



Ginkgo Crescent

by Jade Keaney

Difficulty: Intermediate. Not terribly difficult, but a bit challenging while working the lace pattern on both sides.

** This pattern is offered as a variation on [Maggie Magali's](#) ([SouthernSelkie](#) on Ravelry) [Ginkgo Shoulderette Shawl](#). **

To say I love all things Fall is a bit of an understatement. I live for the time of year when the air gets crisp, the trees burst into color, the days get shorter, and even the harvest moon is golden... I would live in October if I could. And one of my favorite Autumn memories is a walk I took across campus early one morning after a rain. The light had that warm, golden tint to it, and it just caught the sparkle on the last bits of fog and made the yellow ginkgo leaves glow against the dark, wet tree trunks.



It was like a fairyland, and exactly what I thought of when I stumbled across Maggie Magali's Ginkgo Shoulderette on Ravelry. It was instant knitting lust: I loved the simple stockinette section against the fluttery ginkgo leaf edging, and the vibrant yellow color was just spectacular. The only thing stopping me from casting on immediately was that I wanted more of a crescent shape. I searched the internet, and there

were a few similar things out there, but none were exactly what I wanted.

I put the idea aside and worked on other things, but I kept coming back to look at the pattern. The more I thought about it, the more certain I was that I wanted this pattern in a crescent shape, and that I should re-shape it myself. Then I was stuck: I knew next-to-nothing about shawl construction or chart formatting. I could knit a shawl and read a chart, but beyond that, I had no idea where to start making my own.

I would probably still be stuck if I hadn't found a skein of Tosh Merino Light in my stash late last August. It is a fabulous yarn, and Gilded is almost exactly the color of the ginkgo leaves I remember. It had to be knit. So, I sat down (on the drive to our vacation) and just tried it. It worked.



SIZE

Shawllette. Pattern can easily be adjusted to make a larger shawl. (Further instructions below.)

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Depth: 13 inches

Length: 40 inches

MATERIALS

Madelinetosh Tosh Merino Light [100% merino; 420yd/384m per skein]; color: Gilded: 1 skein. (Pattern as written used approx. three-quarters of a skein. A shawl increased to one additional repeat may use almost a whole skein.)

One 24-inch US #6/4.00 mm circular needle

One 24-inch US #8/5.00 mm circular needle

One US #10/6.00 mm needle (used only for binding off, any variety is fine)

notions required: tapestry needle (optional), blocking pins and wires (optional)

GAUGE

26 sts/32 rows = 4" in stockinette stitch

PATTERN NOTES

SSP slip 2 sts knitwise, return both to left needle, then purl together through the back loop. 1 st decreased.

S2KP slip 2 sts as if to k2tog, k1, pass slipped sts over the k st. Forms centered double decrease, 2 sts decreased. *original pattern uses SK2P instead*

PATTERN

Garner tab cast on: co 2 sts and knit 7 rows. After the 7th row, without turning work, pick up and knit 3 sts (one in each garter ridge), then 2 more from co edge. (7 sts.)

Set up:

1. k2, yo, [k1, yo] 3 times, k2.
2. k2, p7, k2.

Increase/stockinette section:

1. k2, [yo, k1, yo], k to last 3 sts, [yo, k1, yo], k2.
2. k2, p to last 2 sts, k2.

Repeat rows 1 and 2 until there are 171 sts on the needle (approx. 38 times).

To increase size, continue working rows 1 and 2 until there are enough stitches for another lace pattern repeat (15sts). For example, adding one extra repeat would require having 186 sts on the needle, so rows 1 and 2 would be worked 42 times (187 sts), with a p2tog on the last row 2 (186 sts).

Two extra repeats: 201 sts, rows 1 and 2 worked 46 times (203 sts), p2tog 2x on the last row 2 (201 sts).



Three extra repeats: 216 sts, rows 1 and 2 worked 49 times (215 sts), row 1 worked as follows: k2, [yo, k1, yo], k to last 3 sts, **m1**, [yo, k1, yo], k2. (216 sts).

Four extra repeats: 231 sts, rows 1 and 2 worked 53 times (231 sts).

Note: no extra repeats yields a shawlette, 1-2 should make an average sized shawl, 3 should make a large shawl, and 4 would be very large indeed. Probably.

Border/charted lace section:

Work rows 1-33 of chart, continuing to knit the first and last 2 sts each row as established for the garter edge. (See photo/chart.) As with the original pattern, work row 34 with US 8/5.00mm needle. Bind off using US 10/6.00mm needle as follows: k2, insert left needle into the front of these two sts (leaving right needle in position), and k2tog. Leave the one remaining st on the right needle, k1, insert left needle into the front of both sts (again leaving the right needle in position), and k2tog. Continue on in this fashion until all sts are bound off.

FINISHING

Wet block and pin to desired dimensions as follows: thread flexible wires through the eyelet row next to the garter edge and anchor in a crescent shape, then pin out each ginkgo leaf (see photo).

Enjoy!

Please note: without vigorous blocking, this garter tab cast-on tends to form a small 'hump' at the beginning of the shawl, and even with blocking, it may not lay completely flat.

If this is bothersome, you might try a quick steam spot-block of the problem area as needed, or utilize another method of starting the shawl. (As long as the desired number of stitches is reached before beginning the lace section, you should be fine.



