TRANSCRIPT

Yarn and Colours Selection

In order to knit this cowl you'll need your knitting needles and a few skeins of yarn. Specifically the cowl is knit over 45 stitches on seven millimeter needles. Now I realize that US 10 and three quarters or seven millimeters is an unusual size and possibly difficult to source. Typically needle sizes are either US 10 and a half, which is 6.5 millimeters or US 11, which is eight millimeters. And I just happened to get these seven millimeter knitting needles from the Japanese dollar store. And I use them for this project because that's what I had handy. And I really strangely enjoy the feel of these plastic needles. The gauge on this cowl is not crucial to fit. So feel free to try different gauges to work with your yarns. Now, in terms of yarn, the original cowl pattern uses three skeins of yarn held together to make a marled fabric. I used two skeins of SweetGeorgia CashLuxe Fine, which is a fingering weight Merino, cashmere, and nylon blend. Plus one skein of SweetGeorgia Silk Mist, which is a fine kid mohair and silk lace weight yarn. Something similar would be something like Rowan kid silk haze, or Shibui Silk Cloud. Just know that Silk Mist doesn't add a lot of weight to the fabric, but it does add a halo or a fuzzy texture that is wonderful and cozy. The combination is completely up to you. You could use a little bit of cashmere for softness, a little bit of silk for shine, a little bit of fine kid mohair for the warmth or comfort. You could also choose two fingering weight yarns and a different lace yarn, or you could use a sparkly yarn or a boucle yarn. You could use one skein of DK and three skeins of lace. So whatever you want, you can combine the, the yarns that you like to give you the fabric that you want to wear. So you can choose more silk and shine or less fuzz and more wool or less silk, whatever you want. The possibilities are really endless. The needle size that I chose for this project works well with two strands of fingering, weight yarn. If you choose two strands of a heavier weight yarn, you will probably want to go up in needle size. This is where you'll want to experiment a bit and swatch to see what works best for you. In a past project, I actually combined and held together nine different strands of yarn here in this particular cowl project. This is nine strands held together and I needed to use a US 17 or 12 millimeter knitting needle in order to make this work. So obviously, if you were using a larger needle and more strands of yarn, your cowl will be wider than the one that I'm knitting here. Now, in terms of yardage, the silk mist is about 325 yards. And the two sock yarns are each approximately 400 yards. So when I knit them all together, I basically knit until I run out of the silk mist and this one is done. And then I have about 75 yards left of each of the sock yarns. And I can use that to graft the two ends together.

So finally, let's talk about colour selection. This is where you get to play and have so much fun. You can blend different hand-dyed yarns together to create something completely new. We have other workshops here in the School of SweetGeorgia, that specifically focus on colour and making colour combinations. So I encourage you to check out Colour Play as well as Colour Mastery. You look at those lessons about optical mixing and maybe even have a look at the optical mixing lessons in the Hand Woven Colour series. Basically the colours that you choose for your two skeins will mix and blend together to make a third colour. You can choose colours that are very similar and make those hues more prominent in your final fabric. Or you could use two colours that are completely on opposite sides of the colour wheel to really subdue the effect of either one of those hues. You could use one skein of a very loud and erratic splashy hand-dyed yarn, and mix it with another splashy yarn to create more of a mixed up blended confetti look. Or you could try to ground that splashy scheme with a scheme that's more tonal or semi-solid

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the colour of the Silk Mist will lend just a dusting of colour. So I wouldn't go with anything that's either too light or too dark since it might actually make a halo that obscures the colours that you're actually working with in the sock yarns. So I would generally go for a hue that matches the hues of what you already have or when that's sort of a bit mid-tone. So now that you have your yarns ready to go, let's get started with knitting this cowl.

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