

The Williamson Stole

By the Heirloom Knitting Group



This stole is a recreation of a stole by Mrs. Jane Thomasina Williamson of Guitqroy, Unst. She lived between 1865-1928. We are unsure of the date of the shawl but suspect it is an early piece in her oeuvre. It is made out handspun yarn.

Introduction

While on a visit to the Shetland Isles [edithcone](#) and [NitaBruce](#) visited the [Unst Heritage Centre](#) and took many beautiful photos of knitted lace which can be seen [here](#) and [here](#). They were kind enough to share these with the Heirloom Knitting Forum on Ravelry. Several of us found this particular shawl so charming and lovely that we were anxious to recreate it so that we could knit a replica for ourselves. This pattern is the result of our labours. We hope that you will enjoy it as much as we have.

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Materials

Cobweb Lace is recommended as this will be a fairly large stole.

Suggested Yarns : [Gossamer Web's Phoenix](#)
[Heirloom Knitting Cashsilk](#)
[Habu Textiles N-75 2/48 Fine Merino](#)
[Jamieson and Smith's Shetland Cobweb 1 ply](#)

Needles: Size 2mm - 2.25mm U.S. size 0 or 1. We suggest swatching to obtain a yarn and gauge that pleases you. Keep in mind that this will be a fairly large stole and would be enormous with a heavier weight yarn and needles.

Extras: Embroidery scissors for carefully cutting out waste yarn if you use this method for your provisional cast on.

Fine tapestry needle for repairs and final finishing.

Stitch markers, if desired, to mark repeats.

Point protectors. It is suggested to use well fitting point protectors anytime you set your knitting down, even for a moment, as fine lace is frighteningly quick to ladder. Putting in a lifeline every few rows will be greatly appreciated in case this happens.

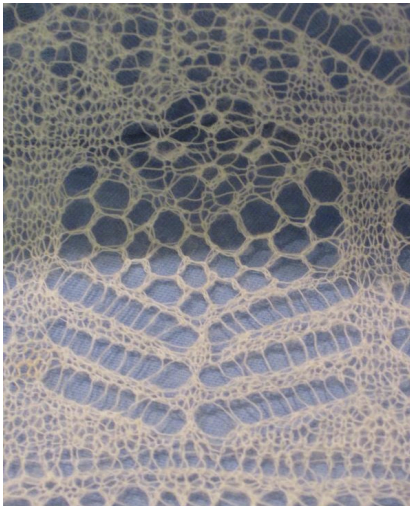


Chart Symbols



Technical Notes and Knitting Advice

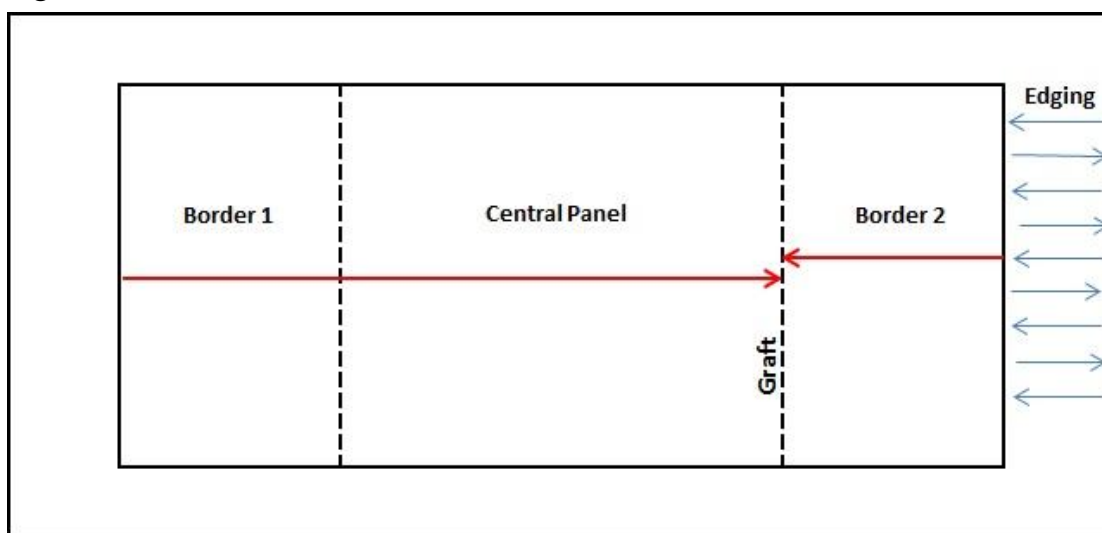
- Provisional cast on methods: Some good provisional cast-on methods are shown [here](#) by Eunny Jang. A particularly nice method is the invisible cast on. The reason that a provisional cast on is used

