From Russia With Love
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Originally conceptualized as a way to get the most out of one beautiful ball of Kidsilk Haze, From Russia With Love will keep your head and neck warm while simultaneously providing a crash course in the techniques of Orenburg lace knitting.

Orenburg lace is the perfect entrée into lace with multiple charts. The techniques and motifs were designed by hard-working USSR babushkas for whom a knitted shawl meant food and housing for a month. As a result, Orenburg lace looks intricate but is surprisingly simple to knit. Requiring only the knit stitch, yarn-over, k2tog and k3tog, it is easy to see that Orenburg lace is built for speed!

This moebius cowl incorporates borders knitted simultaneously with a simple middle “bowtie” motif accented by knitted strawberries. The cowl is knit flat, blocked, then given a half twist and seamed together to create the moebius shape. Other lace patterns can be substituted for the middle panel or the borders—just make sure they look the same on both sides.

Bowtie-and-strawberries motif and technique information from Gossamer Webs: The History and Techniques of Orenburg Lace Shawls by Galina Khmeleva and Carol R. Noble.

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS
Circumference: 45 inches
Length: 16 inches

MATERIALS
Rowan Kidsilk Haze [70% Super Kid Mohair, 30% Silk; 229 yards/210 meters per 25g skein]; color: Candy Girl; 1 skein

2 29 inch US #8/5mm circular needles
Stitch markers
Tapestry needle
Crochet hook
Smooth waste yarn

GAUGE
20 sts/20 rows = 4” in stockinette stitch

PATTERN NOTES
This pattern is begun using the provisional cast on. The ends in this pattern are joined using Kitchener Stitch (grafting).
DIRECTIONS

Cast on 59 stitches using provisional cast on.
Begin working lace pattern following either the charts (and Pattern Notes) or written instructions below.

R1 (RS): Begin row of Left Border. Work Border chart (15 sts), pm. Work first row of Body panel (29 sts), pm, knit to end.
R2 (WS): Begin first row of Right Border. Right Border is worked identically to Left Border. Work Border chart (15 sts), knit to end.
R3 (RS): Work second row of Left Border, second row of Body panel and knit to end.
R4 (WS): Work second row of Right Border and knit to end.

Continue working through the lace patterns for seven repeats of Body Panel, ending with a right side (RS) row. DO NOT BIND OFF.

Border pattern (same for Right and Left Borders)
Note: Number of sts will vary between 15 and 18 sts.
R1: k3, yo, k2, k2tog, yo, k8
R2: k16
R3: k3, yo, k2, k2tog, yo, k9
R4: k17
R5: k3, yo, k2, k2tog, yo, k10
R6: k18
R7: k3, yo, k2tog, k2, yo, k2tog, k8
R8: k16, k2tog
R9: k3, yo, k2tog, k2, yo, k2tog, k7
R10: k15, k2tog
R11: k3, yo, k2tog, k2, yo, k2tog, k6
R12: k14, k2tog

Legend:
- knit
- yo
- k3tog
- k2tog
- No Stitch
Body panel (29 sts)

Main body pattern chart comes from *Gossamer Webs: The History and Techniques of Orenburg Lace Shawls.*

R1 (RS): k11, k2tog, yo, k3, yo, k2tog, k11
R2 (WS): k29
R3: k13, yo, k3tog, yo, k13
R4: k29
R5: k11, k2tog, yo, k3, yo, k2tog, k11
R6: k29
R7: k9, yo, k2tog, k2, yo, k3tog, yo, k3, yo, k2tog, k8
R8: k29
R9: k7, yo, k2tog, k1, yo, k2tog, k5, k2tog, yo, k2, yo, k2tog, k6
R10: k29
R11: k8, yo, k2tog, k1, yo, k2tog, k3, k2tog, yo, k1, k2tog, yo, k8
R12: k29
R13: k4, yo, k2tog, yo, k2tog, k1, yo, k2tog, k1, yo, k2tog, k1, k2tog, yo, k1, k2tog, yo, k1, k2tog, yo, k3, yo, k2tog, k3
R14: k29
R15: k2, k2tog, yo, k3, yo, k2tog, k1, yo, k2tog, k1, yo, k3tog, yo, k1, k2tog, yo, k1, k2tog, yo, k3, yo, k2tog, k2
R16: k29
R17: k4, yo, k3tog, yo, k1, k2tog, yo, k1, k2tog, yo, k3, yo, k2tog, k1, yo, k2tog, k1, yo, k3tog, yo, k4
R18: k29
R19: k7, k2tog, yo, k1, k2tog, yo, k5, yo, k2tog, k1, yo, k2tog, k7
R20: k29
R21: k6, k2tog, yo, k1, k2tog, yo, k7, yo, k2tog, k1, yo, k2tog, k6
R22: k29
R23: k8, k2tog, yo, k3, yo, k2tog, yo, k2tog, k2, yo, k2tog, k8
R24: k29
FINISHING

Transfer provisional cast-on stitches to second size 8US needle. Pin knitting flat to desired dimensions and spray with warm water. Let dry.

After blocking, unpin cowl and twist one end 180 degrees. Join live stitches of ends together using Kitchener stitch to form a moebius.

Weave in ends.