

Arrow Tails Shawl UK



You may be familiar with diagonal raised stitch, which is sometimes modified to make the apache tears pattern (I first saw this used by Sarah London though I have since been spotting it all over Pinterest and Ravelry.) The design is built up using front post double crochet stitches repeated at intervals and shifted along one place each row. Sometimes the post stitches are worked into unused front loops on the work, if only back loops are used for the main stitches in the design.

This pattern is based on a similar principle, but I have used front/back post stitches which are taller to build up the large chevron design (or arrow tails). It is worked back and forth in rows, crocheting over ends to eliminate almost all of the weaving in.

The shawl is worked diagonally from the top corner across and down. (See here for more info on triangular shawl construction types.) This is quite handy as it means you can try it on as you go, stopping once you feel it is the right size to add the border.

The back of the shawl comes out as plain stripes so you can even reverse the design if you like for a different look!

This pattern really is very simple to work once you have done a few stripes of colour. You can use any number of colours from 2 upwards.

Materials:

Example shown is heavy dk/light Aran weight yarn. You can substitute any yarn weight, but make sure you go up around 2 hook sizes to usual. This is because the raised stitches combined with single crochet make the fabric very dense, and this way the fabric will still turn out to have some drape. I recommend using a soft yarn also to add drape – e.g. merino or alpaca. Avoid cotton unless it is a soft blend!

I used:

- Red: Rowan Lima (La Paz) 115m for main body plus 110m for fringe
- Cream: Rowan Lima (Bolivia) 203m (includes border)
- Grey: Mirasol Miski (Shade 118) 129m
- Light Green: Rowan Lima (Aztec) 129m
- Purple: Mirasol Miski (Shade 130) 127m

Total yardage (inc. fringe): 813m

Size 6mm crochet hook

Stitch marker

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Pattern Notes:

The pattern is an 8 row repeat – but you will see it is very easily memorised as it is only the first and last few stitches of every row which alter each time.

Work odd rows in the back loops (b.l.) and even rows in the front loops (f.l.). The exception is the front of work ttr (f.o.w. ttr), which is a ttr worked into the unworked loop of the stitch 4 rows below, always on the front (right side) of the shawl irrespective of row direction, so that the chevron pattern is made on the front and the back remains plain stripes. The f.o.w. ttr stitch acts like a post stitch – it counts as being worked into the next st (i.e. leave one st unworked behind it).

You will be changing colours every 4 rows for the main part of the body. Remember ch1 at the start of the row does not count as a stitch.

Please note, the diagram provided omits chains AND dc stitches which are obscured behind the f.o.w. ttr sts, for clarity.

Special st: f.o.w. ttr-slipped

The front of work triple treble –slipped stitch is worked exactly as a regular ttr stitch, except you will be joining it to the front loop of the stitch which would normally be left unworked by the f.ow.ttr stitch. It is used here when making a f.o.w. ttr at the very end of the row. The “slipped” element helps stabilise the edge.

Yarn over 3 times, insert hook into front loop of stitch 4 rows below, draw up a loop, *yarn over, draw through 2 loops, repeat from * 2 more times so that 2 loops remain, insert loop into front loop of topmost stitch, yarn over and draw through, draw this loop through the remaining 2 loops on hook.

Pattern:

Begin with red yarn. Ch2.

R1: [Work in b.l. for entire row] dc into 2nd ch from hook, ch1, turn (1st)

R2: [Work in f.l. for entire row] (2dc) into dc, ch1, turn (2sts)

R3: [Work in b.l. for entire row] (2dc) in 1st st, dc in last st, ch1, turn (3sts)

R4: [Work in f.l. for entire row] dc into first and second st, (2dc) into last st, ch1, turn (4sts)

Change to next colour (green) prior to making the turning ch.

R5: [Work in b.l. for entire row] dc into 1st st, htr into f.l. of 1st st, dc in last st, ch1, turn (5sts)

R6: [Work in f.l. for entire row] 2dc, f.o.w.dtr into the unworked loop of 1st st in R3, dc into htr, (2dc) into final st, ch1, turn (6sts)

R7: [Work in b.l. for entire row] (2dc) into 1st st, dc 3 times, f.o.w. ttr into f.l. of st 4 rows below (this will be next to the st where you worked the f.o.w.dtr in R6). Dc in final st, ch1, turn (7sts)

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R8: [Work in f.l. for entire row] F.o.w. ttr-slipped into unworked loop 4 rows below (it will be one along and one above the loop used to work the f.o.w. ttr in R7), dc 5 times, (2dc) in final st, ch1, turn (8sts)

Change to next colour (purple) prior to making the turning ch.

R9: [Work in b.l. for entire row] dc into 1st st, htr into f.l. of 1st st, 7dc, ch1, turn (9sts)

R10: [Work in f.l. for entire row] 6dc, f.o.w.dtr into the unworked loop of 1st st in R7, dc into htr, (2dc) into final st, ch1, turn (10sts)

R11: [Work in b.l. for entire row] (2dc) into 1st st, dc 3 times, f.o.w. ttr into f.l. of st 4 rows below (this will be next to the st where you worked the f.o.w.dtr in R10). 5dc, ch1, turn (11dc)

R12: [Work in f.l. for entire row] 4dc, f.o.w. ttr in to unworked loop 4 rows below, 5dc, (2dc) in final st, ch1, turn (12sts)

Change to next colour (cream) prior to making the turning ch.