is for elasticity and to avoid having an obvious beginning and end. It is stretchier and more polished looking.

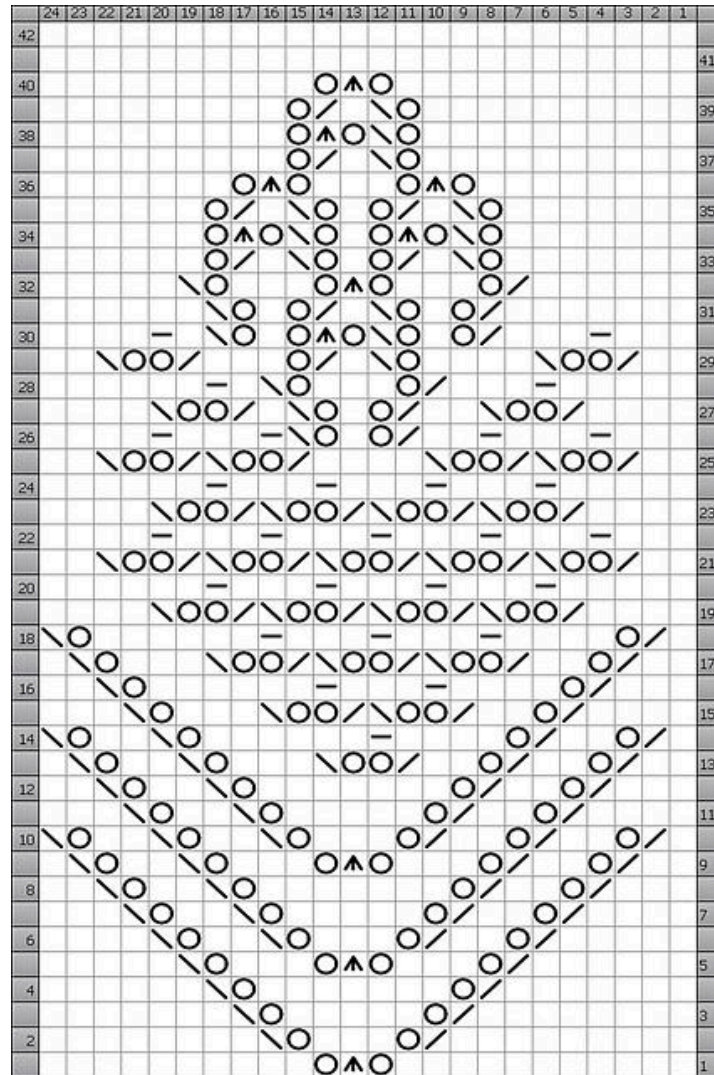
- All charts are read from right to left on odd numbered rows and left to right on even rows, as they are in Sharon Miller's Heirloom Knitting. We highly recommend her book as it explains so eloquently the art of Shetland Knitting.
- It is better not to slip a stitch at the beginning of a row as many like to do, as it will lose elasticity and more easily break during the dressing/blocking of the stole.
- Check your work often. It is much easier to fix a mistake early on than to see it when it is too late to correct. Lifelines are highly recommended, as then you will never have to go back too far to correct a mistake. The Gossamer Web sells [fleegle needles](#) which have built in lifeline holes which make it very easy to put in a lifeline.
- If you decide to use a silk, please be advised that quite a bit of extra yarn will be needed and extra care in dressing as it does not have as much elasticity.
- In order to minimize the bulk along the join and more easily pick up evenly in the same place when attaching the edging, carry a length of fine, smooth thread of a different colour along the straight edge of the lace as you work. At each turn at the end of the row, wrap this thread around the first stitch prior to knitting. When the stitches for the border are ready to be picked up, insert a fine lace needle exactly alongside the thread, which puts a strand of the edging yarn on the needle ready to form the stitches for the border.

