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POINSETTIA

THE GARDEN VARIETY COLLECTION



An original beaded creation from the needles of Susan Pandorf

SUNFLOWER DESIGNS – TURN YOUR FACE TO THE SUN!

Poinsettias are native to Mexico and were originally cultivated by the Aztec Indians. The colorful bracts were used to make a reddish purple dye. The Aztecs also made a fever medicine from the poinsettia's milky sap. After the Spanish conquest and the introduction of Christianity, poinsettias began to be used in Christian rituals. Franciscan priests used the poinsettia in their nativity processions.

SIZE: 41cm/16in wide by 163cm/64 in long

MATERIALS:

800m/ 874 yards 4ply/ fingering weight yarn

5000 size 8/0 seed beads

30 cloisonné beads

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

GAUGE: 8 stitches = 2.5cm/1 inch (blocked)

DIRECTIONS

Shawl is knit in two halves – from the outer edge to the center. Two halves are then grafted together at the center. All beading is done on wrong side stitches unless otherwise specified.

Sunflower suggestion: If you wish to omit beading, simply substitute purl or knit stitches, as specified. For an excellent tutorial on crochet hook beading, go here:

<http://www.knitty.com/issuespring06/FEATseducedbybeads.html>

Cast on 86 stitches, using beaded cast on (if using beads.)

Beaded Cast On

Thread 15 cloisonné 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.

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.

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

Continue in this way, alternating one beaded stitch with five plain ones, until 86 stitches have been cast on.

Purl five rows.

Row 6 (right side): Bead 1 knitwise to end.

Row 7: Knit.

Row 8: K1 * K2tog, YO; rep from * to last stitch. K1.

Row 9: Knit.

Row 10: Knit.

Row 11: Bead 1 purlwise to end.

Rows 12 & 13: Purl.

You should have just completed a wrong side row.

Begin Chart 1

Repeat 17 stitches to right of red line 5 times, work last stitch of chart.

Upon completing 10 rows of chart:

Row 24 (right side): Knit

Row 25: Bead 1 purlwise to end.

Row 26: Purl.

Row 27: P1, *YO, P2tog; rep to last stitch. P1.

Rows 28 & 29: Purl.

Row 30: Bead 1 knitwise to end.

Row 31 (wrong side): Knit.

Reading chart 2: Work stitches 1 through 56; Repeat stitches 3 through 33 (A) once as marked; Work last 2 stitches (60 & 61)

Work chart 2, increasing by 3 on first row as follows:

Increase one stitch on either end by knitting into front and back of stitch. On center stitch of poinsettia pattern (stitch 45 on chart) make one by lifting bar between stitches of previous row. Twist stitch to left and knit into it. (89 stitches).

Notice that in last 2 wrong side rows of center motif, there are yarnovers and decreases on the wrong side rows.

Repeat 32 rows of chart B six times.

Break yarn and put live stitches on holder. These stitches will be grafted to the last row of the other half of the scarf.

Congratulations! You're halfway home! Pour yourself a cup of hot cocoa, hum a little holiday song, put your feet up, and enjoy the magical spirit of the holiday season.

Complete other half of scarf in same manner, leaving stitches on needle. Slip live stitches from first half onto spare needle.

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.

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>

Weave in your ends. Soak and block your scarf.

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

Questions, comments, and corrections may be submitted by email to: susanpandorf@comcast.net

