

CLUSTERFIESTA A Trapeze Net Scarf or Shawl

elen pass brandt, © 2015



One pattern, three versions: Clusterfiesta, Less Fiesta, and Plain – depending on your resources and style. As always – eternal thanks to my friends at Auburn Needleworks.

I am a lazy person...let's just get that out there right now. I want to see great big piles of knitted product in my lap at the end of the day, with the least amount of thinking and/or misery. I love cotton, linen, and silk in large pieces but don't want to feel a metric ton around my neck. Large and flowing, but light and using less yarn...that's the ticket.

"Trapeze Net" is about doing larger knitted pieces in a "fishnet" type pattern without a series of complex tap-dances to get there. It is all about speed, flow, and creating a larger piece with holes to eliminate the added weight. "Trapeze Net" is a lot like a trapeze act: swinging back and forth, sending a rope over, and joining two together – thus the name.

In its basic form, it creates a left (or right) leaning bias. (See "Trapeze Net" Scarf) I have also written a simple PI shawl pattern which does not "lean", (see: "Calzone") as well as a complex mixed cowl pattern of left-leaning, right-leaning and straight net (see "Ambivalence"), all are free on Ravelry.

Use any yarn you prefer, (my samples are made from **Sport to Aran weight yarns** and mixtures of lighter lace and fingering ones held together), but you will use **needles 2-3 times larger than those indicated by the yarn**, which also adds to size (with less yarn used.) Go to a size you can comfortably handle (depends

on whether you knit tight or loose.) I used US size 9 to 10 ½, 24" – 36", circular needles for these patterns. You will need at least 220 yards of yarn – but can go as large as you want, there are no limits on the top end. (I found that 300-350 yards creates a large scarf.)

The Stitches: **K** = Knit. **M1L** = Make one stitch left (lift loop and knit method). **YO** = Yarn Over. **K2tog** = Knit 2 stitches together. **Ktbl** = Knit through the back loop.

Set-up: Cast on 3 stitches (long-tail style) – then Knit one row
K, YO, K, YO, K
K the knits (or purls) and Ktbl the YO's
K1, M1L (lift loop method), YO, K2tog, YO, K2 (7 stitches)
K the knits (or purls) and Ktbl the YO's
K1, M1L (lift loop method), YO, K2tog, YO, K2tog, YO, K2 (9 stitches)
K the knits (or purls) and Ktbl the YO's

Go to

The Trapeze Net Pattern:

Odd Rows (which are wrong side here):

K1, M1L, (YO/K2tog) until last 2 stitches, YO, K2.

Even Rows (which are right side here):

Knit all knits (or purls), and Knit all Yarn-overs through the back loop

Continue with the Trapeze Net pattern as above until you (are satisfied with the size or have about 3 rows of yarn left) – Knit one more row, and then cast off very loosely (I knit tight, so I use a size 11 needle to cast off).

“Clusterfiesta”

(the “No Left-overs”) Version:



This is about having a wildly “wabi-sabi”, one-of-a-kind piece. Your own personal happy neck rag, with a blend of odd colors and textures - and you can add beads and trinkets too (now you see where the name came from.) Use all those semi-related, left-over yarns that you have in your stash. The idea is to start with the yarns you have the least of, working up to the larger length left-overs. You can break one long left-over into two pieces and use it in separate sections. If you want, you can hold two light-weight yarns together to make a more matching heavier yarn. As you add each yarn (don’t worry where you run out of each yarn, or on which side it ends/begins, the disorder is all a part of the joy and freedom) **NOTE: leave about 8-10 inches of the beginning and end yarns when you switch to a new yarn (which will be tied together in a knot and NOT woven in). Complete the pattern as written above. For the larger/heavier weight pieces on at least size 10 needles, I found that when you reach 145-160 or more stitches, you will have an adequate length scarf – or keep going as far as you can.**

NOW....all those little strings hanging everywhere – they need a purpose! Knot a light-weight bead or a small charm (or two) on those remaining strands. And/or you can do small decorative Chinese macramé-type decorative knots to give a finished look. The tiny hanging objects add a subtle part of interest. You could also personalize it as a gift with tiny letter-block Alphabet beads instead. There really are no rules – it’s all about fun and disorder. But, don’t use things too heavy. Small glass/faux metal plastic beads with Chinese knotting worked well for me.

My sample pieces included some of these yarns: **Euroflax Linen Sport Weight, Aracania** – “Lontue” Lace (cotton/linen), **Maggi’s Linen DK** (cotton/linen), **Knit One, Crochet Too’s**, “2nd Time Cotton” Worsted (cotton/rayon), **Elsebeth Lavold’s**, “Hempathy” Dk (cotton/hemp/rayon). My samples are made from **DK to Aran weight yarns** and (mixtures of lighter ones held together).

“Less Fiesta” (More Siesta) Version. (Two yarns, No beads)



A simpler version, no beads, ends woven in, two yarns total. Creating a wide color section and smaller ending contrast stripe.

As before – do the same set-up and Trapeze Net pattern on page one.

Knit One, Crochet Too's , 2nd Time Cotton Worsted (cotton/rayon) in the Scottish Heather and Linen colorways (180 yards each.) The drape is really wonderful, and is deceptively light for its size. I used a US **10 ½ size** - 32" Circular needles and approximately **1 and ¾ skeins** of yarn and ended on **145 stitches** on the needle. Finished size **53"** longest to **30"** (end line to starting point = depth.)



Model: Rae O'Neil... thank you.

Elsebeth Lavold's Silky Wool; DK to light Worsted, in "green-gold" and Eggplant colors. At **175 meters per skein**, I used about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the "green-gold" skein and all of the eggplant. **Size 9** – 24" circular Needles. Finished size **46"** longest to **20** Finished size **53"** longest to **30"** (depth) finished with **155 stitches** on the needle.

Plain Version: (No flash, no cleaning out of your stash...)

Ahhh, now for my *favorite* little neck rag – wraps once and ties – comfortable, quick – perfect. Neck jammies! Make it in less than a day – perfection for the lazy.

As before – do the same set-up and Trapeze Net pattern.

The sample was worked in **Berroco's "Indigo"** (which I love, love, love – Levi's for the neck...well, of course, it is made of 95% recycled cotton denim)... 1 Skein of Color #6470 (matches my Levis), **DK weight, 219 yards on size 10 1/2 needles. 119 Stitches** on the needle at end. Finished size **42"** longest to **16"** (end line to starting point). I am going to make one in every color and sleep in them!

