, K1(ctr st which will always be surrounded by YOs on RS rows until ruffled border), place marker, YO, K2tog.

Row 25: K1, YO, SSK, YO, K1, YO, K2tog, YO K1

Row 27: K1, (YO, SSK)2X, YO, K1, YO, (K2tog, YO)2X, K1

Row 29: As row 27 but work the 2 sets of sts in ( )s 3x each.

Row 31: As row 27 but work the 2 sets of sts in ( )s 4x each.

This completes the setting up of the first set of mesh wedges, one on each side of a center st. The first set of stockinette wedges will now be worked. Stop and look at your work and compare it to the picture so you can understand how the shawl is growing. You may barely be reading these directions by now.

Row 33: As row 31 but begin and end w/K3

Row 35: As row 31 but begin and end w/K5

Rows 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51: Continue in this manner inc'g one st at beginning and end until there are 21 sts in the solid stockinette triangles which have formed between the outer mesh wedges. You will now begin to form the 2<sup>nd</sup> set of mesh wedges inside the 2 triangles which will spread apart and become a set of solid wedges.

Continue to work the outer and middle mesh wedges as established but work the 21 sts of the 2 triangles as follows:

Row 53: K8, K2tog, YO, K1, YO, SSK, K8

Row 55: K8, K2tog, YO, K3, YO, SSK, K8

Now continue adding 1 (K2tog, YO) and 1 (YO, SSK) at each side of center sts on **every other** RS row until there are 5 sets – 1 connected to the solid wedges and 4 spokes on each side. Sounds vague, but stop and look at your fabric and it will be obvious.

Now start building a new set of 21-st triangles in between the 3<sup>rd</sup> set of wedges on each 1/2 of the shawl. Then repeat one more set of mesh spokes as above but keep going until there are 25 sts in the solid triangles. The finished shawl should have 4 sets of mesh Vs, 3 sets of solid Vs and a final solid triangle on each side of a center st.

**NOTE:** If you want a bigger shawl, keep going as established for another inch or 2. The final set of solid triangles will grow by 2 sts every RS row. These bottom triangles can be any size. You can also make the shawl bigger by making a deeper ruffle in the next step.

The shawl is completed by working a bottom ruffled border as follows:

Ruffle row 1: (RS) K3, YO, K across row dec'g 1 st at center, end YO, K3

Ruffle row 2: (WS) K

Ruffle row 3: K3, YO \*K2, YO, repeat from \* to last 3 sts, K3

Ruffle row 4 and all WS rows: K3, P to last 3 sts, K3

Ruffle row 5: K3, \*YO, k2tog, K1, repeat to last 7 sts, YO, K2tog, K2, YO, K3

Ruffle row 7: K3, \*YO, k2tog, K1, repeat to last 5 sts, YO, K2, YO, K3

Ruffle row 8: K3, P to last 3 sts, K3

Repeat rows 5-8 until ruffle border is 6" or desired depth. The number of sts increases 1 st on each RS row.

K 5 rows for 3 garter st ridges

Bind off knitwise very loosely from WS