

Birch Leaf Shawl

BY SUSAN GUTPERL

Finished Size: As wide and as long as you want it to be

Yarn: Yarn of your choice

Needles: Choose needle size appropriate for your chosen yarn. Lace patterns are usually worked at least 2 sizes larger than given on the ball band.

Gauge: Not important

Notions: If needed, stitch markers to mark repeats and tapestry needle for weaving in ends.

Note: This pattern recipe has been originally published in my blog under the title „Bottom-up Birch“

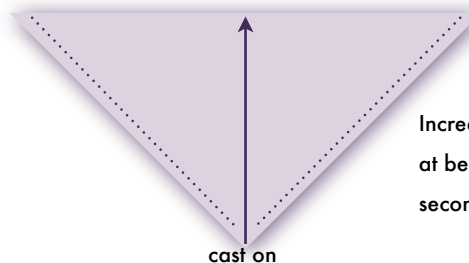


Easy to work shawl based on a pretty leaf pattern with two different construction methods to choose from.

This shawl is inspired by ‚Birch‘ by Sharon Miller, originally published in Rowan Magazine No. 34. ‚Birch‘ became very popular and has been knitted hundreds and hundreds of times all over the world. The pattern has its drawbacks though which led me to writing up this alternative pattern. Which drawbacks? Well, there’s the casting on of 300 stitches in the most slippery yarn known to mankind for once. The pattern also doesn’t contain any charts, as was usual for Rowan for the longest time. And then there is the fact that lots of people seemed to have trouble with the required 3 balls of yarn. It wasn’t enough and they had to buy more. Which is impossible sometimes.

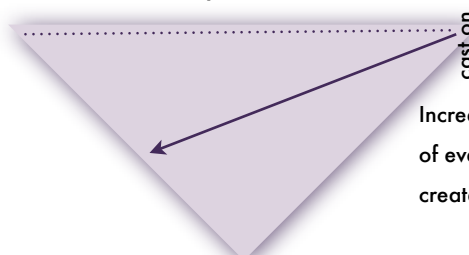
The pretty birch leaf pattern is an old standard in lace knitting and can easily be incorporated into a bottom-up or even sideways shawl construction. That way you won’t risk running out of yarn. Having to cast on only a small amount of stitches in the beginning certainly counts as a bonus in my book.

Construction A: Bottom-up



Increases are worked symmetrical at beginning and end of every second row.

Construction B: Sideways



Increases are worked at beginning of every second row only which creates an asymmetrical pattern.

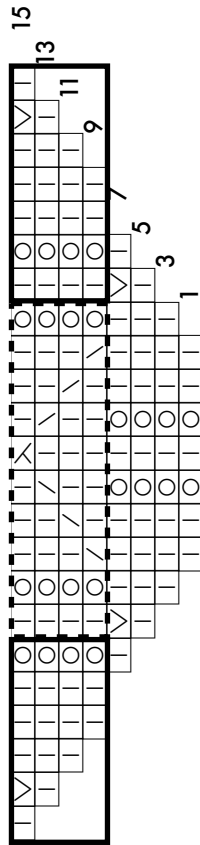
Construction A: Bottom up



Construction B: Sideways









Chart for construction A:



For construction A cast on 5 sts, purl across back and start working chart row 1. Repeat rows 9 to 16 as often as you like. For every time these 8 rows are repeated the part inside dotted box gets worked one more time than before.

For construction B cast on 4 sts, purl across back and start working chart row 1. Repeat rows 25 to 40 as often as you like. For every time these rows are repeated the part insided dotted box gets worked one more time.

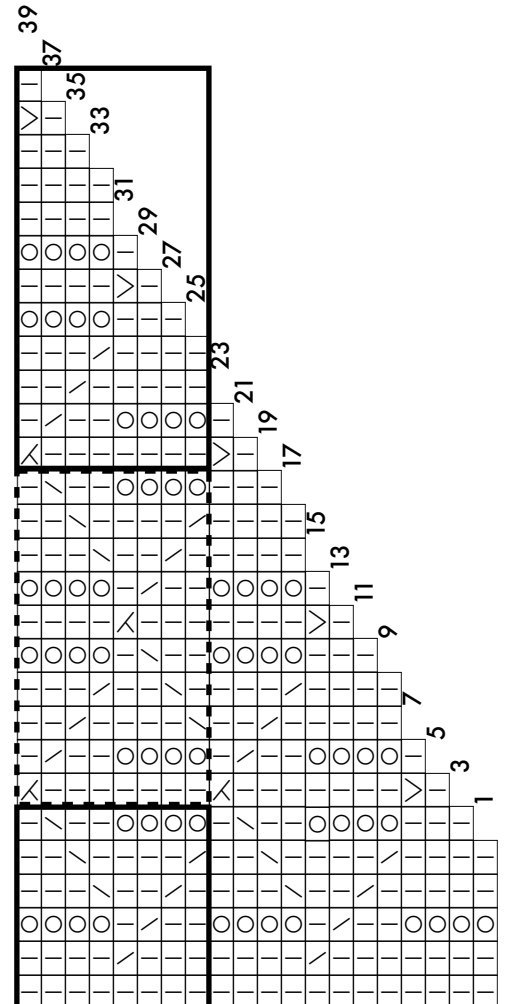
-  knit
-  ssk or sl 1, k 1, pssso
-  k2tog
-  YO, yarn over
-  sl 1, k2tog, pass sl st
-  Increase: Knit in front and back of stitch

Repeats inside black outlined boxes are worked only once at beginning and and of row.

Repeats inside dotted boxes are worked repeatedly as the piece grows.

Purl across back side of work.

Chart for construction B:



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I like knitting a chain selvedge because I think it looks clean and professional. To do so, slip first stitch on every row and knit last stitch on every row. But of course you can treat the edge stitches any way you like.

The good thing about this pattern is you can stop any time. Just cast off loosely as soon as you're running out of yarn or when you think the shawl is large enough.

Finishing

Weave in ends. Wash and pin out to open up the lace pattern properly.

