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HYDRANGEA SCARF



An original beaded creation from the needles of Susan Pandorf

BY SUNFLOWER DESIGNS

Turn Your Face to the Sun!



Hydrangeas are popular ornamental plants, grown for their large flower heads, with over 600 different varieties. They were originally marsh or aquatic plants, and their name is derived from a Greek compound signifying water-vessel. Japanese legend has it that the emperor once sent a bouquet of hydrangeas to apologize to the family of a girl he loved – his only recorded apology. This radiant flower has come to symbolize earnestness.



SIZE: 80" / 200cm long by 16" / 40cm wide

MATERIALS:

850 yards/ 777meters lace or fingering weight yarn

4300 size 8/0 seed beads

72 dagger beads for ends

Prototype knit with Seashore Sea Silk, Miyuke beads O263 – Sea Foam Lined Crystal AB– and 5/16 Dagger Beads – Matte Amethyst AB

Size 3 (US)/ 3.25mm needles, stitch markers, size 14/ 0.6mm or 16/ 0.4mm crochet hook (for beading) tapestry needle, stitch holder

GAUGE: 6 stitches = 1 inch/2.5cm

(In ladder stitch – blocked)

Hydrangeas are native to southern and eastern Asia (from Japan to China, the Himalayas and Indonesia) and North and South America. The flowers are extremely common in the Azores Islands of Portugal, particularly on Faial Island, which is known as the “blue island” due to the vast number of hydrangeas present.

In most species the flowers are white, but some can be blue, red, pink, or purple. In these species the exact color often depends on the pH of the soil; acidic soils produce blue flowers, neutral soils produce very pale cream petals, and alkaline soils results in pink or purple. Hydrangeas are one of very few plants that accumulate aluminum. When released from acidic soil, aluminum forms complexes in the flowers, giving them their blue hue.

Hydrangeas have been cultivated in western gardens since the first American species were brought to England in the 1730s. The flower intrigued French plant breeders in the 1800s and have become in today’s France an almost universal symbol of Mother’s Day.

DIRECTIONS

Cast on 117 stitches, using beaded cast on (if using beads.)

Beaded Cast On

Thread 36 dagger beads onto yarn. You will use a long tail cast on, with the beads on the tail (on left hand thumb.)

Sunflower suggestion: Make sure you leave enough length on the tail that you don't slide your beads off the end as you are casting on. For a tutorial on the two methods of casting on used in this pattern, see Knitting Help's excellent videos, here:

<http://www.knittinghelp.com/videos/cast-on>

Work as follows:

Make slipknot on your right needle. This counts as your first stitch. Wrap tail end of yarn around left thumb **before beads** and wrap working yarn around left index finger. Secure ends of the yarn in your palm with your other fingers to keep tension on the yarn.

Cast on 2 more plain stitches (3 stitches total on right needle.)

Now slide first bead up close to base of slipknot. Insert needle from bottom to top through loop of tail yarn on thumb. Keeping needle in loop created by tail yarn on thumb, insert needle from top to bottom over working yarn held on left index finger. Draw this strand through loop of tail yarn to create stitch. Remove thumb from loop and pull on tail to tighten stitch (avoid making too tight!). Bead will sit neatly at base of needle between two stitches. Now cast one on without bead. You should have 5 stitches on your needle.

Continue in this way, alternating beaded stitches with plain ones, in the following 13-stitch repeat:

*3 plain, (1 beaded, 1 plain, 1 beaded, 2 plain,) twice; rep from * to end.

Remember: You have already cast on the first 5 stitches in the sequence (3 plain, 1 beaded, 1 plain.) Continue first repeat at the second beaded stitch.

Now you are ready to begin garland stitch.

Row 1 (wrong side): *K1, bind off 11, leaving last stitch unbound (Two live stitches on right needle with eleven bound off in between them) Repeat from * to end.

Row 2: K1, *turn, cast on 7 sts using cable cast on, turn, k2; rep from *, end last rep k1. (81 sts)

Row 3 & 4: Knit

Row 5: Purl 1, *yo, purl 2 tog; rep from * to last stitch

Row 6: Knit.

Row 7: Knit, increasing 3 stitches evenly across (one at each end and one in the middle – 84 stitches)

You should have just completed a wrong side row.