This Shawl's Construction

This stole is knit with a garter stitch ground and has no bound off edges. This shawl begins with a provisional cast on, then the first border and centre panel are knit, leaving the stitches live. Then knit a second border and graft it to the centre panel. If you prefer, you could knit a border and half of the centre, repeating this and then grafting in the centre of the stole. The edging is attached at the end by provisionally casting on and working first down a long side. (Generally best to begin about a quarter to a third of the way down and going counter-clockwise). On each return attach to a side loop of the main body for the sides and the live stitches on the top and bottom. Make sure to take care to ease the fullness around the corners. Finish by grafting the two edging ends. More detail to this is given with the edging chart.

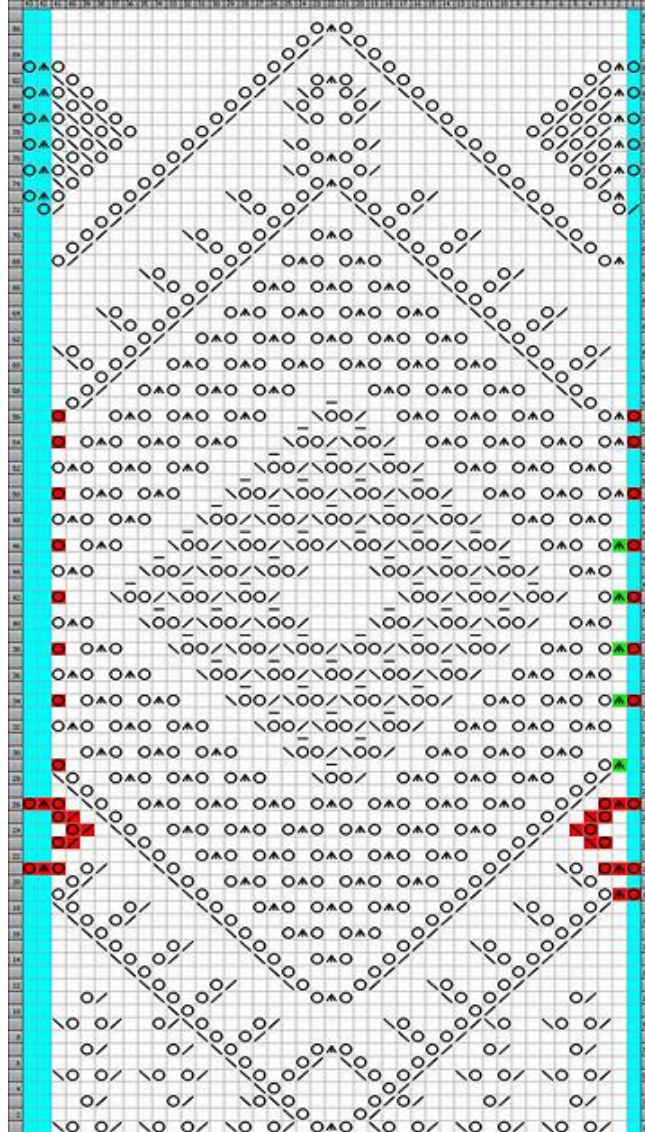


Cast on 211 stitches with your favorite provisional cast on method. Begin by knitting the flower chart. *There is 1 plain knit stitch between each flower and 10 plain knit stitches at each end of the stole. 211 stitches.* At the end of the flower chart knit one plain row decreasing one stitch. Then we suggest 4 more plain rows making a total of 5 plain knit rows before beginning the grid chart. *210 stitches.*



Flower Chart

Begin 2nd chart with shellgrid/large diamond beginning and ending with 5 plain stitches. (40 sts. repeat shown in white). For the stitches coloured in red - omit these at the edges. For those central decreases in green make them a / (K2tog) at the end of the row.

