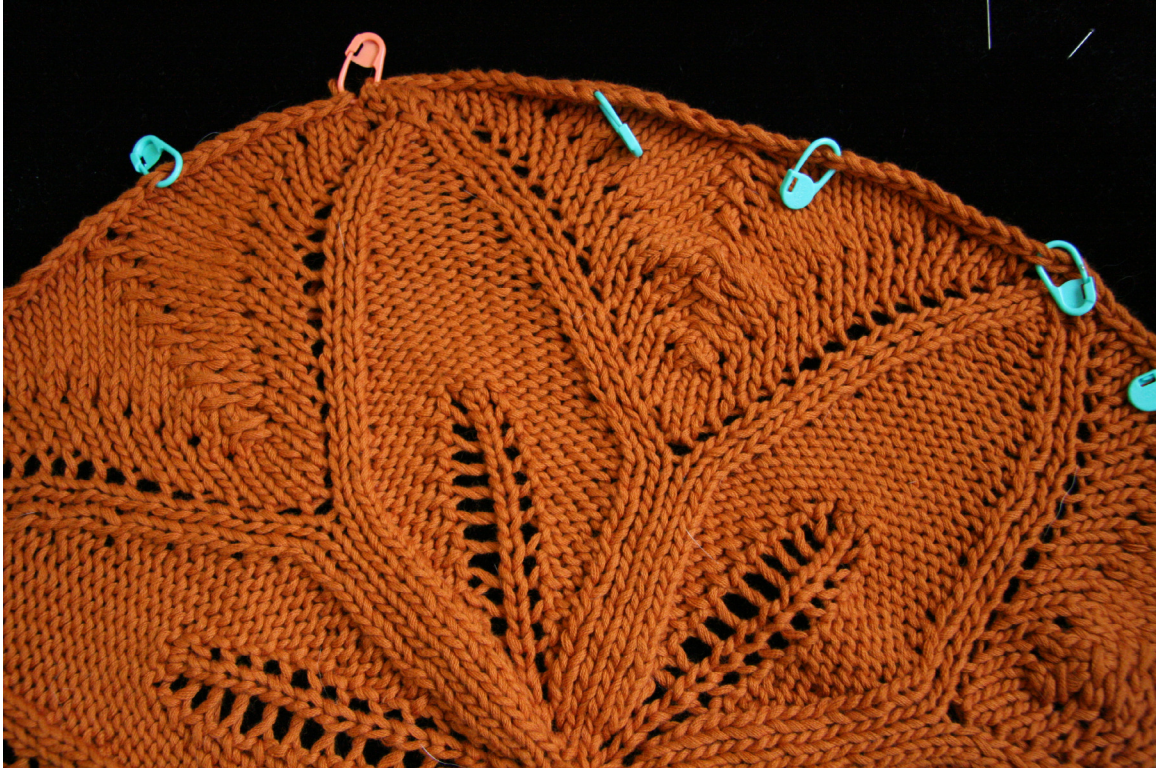


READY, SET, KNIT
Air Date: July 4, 2009

Botanica Medallion Cardigan, Part 1 – Getting Ready

1. A copy of Vogue Knitting International, Spring/Summer 2009
2. Blue Sky Alpacas Skinny Dyed Organic Cotton, 150 yds per hank, 6 hanks for X-Small and Small, 7 for Medium and Large or any yarn that knits at 5sts per inch in St st on a 5 (for sizes X-Small and Small) and at 4.5 sts per inch on a 7 for Medium and Large. Valley Yarns Southwick or Longmeadow would work for this piece.
3. For sizes X-Small and Small, one set size 5 dpns and one 24” size 5 circular needle for medallion
4. For sizes Medium and Large, one set size 7 dpns and one 24” size 7 circular needle for medallion
5. For both sizes, size 6 needles, straight or circular, for the outer band, or the size that will get 5 sts per inch in Trinity Stitch. To make your gauge swatch in Trinity stitch work as follows:
 - Row 1(WS) Knit
 - Row 2 - *K3tog, [K1, yo, k1] in next st; repeat.
 - Row 3 – Knit
 - Row 4 - *[K1, yo, k1] in next st, k3tog; repeat.
6. Size G crochet hook
7. Cable needle
8. St markers in different colors
 9. Tapestry needle