Begin Versailles border (chart A)

Work as charted for 34 rows.

On final row, increase 3 stitches evenly across (one at each end and one in the middle – 87 stitches) End wrong side.

Begin chart B1.

Sunflower Suggestion: I had a tendency to wind up with looser yarnovers on the left hand edge of the scarf than the right. My gauge was pulled out of whack when I used my crochet hook to place bead on first two stitches of wrong side rows. Placing beads on last two stitches of right side rows before turning work resulted in a tighter line.

Notice there are vertical lines of "no stitch" both below and above each leaf pattern. This allows for two additional stitches, which are added to leaves to enhance their shape. You will increase at bottom of each leaf and decrease as noted on the tip.

This chart is half the pattern. Work from right to left (center stitch) then back to the right hand edge, reversing shaping. **Make sure you work far left hand (center) stitch on chart only once.**

On row 31 of chart, you will begin inserting chart C1 at center point of scarf.

I have charted center stitches separately, so that you do not have to deal with the lines of "no stitch" bisecting the pattern.

Continue to work through charts, continuing with chart C2 upon completion of C1 (inside the V formed by the leaves) and B2 upon completion of B1 at the outer edges.

Upon completion of chart B2, continue to work vertical ladder pattern on outer 9 stitches of each side. **Notice the double line of beading that is formed on the inside of these stitches when worked in conjunction with chart C2.**

Continue to work inner stitches in as noted in chart C2, returning **twice** to first full width row (row 15.) **End third repeat on row 50.** Slip stitches to holder or spare needle.

Congratulations! You're halfway home.

Hydrangea macrophylla, the common, big-leaf hydrangea has been known by gardeners in its native land of Japan for many hundreds of years and grown in its many forms. There it has been treasured not only for the beauty of flowers and foliage, but also used to create a sweet herbal tea.

The stalks contain a pith which is easily removed, and used in some parts of the world for pipe-stems. The Cherokee Indians, and later, settlers in the western United States, used a decoction of Hydrangea as a treatment for calculus diseases – i.e. kidney and gall stones. While not a cure, it removed gravelly deposits and relieved the pain consequent on their emission. As many as 120 stones were purported to come from one person under its use.

Ouch!

Work second half in same manner, leaving stitches on working needle upon completion.

Finishing:

Using yarn needle, graft 2 halves together at back of neck as follows:

Hold both knitting needles parallel with tips pointing in same direction and wrong (purl) sides facing inwards. Insert threaded tapestry needle into first stitch on knitting needle closest to you as if to purl and pull through, leaving stitch on knitting needle.

Then insert tapestry needle into first stitch on back needle as if to knit, leaving stitch on knitting needle. Pull yarn through.

THESE STEPS ARE ONLY DONE ONCE

For clarity, I will from this point refer to the tapestry needle as TN, to distinguish it from the knitting needles.

COMPLETE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Insert TN into first stitch on front needle as if to knit, while slipping it off end of needle.
2. Insert TN into next stitch on front needle as if to purl, but this time, leave it on needle. Gently pull yarn through.
3. Insert TN into first stitch on back needle as if to purl, and slip it off end of needle.
4. Insert TN into next stitch on back needle as if to knit, and leave it on needle. Pull yarn through.

Repeat steps 1-4 over and over again.

Sunflower suggestion: After you've worked a couple of inches, pause (being sure to complete step 4 so you'll know where to begin again) and check your tension. Too tight and you will feel a ridge on the backside of the fabric. Too loose and you will see unevenness in the fabric's front side.

Tighten up or loosen stitches by using end of TN to tug at each loop in turn, working from beginning of join towards last stitches worked if tightening, and from last stitches worked backwards if loosening.

It is easier to tighten stitches than to loosen them, so I recommend running yarn loosely through the stitches during the process of grafting, then adjusting tension on yarn to match gauge of knitting as closely as possible every three or four stitches. It may seem tedious, but will ensure a smooth join.

Sunflower suggestion: It is easy to lose track of where you are in the grafting process. Repeating to yourself "knit, purl -- purl, knit" while grafting helps. Don't worry; if you get off, you will be able to see it with the naked eye when adjusting your tension. Simply undo a stitch at a time, correct and move forward again.