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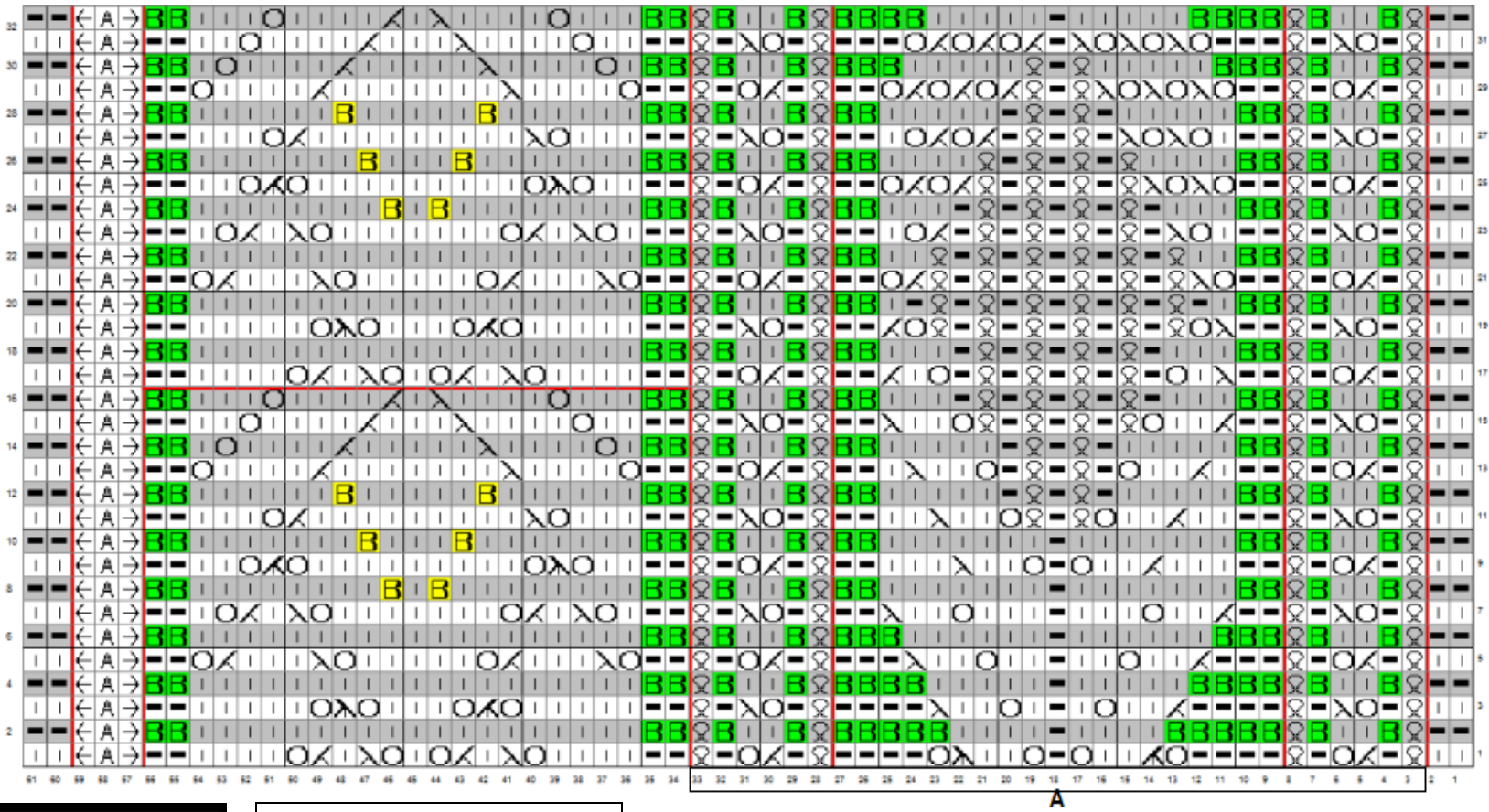
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Chart 2



	knit on right side; purl on wrong
—	purl on right side; knit on wrong
↘	knit 2 tog on right ; purl 2 tog on wrong
↙	SSK on right; purl 2 tog tbl on wrong
↘↙	slip 1, knit 2 tog, pssso
↘↘	knit 3 tog
○	yarn over
⊗	knit tbl on right; purl tbl on wrong
⊞	bead one purlwise
⊠	bead one knitwise

Stitch Notes

Bead one : 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 then knit or purl as usual.

Chart 1