Botanica Medallion Cardigan, Part 2

This is one of the most beautiful pieces of knitting I have ever done...truly a piece of artwork made with “sticks and string”. The Medallion is lovely and quick to knit. The Outer Band, however, will take you some time, but be patient...the end result is worth it. When I finished the Medallion, I divided the outside sts into groups of 10 ...there were 19 of them. That meant that I would have to knit 190 rows to make the Outer Band match up with the Medallion. The nice thing, though, about the Outer Band, is that the stitches are really interesting and fun to do and that the 4-round repeat is easy to remember. If you don't like it as a cardigan, you can fold it in half and wear it as a shawl, or put in on a round table and use it as a decorating focal point. Whatever you do with it, it will definitely cause a stir. I've never had so many people stop me in the store the day I was wearing it to tell me how spectacular it is.

Errata

1. Round 2 of the Medallion should read: [k1, yo, k1] **in each st** 6 times – 18 sts.
2. Round 10 of the Medallion should read: [k1, ssk, p1, yo, k1, yo, p1, k2tog, **k1**] 6 times.
3. Round 52 of the Medallion: Ignore the #5 at the end of the round.
4. Round 54 of the Medallion: Instructions in brackets should be repeated **6 times** – 32 sts.

5. Row 3 of the Outer Band should read: [...] 5 times, k2, p6, **k26**, sl next 18 (24) sts to RH needle...6-st RC 3 (**4**) times.

6. Row 4 of the Outer Band: Replace C4F with **4-st LC**.





READY, SET, KNIT

Air Date: July 11, 2009

Botanica Medallion Cardigan, part 3

Tips for Working the Medallion

1. As always, when you join the 6sts for knitting in the round, be sure not to twist them!
2. Place a marker at the beginning of the round and use a different color marker between pattern repeats when you switch to the circular needle. When you're on the dpns it's pretty easy to keep track without the pattern repeat markers and they fall off the dpns anyway!
3. Watch out for the yarnovers which occur before a purl – as in round 8 of the Medallion, 2nd yo. Do your yarnover as usual, but then bring the yarn to the front of the piece to work your purl st.
4. If you know how to do the Magic Loop, you can start the Medallion on circular needles and keep going with them – no need to use dpns. If you use dpns to start your Medallion, don't pull out your hair while working the first few rows!

5. On the rounds that start with a yarnover (26, 28, 30, etc.), just place your needle under the working yarn before you knit the first stitch and that will automatically give you a yarnover.

6. The abbreviation SK2P = slip 1 purlwise, knit 2, pass the slipped st over the two knit sts.

Tips for Working the Outer Band

1. If you don't like the look of the back seam – I didn't either – do a provisional cast-on. I do mine with a crochet hook. Place a slip knot on your hook, leaving a short tail. Hold your knitting needle and your crochet hook in your right hand, the knitting needle to the left of the crochet hook. Bring your working yarn under the needle, grab the yarn with the crochet hook and pull it through the loop on the hook. Continue by bringing the yarn back under the needle each time, and pulling a loop through the loop on the hook. Repeat until you have the indicated number of stitches. Work one row even before you start the pattern – this will help later on so you can graft or 3-needle bind-off the ends of the Outer Band together.

2. To work the cable in the Outer Band, try using a locking ring marker to hold the 2 sts at the front or back cross instead of a cable needle – no need to close it, just let it dangle while you work the other 2 sts and then slip the sts back onto the needle to knit them.

3. When you have to work the k1, yo, k1 into one st, just k1 into the next st, but don't drop it off the needle, yarn-over, and knit once more into the same stitch and drop it off the needle.

4. To work the Indian Cross Stitch in rows 2 and 3: In row 2, insert your needle into the st and wrap 3 times around the needle, then knit the original stitch and drop it off the needle. On row 3, you will slip the sts to the right-hand, dropping the extra wraps. Next, transfer these elongated sts back to the left-hand needle. Place a locking ring marker on the first 3 sts and drop them to the back of the work. Knit the next 3 sts. Place the first 3 sts back on the needle and knit them. Repeat until the 18/24 sts have been crossed and knit.

5. Now you just keep knitting until you have approximately 190 rows. Knit one extra row to make the grafting easier.

Next Week: Grafting, Sewing the Outer Band to the Medallion, Making the Armholes,
Finishing