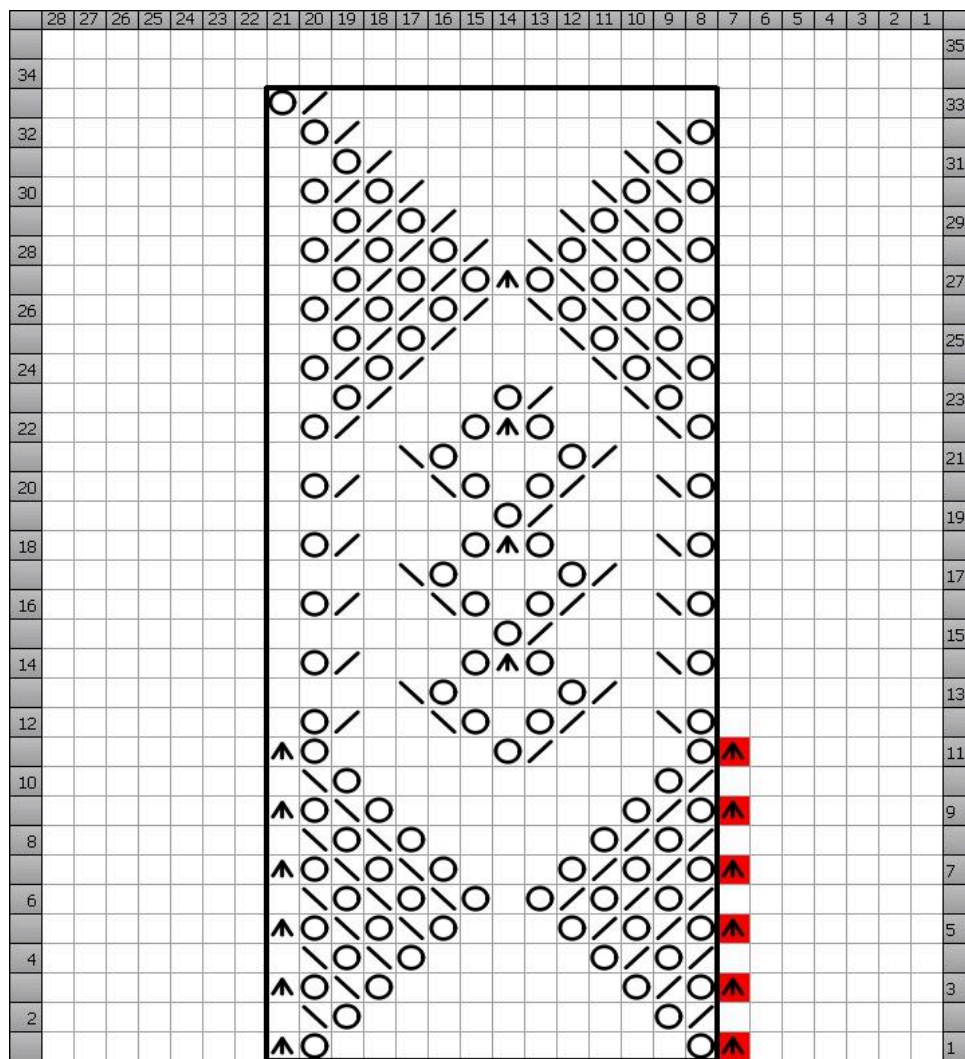


Large Diamond Border Chart

For the stitches coloured in red - omit these at the edges. For those central decreases in green make them a / at the end of the row. I think this should work. The repeat is in white with the blue line just to be helpful in showing the pattern.

Knit strawberry chart finishing with 2 plain rows and then a break pattern. The strawberry chart should have 2 plain stitches between each repeat in order to continue the top berries in pattern and have 7 plain knit at beginning and at the end of each row. Finish with your 2- 5 plain rows.

The stitches outside the repeat shown between the dark lines are not to be knit on the edge with the exception of the stitch shown in red which is to let you know that *on the edge* these should be knit as / (2tog) rather than the central decrease of 3.



Centre Hexagon Panel Chart

Knit 2 plain knit rows between each hexagon and peerie flea charts.
 The Peerie Flea chart should have 4 stitches between each P.F. and 7 at each end.

	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
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Peerie Flea Chart

Make sure that you begin and end with a hexagon chart so as to be balanced. Knit these 2 charts until you get the length that you want remembering to knit 2 plain rows between each chart.

