Bias Scarf with Variations

This scarf is worked as long biased strips which move along the needlebed and are joined to other strips as they are knit. The long edges roll nicely so they need no further attention. The slanted cast on and off ends could be finished with a crochet edge if desired.

The idea came from Susan Guagliumi's Hand-Manipulated Stitches video which is sold on Craftsy.com.

This scarf could be knit on any machine to any length, in one or any number of colours, two panels or how ever many you like, each panel the same size or whatever....the variations are endless.

My samples were knit on my LK150 6.5mm gauge machine in an acrylic DK yarn with a yardage of 280 m per 100g at T5. Gauge was approx. 7 sts x 6.4 R to 1 inch. Each 14-stitch strip knit the length of the needlebed weighed 25 g so this is a great project for using up leftovers.

The blue scarf has the two end strips of 14 stitches in navy, two 14-stitch strips in royal blue and a 10-stitch centre strip in light blue. The width is 9"/23 cm, length is 44"/112 cm and weight is 124 g.

The natural scarf has two end strips of 14 stitches and a centre strip of

28 stitches. It is 8.5"/22 cm by 42"/107 cm and weighs 102 g.

Knitting will start at one end of the needlebed and will move along it. My 14-stitch strips were 274 rows long when they reached the other side of the bed but different widths will give you different lengths so you may have to move the stitches back to the first end to get the length you want.

You may have to be sure to pass the row counter or count as you go if you want the first strip to be a certain length. Or count the loops, multiply by 2 and add 2 to calculate the number of rows you have knit. Once you have the length for the first strip there is no need to keep track for the next ones as you will pick up loops until they are all done.

Knitting can start on the left or the right side of the needlebed as you wish. If you start on the right side you will need to crochet cast on from the right which may be a little awkward but I found the knitting easier as I tended to use both hands more than when I worked from the left side of the needlebed. Working from the left I tended to use only my right hand on the carriage which resulted in lots of stitches not knitting properly.

My blue sample was started on the Left and the natural one was started on the Right; it makes no difference so just pick a side and continue with it.

To knit these samples:
• the <u>First Strip</u> knit is an edge one
• *pull out the number of needles you wish to work on and work a crochet cast on (if working from the right have the carriage on the left to start)
• knit 2 rows* (do not weave the tails in as they are used to join the tips of the strips when you finish the scarf)
• Right Start: COL, work a full fashioned decrease on the right by moving 3 sts in 1 needle; pull a new needle on the left to work position (this will form the increase loop); knit 2 rows
• Left Start: COR, work a full fashioned decrease on the left by moving 3 stitches in 1 needle; pull a new needle on the right to work position (this will form the increase loop); knit 2 rows
• **continue along the needlebed until you reach the other end; if you need more length reposition the stitches to the first side to continue
• when you reach your desired length, work the last shaping row, knit only 1 row, then knit the last row at maximum tension and crochet bind off**

• <u>Centre Strip</u>: repeat * to * over the desired number of needles in the desired colour
• Right Start: COL, pick up the first loop at the bottom of the last strip onto the right needle, then move the end stitch with the loop in 1 needle to form a decrease; pull a new needle on the left to work position; knit 2 rows
• Left Start: COR, pick up the first loop at the bottom of the last strip onto the left needle, then move the end stitch with the loop in 1 needle to form a decrease; pull a new needle on the right to work position; knit 2 rows
• repeat ** to ** for this strip
•• repeat the Centre Strip if you want another one and for as many as you want

• the Last Strip is the outer/edge strip on the other side
• repeat * to * over the desired number of needles in the desired colour
• Right Start: COL, on the right pick up a loop and decrease as before; on the left work a full fashioned increase by moving the end 2 stitches out by 1 needle and picking up a bar to fill the empty needle; knit 2 rows
• Left Start: COR, on the left pick up a loop and decrease as before; on the right work a full fashioned increase by moving the end 2 stitches out by 1 needle and picking up a bar to fill the empty needle; knit 2 rows
• repeat ** to ** for this strip

• to Finish, use tails to just connect tips of the strips together and sew in, crochet along short ends if desired, and block

Variations:
• this idea is so much fun to play with, lots of what-ifs to try
• *do not forget to decrease opposite the carriage, increase on carriage side and knit 2 rows as given on the previous page*

