

The Lucky Scarf



I designed this reversible scarf pattern for Wayson Choy, a Canadian writer, in gratitude for everything he taught me and to mark the March 2009 release of his second memoir, “Not Yet.”

There are three elements of luck in this scarf: colour, numbers, and good feelings. I knit Wayson’s scarf in red, but this sample is in water colours, which are lucky for me.

In Chinese culture it is said that good things come in pairs—hence the 2 garter stitches on each side of the scarf pattern. The 7 bars on one side of the scarf symbolize togetherness, and the 8 on the other symbolize prosperity. The scarf’s numbers of 3 (the number of stitches in each bar), 7 (the bars on one side) and 49 (the number of stitches overall) are lucky according to number theory as well, as natural numbers generated by a ‘sieve’ similar to the one that generates prime numbers. And then there are ‘Fortunate’ numbers, named after Reo Fortune... 3 and 7 are Fortunate as well as lucky.

Finally, this scarf should be knit in your happiest moments: while traveling somewhere wonderful, during visits with best friends or close family, while relaxing at home, or while taking a walk. The pattern is so easy, I even knit some of Wayson’s walking to meet a friend for hot chocolate, and met another very nice knitter because of it! All those good feelings make their way into the work and increase the luck.

Materials

Any soft yarn and appropriate needle size is good. Try 440 yards of Cascade Yarns’ 220 Superwash on size 10 US (6.0mm) needles, or a similar amount of Araucania Toconao on (4.5mm) needles (pictured.)

Gauge/Sizing

Doesn’t matter/One size fits all adults

Abbreviations

St (or sts): stitch (or stitches)

K1: Knit one

P1: Purl one

* *: Repeat the sequence of instructions within the *s as many times as indicated.

Directions

Cast on 49 sts.

Row 1 K2, *P3, K3* 7 times, P3, K2

Row 2 K5, *P3, K3* 7 times, K2

Repeat these two rows until the scarf is as long as you like, then follow the pattern stitch to cast off, and end by running in the tails. I recommend wet blocking except for synthetics, which are better ironed with a damp pressing cloth.