Keep repeating steps 1-4, pausing to tighten up the stitches now and then until all the stitches are worked. The last two stitches remaining on the needle will require you to perform step 1 then go directly to step 3.

Should you want a thorough tutorial on grafting (with pictures!) I recommend Theresa Vinson Stenersen's excellent article, which I consulted for this pattern, found at the following URL address:

<http://knitty.com/ISSUEsummer04/FEATtheresasum04.html>

Sunflower Suggestion: If desired, you may choose to add a special bead or button at the intersections of the lattice pattern. I used a 10mm 5 petal flower bead on mine.

Weave in your ends. Soak and block your scarf.

Now you're ready to turn your face to the sun.
BLESSINGS!

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"Are you in earnest? Seize this very minute; what you can do, or dream you can, begin it."

- Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

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<http://afewstitchesshort.blogspot.com>



















You can also find me on Ravelry as: pandosu

Questions, comments, and corrections may be submitted by email to:

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LARGE PRINT PATTERN AVAILABLE FROM DESIGNER UPON REQUEST

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	knit on right side;purl on wrong
	purl on right side; knit on wrong
	knit 2 tog
	ssk
	s2kp
	purl 2 tog
	purl 2 tog tbl
	increase
	knit 1, yo, knit 1 in same stitch
	yarnover
	sk2p
	knit 3 tog
	place bead (see notes)
	no stitch
	knit through back loop
	braided twist (see notes)
	right twist (see notes)
	left twist (see notes)

STITCH NOTES

Right twist: Insert the right hand needle into the second stitch on left needle knit-wise, knit stitch, then **WITHOUT SLIPPING STITCH FROM LEFT NEEDLE**, knit first stitch. Now slip both stitches off the left hand needle together. This twists the stitches to the right.

Left twist: Insert the right hand needle from behind the body of the work into the back of the second stitch, knit stitch, then **WITHOUT SLIPPING STITCH FROM LEFT NEEDLE**, bring yarn forward between needles and knit first stitch

through front as usual. Now slip both stitches off the left hand needle together. This twists the stitches to the left.

Braided twist: Do right twist; pass last stitch back to left needle, then do left twist.

Place bead : Impale bead onto crochet hook small enough to fit through the hole of bead. Insert hook into stitch loop where bead will sit, making sure hook is facing you. Pull loop through bead. Replace stitch loop onto left needle and work as usual. Beading on two end stitches and in the checkerboard background of chart A is knitted. All others are purled.

