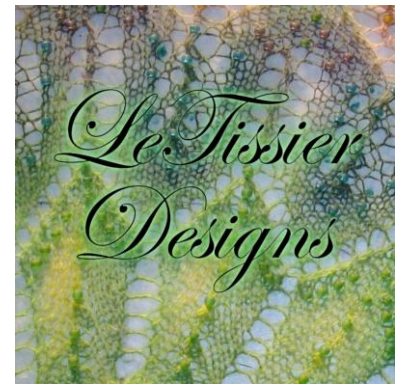


August Fancy - Grand Shell Collar



The Grand Shell stitch is the base for this pattern. It creates a wonderful curved edge and is a pattern with a lot of shape and texture. I have only used it once before, quite a few years ago. It seemed just perfect for this new fancy. You can read about the creation of this pattern in my blog – August Fancy – a Year in Colour.

The Fancy line of projects grew out of the [Threads of Colour – A Year in Squares](#) and these little projects have become quite my favourite part. Creating these small, interesting little things has made this year long exploration of pattern and technique project so much more than my original idea.



This is a pattern for an experienced knitter, or a very adventurous one. The beads add an extra layer. But as always, beads are optional. Check this post - [Crafting Exquisite Beaded Knits – Tips and Inspiration](#), for more information on working with beads.

The lace knitting is for the most part, standard but rows 8 and 9 offer a couple of challenges which are outlined in the special instructions.

Materials: 3.5mm US #4 straight or circs, approx. 100m light fingering weight yarn, sample was knit with a stash yarn, a local Cotswold (the Cascade 220 fingering would be a good alternative), 1 feature button (sample button is vintage 1 and 1/16th inch), markers and the regular notions.

If beading 171 beads were used in the cast-on and 249 beads in the body.

Gauge: after blocking, 1 pattern repeat at widest is 3.5 inches 9 cm

Size: One size – after blocking, approx. 28 inches on the inside and 40 inches on the outside – see notes on further sizing in the design notes after the pattern

Abbreviations: **K2tog** – knit 2 stitches together. **SSK** – slip the next 2 sts knitwise (one at a time), then insert the left needle across the front of your 2 slipped sts and knit them together. **YO** – bring the yarn forward between your needles

and then knit your next stitch as normal, allowing the yarn to loop over your right hand needle to form a new stitch. **yo twice** – bring the yarn forward between your needles and then once more. work your next stitch as indicated, allowing the yarn loops to sit over your RH needle form a new stitch. **SK2P** – slip 1 st, K2tog, PSSO

Techniques:

Beaded long-tail cast-on – beads are pre-strung and there should be the same number of beads as cast-on stitches, less 1. These beads are on the the tail (the length of yarn over your thumb). Start with your slip knot and immediately pull up 1 bead to rest close to the slip knot. *Cast on a stitch and then pull-up another bead.* Repeat from * to * until you have run out of beads and then cast-on one more stitch – this should give you the right number of stitches for your cast-on. **Note** – always check your bead and cast-on count.

Special Instructions A – (yo twice, K1) 14 times

Special Instructions B –

- 1.) Hold yarn to the front and slip next 15 sts to the RH needle dropping the extra yo loops to make 15 long sts.
- 2.) Insert LH needle into the backs of the 15 long sts and purl them altogether to make 1 st. Note – be careful not to lose the first double yo that is worked immediately before the sequence. Make sure to bring the yarn to the front before you start slipping your stitches.

Pattern

Working with 3.5mm needle, cast-on 173 sts. Keep your cast-on loose. The sample was cast-on using a long-tail beaded cast-on.

Knit 1 row.

Commence working from chart or written instructions. If working with beads use the chart for bead placements and when to place the beads, either before or after the indicated stitch is worked.

Written Grand Shell Collar

Row 1 (RS): K1, (k1, yo twice, ssk, k13, k2tog, yo twice, k1) 9 times, k1. (191 sts)

Row 2 (WS): K1, (k2, p1, k16, p1, k1) 9 times, k1. (191 sts)

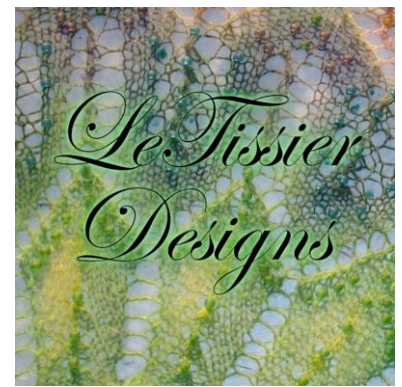
Rows 3 - 4: Knit.