Variation 1: Alternating Knit and Purl Sides on the Scarf:
• results in more texture and interest
• needs odd number of panels so the outer ones roll in the same direction
• the short edges will be slanted
• the joins look different on both sides so I think a number of panels are better to show the differences as a pattern
• my sample had 5 panels of 10 stitches each in 2 alternating colours

• work the First Strip as a Right Start for the length desired
• Second Strip is a Left Start with the First Strip held with knit side facing you and picked up on the left
• Third Strip is a Right Start with the Second Strip held with knit side facing you and picked up on the right
• Fourth Strip is a Left Start with the Third Strip held with knit side facing you and picked up on the left
• Fifth/Last Strip is a Right Start with the Fourth Strip held with knit side facing you and picked up on the right with increases on the left

Variation 1

Variation 2: Alternating Right and Left Starts:

• this is flatter than Variation 1 as all knit sides are on one side of the scarf with purls on the other side
• needs odd number of panels so the outer ones roll in the same direction
• the short edges will be chevrons with the two edges having opposite angles
• the joins look different on both sides so I think a number of panels are better to show the differences as a pattern
• my sample had 5 panels of 10 stitches each in 2 alternating colours
• leave long tails to thread over to connect at the edges

• work the First Strip as a Right Start for the length desired
• Second Strip is a Left Start with the First Strip held upside-down with purl side facing you and picked up on the left
• Third Strip is a Right Start with the Second Strip held upside-down with purl side facing you and picked up on the right
• Fourth Strip is a Left Start with the Third Strip held upside-down with purl side facing you and picked up on the left
• Fifth/Last Strip is a Right Start with the Fourth Strip held upside-down with purl side facing you and picked up on the right with increases on the left

Variation 2

Variation 3: All Right Starts with Alternating Knit and Purl Sides Showing:
• this produces a very twisty scarf that must be blocked
• needs odd number of panels so the outer ones roll in the same direction
• the short edges will be chevrons with the two edges having opposite angles
• note that using different numbers of stitches in each strip results in different chevron angles
• the joins look different on both sides so I think a number of panels are better to show the differences as a pattern
• my sample had 4 panels of varying stitches in 3 colours but I would use 5 panels next time so both sides roll in the same direction

• all the strips begin with Right Starts and all the previous strips are held upside-down with the knit side facing you

Variation 4: Two Strips Twisted Together:
• this is a very twisted scarf that should be knit very long to wrap around the neck; an accessory rather than a warm scarf
• the knit side will be the right side of both strips
• the Second Strip will automatically twist around the First one and be the dominant colour (cream in my sample)
• the short edges will be chevrons with the two edges having opposite angles
• the strips should be only a small number of stitches for maximum twist
• both strips are the same number of stitches (14 in my sample)

• both are Right Starts with the First Strip held upside-down with the knit side facing you as you knit the Second/Last
• no blocking is necessary

•• Both of these variations can be Left Starts throughout if preferred.

Variation 3 on left and Variation 4 on right

Variation 5: One Strip Bias Scarf:

• no joining in this sample, just one strip with increases on one side and decreases on the other side, such an easy way to knit a scarf with controlled rolled edges
• the short edges will be slanted

• crochet cast on the desired width at the side of the needlebed as either a Left or Right Start (sample was 50 stitches)
• #increase on the carriage side as given for the Last Strip and decrease opposite the carriage as given for the First Strip every 2 rows for the length

Variation 6: Scarf with Rounded Edges:

• no biasing in this scarf, just straight knitting with increases and decreases to create the rounded rolled edges
• the short edges are straight and would look best with crochet trim
• the purple sample was knit in 50 stitches on the mid-gauge while the grey sample was knit in 60 stitches on a standard in a hard-twist yarn
• blocking is necessary to bring out the shape

• cast on in the centre of the bed and knit 2 rows
• *RC000, work 20 rows of increases and decreases as given above #
• knit 1 extra row to bring the carriage to the other side*
• work 20 rows of increases and decreases which will now be on the opposite sides than the first 20 rows
• repeat * to * for the length

Other variation ideas:

• lap blankets with chevrons on the sides
• shawls or ponchos knit sideways without joining to leave neck openings
• narrow scarves with keyholes created by not joining in certain sections
• some many ideas, so little time

Variation 5 on the left with two samples of Variation 6 on the right