Chart B1



Chart A

2

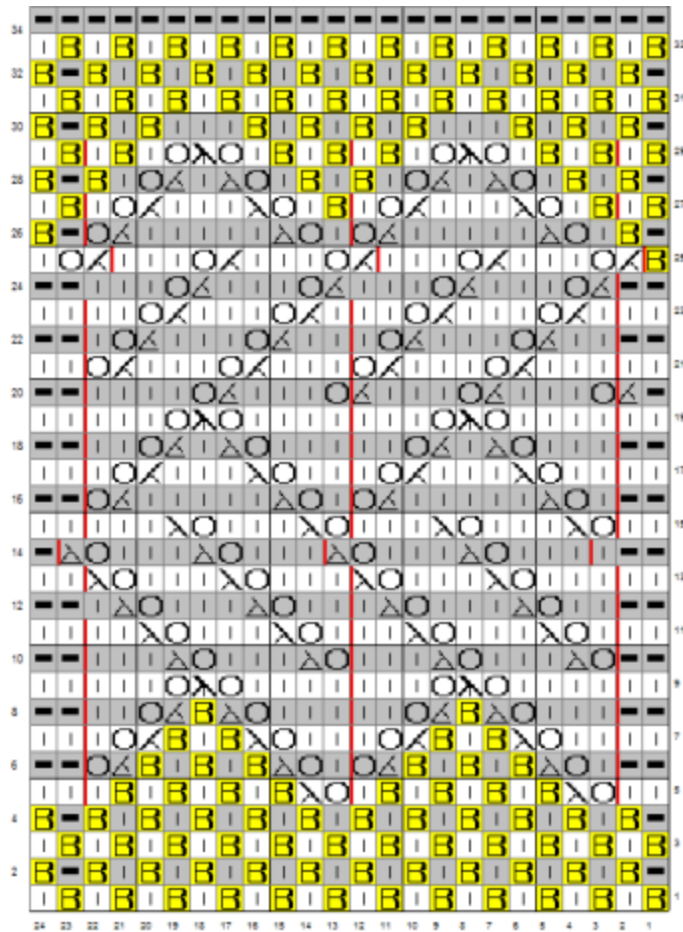


Chart B

