

Lucky Scarf by Mary Keenan

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 social anthropologist 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

Needle size and yarn may vary. Try:
6mm/US 10 needles with
Cascade Yarns 220 Superwash, 2 skeins/440 yds
4.5mm/US 7 needles with
Araucania Toconao, 3 skeins/417 yds (pictured)

Gauge

Does not matter

Abbreviations

K: knit

P: purl

st(s): stitch(es)

Directions

Cast on 49 sts

Row 1: K2, *P3, K3; repeat from * six more times, P3, K2

Row 2: K5, *P3, K3; repeat from * six more times, K2

Repeat these two rows until the scarf is as long as you like, ending with a Row 2. Cast off in pattern stitch.

Finishing

Run in tails and block. For synthetics, press with a damp cloth under the iron; for everything else, wet block, preferably with a non-soap wash such as Soak.

