

Chutes and Ladders Scarf - Easy, Free Ribbon Scarf Pattern

Fashion scarves are an eye catching part of nearly every outfit I see around town these days. This is great news for knitters! Even beginner knitters can turn out a scarf and there are a gazillion great patterns out there. Many novelty yarns, including those gorgeous, colorful balls of wide ribbon, tend to have low yardage. To make the most of a low yardage yarn, I often choose what many refer to as a “drop stitch” pattern. This stitch pattern utilizes extra wraps around the right needle when making knit stitches on every 4th row and the result of the extra wraps is rows of ladders that truly show off the novelty yarn to its best advantage. This easy technique will not only make your yardage go much further, the result is a lacy stitch pattern that is especially attractive and knits up very quickly. A gorgeous, quick stitch pattern that uses less yardage – what a great idea for a scarf pattern!

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Here is my easy pattern using the popular “drop stitch” technique. You can cast on more or less stitches to adjust the width and use a larger needle size or more wraps for even longer, more dramatic ladders. The length of the scarf is up to you – just knit to your desired length. To make this lovely stitch pattern into one of the currently very popular infinity scarves, simply knit the 4 row repeat to the same length as a regular scarf, bind off after Row 2 and seam the short ends together to form a long loop that can be worn wrapped once or twice (even 3 times!) around the neck. Infinity scarves are so versatile and the long vertical loop(s) draw admiring eyes vertically, giving a slimmer look. Where this stitch pattern can have any number of stitches, it is super easy to tailor it to make cowls, wraps, and other interesting novelty designs. (See designer notes below.)

Materials - (2) skeins Tartelette by Knit One, Crochet Too
Size #15 US needles

Cast on any number of stitches. For my sample knit, I cast on 14 stitches.

Row 1 – 6 - Knit

Row 5 – Knit each stitch, wrapping yarn around right needle twice, rather than the usual one time. (There are now 28 stitches on needle.)

Row 6 - Knit each stitch, allowing the extra wraps to fall into ladders. (Back to 14 stitches)

Row 7 - 8 - Knit

Work Rows 5 – 8 until you reach 55” or desired length, ending on Row 8.

Final 2 rows – Knit

Bind off loosely.

Designer notes - A summer cowl could be knit up in a weekend using this drop stitch pattern and a 50 stitch cast on a 16" - 24" circular needle, joined to knit in the round. Use the drop stitch pattern (rows 5 - 8) but change odd number rows to purl each stitch, rather than knit.

For any scarf, wrap, or throw, ribbon makes awesome fringe, which is another great way to add length without using much yarn. I used (14) 10" lengths of yarn to fringe each end of my scarf. I also held 2 strands together for each fringe. Looks awesome, right?!

Meta tags – free, ribbon yarn, Rare Purls, Tartelette, knitting, pattern, easy, drop stitch