R13-R20 form the repeating rows. (There are no repeats the first time through and each row adds one stitch to the total st count). Continue to alternate working in the b.l. on odd rows and f.l. on even rows to maintain pattern.

R13: dc into 1st st, htr into f.l. of 1st st, *7dc, f.o.w. ttr into f.l. of st 4 rows below, repeat from * until only 4sts remain, 4dc, ch1, turn (9sts)

R14: 2dc, *f.o.w. ttr into the unworked loop of the st 4 rows below, 7dc, repeat from * until 3sts remain, f.o.w.dtr into unworked loop 3 rows below, dc into htr, (2dc) into final st, ch1, turn (13sts)

R15: (2dc) into 1st st, dc 3 times, f.o.w. ttr into f.l. of st 4 rows below, *7dc, f.o.w. ttr into f.l. of st 4 rows below, repeat from * until 1 st remains. Dc in final st, ch1, turn (15sts)

R16: F.o.w. ttr-slipped into unworked loop 4 rows below, *7dc, f.o.w. ttr in unworked loop 4 rows below, repeat from * until 6 sts remain, dc 5 times, (2dc) in final st, ch1, turn (8sts)

Change to next colour (grey) prior to making the turning ch.

R17: dc into 1st st, htr into f.l. of 1st st, *7dc, f.o.w. ttr into unworked loop 4 rows below, repeat from * until 7 sts remain, 7dc, ch1, turn (17sts)

R18: 6dc, *f.o.w. ttr, 7dc, repeat from * until 4 sts remain, f.o.w.dtr into the unworked loop 3 rows below, dc into htr, (2dc) into final st, ch1, turn (18sts)

R19: (2dc) into 1st st, dc 3 times, f.o.w. ttr, *7dc, f.o.w. ttr, repeat from * until 5 sts remain, 5dc, ch1, turn (19dc)

R20: 4dc, f.o.w. ttr, *7dc, f.o.w. ttr, repeat from * until 6 sts remain, 5dc, (2dc) in final st, ch1, turn (20sts)

Change to next colour (red) prior to making the turning ch.

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Repeat rows 13-20, changing colours as desired until your work is the desired size, ending on a row 16. This ensures that you have a row of arrow tails travelling down the centre of your shawl making a nice point at the bottom corner.

Now add a finishing row to maintain the pattern down the working edge and make sts for the border rows. You will be working 3 raised sts in front of the work in a row. Anchor them to the edge by using the “slipped” technique used at the ends of R16’s – draw the final loop through both the front loop and the 2 loops on the stitch.

Work the finishing row as follows:

R21: dc into 1st st, htr into f.l. of 1st st, f.o.w.dtr-slipped, tr-slipped, dc (through both loops of the st), 4dc, f.o.w. ttr-slipped, f.o.w.dtr-slipped, tr-slipped, dc (through both loops of the st), repeat from * until 4 sts remain, 4dc.

In the same st just worked (or into the turning ch if you can), work (3dc) to turn the corner, place a st marker into the central st to mark the corner.

Work 1 dc into the side of each row down the entirety of the other side, and (2dc) into the final row. The st count should be the same along both sides. Fasten off.

Using the border colour, join into the first st of R21 to work in the same direction just worked. Join using a standing tr or a ch3 (counts as a tr) if you prefer. Join into the b.l.o. for entire row.

R22: (2tr) into first st (so that there are 3 sts made). Tr into each st until you reach the centre st, (2tr, dtr, 2tr) into central st, place st marker in centre st, tr in each st to final st, (3tr), ch2, turn.

R23: (2bptr) around last tr worked, bptr into each st until central st, (5bptr) about central st, place st marker into centre st, bptr in each st till final st, (3bptr), ch3, turn.

R24: Work in b.l.o. ch1, tr in same st, *ch1, sk1st, tr, repeat from * until 1 st remains before central st. (If you have ended up without a spare st before central st, don’t worry, just reflect what you do about the centre). Ch1, sk st before centre, (tr,ch1,tr,ch1,tr) into central st. *ch1, sk1st, tr, repeat from * until you have worked a tr in the final st. Ch2, tr in same st.

Now ch1 and rotate the work to neaten the top edge with a row of dc. Work 2dc in each tr st post, and 6 dc in each stripe of 4 rows, all the way along the top edge. Ch1, turn, and work 1 bpdc about the post of each dc just worked back along the top edge to define the top line really well.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Fringing:

To add the fringing, cut a piece of card to your desired fringe width. Mine was 12.5cm (5”). Your fringe will shrink back a little from the width of the card so if in doubt cut it a little big (you can always trim it).

Wrap your yarn around the card until it is full but no wraps overlap. Cut the fringe along the card edge.

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I used 3 pieces of fringe per ch1 space in the border. Line up the ends and double them around, grabbing the middle with your hook, draw them through the ch-sp and pull the ends through for a lark's head knot. You can do this either way around but use the same direction for all your knots.

Of course you don't need to add the fringe but could leave the shawl as is or add an alternate border.

Blocking:

I recommend blocking using your preferred method. Blocking adds drape to the dense fabric. Use your preferred method for your yarn type. I wet blocked mine and combed out the fringe while damp to remove any kinks.

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