Row 5: K1, (k1, (yo twice, ssk) × 2, k11, (k2tog, yo twice) × 2, k1) 9 times, k1. (227 sts)

Row 6: K1, ((k2, p1) × 2, k14, p1, k2, p1, k1) 9 times, k1. (227 sts)

Row 7: Knit. (227 sts)

Row 8: K1, (k6, (yo twice, K1) 14 times, k5) 9 times, k1. (227 sts + 252 loops – loops are dropped in the next row)



Row 9: K1, (k1, (yo twice, ssk) × 2, yo twice, **see special instructions B**, (yo twice, k2tog) × 2, yo twice, k1) 9 times, k1. (173 sts)

Row 10: K1, (k1, (p1, k2) × 2, p1, K3, P1, (k2, p1) × 2, k1) 9 times, k1. (173 sts)

Rows 11 - 12: Knit.

Row 13: K1, (ssk, yo, ssk × 2, k2, yo, sl2, k1, p2sso, yo, k2, k2tog × 2, yo, k2tog) 9 times, k1. (137 sts)

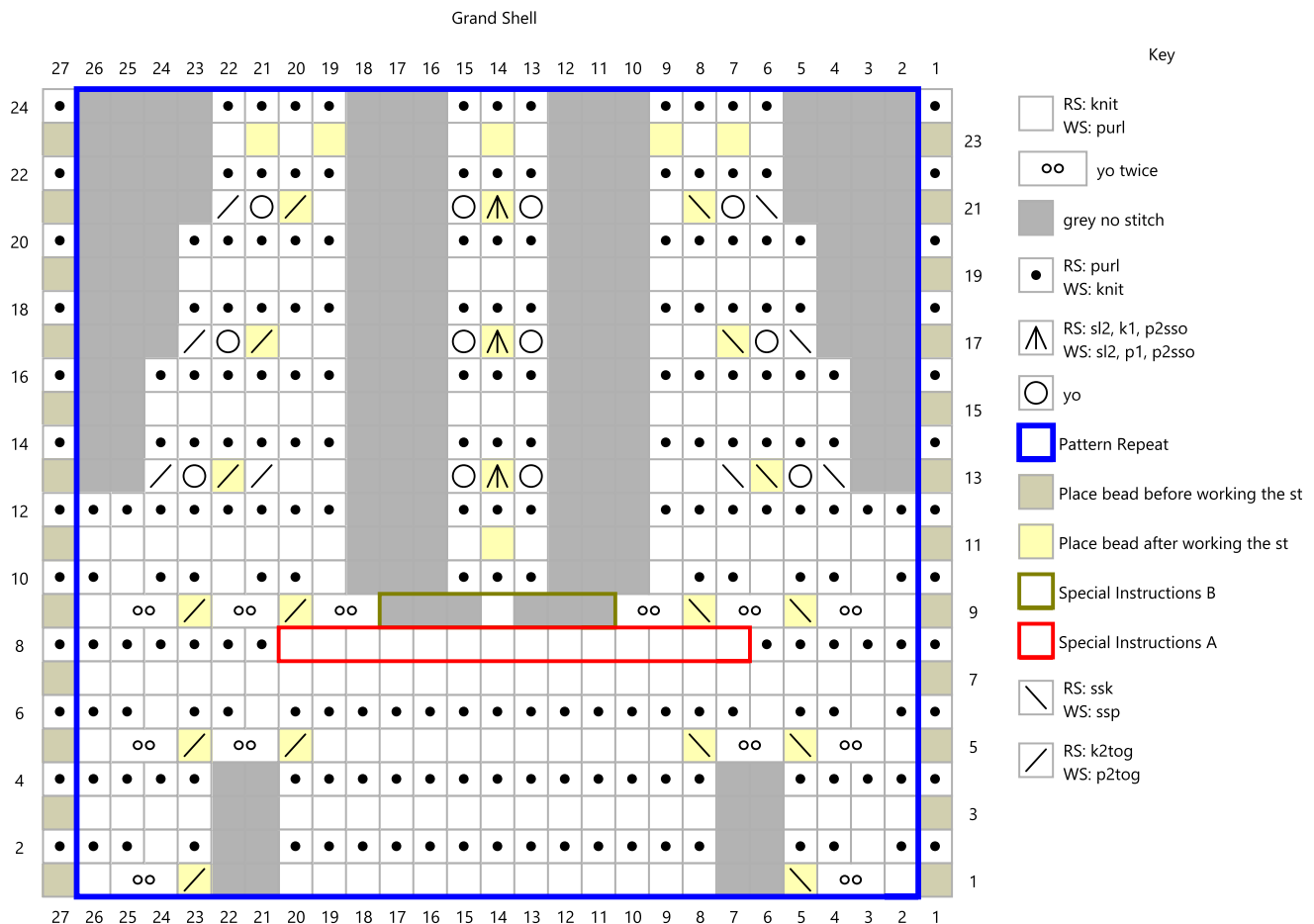
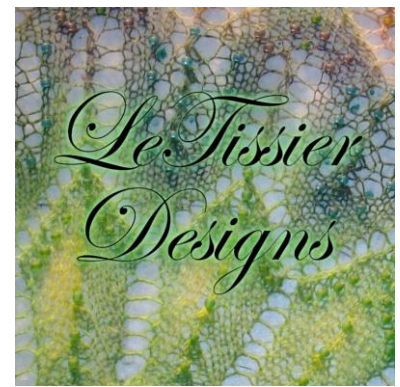
Rows 14 - 16: Knit.

