



W294

Cascade Sitka  
Nested Boxes Scarf



Designed by Betty Balcomb

# SITKA Nested Boxes Scarf

By Betty Balcomb

Sometime in the mid-1970s, there was an extended article in one of the grocery store women's magazines introducing Mosaic Knitting. I assume the article was a promotion for the legendary knitter Barbara Walker's book Mosaic Knitting, originally published in 1976. I knit up almost everything in the article and loved the technique but I'd had enough for the time being and never bought the book. A few years ago something made me think of Mosaic Knitting and I went online to find a copy of the book. It was out of print and selling for \$275 if at all! I sighed and made do with the few mosaic patterns in my stitchionaries. Then the book, with bunches of new material, was reissued in 2006 and I snatched up one of the first copies and have been happily knitting many mosaics for over 4 years. My Em Dash Socks available on this website under Heritage Yarn is a very elementary mosaic pattern. This scarf is a good introduction to the technique, just a little bit harder than the socks. Sitka yarn with its fuzzy aura and slight sheen makes great mosaic.

**Materials:** 1 skein of Sitka yarn in each of 2 colors. There needs to be a strong contrast between the 2 colors. Pictured scarf is in colors 811 and 812. Size 10-1/2 needles, **OR SIZE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN GAUGE.**

**Gauge:** 3 sts to 1 inch in garter stitch. Gauge will be tighter in pattern.

**Size:** The scarf in the picture used all but about a yard of the tan and almost that much of the brown. The dimensions are about 7 inches wide by 4 feet long. Feel free to go to second skeins of each color for a longer scarf. Each repeat of the motif will add about 2 inches to the width.

### **DIRECTIONS:**

With dark yarn, cast on 29 sts. Knit 2 rows. Attach light yarn and knit 2 rows. Now you are ready to begin the mosaic pattern. First a few pointers on the basics of mosaic knitting.

1. You only work with one color/strand at a time, the other strand waits patiently back at the beginning of the row for its turn.
2. The technique works best in garter st particularly where the pattern wants fairly square shapes.
3. To create the pattern, you work a series of knit and slipped sts. ALWAYS slip the stitches purlwise.
4. The “float” or strand that is carried behind the slipped sts must ALWAYS be on the wrong side of the fabric. This is not an issue on right side rows, but on wrong side rows requires that the yarn be flipped back and forth before and after slipping each slipped st. See Glossary above and specifics in the directions below for how this works.
5. On all wrongside rows, the directions are superfluous. You will always knit the sts that are the color of the working yarn and slip the ones that are not. But you must remember to do the flipping of the yarn to keep the float on the wrong side.

**The pattern:** Repeat of 9 sts plus 2, 6 rows

Row 1: w/dark yarn, K1, Sl 1, \*K7, Sl 2, repeat from \* but on last repeat final 2 sts will be Sl 1, K1.

Row 2: w/dark yarn, K1, YF, Sl 1, YB, \*K7, YF, Sl 2, YB, repeat from \* to last 2 sts, YF, Sl 1, YB, K1.

Row 3: w/light yarn, K2, \*Sl 1, K5, Sl 1, K2, repeat from \* to end.

Row 4: w/light yarn, K2, \*YF, Sl 1, YB, K5, YF, Sl 1, YB, K2, repeat from \* to end.

Row 5: w/dark yarn, K1, Sl 1, \* K1, Sl 1, K3, Sl 1, K1, Sl 2, repeat from \* but on last repeat final 2 sts will be Sl 1, K1.

Row 6: w/dark yarn, K1, YF, Sl 1, \*YB, K1, YF, Sl 1, YB, K3, YF, Sl 1, YB, K1 YF, Sl 2, repeat from \* to last 2 sts, YF, Sl 1, YB, K1.

Row 7: w/light yarn, K2, \*[Sl 1, K1] 3X, Sl 1, K2, repeat from \* to end.

### **Glossary:**

**Sl 1:** Slip one stitch from left needle to right inserting the needle as if to purl.

**YB:** move the working yarn to the back of the work as if to knit the next st.

**YF:** move the working yarn to the front of the work as if to purl the next st.

Row 8: w/light yarn, K2, \*[YF, Sl1, YB, K1] 3X, YF, Sl 1, YB, K2, repeat from \* to end.

Rows 9 and 10: Repeat rows 5 and 6.

Rows 11 and 12: Repeat rows 3 and 4.

Rows 13 and 14: Repeat rows 1 and 2.

Rows 15 and 16: w/light yarn, knit both rows.

Repeat the 16 row pattern until you have just enough of the light yarn to complete a pattern repeat or to desired length if you are going long. Cut light yarn. Knit 2 more rows with dark yarn and bind off.

You have completed your first mosaic pattern and you know almost everything there is to know about the technique!! All that's left is to weave in a few ends.