

Watermelon Festival Shawl – by Katherine Hull

On a sultry June afternoon I was surfing through Ravelry and spied an awesomely cute slice of watermelon dishcloth. So kitschy, but, OMG, like why should I have to get dishpan hands to enjoy this design? I really want - no – I REALLY MUST HAVE a slice of watermelon shawl for breezy summer mornings and evenings and overly air conditioned spaces. So a few sketches and calculations later I came up with a semi oval design that practically knits itself on autopilot. If you aren't into the watermelon kitschy cute thing, feel free to use a different color scheme.

So here's what you will need:

A size 8 circular needle on a really long cord (like 48" or even 60")

Cotton yarn – I used 3 balls of Sugar –n-Cream or Peaches-n-Crème hot pink for the meat, and Forest Green for the outer rind, and a ball of Sugar-n-Cream aloe for the inner rind. If you want to add seeds, get a bag of small black craft buttons and some matching pink thread. You will also need some stitch markers – I like to use those tiny colorful rubber bands – I found a giant bag of them for just a buck making them best knitting bargain ever).

Cast on 4 stitches (I used the Chinese Waitress cast on – it made a cool edge that worked well with the KFB increases that follow)

Row 1, knit all 4 stitches

Row 2, KFB all 4 stitches (8 stitches total)

Row 3, KFB 1, K 1, place marker, KFB 1, K1 Place a unique marker to designate the center, knit to end.

Row 4 KFB 1, K1, place marker, KFB 1, K1, slip center marker, knit to end.

All subsequent rows: KFB 1, knit to first marker, slip marker, KFB 1, knit to center marker, slip marker and knit to the end of the row, slipping the

remaining marker – Yes, you read correctly, you never will have to worry about remembering if you are on an increase row or a knit back row – all of the increases are done before the center marker and after the center marker you just knit to the end of the row – how cool is that!

Knit up the pink yarn until you run out, or get tired of knitting with pink, (there was a flaw near the end of my third ball of pink, which showed up at the end of a row and made the perfect place to transition into green). Then I knit three garter ridges with the Aloe Green and tied on the Forest Green and did several alternating rows of Forest and Aloe. Finally I did two garter ridges of Forest and bound off using Icelandic binding, which is quick and stretchy and will finish out the last garter ridge.

Weave in the ends, embellish with button seeds and enjoy.