Row 17: K1, (ssk, yo, ssk, k2, yo, sl2, k1, p2sso, yo, k2, k2tog, yo, k2tog) 9 times, k1. (119 sts)

Rows 18 - 20: Knit.

Row 21: K1, (ssk, yo, ssk, k1, yo, sl2, k1, p2sso, yo, k1, k2tog, yo, k2tog) 9 times, k1. (101 sts)

Rows 22 - 24: Knit.



Special Instructions A – (YO, YO, K1) 14 times.

Special Instructions B –

- 1.) Hold yarn to front and slip next 15 st to RH needle, dropping extra YO's to make 15 long sts
- 2.) insert LH needle into the backs of the 15 long sts and Purl them all together as 1 st. **Note** – be careful not to lose the first double YO that is worked immediately before the sequence. Make sure to bring the yarn to the front before you start slipping your sts.

Neckline

The neckline is finished with a 4 st I-cord bind-off. To keep the bind-off from being too tight there is a row of unattached I-cord after every 4th row of attached I-cord.

I-cord bind-off – when working I-cord remember to pull the yarn tightly from the back st to roll the cord.

With RS facing, add 3 simple loops (a cable cast-on will work as well, but has a heavier look) to the front needle containing the sts.

- 1.) *K3, knit the next loop together with the first st that was on the front needle and the first st that was on the back needle – I like to use SSK
- 2.) Slide the sts on the RH needle back onto the LH needle and repeat from *
- 3.) Work 4 attachment rows and then work an unattached row – slide the 4 sts on the RH needle back to the LH needle and knit

Work the I-cord until approx. 6 sts from the end of the collar.

Button hole placement

Start button hole when the I-cord stitches are on the working needle:

Bind-off, without knitting, 4 sts from the collar edge;

Method – slip 2 sts from LH to RH needle, lift the first slipped st over the second slipped st, slip another st over and lift the second stitch slipped over the third st, slip another st over and lift the third st over the fourth st, slip another st over and lift the fourth st over the fifth st and slip the fifth back to the LH needle.

Work 5 rows of I-cord without attaching.

Work the last 2 rows of I-cord, attaching to the last two sts of the collar. Knit the 4 sts together. Cut yarn

Finishing

Weave in all ends and block stringently. You can see how textured and shaped the stitch pattern is before blocking.

Design Options

Because this collar has a fairly short repeating pattern it will be easy to lengthen or shorten. Just add or take away repeats of the 19 st pattern.

The button hole size would also be easy to change by making it shorter or longer, based on the size of the button you choose.