Knit one row plain, 2nd break row, Knit another plain row leaving the live stitches in preparation for the second border.

Knit second border and graft to the central panel.

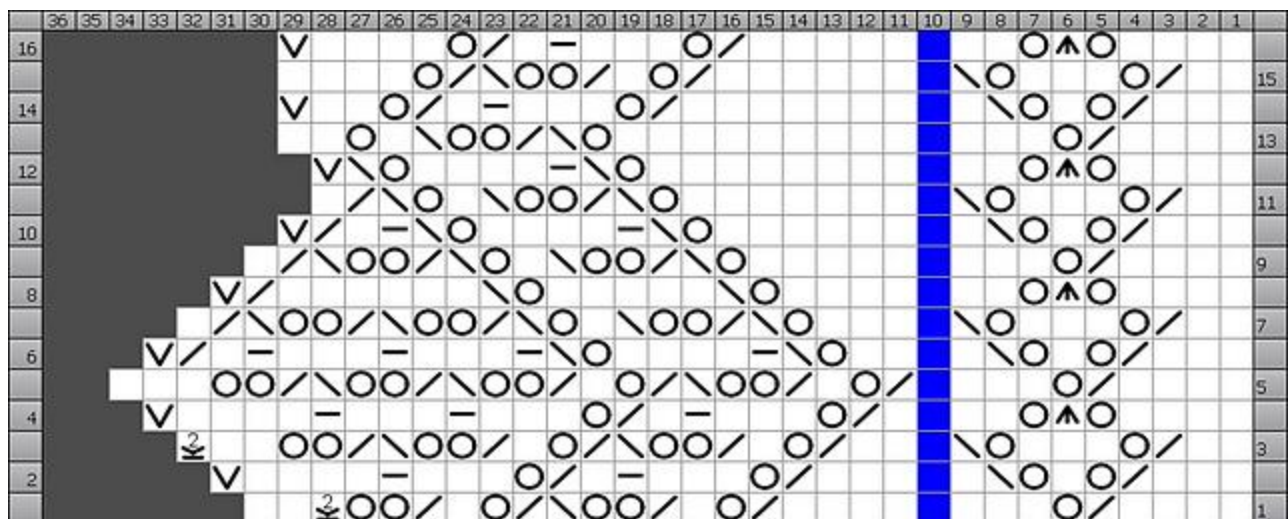
Edging Notes

Cast on 28 stitches and begin edging chart on row 1.

However an alternate and perhaps better method of knitting the edging

would be to cast on 29 stitches and begin the edging on *row 15* knitting it *first* with a coloured waste yarn. Continue in pattern knitting the edging until you reach the last row. Knit the last row with a differently coloured waste yarn from the first. With a blunt needle, carefully follow the path of the waste yarn with a nice long length of your working yarn. This will make a new row from the two rows of your waste yarn neatly grafting your two edge ends together in pattern. By grafting, you are mimicking the pattern stitches as closely as possible so as not to show a break in the pattern. Although it is never completely undetectable, if done well, it is not obvious unless looking very closely indeed.

The blue line is a knit row but showing you to be cautious because the insertion repeats at a different row count from the outer edging.



Edging Chart

Dressing and Finishing

Carefully wrap your gently folded shawl in a white cotton pillowcase or a piece of muslin and wash in lukewarm water. Gently blot it dry with a clean towel before removing from the pillowcase. NEVER pick up a wet Shetland shawl by the edges or any part as it is very fragile and will tear and break.

Lift gently from underneath and carefully unfold it to shape and pin out to size. Please go slowly and carefully. This is NOT the time to rush. Each edging point should be separately pinned into position or you can use special lace blocking wires. Make sure that the wires are clean and smooth before using. Let the shawl air dry.

If using silk, be particularly careful in dressing as it does not have the elasticity of wool and may be more difficult to block straight.

Store the shawl folded neatly in acid-free tissue paper in dry conditions away from light and insects. We suggest keeping some remaining yarn with a copy of the pattern, in case you need to make repairs at some later date, with the shawl. If the shawl should need to be mended make sure to secure all loose stitches as quickly as possible to a thread or pin.

