

HELGA



The proto-type of the Helga was knit with worsted weight on US 10.5 needles using approximately 1 lb. This is a heavier shawl meant for warmth.

N or / = k2tog O = yarnover, P = purl, K = knit, \ = skip = slip 1, k1, psso

Cast on 393

1,2,3,4,5) P3, K387, P3

Note: first and last three stitches of every row are purled. All "return" rows from this point on are purled. Edge stitches are not included in the row instructions. until row 170.

- 6) NO, [k2, NN,k2, OKO] x20, N,O, k2, NN, k2, OKO, k1, OKO, k2, \, k2, O \, [OKO, k2, \, k2] x20, O, \
- 8) NO, [k, NN, K, O, k3, O]x20, N,O, K, NN, K, O, k3, O, k, O, k3, O, k, \, K, O, \, [O, k3, O, k, \, k]x20, O, \
- 10) NO [NN, O, k5, O] x20, N,O, NN, O, k5, O, k1, O, k5, O, \, O, \ [O, k5, O, \] x20, O, \
- 12) NO [NO, k3, N, k2, O] x20, N, O, NO k3, N, k2, O k1, O, k2, \, k3, O, \,O,\ [O, k2, \, k3, O] x20; O, \
- 14) NO, [k2, NN,k2, OKO] x20, N,O, k2, NN, k2, OKO, k1, OKO, k2, \, k2, O \, [OKO, k2, \, k2] x20, O, \
- 16) NO, [k, NN, K, O, k3, O]x20; N,O, K, NN, K, O, k3, OkO, k3, O, k, \, K, O, \, [O, k3, O, k, \, k]x20, O, \
- 18) NO [NN, O, k5, O] x20, N,O, NN, O, k5, O,kO, k5, O, \, O, \ [O, k5, O, \] x20, O, \
- 20) NO [NO, k3, N, k2, O] x20, N, O, NO k3, N, k2, O k1, O, k2, \, k3, O, \,O,\ [O, k2, \, k3, O] x20; O, \
- 22) NO, [k2, NN,k2, OKO] N, k 167, N, NO, k2, NN, k2, OKO, k1, OKO, k2, \, k2, O \, K 167, \ [OKO, k2, \, k2] O, \
- 24) NO, [k, NN, K, O, k3, O]N, k165, N, N,O, K, NN, K, O, k3, OkO, k3, O, k, \, K, O, \, k165, \ [O, k3, O, k, \, k] O, \
- 26) NO [NN, O, k5, O] N, k163, N, N,O, NN, O, k5, O,kO, k5, O, \, O, \, k163,\ [O, k5, O, \] O, \
- 28) NO [NO, k3, N, k2, O] N, k 161, N, N, O, NO k3, N, k2, O k1, O, k2, \, k3, O, \,O,\, k161, \ [O, k2, \, k3, O] O, \

To: Head Master

From: Library Elf Ken Rutt

Subject: Archived knitting patterns

Dear Sir - another pattern for a so-called "House Shawl" has been discovered in the archives, dating, as the 'Godric' from the Early Victorian period. This one unfortunately does not appear to be complete.

K

Another Shawl in the manner of the Føroyar Isles:

A common Day Shawl called the Helga of wool worsted taking nigh a pound; knit on the usual pins.

Maska Nova 393.

*Maska Taquiner alternativa for five rows; saving that one should modify the spell so that the first 3 and last three stiches are always *averechtsen*. This one does throughout the shawl.*

*Alternate rows from this point are always spellcast as *Maska Averageschtse Totalis*.*

Having knit your 3 EDGE stitches, narrow and cast the yarn over the pin.

Create a model thusly :

stitch twice, narrow twice, stitch twice, cast, stitch, cast

repeat this 19 times for a total of a full score repetitions. narrow by two, cast, repeat the model once more. Make a stitch in the next - this is your center stitch. Reverse the order of stitches for the second half of the row. (Maska gemini)

Next row: the model is stitch, narrow twice, stitch, cast, stitch thrice, cast

Next row: the model is narrow twice, cast, stitch a quinte, cast

next row: narrow, cast, three stitches, narrow, two stitches, cast

next row: as first model

repeat next 3 models.

From this point forward: continue to repeat the four models ONLY once at the beginning of the row, and ONCE before the midpoint after the isolated narrow and cast. Continue to Mascka gemini the second half of each row.

AT the same time, immediately following the model perform a decrease; thus decreasing a quartet of stitches each right-sided row.

When the plain knit section is thus reduced to 100; narrow an additional 10 times on each side. when it has reduced to 60 reduce each side by an additional 10; and when each side has but 40 and 25 reduce by an additional 5 each time.

When the number of stitches either side of the gusset have been reduced to.....

Post Script:

As can be seen, the pattern is incomplete, however it is my belief that a practiced knitting witch or wizard would be able to complete the shawl from what instructions remain. The Helga seems to have been a practical shawl used primarily for warmth. No particular colour seems too have been associated with it, as far as analysis of contemporary writings can determine.

K.