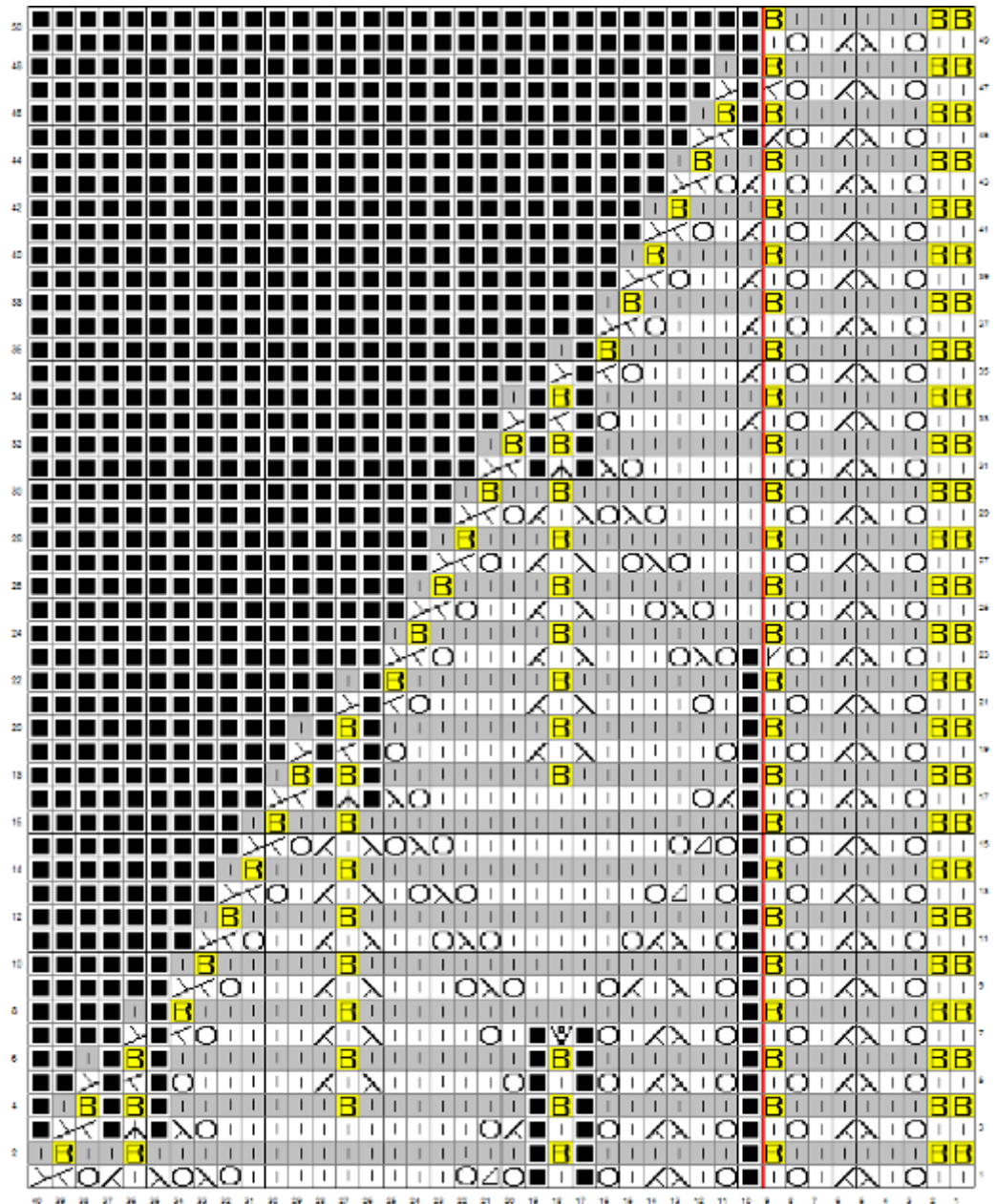


Chart C 1

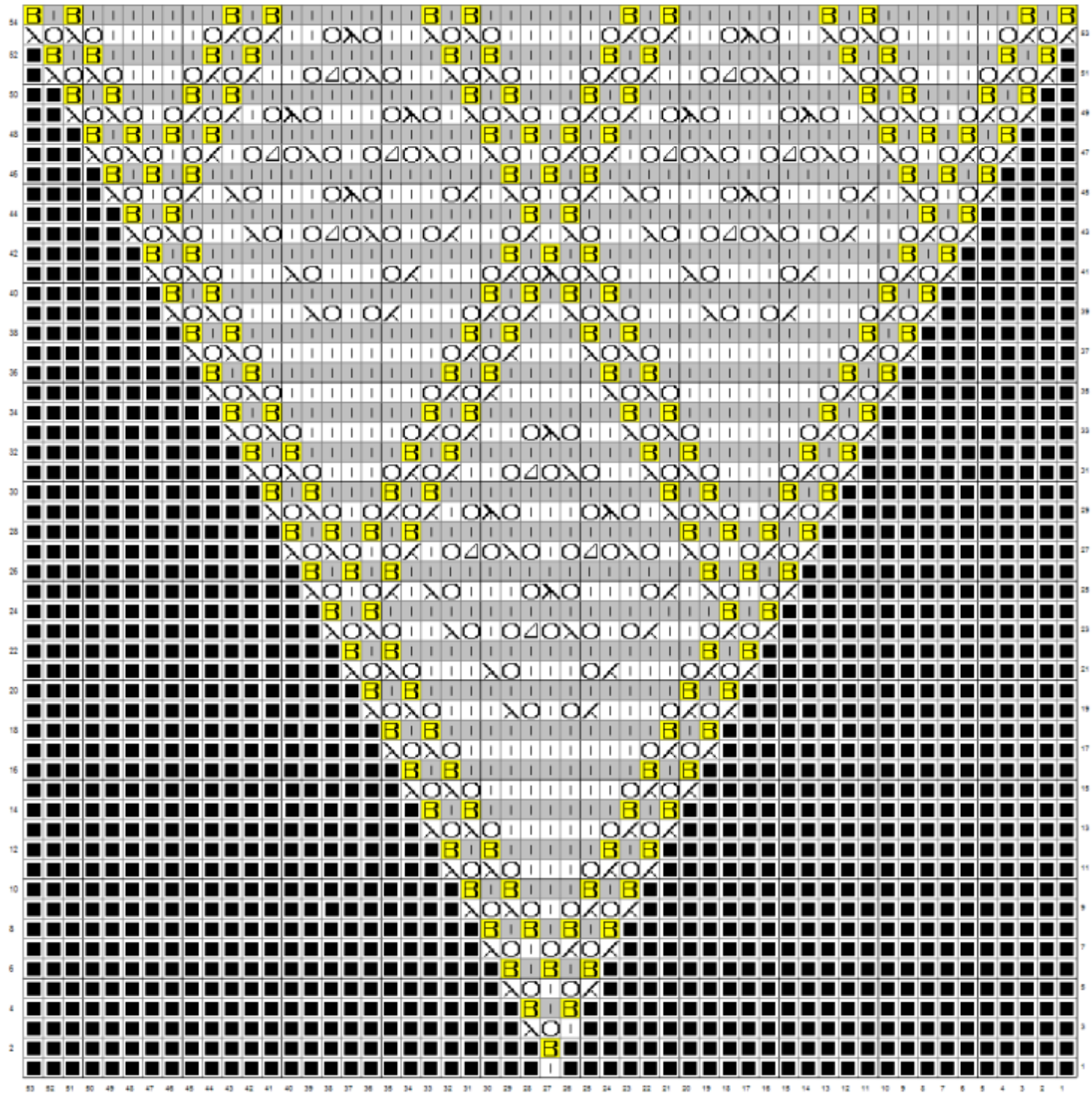


Chart
C 2

